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Automated Content Analysis to Quantify Valence, Themes, and Norms Mentioned in Tobacco and E-cigarette Coverage across Four Media Sources (expanded version)

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Automated Content Analysis to Quantify Valence, Themes, and Norms Mentioned in Tobacco and E-cigarette Coverage across Four Media Sources

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Please note: The media examples in this document were randomly selected and their content may be offensive, explicit and/or not safe for work.

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Automated Content Analysis to Quantify Valence, Themes, and Norms Mentioned in Tobacco and E-cigarette Coverage across Four Media Sources

In this study, we used supervised machine learning to measure the coverage of valence, tobacco control themes, and norms in (1) passing mentions (PM), as well as more than passing mentions (MPM) of (2) tobacco and e-cigarette products in (3) long-form media sources (Broadcast news transcripts, the AP, Newspapers, and Websites with RSS feeds). Texts were collected from May 18, 2014 – December 31, 2017. The following example texts were pulled from the 135,764 relevant texts collected through June 30, 2017.

Corpus

We first searched the Lexis-Nexis and MIT MediaCloud databases for texts that included a range of tobacco-related terms (e.g., “smoking”, “tobacco”, “smokes”, “e-cigarette”, “vaping”, “nicotine”, “hookah”, “cigar”). This was a broad search meant to capture the majority of tobacco-related content. We then used automated coding methods with validation to clean the database more precisely to tobacco-related content. Texts came from:

1. Broadcast TV and radio news transcripts (BTN)
   - ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, FOX News Network, CNN, MSNBC, and NPR
   - n=4,275, 8% e-cigarettes
2. AP Newswire (AP)
   - national, state and local
   - n=8,522, 13% e-cigarettes
3. 50 U.S. English-language newspapers with the highest circulation (Newspaper)
   - n=52,561, 7% e-cigarettes
4. 50 most popular websites each quarter among 12-17 and 18-24 year olds (Web)
   - Popularity assessed by Nielsen, collected using the MIT MediaCloud database, limited to websites that had RSS feeds and primarily consisted of text
   - n=70,406, 8% e-cigarettes

Passing Mentions (PM) versus More than Passing Mentions (MPM)

Prior hand-coded content analysis of similar sources have only included MPM texts. They typically required a certain amount of coverage of the topic (e.g., text focused on the topic in the 1st paragraph plus one other, or in 50% of paragraphs) or pre-selected texts that would be potentially relevant (e.g., TV health segments). We include both PM and MPM texts in this analysis. MPM texts had at least three tobacco or e-cigarette-related keywords within 100 words (i.e., the low-end of an abstract paragraph length, Hacker & Sommers, 2010). This is a rough approximation of a paragraph focused on the topic. We also required that the three keywords could not be immediately next to one another, operationalized as having at least 20 words between the first and last keyword (i.e., the upper-end of sentence length, Cutts, 2013). Finally, since titles summarize content, one keyword in the title of a text also counted as an MPM text. On average across sources, e-cigarette coverage was 67% MPM, while coverage of other tobacco products was only 16% MPM.

Tobacco (no ecig) versus E-cigarettes (ecig)

We define e-cigarettes as electronic devices typically meant for nicotine delivery though they could be used with or without nicotine. These are relatively new products relative to other tobacco products. Any texts which contain a mention of e-cigarettes are coded as (ecig). Our definition of
tobacco (no ecig) products includes cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, little cigars, smokeless tobacco, and hookah – all non-ecig products used without marijuana. It is possible that there are some mentions of these other tobacco products in the texts which contain e-cigarette mentions. However, there are relatively few mentions of e-cigarettes in the corpus, therefore, we decided to count both texts only about e-cigarettes and texts about e-cigarettes and other products as “ecig”.

**Valence, Themes, and Norms coded**

We used supervised machine learning to measure the coverage of valence, tobacco control themes, and norms in this corpus of texts. Mturk workers coded samples of ~2400 texts which were split into training and test sets for developing automatic algorithms. Reliability was >.75 for themes, >.65 for norms, and >.53 for valence.

Valence was coded separately for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. If texts contained both types of products, they were coded for both valences. Texts that on the whole were mostly supportive of using the product or the industry making the product were coded “Pro”, while texts that were mostly against the use of the product or the industry making the product were coded “Anti”. The correlations between the predicted probabilities yielding from valence automated coding and the Mturker ratings in held-aside test sets were good, ranging .79 to .88.

Four tobacco control themes were chosen a priori based on prior tobacco content analyses. We expected these themes to be present in the texts in fairly high numbers, and that they would likely have an impact on the general public’s beliefs about tobacco products. (1) “Health”: effects of product use on the user’s physical health (specifically excluding health effects of use for non-users (e.g., secondhand smoke)), (2) “Policy”: mandatory policy/law/regulation by a government, company, or institution, (3) “Addiction”: explicit references to products being addictive or users being addicted, and (4) “Youth”: use, access, or purchase of products by anyone up to 21 years old. The correlations between the predicted probabilities yielding from theme automated coding and the Mturker ratings in held-aside test sets were high, ranging .87 to .90.

Like valence, normative information was also coded separately for e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. In contrast to valence, if texts contained both e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, they were only coded for e-cigarette norms. Normative information was divided into two types: “Population” and “Individual”. Population-level summary information (“population norms”) conveys behavior prevalence in an explicit and straightforward way by providing numbers, percentages or trends from census data, survey results, reports, or educational campaigns. Population norms were coded for whether or not they were explicitly increasing, or described as high (“high”) or decreasing, or described as low (“low”). There were not enough examples in our hand-coded samples to build classifiers for Ecig Population Norms - Low, so the database was not coded for that. Individual-level behavior cues (“individual norms”), on the other hand, facilitate formation of descriptive norm perceptions more subtly by providing knowledge about and exposure to instances of others’ performing (or not performing) the behavior. Individual norms were coded for whether or not they described “use” (as opposed to a reduction in use, or non-use). There were not enough examples in our hand-coded samples to build classifiers for non-use, so the database was not coded for that. The same text could be coded for multiple types of norms (i.e., population-high, population-low, individual). The correlations between the predicted probabilities yielding from theme automated coding and the Mturker ratings in held-aside test sets were fairly good, ranging .63 to .83.
Current Set of Examples

In all there are 13 different codes. In order to have some illustrative examples of the texts that were coded, we pulled 10 examples for each valence, theme, and norm. These sets of 10 were pulled separately for MPM/PM texts and tobacco (no ecig)/ecig texts if they existed for that code. Also, in each set of 10, we tried to choose 2 examples each of AP, BTN, and Newspaper texts and 4 examples from the Web. Some combinations were not available. In all there are 320 examples included here. Individual texts were randomly selected from all texts matching those criteria with predicted probabilities between 0.8 and 0.9. If no texts met those requirements, we relaxed the probabilities range to be from 0.6 to 1.0. If no texts met the requirements for a particular source, we randomly selected from the other sources matching the parameters.

Hand-coding of the examples does not perfectly match the machine coding. This is expected because the test set correlations checking the validity of the automated coding were not perfect (see above). Also, some sets don’t match for themes because the validity was tested across products (e.g., ecig addiction and other tobacco products youth have several mistakes because the theme refers to a different product than the one indicated). Rather than the definitions of each code, the examples provided here are meant to give the reader a sense of the actual texts included for each code. We have included the team’s hand-coding of whether or not these examples match the code (Yes or No) before each example. Effects analyses aggregate the data to at least the day-level ensuring that the amount of valence, theme, and norm coverage is estimated from many individual texts, thus we are less concerned about individual texts being misclassified.

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How to use these examples

This document uses Word’s heading styles to make the examples easier to navigate. Each heading style can be opened or closed to reveal content lower down. All examples are closed by default when opening the document. No matter which examples you open, they will be closed the next time you open Word. Instructions for expanding all headings are available here: https://support.office.com/en-us/article/collapse-or-expand-parts-of-a-document-701786e0-95e2-40bf-bfe5-f0233cd3520c

To open an example:

- Hover your cursor over the blue labels and an open triangle will appear to the left of each label.

- Click the open triangle to open the text. Each text has key tobacco-related words highlighted in yellow. (Note “smoke” and “smoked” were not used to determine MPM vs. PM texts because there were too many false positives for burning buildings and other burning materials.)

To close an example:

- Hover your cursor over the blue labels again and a closed triangle will appear to the left of each label. Click the closed triangle to close the example. You can also close entire sections using the same method.
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tpro”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 1571
Article Title: New attempt to exempt cigar bars from Nebraska smoking ban
Date: 1/17/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: OMAHA, Neb. OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Jake's cigars and Spirits in Lincoln is preparing to inform customers they can no longer smoke inside, just as soon as a letter from the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission arrives instructing it and 10 other cigar bars in the state to turn in their specialty licenses. Now, some state lawmakers are working to again exempt cigar bars from the state's public smoking ban - even after the Nebraska Supreme Court last year declared lawmakers' first attempt to allow cigar patrons to light up unconstitutional. While the intent of the bill, introduced by Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill, is clear, its ability to stand up to a constitutional challenge is not. The state Supreme Court's ruling last August stemmed from a lawsuit by the owner of Big John's Billiards in Omaha, who was seeking to allow his customers to smoke in the pool hall as they had done for years before the 2009 ban was enacted. The high court's opinion didn't restore Big John's smoking policy, but it did throw out an exception allowing smoking in cigar bars. The exception amounted to unconstitutional special legislation and didn't conform to the purpose of the ban, “which is to protect the public and employees from the dangers of secondhand smoke,” the court said. Larson, chairman of the General Affairs Committee, has introduced a bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Colby Coash of Lincoln, that would restore smoking in cigar shops, saying allowing the activity doesn't interfere with the original intent of protecting the public from secondhand smoke. The bill also makes distinctions between “cigar aficionados,” characterized as those who pair cigars with high-end liquors and take an hour or longer to enjoy a cigar, and cigarette smokers who are “simply satisfying an addiction.” “We have a legal product here, and people should be able to enjoy legal products in establishments that want to offer them,” Larson said. “I'm not trying to repeal the Clean Indoor Act by any means. We're trying to return cigar bars to the status quo. We live in a capitalist, free-market society, and businesses should be able to provide legal products as they see fit.” The owners of Big John's couldn't have said it better, their attorney, Ted Boecker, said. The language in Larson's bill only highlights that it's an effort to grant a special privilege to a select group while denying it to others, he said. “It strikes my clients as a little surprising that there would be legislators ... who are focused on elite, cigar-smoking aficionados who drink cognac, as opposed to hardworking people who may want to drink a beer, smoke a cigarette and play pool,” Boecker said. If lawmakers want to protect free-market values, they could create a special liquor license for which any establishment can apply, Boecker said. It would allow smoking inside and
require warning signs, disclosures to employees and special ventilation, allowing the public to decide whether to patronize a place that allows smoking. “In other words, it’s freedom of choice, which my client thinks is more in line with American values than giving some sort of special treatment to cigar-smoking aficionados who drink cognac and scotch,” Boecker said. Anthony Schutz, a University of Nebraska associate law professor, said the bill could work, as courts tend to give deference to legislation when lawmakers make their intent clear - even if the reasoning behind the intent is challenged. But Schutz said the bill would be stronger if it included language spelling out the Legislature's intent to keep economic harm from cigar bars. “I could see an argument being made that ... the presence of smokers in a cigar bar is fundamental to that business,” Schutz said. “If we eliminate (smoking), it has a profound impact on that business, as opposed to eliminating the ability to smoke in just a regular bar or any other establishment.”

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1671

Article Title: Bid Approved for Gautier water-filtration system"

Date: 7/16/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: GAUTIER, Miss. GAUTIER, Miss. (AP) - The Gautier City Council has approved a base bid of $2.1 million by The Creel Co. for a million-gallon-per-day ion-exchange filtration system. The system will remove the brown coloring from Gautier's water supply. The Sun Herald reports (http://bit.ly/1rg2Znw ) construction will begin within 60 days and the system is expected to be up and running in 18 months. The council also discussed this week revisions to the city's smoking ordinance. Councilman Rusty Anderson presented the revisions, which would allow smoking in bars and in restaurants with a designated smoking room and proper ventilation. The council passed the revisions 5 to 2. ___ Information from: The Sun Herald, http://www.sunherald.com"

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 666104

Article Title: SHOW: CNN LIVE EVENT/SPECIAL 8:15 PM EST GOP Town Hall Event with South Carolina Voters. Aired 8:15-11p ET"

Date: 2/17/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Town hall meeting with South Carolina voters and Republican candidates. ANDERSON COOPER, HOST: And, good evening, everyone. In just three days, Republicans here are going to go to the polls and if history is any guide, Saturday’s South Carolina primary will make some
campaigns and break others. It matters that much, which is why tonight matters so much, with three candidates one last chance for voters to ask the kind of questions face-to-face to help them decide.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Tonight, a conversation with three leading Republicans in South Carolina. They're facing the voters and fighting for every last vote. SEN. MARCO RUBIO (R-FL), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: If you ever want to fall in love with the American people, run for president. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Marco Rubio rising. Ted Cruz talking tough. SEN. TED CRUZ (R-TX), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: The time for games is over. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ben Carson running behind, hoping to rise above the fray. And the rest of the field. BEN CARSON (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think I can win South Carolina. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Three contenders, men of faith in a state where faith runs deep and the faithful vote. But it's not all sweetness and light. South Carolina is a state that knows raw politics. RUBIO: He's now literally just making things up. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Marco Rubio hitting Cruz, Cruz hitting back. CRUZ: Whenever anyone points out their record, they simply start screaming, “Liar, liar, liar!”

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Three contenders in a state where manners matter, but winning matters more. Just days before the first Southern primary, at the end of a campaign like we and the voters have never seen before, this is an ANDERSON COOPER 360 CNN Republican town hall. Voters seeking answers, a chance to drive the debating before making a choice that could make history. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: And good evening and welcome from the Old cigar Warehouse in Greenville in South Carolina. What a night ahead. We are here tonight with just three days to go until primary day, just three days left to decide. Yet a lot of voters in this state remain undecided. So tonight, Senators Rubio and Cruz, and Dr. Carson are here with voters and viewers for a conversation. Tomorrow night, I'll be with John Kasich, Jeb Bush and Donald Trump, the voters and I not too far from here in Columbia, South Carolina. I want to welcome our viewers watching in the United States, watching here in South Carolina and around the world on CNN International. I also want to extend a warm welcome to all our service men and women who are watching on the American Forces Network and to those who are listening on the Westwood 1 radio network and on CNN Channel 116 on SiriusXM. In the audience tonight here in Greenville, people who tell us they will be participating in Saturday's Republican primary. Some decided, some undecided. We asked audience members to come up with their own questions, which we reviewed to make sure that they don't overlap. I'll ask some questions, as well. But tonight, we really hope this is about South Carolina voters getting to know the candidates. So let's get started. Joining us first tonight is retired neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben Carson. Welcome. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: And welcome. Great to see you. Have a seat. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: How's it going? BEN CARSON (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Very good. COOPER: Good. I want to start just, you obviously are a retired neurosurgeon. You've been running now -- you've been out on the campaign trail for 10 months. What's harder, brain surgery or politics? (LAUGHTER) CARSON: Brain surgery is a lot harder. COOPER: Yes. CARSON: But, you know, the interesting thing that I've discovered about politics, good things and bad things. It's been wonderful having an opportunity to meet so many people across the country and hear what their concerns are. It hadn't been that great, you know, dealing with the press. COOPER: Are you looking at me or? (LAUGHTER) COOPER: Well, that's what really tonight is about, it's really you interacting with the voters. I'm just going to ask a couple of questions and then we're going to turn it over, really, to the voters. CARSON: OK. COOPER: I want to ask you just about a couple of items in the news. As you know, the government is trying to unlock the cell phone of one of the terrorists in San Bernardino. They've been unable to do that. They've now, they've gotten a judge to -- to ask Apple or to try to order Apple to create new operating software that would allow them essentially a back door to -- to open up and get access. Do you think Apple should be forced to do that, because Apple says that's going to violate not
only privacy rights, but it’s going to make everybody’s cell phone vulnerable, potentially, to hackers. CARSON: Sure. Well, you know, the interesting thing is I think that Apple and probably a lot of other people don’t necessarily trust the government these days. There is probably a very good reason for people not to trust the government but we’re going to have to get over that because right now we’re faced with tremendous threats and individual radical jihadist who want destroy us. And we’re going to have to weigh these things one against the other. I believe what we need is a public private partnership when it comes to all of these technical things and cyber-security because we’re all at risk in a very significant way. So it’s going to be a matter of people learning to trust each other which means, Apple needs to sit down with those trustworthy in the government. And that may have wait until the next election, I don’t know but we'll see. They need to sit down with people they can trust and hammer out the relationship. COOPER: If you were president right and you just have 11 months left in your term, would you nominate someone to fill Justice Scalia’s seat. CARSON: I probably would. I probably would take the opportunity to nominate someone. It doesn’t necessarily mean that, that person is going to be acted on confirmed but why not do it? But here is the real problem, you know, the Supreme Court is a very important part of our governing system. It was originally intended to consist of jurists who were people who loved America, and were people who fully understood our constitution, and were there to make sure that America preserved its constitutional traditions. It was not suppose to be a partisan group. It has become very partisan, so as a result everything that is done surrounding it; the pics, the confirmation hearings, deciding on whether to actually make the vote, all of it has become partisan in reaction to what is happening. Does it mean that we're forever gone? No, I think it means that these are things that we’re going to have to start looking at. We’re going to start figuring out how in the world do we once again get back to a reasonable judicial system. We do not have that now. We have overreaching. We have a Congress that for some reason has become the peanut gallery, and is just watching what the Executive branch and the judiciary do and not really stepping up to correct some of the incorrect decisions that has been made by the Supreme Court. COOPER: How would a President Carson pick judges? Would you have a litmus test as people often say? CARSON: Yes, the litmus test would be their life. I would look back at what they have done throughout their lives, what kind of rulings they have had throughout their lives, what kind of associations they have had. You can tell a lot more about how a person has lived their life than you can with a series of interviews which they have been prepped for, which they know exactly how to answer. We’ve been burned by those kinds of things before. COOPER: So you wouldn't necessarily have a list of questions on abortion, on whatever other issues? CARSON: I think I could find out what their opinions are by looking back at their life. You know, the bible says in Matthew:1720, by their fruit you will know them. COOPER: I want to have you meet a voter. Her name is Jessica Fuller. She works in advertising. She's a voter here in Greenville. She says, she is still undecided so you could pick up a vote right here tonight. CARSON: Excellent. COOPER: Welcome Jessica, go ahead. JESSICA FULLER, PARTICIPANT: Dr. Carson, how do you reconcile the differences between traditional Christian values, specifically caring the least of these and current GOP stances on social issues such as welfare and subsidies for the poor? CARSON: I think I could find out what their opinions are by looking back at their life. You know, the bible says in Matthew:1720, by their fruit you will know them. COOPER: I want to have you meet a voter. Her name is Jessica Fuller. She works in advertising. She's a voter here in Greenville. She says, she is still undecided so you could pick up a vote right here tonight. CARSON: Excellent. COOPER: Welcome Jessica, go ahead. JESSICA FULLER, PARTICIPANT: Dr. Carson, how do you reconcile the differences between traditional Christian values, specifically caring the least of these and current GOP stances on social issues such as welfare and subsidies for the poor? CARSON: I think I could find out what their opinions are by looking back at their life. You know, the bible says in Matthew:1720, by their fruit you will know them.
killed by a bear, everybody took care of their family. So we have a history of taking care of each other. Now for some strange reason, starting sort of in the '20s with Woodrow Wilson, the government started getting involved in everything. It kept growing, metastasizing. By the time we got to the '60s, LBJ was saying, we, the government, are going to eliminate poverty. Now how did that work out? You know, $19 trillion later, 10 times more people on food stamps, more poverty, more welfare, broken homes, out-of-wedlock births, crime, incarceration. Everything is not only worse, it's much worse. And that's because it's not their job. It's our job. I wish the government would read the Constitution. I think that would probably help quite a bit. And maybe they did read it and maybe they got confused when they read the preamble which says one of the duties is to promote the general welfare. They probably thought that meant putting everybody on welfare. But in fact... (LAUGHTER) CARSON: ... I don't think it means that at all. And what we need to do is level the playing field. But the government can play a very important role in facilitating what we, the people, do. Let me give you one quick example. Look at all of the out-of-wedlock births that are going on, particularly in our inner cities. I have been speaking at a lot of the non-profit organizations that support organizations that support these women so that they don’t have an abortion, so that they have the baby. But usually their education stops when they have that baby. Now if you not only support them through that pregnancy, but now provide childcare for them so they can go back to school and get their GED or their associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree or their master’s degree, learn how to take care of themselves, teach their baby how to take care of themselves so that you break the cycle of the dependency. That’s the only way we’re going to get through these programs. That is true compassion. Having people become dependent on others is not compassion at all.

(APPLAUSE) COOPER: Dr. Carson, I want you to meet, this is Katie Busbee. She works for the Chamber of Commerce here in Greenville. And she says she is undecided. Katie, welcome. KATIE BUSBEE, GREENVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Dr. Carson, I know you would probably agree that one of the biggest issues facing our country is national security threats. So with groups like ISIS and the Middle East becoming more and more unstable, you are running as a candidate that has never governed before. Are you qualified to be commander-in-chief? And are you qualified to deal with these national security threats? CARSON: I obviously think so or I wouldn’t be running for president. You know, it’s the political class that has tried to convince everybody that they are the only ones who can solve our problems. But the fact of the matter is our system was designed for citizen statesmen. It was designed for people who have had real-life experiences and then can transfer that to government work. You know, I can guarantee you that I’ve had more 2:00 a.m. phone calls than anybody else, all the rest of them, had to make life and death decisions, had to derive information frequently from interns or residents who didn’t know a lot but you’ve still got to manage to get the right information, make the right decisions, put together teams to accomplish things that have never before been accomplished before. You know, I think what we really need are people who know how to solve problems, not people who know how to talk. You know, we can all talk, but we can’t all solve problems. And what I think you need to look at is the course of a person’s life. Go back and see, what kinds of things have they had to face? What kinds of things have they had to overcome? And, you know, the people who say, well, you’ve never run anything, you don’t know how to do anything. Maybe none of the things that they want to do. But I’ll tell you, it does take skill to take -- you know, the division of pediatric neurosurgery, when I became chief, it wasn’t even on the map. And to take it to number one in the country, according to U.S. News & World Report, by 2008, that’s not something that’s done lightly. You know, to start the Carson Scholars Fund. These are things that are outside of medicine. And people said, you can’t start another scholarship program. There are tens of thousands of them. But we started it. It’s in all 50 states, has won...
major national awards that are only given to one organization in the country. Obviously, you have to know how to do things. You know, I've spent 18 years on the board of Kellogg's, 16 years on the board of Costco, learned a tremendous amount about business, both domestically and internationally, and a lot of things that people who are politicians who are running have never done. So I think you have to really look at what a person accomplishes in their life and not whether they have a specific pedigree of the political class who thinks that they rule us when, in fact, this country is of, for, and by the people. And it's we, the people, who need to assume once again the pinnacle position. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Dr. Carson, this is Alexander Sexton, he works in the defense industry right here in Greenville. He says he is also undecided, but leaning in your favor. Welcome. QUESTION: Dr. Carson, thank you for your time. Like many Americans, I've only recently felt the need to own a gun, and you know, right now the world is in a dangerous place. So, what is your plan to preserve my rights to own a gun, and also to protect the American people? CARSON: Sure. Well, you know the Second Amendment is there for a very good reason. It was so that the people could assist the government in case of an invasion. More importantly, it was so that the people could protect themselves in case the government itself ever became tyrannical, and tried to rule the people. So, we've had guns for hundreds of years, and we've been free for hundreds of years. I think there may be a correlation there. And, you know, I think, you know, after the San Bernardino attacks, and the Paris attacks, you know? The current administration, their ideal of solving the problem was to take guns away from the people. Somehow that's going to solve your problem because there are terrorists trying to kill you. Take your guns away. It makes absolutely no sense. What they should be doing is offering free classes in gun safety to all the citizens who want to take it so they can protect themselves. It is the fundamental right that we have to be able to protect ourselves, but we also need to take safety into account. Once we do that in a reasonable way, I think you're right, my right, all of our rights should be preserved. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I just want to follow up on Alexander's question. He was saying he's gotten a gun for the first time in his life. Have you ever -- do you own a gun? Have you ever felt the need to have a gun? CARSON: Yes. I don't know that I felt the need to have a gun, but I like having a gun. It's a nice thing to have. You know, I have multiple marksmanship awards from ROTC, and I'm very much in favor of preserving those rights. COOPER: I want you to meet Vickie Burns. She's a retired small business owner. She says she's leaning towards Governor Bush, but she has not yet made up her mind. Welcome... CARSON: ... OK. QUESTION: Hi, Dr. Carson. My question for you is if you are elected president, what would be your big idea? In the past we've had great presidents that have united our country with programs such as the space program, the WPC, and we are in much need of a big idea. CARSON: Well, I have multiple big ideas, but here's one of the things that I really want to get across to the country. We have only 330 million people. Sounds like a lot of people, but China has 1.4 billion people. India has 1.1 billion people. We have to compete with them on the world stage which means we can't afford to waste any of our people, so it doesn't make sense for us to have 20 plus percent of people who enter high school dropping out of highschool in the technological age, in the information age. It makes no sense for us to have 5% of the world's population, and 25% of the inmates. And, we have to reorient ourselves in a way that we keep those things from happening because for everyone of those young people we can keep from going down that path of self destruction, that's one more person that we all don't have to be afraid of, or protect our family from. One more person that we don't have to pay for in the penal system, or the welfare system. One more taxpaying, productive member of society who may discover the cure for cancer, or a new energy source. We can't afford to throw away any of our people. that's a big idea. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: This is Richard Leland, he's a family physician right here in Greenville, and he also says he's undecided. Richard,
welcome. QUESTION: Thank you. Dr. Carson, in the event that you did not win the presidency, but one of your fellow Republicans did, if they were to ask you to consider serving as the Surgeon General, or head of the Department of Health and Human services, with your passion and your ability, would you be willing, at some point, to consider this? CARSON: Well, I got to tell you, I'm not looking for a job, you know? (LAUGHTER) CARSON: You know? After... COOPER: ... Well, there is one job you're looking for. (LAUGHING) CARSON: After 15,000 operations, and a very arduous career, I'm definitely not just looking for something to do. I feel that our country is on the precipice and it's about to go over the edge. And if we continue with politics as usual, Democrats or Republicans, we are going to go over that edge. And I think we have to reach down and recognize that we're -- we can't just tinker around the edges. We're going to have to have some real ideas here, ideals of how we get that economic engine which is the most dynamic and powerful economic engine that the world has ever known rolling again. I've got good ideas about that, bencarson.com. And I can explain them if anybody asks me that question. But, you know, also, when we look at what's happening to our nation in terms of our vision for who we are, I think we're starting to lose sight of who we are. We are so busily giving away our identity, our values and our principles for the sake of political correction -- correctness that we don't know who we are. And the Bible says without a vision, the people perish. So I have a vision that I think I share with a lot of "we, the people," and that's the direction I want to go in. It would be very difficult for me to serve in an administration that didn't have that same philosophy. COOPER: OK, thank you. We're going to take a short break, Dr. Carson. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: We're going to have more questions from the audience for Dr. Carson when we come back. You're watching a CNN Republican town hall from Greenville, South Carolina. Marco Rubio and Senator Ted Cruz are also coming up. We'll be back in a moment. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Welcome back to the CNN townhall here in Greenville, South Carolina. We're talking to Dr. Ben Carson. Our next question comes from Katie Abrames. She's a Clemson student. And she is undecided. Welcome. KATIE ABRAMES, CLEMSON STUDENT: Hi, Dr. Carson. My name is Katie. And when I was 18 and I had just graduated from high school, I lost one of my dearest friends to a senseless murder. It's one of the main reasons that I'm extremely passionate about impacting positive change in the current criminal justice system. Personally I believe that people who go to prison should have the ability if they get parole or probation to re-assimilate into society and serve the community that they negatively impacted. So if you are elected president, how would you work alongside policymakers to impact positive criminal justice reform? CARSON: Well, you know, as I mentioned a little earlier, you know, we have 5 percent of the population of the world and 25 percent of the inmates. And that, obviously, means that something is askew. And we're putting a lot of people in prison who don't need to be in prison. They're not violent criminals, and all we do is send them to the university (sic) where they become violent criminals, and then we release them on society. That makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. But when we send people to prison, we need to be thinking about whether they are going there for life or whether they're going to be reintegrated into society. If they are going to be reintegrated into society, we need to be thinking about, how are we going to make that a successful reintegration? In many cases that may mean we should be offer something practical training. There's no reason people can't learn how to become a welder or a plumber or a whole host of different things. Plus, you know, there are high level courses where people can learn mathematics and, you know, engineering skills. So we really ought to be thinking about how do we take these people and turn them away from a life that's going down the wrong pathway to one where they become part of the fabric of success in America. COOPER: So does that mean for you re-looking at mandatory minimum sentences for... CARSON: Absolutely. COOPER: ... low level, non-violent offenders? CARSON: Absolutely it means
that. And it also means we need to look at those who are mentally ill. There are a lot of mentally ill people who are being housed in prisons. That doesn't make any sense. We have facilities all over the country that are sitting empty because we have decided that it's too expensive to take care of the mentally ill. So they end up on the street where frequently they become victimized by people and then they wind up in the criminal justice system. And then we put them in amongst people who are violent criminals. So now you take somebody mentally unstable and now you are teaching them how to be a violent criminal, and then you're releasing them on our society. That doesn't make any sense. So I think it would be a lot cheaper if we begin to take care of these people the way they should be taken care of. And there's going to be, quite frankly, plenty of money to take care of people when we stop doing all the silly stuff that we're doing with all of these unnecessary regulations which tamp down our business with a tax system that absolutely is asinine and makes no sense whatsoever. And then the money will be drawn in that's sitting on the sidelines. And we once again begin to create the can-do attitude as opposed to the what can you do for me attitude. And I think America will be on its way pretty quickly.

COOPER: Katie, thank you for your question, appreciate it. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: This is Will Richter who goes to Clemson. He's involved with student government at Clemson. He says he's deciding between you and Senator Rubio. CARSON: That should be an easy choice. (LAUGHTER) WILL RICHTER, CLEMSON STUDENT: Hi, Dr. Carson. According to a “60 Minutes” investigation, the Justice Department says that China’s corporate espionage is so vast that it constitutes a national security emergency, costing American companies hundreds of billions of dollars and American citizens over 2 million jobs. If elected president, how would you go about protecting American intellectual property rights abroad while maintaining diplomatic relations? CARSON: A very important question. I mean, we are being hit thousands of times a day. And if you go to individual Americans, millions of times every day by cyber attacks from China and other places. And, that's why, you know, I have advocated for a comprehensive solution for cyber security, and again, you can read about that on the website. But, again, public-private partnerships so that we can create the kind of common monitoring process so that if you get attacked, or your company gets attacked, you know? We have a common place that we can report that, and we can begin to see where the pieces fit together so that we understand where it's coming from. And, quite frankly, we have some pretty substantial offensive cyber capabilities. Our administration is reluctant to use them. I would not be reluctant to use them. If somebody hit us from another country with a cyber attack, they would not do it a second time, believe me. And, people think that I'm nice, and I am nice, but I also want to protect our people. And protect -- if you stand up to people who are doing these things, it makes the much less likely to continue. But, again, by having a public-private partnership being able to tap into all of our resources I think we'd have a much better opportunity to defend ourselves, and put up the kinds of defenses that can keep morphing so that they will not be able to keep up with us. Americans have always been incredibly innovative, and if we can release that innovation again, and get rid of some of the things that dampen that innovation, I think we'll stay far ahead of the competition. COOPER: Thank you for your question, appreciate it. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want you to meet Jillian Rogiers. She's a stay at home Mom, she's also still undecided. Gillian? QUESTION: Hello, Dr. Carson... CARSON: ... Hi. QUESTION: I do appreciate your mild-mannered nature in this campaign, however... CARSON: ... Uh-oh. QUESTION: ... If you are... (LAUGHING) QUESTION: If you are the Republican nominee, how do you plan to not -- how do you plan to get your message out over a boisterous Democrat? (LAUGHING) CARSON: What boisterous Democrat would that be? (LAUGHING) CARSON: No, quite simply. What I have discovered, you know? As a pediatric neurosurgeon, and as someone who dealt with loss of children -- I had a program at the hospital where I bring in 800 students
at a time, frequently elementary students, and you would say how are you going to speak to 800 elementary students and keep them quiet? You know what? By speaking softly because then they would -- what's he saying? They would shut up. (LAUGHING) CARSON: It actually worked extremely well. But, really the key is not so much the volume with which you speak, but it's the content of what you say. That's what's going to make the difference. And, I think the American people are smart enough to be able to understand bluster, and rhetoric versus truth. And, when it comes to the general election, you know? People who are running around saying things like free college for everyone, it'll be very easy to counter that by simply educating people as to the actual financial condition of our nation. And, that's not done, you know? I think Margaret Thatcher probably said it best. She said socialism is great until you run out of other people's money, and that's exactly what would happen when we would explain that to people, and I think they would understand. So, I look forward to such a challenge. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Of course -- a follow up to that. It's not just obviously in a general election, you've been on a stage with some pretty boisterous folks the last couple of months. I'm not going to name any names, but do you -- what are you thinking when you're on a stage in those debates? What is going through your mind?

CARSON: Well, I'll tell you, honestly what was going to my mind is will these guys in any way remember what happened in 2012 when they tried to tear each other apart, which was probably the only reason that President Obama was able to win reelection with a record that even noone could have won on. So, we have to stop finding ways to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. COOPER: Do you have a candidate you would prefer to run against in a general, Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton? CARSON: I would relish running against either one of them. It would not be a problem. COOPER: Right. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Our next question comes from, oh, I'm sorry, we're going to go for some of the personal questions here. Actually, if you would take a seat here. So, was it hard for you to give up surgery? I mean, you trained for this for so long. You were an excellent surgeon by all accounts. CARSON: Some people have said, "I was just an OK surgeon." No, I miss very much what medicine used to be. I do not miss what it has become. And I think you will find if you talk to a lot of people in the medical profession that they're not very happy today. COOPER: Because they're not able to spend time with patients?

CARSON: There are so many new rules and regulations and yes, the epicenter in all the various things that you have typed in - you don't even have a chance to look at the patient. There's a lot of information that you can gain from just looking at somebody when you're talking to them which is an essential part of medical care that's being lost. That's the reason that I denoted a different type of system that actually costs less than either the current so-called Affordable Care Act or the system that we had before that. It would provide excellent care for everybody including the indigent and doesn't have any second class citizens. We have enough money to do it. We spend almost twice as much per capita as many other nations that have much better access. We have so much disruption and inefficiency in our system that can be easily corrected. COOPER: We know President Obama plays golf, we know former President George W. Bush, he used to play down in Texas. What do you do to relax? CARSON: Play pool. COOPER: Play pool? CARSON: I love to play pool. COOPER: Are you competitive when you play pool? CARSON: I like to win and I'll tell you it relaxes me. When I would come home from a busy day of surgery, I would shoot pool. And my wife who didn't know how to play pool, learned how to play pool and has become an excellent player. She's good competition, if I mess up, she will beat me. COOPER: What sort of music do you listen to? CARSON: I primarily like classical music, particularly baroque music. COOPER: Did you listen to that when you did surgery? CARSON: Absolutely. All the residents knew when they came and did their pediatric neuro-surgery rotation that they would also learn classical music. I remember one resident, I would always ask him questions and he would always say, “that's the 1812 overture.” And
then he says, “I know I’m going to be right one time.” (LAUGHTER) COOPER: Dr. Carson, a pleasure. CARSON: Thank you very much. COOPER: Dr. Ben Carson. When we come back, Senator Marco Rubio takes the stage and takes the questions. We’ll be right back. COOPER: And welcome back. We’re coming to you tonight from the Old cigar Warehouse here in Greenville, South Carolina. It’s the first of two consecutive Republican town halls here on CNN. The next one is tomorrow night at Columbia featuring Ohio Governor John Kasich, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Donald Trump. Right now, please welcome Senator Marco Rubio of Florida. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Hey, Senator, welcome. How are you? RUBIO: Thanks. COOPER: Take a seat. RUBIO: Thank you. COOPER: So welcome, first of all. Thanks for being here. RUBIO: Thank you. (INAUDIBLE). COOPER: It’s a beautiful building, yes. I want to ask you about what’s -- how is it feeling out on the campaign trail after a fifth place finish in New Hampshire, some counted you out. You had a -- a very good debate here. You're getting big crowds. Just today, a major endorsement from South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. Are you feeling the -- the Marco-momentum? RUBIO: The Marco-mentum? I love that term. Yes. I do. I feel great about it. I mean we feel a lot of energy. People coming to our rallies are each getting bigger. People signing up. Obviously, Saturday, we'll find out. People are going to vote. But I -- all I can do is our best. We've got a good message and I know why I'm running. And I feel good about what that's going to translate to. So we'll see. COOPER: You probably know it’s getting pretty tough out there. There's some accusations going back and forth. You called Ted Cruz a liar. He came out today and said your campaign is, quote, “relying on fabrication, refuted claims point by point.” Do you stand by the assertion that he's lying? RUBIO: Well, I said he's been lying because if you say something that isn't true and you say it over and over again and you know that it's not true, there's no other word for it. And when it's about your record, you have to clear it up, because if you don't, then people say, well, then it must be true. He didn't dispute it. And he's done that a number of times. We saw what he did to Dr. Carson in Iowa, which was wrong. We saw yesterday Trey Gowdy, somebody came up with a fake Facebook post saying Trey Gowdy was no longer endorsing me, a very popular congressman here in South Carolina. So these things are disturbing and they need to be addressed. And I'll address them. But that's not the core of my campaign. I spend 99 percent of my time talking about America’s future. But if someone says something that's not true, and I don't clear it up, well, that's not fair. Then people may think, well, then it's true. COOPER: Some -- President Obama said something I want to ask you about so you can -- you can respond to it. He said yesterday, you've got a candidate who sponsored a bill that I supported to finally solve the immigration problem and he's running away from it as fast as he can.” (INAUDIBLE)... RUBIO: Yes, but President Obama has no standing to talk about immigration because his party controlled the White House, the House and the Senate for two years and they did nothing. And then, after, uh, Barack Obama has now put in place two unconstitutional executive orders, which has made it even harder to move forward on immigration. So I believe this issue has to be dealt with. And if you're serious about dealing with immigration, the only thing I'm saying is you'd better secure the border first. Nothing else is going to be able to happen. Nothing else can happen until you secure the border first. The people have been very clear about that. And until we -- that's the key that unlocks the door to dealing with the rest of the issue. Until you do that, we just won't be able to make any progress. COOPER: But as you know, I mean the president is saying you sponsored a bill that he supported. RUBIO: Yes, and it doesn’t -- it can’t pass. It doesn't have the votes. People won't support a comprehensive approach to immigration. It's now been tried three times in the last decade. It has failed each time. And so now we have to understand that the only way forward is through a step by step approach that begins by finally securing our border. We're a sovereign country. Every country has a right to control who comes here, how they come here, when
they come here. And we are the most generous country in the world on immigration. COOPER: Do you think it could pass when you sponsored it? RUBIO: Well, I didn't think the Senate version would pass as is. I knew it wouldn't. In fact, I repeatedly said that during the process. I said, “this bill is not strong enough.” I understood the Democrats controlled the Senate and so that’s the best we could produce in a Senate controlled by Democrats. We wanted to send it to the House. We had hoped the House Republicans Conservatives would make it even better. They never took it up and so there's no way for it. I can just tell you after that experience, for a fact of having been through that, no progress will be made on immigration in this country until we prove to the American people - not just pass a law but a prove to them that we've built the sufficient walls and fences on the border. That we have mandatory e-verify, that we have entry-exit tracking system to prevent Visa overstays and that we hire additional border agents and resources to secure the border. COOPER: I want to ask you a couple of items in making headlines today before we get our audience questions because we've got some great questions. Now, it's a question I asked Dr. Carson, as you know the government is trying to get Apple to create a new software to basically allow them to unlock the phone used by the San Bernadino terrorists. Apple says. “look, if we create this backdoor, it’s a whole new software thing and it's going to endanger 99.9% of those good users of the Iphone.” RUBIO: It's a very very complicated issue and I'll you why, it's about encryption. Today, there's encryption out, I think it's standard on the new Apple and what it does is it protects your privacy. If you lose your Ipad, if you lose your phone; no one can hack into and get your information. So that's why it's there. Here's the thing though, if you require by law - if we passed a law that required Apple and these companies to create a backdoor, number one, criminals could figure that out and use it against you. And number two, there's already encrypted software that exists, not only now but in the future created in other countries. We would not be able to stop that. So there would still be encryption capabilities, it just wouldn't be American encryption capabilities but people in this country could have it. So that's why this is such a difficult issue because on the flip-side of it, there might be valuable information on that phone from the San Bernadino killers that could lead us to preventing future crimes or future attacks - future terrorist attacks. So I think we're either going to have a figure a way forward by working with Silicon Valley and the tech industry on this. There has to be a way to deal with this issue that continues to protect the privacy of Americans or creates some process by which, law enforcement and intelligence agencies could access encrypted information. I don't have a magic solution for it today. It's complicated, it's a new issue that's emerged just in the last couple of years. But I do know this, it will take a partnership between the technology industry and the government to confront and solve this. COOPER: So it does concern you - basically of Apple's concerns on the idea that this would create a back door? RUBIO: If you create a backdoor, there is a very reasonable possibility that a criminal gang could figure out what the backdoor is. That possibility is - if you create a backdoor, you're creating a vulnerability. And what you're not going to chance is the fact that other companies around the world who are not subject to U.S. laws - they could create encryption technology that we'll never be able to get access to. So it's not as simple as people think it is. Now Apple is under court order and I'm sure they're going to appeal it. They need to follow whatever the court order is ultimately. But moving forward, we are going to have to work with Silicon Valley. We're going to have to with the tech Industry to figure out a way forward on encryption that allows us some capability to access information especially in an emergency circumstances where there might be information on there that could prevent a terrorist attack. COOPER: Another item in the news which actually I've literally just Leonard about, someone was talking in my ear as you were coming out. We just learned that President Obama plans to visit Cuba some time I think this month. I don't know the exact date but he does plan to visit. Is that
something as President you would ever do? RUBIO: Not if there’s not a free Cuba. And I’ll tell you the
problem with the Cuban government; it’s not just a communist dictatorship, it is an Anti-American
communist dictatorship. The Cuban government three years ago helped North Korea evade U.S.
Sanctions. They were caught trying to sell missile parts to North Korea but nothing happened. The
Cuban government today harbors hundreds of fugitives of American judicial, Medicare fraud – there
are people there who have stolen your money. They come to the U.S., they steal money - Medicare fraud,
they go back to Cuba, the Cuban government’s protecting them. The Cuban government is harboring a
killer from New Jersey who killed a state trooper in New Jersey. The killer escaped jail, fled to Cuba and
the Cuban government is protecting her. Beyond that, they’re a repressive regime. There’s no elections
in Cuba, there’s no choice in Cuba. And so my whole problem -- I want the relationship between the U.S.
and Cuba to change but it has to be reciprocal. Look at what we did with Burma or Myanmar, where the
U.S. opened up to them but they made political changes. And today, the former minority party is now
the majority party in their legislative body because our change towards them was conditional on their
change towards their people. He didn’t even ask that of the Cuban government. And so today, a year
and two months after the opening of Cuba, the Cuban government remains as repressive as ever. But
now, they have access to millions to not billions of dollars in resources that they didn’t have access to
before this opening. COOPER: I’ve been told the President is going to go next month just for clarity.
RUBIO: He’s probably not going to invite me. COOPER: This is Maggie Grisell, she’s a senior at Furman
University, she says she’s leaning in your favor... RUBIO: ... Well, good. Let’s finish it tonight. COOPER:
She likes Dr. Carson as well. QUESTION: Hi, Senator Rubio... RUBIO: I like Dr. Carson as well... QUESTION:
... Welcome to Greenville. I’m sure you’re well aware that college and student debt loans are on the rise
currently. As someone who’s planning to attend dental school this upcoming fall, my only in-state option
is about $100,000 dollars a year, setting me up for about half a million dollars of debt before I have the
chance to make a dime of it back. Do you currently think that there’s a problem with the cost of
education... RUBIO: ... Yes. QUESTION: And, if so, what’s your plan to make it more affordable,
specifically how do you deal with cutting costs for students, but still maintaining a high quality of
education? RUBIO: I think that’s a great question. In fact, I believe I’m the only Republican candidate
that consistently talks about student loan debt, and one of the reasons why is because three years ago I
still owed over $100,000 in student loan debt. Which I was only able to pay off because I wrote a book,
it’s called an, “An American Son”, no available in paperback. (LAUGHING) RUBIO: People always laugh, I
love that joke -- It’s not a joke, it is available in paperback. (LAUGHING) RUBIO: So, I’ve actually worked,
and I have a bipartisan agenda on this issue, and it comprises four main things. The first is alternative
accrediting, OK? Today there are only six accrediting boards in the country. You can only award what is
recognized as a four year degree if you are accredited by one of these six institutions. It’s basically a
monopoly because today in the 21st century we have the ability to learn multiple ways. You don’t just
have to sit in a classroom. There are so many different ways now to acquire information. And, so what
I’ve pushed for is an alternative accrediting model that allows there to be an accredited learning outside
of the traditional school setting. For example, give people credit for what they learned through life
experience, work experience, military experience. If you have mastered a subject, you should not be
forced to sit in a classroom and pay to take a course on something you already know if you’ve proved
you’ve already mastered it. This alternative accrediting model would allow us to do that, and there’s
already options out there. Coursera, Udacity, but they’re not accredited so you can’t use financial aid,
and the private sector doesn’t recognize it. I think we need to do that. That is especially important for
non-traditional students. For example, let’s say there’s a single mother, she’s a receptionist, she makes
$11 dollars an hour. The only way she's ever going to get a raise is to go back to school and become a dental hygienist, or a paralegal. But, she can't go back to school because she has to work full-time during the day, and raise her kids at night. If there was an alternative accrediting model that allowed her to acquire learning on nights, on weekends through life experience, work experience, that gave her credit for what she learned in her years on the job it would at least shorten that time, if not allow her to complete that degree course. So, the first is alternative accrediting that would allow you to get the maximum number of credits without having to pay for it in a traditional institution. The second is an alternative to student loans called the student investment plan. And, this would allow you to go to a private investment group who would invest in you the way an investment group invests in a start-up business. In essence, they would believe in you so much, and in your success, that they would pay for your college. If you become financially successful, they're going to make their investment back with a profit. If you do not, they're going to lose their money and made a bad investment. But, all the risk is on them. The third is to make income based repayment the automatic method of repaying a loan. I actually have that law right now that I'm working on with Mark Warner, a Democrat from Virginia. And, why that is important is because I would rather collect $20 dollars a month from a student than nothing. Because if you're collecting $20 dollars, at least you're collecting $20 dollars a month and they're not defaulting on the debt, because if you default it ruins your credit, and no you can't buy a house, now you can't -- it really hurts you. And, the fourth is called right to know before you go, which I'm working on with Ron Wyden, a Democrat from Oregon. And, what that law says is that before you take out a loan, schools have to tell you how much people make when they graduate from that school with the degree that you're seeking. Why is that important? Number one, it will probably teach you that the market for Roman philosophers has tightened significantly. So, you may not want to borrow $50,000 dollars to be a Roman philosopher unless you're going to teach it, or go on to grad school. But, the other is it's going to allow you to compare schools. It's going to allow you to look at two different schools, and say I want to major in history. A history major from this school makes $50 grand a year, and it only costs $20,000 dollars. A history major from this school makes $50,000 dollars a year, but it costs $100,000 dollars. Now you have something to make a decision on other than the U.S. News and World Report college ranking. This is the kinds of things that I'm working on because to me this is deeply personal. When I graduated, when I got married, my first years, my largest payment after the rent was our student loan debt. It was over a thousand dollars a month. So, I always joke that I never met her, but I paid Sally May a lot of money over the years, and I want to avoid more -- because today, higher education is a necessity. It is no longer a luxury. There are no good paying jobs without some skill, and or educational achievement in the 21st century. So, I do think it's a big issue, and I want us to work on it. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Thank you, very much. I'm going to throw away my Roman philosophy question... RUBIO: ... Yeah. COOPER: Put that right there. RUBIO: I didn't do well with Roman philosophy... COOPER: I want you to meet Retired General Hamp McManus. He served 34 years in the U.S. Army in peacetime and during war. He says he is still deciding between you and Governor Kasich. General? Thank you. GEN. HAMP MCMANUS, U.S. ARMY (RET.): Senator Rubio, many would argue that's we're not only electing a president this cycle, but our commander-in-chief to lead America in dealing with some very demanding national security issues ahead. RUBIO: Yes, sir. MCMANUS: What has prepared you the most for this very critical mission? And what strengths of your foundation for the trust and confidence our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines must have in you as their commander-in-chief? RUBIO: Yes, sir. First of all, thank you for your service. And I want to take this opportunity to thank all the veterans in South Carolina and across the country for the service they provided to our country. It is not just electing a commander-in-chief. That is the most
important job of the president. The president doesn't run the economy. The private sector does. The president can be an advocate for legislative action that helps the economy grow. But national security and commander-in-chief is the most important job of the president. I say this to you without any reservation. I know I haven't lived as long as some of the people running for president, but no one running for president, especially on the Republican side, has more experience on national security or foreign policy than I do. As both a member of the Intelligence Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee over the last five years, I have been dealing with every single major issue that this country confronts. And I understand these issues well. I have a record of good judgment on those issues. In 2011, when Moammar Gadhafi was facing his overthrow in Libya, I argued that if that became a protracted conflict, it would leave a vacuum that would be filled by jihadists. And that's exactly what has happened. In 2012, when Bashar al-Assad was facing the threat of being overthrown in Syria, I warned that if we didn't empower non-jihadist rebels in Syria, they would be killed or exiled, and that vacuum that it left behind would be filled by a radical jihadist group. And that's what has happened with Jabhat al Nusra and now ISIS. When ISIS emerged and crossed over into Iraq, from the very beginning I warned that they would become a major threat if not confronted and defeated immediately. The president called them the JV team. Well, today they have affiliates in over a dozen countries. And they have -- by the way, we saw what they did in San Bernardino, what they inspired in Paris as well. And so over the last five years that I've been involved in foreign policy and national security, I have proven time and again that I have both the judgment and the experience to make the right decisions and the right call on these issues. The hardest vote I've ever taken in my time in the Senate was a war -- was a vote to authorize the use of force in Syria. Talked about this in the debate the other night. It is the most difficult vote you'll ever take in Congress. And when Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people and poisoned them, President Obama announced that he would not take military action unless we in Congress authorized the use of that force. And so I examined -- I was angry when I saw the images. I'm sure you saw the same images. As a father, I looked at these pictures of little children, curled up, some dead already because their own leader used poisoned gas and biological agents against them. And I was outraged and I wanted us to exact revenge on him. And then I looked at what the president was proposing. Something that John Kerry later called an attack that would be unbelievably limited. That attack that the president wanted to carry out I concluded after looking at it would be counterproductive. It actually would have empowered Assad, because all he was going to do was a symbolic strike. Assad was going to emerge from it saying, I took on the U.S. and held on. It would have empowered him, it would have made him stronger, not weaker. And so no matter how angry I was, I concluded that I would not vote to authorize the use of force. And it was a tough decision because what I had seen in those images that outraged us all. And so I can look at that field of candidates running today and tell you without any, any hesitation that no one running as a Republican has shown better judgment or has more experience on national security or on foreign policy than I do. MCMANUS: Thank you. RUBIO: Thank you, General. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I just want to follow up with that. Just a quick follow-up. As you know, Governor Bush again continued his line of attack on you saying you're inexperienced. What do you say to Republicans in South Carolina who say, look, do we really want another first-term senator in the White House? RUBIO: Sure. Well, I would just tell you that I believe Barack Obama is a failed president not because he was a one-term senator. Barack Obama today has seven years of presidential experience. There's only two people in the world that have more experience than he does being president, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. And today, seven years after he became president, he is worse in the seventh year than he was in his first. So clearly experience was not the issue. The reason why he has failed as a president is
because his ideas don't work. His philosophy, his ideology is a failed one. I also think it's unfair to say I have no experience. I have 15 years of experience of turning conservative ideas into conservative action. I served eight-and-a-half years in the Florida legislature, not as a back-bencher, but as a leader. We've been talking about eminent domain recently in the campaign. Florida has some of the best eminent domain laws in the country. You know who passed that law? I did. I was the speaker of the Florida House. As speaker of the Florida House, we brought career academies to our schools. That means today students in high schools in Florida graduate not just with a high school diploma, but certified to work as welders, plumbers, electricians, pipe-fitters in vocational training because of what we've put in. We reduced property taxes because I led the effort to do that. We brought the Harlem's children zone model into the inner city of Miami. It's now spread into Orlando and to Jacksonville because of my efforts. We reformed our curriculum without common core, without the federal government and in my time in the U.S. Senate, despite the fact the Senate has not been the most active place in the world over the last five years, because I led the effort, in a bipartisan way, we imposed sanctions on Hezbollah. We get rid of the ObamaCare bailout fund. Today, we have the Girls Count Act I passed on a bipartisan basis, which leverages U.S. foreign aid to take on the scourge of human trafficking and modern-day slavery around the world. I led the effort and we imposed sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela. So I'm proud of what I have achieved, but my campaign is not about the past, it's about the future, about what we're going to do. And I can say this to you without any, any hesitation whatsoever. I am as conservative as anyone running for president. But I am a 15 year conservative who has proven time and again the capability and the -- and the willingness to take conservative ideas and turn them into conservative solutions. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want you to meet Patty Stoner (ph). She lived here in Greenville for 40 years. She said she's deciding between you and Senator Cruz. Patty, welcome. RUBIO: Hi, Patty. PATTY STONER: Thank you. I have a nephew that's currently serving and is deployed to the Middle East as an elite person on an elite team. And there's been a lot of discussion about women in combat. And my concern is if you put women on the front line, you would have to lessen standards and that would put more troops that -- at arm's length and in -- in danger. Also, do you feel like women can compete on the same level to be able to get a position on Special Forces? RUBIO: Well, I don't -- I do not believe that the military is a place where we should be lowering standards in order to meet some sort of other goal. I believe that I'm open to people in both genders serving in combat, so long as they can meet the minimum requirements necessary for the job. And we can't weaken those standards in order to accommodate somebody into the job. That I believe in strongly because lives are on the line. And national security is on the line. By the way, there are plenty of men that can't meet those standards either. And so we should not lower standards for anyone because this is not -- this is not -- this is not a game. You are putting people into harm's way, where they have to be able not simply to do the job in front of them, but also to be able to protect the people that are working alongside them. And so for me, it's not about the gender, it's about the ability to do the job. And as president and as commander-in-chief, I will not lower standards in order to achieve some sort of societal aim. COOPER: Thank you very much (INAUDIBLE). (APPLAUSE) COOPER: This is Joshua Goodwin (ph). He's the vice chair of the Upstate Young Republicans. He says he's voting for you on Sunday. RUBIO: Good. Let's not blow it. JOSHUA GOODWIN: Good evening, Senator. RUBIO: Good evening. GOODWIN: And welcome back to Greenville. RUBIO: Thank you. GOODWIN: My question for us is regarding the Charleston shooting. Myself and many South Carolinians were devastated by the hatred of racism and as a leader, I would like to know how would you simultaneously address the issue of racism, yet unify us as a country? RUBIO: Yes, sir. That's an important question. First, let me begin by saying that the entire country was inspired by the
way South Carolina, and in particular the people impacted in Mother Emanuel Church reacted to the shooting. I think the images of these family members who had lost loved ones saying on television, we forgive the killer, had an impact on the country that was profound. And I think it says a lot about South Carolina, but it also says a lot about a role that faith plays in the state. And if you ask people about it, they will tell you that the church is at the center of how not South Carolina responded, not just to that shooting, but to a previous police shooting and to a flood that was a 1,000 year event. Now, you talk about race relations. It's a difficult issue in this country. I can tell you, and I know a lot of it is centered around law enforcement and police departments. So let me begin by saying very clearly, I know for a fact that the overwhelming majority of the men and women who serve us in law enforcement are incredible people, who, every single day, put their lives potentially on the line for our safety and for our security. (APPLAUSE) RUBIO: But I also know -- but I also know that there are communities in this country where minority communities and the police department have a terrible relationship. I personally know someone who happens to be a police officer and a young African-American male, who told me that he has been pulled over seven, eight times in the last four years and never gets a ticket. What is he supposed to think? He gets pulled over for no reason, never gets a ticket, no one has any explanation for why he's being pulled over. What is he supposed to think? So I also know that in this country, there is a significant number, particularly of young African-American males, who feel as if they're treated differently than the rest of society. And here's the bottom line, whether you agree with them or not, I happen to have seen this happen. But whether you agree with them or not, if a significant percentage of the American family believes that they are being treated differently than everyone else, we have a problem. And we have to address it as a society and as a country, because I do not believe we can fulfill our potential as a nation unless we address that. I'm not sure if there's a political solution to that problem but there are things we can do. For example, one of the reasons why you see both educational and academic underperformance - not just in the African American community but also in the Hispanic community is because of how a disproportionate number of our children are growing up in broken homes and dangerous neighborhoods. They're living in substandard housing and forced by the government to attend a failing school. A child that's born with four strikes against them is going to struggle to succeed unless something breaks that cycle. We've seen things that work. In New York City, Jeffrey Canada and the Harlem Children Zone has shown us what works. You get involved in the lives of children and you begin to address those strikes against them. And you can see the same results you would get anywhere else in the country. So I do believe as a society, we have to confront this issue in a responsible way because ultimately, if a significant percentage of the American feels that they are locked out the promise of America, we will never be able to fulfill our destiny as a great nation. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: If I could, just a quick follow up? On a personal basis, have you ever felt the sting of the racism? RUBIO: You know, let me tell you a couple things, my parents were extraordinary people. My parents raised me to believe that it didn't matter that they came from Cuba and that he was a bartender and she was a maid. There was nothing that we couldn't do. I do recall as a child during the Boat Lift in growing up in Las Vegas that some of the neighborhood kids - older kids, one day were taunting my family. The were saying, “why don't go back on your boat, why don't you go back to your country, why don't leave here.” I didn't know what they were talking about, I was seven years old. I said, “what boat - my mom doesn't even swim, she's afraid of water.” And my parents had sit me down and explain that, “the Mariel Boat Lift is going on and people are really upset about it and they're hearing this stuff but don't blame the kids, they must be hearing it from somebody. That's why they're repeating it.” So that disturbed me as a young child. But I've got to tell you that for the most part in my life, I never
saw it as a reflection on America, I saw it as a reflection on those kids and what they were saying. What I give my parents a lot of credit is that they never raised us to feel that we were victims. They always raised us to believe that our destiny and our future - we lived in the one place on earth where if you worked hard and you persevered, you could achieve no matter what. That doesn't mean that I don't deny that there are people in this country that have had a different experience. We need to recognize that. If you look back at the history of this country we have some blemishes in our history that I believe even to this day, we're fighting through. But what I think is extraordinary about America is that we have fought through that. We are a nation of perpetual improvement. If you look at how far we've come as a country since the 1960's. If you look at how far South Carolina has come from where it is today to where it was 30 to 40 years ago, simply amazing. In my campaign for president today, I got the endorsement of a governor of Indian decent, who endorsed a presidential candidate of Cuban decent, and tomorrow will be campaigning alongside an African American Republican Senator, all three are doing that here inside South Carolina. That says a lot about the Republican party. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want to meet Douglas Parrott who was leaning towards Donald Trump but in the last debate over the weekend gave him some pause. Let us welcome him. DOUGLAS PARROTT, PARTICIPANT: Senator Rubio, the United States economy seems to be chugging along at an anemic two percent GDP. Households incomes are down, workplace participation is down, the stock market seems to be trending down and the Fed has been stimulating our economy for the past decade and this is what we have to show for it. Could you prioritize three actions that you believe we must take as a nation to turn this economic ship around? RUBIO: Well first of all, let me just address the Fed issue, Douglas. That's not the Fed's job to stimulate the economy. The Fed is a central bank, it is not some sort of overlord of the economy. They're not some sort of special Jedi Counsel that can decide the best things for us. The Fed is a central bank. Their job is provide stable currency and I believe the should operate on a rules based system. They would have a very simple rule that determines when interest rates go up and when interest rates goes down. Today, it's like a magic eight ball. We don't know when they're going to raise interest and it creates an incredible amount of uncertainty in the market place. Your question goes to the core of something deeper and then I'm going to get to the three points. We are living through a massive and rapid economic transformation. This is not an economic downturn. This is a massive economic transformation. We are having the industrial revolution every five years. You can be on the cutting edge of an industry today and in less than five years, you're obsolete. That is disruptive and it's eliminating jobs that once sustained them. It's replacing it with new jobs but those new jobs require skills that many of our people may not have because they haven't been trained for it. So the first thing is, we have to make ourselves a friendlier place in a globally competitive economy. If you look at South Carolina, why is South Carolina attracting manufacturing? I'll tell you what it's doing, it's lowering its taxes, it's reducing the regulatory burden - these things are important. So as president, I want us to lead -- I want to be an active and vibrant advocate for setting an agenda that we are going to simplify our tax code. We have the highest combined corporate tax rate in the world. That's why I want to lower it to a flat rate of 25 percent on all businesses, including small businesses organized as subchapter S, and therefore their pass-throughs, paying as high as 39.5 percent. I want us to allow businesses, all businesses, to immediately expense every dollar they invest into their business. I want us to move to a territorial system of taxation. We are the last major industrial country that double taxes its companies from making money overseas. That's why you have $2 trillion of American corporate cash sitting overseas, $2 trillion is equivalent to the GDP of Russia. That's how much American corporate cash is not being invested here and instead is being invested overseas. Regulatory reform is important. I've proposed a regulatory budget, a regulatory
budget that says we're going to put a hard cap on how much federal regulations can cost our economy. And that will force agencies to reduce regulations and it will say if you're going to add a new regulation, you're going to have to cut an existing one because regulations are a burden. The third thing that we're going to have to address in order to get our economy growing is the national debt. It stands at $19 trillion with close to $100 trillion in unfunded liabilities. We will have a debt crisis in America soon if we do not address it. In less than five years, 83 percent of the federal budget will be consumed by Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the interest on the debt. That means we will only have 17 percent of our budget left for everything else, including the military. That's unacceptable. That's a debt crisis. And so I want us to save Social Security and Medicare. And we can do it without disrupting it for people that are on it now. My mother is on Social Security and Medicare. I am against any changes to those programs that's bad for my mother, which is a pretty good policy. But it won't look the same for me. I'm going to -- instead of retiring at 67, I may have to retire at 68. If I was still in the senate, I'd be one of the youngest people there. (LAUGHTER) RUBIO: If I had made a lot of money, my Social Security benefits may not grow as fast as they grow for someone who made less money. Medicare could be the option of taking my money and using it to buy a private plan that I like better. Medicare Advantage provides that somewhat now. These are not unreasonable changes. They're not too much to ask of me, who is 25 years away from retirement, in exchange for balancing our budget, bringing our debt under control, and leaving Social Security and Medicare undisturbed for current beneficiaries. You deal with our debt, you roll back regulations, you scale down our tax code, and you are going to see America lead the world in the 21st Century economy. We fail to do that, we remain stagnant like we are right now. COOPER: Thank you for your question. RUBIO: Thank you. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Senator Rubio, we're going to take a quick break. We'll be back in a moment with more voter questions for Senator Marco Rubio. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Alright, welcome back. We're here with Senator Marco Rubio, thanks very much for doing this. Before we get back to audience questions, just today former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, obviously appointed by Ronald Reagan said there should be no delay in filling the vacancy by Justice Scalia's death. She said, quote, “I think we need somebody there now to do the job. Let's get on with it.” RUBIO: Well, I respect her very much. I would just say a couple things. There is now an 80 year precedent on this that in the last year of President's term, the Senate usually doesn't move forward, not just on Supreme Court nominations, but on appellate judges because you're appointing someone to a lifetime appointment, theoretically, to the Supreme Court. So, there's going -- the Supreme Court can function with eight Justices. And, then their term will end, a new one will begin in October, and they'll be an election in November. And, this is going to be an issue in the campaign. Voters are going to ask of the Presidential candidates what kind of justice are you going to appoint? There's going to be an election, and then the new president will have an opportunity to nominate someone, and the Senate to confirm them. So, that's the approach I support. COOPER: You said there's precedent. President Obama just yesterday said, look, there's nothing in the Constitution that says you can't. If you were president, would you nominate somebody? RUBIO: No, I would respect that president. And it is true, there's nothing in the Constitution that says he can't nominate someone. There's also nothing in the Constitution that says the Senate must immediately confirm them. COOPER: Right. RUBIO: So, bottom line is that there will be someone filling that vacancy, and I think the new president should be the person who fills that vacancy. Look, it may not be a Republican. I think it's going to be a Republican, that's what I want it to be, but I think it's going to be an issue in this campaign, and the voters are going to be able to weigh in on it in November. COOPER: I want you to meet Amber McDonald. She's an elementary school teacher. She says she is undecided right now. RUBIO: Hi, Amber. QUESTION: Good
evening, how are? RUBIO: Good evening, good. QUESTION: As an educator for 14 years, I have seen a
change in our children. I'm very passionate about what I do, and so it makes my job difficult when these
children come in having other concerns. They're concerned about their parents who fought before they
came. They're concerned that they didn't have food to eat breakfast. And, all of that comes into what
we do every single day. How can you help us to make that easier -- to where we can maybe educate the
parents to where those things are easier for them, then it helps our children to have an easier day, not
as stressful. RUBIO: Thank you for the question. I have three educators in my family, elementary school,
and I hear the exact same thing because ultimately our schools are inheriting whatever society sends
them in the morning. And, I touched on that briefly a moment ago. If a child is being raised in a broken
home, living in substandard housing, no access to healthcare, and facing these other challenges you
talked about. This child faces significant obstacles, and they need to be addressed. The question is what
can government do about it because ultimately there's no law I can pass to make people better parents.
And, no matter how hard you try, and how much you want to help, there's only so much you can do
about that as well. I do think we need to empower parents. It's one of the reasons why my tax plan that
I've proposed increased the per child tax credit. I've been criticized for that by, for example, the Wall
Street Journal and others. They don't like the per-child tax credit, but I don't understand why do we live
in a country where a business invests money in a piece of equipment, they get to write it off their taxes.
But if a working parent invests more money in their children they don't get to write that off their taxes.
This is their money. What I'm arguing is that working parents should be allowed to keep more of their
own money so that they have the resources that it takes to raise their children. It's expensive to raise
children in the 21st century. My tax plan recognizes that. But, ultimately, I think your question goes to
the core of something we need to remind ourselves there is not a federal government solution to every
problem in our country. That does not mean that our leaders should not spend the time to tell people
that what happens in our house -- what happens your house is often times much more important than
what happens in the White House. The most important job I will ever have will not be President of the
United States, it will be to be a father of my four children. And, I think that's important for us as a
society to continue to understand, that you cannot have a strong country without strong people. You
cannot have strong people without strong values. And, you cannot have strong values without strong
families. No One is born with strong values, they have to be instilled in you in a strong home. And, while
government cannot make families stronger, it most certainly can do things to help families like allowing
them to keep more of their hard earned money, and most importantly, not having any laws, whether it's
in our safety net program, or our tax code, that discourages marriage or undermine parenting.
(APPLAUSE) COOPER: You're obviously very accomplished. Did you always know you wanted to do public
service? RUBIO: No, I wanted to play in the NFL, but... (LAUGHING) RUBIO: ... And I would have had it
not been for my lack of speed, size and talent. (LAUGHING) RUBIO: But, I always had an interest in public
service. My grandfather was very -- actually, it's great to be here today. My grandfather, one of the jobs
he had growing as a young man was a cigar reader in the front of a cigar factory. In Cuba they didn't
have T.V. or radio at the time -- they did, but they didn't have it in the cigar factory. And, so he would
read newspapers and novels to the workers. And, as a result, became a very well read person, and he
instilled in me, kind of, this interest in politics, and world affairs. And, I think that was a seed that grew
over time in me. But, I didn't know -- no one can predict you're going to be at a setting like I am here
today. But, I always had somewhat of an interest in it, but I thought I'd be an NFL player, and an NFL
coach before I got to this point. We obviously fast forwarded past the NFL part, and got this part.
COOPER: I want you to meet Jason Lee, he's a minister, the father of four kids, and he says he is still
undecided. Welcome. QUESTION: Thank you. I had the same shortcoming in the NFL as well, Senator. RUBIO: I think almost everyone does, Jason. QUESTION: Most GOP candidates point to Ronald Reagan as a model president they look up to, so I want to ask in terms of looking at him as a model for immigration and refugee resettlement. He had the refugee resettlement annual cap as high as 200,000 in one of his terms. So, my question is looking at him, and considering yourself to be a compassionate conservative, will you let more vetted, secured, refugees into this country? What will your plan be for this American tradition of refugee resettlement? RUBIO: Yes, sir. I believe that America must always continue to be a place that allows people seeking refuge from political persecution and violence to come. Here’s the difference between Reagan’s world, and the one we live in now. Because, policies have to reflect the times in which you live. When Ronald Reagan was President of the United States, there did not exist a radical jihadist group that was attempting to use the immigration laws of other countries against those countries. And, that’s the threat we now face. It’s the reason why, for example, in America there was a time in many communities when nobody locked their doors. No everybody locks their doors. And, it isn't because we hate people outside of our home, it’s because we love the people inside of our home. And, so today, in the process by which we accept people into the United State is going to have to be different. We know for a fact that ISIS, for example, has captured key places in Syria where passports are produced. And, so you’ve seen open sourced reporting that today ISIS has the capability of basically creating legitimate Syrian passports, except the picture and the name is not exactly who it says it is. This is a real threat for America. If we accept 10,000 Syrian refugees tomorrow, and 9,999 of them were good people, and one of them was an ISIS killer, we have a big problem. We have to be 100% right given the threat we now face. So, what I’ve said is it's not about a religious test, it’s not about discrimination. It’s just that we have to be 100% right. And, that means that our vetting process must be stricter than it's ever been. Here’s the hard truth, it’s almost impossible to vet people now from that part of the world. We don’t have a database to rely on. You can’t just call up 1-800-Syria and ask them, “Do you know so-and-so,” and, “do you know who they are, and why they’re coming?” It's just become harder and harder to vet people from certain parts of the world. So, my point is we'll always be a country that's open to refugees, but in the 21st century, if we don't know who you are, and we don't know why you're coming 100% for sure, we’re not going to be able to allow you to come in because the threat we face is so significant now, and so real. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Thank you very much. Senator Rubio, this is Jeff Phillips. He's an attorney, he says he likes you, and Donald Trump. Still has not made up his mind. Jeff, welcome. QUESTION: Thank you. Hi, Dr. Ben Carson mentioned, before you came out here, that the GOP may not have learned its lesson in 2012 regarding infighting, especially in the primary. This primary has been as contentious as any I've seen -- 45 years I've been watching politics. The question is this. There's going to be a lot of healing. There’s going to have to be a lot of bridge-building after this primary, no matter who wins it. And I would like to know what you would do and what you have done in the past to show that you have the ability not only to unify the Republican Party but unify the American people well enough to win the general election. RUBIO: That's a great question. First of all, I think we need to remember that in this country we're blessed that we have -- in this country, we solve through elections what other countries solve through civil wars. And that's just in America. Just have some perspective here. The worst thing that happens to someone in the political process is you lose an election. They say nasty things about you and they run a bad ad about you. In other countries, if you lose an election, you go to jail or you go into exile. So we're blessed to be living in a republic where we have strong disagreements about the future of our country but they are settled at the ballot box, not at the tip of a gun or a spear. That said, you're right that we're going to -- if we want to win an election, we're going to
ultimately have to come together. And I believe I already provide that. There's a reason why virtually every candidate in this field has attacked me. Because I run a campaign that I believe appeals to the broad sector of the Republican electorate. Now they don't all agree with me on every issue. But we've basically campaigned to every voter in the Republican coalition. But my promise to you if I'm the nominee is, I'm not just going to unify the Republican Party, I'm going to grow it. We're going to take our message to people that haven't voted for Republicans in a long time. And they haven't voted for us because the left and the Democrats have told them that the Republican Party is the party of the rich people and the Democrats are the party of the working people. That's one of the biggest lies in American politics. The Democratic Party, which today is led, apparently according to the polls, by a devout avowed democratic socialist, has become a far left party. And they are the party of big government. Big government hurts people that are trying to make it, because the bigger the government, the more the people that influence government win at the expense of everybody else. Look at Dodd-Frank. It passed. The big banks are bigger today than ever. The regional banks and the community banks are getting wiped out. So we have a message and we're going to take it, we're going to take our message to people living paycheck to paycheck. You know why I know I can take that message to them? Because I grew up paycheck to paycheck. Because my wife and I have lived paycheck to paycheck. Because I've written a check on Wednesday knowing that the money doesn't get there until Friday, so I date it Saturday. I've had to do that. I know what that feels like. We're going to take our message to young Americans struggling under thousands of dollars in student loan debt. We're going to be the party of the single mom that is struggling to raise her children on $11 an hour because we're going to be the party that makes it easier for her to go back to school and get the degree that allows her to find a better-paying job. We're going to take our message to parents raising their children in the 21st Century, because my wife and I are raising four children right now. We know how hard it is to instill in our children the values that they teach in our church instead of the values that the culture tries to ram down our throat. My goal is not just to unify the party, but to grow it. And ultimately to unify our country. That doesn't mean everyone is going to agree with me on everything. But I'm going to be a president for all Americans, even the people that don't vote for me, I'm going to cut their taxes, too. I'm going to be a president for all Americans, because an American president has to love the American people, even those that don't love you back. And that's what I intend to do. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: One of the things that Ted Cruz said earlier today, he called you— that you are behaving like Donald Trump with a smile. I want you to be able to respond. (LAUGHTER) RUBIO: Donald smiles. I've seen him smile. (LAUGHTER) RUBIO: I don't know, this back and forth is silly. In the end, look, if somebody says something about me that isn't true, I'm going to correct the record, Anderson. But ultimately, it's not about me, it's not about Ted, it's not about Donald. It's about what is this country going to look like when my 15-year-old daughter graduates from college. What is it going to look like when he buys her first home or tries to start her first business? What is it going to look like when my 8-year-old son does the same? 2016 is a turning point. And I honestly believe we only have two ways forward. We are either going to be the first Americans that leave their children worse off than themselves or we are going be the authors of a new American century, the greatest era in our history. That's a pretty dramatic choice. I believe 2016 is about that. And when the stakes are that high, that's what I'm going to spend 99 percent of my time talking about. COOPER: You talked about your kids, your wife, Jeanette. You have a commercial now with both of them in it. When did you know that your Jeannette was the woman for you? RUBIO: Well, I'd like to think she liked me first, but I liked her first. (LAUGHTER) COOPER: How did you meet? RUBIO: So I was playing sand volleyball at a park in West Miami, Florida, and saw this really
cute girl sitting there. And I started asking questions about her. But months would go by. I finally didn't really get to know her until my college roommate was dating her best friend and introduced us. And it took a little while to convince her that I was the right person. But we were dating for seven years. We got married in 1998. It has been one of the most blessed things that has ever happened to me in my life. I'm truly blessed to have not just a godly and wonderful wife and partner in life, but also been blessed by four incredible children. And I tell people all the time, I mean that's an extraordinary blessing that it -- that's what I have so much peace about, no matter what happens. I'm running for president. I'd love to be your president. But my kids are going to love me no matter what happens and -- and so if my wife. And I'm just blessed by that. COOPER: If a -- if you are elected president, would you still coach your son in football? RUBIO: I'd like to. I'll have to talk to the Secret Service about it. But a... (LAUGHTER) RUBIO: - - but I love -- and, you know, the thing about sports, we -- yes, would you love your children to be successful? Absolutely, in whatever they do. But for me, sports has been an incredible teacher of life -- life lessons. You know, I was a little bit disappointed by what happened in New Hampshire and I thought I had myself to blame. And the lessons that I applied to that disappointment came from sports. I used to play defensive back. And, uh, I got beat from time to time on a pass play. You're going to if you're a corner back. You've got to put that behind you, because you've got another play coming up and you've got to make up for it on the next play. I learned that lesson from athletics. And so for me, as much as anything else, sports has been a way for me to instill life lessons in my children, particularly how to deal with failure, how to deal with disappointment and how to work alongside other people in order to achieve a goal. COOPER: With all the -- with the worry now about concussions, do you worry about your child -- you used to do football in school? RUBIO: Yes. I do -- well, we -- we try to make it as safe as we possibly can. Football has inherent danger. So does competitive stunt cheerleading. My daughter used to do that. So does driving a car to work and back. So there's risks inherent in a lot of activity. I ultimately think football is an incredible sport. It teaches lessons, life lessons, that are -- that I think are valuable. You can make the game safer. You can make it as safe as possible. COOPER: In Mason City, I was surprised you mentioned that you're color-blind, which I hadn't realized. RUBIO: I am. COOPER: And that you should have seen your clothes before your wife started picking them out. RUBIO: Yes, well, we basically are now sticking to like reds and blues and grays and blues because I have trouble distinguishing between blue and black, blue and purple. COOPER: -- those are the colors... RUBIO: Yes. COOPER: -- you can't see. RUBIO: It's a mess, yes. I have no -- it's a... COOPER: Did you always have that? It was something... RUBIO: I didn't know until people started telling me hey, that's a nice green shirt. I go what green, the blue one I have on? No, it's green. So I -- yes, I struggle with it. COOPER: The other thing I think I found that's surprising about it is you like EDM. RUBIO: I do. COOPER: Electronic dance music. RUBIO: Yes. It's -- I don't want people -- maybe people thought it was something else. So I've -- I've (INAUDIBLE)... COOPER: Have you ever been to a rave? RUBIO: Well, no, no... COOPER: -- and... RUBIO: -- I'm -- I've never been to a rave, no. I've never been to a rave. COOPER: Well, I don't know. (LAUGHTER) RUBIO: It's the Republican primary, Anderson. COOPER: Well, I... (LAUGHTER) COOPER: I mean you -- you like EDM. That's what they do, isn't it? RUBIO: No, I listen to it. I don't necessarily... COOPER: OK. RUBIO: -- I don't -- I think I'm a little too old to be going to a rave, (INAUDIBLE). (LAUGHTER) COOPER: Well, maybe back in the day. RUBIO: Well, I have
the boots for it. I don't know if you saw that on TV or not, but, no, here's the thing about it. I actually grew up listening to '90s hip-hop music, especially the West Coast stuff. And I really liked it. But the - in the last few years, what's happened with EDM, you've got these electronic - these disc jockeys or these DJs that are taking electronic music and overlaying it with tracks from country music and all sorts of things and so the lyrics are clean. The beats and music is fun. I've gotten into it. It's a lot of fun. COOPER: Do your kids like it, too? RUBIO: Yes, they -- I mean there's -- the words are clean. Sometimes they have no words at all. It's electronic dance music, so that's perfect. I don't have to worry about the lyrics. COOPER: Senator Rubio, thank you so much for your time. RUBIO: Thank you, Anderson. Thank you so much. COOPER: Appreciate it. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want to thank Senator Rubio for taking part. I really appreciate it. Thank you very much. Coming up next, Iowa caucus winner Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. We'll be right back. COOPER: Welcome back. We're here at the historic Old Seville Warehouse on South Main Street in Greenville, South Carolina. Republican Candidates taking questions from voters. The primaries are just three days away. Right now, please welcome Iowa Caucus winner, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. (APPLAUSE) CRUZ: Hello. COOPER: Welcome, how are you. Have a seat. CRUZ: Thank you. COOPER: So obviously, you've won in Iowa. You've had a very good day today. There's a new poll out saying that, “on the national race, you are actually now in the lead.” How does it feel out there for you? CRUZ: Well, it feels fantastic. I mean, what we're really seeing - we're seeing that old Reagan coalition come together. You know, what was interesting Anderson - in Iowa, all the pundits in Iowa said that, “we didn't have a prayer.” Every person on television was saying, “Donald Trump was going to win. Donald Trump was going to win.” And then, we saw record shattering turnout show up. And you know what was so encouraging? The folks that came together, it was that old Reagan coalition. So we won among conservatives but we also won among evangelicals. We won among Reagan democrats and we won among young people. That's the coalition it's going to take I think to win the nomination but also to win the general election. And we needed up - our campaign earned more votes than any campaign in the history of the Iowa Republican Caucuses. It really was a testament to the grassroots. COOPER: You got a cease and desist letter today from Donald Trump. I don't think I've ever heard of that actually happening in a race. One of many firsts that we've seen. What did you think when you actually got the letter? CRUZ: I'll confess, I laughed. This has not been a typical race by any sense and I don't think anyone is surprised that Donald is threatening to sue people. He's done that most of his adult life. But this letter really was - look, I've practiced of 20 years and this letter really pressed the bounds of the frivolous and ridiculous letters I've ever seen. He was upset about an ad that we're running on T.V. The ad talks about the vacancy of the Supreme Court and that we've got issues such as life, and marriage, and religious liberty, and the 2nd amendment that are in the ballots. COOPER: And it uses an old interview from Tim Russert back in the late 90's? CRUZ: It plays Donald Trump doing an interview Time Russert where he explains in his own words, he says,” he's very very pro-choice, he supports partial birth abortion -” and he says, “he's pro-choice in every respect.” But most of the words in the ad are his own words on national television, and his argument in the letter is running his own words, was defamation. COOPER: He says, though, you're misrepresenting his current position, that he has evolved -- pro life... CRUZ: ... It is quite literally the most ridiculous theory I've ever heard, that telling the voters what Donald Trump's actual record is is deceitful and lying... COOPER: ... Do you... CRUZ: ... And, listen, I said this morning -- held a press conference where I read his letter to everyone, and I invited Mr. Trump. I said, please, Donald. File this lawsuit. COOPER: You want to depose him? CRUZ: And, you know why? Well, that's part of it, is that in any defamation case truth is a complete defense, and so his lawyer said he said that saying he's pro-choice, which actually we don't say he's pro-choice. Donald says he's pro-
choice in every respect. COOPER: But, that was back in the late 1990's. He's, again, has said he's evolved. Do you accept that he is pro-life? CRUZ: Well, let's put it this way, four days ago on the debate stage, Donald Trump explained how many wonderful things he thought Planned Parenthood does. That was four days ago. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortionist in this country. They are responsible for taking the lives of millions of unborn children. I'll tell you, nobody who is actually pro-life can stand up on national stage and sing the praises of planned parenthood as wonderful -- I don't think they do anything wonderful, and I don't think we need to be sending federal taxpayer funds to an organization that on video has been implicated in what appears to be multiple federal felonies. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I don't want to sound like I'm arguing his case for him, but just for fact (ph) sake, he says he just does not support abortion at all. He's opposed to it, but there are other things that Planned Parenthood...

CRUZ: ... Well, look, as I laid out. So, his claim is if you tell people his record, if you actually show Donald Trump on national television his own words, that he's going to file a lawsuit to prevent you from doing that. I pointed out, listen, we've got at least four pieces of evidence. Number one his own words on national television. Number two, what he said on the debate stage four days ago, singing the praises of Planned Parenthood. Number three, last year, not very long ago, when talking about Supreme Court nominees, Donald said his sister -- now his sister is a Court of Appeals judge who was put on the Court of Appeals by Bill Clinton. He said his sister would make a phenomenal Supreme Court Justice. Now, listen, it's great to support your sister, that's a nice thing. But, if you're actually suggesting someone for the Supreme Court, his sister is a radical pro-abortion judge. She struck down New Jersey's ban on partial-birth abortion as irrational. That's an extreme position. That's who he suggested as a Supreme Court Justice last year. And, one of the things I layed out, listen. Donald, for the last four decades has written checks to Democrats over, and over, and over again. From Jimmy Carter, to Hillary Clinton, to John Kerry, to Chuck Schumer, to Harry Reid. And... COOPER: ... He has a lot of friends, he says. CRUZ: ... Yeah, but it's not friends, and he's given -- so, in 2006, for example, when the Democrats took over Congress Donald and his son gave about three times as much to the Democrats as they did to the Republicans. They helped fund putting Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid as Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate. They helped set the stage for Obamacare. And, for anyone that actually cares for conservative judges, I'll tell you, Anderson, there is no universe in which I could write a check to Chuck Schumer or Harry Reid, or Hillary Clinton, or John Kerry, or Joe Biden, or Jimmy Carter, and anyone who's done that by definition does not care about conservative justices because the people he supported fought tooth and nail to put liberals on the Supreme Court. I think the stakes are too high for that. COOPER: I want to ask you about a couple of items of news that I've asked the other candidates who are here tonight. The issue with Apple, and the iPhone. If you know, again, if anybody's just joining us, a judge has ordered Apple to basically develop new software to create sort of a backdoor that would allow law enforcement to unlock the phone of one of the San Bernardino terrorists... CRUZ: ... (INAUDIBLE)... COOPER: ... Should Apple be compelled to do that? CRUZ: I believe they should. They have a binding search order. And, listen, any time you're dealing with issues of security, and civil liberties, you got to balance them both. And, I think we can walk and chew gum at the same time. We can protect yourself from terrorist, and also protect our civil rights. COOPER: Because Apple, for their part, they said this creates a backdoor that basically endangers all of our cell phones. CRUZ: Well, listen. I think Apple has a serious argument that they should not be forced to put a backdoor in every cell phone everyone has. That creates a real security exposure for hackers, cyber criminals to break into our cell phones. So, I think Apple has the right side on the global don't make us do this to every iPhone on the market. But, I think law enforcement has the better argument. This concerns the phone of one of
the San Bernardino hackers, and for law enforcement to get a judicial search order, that's consistent with the Fourth Amendment. That's how the bill of rights operates. To say, Apple, open this phone, not Anderson's phone, not everyone's here, open this phone. COOPER: But Apple says they can't do that, that its new operating software that basically would be available on everybody's phone. CRUZ: But they wouldn't have to put it on everyone's phone. And that's -- I believe that Apple, anyone, nobody has a right to defy a legal search warrant. And the way our process works, look, banks all the time keep financial records. And if you or I are a terrorist, if we're a drug dealer, and a search warrant is served on your bank, they can get your financial records. That's how the law enforcement system works. And the Bill of Rights prevents the government from seizing our information without any evidence, but when you have a criminal, when you have a terrorist, we know the San Bernardino terrorists were radical Islamic terrorists. If the Obama administration were not in this politically correct state of denial, ignoring that it is radical Islamic terrorism, we should have done more to prevent that attack. But after the fact, we ought to be doing every tool we can to ascertain who else they might be in contact with, if there's a broader cell. So, of course, we should unlock their phones and find out who they're talking to, what texts they're sending, and that's a basic matter keeping this country safe. COOPER: We just learned while we were on the air, President Obama plans to visit Cuba next month. I don't know if you had heard that. But I'm wondering, as president, is that something you would do? CRUZ: It is not as long as the Castros are in power. And I will say I was saddened to hear that I wasn't surprised. This was foreshadowed for a long time. And, you know, President Obama's foreign policy has consistently alienated and abandoned our friends. There has never been an administration more hostile and antagonistic to Israel than the Obama administration. And what President Obama has shown to our enemies is weakness and appeasement. So his policy concerning Cuba and Iran both have parallels where he's allowing billions of dollars to go to tyrants who hate America, who are state sponsors of terrorism, who are fighting against our nation. I think it's a real mistake. I think the president ought to instead be pushing for a free Cuba. It's 90 miles off the coast of America. And to go there and essentially act as an apologist -- you know, it was really striking when the Cuban officials came to Washington with the opening of the embassy, a Cuban dissident came, and came to the press conference and wanted to ask a question. And the John Kerry State Department said, if she asked a question, she would be forcibly and physically removed. And I -- you know, I remember being astonished, because said, look, I expected that treatment in Cuba. That's what they do to free speech here. But the Obama State Department was happy to silence a dissident to protect the Cubans from even asking questions. I mean, listen, my dad was imprisoned and tortured in Cuba. He fought with Castro in the revolution and he was imprisoned and tortured by Bautista. And then my aunt, my Tia Sonia, was imprisoned and tortured by Castro. And so my family has seen firsthand the evil and the oppression in Cuba. And we need to have a president that stands up to our enemies, that doesn't -- you know, if you look at Cuba when the Soviet Union collapsed, they lost their major patron, their source of money. But then what happened is Venezuela stepped in and became a patron. And you saw the oil revenues and actually Cuba had a corrupt bargain where they would send thugs, they would send soldiers down to Venezuela, that they would use to oppress the citizens there and in exchange Venezuela would send money. Well, as oil prices have been tanking, Venezuela's economy is in freefall. And suddenly Cuba was again on the ropes. The Castros were again on the ropes. And just like with Iran, the Obama administration steps in with a lifeline. And I'll tell you one of the things, Anderson, I'm very concerned about, is that Obama is emptying Guantanamo. He is releasing terrorists that our soldiers bled and died to capture. And the next president is going to have to send soldiers out to capture them again or kill them when they return to waging
jihad. And I fear that by the end of this year President Obama plans to give the Guantanamo Navy Base back to Cuba, which would be undermining U.S. national security interests profoundly. I hope he doesn't do that. But it is consistent with his pattern of the last seven years. I think it is a profound risk. COOPER: If trials can't be brought against the people in Guantanamo, what would you do with them, keep them there indefinitely? CRUZ: If they are terrorists who are waging jihad there, then they should be detained in Guantanamo. We could have military tribunals if need be. We can interrogate them. But the Bill of Rights does not apply to foreigners who are waging war against America. The Bill of Rights applies to Americans. And the people in Guantanamo, at this point, it's down to the worst of the worst. You know, a really alarming percentage of the people released from Guantanamo return immediately to waging jihad, return immediately to going back trying to murder Americans. And part of the consequence of Obama is he engages in this -- this politically correct denial where he and Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and the whole Democratic Party, they won't even say the words, radical Islamic terrorism. They don't acknowledge what they're fighting. And it's part of the reason why we are so vulnerable, because we don't have the a commander-in-chief that is fighting the enemy and defeating the enemy. COOPER: I want to bring in our audience questions. But before I do, probably the toughest question of the night, though, for you. Which side are you on, Clinton or South Carolina? CRUZ: On this, I am going to shamelessly waffle and say I love them both. COOPER: OK. (LAUGHTER) COOPER: All right. Good answer. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want you to meet Donna Gotscheld (ph). She's the president of Upstate Republican Women. She says she is still undecided. Donna? DONNA GOTSCHELD: Welcome, Senator Cruz. CRUZ: Thank you. GOTSCHELD: And as our governor would say, it's a great day in South Carolina. CRUZ: Absolutely. GOTSCHELD: Senator, realizing that in a close husband and wife relationship, a wife has earned a great deal of respect from her husband and is thus a trusted adviser and confidante in everything except for special secret matters, and these issues, whether in America or abroad, what issues do you think your wife would be significantly interested in and possibly support their cause? CRUZ: Well, Donna, thank you for that question and thank you very much for your leadership. You know, I have been blessed in many regards, but in no way greater than -- than marrying the love of my life, Heidi Cruz. She is an extraordinary woman. She is -- she is the daughter of Christian missionaries. And so Heidi, as a little girl, lived in Africa. She lived in Kenya and Nigeria and her parents were missionaries there. Her brother is a missionary in Haiti right now. And she is -- I met Heidi on January 2 of 2000. We were brought working on the George W. Bush campaign. And we started dating on January 5th, three days later. And it was love at first sight. I mean I was smitten by her hard. I mean she is beautiful, she's brilliant, she's an unbelievable businesswoman. But she's also the most loving mom and wife. We are best friends in a very real sense. We're on the phone two, three, four, five times a day. We call each other on everything. We cooperate on everything. She is out on the trail. I cannot tell you how many people, as I've traveled around, when I got elected to the Senate, said, listen, Ted, you're fine, but we love Heidi, so we're voting for you for Heidi. And I was like, well, I -- I'm thrilled and I'll take it. You know, she's got a real heart for economic development. You know, when you've seen, as a little girl, poverty, poverty in Africa, when you've seen suffering -- you know, Heidi and I traveled down to Nicaragua with a mission trip to drill a water well in an impoverished village. And when you've seen people that are really hurting, you understand that -- that we need policies to lift people out of poverty. And I think Heidi has a real heart here in America for helping people lift out of the poverty by empowering them, empowering them to start small businesses. Empowering them to achieve the American dream. And, you know, an important part of that is also educational options and school choice. I think school choice is the civil rights issue of 21st century. I think every child in America deserves access to a quality education. And so
Heidi and I, in this campaign, we are full and total partners. She is, right now, on the campaign trail. I'm on the campaign trail. My dad is on the campaign trail. Our little girls even sometimes are on the campaign trail. But -- but I think -- I think she will be involved in a lot of things if we win and -- but I think she has a real passion where she's going to focus a lot of energy is economic empowerment, helping people and especially women, especially Hispanics and African-Americans, those who are struggling, helping them achieve the American dream by understanding the principles of business, starting a business, expanding and achieving greater opportunity. GOTSCHELD: Thank you so much. COOPER: Thank you. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I don't -- I don't want to -- I don't want to embarrass you at all, but your wife mentioned this to CNN a while back, that you occasionally, when you call her on the phone, you sing to her, you sing musicals? Is that true? CRUZ: Um, well, embarrassingly enough, yes. And I am a painfully horrible singer. COOPER: Is this punishment or is this... CRUZ: Well, I'm hoping it is sort of sincere and endearing. But look, I mean I... COOPER: What's your favorite musical? CRUZ: I actually don't sing musicals. COOPER: OK. CRUZ: I mean I will sing things like, uh, on my darling, oh my darling, oh my darling, Heidi time. COOPER: OK. All right. CRUZ: Which is really corny, but -- but, you know, I used to do it when she put it on speaker phone in her office and embarrass her or, you know, I'd kind of do, you know -- you know, I just called to say I love you. I just called to say I care. I cannot sing to save my life, but -- but, uh, but my wife seems to at least laugh at it. COOPER: Alright. I want you to meet Bobby Cox, he's a former Army Ranger, he says he's leaning toward Governor Bush, but he's still undecided. Bobby? QUESTION: Evening sir. Thanks for coming out to Greenville here. By way of background, I attended Citadel down in South Carolina. Yeah, great school, and then during my senior year the actual 9/11 attacks occurred, and upon graduation I went into the Army. I actually deployed four times to Iraq. And, so during that time that we were in Iraq, we really felt like we were putting the Iraqi government on a stable ground. But, fast forward a couple years later when the actual cities that we had actually fought to protect with so much effort, time, and blood were actually retaken by ISIS. And, so there was a frustration there were a lot of my men thought that their time had been squandered overseas based upon really the lack of the U.S. political will to really see victory. So, I want to ask you, as a commander in chief, you know? If you take on that mantle of leadership, what would you do to ensure the service members and their families their sacrifices during the time of war are not wasted like we see in the past? CRUZ: Well, Bobby, let me say first of all, thank you for your service and sacrifice. Thank you for defending this nation. (APPLAUSE) CRUZ: And, you're question incredibly important. As I travel South Carolina I meet everyday, active-duty military. I meet, everyday, veterans who are so unhappy with the direction we're going right now. For seven years we've had a commander in chief who doesn't believe in the mission of the military. Who doesn't stand by them, who has weakened and degraded the military in a way that this' undermined readiness, and made us far less able to defend ourselves. Yesterday, here in South Carolina, I rolled out a comprehensive plan to rebuild the military. To restore the strength that we need to defend ourselves. And, you know, if you think about the last time our military was badly weakened, it was 1980. It was following the Jimmy Carter administration, another weak Democratic president who undermined the military. And, when Reagan came in, what Reagan did is he started with tax reform and regulatory reform. He lifted the burdens on small businesses. Than unchained the American free enterprise system. It produced incredible booming economic growth. That growth, in turn, that provided trillions in new federal revenue. Reagan invested that revenue in rebuilding the military. And, but doing so, bankrupted the Soviet Union and now the Cold War. We need a president in 2017 who does the exact same thing with regard to radical Islamic terrorism. That is what I intend to do -- is start with tax reform, and regulatory reform. I will unleash the American economy, and use that
economic growth to rebuild the military. So, for example, as you know, President Obama's proposed reducing the regular Army to 450,000. I think that is far below what is needed to keep this country safe. I intend to increase it to a minimum of 525,000 soldiers. Likewise the Air Force. The Air Force has been reduced to about 4,000 planes. We need to increase that to a minimum of 6,000 planes so that we can project power, and use our air power superiority. The Navy. We've got 272 ships, the least we've had since 1917, literally a century ago was the last time we had a navy with this few ships. We need to increase that to a minimum of 350 ships. And, we need an overall force level of 1.4 million troops at a minimum. In addition to that, we need to dramatically expand missile defense as we see asymmetric threats, we see rogue nations, we need to be able to defend ourselves. We need to expand cyber defense. But, we also need to focus our foreign policy and military policy on identifying and defeating the real enemies. You know, I've got strong disagreements with the mistakes of the Obama-Clinton foreign policy the last seven years. One perfect example is Libya. Libya. President Obama and Hillary Clinton led the world in toppling the government in Libya, and sadly they were supported by more than a few establishment Republicans, including several who are running for President. That has proven to be a catastrophic mistake. Toppling the government in Libya meant we handed that country to radical Islamic terrorists. It's now a chaotic war zone where ISIS and other radical Islamic terrorists pose an acute national security threat to this country. And, it led directly to failures of the Obama-Clinton foreign policy, led directly to the tragedy of Benghazi. Rather than engaging in trying to topple governments in the Middle East, and nation build, I think the focus of the military needs to be defending this country, protecting our national security interests. So, what should we be doing? Oh, and by the way, many of those same folks, Obama, Hillary, and those same Republicans, are now saying we should do the same thing in Syria, topple Assad. And, if we do that the same result is going to happen. If we topple Assad -- Assad's a bad man. But, if we topple Assad, ISIS will take over Syria. That is worse for America. Instead of getting in the middle of civil wars, we ought to be focusing on the enemies of America. We ought to be utterly destroying ISIS. We ought to be using overwhelming airpower, we ought to be arming the Kurds, we ought to be using the tools we have to utterly, and completely destroy them. And, I'll say a couple of things also. When it comes to the men and women of the military, I don't think the military should be governed by political correctness. Should be governed -- should be used as for social experiments. So, for example, if I am elected president we will not be drafting our daughters into combat in the Middle East, and nation build. I was astonished two debates ago when three different Republican candidates for President stood up and supported drafting women into combat. I think that doesn't make any sense, you know? When I was sitting there listening to it I kind of wondered if Rod Serling was going to walk out in a second and say, “You've entered the Twilight Zone.” Look, I'm the father of two daughters. Women can do anything, but the idea that the federal government would forcibly conscript young women and put them into combat, that makes no sense at all. Another one of the most shameful things that, I think, of the last seven years is that we are sending our service men and women into combat with rules of engagement that have their arms tied behind their back. That have it impossible for them to fight and defend themselves and win, I think that is immoral, it is wrong, and I will tell you this. I give you my word as commander in chief, that will end on January 20th, 2017. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Just a quick follow up. Donald Trump has said that George W. Bush didn't keep this country safe because 9/11 happened on his watch. What'd you think when you heard that? CRUZ: I thought it was ridiculous. I thought it was really painful. Listen, I like Donald. I am not going to engage in personal attacks, but I think his policy positions have not made any sense. When he stood up and defended impeaching George W. Bush -- that was his position. George W. Bush should have been impeached.
Listen, I'm a constitutionalist. My entire adult life has been spent defending the Constitution, defending the Bill of Rights. The standard for impeachment is high crimes and misdemeanors. He had no argument that George Bush committed any high crimes and misdemeanors. He just said on the stage it was a mistake. You know, you don't impeach people for things you say are a mistake. And, at the time that Donald Trump was promoting impeachment, look, that was the -- those were the views of the Michael Moore's of the extreme fever-swamp of the left. And, I have to say to see on a Republican presidential stage a candidate suggesting we should have impeached George W. Bush. I think that really draws into question the judgement of that candidate to be commander in chief. COOPER: I want you to meet Pastor Travis Haynes. He's from the Redemption Church. He says he's leaning in your favor, he says he also likes some of Donald Trump's policies. Pastor's, welcome. QUESTION: Good evening, Senator. CRUZ: Pastor. QUESTION: As we see more, and more what appears to be more, and more opposition to Christian conservative values... CRUZ: ... Yes. QUESTION: What will you do to help protect those values if you’re elected president? CRUZ: Well, Pastor, thank you for being here. Thank you for your ministry. You are right. We are seeing an assault on Judeo Christian values. We’re seeing an assault on religious liberty, and we need a president who will stand up unambiguously, and protect those values. You know, if you look at life, if you look at marriage, if you look at religious liberty, all three are intertwined, and you know, one of the dynamics you all have notice in a Republican primary is every republican candidate says they support life, marriage, religious liberty. That's what you say when you’re running as a Republican candidate for president. My suggestion, Pastor, is don't listen to what any of us say. Instead, follow the biblical test. You shall know them by their fruits. Ask of any candidate, don't tell me you're pro-life. Tell me what you've done to defend the right to life. So, for example, before I was in the Senate I was the Solicitor General of Texas, the chief lawyer for the state in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. We brought together a coalition of states before the U.S. Supreme Court defending the federal ban on partial birth abortion, and we won 5-4. We brought together another coalition of states defending New Hampshire's (INAUDIBLE) law. And, we won unanimously. And, in Texas, when the state legislature passed a law banning taxpayer funding going to Planned Parenthood, a federal district court struck down that law. And, I personally argued the appeal in the Court of Appeals, we won unanimously, reinstating that law and defunding Planned Parenthood. So on the question of life, a record matters. Likewise on marriage. You know, in June of last year, we saw a decision from the Supreme Court. It was nothing short of tragic. Now, several of the Republican candidates when that decision came down put out statements that essentially said, “It is the settled law of the land, we must accept it, surrender, and move on.” Those are almost word for word the talking points of Barack Obama. I think there’s something really wrong when Republican candidates are echoing the talking points of Barack Obama. I think there’s something really wrong when Republican candidates are echoing the talking points of Barack Obama. I'll tell you, my view is very different. I think that decision was fundamentally illegitimate, it was lawless, it was completely inconsistent with the Constitution, and it will not stand. And then on religious liberty. Religious liberty for me has been a lifelong passion. I have spent the last two decades of my life fighting to defend religious liberty. When I was solicitor general of Texas, we defended the Ten Commandments monument that stands on the state capitol grounds. We went to the U.S. Supreme Court, and we won 35-4 upholding the Ten Commandments. We defended the Pledge of Allegiance, the words “one nation under God.” We went to the U.S. Supreme Court; we won unanimously. And then in private practice, one of the cases I'm most proud of, is I represented over 3 million veterans pro bono, for free, defending the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial. This is a loan white Latin cross. It was erected over 70 years ago to honor the men and women that gave their lives in World War I. The ACLU sued, arguing could you not display a cross on public land. They won in the district court, they won in the Court of Appeals. The court
ordered a giant sack to be placed over the Veterans Memorial with a change and a padlock at the bottom. And I represented 3 million veterans before the U.S. Supreme Court, defending the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial. And we won 5-4. This for me is a life passion. And one of the things we've done -- the media often belittles threats to religious liberty. They say they don't exist, they're not real. So we've hosted big religious liberty rallies. One in Iowa, one here in South Carolina at Bob Jones University where we brought in heroes, ordinary people. A florist, a baker, a T-shirt salesman, a soldier, a fireman to tell their stories. How they stood for faith and they were persecuted. I would commend you (ph), Pastor, and anyone else who wants to see them. If you go to our web site, it's TedCruz.org, you can watch these stories, and they will uplift you. They will inspire you. How people made a decision: do I honor my faith, or do I give in to the government and be persecuted? And they chose to honor their faith instead. And so when it comes to religious liberty, if I'm elected president, I intend on the first day in office to instruct the U.S. Department of Justice and the IRS and every other federal agency that the persecution of religious liberty ends today. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: I want you to meet -- this is Dr. Amir Agob (ph). He works nearby in Anderson, South Carolina. He says he's an independent. He's going to vote in the Republican primary on Saturday, but he's still undecided. Doctor? DR. AMIR AGB, PRACTICING DOCTOR FROM ANDERSON, S.C.: Good evening, Senator. CRUZ: Good evening. AGB: You know, the the oil market is in big mess. CRUZ: Yes. AGB: I would like to know your opinion on Saudi Arabia's relationship with U.S. as the oil pricing is going down, and OPEC has done nothing to stabilize the oil prices. And that is affecting the economy. Recently Russia, Venezuela (ph), Qatar and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement to freeze the oil production instead of reducing it. So let's assume for a minute that you are the president of United States. Would you continue your alliance with Saudi Arabia? CRUZ: Well, listen, our relationship with Saudi Arabia is, as you know, fraught with complications. They have been allies at times, but at times, the kingdom has been funding radical Islamic terrorism. They have been paying off the wolves in hopes that they will devour others rather than devour the monarchy. And I think we need to hold our friends to account, that friends do not fund jihadists that are seeking to murder us. And when it comes to Saudi Arabia, we need to have real scrutiny and real pressure. Now, I'll tell when you I have traveled aboard and met with heads of state and foreign ministers and defense ministers, over and over again what they say right now is it's hard to be friends with America. They say, where is America? America doesn't stand by their friends. That needs to change. Now, with respect to Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia is part of OPEC. It's a cartel. They are not seeking our interests, they are seeking their monetary interests. I think what we ought to be doing when it comes to energy is two things. Number one, a significant part of the reason that oil prices and commodity prices have fluctuated like crazy is the Federal Reserve has fluctuated from a strong dollar to a weak dollar, and every time that happens, going up and down and up and down, it ends up sending commodity prices soaring and plummeting and soaring and plummeting. And in my view we need to No. 1., audio the Federal Reserve and No. 2, move to a rules-based monetary policy, ideally tied to gold, because when it comes to the dollar we don't want a weak dollar; we don't want a strong dollar. We want a stable dollar. A dollar is a unit of measurement, and we want a dollar to be the same today, tomorrow and the next day, because that's what all of the other economic decisions are based upon, and so I think a significant part of the volatility in the oil market is driven by the fluctuations in the dollar. Beyond that, when it comes to energy, you know, in the Senate, I've introduced legislation called the American Energy Renaissance Act. It is the most comprehensive energy legislation that has been submitted in the U.S. Senate. It would unleash the American energy resources. This country is blessed with abundant natural resources. And my view on energy is we ought to produce all of the above. It ought to be oil, and gas
and coal, and wind, and solar, and nuclear, and ethanol, and biofuels and everything. But you shouldn't have government picking winners and losers. There should be no subsidies. There should be no favoritism. It should be a fair and level playing field for everyone, so I intend to remove the barriers from Washington, which in turn will allow the American energy market to expand, to create high-paying jobs and to jump start the American economy. COOPER: Thank you very much for your question. (APPLAUSE)

QUESTION: This is Julie Herhsey. She's president of a local nonprofit. She said she's committed to voting for you on this Saturday, so you already have her vote, so don't blow it -- don't blow it here. (LAUGHTER)

COOPER: Julie? QUESTION: I don't think he can. COOPER: Okay, go ahead. QUESTION: Senator Cruz, thank you for taking my question. COOPER: Thank you. QUESTION: In order to prevent future controversy and possible litigation, will you please justify constitutionally your legal right to be president of the United States as it relates to your natural-born status? CRUZ: Sure, I'm happy to, Julie. Thank you for that question. The law under the Constitution and federal law has been clear since the very first days of the Republican. The child of a U.S. citizen born abroad is a natural-born citizen. What the Constitution requires is for anyone to be president they have to be a natural-born citizen. So if you or I travel abroad and we have a child overseas, that child is a U.S. citizen by virtue of birth. That's true if U.S. service members are travelling abroad. If they're defending this country. You know, Bobby mentioned before he had a couple deployments. If he had a child overseas that child is a natural-born citizen by virtue of the child's parents. Likewise if American missionaries are travelling overseas their children are natural born citizens. That's why John McCain was a natural-born citizen. Even though he was born in Panama, because his parents were U.S. citizens. That's why George Romney, Mitt Romney's dad, was a natural-born citizen, even though he was born in Mexico when his parents were Mormon missionaries. And so the law is straightforward. Indeed the very first Congress, which was -- consisted of many of the framers of the Constitution, the authors of the Constitution, wrote the very first laws on citizenship, and they explicitly defined the child of a U.S. citizen born abroad as a natural-born citizen. Now my mother was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She is a natural-born citizen. I was born in Canada, as you have heard by now. QUESTION: Yes, I've heard that. CRUZ: But I was a citizen by birth, by virtue of my mother's citizenship, so I've never been naturalized. I've never breathed a breath of air on this planet when I was not a U.S. citizen. It was the act of being born that made me a U.S. citizen. So under the law, the question is clear. there will still be some that high to work political mischief on it, but as a legal matter, this is clear and straightforward. COOPER: There are -- just to follow up -- some legal scholars who say Donald Trump would have standing to bring a lawsuit. Is that something you would welcome just to put it to bed once and for all? CRUZ: You know, look, you can never write off the possibility of Donald Trump suing you. (LAUGHTER)

CRUZ: He is welcome to file whatever lawsuit he likes. That lawsuit would not succeed. It is not a meritorious lawsuit. If he wants to file a lawsuit, he can file it and lose. But the legal merits of the matter are clear. COOPER: We're going to take a short break. We're going to have more questions for Senator Cruz when we come back. More questions from the voters. We'll be right back.

(APPLAUSE) (APPLAUSE) COOPER: And welcome back. We are here once again with Senator Ted Cruz. Just a couple of quick questions before we go back to our audience. You're on a Senate Judiciary Committee. If President Obama sends up a nominee, should they get a hearing to replace Justice Scalia? CRUZ: They should not. For 80 years it has been the practice that the Senate has not confirmed any nomination made during an election year. And we shouldn't make an exception now. You know, it was interesting, Anderson... COOPER: Should they get a hearing though? CRUZ: I don't think they should because it's not about the particular nominee. I think that hearing would end up very politicized. And I don't think it would be fair to the nominee. I think this is a matter of policy, that during a lame duck
period we should not be confirming a Supreme Court nomination, particularly, you know, you look at Justice Scalia's passing. Justice Scalia was a lion of the law. He was someone I knew for 20 years. He was brilliant. He was principled. He singlehandedly changed the course of American law. I've said before, like Ronald Reagan was to the presidency, so Justice Scalia was to the Supreme Court. And his passing leaves a huge void on that court. And this court -- this nomination has the potential to dramatically shift the balance of power of the court. And so I believe we should have -- we have an election coming up in November. I think 2016 should be a referendum on the Supreme Court. And, you know, it was striking, the last Republican debate occurred the same day that we learned Justice Scalia passed, and I think that shifted. It really made people focus on the gravity of the stakes here. You know, you mentioned before the new poll today that has us in first place nationwide. It's the first time Donald Trump has not been in first place in many, many months. And, I think this is an important reason why, that people were looking at that stage and saying who do I know beyond a shadow of a doubt would nominate and fight to confirm principled conservative jurists who would defend the constitution? You know, I mention before an answer to the pastor's question. The cases that I've litigated defending religious liberty, defending life, almost all of those were 5-4. We are one liberal justice away from the Supreme Court striking down every restriction on abortion that's been put in place the last 40 years. We are one liberal justice away from the Supreme Court writing the Second Amendment out of the Constitution. We are one liberal justice away from the Supreme Court ordering Ten Commandments monuments to be torn down, ordering veterans memorials to be torn down, and undermining our fundamental religious liberty. And, I think one of the most important questions in this election is who understands and is prepared and committed to fight for principled Supreme Court justices who will follow the constitution. And, I got to tell you, Anderson, I cannot wait to stand on that debate stage with Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders and take it to the American people. Their vision of the Supreme Court and the Constitution is a Supreme Court that mandates unlimited abortion on demand, that takes away our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, that takes away our religious liberty. I don't think that's what the American people believe in. But, we ought to take it to the election, and if the Democrats want to nominate a liberal they need to win the election. I don't believe they're going to do it. And, one of the reasons conservatives, I think, are uniting behind my campaign is they're coming to the conclusion that I have the experience, the background, and the commitment to the constitution to make that case against Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, and then to follow through and put principled jurists on the court. COOPER: Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, both have said that you've lied, that you're a liar. Are they lying about this? CRUZ: (LAUGHING) You know, I got to say, Anderson, this is a strange election season. In many ways, both Donald Trump and Marco Rubio are following this pattern that whenever anyone points to their actual record, to what they've said, to what they've voted on, to what they've done, they start screaming liar, liar, liar. I mean, it is the oddest thing. I can't think of any precedent in any previous Republican presidential election. Now, from my end, I have not and will not respond in kind. If they want to engage in personal insults, if they want to go to the mud, I'm not going to say the same thing about them. I think the people of South Carolina deserve more than people just throwing mud at each other. But, you know, look -- let's take for example the debate on Saturday. So, I mentioned on Saturday on the debate stage that Donald Trump for 60 years of his life has described himself as very pro-choice, as supporting partial birth abortion, as, quote, "Pro-Choice in every respect". And, I mentioned that even now Donald Trump supports taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood. And, his response was to bellow, liar, liar. And, he said, when did I ever say that? And, I responded, I said, well, when we were debating defunding Planned Parenthood I was leading that fight. You opposed me, and you said on national television you think
Planned Parenthood does wonderful things. And then, Anderson, Donald proceeded to say on the
debate stage once again, he thinks Planned Parenthood does wonderful things. The very thing he called
me a liar for he agreed with on the stage. You know, a few minutes later we had an exchange with
Marco Rubio -- and listen, I like Marco. He's charming, he's a friend of mine, he's very, very talented.
But, what I said, and my focus is on record, and substance, and issues, and vision for this country. I think
that's what the voters are interested in. But, I made three statements about Marco's immigration record
in the debate. I said, number one, Marco right now supports granting citizenship to the 12 million
people who are here illegally. Now, that is a fact. He said that on the debate stage two or three debates
ago. In fact, on Meet the Press with Chuck Todd just a few weeks ago Marco said we should grant
citizenship to people here illegally even if they have criminal convictions. He said that on national
television looking into the t.v. camera. The second thing I said is I said when he was in Florida. He
supported in-state tuition for illegal immigrants. That's a fact, that is his legislative record. And the third
thing I said is I said that he went on Univision and in Spanish said that he would not rescind the
president's illegal executive amnesty on his first day in office. If I am elected president, the first day in
office, I intend to rescind every single illegal and unconstitutional executive action. Now, in response to
that, Marco followed the same strategy as Donald, he just screamed liar, liar, liar. He didn't actually
dispute any of the substance. You remember what he said at the same time was, well, how would you
know what I said on Univision? You don't speak Spanish. Well, Marco was incorrect on that. But, look,
truth matters. Every one of these issues, Donald and Marco are on video on national television stating
their positions. And just yelling liar doesn't make it so. And I would note, by the way, if Marco is right
that I'm lying, then I'll tell you else has to be lying. Jeff Sessions has to be lying, Mike Lee has to be lying,
Mark Levin has to be lying, Rush Limbaugh has to be lying, Phyllis Schlafly has to be lying, James Dobson
has to be lying, because every one of them has said the exact same thing I did, most of those folks
haven't endorsed me. They're not supporting me, but they've spoken the truth. And it cannot be -- look,
one of the things I love about the people of South Carolina is how seriously they take their responsibility
to vet the candidates. So you can go -- you can go to our Web site, watch the video and see Marco and
Donald stating their positions. And I'm going to continue focusing on issues and record, and just yelling
insults and liar is not a response when you want to run away from your record.

COOPER: Let's get more

questions from voters. This is Robert Tucker. He's a lawyer. He says he's still deciding between you and
Greenville. CRUZ: Thank you. TUCKER: From time to time we see articles written in the paper or on
television that you don't get along with some of the Republican senators, your colleagues in
Washington. If you're going to have a problem with them, what are you going to say to them as
president to get them on board so that we can get legislation passed? CRUZ: It's a great question,
Robert, thank you for asking it. Let me focus on two levels. Let me, number one, explain why that is, and
then, number two, how we actually change the direction in Washington. The reason why that is, is
simple. It's not that I speak with a lack of civility or respect. I mean, you've seen in this presidential
campaign, as other people insult me, impugn my integrity, I don't respond in kind. I try very much -- you
know, the Bible talks about if someone treats you unkindly, repay them with kindness. It's like heaping
coals on top of their head. That has been the standard I've tried to follow. That's how I've approached it
in the Senate. So I have not attacked or insulted my colleagues in the Senate, Democrat or Republican.
Even if I disagree with them on the issues, I'll tell you why they say Ted is unlikable in Washington.
Because I'm actually honoring the commitments that I made to the men and women who elected me.
So, for example, on Planned Parenthood, I led the fight for to use the budgetary power of Congress to
stop giving $500 million to Planned Parenthood. What Republican leadership wanted to do is have a show vote, lose the show vote, and then fund all of Obama's agenda, including Planned Parenthood. So what's unlikable is when you stand up and say, how about we do what we said we would do? Likewise, when I stood up and led the fight against Obamacare, they said that was unlikable. When I stood up and led the fight against the Rubio-Schumer amnesty bill, they said that was unlikable. You know why? Because all the money in Washington, all the lobbyists in Washington wanted amnesty. If you look at K Street, if you at the special interests, if you look at Wall Street, amnesty they think is great. It's cheap labor. And so when you actually stand up -- and by the way, the way we won these fights is that I stood up and tried to shine a light on them, shine attention on them and empower the American people. So, for example, amnesty, Rubio-Schumer amnesty passed the Senate. Every Democrat voted for it. And a whole bunch of establishment Republicans. And it was headed to the House to pass. House leadership, John Boehner, intended to take it up, pass it with all the Democrats and a handful of Republicans, roll over about 200 House Republicans. And I stood with Jeff Sessions and Steve King and we took the case to the American people. And what happened is millions of American people rose up, lit up the phones to Congress and said, don't do this. And we defeated the Rubio-Schumer amnesty bill in the House. Now in the world of Washington, that's considered unlikable. When Republican leadership -- you know, I wrote a book last year called “A Time for Truth.” The opening chapter is entitled “Mendacity.” It describes the inside story of what happened on the debt ceiling, where Republican leadership wanted to make it easier for Harry Reid to add trillions in debt ceiling where Republican leadership wanted to make it easier for Harry Reid to add trillions in debt to our country, and I objected to that. And, the act of objecting, of honoring the promise I made to the men and women who elected me engendered more animosity and unhappiness than anything I've done in my time in the Senate. You know, just this morning, Senator Jim DeMint, tremendously respected former Senator here from South Carolina, was on a radio interview. He addressed this question, he said, listen. Ted is friend. Anyone who says he's unlikeable is being ridiculous. They said the same thing about me, Jim DeMint said, because Jim DeMint honored the commitments he made to the men and women of South Carolina, and Republican leadership hated Jim DeMint because, not that he spoke mean about them, but because he actually said let's do what we said we would do. So, let's take the second half of your question. How do we fix the problems? Because we actually need to fix them, not just talk about them, we need to change the direction of this country. A president has really three levers, the presidential authority to change the direction of this country. Number one is executive power, that's been the one that Obama has abused so much. Now, the silver lining is everything done with executive power can be undone with executive power. That's why I pledged on day one to rescind every single illegal and unconstitutional executive action taken by Obama. It's why I've pledged to instruct the Department of Justice to open an investigation into Planned Parenthood, and prosecute any and all criminal violations. It's why I've pledged to end persecution of religious liberty in the executive branch. It's also why I've pledged to instruct the Department of Education on day one that Common Core ends today. Using legitimate executive power you can end many of the abuses of Obama if you just have a president willing to use that power. The second avenue of executive power to change the direction of this country is foreign policy. It's why I've pledged on day one to rip to shreds this catastrophic Iranian nuclear deal. And, on day one, to begin the process of moving the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Both of those are foreign policy the president can do immediately. And it's worth remembering that this same nation, Iran, released our hostages the day that Ronald Reagan was sworn in. And, then the third avenue to change the direction of the country is legislation. Legislation is not easy with this broken Congress. I'm
running on two big legislative initiatives. Number one repealing every word of Obamacare. And, number two, adopting a simple flat tax and abolishing the IRS. Now, neither one of those are easy. I'm not remotely naive, or pollyannish. Could I get those done in this Congress? No. But, think about the last time we beat the Washington cartel. It was 1980, it was the Reagan revolution. Remember, Reagan in 1976, primaried Gerald Ford. You want to make Republican leadership loathe you, come within an inch of beating the incumbent Republican president in a primary. You think they dislike me? They hated Reagan with the heat of a thousand white hot suns. He was unlikeable. And, yet, what did Reagan do? In 1977, 1978, 1979, he didn't fly to Washington, sit down with the old bulls and say, come on guys, let's stand for something. He know that wouldn't work. Instead, he took the case to the people, he built a grassroots army. The Reagan revolution swept in. And, when you go to the people it transformed the incentives. Today, everyone's a Reagan Republican. You cannot find a Republican who will not swear that Ronald Reagan is tattooed somewhere on their body. (LAUGHING) But, the reason is he took the case to the people, and he changed the incentives. How do we abolish Obamacare, repeal Obamacare, and adopt a flat tax? We make the election a referendum so we come out of November 2016 with the mandate from the people. And, that's exactly what I intend to do. QUESTION: Thank you. COOPER: Thank you for your question. QUESTION: Thank you. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Senator, this is Susan Harvey, she's a local travel agent. She says she's still undecided. Susan? QUESTION: Good evening, Senator. CRUZ: Hi, Susan. QUESTION: Hi. If you're elected, what position in your cabinet would be the most important to fill first, and why? CRUZ: That is a very good question. I would say it would be a three way tie between Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Attorney General. And, I think all three are critically important. Listen, State and Defense -- when it comes to defense we need to start rebuilding our military immediately. When it comes to State, we have abandoned our friends and allies nationally and we need to -- it's part of the reason I mentioned before. Ripping to shreds the Iranian nuclear deal, and moving the American embassy to Jerusalem. Both of those are within the power of the president, but they're also powerful symbolic. You know, moving the embassy to Israel tells Israel, it tells all of our allies, it tells our enemies, America is back. You know, Obama in his opening weeks, he sent back the bust of Winston Churchill to the United Kingdom. If I'm elected president, Winston Churchill is coming back to the Oval Office. So as secretary of state we need someone strong, someone who defends this country, someone who represents this country. Look, I'm not in the position right now to be naming cabinet appointments, but I'll tell you, a secretary of state in a Cruz administration would be someone like John Bolton, would be someone who is strong, who defends this country, who stands our by our allies and stand up to our enemies. And then looking at attorney general, attorney general, the lawlessness of he Obama administration has been one of the saddest legacies. And you know one of the most revealing aspects -- I mean, Anderson, if you watch reporters in Washington, off the record, you get them at the bar having a couple drinks, and you say, is Hillary Going to be indicted? Inevitably the answer they give you is they say, well, it depends on if the Obama White House decides they want to throw her overboard. It they decide politically they want to keep her, then no, she won't be indicted, and if they decide they're done with her, she will. Now how sad is it that the media accepts as a given that whether someone is prosecuted under the criminal laws depends on what some political hack in the West Wing thinks. You know, I used to be an associate deputy attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice and I spent five-and-a-half years as solicitor general in the state of Texas. Law enforcement and the administration of law is critically important. And I give you my word that the attorney general in my administration will be blind to party or ideology. It will not be a partisan position. Instead the only fidelity of the Department of Justice will to the laws and the Constitution of the United
States. That's the way it's meant to work. (APPLAUSE) COOPER: Senator, we just got a few minutes left. Do you want to tell me what reporters you’re having drinks with in D.C.? (LAUGHTER) CRUZ: I guess not. (LAUGHTER) ANDERSON: What's your favorite cocktail? CRUZ: I'm a scotch fan. ANDERSON: Scotch. I understand you're also kind of a night owl. What do you do late at night. What do you -- do you watch television? Do you have a guilty pleasure? Are you reading something now? CRUZ: Look, back when I wasn't running for president I would watch TV. I used to remember what that was like. I'm a huge movie buff. I love movies. I like video games. One of the things -- if you asked my wife, if you asked Heidi what drives her crazy about me the most, it is my iPhone. If she could fling my iPhone out the window and into the trash, she would be thrilled, because I'm on my iPhone. I'm playing Plants versus Zombies or Candy Crush. My girls love it. I mean, we'll sit there, the three of us, playing the iPhone and Heidi wants to, like, throw something at all three of us. ANDERSON: What -- I know you've done a lot of impersonations on the campaign trail. I've seen some of them, “Simpsons” characters, “Princess Bride.” What's your favorite one? And do you want to grace us with it? CRUZ: Oh look, I mean, part it have is you've got to have fun. You know, a lot of times I get the questions in town halls -- how do Republicans reach young people? And in answer to that, part of it is substance. We've got to make the case that the Obama economic agenda is hammering young people. For seven years young people come out of school with economic stagnation They can't get a job. They don't have a future. Obamacare is a massive wealth transfer from young, healthy people to everybody else. And the national debt is hammering young people. But part of getting young people is having fun, loosening up. You know, would it kill the Republicans to crack a joke? (LAUGHTER) Actually some of them I think it might. (LAUGHTER) So, look, I'll give an example -- it's -- impersonations is part of that. It's just sort of having fun. But you know, I'm reminded of a few years back I was out in L.A., traveling out there. And the week before I arrived these posters began appearing all over town. And they're posters of my head on a shirtless torso that is ripped. (LAUGHTER) And it's covered with tattoos, a giant eagle on my chest, two six shooters on my abs, which are a perfect eight-pack. ANDERSON: Uh-huh. CRUZ: Winston -- you sound less than convinced. ANDERSON: Yes, well. (LAUGHTER) CRUZ: Winston Churchill on my right bicep which is massive, a cigarette dangling out of my mouth, and above it, the legend “black listed and loving it.” Now, we had nothing it did with these posters. This was a local street artist in L.A. that just put them up on his own, but we decided to have some fun with them. So we posted on FaceBook, we said, “Well, for whatever reason, these posters started appearing all over Hollywood. I have to say I noticed a glaring error. I don't smoke cigarettes.” (LAUGHTER) ANDERSON: Senator Cruz, thank you very much. CRUZ: Anderson, thank you. ANDERSON: Appreciate it. (LAUGHTER) ANDERSON: That's all the time we have. I want to thank Senator Cruz, and Rubio and Dr. Carson. A special thanks to all the voters being here for asking the questions, and the viewers at home. I hope you join us tomorrow for the rest of the candidates. I want to thank everybody in Greenville. Tomorrow night, same time, different city, another town hall. Columbia, South Carolina -- Jeb Bush, Donald Trump, John Kasich right here on CNN. Our coverage continues with Don Lemon right after this.

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 757942
 Article Title: SHOW: CBS MORNING NEWS 4:00 AM EST And Castro’s death opens a new and uncertain chapter in Cuba’s history.

Date: 11/30/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: And Afro-Cubans hope it means a change for the better in the island’s racial divide. And Castro’s death opens a new and uncertain chapter in Cuba’s history. And Afro-Cubans hope it means a change for the better in the island’s racial divide. The story from Don Champion. (Begin VT)

YVETTE RODRIGUEZ: I need this. DON CHAMPION: Inside this Miami cigar shop, twins Yvette and Yvonne Rodriguez stand out. YVETTE RODRIGUEZ: We didn’t come out this way for nothing, you know what I mean? DON CHAMPION: Born to black Cuban exiles they were raised in Miami, a predominantly white Cuban community. YVETTE RODRIGUEZ: It’s almost like a test to be like how Cuban are you? But you’re black? But how Cuban are you? But do you speak Spanish, speak Spanish. DON CHAMPION: Feeling underrepresented, they created a cigar line called Tres Lindas Cubanas. The three blends-- WOMAN: That’s a strong full body cigar with our La Negrita and that’s like a dark skinned woman. DON CHAMPION: --celebrate the races of Cuba. YVETTE RODRIGUEZ: We come in all different shades. DON CHAMPION: The twins say equality must be a focus as Cuba now moves into a post-Castro era. YVONNE RODRIGUEZ: We are in limbo because nothing is-- we are not sure if anything is going to change. DON CHAMPION: Today, blacks in Cuba live in the poorest communities. Many could not escape Fidel Castro’s regime. The majority of Cuban exiles are white and since people in Cuba often rely on family abroad for help, many Afro-Cubans don’t have lifelines. Historian Jose Perez (ph) says Afro-Cubans also haven’t benefited from recent economic reforms because of blatant racism and exclusion. JOSE PEREZ: Because a lot of the same social practices, a lot of the same institutions that we see in Georgia or Mississippi or certainly South Carolina or Louisiana have very strong parallels to what we see in the Caribbean and that’s important in terms of identity and a-- and a color cast system. DON CHAMPION: It’s a complex reality the Rodriguez twins are determined to improve-- WOMAN #1: We are creating a platform for maybe to build an organization. DON CHAMPION: --and explain one cigar at a time. Don Champion, CBS News, Miami. (End VT)

ANNE-MARIE GREEN: Well, there could be job openings soon at an auto plants part in northern Tennessee. Twenty workers there are sharing a Powerball jackpot with a cash value of two hundred and fifty-four million dollars. One of them buys two hundred and forty dollars worth of tickets for the group every week. Well, lottery officials in Nashville say each winner will get a pretax prize of nearly thirteen million dollars. Yeah, that’s enough to quit your job, I think. Coming up after your local news on CBS THIS MORNING, the effect of climate change on the gorilla population. I’m Anne-Marie Green. This is the CBS MORNING NEWS. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) ANNE-MARIE GREEN: Well, here’s another look at this morning’s top stories. Stampeding wildfires in east Tennessee killed at least three people and destroyed hundreds of homes and businesses. Thousands were forced to flee. Some having to make their way through a tunnel of flames. More than a dozen people were injured. Overnight rain may have helped dampen the flames, though. And President-Elect Donald Trump is expected to announce more cabinet picks this morning. He held his second meeting with former rival Mitt Romney last night at a restaurant in New York City. Romney is on the short list for secretary of state. Tomorrow, Mister Trump travels to Indiana where he’s cut a deal with Carrier air conditioning to save one thousand jobs."
Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 26790

Article Title: FINAL Q&A: What changes will mean"

Date: 12/18/2014

Article Content: President Barack Obama's announcement of the resumption of normal diplomatic relations with Cuba will bring many concrete changes to relations between the two countries. Here are answers to some common questions. Will it be easier to travel to Cuba? Yes, but you still won't be able to travel to Cuba directly as a tourist from the U.S. The U.S. will loosen restrictions on the categories of travel currently allowed under limited circumstances. These include government activities, journalism, activities involving professional associations, educational activities, religious activities, activities involving athletics and the arts, humanitarian work and activities of private foundations and nonprofit groups. What about cigars? Though commercial imports will remain prohibited, U.S. travelers to Cuba will be allowed to bring back up to $100 worth of Cuban cigars for personal use. The new rules allow U.S. residents to return with $400 worth of goods, of which up to $100 worth can be tobacco or alcohol products. Will it be easier to send money to Cuba? Yes. Remittance limits will be raised from $500 to $2,000 every three months to Cuban nationals, except for certain government and Communist Party officials. Special licenses will no longer be required for donations to humanitarian projects or private-sector development in Cuba. What will be the impact on Florida's economy? Experts say the impact could be strong but would take place over years and require changes in the laws of both countries. Sectors of the Florida economy with the most opportunities include the tourism, auto-sales and construction industries. Although the announcement loosens some export limits, any major impacts would require Congress to lift the economic embargo, including the ban on tourism. Will this agreement help U.S. businesses? Yes. Obama's action will authorize the export of building materials for private residential construction, agricultural equipment for small farmers and goods for use by entrepreneurs in Cuba's private sector. Export of smartphones, computers and other telecommunications equipment and software will be authorized. U.S. financial institutions will be allowed to open accounts in Cuba. What impact will this have on the U.S. economic embargo? The embargo can only be lifted by Congress. Obama said Wednesday that he will ask Congress for an “honest and serious debate” about lifting it, but with Republicans in charge of both houses next year, he is expected to have an uphill fight. How soon will the U.S. establish an embassy in Cuba? The White House said an embassy will be established in Havana in the coming months. What will be the next steps? Secretary of State John Kerry plans to travel to Cuba, becoming the first U.S. secretary of state to do so in 60 years. The Treasury and Commerce departments will draw up regulations implementing the new rules. Next month, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta S. Jacobson will lead a U.S. delegation to Havana for discussions on migration between Cuba and the United States. Other visits involving high-ranking government officials will take place during the next few months “as part of the normalization process,” the White House said. CONTACT: Staff writer Ron Hurtibise contributed to this report.
dfleshler@sunsentinel.com"

Source Title: News
Americans still won't be able to laze on Cuban beaches, but Wednesday's announcement by the White House of big changes in U.S. relations with the island nation is huge for travelers. “I almost drove off the road when I heard it this morning,” said Tom Popper, president of Insight Cuba, a travel company in New Rochelle, N.Y., who has fought long and hard to open access to Cuban travel for Americans. President Barack Obama's announcement Wednesday will mean: Easier travel to Cuba for individual travelers. American travelers can use credit and debit cards in Cuba. As before, Americans can travel for 12 approved non-tourism reasons - to visit family, educational activities, religious, trade and more - basically any purpose that's not lying on the beach. Americans can legally bring back $100 worth of Cuban cigars or rum. But the wording of the order implies that Americans also can make their own travel arrangements as well, said John McAuliff, the Fund for Reconciliation and Development coordinator for the people-to-people travel program with Cuba. “You can't spend an all-inclusive week on the beach in Cuba. But everything else will be entirely up to the integrity of the person making the trip,” he said. He said in addition, any travel agent should be able to sell Cuba trips, not just licensed groups. Popper is not so sure. “It doesn't sound to me like you or I could jump on a plane and go to Cuba,” he said, but more details will become clear in the coming days. Still, the entire development “is massive,” he said. “It sounds like the two sides have agreed to move on and bury the hatchet, which I think is massively exciting for Cubans to know that this whole dark period of the past 53 years is coming to a close.” It also means that travel providers will not have to undergo ominous and lengthy application processes to offer travel to Cuba. McAuliff and Popper are authorities on the thorny travel to Cuba issue, which has been wrapped in controversy for decades. Until now, the U.S. Treasury Department has severely restricted travel to Cuba, and companies wanting to offer even simple “people-to-people” educational travel had to obtain special licenses. Americans were banned from visiting Cuba for leisure travel. Detroit travel agents Wednesday were waiting for more details on exactly how the Cuba travel changes would work. “I haven't sent anybody to Cuba. It's been a hard sell because it's expensive” because of the restrictive requirements, said Pam Nikitas, owner of Joan Anderson Travel in Detroit. “But I am so excited to hear it is changing.” The government said Wednesday it will be a few weeks before new details are put in place. Linda Lim, professor of strategy at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, said the travel changes will help improve relations between the two nations. “Cubans' ability to travel to the U.S. and vice versa is likely to have a much stronger effect in the longer term in changing Cuban views and values in a 'progressive' direction, than a half-decade of sanctions,” she said. Here is the portion of the White House announcement of the new regulations that apply to travel: “General licenses will be made available for all authorized travelers in the following existing categories: (1) family visits; (2) official business of the U.S. government, foreign governments, and certain intergovernmental organizations; (3) journalistic activity; (4) professional research and professional meetings; (5) educational activities; (6) religious activities; (7) public performances, clinics, workshops, athletic and other competitions, and exhibitions; (8) support for the
Cuban people; (9) humanitarian projects; (10) activities of private foundations or research or educational institutes; (11) exportation, importation, or transmission of information or information materials, and (12) certain export transactions that may be considered for authorization under existing regulations and guidelines.” “Travelers in the 12 categories of travel to Cuba authorized by law will be able to make arrangements through any service provider that complies with the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations governing travel services to Cuba, and general licenses will authorize provision of such services.” Contact Detroit Free Press Travel Writer Ellen Creager, the Michigan Traveler, at 313-222-6498 or ecreager@freepress.com Follow her on Twitter @ellencreager.

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 726420

Article Title: Lily Allen cuts a casual figure in tracksuit bottoms while smoking a cigarette | Daily Mail Online

Date: 9/20/2016

Article Content: She dramatically quit Twitter at the end of August after photographers snapped her collapsing at the Notting Hill Carnival following a very heavy drinking session. And on Tuesday afternoon, a seemingly tense Lily Allen seemed like she was still in need of relief as she puffed on a cigarette on the streets of London. Looking as if she'd just rolled out of bed, the 31-year-old singer-songwriter prioritised comfort in a pair of slouchy tracksuit bottoms, a T-shirt and a green coat. Scroll down for video

smoke: On Tuesday afternoon, a seemingly tense Lily Allen enjoyed a cigarette break while running errands in London. The Smile hitmaker had a stern expression on her face as she balanced her cigarette and wallet while fiddling with her phone. Perhaps ready for a workout or just not bothered to glam up, radiant Lily went make-up free and pulled her hair back in an easy-does-it ponytail. The mother-of-two showed off her perfect French manicure as she clasped the cigarette between her delicate fingers and rubbed her lips, which may have dried out while she puffed on the drag. Comfort first: The 31-year-old singer-songwriter prioritised comfort in a pair of slouchy track suit bottoms, a t-shirt and a green coat.

Hard-partying Lily, who raises her girls with her estranged husband builder and decorator Sam Cooper, stayed away from social media for a solid two weeks. The Fame hitmaker kept a very low profile, not uploading a single tweet between September 1 and 12, and only uploading three Instagram snaps in the past month - none of which featured her face. She shared her last Instagram selfie in mid-August, capturing herself in a pink jumper that matched her rose-tinted hair. Committed: Lily stuck with her social media detox, and she hasn't shared a selfie with her 806,000 Instagram followers since mid-August. Fun in the sun: Prior to her social media break, Lily frequently shared sexy snaps, including this one of her on holiday in July. Announcing her break from Twitter, Lily explained that she wanted to focus on her family and career. ‘I have postponed delivery [of my fourth solo album] because I want to be on hand to settle my daughter (Ethel) into big school this Sept.’ At Notting Hill Carnival two weeks ago, Lily
was seen swigging Jack Daniels directly from the bottle, guzzling multiple alcoholic beverages and smoking before she was carried out of the bash by her boyfriend MC Meridian Dan.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 660081

Article Title: Bonnie and Clyde continues crime spree in 1934 - NY Daily News"

Date: 4/6/2016

Article Content: AP This is a photo of Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, who spent some of their short lives in the Dallas area. (Originally published by the Daily News on April 22, 1934. This story was written by Virgil S. Beck.) DALLAS, TEX., April 21. — The staccato rattle of a machine gun echoes. An officer of the law or a shopkeeper stumbles to die in a pool of his own blood. An automobile roars away with the occupants cursing or laughing. In the madly driven car a short, lean, thin-faced youth, his black hair slicked back, grip the handle of a machine gun. At his side, a rather pretty red-haired girl, often with a large black cigar gripped between her teeth, fingers the trigger of another tommy gun as she glances back for signs of pursuit. This tragic scene has just been enacted in the Southwest for the ninth time in the last two years. The locale this time was Miami, Okla. The victim was Constable Cal Campbell, 63, who made the mistake on April 6, 1934, of questioning the occupants of an auto mired in the mud. The scene had been enacted at least eight times before, with minor variations. The thin-faced youth in the car was Clyde Barrow, the Texas Rattlesnake, wanted for nine murders and countless bank robberies, store holdups, and machine gun battles with the law. His girl companion, who is charged with almost as many crimes as Barrow, was his sweetheart, Bonnie Parker. The titian-haired gun girl, who is an expert with machine gun, rifle and pistols, has a fondness for strong black cigars which has led to her identification in many crimes. It is Bonnie who usually covers the retreat with a machine gun as Clyde handles the wheel. Bonnie is very proud of her record as a gun moll, but she resents the belief that she smokes cigars. She made her denial to Percy Boyd, Chief of Police of Commerce, Okla., who was kidnapped by Barrow and Bonnie after the slaying of Constable Campbell. “No nice girl smokes,” said Bonnie. But she did not explain the many pictures of her with a machine gun in her hands and a long black cigar in her lips. The daring delivery of five convicts from the Eastham prison farm near Huntsville, Tex., last Jan. 16 by Barrow and Bonnie caused the State Legislature to offer a $1,000 reward for the capture of “the most dangerous desperado of the Middle West.” Included in the quintet of liberated prisoners was Raymond Hamilton, 20, companion in crime of Barrow and his gun moll, who was under sentences totaling 262 years. The Legislature has appropriated a $500 reward for the capture of Hamilton, and another $500 for apprehension of Joe Palmer, one of the fugitive convicts who killed a prison guard during the daring escape. During the last two years Barrow and Bonnie Parker, with their various companions, have established a criminal record that eclipses even that of Pretty Boy Floyd and the other noted bad men of Southwest. And this elusive, youthful bandit couple — Barrow is 23 and Bonnie is only 19 — boast that they will not be taken alive. They have murdered, assaulted, robbed, kidnapped, looted and shot their way out of police traps throughout Texas and in Oklahoma, Arkansas,
Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois, Ohio, New Mexico, Indiana and probably other States. Clyde and Bonnie Called “A Pair of Human Rats.” Officers call Barrow and his gun moll “a pair of human rats” who dash about the country like mad dogs, jeering, cursing and laughing diabolically at their dying victims. These same officers admit the bandits are experts with firearms and absolutely fearless, and doubt that they ever will be captured alive. They seem to know every highway and side road in the Middle West. They strike suddenly and ruthlessly, and when officers think they have the pair cornered they suddenly appear in another State. *** Barrow, Bonnie and Hamilton grew up in West Dallas. Barrow fought, fibbed and stole and at the age of 15 had his first brush with the law. He was arrested for automobile thievery. That was on Dec. 3, 1926. Barrow and Hamilton, while still in their early teens, teamed up in petty thievery and many times ran afoul of the law. As they grew older, they started carrying guns and set out along the easy money route. On Feb. 28, 1928, Barrow and Hamilton were picked up for investigation in Fort Worth, and in October, 1929, they were arrested for two safe burglaries in Dallas. About this time Barrow and Hamilton met Parker, who was a waitress in a Dallas cafe. She is the daughter of Mrs. Emma Parker of Trinity Heights, and, although only 15 at the time, Bonnie had been married to Roy Harding, who now is serving a prison sentence for the murder of a deputy sheriff. The youthful bandits started taking Bonnie along on escapades and she soon became a fugitive also. Clyde’s first serious acquaintance with jails came in 1930. On March 2 he was convicted on seven charges of burglary and given two years in each case in Waco, Tex. The Judge, moved by the defendant’s youth, agreed to allow the sentences to run concurrently. But jail was not to the liking of Barrow, and he escaped before he could be taken to prison. On March 16, just two weeks after Barrow had been sentenced, Middletown, O., police attempted to arrest him for questioning. Here Clyde, for the first time, tried to shoot it out with the officers. He was captured and returned to Waco, where the Judge ordered Barrow to serve the full fourteen years of his sentences. Barrow Chops Off Toe to Avoid Work in Jail. His dislike for hard labor was shown immediately. He deliberately chopped off the big toe of his right foot so he would be sent to the hospital. Meanwhile, Marvin Ivy (Buck) Barrow, brother of Clyde and eight years his senior, also had launched upon a criminal career and had been sentenced to prison on several robbery charges. He had escaped on March 30, 1930, and when Clyde was sent to prison, Buck and his wife, Blanche, 22, teamed up with Hamilton and the red-headed Bonnie Parker. This quartet continued their career of petty robbery during 1930 and 1931 until Buck Barrow surrendered to prison authorities on Dec. 27, 1931. ASSOCIATED PRESS Notorious bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow kid around with a shotgun. Mrs. Cumie F. Barrow, frail, gray-haired mother of the notorious brothers, appealed for clemency for her wayward son Clyde. Sobs of the mother finally aroused the pity of Gov. Ross Sterling and he paroled Clyde on Feb. 2, 1932. This act of clemency brought vigorous protests from several sheriffs who wanted Barrow on numerous charges of robbery and theft. The younger Barrow had hardly reached home before Dallas police arrested him for hijacking on March 25. Clyde had joined Hamilton and Bonnie Parker again. The following month, on April 30, J.N. Bucher, operator of a store at Hillsboro, Tex., was shot to death by two youths as they robbed him. Barrow and Hamilton were identified as the bandits. The Texas Rattlesnake had had his first taste of blood. They were identified again in a Dallas robbery on May 12, and on Aug. 1 they robbed the Neuhoff Packing Company in Dallas of $400. Barrow and Hamilton next turned up at a dance at Atoka, Okla., on Aug. 5. A sheriff and his deputy approached their car to question them. The youthful bandits opened fire without warning, killing the sheriff and wounding the deputy, E.C. Moore. Next they kidnapped a deputy sheriff at Carlsbad, N.M., on Aug. 16 they wounded a deputy in a gun battle at Wharton, in South Texas,
on Aug. 30. They killed Howard Hall, grocery clerk, in a store robbery at Sherman, Tex., on Oct. 11. At about this time Barrow and Hamilton split after dispute over the affections of their redheaded feminine companion. Hamilton was arrested at Bay City, Mich., in December, 1932. He was brought back to Texas and given sentences totaling 263 years on just a few of the many charges chalked up against him. Hamilton lamented having broken with Clyde Barrow, and vowed that no penitentiary would hold him. “I’ll wait my chance and be out before you know it. And when I do, I’ll team up with Clyde and Bonnie again and all hell will never catch us,” Hamilton defiantly declared, as officers well recall now. ***

STF/AFP/Getty Images Picture taken in the early 1930s of crime partners Bonnie Parker (R) and Clyde Barrow, Bonnie and Clyde. Meanwhile, Gov. Sterling had revoked Clyde’s parole because of his criminal activities, and Bonnie continued on their lawless way. On Dec. 23, 1932, they attempted to steal an automobile at Temple, Tex., and killed Doyle Johnson, the owner, in making their escape. Clyde and Bonnie decided to visit Barrow’s mother on Jan. 7, 1933. They ran into a police trap, but shot their way out, killing Deputy Sheriff Malcolm Davis. Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson of Texas granted Clyde’s older brother, Buck, a full pardon on March 20, 1933. Buck and his wife, immediately joined Clyde and Bonnie in Joplin, Mo. Officers surrounded their house to make a search for liquor on April 13, not knowing the identity of the occupants. Constable J. W. Harriman was killed instantly and Detective Harry McGinnis was wounded fatally. Machine guns, shotguns, pistols, loot from Joplin robberies, and a cache of diamonds stolen in Texas were found in the house, but the outlaws escaped. Bonnie Takes to Verse; Becomes ‘Suicide Sal.’ On a table was an unfinished poem entitled “Suicide Sal,” in the handwriting of Bonnie Sal. She described her life as the pal of a desperado and declared she was proud of it. Since then, Bonnie has been known as Suicide Sal. With Missouri offering a $1,000 reward for the capture of the Barrows, which still stands for Clyde’s apprehension, Barrow, and Bonnie wandered about Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. On April 28 they stole a car at Ruston, La., belonging to H.D. Darby, a business man. Darby and Miss Sophie Stone, home demonstration agent, gave chase in her car. The Barrows kidnapped them and let them out 125 miles away at Waldo, Ark., after giving them $5. In Darby’s car the roving terrorists swooped down on far-off Lucerne, Ind., on May 8. They robbed a bank and wounded two women as they escaped. They turned up next near Wellington, Tex., in the Panhandle. Bonnie Parker was injured when the bandits’ car went over an embankment. Their guns aroused a farmer’s suspicions and he notified the sheriff. AP The lawmen who finally got Bonnie and Clyde resorted to an ambush, riddling their car with bullets on May 23, 1934, near Gibsland, La. When Sheriff George Corry and Marshal Paul Hardy arrived at the scene they were captured, disarmed, and forced to accompany the bandits to near Erick, Okla., where they were left tied and wired to trees. Sheriff Corry related that Clyde Barrow had asked them: “Did you know who I was?” When the officer admitted he did not, Barrow replied: “It’s a good thing. Seven like you did, and they’re pushing up daisies now.” The outlaw brothers and their women companions next appeared in Hutchinson, Kan., on June 14, and stole an automobile which was identified as that used in a store robbery at Fayetteville, Ark., on June 23. Their auto was wrecked in a collision near Alma in their getaway. Marshal Henry D. Humphrey, 52, and Deputy Sheriff A.M. Salyers started to investigate. The bandits killed Humphrey without warning and fled in Salyers’ car. During the next thirty minutes the bandits spread terror along the highway. Motorists were forced into the ditch by a hail of bullets and finally the road was blocked by the outlaws and a car in which Mr. and Mrs. Mack Lofton Jr. were driving was seized by the fleeing pair. Early the following morning, Mrs. Harry F. Rogers, 26, while canning fruit in her kitchen, was confronted by two men at her mountain home near Winslow, Ark., 50 miles from Alma. Although alone, Mrs. Rogers defied the bandits when they demanded the keys to her automobile. The enraged intruders beat Mrs.
Rogers with a heavy chain and their fists, criminally assaulted her and stabbed her. They then told the semi-conscious woman that they would fix the car so she could never drive it, and started pushing the machine toward the edge of a cliff. As the pair fled, the courageous farmwoman dragged herself to her feet, steered the car against a tree and slumped unconscious, where she was found by her husband upon his return. After hovering between life and death for several days, Mrs. Rogers recovered and identified pictures of Clyde and Buck Barrow as those of her attackers. AP The bullet-riddled automobile in which the bandits, Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, were trapped, shot and killed on a Louisiana road is seen May 24, 1934, near Arcadia, La. *** The Barrows shot their way out of a tight spot in Platte City, Mo., on July 20. A cordon of thirteen officers surrounded their tourist cabin and ordered them out. A woman answered that she would open the door as soon as she was dressed. A moment later machine gun fire burst from the cabin. The officers’ guns raked the walls, but their machine gun jammed. Suddenly the two Barrows and their women dashed from the door. One of the men, apparently wounded, was being half-carried by the women. The other man turned a machine gun on the officers and kept them at bay long enough to permit a getaway in their auto. Three of the officers had been wounded, none seriously. The desperate band was not so fortunate when they met up with the authorities of Dexter, Iowa, four days later. Their trial had been picked up when Ed Penn, a farmer, found bloodstained bandages in the woods near Dexter. Federal, State and county officers closed in about the wooded area. The Barrows opened fire from behind a fallen tree. The posse closed in under terrific fire from machine guns and automatic pistols. Deputy Sheriff Rags Riley of Polk County was wounded slightly. Buck Barrow fell seriously wounded and his wife Blanche was captured while fighting like a tigress by his side. She had been injured in the face by shattered glass during the battle at Platte City. Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker escaped by wading a creek, crawling through a cornfield and stealing a car from Valley Feller, a farmer. Buck and Blanche were taken to Perry, La., for treatment while airplanes, armored cars, motorcycles and automobiles, all equipped with wireless, took up the search for the fugitives. The manhunt spread over Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and several other States. The belief that one more or more of the fugitives had been wounded was verified on July 28 when a car stolen from George Albright of Polk County was found abandoned near Broken Bow, Neb. The cushions were blood-soaked and Bonnie’s purse and picture were in the car. Meanwhile officers had identified the Barrow gang in dozens of robberies throughout Iowa and an arsenal of two machine guns, thirty-four automatic pistols and five revolvers had been found in the outlaw barricade. Tan Ford sedan in which Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were ambushed. Dying Buck Barrow Confesses a Murder Realizing he was dying, Buck confessed that it was he who killed Marshal Humphrey and sought to exonerate Clyde. Deputy Salyers identified Buck as one of the pair that killed Humphrey and in turn was told by the dying desperado that he was lucky to be alive. Buck Barrow died on July 29 from infection of one of his many wounds. His wife was returned to Pallette City, Mo., and was sentenced to ten years in prison. The 59-year-old mother of the bandit brothers arrived in Iowa after her son’s death. She returned his body to Texas for burial in a little rural cemetery near Dallas. *** Clyde and Bonnie continued to leave their trail of crime through several State of the Middle West. Bank robberies, filling station holdups, store burglaries and highway robbery were charged to them over a large area, but they avoided brushes with the law until Nov. 22, 1933. Sheriff R. A. Schmid of Dallas learned that Clyde had been slipping home to visit his mother and laid a trap for the desperado. The sheriff and three deputies hid in a ditch alongside a new highway near Grand Prairie, about midway between Dallas and Fort Worth. They opened fire on Barrow’s car with machine guns. With guns blazing from his hands and those of Bonnie, the daring outlaw dashed through the trap. While officers of several States were
investigating ever current reports that the will-o’-the-wisp bandit and his cigar-smoking girl companion were in their localities, Barrow suddenly carried out the most daring exploit of his career on Jan. 16, 1934. Major Crowson, 24, and Olan Bozeman, 30, guards at the Eastham prison farm on the Trinity River in Houston County, Texas, had started out on the farm of thousands of acres with a woodcutting detail of seventeen prisoners shortly before 7 o’clock that morning. Raymond Hamilton, former pal of Clyde Barrow and sweetheart of Bonnie Parker, was one of the convicts. As the detail was passing a drainage ditch, Joe Palmer, another of the convicts suddenly dashed to a brush pile, followed by two other prisoners. The trio came up with pistols and opened fire on the guards. At the same moment, Barrow and Bonnie stuck their heads above the top of the drainage ditch and opened fire with machine guns. AP

Every year on the anniversary weekend the ambush scene is re-enacted as part of a Bonnie and Clyde Festival. Crowson went down, mortally wounded by a bullet fired by Palmer. Bozeman was shot in the hips. Hamilton, serving sentences totaling 263 years; Palmer, serving twenty-five years for robbery with firearms; Henry Methvin, up for ten years for assault to murder; W.H. Bybee, under two life sentences for murders, and J.B. French, serving twenty-five years for robbery, escaped with Barrow and his gun moll. Their car was observed dashing over the roads with machine guns held on the sides by the fugitives. French was recaptured that night near the prison farm, and Bybee was caught at Amarillo, Tex., on Jan. 30. The other three, Palmer being charged with the murder of Crowson, remain at large.

Posses, headed by Texas Rangers, and sheriffs of a dozen counties, scoured South Texas for days, but the elusive Barrow could not be found. Guards recalled seeing a mysterious airplane hovering about the farm for several days, and prison authorities believe Barrow had scouted the layout from the air before attempting the daring delivery. *** Barrow, Bonnie and Hamilton, the strange trio that had launched a criminal career while children, and, stranger still, with one girl serving as sweetheart to two youthful desperadoes, were together once more. Their trial soon was picked up again. One the afternoon of Feb. 12, City Marshal Dale Davis and three deputies of Reed Springs, Mo., started in search of thieves who had stolen a car from a dealer in the town. Near the outskirts of Reed Springs, Barrow, Bonnie Parker and two other men were bottled up in a narrow lane by the officers. Outnumbering their pursuers, the desperadoes forced the officers to retreat under heavy gunfire. After disabling the officers’ car, the bandits fled south. Sheriff Seth Tuttle and a posse arrived and chased the fugitives into Arkansas. Higher Reward Urged If Barrow is Killed. Irked by the many lawless acts of Barrow and his companions in crime, the Texas Legislature voted a $1,000 reward for his capture on Feb. 17. No price was placed on Bonnie’s head. Attempts to make the reward for Barrow “dead or alive” brought bitter argument. Several members expressed the opinion that Barrow will never be taken alive and that it would be a great benefit to the State and nation if he were killed. One even suggested doubling the reward if the desperado was killed and cutting it in half if he is taken alive. Others contended that legalized murder, even of the Texas Rattlesnake, should not be encouraged, and declared that every man is entitled to a fair trial. Meanwhile, Barrow, with the blood of at least nine men on his hands; his gun moll, Bonnie Parker, drinker of strong corn whisky and smoker of strong cigar, and Raymond Hamilton, fugitive from a 263-year prison sentence, dash over the highways from the Canadian border to the Gulf, robbing, looting, and ready to kill at the least provocation. Elusive, armed to the teeth with firearms with which they are experts, ruthless killers, and masters of almost every type of crime this strange trio of two desperadoes and their one sweetheart companion have eclipsed the bloody record of Pretty Boy Floyd and are recognized as the most dangerous criminals in the Middle West and possibly the nation. Tags: archives "

Source Title: Web
Article Content: Before Meryl Streep became one of the greatest actresses of her generation, she faced a tragic loss when the love of her life died of cancer. When Streep met fellow actor John Cazale in 1976, she was a 27-year-old rising star, while Cazale, 14 years her senior, was a legend among his peers. They fell for one another instantly. Little did she know, however, that two years later she would take a leave from acting to spend every waking moment with Cazale as his body succumbed to cancer, Michael Schulman details in his new Streep biography, Her Again. After a doctor broke news to her that Cazale had died, in a spur-of-the-moment move, the 29-year-old actress pounded on his chest and revived him just long enough to hear him say, 'It's alright, Meryl!' before dying before her eyes on March 12, 1978, Meryl Streep and John Cazale met in 1976 when cast opposite one another in the play Measure for Measure in Central Park. Little did Streep know, that two years later she would take a leave from acting to spend every waking moment with Cazale as his body succumbed to cancer, Michael Schulman details in his new Streep biography, Her Again. After a doctor broke news to her that Cazale had died, in a spur-of-the-moment move, the 29-year-old actress pounded on his chest and revived him just long enough to hear him say, 'It's alright, Meryl!' before dying before her eyes on March 12, 1978, Meryl Streep and John Cazale met in 1976 when cast opposite one another in the play Measure for Measure in Central Park. Cazale at that time was regarded as a rare talent in the industry. He played Fredo in The Godfather and The Godfather Part II and had lead roles in The Conversation and Dog Day Afternoon. All of the five films he starred in were nominated for Best Picture - three of them won. Though she 'doesn't talk about it much' Streep's life was about to change forever after she met Cazale, Schulman said, according to the New York Post. 'That year was so wildly eventful and dramatic in her life. It was instrumental in shaping who she was as a person and an actor,' Schulman claims. Once they were cast in the Central Park play, 'the only thing' Cazale would talk about was Streep, actor Marvin Starkman said. Streep once explained her love of Cazale in an interview, according to the biography. 'He wasn't like anybody I'd ever met,' she said later. 'It was the specificity of him, and his sort of humanity and his curiosity about people, his compassion.' While Cazale was making hit films, they couple were still struggling artists as they lived in their loft on Franklin street in Manhattan. Cazale would take Streep to dinner in Little Italy, where restaurant owners would pay for their meals, often in awe of Cazale's presence in the room. 'They were great to look at, because they were kind of funny-looking, both of them,' playwright Israel Horovitz said, according to the New York Post. 'They were lovely in their way, but it was a really quirky couple. They were head-turners, but not because, 'Wow, is she a beauty.' Schulman wrote that that the beginning of their relationship was a whirlwind, adding that soon after the relationship began, they quickly moved in together to Cazale's Tribeca loft. The couple were the talk of New York theater throughout their relationship. But in May 1977, Cazale was feeling ill and had to miss previews for Agamemnon when legendary director Joe Papp became so concerned that he scheduled an emergency appointment for Cazale with his own doctor. Days later, sitting in a doctor's office with Joe and Gail Papp, they received bad news: Cazale had terminal lung cancer that had spread throughout his body. Gail Papp recounted the moment, saying they all just sat there, feeling 'like you've been struck dead on the spot.' Streep and Cazale appeared in The Deer Hunter together after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Streep said she took the role only to
be with Cazale.'John fell silent,' Schulman writes. 'For a moment, so did Meryl. But she was never one to give up, and certainly not one to succumb to despair . . . She looked up and said, 'So, where should we go to dinner?' 'Cazale immediately dropped out of his play, but Streep, who was starring in the musical Happy End, carried on and castmates saw no sign of grief, the biography says.Cazale would visit her at the theater, still smoking cigars, but Streep didn't criticize; she instead made her dressing limit off-limits for smokers. 'She had a kind of tough love about it,' actor Christopher Lloyd said 'She didn't let him malinger.'The couple kept quiet about how severe Cazale's cancer was. His brother didn't realize how bad it was until he saw Cazale spit up blood on the sidewalk of Chinatown.Cazale's good friend Al Pacino would take him to radiation treatments as he insisted he would get better and fought to get back to working in acting.He was cast in The Deer Hunter, where he starred opposite Robert De Niro.Though insurance costs would be through the roof, filmmakers fought to cast Cazale as the production company, EMI, tried to get him fired.'I was told that unless I got rid of John, [they] would shut down the picture,' director Michael Cimino said later. 'It was awful. I spent hours on the phone, yelling and screaming and fighting.'Streep, desperate to be close to her love, took a part she loathed. Her character was just 'the girl' in the film who was 'essentially a man's view of a woman,' Streep said, according to the New York Post. 'She's extremely passive, she's very quiet, she's someone who's constantly vulnerable.'Streep later said that De Niro covered Cazale's insurance costs, but the famed actor has never confirmed or denied the story.'He was sicker than we thought,' De Niro later said, 'but I wanted him to be in it.'As the couple continued to struggle with medical bills after filming for The Deer Hunter was over, Streep reluctantly took a lead role in the nine-hour TV miniseries Holocaust.Because the series was filmed in Austria, Cazale was too weak to travel with Streep. She, however, never complained and took on a 'cheery professionalism', Schulman claims in the book.It was shot on an actual concentration camp, and Streep later said 'the material was unrelentingly grim'.In all, she spent two-and-a-half months in Austria as her boyfriend lay dying in the United States.'I was going crazy,' she later said. 'John was sick, and I wanted to be with him.'She was very anxious to do her very last scene and then zip back out,' director Marvin Chomsky said. 'I mean, I don't even think we had a moment to say goodbye.'Cazale was at his worst that Streep had seen him when she arrived back to New York. As Cazale's medical bills racked up, Streep took a lead role in the nine-hour TV miniseries Holocaust (pictured right). Because the series was filmed in Austria, Cazale was too weak to travel with Streep.She dropped everything and for five months, concentrated solely on the love of her life, who was growing weaker every day as the cancer spread to his bones.Streep went to all of Cazale's doctor's appointments and radiation treatments.'She was always a strong-willed, persistent, hopeful person, and I think she just applied all her spirit and strength to taking care of him,' Schulman says in his book.'She wasn't one to create drama around it or draw attention to herself. She just bore down and did what needed to be done,' he adds.Streep later said that spending all her time with Cazale gave her a sort of protection from what was actually happening.'I was so close that I didn't notice the deterioration,' she said.During that time, she wrote to her former drama teacher at Yale, Bobby Lewis, of how she was handling Cazale's illness.'My beau is terribly ill and sometimes, as now, in the hospital,' Streep wrote. 'He has very wonderful care and I try not to stand around wringing my hands, but I am worried all the time and pretending to be cheery all the time, which is more exhausting mentally physically emotionally than any work I've ever done.'Cazale entered Memorial Sloan Kettering in March 1978 and never went home. Streep remained by his side the entire time.On March 12, 1978, a doctor told Streep: 'He's gone.'Meryl wasn't ready to hear it, much less believe it,' Schulman writes. 'What happened next, by some accounts, was the culmination of all the tenacious hope Meryl had kept alive for the past 10 months. She pounded on his
chest, sobbing, and for a brief, alarming moment, John opened his eyes. 'It's all right, Meryl!', he said weakly. 'It's all right.' Cazale then closed his eyes and died. Streep called his brother, Stephen, and told him while sobbing, 'I tried'. Following Cazale's death, she saw success after success in the acting world. She won an Emmy for Holocaust, an Oscar nomination for The Deer Hunter and was cast in 1979's Kramer vs Kramer and the role of Kate in Shakespeare in the Park's Taming of the Shrew. During the filming of Kramer vs Kramer, Dustin Hoffman slapped Streep in the face and taunted her about Cazale to get the best performance out of her, Schulman's book claims. Streep went 'absolutely white' when Hoffman goaded her about John Cazale and hit her on the cheek, leaving a red mark. Hoffman is said to have allowed the boundaries of fiction and reality to collapse so that he saw Streep as his soon-to-be ex-wife - and took out his rage on her. Kramer vs Kramer would go on to be nominated for nine Oscars and won five, including Best Actor for Hoffman and Best Supporting Actress for Streep. As for Kate in Taming of the Shrew, she looked at the role differently following Cazale's death. Following Cazale's death, was cast in 1979's Kramer vs Kramer (pictured), and during filming co-star Dustin Hoffman would taunt her about Cazale to get the best performance out of her, Schulman's book claims. Six months after Cazale's death, Streep married her current husband, Don Gummer, who she had four children with. She said she saw that Kate was not an independent woman who is eventually broken by a man, but instead a woman who finds satisfaction in giving herself over to love, according to Schulman's book. 'What I'm saying is, 'I'll do anything for this man,' ' Streep told a reporter at the time. 'Look, would there be any hang-up if this were a mother talking about her son? Service is the only thing that's important about love. Everybody is worried about 'losing yourself' - all this narcissism. Duty. 'We can't stand that idea now either... But duty might be a suit of armor you put on to fight for your love. 'Streep went on to see 19 Academy Award nominations - the most of any actress in history - and three wins. Fellow actors admired Streep for her devotion to Cazale. 'She took care of him like there was nobody else on earth,' said Joe Papp. 'She never betrayed him in his presence or out of his presence. Never betrayed any notion that he would not survive.' Al Pacino agreed with Papp's words. 'When I saw that girl there with him like that I thought, 'There's nothing like that.' I mean, that's it for me. As great as she is in all her work, that's what I think of when I think of her.' Pacino, too, had a place in his heart for Cazale. 'I learned more about acting from John than anybody,' Al Pacino has said. 'All I wanted to do was work with John for the rest of my life. He was my acting partner.' Cazale was admired in the acting world, and was known among directors as '20 questions' because he wanted a detailed backstory for each of his characters. 'One of the things I loved about the casting of John Cazale,' said Dog Day director Sidney Lumet, 'was that he had a tremendous sadness about him. I don't know where it came from; I don't believe in invading the privacy of the actors I work with or getting into their heads. But my God, it's there - every shot of him. 'Time moved differently for John Cazale,' Schulman writes in his biography. 'Everything went slower. He wasn't dim, not by a long shot. But he was meticulous, sometimes maddeningly so.' Pacino said that Cazale would take his time even during a simple dinner. 'I mean, you'd be done - washed, finished and in bed - before he got halfway through his meal. Then the cigar would come out. He'd look at it, light it, taste it. Then finally smoke it.' Soon after Cazale's passing, Streep met her current husband, sculptor Don Gummer. She married Gummer six months after Cazale's death, and the couple have four children together. A spokesman for Streep has previously said: 'Ms. Streep has no comment on this book. It was unauthorized. She made no contribution to it, nor has she read it.'

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Article Title: Boone Pickens Has Never Had Coffee - Business Insider"

Date: 10/20/2014

Article Content: "One thing she was wrong on — If I didn't drink coffee or smoke cigars like my dad — those would both stunt my growth — I would be 6 feet tall. Billionaire energy tycoon T. Boone Pickens has never tasted coffee in his life. The 86-year-old told Business Insider it was because his grandmother told him not to drink it. She was actually the source of a lot of valuable advice growing up. “Everything she told me as far as advice was concerned pretty well played out like she said it would,” Pickens told Business Insider. “You know, work hard, you get results. Always, if you tell somebody you're going to do something, always do it. Things like that.” In his book “The First Billion Is The Hardest,” Pickens details the relationship he had with his grandmother. His grandmother gave him advice that has remained with him throughout his career. “It becomes part of your personality and your life when you're taught early,” he told Business Insider. In his book, Pickens tells a story about how he found a man's wallet while on his paper route as a young boy. He returned the wallet to its rightful owner. The man gave Pickens a dollar as reward. When he got home he told his grandmother, mother, and aunt about the dollar he received. “[My grandmother] made me return the dollar I got. 'You're not going to be paid to be honest. That ain't the way it's going to work,'” Pickens recalled. “‘No, no, he wants me to have it,’” he remembered telling his grandmother. Pickens got on his bicycle and left to return the money to the man. On his way home, he got caught in a downpour. “I almost drowned coming back,” Pickens said. “I wanted her, my aunt and mother to see me pitiful when I came back on my bicycle and feel sorry for me. None of that at all. I came in and said, 'I almost drowned when I crossed Burgess Street.'” His grandmother told him, “If you had gone when we told you to, you'd have been back before it rained.” His grandmother was right. But Pickens says she got one thing wrong. “One thing she was wrong on — If I didn't drink coffee or smoke cigars like my dad — those would both stunt my growth — I would be 6 feet tall. I never had a cup of coffee to this day. Never smoked a cigar either.” “I went to her when I was 20 and I said, 'I didn't drink coffee and I never smoked a cigar either and I'm not going to be 6 feet tall,’” he said. “She said, 'Sonny, if you had, you might not be 5 feet tall.'” Pickens is 5-foot-10 and in good shape. To this day, he continues to work out with his personal trainer every morning at 6:30 a.m. See, grandmothers really do know best. Please enable Javascript to watch this video "

Source Title: Web

E-cigarette texts

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_tpro”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90
Article Title: FDA rules may jeopardize Black & Mild cigar name

Date: 8/11/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: RICHMOND, Va. RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Plans to regulate cigars and other tobacco products the same as cigarettes may threaten one of the nation's top-selling cigar brands - Black & Mild. Under the Food and Drug Administration proposal, cigar makers would have to remove descriptions like "light," "mild," "medium" or "low" from their products, raising a unique question about the fate of Black & Mild. The descriptions were banned for cigarettes under a 2009 law because many smokers wrongly thought they meant the products were less harmful than "full-flavor" cigarettes. Cigarette makers have since replaced those words with colors such as gold, silver, blue and orange on such brands, which usually feature different filters and milder-flavored blends. In a filing made public Monday, Richmond-based Altria Group Inc., which owns Black & Mild maker John Middleton Co., voiced concerns that the proposal may force them to abandon or change the brand name. The company argues the brand name isn't intended to tell smokers that they're any less harmful, citing a company-sponsored survey of more than 300 cigar smokers, none of which mentioned the words "health," "risk," or "safety" in their response to what the brand name conveyed. It asked the FDA to clarify whether a ban on the terms would extend to cigars and its trademark, and said any ban on the brand name would be unconstitutional. "Neither FDA's regulatory authority or the First Amendment allows the FDA to ban words such as mild for cigar and pipe tobacco regardless of the context," said Altria spokesman David Sutton. "Here, when the word is part of a longstanding and well-established trademark like Black & Mild, such a ban would violate basic constitutional guarantees." The FDA declined to weigh in specifically on the Black & Mild name but is reviewing more than 75,000 comments on its proposals, which also includes regulation of the increasingly popular electronic cigarettes. The Black & Mild cigar brand was launched in 1980, after John Middleton Co. began filling its large, machine-made cigars with pipe tobacco. The company that dates back to 1856 was bought by Altria in 2007. Shipments of Black & Mild fell about 3 percent in 2013 to 1.18 billion cigars and had a 29.2 percent share of the U.S. retail market. It shipments are up about 5 percent in the first half of 2014. ___ Michael Felberbaum can be reached at http://www.twitter.com/MLFelberbaum.

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.79
Tampa was once known as Cigar City. Today, there’s just one cigar factory left. The J.C. Newman Company makes cigars in Tampa the way it has for more than 80 years on machines made in the 1930s. Now, as NPR’s Greg Allen reports, the company’s owners and employees are worried new federal regulations may put them out of business.

Workers sit at cigar-rolling machines that Lee says were built more than 80 years ago. SHANDA LEE: You can see what she’s doing here. You’ve got the filler tobacco that goes in. And the machine actually bunches it and creates the inside of the cigar. GREG ALLEN: We says J.C. Newman uses good quality tobacco for its binder and filler - the ingredients that go inside the cigar. The machine operator then places a whole tobacco leaf - the wrapper - on a pad and finishes rolling the cigar. SHANDA LEE: You can see once again - excellent quality tobacco from the best growers in the world. GREG ALLEN: The J.C. Newman Company calls them premium cigars that are made on a machine. But that’s where the company and the federal Food and Drug Administration disagree. For the first time ever, the FDA is set to begin regulating cigars. Congress gave the federal agency authority over cigarettes in 2009, and said, the FDA could write regulations to control other tobacco products. New rules proposed by the agency have gained attention mostly for the restrictions they set on electronic cigarettes. But they also applied to cigars with a big assumption. The FDA is considering exempting from the rules what it calls premium cigars and defines premium as a handmade cigar the costs at least $10 each. Lee notes that definition leaves out J.C. Newman's machine-made cigars that tobacco stores sell for one or $2. SHANDA LEE: We are the only company in America still making cigars like this on these antique machines. So unfortunately, we’re in danger of being shut down as a result of a definition. GREG ALLEN: J.C. Newman executives are concerned about regulations that would require thousands of hours of testing and FDA approval for any new products. They also worry the FDA could require them to update their 80-year-old manufacturing process. On J.C. Newman’s clock tower, there’s a banner. It reads, save this factory. Many have responded. Florida’s governor has sent a letter to the FDA. So have members of Congress, including Kathy Castor, who represents the Tampa area. All are asking the FDA to extend the premium cigar exemption to include those made at J.C. Newman’s factory. Castor says, these are tobacco products marketed to adults, not children, sold only at special tobacco shops that are smoked occasionally. KATHY CASTOR: We think it’s appropriate for FDA to train their sights on the products that really are marketed to kids, that are smoked with a frequency that would cause addiction. And at the same time, they can save the jobs in the Tampa Bay area. GREG ALLEN: And its proposed rule, the FDA cites the well-documented health risks associated with cigar-smoking. Many public health groups are lobbying the FDA to oppose any exemption for cigars, no matter how they’re made, how much they cost or whom they’re marketed to. Vince Willmore with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids says, this is one of the first major rules the FDA has proposed since Congress gave it authority over tobacco five years ago. VINCE WILLMORE: Which is why we think it is so critical that FDA not include any exemptions in this rule, that it
would set a really terrible precedent. That if they do exempt some tobacco products now, it will only encourage tobacco companies to come back and try and get even more loopholes in the future. GREG ALLEN: The FDA is accepting comments on the new regulations until next month. It may be a year before any new rules take effect. Greg Allen, NPR News, Miami.

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 7013

Article Title: A Toast? How About a Toke?"

Date: 7/27/2014

Article Content: Earlier this month, when Ellen Epstein arrived at the Devil's Thumb Ranch in Tabernash, Colo., for the wedding of her friends Lauren Meisels and Bradley Melshenker, she, like the other guests, found a gift bag waiting for her in her hotel room. But rather than a guide to activities in the area or a jar of locally made honey, the canvas bag contained a rolled joint, a lighter and lip balm infused with mango butter and cannabis, along with this note: "We wanted to show you some of the things we love the best." She knew then that the wedding of her fellow Boulder residents would be just a little different from the ones she had attended in the past. The Meisels and Melshenker nuptials looked as if their inspiration had come not from the pages of Martha Stewart Weddings but from High Times. All of the floral arrangements, including the bride's bouquet, contained a variety of white flowers mixed with marijuana buds and leaves. Mr. Melshenker and his groomsmen wore boutonnieres crafted out of twine and marijuana buds, and Mr. Melshenker's three dogs, who were also in attendance, wore collars made of cannabis buds, eucalyptus leaves and pink ribbons. Before going into dinner, the guests were given a baby marijuana plant in a ceramic pot with their name and table assignment written on a card in green ink, in the kind of stylish script you might find on a container of artisanal goat cheese. The tables were named after different strains of marijuana, like Blue Dream, Sour Diesel and Skywalker (the groom's favorite strain). Ms. Epstein, who was seated at Skywalker, said that everyone at her table, where the ages ranged from 40 to 70, passed around a device similar to an electronic cigarette -- except that it contained hash oil instead of nicotine. "It didn't feel weird or bizarre," she said. "It kind of becomes a new cocktail." With the sale of marijuana for recreational use now legal in Colorado and Washington State, pot and its various paraphernalia are becoming visible at weddings in those states -- as table favors for guests like miniature vaporizers or group activities like a hookah lounge. Brides and grooms, even ones who say they don't partake often but want to be hospitable, are giving guests choices that are much different than the standard merlot or chardonnay. Now, the choice could be Tangerine Haze or Grape Ape. Marijuana use at weddings is "out of the closet now," said Kelli Bielema of Shindig Events in Seattle. "I did a wedding recently where they had a little box, like a trinket box, and it had a bunch of joints in it. They just passed it around, and said, 'Here, enjoy yourself.' " The choice to make pot an integral if not central part of their wedding was almost a no-brainer for Mr. Melshenker, 32, and Ms. Meisels, 34 (who also had an open bar). Cannabis had been a major part of the couple's relationship from the beginning. Ms. Meisels, who grew up in Manhattan, and Mr. Melshenker, who is from...
Maryland, met in 2007, when they were both living in Los Angeles. On their first date, they smoked a joint together, and Ms. Meisels, who worked at United Talent Agency at the time, told Mr. Melshenker she had been searching for a boyfriend who smoked pot. "She was like, 'I've been going out partying every night and I need a pothead to slow me down, to cook dinners and watch movies instead of this Hollywood night life,' " Mr. Melshenker remembered. Five years ago, they moved together to Boulder, and opened the Greenest Green, a marijuana dispensary and cultivation center, which they recently sold. "Our whole life for the last five years has been cannabis, cannabis, cannabis," said Mr. Melshenker, who with Ms. Meisels now operates Green Life Consulting, an advisory firm for those who want to start marijuana-based businesses, and 710 Labs, which manufactures concentrates like hash oil. Many pot enthusiasts think of alcohol as an old-fashioned, old-school toxin whose overuse can inflame family tensions and cause people to say horrible things, especially at weddings. In comparison, marijuana, they contend, is more like a tonic that calms people down and makes them like each other more rather than less -- perfect for a wedding, they say. Some of those who have attended weddings where joints, bongs, vaporizers, e-pens or hookahs are passed around also say it heightens the community-building mood that is inherent at a wedding. At Get High Getaways, a bed-and-breakfast in Denver, smoking pot is "not only permitted but encouraged," said Dale Dyke, who runs the place with his wife, Chastity Osborn. Last March, Mr. Dyke and Ms. Osborn hosted a wedding and reception at their inn featuring joints rolled from various strains of marijuana including Critical Mass, Widow Kush and Skunk 1. (The bride and groom said they love smoking marijuana but did not want to be interviewed about it.) "Everybody was blazing the whole time," said Mr. Dyke, who believes cannabis is a much more romantic substance than alcohol because it represents exploration, rebellion, openness and togetherness. "Marijuana intoxication is full of positive emotion. People feel love and connection. Every single person cried at the wedding." The rules and regulations about marijuana -- particularly regarding where it is legal to use and where it is not -- are still being written and constantly changing, like springtime weather in the Rockies. It is legal to imbibe on private property but not in public; however, there is endless debate about what constitutes private versus public. Heather Dwight, who runs Calluna Events in Boulder and organized the Melshenker-Meisels wedding, said it was difficult to find a place that would permit a joint bar or hookah lounge. Even the owners of "private" spaces, such as lofts or large houses, balked. It was possible to openly serve marijuana at the Get High Getaways wedding because B&Bs are considered private property and Mr. Dyke was open to it. Many of the most popular places to hold weddings in Colorado, like the Denver Botanic Gardens, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and the top of Aspen Mountain, forbid marijuana, citing the law against consumption in public. Tourists complain that marijuana is simple to buy in Colorado (dispensaries are almost easier to find than Starbucks cafes), but there are very few places where it is clearly legal to consume it. So, for now, Ms. Dwight said, the easiest place to have a weed wedding is in your own backyard. Because they are smokeless, cakes and pies with cannabis baked in are a hard-to-detect way of consuming pot in public. It is also illegal to do so. In Washington State, Alison Draisin, a baker who creates what she calls "medibles" -- because she intends them for medicinal use -- said, "A restaurant cannot offer medibles on their menu, as it stands now." Even die-hard marijuana enthusiasts say the high from edibles can be incredibly powerful and long-lasting. Julie Dooley, of Julie & Kate Baked Goods in Denver, makes granola that contains THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, and describes the experience of ingesting a pot-infused edible this way: "It's not like wine or a joint you might pass around for a fun party atmosphere. When you eat an edible, you are committed for four hours and mine can last six to 12 hours. It's a long experience." Also, most edibles, which include caramels, lollipops and chocolates, look like regular treats, which makes
them especially tempting for children. At a wedding where a tray of pot brownies was served a few weeks ago, the hired planner, Kerri Butler of A Touch of Bliss in Denver, said that the space's bartenders checked the IDs of guests before handing out the brownies (which had been baked by the mother of the bride). Jake Rosenbarger of Kim & Jake's Cakes in Boulder said he would not make a cannabis cake if asked. Marijuana ruins the flavor, he said, and it can even ruin a wedding. "It can divide a room as much as pull it together," he said. "It creates a vibe of, 'Are you in the cool kids club or not?' " Penni Ervin, a wedding planner in Crested Butte, was aghast when asked if she was working on any weddings in which pot was involved. "We're talking about highly professional people, and I just don't see C.E.O.s getting stoned," she said. "It's a family event with grandma and grandpa," adding, "and you don't want them to get shocked." Before Jennifer Beck, 27, and Chase Beck, 24, were married on May 3, also at the Devil's Thumb Ranch, they briefly discussed serving THC-infused cupcakes in addition to traditional ones. Mr. and Mrs. Beck, who founded Cannabase.io, a Denver Internet company that connects customers to marijuana-based businesses, ultimately decided not to include the special cupcakes, in part because it was springtime, the season when the rivers are raging with snowmelt and the bears are coming out of hibernation -- not the ideal moment for anyone to be stoned in the mountains. However, Mr. Beck had no qualms about sharing some weed -- a strain called Space Cheese, to be exact -- with his groomsmen after the ceremony at a private cabin he rented nearby. "The Space Cheese itself lent a giggly buzz to everyone while we rehashed the day's events," he said. Today, there are "budtenders" (think sommeliers, only they work with cannabis instead of wine) in every dispensary, to help couples who are so inclined find the ideal strains for their weddings. Bec Koop just opened a business, Buds and Blossoms in Alma, Colo., to advise those who want to include marijuana in their centerpieces, dinner salads, bouquets and boutonnieres (or "bud-tonnieres," as she calls them). When it comes to marijuana, she is like a skier bombing down a steep slope, far more adventurous than cautious. For instance, during a recent conversation, she suggested placing a tincture containing flavored (like peppermint or vanilla) THC-infused liquid next to the wedding cake, for guests who might want to add a few droplets. "Like putting syrup on your pancakes," she exclaimed. Ms. Koop believes brides and grooms should choose their wedding weed as carefully as they select their music or clothes. Certain strains help shy people get up and actually enjoy dancing in front of a crowd, she said, while others could bring out the carefree, bubbly side of even the most ferocious Bridezillas. "If there are two conflicting families who are not too happy about the wedding," she said, "you might want to find a strain that will make them a bit more euphoric." Kristen Tsiatsios, co-owner of Jubilee Event Engineers in Seattle, worked on a wedding last summer that had a jazz-era theme and included a cigar/joint bar set up outside the reception hall. "We just walked around telling people, 'If you go to the cigar bar, there are joints underneath the table,' " said Brandon Wagner, the bridegroom. "Prohibition is over." As it turned out, the "cigar bar" was like a strong undertow that drew all the guests outside. "Nobody was on the dance floor," Ms. Tsiatsios said. "Everyone had gone out front to get stoned, and there they stayed the whole night." It is hard to predict if pot will become more or less popular at weddings in the future. Mark Buddemeyer, a Colorado budtender whose nickname is actually Bud, expressed doubts that marijuana would ever become widely acceptable at weddings. "We've got to get to the point where smoking is classier than drinking," he said. "A bride blowing out a big cloud of smoke is not necessarily attractive." (Of course, you do not have to inhale to get high anymore. You could drink one of Dixie Elixirs' THC-infused sparkling beverages that come in trendy flavors like pomegranate or watermelon cream.) Others wonder if it's really necessary for a bride and groom to heighten, lighten, deepen or in any way alter the experience of getting married. Isn't promising to spend the rest of your life with someone enough of a high? The Becks made a pact not
to get stoned (or tipsy) before their ceremony. "It does change your energy," Mrs. Beck said. "It does change your ability to engage. For the wedding, you've got to be there." One thing that can be said about weed weddings is they are likely to generate less waste. While many centerpieces, boutonnieres or bouquets are typically thrown out, ones made out of marijuana buds will probably not be discarded. For the wedding at Get High Getaways, Ms. Osborn made the bride's bouquet, which included several buds of S.A.G.E. Zeta. After the wedding, Mr. Dyke said, the newly married couple hung the bouquet in a closet at home to dry it out, and intend to smoke it on their wedding anniversary next year. Mr. Dyke likened it to the tradition of saving a piece of wedding cake in the freezer and sharing it on the first anniversary. This practice could be a new way to relive the day. As Mr. Dyke put it, "You catch the same buzz you had on your wedding day." URL: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/27/fashion/marijuana-wedding-guest-colorado-and-washington-state.html"
Board 15, said the bay area has more potential. The city could make it an attraction similar to Coney Island or Rockaway Beach, with paddle boats and canoe rentals, she said. Currently, the watercraft recreation there consists of fishing boats and party cruise yachts. “Locals love being part of the waterfront community,” Scavo said. “The bay is a magnet.” FIND IT: Sheepshead Bay is bordered by Kings Highway to the north, Ocean Parkway to the west, Gerritsen Avenue to the east and Emmons Avenue to the south, according to StreetEasy. Q&A with Samantha Treiber Lifelong resident Samantha Treiber, 31, is a native of Sheepshead Bay and works in filmmaking as a freelance production assistant. We chatted with her about the ups and downs of life in Sheepshead Bay. What do you like about Sheepshead Bay? I actually love to live here and am proud to be from here. I experience all different neighborhoods in New York because of my career. At the end of the week, I love coming back here and experiencing the quiet of the neighborhood. It’s nice to listen to the kids playing baseball across the street from my home, or the school during recess. It has a feel of old Brooklyn and strong ties in our community, almost like small towns do. How have you seen the area change? It’s actually not changed much in the decades or so I’ve lived here. I know when to expect certain sounds out of my windows. I know what time the buses and trains are at the pickup points I need. Some of my favorite places to eat, like Brennan & Carr are still there and haven’t changed the architecture of their establishment. It’s nice to have some things remain the same, seeing as how life is constantly on the move from minute to minute in every other aspect. What is less than ideal about the neighborhood? is very stressful. I forced to take a train from Brooklyn into Manhattan, and then back out to Brooklyn if I need to work anywhere in north Brooklyn. The commute from this end of south Brooklyn into any part of north Brooklyn or Queens requires me to add an hour of travel at least in order to reach work on time. The basics Transportation Trains: B to Kings Highway, Sheepshead Bay Q to Kings Highway, Avenue U, Neck Road, Sheepshead Bay Buses: B2, B3, B4, B7, B31, B36, B44, B44-SBS, B49, B68, B82, B100, BM3, BM4 Crime Sheepshead Bay is covered by the 61st Precinct at 2575 Coney Island Ave., along with several other area neighborhoods. The precinct reported six robberies in its CompStat report for the week of Feb. 29-March 6. It reported no murders and two rapes in the year to date as of Feb. 29. Notable people who have lived in Sheepshead Bay: - Larry David - Judith “Judge Judy” Sheindlin - Andrew Dice Clay - Terry Gross - Vince Lombardi - Jerry Butler - Martin “Pharma Bro” Shkreli - Former Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz To eat: Roll N Roaster 2901 Emmons Ave. For 45 years, this famed family spot has been serving its roast beef piled high on freshly-baked buns, cooked either rare, medium, or well done. Rollnroaster.com Randazzo’s Clam Bar 2017 Emmons Ave. A neighborhood staple that combines the waterfront setting and multi-ethnic community’s flavor with Italian seafood. Randazzosclambar.nyc Masal Cafe 1901 Emmons Ave. This cafe has outdoor seating near the waterfront when it’s warm out. Its Turkish coffee, tea and desserts are a great treat. Masalcafe.com To party: Buckley's 2926 Ave. S A family-owned local hangout for the last 30 years. Locals head here for home-style cooking and a variety of beers. Buckleys caterers.com Draft Barn 317 Ave. X An Eastern European-style beer hall with more than 250 types of brews from around the world. Draftbarnny.com Wheeler’s Restaurant 1707 Sheepshead Bay Road This family-style bar and grill prides itself in serving classic American dishes and a range of beers. Facebook.com/wheelerspub To shop: Trends Clothing 1314 Kings Highway A mom-and-pop shop selling men's clothing and shoes. 718-376-8755 LeMonti 3101 Emmons Ave. Visit this unisex clothing store for Russian furs, which tap into Sheepshead Bay's sizeable Russian and Eastern European community. Lemontiusa.com Life Made A Little Easier 1702 Sheepshead Bay Road This trendy vaping shop opened its doors in 2014 and helps local vapers get their fix. Lifemadealittleeasier.com To do: Romanoff 2670 Coney Island Ave. A Russian-French fusion eatery with live cabaret shows.
Romanoffny.com Art Station 1303 Ave. U Head to this family-friendly art studio for art classes geared toward both kids and adults, allowing parents to join in the artistic fun with their children.

Nyartstation.com Nirvana Restaurant and **Hookah** Lounge 2340 Coney Island Ave. Another neighborhood mainstay that underscores the cultural diversity in southern Brooklyn. It serves Middle Eastern food and features a DJ, belly dancers and a **hookah** lounge. Thenirvanalounge.com

THE BUZZ: A controversial proposal from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to place a halfway house on Bragg Street in Sheepshead Bay near schools and apartments has riled up long-time residents and officials who say the location is inappropriate for the neighborhood. The proposed project would be at 2261 Bragg St., the location of a former synagogue, across from P.S. 194 Raoul Wallenberg and near a number of parks and apartment buildings. The plan is to put a 100-bed facility in the building for male and female ex-convicts. A number of community leaders, residents and local officials have come out against the idea. “It’s a disaster,” said Luba Miki, 69, who lives in the co-op adjacent to the proposed site of the halfway house. “Our government needs to think who lives here, a lot of working families live here.” Miki said her children, who are older and live overseas, are urging her to sell her apartment if the project is approved. State Sen. Martin Golden’s office started an online petition urging residents to oppose the measure, writing, “The building is inappropriate for the location, due to it being within blocks of several schools and community parks within the neighborhood.” State Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein and City Councilman Alan Maisel have also posted online petitions to reject the proposed halfway house. Theresa Scavo, chair of Community Board 15, which includes Sheepshead Bay, said the board sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Prisons opposing the project, but the bureau reportedly has not reconsidered the project. A representative from the bureau could not be reached for comment.

Source Title: News

*Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 3*

Predicted Probability: 0.99

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 699655

Article Title: WAIT STILL LONG FOR CUBAN **Cigar** FANS

Date: 5/23/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: TAMPA HIGHLIGHT: Even if an embargo ends, new rules could keep the **tobacco** out of local shops for years. For American **cigar** aficionados, Cuban **tobacco** is the forbidden fruit, long blocked from the United States market by a five-decade-old embargo on the island nation. But in this new era of normalizing relations, the prospect of the embargo being lifted is rising. That excites Americans who now are restricted to bringing in just $100 worth of the high-quality **cigars**, and then only if they buy them on the island. There’s just one hitch: Regulations recently announced by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration could keep Cuban **cigars** out of local **tobacco** shops for at least two years after the economic blockade ends. And even then, **smokers** may not find the full catalogue available in other countries. "This administration is talking out of both sides of its mouth," said Bryan Haynes, a partner with the Atlanta-based law firm Troutman Sanders, which represents **tobacco** companies. "While building a better relationship with Cuba, it's effectively banned its most famous product." Under the new FDA rules, **electronic cigarettes**, personal vaporizers and **cigars** introduced into
the U.S. market after February 15, 2007, must submit detailed accounts of their ingredients and the
process used to manufacture them. It is a regulatory process similar to how the FDA governs the
cigarette industry. The FDA estimates the application process would take up to 1,700 hours for cigar
manufacturers. The tobacco industry counters it could be as high as 5,000. In all, it could take as long as
two years to complete this work. Cigars for sale in the United States can remain on the market as they
apply. New products cannot be sold until FDA approval is received. While some brands of Cuban cigars
were on U.S. shelves before the embargo, they will still have to fully comply with the new regulations,
said Haynes. "Something produced in the '50s or '60s and not sold since then is not grandfathered in the
FDA's eyes," he said. So if the embargo were to be lifted in 2017, for instance, Cuban cigars may not be
available for purchase until 2019. And that is if Habanos - Cuba's state-owned company that runs its
cigar industry - began the FDA process the very moment the embargo ends. The premium hand-rolled
cigar industry - a category that would include most Cubans - is lobbying to be exempt from the
regulations. Industry leaders claim their products use pure tobacco and no dangerous chemicals. Among
the locals affected by these regulations is Ybor City's J.C. Newman Cigar Co., which rolls premium cigars
using tobacco from Cameroon. "We are disappointed in the FDA's decision to treat premium cigars as
cigarettes," said Eric Newman, the company's president. "This will be a real challenge for us long term,
but we are ready to fight." Different types of cigars sold by the same brand are considered separate
products and each must comply with the regulations. To do so will cost up to $330,000 per product, the
FDA estimates, while the tobacco industry argues that number is closer to $1 million. Either way, said J.
Glynn Loope, executive director of the advocacy group Cigar Rights of America, it is doubtful that
boutique operations can afford the bill. Larger companies, he said, may cut back on the number of new
cigars they produce and pull some cigars already on the market to avoid the regulatory costs. Newman
said that's a possibility for his company. Expect Cuba to initially engage the U.S. market in a limited
fashion, said Jeff Borysiewicz, founder of Cigar Rights of America. "At best I could see Cuba bringing its
two top brands to the U.S.," he said. But it may be worth it for Cuba to go all in. Richard Feinberg, a
senior fellow in the Latin America Initiative at the Brookings Institute, has estimated that the U.S. cigar
market could inject an extra $200 million into the Cuban economy, although that projection was made
before the new FDA regulations. Simon Evans, a spokesman for London-based Imperial Tobacco, which
is the international distribution partner of Habanos, acknowledged that the new FDA policy will provide
obstacles. "The regulations will undoubtedly have an impact in the market and will increase some
operating cost," he said. "It would be foolish to speculate on the timing of any potential lifting of the
embargo. Nevertheless, the Habanos team continues to work hard to be fully prepared for that
eventuality." Americans visiting Cuba are allowed to bring back cigars for personal use, capped at $100
worth. It's among the policies passed by the Obama administration over the past 18 months. But that
doesn't buy much, said Borysiewicz. A box costs between $200 and $500. Even though Cuban cigars are
not FDA-approved, the new regulations aren't expected to affect imports of small amounts for personal
use. "Because the amount of merchandise imported into the United States in personal shipments is
normally small, both in size and value, comprehensive coverage of these imports is normally not
justified," FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in an email. If the embargo is lifted, the U.S. law
governing the importation of tobacco for personal use from Cuba will then be the same as it is for every
other country, increasing what can be brought back to as many as 100 cigars with a price capped at
$800. Still, Borysiewicz said that doesn't include the cost and time of the trip to Cuba. What American
cigar aficionados expect, he said, is to be able to visit their local tobacco shop and choose from a full
catalog of Cuban cigars. But it seems they'll have to wait longer than expected. "When the embargo is
lifted we would be celebrating a new day in U.S.-Cuba relations" said Haynes, the attorney. "The symbol of that should be the Cuban cigar."

Source Title: News

_Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – Web 1_

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 110293

Article Title: Christina Milian puffs on _electric cigarette_ while enjoying lunch with friend in LA | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 3/5/2015

Article Content: The worst lunch date? Christina Milian puffs on an _electric cigarette_ and chats on her phone as she shares a meal with male friend By MailOnline Reporter Published: 02:59 EST, 5 March 2015 | Updated: 06:40 EST, 5 March 2015 Christina Milian _smoked_ on an _e-cigarette_ during a lunch outing with a male friend on Wednesday. The mother-of-one was seen sitting on the outdoor corridor at the Le Petit Four restaurant in West Hollywood, California laughing and smiling while chatting on her cell phone and drinking a cocktail. The 33-year-old singer showed off her street style in a 'WCW' hoodie, 'Bored In The USA' T-shirt and a plaid long sleeve tied around her waist. Puff, puff: Christina Milian was seen _smoking_ an _e-cigarette_ during a lunch outing at the Le Petit Four restaurant in West Hollywood, California on Wednesday Street style: The 33-year-old singer showed off her street style in a 'WCW' hoodie, 'Bored In The USA' T-shirt and a plaid long sleeve tied around her waist. Christina covered her petite frame in skintight leather trousers and rounded out her look with white Converse sneakers. The rumoured girlfriend of rapper Lil Wayne - who happens to be the co-founder of her record label Young Money Cash Money - hid her eyes with cat-eye sunglasses. Her friend coordinated outer wear with Christina wearing a similar red and black plaid shirt. Never shy for a smile: The mother-of-one hid her eyes with cat-eye sunglasses Just the two of them: She and a friend sat on the outdoor corridor and sipped on their cocktails On Sunday, E! aired the season finale of her reality show Christina Milian: Turned Up with not much fan viewership. A second season is yet to be announced, but it does not look promising. Recently Christina’s name was brought up as shocking news that Chris Brown fathered a nine-month old daughter with model and 'longtime friend' Nia Amey. Hands full: Christina held onto her _e-cigarette_ in her mouth Urban wear: The rumoured girlfriend of rapper Lil Wayne covered her petite frame in skintight leather trousers and rounded out her look with white Converse sneakers. Adding insult to injury, Milian and Brown's on-off again girlfriend Karrueche Tran had partied with the 'baby mama' in the past even sharing mutual friends in the same inner circle. The two women were both seen at a party in Las Vegas in May 2013. Karrueche was even pictured with her arm around Nia in an Instagram snap as the two women wore bikinis and blew kisses at the camera. Inner circle: Christina and her good friend Karrueche Tran were both seen at a party in Las Vegas in May 2013 with Chris Brown's alleged 'baby mama' who claimed to be the co-parent of a nine-month-old daughter. Share or comment on this article

Source Title: Web
A cocktail and a Vapestick please! London hotel introduces the world's first lounge dedicated to selling E-CIGARS (complete with menu of different flavours) Vapesticks feel and taste just like tobacco cigarettes. There are also fruity 'Shisha' flavours on offer. Music from 2007, the year the smoking ban was introduced, will be played. By Beci Wood Published: 09:50 EST, 30 June 2014 | Updated: 11:43 EST, 30 June 2014. It has long been a tradition to retire after dinner for whisky and a cigar, but that practice is somewhat extinct due to smoking laws. Not so at the K-West in London’s Shepherds Bush. The hotel has launched the world’s first e-cigar room. Guests are invited to relax in a dedicated cool new lounge area while choosing a Vapestick electronic cigar from a menu. Alternative smoking experience: Relax with a martini and a Vapestick. There are regular tobacco-flavoured ones, extra-long menthol ones and an actual cigar, which looks and tastes like the real thing, only it isn’t. Those with a sweet tooth can plump for a yellow, green, orange or red 'Shisha' Vapestick, with each one tasting of different fruits. The waitress service room also has music playing from the year 2007, the year the smoking ban came into effect in the UK. In recent years people have turned to e-cigarettes in the belief that they are healthier than normal cigarettes. Waitress service: Guests can order drinks and Vapesticks at the same time. Sleek bar area: The K-West Hotel in Shepherd's Bush has opened the world's first E-cigar lounge. New bar service: Vapesticks feel and taste just like tobacco cigarettes, but instead of tobacco smoke, they produce a water-based vapour that can come with, or without, nicotine. Sales have rocketed, trebling in three years with more than one in ten smokers admitting to using them. Vapesticks feel and taste just like tobacco cigarettes, but instead of harmful tobacco smoke they produce a water-based vapour that can come with, or without, nicotine. The industry claims smokers will get the same sensation as with tobacco smoke, with the same physical and visual cues. But they say electronic cigarettes have no tar, no carbon monoxide, no ammonia, no smells, no ash and no second-hand smoke dangers. Share or comment on this article.
Ben Affleck was obviously having a tough day. The Batman V Superman star was spotted sucking on an E-cigarette as he sat in his car and later puffing on a regular cigarette as he walked around Beverly Hills in the sunshine on Thursday. The nicotine hit may have helped the 43-year-old calm down after getting a parking ticket. Scroll down for video Life’s a drag: Ben Affleck was spotted sitting in his car sucking on an E-cigarette in Beverly Hills on Thursday. Ben was casually dressed for his outing in a black leather jacket teamed with a dark red T-shirt, baggy black jeans and gray sneakers. His dark hair was left to do its own thing and he sported a graying beard and moustache. During his walk, the actor bumped into Saturday Night Live alum Molly Shannon who stopped her car to have a chat. Ben, who separated from his wife, Jennifer Garner, last summer, was at CinemaCon in Las Vegas last week.

Chilling out: The nicotine hit may have helped the 43-year-old calm down after getting a parking ticket. There it was announced that the Oscar winner will star in a standalone Batman movie following his critically-praised performance in the superhero showdown Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice. The blockbuster has already more than tripled its $250 million budget at the box office after its release on March 25. It also introduced the Justice League members Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash and Cyborg, each of whom is getting their own standalone film. He can’t manage without one: The Batman V Superman star was also spotted with a drink in one hand and a regular cigarette in the other as he strolled in the upscale neighbourhood. Meanwhile, the actor is going to be very busy in the next few years. Ben is already locked in to play Batman in the first two Justice League films, set for 2017 and 2019. And he is featured heavily in the latest Suicide Squad trailer released on Sunday. The movie, about a secret government agency that recruits jailed supervillains for dangerous black ops missions in exchange for clemency, is due out on August 5. There’s a surprise: The actor bumped into his friend, Saturday Night Live alum Molly Shannon, who stopped her car to have a chat. Last week he appeared at CinemaCon in Las Vegas with Batman V Superman co-star Amy Adams to introduce a reel touting the DC cinematic universe. He also revealed that he will star in a Batman standalone movie, which may spiral into a trilogy according to rumours circulating in Hollywood. There is no official date for the new Batman film; however Warner Bros currently has two dates - October 5 2018 and Nov 1 2018 - reserved for as-yet untitled DC projects. Gotcha: A parking warden was spotted slapping a ticket on Ben’s car.

Source Title: Web
fortunes have long been linked to Cuba, the communist nation that for decades supplied the region’s tobacco and continues to mint many of its workers. For years cigar executives here say they have looked to Cuba with equal parts intrigue and trepidation, a sentiment that has become more pronounced in recent years as the United States began to mend decades of strained relations with the island nation. The death of Fidel Castro — the most iconic of cigar smokers — marks yet another milestone for the region. Many here wonder whether the once-booming cigar industry may be on its way out as well. Among those most worried: Eric Newman, whose family has been making 31 brands of cigars, including Cuesta-Rey, Diamond Crown and La-Unica, for three generations. For 121 years, the J.C. Newman Cigar Co. has churned out millions of cigars and shipped them worldwide — even as, one by one, 149 surrounding factories shuttered their doors, many moving their operations overseas. But now Newman, who owns the company with his brother, Bobby, says cigar manufacturers and retailers in this stretch of town known as Ybor City face hurdles that could deal a final blow to an industry that has, until now, gone largely unregulated. The Food and Drug Administration this year introduced new guidelines that will require cigarette manufacturers to get approval for new products, pay increased fees and add prominent warning labels. The FDA says the measures, which will be phased in over three years, are a matter of public safety and are meant to curb underage tobacco use. Before August, no federal law prohibited the sale of cigars, e-cigarettes or hookah tobacco to children under 18. “For years, the unregulated marketplace was like the Wild, Wild West,” said Mitch Zeller, director of the FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products. The new rules, Zeller says, will help bring order to a corner of the tobacco industry that has long operated without oversight. Newman, though, says the regulations represent millions of dollars in new costs and increased uncertainty for his factory, which last year had sales of $10 million. On top of that, he says, the Obama administration in October loosened its ban on Cuban cigars, allowing Americans to bring back as many cigars as they like for personal use. Newman says the move, part of the thawing of relations between the nations, introduces another layer of competition at a critical time. “What we’re dealing with right now is the worst it’s ever been,” said Newman, whose grandfather started the business at age 20 in a family barn. “On the one hand, the government is saying, ‘smoking is bad’ and making us jump through all these new hoops. On the other, they’re welcoming Cuban cigars — which haven’t been tested, which aren’t taxed — into the country. They’ve got this backwards.” And now, with the election of Donald Trump as the country’s next president, Newman says he’s dealing with even more uncertainty about the future. Will the new regulations remain in place? And if so, for how much longer? In the meantime, he says there are pressing matters, including a looming deadline on Dec. 31 that requires him to register more than 1,300 cigar varieties with the government. In all, the process could cost him more than $14 million. “We just have to plow ahead,” Newman says, sitting up straight. “If I think about it for too long, I get nauseous.” Inside the J.C. Newman Cigar Co.’s brick factory, workers roll cigars using machines from the early 1900s. (Eve Edelheit/For The Washington Post) ‘A brave new world of regulation’ J.C. Newman’s future may be up in the air, but inside the company’s brick factory on the edge of town, operations are as they’ve always been: Tobacco from countries such as Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic is dried and blended on the top level, then funneled down a chute onto the factory floor, where more than 100 workers — most of them women — fill, bind and wrap cigars using machines that date from the 1930s. Winnie Money, 83, has been working at this plant since 1972. Juanita Green, 56, since 1988. Peaches Pickrell, 69, took a job here 37 years ago after her previous employer, a nearby emblem factory, shut down. “It was here or the shrimp factory,” she said, and so here she was, putting newly rolled cigars into plastic packaging. Yesterday she bundled 6,700 cigars into 335 packages. The day before, 7,300. Ana Rodriguez, who affixes bar code stickers onto...
individu**al cigars**, has been here 15 years. She stays, she says, because she has a 401(k) and five weeks of paid annual leave. “I say all the time, where are we going to find a job where they pay us like this?” said Rodriguez, 59, who emigrated from Cuba in 1970. “We’re all older people. If this place closes, who’s going to give us jobs? Nobody.” In an election year where much of the rhetoric had focused on bringing back manufacturing jobs, Newman says he can’t understand why the government would want to increase burdens on an operation like his. He says having to lay off workers or, worse, move the factory to Nicaragua, where the company already has a sprawling plant and 650 employees, would have discernible consequences for the community. “Cigars are the heart and soul of Tampa,” he said. “We’re here. We’re employing more than 100 people. Just don’t close us down.” Zeller, of the FDA, says the agency has hosted webinars to help business owners navigate the new rules and has provided special assistance and exemptions to small businesses with less than $5 million in annual sales. He estimates the costs associated with regulatory filings to be $1,500 to $22,000 per product. “These businesses are entering a brave new world of regulation — and yes, there are costs associated with that,” Zeller said. “But the FDA is in the business of reducing the harms associated with tobacco use, and unfortunately tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the country.” The requirement that worries Newman the most right now, and has two company accountants working around the clock, is having to register all products with the FDA by the end of the year. At last count, J.C. Newman produced 1,382 varieties of cigars, each requiring a set of filings. In February, Newman will have to submit health documents and an ingredient list for each item. And by May, come up with a plan for adding labels with warnings such as “Cigars are not a safe alternative to cigarettes” and “Cigar smoking can cause lung cancer and heart disease” to his velvet-lined boxes. “We’re having to go through, take pictures, list all of our ingredients, tell them about our packaging,” said Drew Newman, Eric’s son. “We are trying to cooperate with the law to the best of our ability, but we also have a business to run.”

“The land of opportunity’ The fortunes of Ybor City have been tied to Cuba since the 1880s, when Spanish cigar maker Vicente Martinez Ybor made his way up from Havana to Key West and eventually to Tampa, lured by the region’s humidity and proximity to the ocean. Ybor bought 40 acres of land and built his first cigar factory. To attract workers — immigrants from Cuba, Italy, Germany and Spain — he built hundreds of small houses that he rented out for about $1 a week. As business grew, so did the number of competing manufacturers who moved to the area in search of skilled workers and ready access to Cuban tobacco. By 1900, Ybor City had 232 factories making nearly 600 million cigars a year. “The entire economy of Central Florida was based on cigars,” said Wallace Reyes, a historian whose family owned a longtime cigar factory in Ybor City. “For many immigrants, this was the land of opportunity.” When the Great Depression struck in 1929, the local cigar industry was among the hardest hit. Factories closed, unemployment soared and many residents left. Decades of decline followed as Americans traded hand-rolled cigars for inexpensive, machine-made cigarettes. The biggest blow to the industry, Reyes says, came in early 1960s when the United States imposed the Cuban trade embargo, halting the flow of tobacco from the island into Ybor City. Almost all of the region’s cigar makers relocated to Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic as a result. In the years since, there have been hints of promise as small storefronts crop up on Ybor City’s main stretch. But nearly everyone here agrees: The town’s glory days are gone. Ybor’s original factory is now home to the Church of Scientology. Another factory down the street is being converted into luxury apartments. “Historically, we had factories with a thousand workers, and we had smaller factories, like what my uncle owned, with just a few people,” said Chantal Ruijlova Hevia, president and chief executive of the Ybor City Museum Society. “We had the whole gamut, but not anymore. The entire industry has deteriorated.”
Roy Hofmann and Bob Goorsky smoke outside King Corona Cigars and Cafe, one of a dozen cigar shops that line Tampa’s 7th Avenue. (Eve Edelheit/For The Washington Post) ‘Roll with the punches’ A mile from the J.C. Newman factory, on a stretch of Seventh Avenue dotted with cigar shops, Ernesto Ceijas, 39, sits in a storefront window cutting swaths of dried tobacco. He fills them with tobacco leaves, rolls them tight and seals them shut. On a good day, he makes 100 cigars — which means he’ll make about $100. “It’s a hard life to make cigars,” says Ceijas, who works at Long Ash Cigars, a boutique and lounge. Like the seven other rollers there, he is a Cuban immigrant who is paid about $1 for each cigar he makes. They will sell in the shop for between $3.50 and $13. But Michael Cincunegui, the shop’s owner, says cigar prices are likely to go up as more federal regulations take hold. “Yes, there’s going to be an impact, and yes, costs will go up,” he said. “It’s just hard to tell how much.” Cincunegui, whose great-grandfather emigrated from Cuba, says he was hopeful that recent strides in U.S.-Cuba relations would mean an eventual opening of trade between the two countries, allowing him to import coveted Cuban cigars and tobacco to sell in his Ybor City store. President-elect Donald Trump, however, has repeatedly vowed to “terminate” newly minted ties with the communist nation, leaving Cincunegui and others even more anxious about their future. “It’s a new administration, and we don’t know the first thing about what to expect,” he said. “All we can do is roll with the punches.” Cincunegui opened his shop four years ago, days before the 2012 Republican National Convention came to town. He is among a new crop of small-time entrepreneurs hoping to eke out a living in Tampa’s fading cigar industry. Like the Newmans, he is grappling with new regulations and changing ties with Cuba. “So far, the people who are left are making a decent way of business,” said Reyes, the historian. “But with new rules, a new president, a new administration, who knows?” The last plant to close in Ybor City, Havana-Tampa, moved its operations to Puerto Rico in 2009 after the federal government increased taxes on large cigars from 5 cents to 40 cents. Nearly 500 people lost their jobs. “It was the worst time of my life,” said Joe St. Charles, 51, a mechanic there who made $28.50 an hour. “I was looking for a job, but so were 500 other people.” He applied for 150 jobs, he said. But there were few calls back, and when there were, they were for jobs that paid $10, $11, $12 an hour. After a stint in Puerto Rico, St. Charles is back in Tampa working for J.C. Newman. He makes more than $30 an hour now, plus overtime, as the factory’s lead mechanic. His fiancee, a cigar roller he met at J.C. Newman, makes about $20 an hour. “If these rules shut us down, it’d take out our entire household income,” he said. “This is the last factory left — there’s nowhere else for us to go.” Read more: Havana Club vs. Havana Club: Inside the rum war between Bacardi and Cuba You’ll soon be able to bring back more cigars and rum from Cuba Among the hurdles U.S. hotels face in Cuba: A booming Airbnb presence

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Pro – Ecig – MPM – Web 5
Predicted Probability: 0.73

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 734394

Article Title: Some pot-growers fear a big business takeover if it becomes legal. Not these two - LA Times

Date: 10/21/2016
As soon as I began paying attention to marijuana last year, I started bumping into the guy in the white robes and the flowing beard. There he was last fall, chatting up people at the New West cannabis conference in San Francisco. Here he was at the annual Sonoma County cannabis confab known as the Emerald Cup. In Ft. Bragg, I spotted him on the sidewalk outside a Mendocino County Board of Supervisors meeting. A few weeks ago, I saw him again at a State of Marijuana conference aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, where he delivered a stirring defense of imbibing pot the old-fashioned way, by smoking a joint. That’s when I decided to introduce myself. Turns out, he is a charming, erudite 73-year-old Mendocino County cannabis grower. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Wesleyan University who was raised Unitarian, he left the East Coast for San Francisco during the Summer of Love. His name was William Allen Winans. Then, in 1998, on the banks of the Ganges River, he underwent a Hindu religious initiation. Leaving his old identity behind, he became Swami Chaitanya, which is how he is known in cannabis circles up and down the state, and beyond. In 2003, he and his 61-year-old wife, Nikki Lastreto, a former newspaper and TV journalist, bought 190 acres off the beaten path in northern Mendocino County, about a four-hour drive north of San Francisco. Here, in Bell Springs, they grow pure, organic cannabis that is sought after by Bay Area medical marijuana patients. Unlike many of their small farmer colleagues who fear that legalization will depress prices or drive them out of business altogether, Chaitanya and Lastreto are full-throated supporters of Proposition 64, which will not only usher in an era of regulations and licensing, but also will give existing small growers a five-year head start before licenses for larger grows are granted. “The big-business argument is totally phony,” Chaitanya said. “In Humboldt County, there are some five- and six-acre grows already. And instead of people getting wiped out, the small guys are making a pretty decent living.” Chaitanya and Lastreto know the key to survival is the very thing that has been anathema to so many who have worked for so long in the legal shadows: branding.

Chaitanya and Lastreto know the key to survival is the very thing that has been anathema to so many who have worked for so long in the legal shadows: branding. Mendocino growers wholeheartedly believe their pot is the best in the world. I’m sure this is true for growers in Humboldt and Trinity counties, part of the famous Emerald Triangle. But Mendo really does have a claim to fame. As Chaitanya noted, each year Mendocino County growers account for about a quarter of the 400 or so buds entered into blind competition at the Emerald Cup, and walk away with three-quarters of the awards. (He and Lastreto don’t compete; they are judges.) “Mass market pot is going to come from greenhouses in places like Fresno,” said Chaitanya. “That stuff will supply the vape pens. But if you want to survive in Mendocino County, you’ve got to be growing something close to the quality of the best cigars. We have to become the Cuban cigars of pot.” While many growers sell their wares in bags to dispensaries, which package the buds, Chaitanya and Lastreto have begun packing their organic, hand-trimmed buds in distinctive jars of violet colored UV-resistant glass. Their label has a drawing of Chaitanya’s instantly recognizable face, long beard and red forehead dot. The brand name? Swami Select. They sell to Harborside, one of the largest and most well-known dispensaries in the state, and to Flow Kana, a distributor that specializes in sun-grown cannabis from a handful of organic family farms. “The jars sell out like crazy,” Lastreto said. Swami Select also has a robust digital presence, with a website, an Instagram account, a You Tube series called “Smokin’ with Swami” and of course, his highly visible presence at cannabis industry events. “One thing we’ve thought about with the branding,” Chaitanya said, “is that you have to repeat your message across many platforms.”

Driving the bumpy dirt road to their remote Turtle Creek Ranch proved a jaw-rattling experience. But what a reward, I thought, when the road suddenly gave way to a flat, grassy meadow ringed by immense trees. A sprawling home was tucked against a stand of immense Douglas firs. Chaitanya and Lastreto welcomed me into their living room, where we talked for a while, before Chaitanya invited me outside to see his
harvest. We navigated our rain-soaked way to the barn, where dozens of plants, pulled whole from the earth, hung upside-down in pitch blackness. This protects the buds from potentially damaging light exposure as they slowly dry. In the corner sat a small Hindu shrine. Chaitanya fiddled with an expensive dehumidifier he’d just purchased. It had been pouring for two days; moisture, which brings mold and mildew, is the enemy. When the sun came out again, he said, he would spend time among his 25 unharvested plants with a leaf blower, keeping the buds dry. Regulations signed into law last year by Gov. Jerry Brown will eventually require that medical cannabis undergo mandatory testing for contaminants like molds and pesticides. Proposition 64, which legalizes pot for recreational use by adults, imposes the same requirement. If voters approve the measure in November, Lastreto envisions many consumers who will be inspired to try cannabis for the first time (or for the first time since college), and who will want to be reassured that the product they are buying is pure, and that it bears the characteristics of its region. In the same way consumers like to know about the wine they are buying, she and Chaitanya hope, they also will want to know about the provenance of their pot. To that end, they are part of the Mendocino Appellations Project, a consortium of growers, which hopes to finalize its proposal for 11 distinct growing zones next year. “Nobody thinks about the farmer,” Lastreto said. “Most people want to get high, or they want to get their medicine. When you go to the grocery store for peas and carrots, you are not thinking about the farmer who grew them, right? We are trying to change that.” — robin.abcarian@latimes.com

Source Title: Web

**Tobacco (no ecig) Anti**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Tobacco (no ecig) Anti within the database is “cantitob2”.

**Tobacco (no ecig) texts**

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tanti”.

**Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1**

Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 3664

Article Title: Church Street smoking ban begins Dec. 17"

Date: 12/6/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: BURLINGTON, Vt. BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Smoking will soon be banned on the Church Street Marketplace in Burlington. The new law goes into effect on Dec. 17. The City Council had approved the measure 11-3 in November but had not determined a start date. The marketplace’s executive director tells the Burlington Free Press (http://bfpne.ws/1IfRLpG ) that signs will be put up about the ordinance and ashtrays will be moved to the edge of the marketplace. ___ Information from: The Burlington Free Press, http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com"

Source Title: AP
**Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2**

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1334

Article Title: W.Va. checks retailers for tobacco sales to minors

Date: 12/11/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: CHARLESTON, W.Va. CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - West Virginia officials say retailers continue to ensure they're not selling tobacco to minors. An annual statewide survey indicates that 87.8 percent of retailers inspected did not sell tobacco products to youth under the age of 18 during 2014. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources says it's the 15th consecutive year in which West Virginia has been in compliance with federal requirements that limit retail sales of tobacco to minor youth. Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities Commissioner Vickie Jones applauded retailers and employees for their efforts to prevent tobacco sales to minors."

Source Title: AP

**Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1**

Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 30066

Article Title: SHOW: TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST Boyle stunned the world back in 2009 with her performance on Britain`s Got Talent."

Date: 10/2/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Five years later she`s sold more than twenty-two million albums around the world. That number is about to grow with the release of her brand-new album called Hope. Plus, Susan is heading out on her first ever U.S. tour which is great news for American audiences. MATT LAUER: All right. That voice is unmistakable. Susan Boyle stunned the world back in 2009 with her performance on Britain`s Got Talent. You know what, five years later she`s sold more than twenty-two million albums around the world. That number is about to grow with the release of her brand-new album called Hope. Plus, Susan is heading out on her first ever U.S. tour which is great news for American audiences. Susan, nice to see you. Good morning. SUSAN BOYLE: Good morning. It`s nice to see you too, Matt. MATT LAUER: Thank you very much. This-- the-- the music is supposed to be inspirational. It`s supposed to provide hope. Are these songs that have helped you through tough times? SUSAN BOYLE: Well, not so much, to tell the truth, tough times. Maybe help other people through tough times as well, which is why it`s inspirational in the first place. MATT LAUER: You got John Lennon`s Imagine, Simon and Garfunkel`s Bridge Over Troubled Water. Do you have a favorite? SUSAN BOYLE: I think Wish You Were Here and like a couple more. It is too much-- like too many to (unintelligible). MATT LAUER: Pink Floyd`s Wish You Were Here. What are you going to sing for us right now? SUSAN BOYLE: I`m going to sing You Raise Me Up. MATT LAUER: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, Susan Boyle. (Susan Boyle performing live in the studio) MATT LAUER: Susan Boyle. Susan, thank you very much. The album Hope is out on October 21st.
And we are back in a moment. This is TODAY on NBC. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) TAMRON HALL: What’s it like trying to live your dream as a young comedian here in New York City? Former SNL writer John Mulaney can tell you all about the trials and tribulations and laughter that come with trying to be funny. I need a dozen. And his brand new show, Mulaney, full of laughter. Right now, it is John Mulaney. Good to see you. Good morning. JOHN MULANEY: Good to see you, Tamron. How are you doing? TAMRON HALL: I’m fantastic. Okay, so in one of the episodes, you-- you go to the doctor’s office to try to get Xanax for anxiety. And you end up getting a prostate exam. JOHN MULANEY: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Was that based on something that really happened? JOHN MULANEY: That was based sort of on an incident where I went to a doctor’s office to get Xanax and ended up getting a prostate exam. TAMRON HALL: So, that happened? JOHN MULANEY: It absolutely happened. TAMRON HALL: How does that happen, John? JOHN MULANEY: Well, what happens is is you grow up not knowing how to just ask for what you want and be honest. So I went in there and I wanted to have a fake reason to be at the doctor. I figured if I asked for Xanax he would say no way, you know. So, I first went in and said that I had frequent urination which I thought was like pretty ordinary reason to be at the doctor. I just say-- TAMRON HALL: Okay. JOHN MULANEY: --I urinate a lot. And he goes, oh, so do I. What else do you need? But then he said, while you might have a problem with your prostate and a half hour later, I was a very different person. TAMRON HALL: And you are sharing these things in your show. So-- JOHN MULANEY: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --which-- are you-- is there a line that separates, you know, John on the show and the John I’m speaking to right now or is it all on the table? JOHN MULANEY: Well, the John you are speaking to now is married and just over thirty and the John on the show is single and just under thirty. TAMRON HALL: Is that the only difference? JOHN MULANEY: You know, he’s a lot more exhausted than the John on the show. TAMRON HALL: You are speaking of marriage. And your wife said, listen, there is a line, even though your character is single, there is a line that you cannot cross, some of the things that happened before you tied the knot with her? JOHN MULANEY: Well, no, I mean, she is-- I have always talked about my wife Anna in stand-up. And she has always been good with it. I always try to run jokes by her before she hears them on stage. TAMRON HALL: Oh, it’s so beautiful. JOHN MULANEY: That’s us. TAMRON HALL: Where did you get marry? JOHN MULANEY: We got married in Woodstock, New York up in the cascades. TAMRON HALL: Oh, my gosh. That is gorgeous. So some of your friends from SNL, will we see them on your new show? JOHN MULANEY: Yes, we will be seeing -- well, first up, there is a-- a big friend from SNL is Martin Short is on the show. TAMRON HALL: Oh, awesome. JOHN MULANEY: Martin Short. He was a huge fan for years in our cast as is Nasim Pedrad who I got to work with for many years on Saturday Night Live. TAMRON HALL: So, you are carrying your family right along with you? JOHN MULANEY: I am going to exploit everyone I have ever worked with. I mean, this is a new TV show, Tamron. TAMRON HALL: You got to do what you got to do. JOHN MULANEY: I got a call in every favor I can. TAMRON HALL: If they’re real friends, they’ll come. JOHN MULANEY: Oh, I hope so. TAMRON HALL: All right. We will-- JOHN MULANEY: And they’re right across the street, so I’m going to run over there right now. TAMRON HALL: Don’t have to go far. Well, John, congratulations on the show and on the wedding and all the good things that are coming your way. By the way, the premiere of Mulaney, Sunday night on Fox. Matt. MATT LAUER: All right, Tamron, thank you very much. Let get some birthday wishes from our dear friend Willard Scott. Hey, Willy. WILLARD SCOTT: Oh, New York, that’s the place to be except Mystic in Connecticut, that’s where we are this morning. New York, you would love it down here. Happy birthday to Rainel Allison of Houston, Texas. She is a lovely lady, still sells cosmetics. Take a look if you will at Gladys Wood from Mansfield, Pennsylvania. And she is one hundred and three years old today. Gladys is not only a beautiful lady, her heart is as big as a whale and she takes
care of six grandchildren. How about that? And here is Ollie Jones, handsome Ollie Jones, Youngstown, Ohio. Home of the Warner Brothers. Did you know of that (unintelligible) buddy comes from this town. One-years-old today. Nothing but the best. Here is John C. Kelly. All right, John with a C. Kelly and he is from Lansdale, Pennsylvania. One hundred and one years old today. He loves boating and fishing. He likes to get in a boat and go fishing. New York, you are beautiful. I’d love to be with you, but not today. I’m in beautiful Connecticut this morning. And it is absolutely gorgeous. Now back to New York. MATT LAUER: Willy, thank you so much. Joined on the couch now by Cristin Milioti. Cristin, nice to see you. CRISTIN MILIOTI (A to Z): Nice to see you, too. MATT LAUER: And you are going to spend some time with the folks in the next hour? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Starring the new show debuting tonight. A to Z. The rom-com here on NBC. Getting great reviews. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. Thank you. MATT LAUER: Do you read reviews? CRISTIN MILIOTI: I don’t read reviews. MATT LAUER: Ever? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Ever. MATT LAUER: Really? CRISTIN MILIOTI: No. (Cross talking) MATT LAUER: Let me read you what they said. CRISTIN MILIOTI: No, no, no, no. MATT LAUER: No, I’m kidding. I’m kidding. Is it just something as a jinx-type thing? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Umm-- I think I-- just like to focus on my job. I don’t know, because I feel like if you-- if you read the good ones, you have to believe them just as much as the bad ones. DYLAN DREYER: Which is hard to do. CRISTIN MILIOTI: So, I just-- NATALIE MORALES: Don’t read the bad ones. That’s what we do. (Cross talking) MATT LAUER: But we are seeing good ones. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Oh, that’s good. MATT LAUER: And always seeing good ones. Cristin, that’s fun. Have a good time with these folks. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I will. MATT LAUER: And what else do you have coming up? NATALIE MORALES: How do you feel about disciplining other people’s children on a long flight? MATT LAUER: Not good. (Cross talking) NATALIE MORALES: We are going to talk about that in the TAKE coming up as well. After your local news. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) ANNOUNCER: From NBC News, this is TODAY’s TAKE with Al Roker, Natalie Morales, Willie Geist and Tamron Hall, live from Studio 1A in Rockefeller Plaza. WILLIE GEIST: Welcome to TODAY. It’s Thursday morning, October 2, 2014. I’m Willie Geist along with Natalie Morales and Tamron Hall. Al is making his way back from Afghanistan. TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: And the USO comedy show which we hear was incredible. NATALIE MORALES: A big hit. Oh, yes. TAMRON HALL: He did a great job on all accounts. And we will see the full show, a portion of it Tuesday. NATALIE MORALES: Tuesday. Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Tuesday. TAMRON HALL: It’s going to be amazing. Meanwhile, we’ve had another accident involving Willie’s finger. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, no, no one wants to hear about the finger anymore. TAMRON HALL: Yes, we do. WILLIE GEIST: No, no. TAMRON HALL: Not that finger. WILLIE GEIST: We’ve got bigger fish to fry. TAMRON HALL: No. Willie’s stitches popped out. NATALIE MORALES: Two stitches. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, a couple of them popped out. TAMRON HALL: Okay. That counts. WILLIE GEIST: With that-- it was my-- it was-- TAMRON HALL: You are minimizing it. Like, I’ve got boys at home. NATALIE MORALES: And you know what? TAMRON HALL: And so you are bleeding. NATALIE MORALES: Having had stitches, it’s-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --not a big deal. WILLIE GEIST: That’s right. TAMRON HALL: Two. WILLIE GEIST: But it did sort of open up again so-- TAMRON HALL: What happened? WILLIE GEIST: --we got it resealed. Apparently I was using it too much. You’re not supposed to type, and bend it and lift things and do all the things that I’ve been doing. NATALIE MORALES: Trying to open another botter-- TAMRON HALL: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --bottle of bourbon. WILLIE GEIST: Things like that. TAMRON HALL: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: That you shouldn’t do it. TAMRON HALL: So now you’ve got the tape. WILLIE GEIST: So I’m fine. Yeah. TAMRON HALL: You’re fine. WILLIE GEIST: Everything is going to be fine. Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Okay. We’ll see. WILLIE GEIST: We don’t-- don’t worry about the little-- TAMRON HALL: When does this all-- when do you stop sucking up all of this, you know, time with this
thing? WILLIE GEIST: They’re supposed to come out Monday. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: But I’ll see if I can stretch it out a little more and get some more sympathy. TAMRON HALL: He’s getting all the sympathy at home-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --from Lucy and George. NATALIE MORALES: He doesn’t have to do anything. Oh, it may pop a stitch. WILLIE GEIST: I know. I got-- TAMRON HALL: Papa’s hand hurt. WILLIE GEIST: Can pop a stitch, can’t do it. TAMRON HALL: All right. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Meanwhile. WILLIE GEIST: Holy cow, this-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: --keeps getting crazier. We now know the identity of the man who first person diagnosed with Ebola here in the United States. His name is Thomas Eric Duncan. We also know the route he took to the U.S. He traveled from Liberia to Brussels, where he had an seven-hour layover. Then from Brussels to Dallas airport in D.C., where he had another three-hour layover. Then on to Dallas. NATALIE MORALES: Again, important to point out, during those flights he was not symptomatic, so not contagious according to the CDC and health officials. WILLIE GEIST: That’s a small comfort, though, to the people on those planes, I’m sure. NATALIE MORALES: It’s true. TAMRON HALL: Right. NATALIE MORALES: True. WILLIE GEIST: He arrived on September 20th and was admitted to the hospital on September 28th. Now, here’s where it gets interesting. His nephew, Josephus Weeks, has accused Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas of not taking the Ebola threat seriously. NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Here’s what he said. JOSEPHUS WEEKS: He is doing all right. He’s a fighter. He is still fighting it. I called CDC to get some actions taken because I was concerned for his life and he wasn’t getting the appropriate care. And I was feared-- I feared that other people might, you know, also get infected if he wasn’t taken care of. WILLIE GEIST: So remember Duncan went to the hospital-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: --they sent him home and then he comes back two days later, we’re hearing now from the nephew because the nephew called the CDC and said you’ve got to do something, this is serious. NATALIE MORALES: They turned him away. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. The CDC spokesman told NBC News they can neither confirm or deny the nephew’s account there. Dallas county health and human services said eighty people came into contact with Duncan, but not all had close physical contact. NATALIE MORALES: Hm. WILLIE GEIST: They don’t know if he was symptomatic when those eighty people interacted with him. They also don’t really know the timeframe when they came in contact. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. This is up, though, significantly from the dozen to eighteen-- WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --that officially we heard CDC Doctor Tom Frieden say yesterday. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: So it’s significant. TAMRON HALL: It’s proof that they don’t know everything. NATALIE MORALES: They don’t know. TAMRON HALL: And they are gathering information. And the numbers of people who have come in contact-- children, you know, notices went out to schools that five students at four different Texas districts schools-- WILLIE GEIST: Hm. TAMRON HALL: --may have had close contact with him. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. And the students are not showing symptoms. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: But they’re certainly keeping a close eye. We reached out to the hospital and to the state health department last night. We haven’t heard back yet. But this does broaden it and adds little intrigue when you hear the nephew saying I knew how serious this was and initially-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: --the hospital, he thinks, doesn’t take-- didn’t take it seriously. NATALIE MORALES: Well, the missteps that happened-- the mistakes that happened because apparently the family communicated to nurses at the hospital that he had been in Liberia, he had been traveling there. We now know the history of what happened-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --sadly in Liberia, how this man apparently got-- was infected with the Ebola virus. He was acting as a Good Samaritan, helping a neighbor’s pregnant daughter go to the hospital. WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: And
when she died, that’s how he came into contact-- WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --with this deadly virus and then he flew here to the United States, shortly thereafter not exhibiting any signs or symptoms at that time. So it’s-- it’s a frightening story. And I think as we had Doctor Mehmet Oz on earlier, I mean I think what is so scary for all of us is that this is all happening during cold and flu season, we started talking it about yesterday. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: And you know those early symptoms are fevers and-- and, you know, some of the usual symptoms of the flu. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. So the CDC still working to trace it. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: They’ve got that number. They think at eighty, but now they’ve got to go look at all those people and make sure they’re not showing any symptoms themselves. TAMRON HALL: All right. Another story we’re following. This one, if you can believe we’re still talking about Clooney’s wedding. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: But this is a good one. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Well, it’s not really the wedding. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, good. TAMRON HALL: It’s kind of like what would you do for love? NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: What would you give up? Did you give up anything for love when you-- NATALIE MORALES: If I had to give anything up for love, I wouldn’t be loving. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. Wait. What? Hold on, I’m thinking through that. Anything for love, I wouldn’t-- TAMRON HALL: Right. Natalie is like-- NATALIE MORALES: It’s good. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. Good. TAMRON HALL: Wow. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Okay. Willie did you give up anything? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. I got that. NATALIE MORALES: I mean, no, but this is a good one. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Well, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Because this is I think important. TAMRON HALL: It’s interesting. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: People magazine is reporting that Amal, George Clooney’s beautiful bride, gave a memorable speech at the wedding saying that Amal quit smoking cold turkey for George Clooney. You might say that’s not a big sacrifice, because that’s what I said. You get Clooney or cigarettes? Give away the cigarettes. But it’s also a joke that ever since Amal met George, she’s been on time. That caught my eye. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Of course, I am always on time for work. I am late for everything else. So she’s like this time issues. She’s an attorney. So she gave up cigs and she is now on time for George Clooney. I still say win-win for Amal. NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: But did you give up anything? WILLIE GEIST: I would say artfully that I probably dialed back my social life a little bit just in terms of like-- TAMRON HALL: Well, you got to do that. NATALIE MORALES: Going out. WILLIE GEIST: --keeping hours-- NATALIE MORALES: Going out with the guys. WILLIE GEIST: --that were not consistent with being-- TAMRON HALL: That’s not giving up. That’s playing smart. I mean, you wouldn’t be happily married. NATALIE MORALES: Well, it’s also being a parent. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, well being a parent. NATALIE MORALES: Having kids. WILLIE GEIST: No, that wasn’t-- TAMRON HALL: But before the kids, you had the wife and you can’t be out all night. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: But my wife enjoys a good time, too. TAMRON HALL: Oh. WILLIE GEIST: So I wouldn’t have to give up too much. TAMRON HALL: I’ll go on. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: You tell. WILLIE GEIST: As you know-- as you know-- no, Christina likes to have fun. TAMRON HALL: What do you mean? NATALIE MORALES: Christina likes to hang. TAMRON HALL: Oh, I know. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Here’s my question with Amal. TAMRON HALL: What? WILLIE GEIST: Now that you’ve locked down the Clooney,-- TAMRON HALL: Do you go back to smoking? WILLIE GEIST: --can you just start smoking again? TAMRON HALL: Absolutely. NATALIE MORALES: No. TAMRON HALL: You just show your true colors. WILLIE GEIST: Be twenty minutes late with a cigarette in your hand? TAMRON HALL: Listen, I said I’m trying to get there. WILLIE GEIST: It’s already done. TAMRON HALL: Well, I mean the smoking thing is-- is a great thing, obviously, for her health. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Right. TAMRON HALL: She’s in a high stress job. So, you know, sure there are many reasons that she did, she gave it up. But the time thing, I
don’t know how she holds on to that. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: That is going to be a tough one. But it’s George Clooney, come on, to look that good. He’s not in and out in ten. He’s George Clooney. He takes longer than ten minutes to get that hair together. WILLIE GEIST: Also, Clooney shows up when Clooney shows up. TAMRON HALL: Right. WILLIE GEIST: You wait for Clooney. TAMRON HALL: So you’re never late when you’re with George Clooney. NATALIE MORALES: He’s always fashionably late. WILLIE GEIST: Exactly. It’s good. NATALIE MORALES: He’s always Mister Red Carpet. WILLIE GEIST: Have you given anything up, Tam? TAMRON HALL: For love? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. No. NATALIE MORALES: You wouldn’t be love in due, right? WILLIE GEIST: Take notice potential boyfriends. She’s not giving up anything. TAMRON HALL: No, I-- NATALIE MORALES: That’s what I said. TAMRON HALL: Willie. Listen, I would-- I would give up things, and I have, I’m sure. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I can’t think of any right now. NATALIE MORALES: I mean, if-- if I smoked, I would have given that up. It’s a good thing. TAMRON HALL: For love? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: But if somebody asked me to give up wine. I mean, forget that. WILLIE GEIST: That’s it. TAMRON HALL: No. Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: That’s a jailbreak there. NATALIE MORALES: Done. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Bye-bye. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. It’s a good point. NATALIE MORALES: Okay. Here’s a question. This is a really good question. Is it okay to discipline someone else`s kids? TAMRON HALL: No hope? NATALIE MORALES: Now, I know we sometimes struggle with this, you know, when you are taking care of other people’s kids. But take a listen to this story. So a woman was traveling on a seven-hour flight from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur. She was seated near a two-year-old who apparently threw a seven-hour long temper tantrum. We’re talking about running up and down the aisles, full on tantrum. The woman wrote a blog post about the situation. She said the child’s parents allowed the girl to just run wild, the child was punching apparently other passengers, screaming uncontrollably. She and the other passengers didn’t intervene, she said. But she said they had a hellish flight. She said the flight attendants kind of just pushed the child to the side and just kind of kept trying to-- TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm.
NATALIE MORALES: --push their cart up and down the aisle. So they didn’t get involved in it. WILLIE GEIST: Hm. NATA...
NATALIE MORALES: --flight full of kids, including my family, and my son was being an angel as he always is, so well-behaved. No, but he-- he was talking but in his normal high pitch-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah.
NATALIE MORALES: --three-year-old little voice at the time. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: The lady in front of us was reading a book, and she kept like, I could tell, because she kept looking back, like his voice was annoying her. And she fin-- she finally looks back, and she`s like, can you please get your child to be quiet? TAMRON HALL: She said that to you? WILLIE GEIST: Oh, no. Come on. NATALIE MORALES: She said that to me. TAMRON HALL: See, that`s the problem. NATALIE MORALES: And that`s when as a parent. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: I-- I went off on this woman. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: I`m like first of all, you are on a flight-- WILLIE GEIST: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --coming from Disney World-- TAMRON HALL: Right. WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --I`m like, with a-- I mean, a flight full of families and kids,-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --I`m like, what are you thinking? If you want a quiet, buy-- first of all, buy yourself some nice sound control head phones, right? WILLIE GEIST: Exactly. Yeah, that`s right. NATALIE MORALES: And don`t get on a flight full of families and kids.
TAMRON HALL: Well, that`s my point about saying something, because we have all different tolerance. NATALIE MORALES: Right. TAMRON HALL: I don`t-- I had a kid kick the back of my seat. And it was a little kid. Yes, it was annoying. But I said it`s a little kid so I just-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: You didn`t say anything? TAMRON HALL: No, I didn`t. WILLIE GEIST: You can say something there. TAMRON HALL: No. NATALIE MORALES: Turn around and kind of just look at the parent. TAMRON HALL: I don`t think you-- WILLIE GEIST: Because sometimes the mom or dad doesn`t even know what`s happening. You say, excuse me politely. TAMRON HALL: No, I just-- in this case, I mean it`s too-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. Or if you look at the parents and give them that annoying look-- WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: --like sometimes like. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: There are very few things I think. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I mean, I`ll say this is, and some kid will terrorize me in a few minutes after the show. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I just think there are very few things that I cannot just bear down and say it`s a kid. The kid is on the plane. NATALIE MORALES: Right. TAMRON HALL: I don`t know what that kid has done all day long. Now, hitting, that`s different. But the flight attendant-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --should have done something for safety reason. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: In this case. Absolutely. TAMRON HALL: But I just bear down and I said, how long, I don`t have to go home with this child. So I`m going to just bear it out and take it. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I can`t. WILLIE GEIST: You can say-- you can say something. TAMRON HALL: Oh, I can`t. WILLIE GEIST: The kid`s kicking your chair. TAMRON HALL: Oh, I`m not ready for it. No. WILLIE GEIST: That`s totally cool. You should say something. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. Or I think you just give the parents kind of annoying look, like-- WILLIE GEIST: Like this? NATALIE MORALES: --you know, please. WILLIE GEIST: That`s annoying look. NATALIE MORALES: That`s a good look. TAMRON HALL: That`s a good look. NATALIE MORALES: It works. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, my goodness. TAMRON HALL: That`s a good one. WILLIE GEIST: Is Dylan over there? Let`s get a check of the weather. NATALIE MORALES: She is. TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Look at her in green today. NATALIE MORALES: Hi, Dylan. WILLIE GEIST: Hey, Dylan Dreyer. TAMRON HALL: Hey, Dylan. DYLAN DREYER: It`s a delayed hello. But we-- we got there eventually. We are going to see some scattered showers and storms, move into areas across the Plains today. Dallas is looking real nice right now. But you will also see some of those stronger storms redevelop later on this afternoon. They could produce large hail. They have a history of producing golf ball to softball-size hail. Imagine that coming down from the sky. That`s in this area in red from Austin, Texas right up into Chicago, including St. Louis into Memphis. Some major airport hub. So
we could see some delays as these storms develop later on this afternoon along with the damaging wind gust and a large hail. We could also see some flash flooding, too. So watch out this afternoon. That`s a look at the weather across the country. Now here`s a peek out your widow. (Weather follows) DYLAN DREYER: And that`s your latest forecast. Back on over to you guys. WILLIE GEIST: All right, Dylan. Thanks a lot. TAMRON HALL: Thanks, Dylan. WILLIE GEIST: Tamron, you had a pretty cool event last night, Women & Success here in the city. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: This might be one of my top ten lists of fun events ever that`s on last night. WILLIE GEIST: Really? NATALIE MORALES: Cool. TAMRON HALL: It`s a packed room of women. It was hosted by Real Simple and TIME magazine. Real Simple editor, Kristin van Ogtrop was the moderator. My panelists were Linda McMahon-- WILLIE GEIST: Oh, yeah. TAMRON HALL: --former CEO WWE,-- NATALIE MORALES: Cool. TAMRON HALL: --Kristen Anderson-Lopez, by the way, the singer/songwriter of almost every song on Frozen. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, yeah. TAMRON HALL: Yes. So I can-- WILLIE GEIST: So every kid`s hero. TAMRON HALL: Every kid`s hero. And (unintelligible) But all of these women from different age groups, some moms, some single, all looking and examining what it means to be successful. NATALIE MORALES: Cool. TAMRON HALL: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was there. WILLIE GEIST: Cool. TAMRON HALL: It was-- I had the most inspirational time. We had a good time. And one of the questions they ask, how do you define success? WILLIE GEIST: Hm. TAMRON HALL: How do you look at success? Or when did you know you were successful? NATALIE MORALES: We could spend all day talking about that. WILLIE GEIST: Very cool. TAMRON HALL: And that`s what happened. We had a good time. I hope we do it again next year. Thank you, Real Simple and TIME magazine. WILLIE GEIST: Very cool. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Very cool. Coming up next, you know her from the hit show How I Met Your Mother, actress Cristin Milioti. We`re going to get to know her in just a minute. But here`s a little trivia question for you as we go to break. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Which musical instrument does Cristin not play? It is, a) the piano, b) the ukulele,-- NATALIE MORALES: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: --or c) the clarinet. TAMRON HALL: I`m going to go with C. WILLIE GEIST: Venna (ph) reveals the answer, right after this. NATALIE MORALES: All right. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: She was the mother on How I Met Your Mother. And the girl in the Broadway hit Once. NATALIE MORALES: There you go. Well, now Cristin Milioti is in the Z, Zelda, in the new NBC comedy A to Z. Take a look. (Excerpt from A to Z) TAMRON HALL: Cristin, good morning. CRISTIN MILIOTI (A to Z): Hi. TAMRON HALL: Great. NATALIE MORALES: It`s cute. TAMRON HALL: When you are watching that scene, what is going through your mind there? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Mostly that I can`t believe my voice sounds like that. You know, like hearing-- it`s like hearing your, like a recording of your voice. NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: She was the mother on How I Met Your Mother. And the girl in the new NBC comedy A to Z. Take a look. (Excerpt from A to Z) TAMRON HALL: Cristin, good morning. CRISTIN MILIOTI (A to Z): Hi. TAMRON HALL: Great. NATALIE MORALES: It`s cute. TAMRON HALL: When you are watching that scene, what is going through your mind there? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Mostly that I can`t believe my voice sounds like that. You know, like hearing-- it`s like hearing your, like a recording of your voice. NATALIE MORALES: It`s so true. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I still haven`t watch the pilot-- NATALIE MORALES: Really? CRISTIN MILIOTI: --because I want to see it tonight. NATALIE MORALES: Uh. TAMRON HALL: In real time with the audience. NATALIE MORALES: In real time. TAMRON HALL: So that`s interesting. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I know-- I don`t know. That`s like a weird thing to admit. But-- so that`s the longest clip of that scene I`ve seen. NATALIE MORALES: This is a confessional. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: It`s a good thing. CRISTIN MILIOTI: This is a safe space. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. This is a safe space. So I love the way this-- this is described the opening narration of the show-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: --we hear Andrew and Zelda date for eight months, three ways, five days and one hour. This television program is the comprehensive account of their relationship. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: So we kind of know where this is going eventually. NATALIE MORALES: Or maybe not. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Well, I always assumed-- right. I`d always assume when I got it, I would tell everyone
that I-- I was like, oh, I got-- it's the show about this couple that, you know, is going to break up. NATALIE MORALES: Hm. CRISTIN MILIOTI: And then we're in an interview and Ben Queen, the show's creator, he said, oh, they could get married. NATALIE MORALES: Hm. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Which had never crossed my mind. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. That's what I was thinking. TAMRON HALL: Oh-Oh. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: They dated, and maybe they ended up together, so. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. And that period of time is long enough for a baby. TAMRON HALL: Oh. NATALIE MORALES: Eight months? CRISTIN MILIOTI: I was going through-- WILLIE GEIST: This could go on. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I keep trying to figure it out. NATALIE MORALES: Wow. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I mean it to win it. I want a bigger-- WILLIE GEIST: They're going to grow old together. NATALIE MORALES: Interesting. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. I keep trying to figure it out. NATALIE MORALES: Wow. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I mean it to win it. I want a bigger-- WILLIE GEIST: They're going to grow old together. NATALIE MORALES: The intrigued. CRISTIN MILIOTI: We don't know. TAMRON HALL: That is exciting. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. I know. TAMRON HALL: That's a great way to do a project. CRISTIN MILIOTI: It is. TAMRON HALL: And you, I mean love sitcom, you loved comedy, you fit right in. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Oh, thank you. TAMRON HALL: Where you a funny kid? Where you-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: I was a funny looking kid. Does that count? WILLIE GEIST: Oh, stop it. TAMRON HALL: I don't believe that one. TAMRON HALL: Where you a funny kid? Where you-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: If I had my phone here-- WILLIE GEIST: Come on. CRISTIN MILIOTI: --I would show you some pictures-- TAMRON HALL: Oh, my gosh. CRISTIN MILIOTI: --that you would lose sleep over. TAMRON HALL: Well, you can have our e-mail addresses and send them to us. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Interesting. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Done. TAMRON HALL: Is that how you developed your humor, because you thought you were quote, unquote, “funny” looking? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Well, no there was no quote/unquote, “funny” looking? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Well, no there was no quote/unquote, by the way. This is-- I want to go get my phone to show you. WILLIE GEIST: This is an objective truth? CRISTIN MILIOTI: This is like an actual fact. NATALIE MORALES: Somebody bring her phone. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. I think it's in the other room and I will show you. I looked like a Sicilian Peter Pan. WILLIE GEIST: Wow. You think-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: It was a-- it was a mess. TAMRON HALL: That's a visual. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. I know. NATALIE MORALES: Can I ask you about How I Met Your Mother-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Sure. NATALIE MORALES: --because you were the mother-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: --on How I Met Your Mother. And a lot of people the-- the final episode, and especially the last episode,-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --a lot of fans like me, I loved it. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: But why people were disappointed? CRISTIN MILIOTI: It was polarizing. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. CRISTIN MILIOTI: But I think we knew that going in. That's also what's so incredible about that-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. CRISTIN MILIOTI: --fan base of that show. NATALIE MORALES: So true. CRISTIN MILIOTI: I think people reacted the way they did because they were so invested and in both ways. People loved it and people didn't like it. NATALIE MORALES: And you confirmed, there were alternate ending shot, right? CRISTIN MILIOTI: There was an alternate ending shot. NATALIE MORALES: Oh. TAMRON HALL: Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. So we asked a question going to break. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: I told you I fell in love with you as an actress in Once-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: --where you were-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Thank you. WILLIE GEIST: --Tony nominated-- TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: --you guys won a Grammy. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Such an incredible performance from
you. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Thank you. WILLIE GEIST: And you played instruments in the show. CRISTIN
MILIOTI: Yep. WILLIE GEIST: So let’s answer the question we asked before the break. TAMRON HALL: Uh-
Huh. WILLIE GEIST: Which instruments do you play? Do you play the piano? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yes.
NATALIE MORALES: Wow. WILLIE GEIST: Do you play the ukulele? CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yes. WILLIE GEIST:
You do? TAMRON HALL: You do? WILLIE GEIST: So as it’s clarinet? (Cross talking) NATA
LIE MORALES: We’re not going to make her play. CRISTIN MILIOTI: --want to prove it. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. NATA
LIE MORALES: Okay. TAMRON HALL: Did you learn that in grade-- where do you learn to play the ukulele?
CRISTIN MILIOTI: Back stage at Once. TAMRON HALL: Oh, nice. CRISTIN MILIOTI: The guys in Once
showed me. WILLIE GEIST: Is that right? TAMRON HALL: Nice. CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. Because we had so
much time there. And I-- it’s such an easy instrument. NATA
LIE MORALES: Cool. TAMRON HALL: But we’re out of time. NATA
LIE MORALES: We’re out of time. TAMRON HALL: Cristin, thank you so much.
CRISTIN MILIOTI: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: And congratulations on all-- CRISTIN MILIOTI: Thank you so
much. WILLIE GEIST: Congrats on the show. TAMRON HALL: A to Z premier tonight-- CRISTIN MILIOTI:
Thank you. TAMRON HALL: --nine thirty, eight thirty Central here in NBC. WILLIE GEIST: Thank you,
Cristin. Good to see you. NATA
LIE MORALES: Awesome. TAMRON HALL: Congratulations. WILLIE GEIST:
Coming up next, on Hope To It, online matchmaking of a different kind, perfect strangers saving the lives
of others. That’s right after this. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NATA
LIE MORALES: Taking a look at the headlines. Another virus causing a scare here in the U.S. Four people infected with a severe respiratory illness have
now died, including a ten-year-old Rhode Island girl who died after suffering both a bacterial infection
and infection from the enterovirus 68. The virus was also found in three other patients who died in
September. Enterovirus 68 has now sickened at least five hundred people. Living close to a busy road
may send your blood pressure up. Researchers at Brown University looked at more than five thousand
older women, measuring how close they live to major roads. And they found that those living within a
football field length of a highway or other busy road were twenty-two percent more likely to have high
blood pressure than those who lived a thousand yards away. Researchers think the noise and pollution
could be to blame. And a new study finds that stress may affect a woman’s risk of developing
Alzheimer’s. The study published in the Journal of Neurology found that women who experienced
prolonged stress, jealousy and moodiness in middle- age were twice as likely as other women to develop
Alzheimer’s later on in life. And an amazing scene in Northwest Alaska. An estimated thirty-five
thousand walruses have come ashore, gathering on a beach in a huge huddle mass apparently to rest.
Now, this is something they usually do on offshore ice, but not now. One wildlife official says
it shows how environmental conditions are changing because of the loss of sea ice. We’ll be right back after your
local news and weather. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: Welcome back to TODAY on this throwback
Thursday morning, October 2, 2014. I’m Willie along with Natalie and Tamron. Al is on his way back from
a great USA show in Afghanistan. We’re going to see some of that coming up next week. And we’re
listening to a little classic Britney here. TAMRON HALL: For a reason, it’s throwback Thursday. NATA
LIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: We’re perusing the internet on our iPad. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm.
TAMRON HALL: Looking at what celebs posted today. And guess who posted this song? WILLIE GEIST:
Who? NATA
LIE MORALES: Britney Spears would have to be. TAMRON HALL: It was Britney Spears.
WILLIE GEIST: Wow. TAMRON HALL: Britney Spears posted her own songs. WILLIE GEIST: That was a trick
question. I don’t know. TAMRON HALL: It’s a trick question because you think like-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah.
TAMRON HALL: --do you really post your own songs? NATA
LIE MORALES: He was thinking One Direction
posted it. WILLIE GEIST: That’s a good question. TAMRON HALL: It’s kind of hot. Anyway, happy sweet
sixteen is what she said to Baby One More Time. Where did the time go? WILLIE GEIST: Wow. TAMRON
HALL: Thanks, to my fans for supporting me, this is my first single. Happy sixteen. Can you believe it’s been sixteen? NATALIE MORALES: Look how young she is there. TAMRON HALL: And remember all the hubbub because the video, she was dressed like a school girl. WILLIE GEIST: Yes, I do. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, yes. TAMRON HALL: And people thought that-- yes, I do. NATALIE MORALES: Provocative. It was a sexy school girl look, right? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: And you look at-- WILLIE GEIST: Here we go. TAMRON HALL: And this is the funny thing. So this was provocative sixteen years ago and then we get Anaconda from Nicki Minaj. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I mean, this, I remember watching this before social media, all the outrage and parents saying, Britney Spears might ruin the world. But she went on to become hugely successful. She’s gone through her own ups and downs,-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --a mom now-- WILLIE GEIST: Yes. TAMRON HALL: --a mother of two beautiful sons. She did a great job in Vegas. But sixteen years ago. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Changed the way we think about school uniforms forever. TAMRON HALL: Yes. Which brings me to Halloween costume. NATALIE MORALES: You love that video still. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, no. TAMRON HALL: You remember Halloween is around the corner. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: There is an option for you, Willie. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, like naughty school girl thing? NATALIE MORALES: The school girl? WILLIE GEIST: For me? TAMRON HALL: You don’t have to put the naughty into it. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, just, school girl, that’s kind of boring. TAMRON HALL: Well, Matt dresses-- WILLIE GEIST: Wearing that kid’s uniform. TAMRON HALL: Since Matt dresses, you know, and women-- WILLIE GEIST: He does a lot, doesn’t he? TAMRON HALL: He does that quite a bit. WILLIE GEIST: Pam, J. Lo. TAMRON HALL: Would you be willing? NATALIE MORALES: I-- I would paid to see you dressed as a woman. TAMRON HALL: Would you do that, Willie? WILLIE GEIST: As a woman? NATALIE MORALES: You should. WILLIE GEIST: Well, we got to think of a woman. NATALIE MORALES: We’ve got to think of a woman for him. TAMRON HALL: What woman would you like to portray? WILLIE GEIST: Cher. NATALIE MORALES: Kim Kardashian. TAMRON HALL: Oh, that was a quick answer. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. I love Cher. TAMRON HALL: You’ve been thinking about that? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: She’s cool. NATALIE MORALES: Can you do the-- yeah. You got to do the whole thing. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, no. Now it’s going to happen if you say something on the show-- TAMRON HALL: No, this is not how the show works. They never give you what you ask for. NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: Right. TAMRON HALL: So you’ll have to go like, they’ll humiliate you in some way, I don’t know. But I love that you had Cher off the top of the head. WILLIE GEIST: Who doesn’t love Cher? Come on. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Everybody loves Cher. WILLIE GEIST: Cher is Cher. NATALIE MORALES: She’s an icon. TAMRON HALL: All right. WILLIE GEIST: You know who else do we love? TAMRON HALL: We love Dylan in green leather. NATALIE MORALES: Dylan Dreyer. WILLIE GEIST: Dylan Dreyer. NATALIE MORALES: Let’s get a check of the weather. DYLAN DREYER: But dressing up like this for Halloween isn’t great. WILLIE GEIST: I might do it. TAMRON HALL: Right. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: I might do it. DYLAN DREYER: That would be nice. I’ll loan you-- TAMRON HALL: Well, you’ve got on your green leather. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. DYLAN DREYER: I’ll loan you the platter shirt that I’m wearing. TAMRON HALL: Hitting some high notes there. DYLAN DREYER: Let’s take a look at the weather across the country where we are going to see some very strong storms today in a huge area from Texas up into the Midwest, including Chicago. We are going to see the potential for some flash flooding. Also large hail. These storms have a history of producing softball-sized hail. That’s what we saw in Kansas yesterday. We could even see a couple of snow showers across the Northern Rockies today. But tomorrow, this whole storm system, this cold front is going to spread east a little bit. We are only in the forties and fifties behind this front. Out ahead of it, it’s in the seventies and eighties. Now,
tomorrow we’re not really looking at severe storms, but very unsettled weather with scattered showers and storms from the Great Lakes right down into the Gulf Coast. That’s a look at the weather across the country. Now here’s a peek out your widow. (Weather follows) DYLAN DREYER: And that’s your latest forecast. WILLIE GEIST: This morning on Hope To It, giving the gift of life. Here in the United States, twenty-one people die every day waiting for an organ transplant. TAMRON HALL: And according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, there are more than one hundred thousand people waiting for a kidney right now."

Source Title: BTN

_Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2_
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 710432

Article Title: Australia Finds Ugly Packaging Slows cigarette Sales LENGTH: 77 words"

Date: 6/10/2016

Article Content: MARY LOUISE KELLY: Good morning. I'm Mary Louise Kelly. Could the color of a cigarette pack help people quit smoking? Australia thought so. In 2012, Australia set out to design the ugliest possible cigarette packaging and landed on a color called Pantone 448C - a greenish, muddyish 1970s couch-ish (ph) color so aggressively dreary that since introducing it, Australia has seen cigarette sales drop. Just don't try it on your kitchen walls. It's MORNING EDITION."

Source Title: BTN

_Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1_
Predicted Probability: 0.80

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 428887

Article Title: Steinberg: Mass shootings not the problem"

Date: 10/20/2015

Article Content: A 6-year-old boy shot his 3-year-old brother to death in Chicago last Saturday. Leading to no public soul-searching, no local, never mind national, catharsis. People hardly noticed. Which is strange, because this kind of tragedy - or, if you prefer, crime, since the child found the gun left atop a refrigerator by his father, Michael Santiago, who is now charged with child endangerment - is symbolic of our nation's gun crisis. We snap to attention at mass shootings, with round-the-clock coverage, and intense thumb twiddling. But mass shootings are not the problem. Not close, not compared to everyday gun violence. According to the FBI, 486 people were killed in mass shootings in the United States between 2000 and 2013. Or between 30 and 40 a year. Now lets look at the numbers of people who intentionally shoot themselves: about 20,000 a year. An additional 11,000 are murdered by others wielding guns. And 600 more, like the 3-year-old boy, are shot and killed in accidents. So why the sound and fury after mass shootings? And the cough-into-the-fist at individual shootings? Mass shootings are
scary. We can imagine someone bursting in and shooting us. Hard to imagine shooting ourselves, even though the odds are 1,000-to-1 in favor of the latter. The media is run by human beings, and like all human beings we have a tendency to ignore what's important in favor of obsessing over what's shiny, or novel, or scary, or dramatic. The common wisdom - and I've written this myself - is that nothing will be done toward adopting a sane national approach to guns because gun owners are so passionate in their support of gun rights. Their solution is always more guns, not fewer. The National Rifle Association has Congress in the palm of its hand to such a degree that it stripped funding to the Centers for Disease Control that went to gun violence research (a reminder of how wrong people can be - false patriots claim their guns protect our freedoms, when the exact opposite is true: the gun lobby undermines the basic American freedom to investigate the facts of our lives). Yet there is hope. There is a model for success, the story of a formerly huge national problem, worsened by rich interests and entrenched public delusion, eventually made less huge after decades of hard work: smoking. Fifty years ago, half of the adults in this country smoked. Smoking was cool. Even after the Surgeon General's report linked cigarettes and cancer, it took decades for attitudes to change. If you had told people that smoking would be banned in offices and bars, aboard airplanes and even on some streets, they'd have laughed at you. Go to a bar and not smoke? Now only a quarter of adults smoke. Millions of lives have been saved. How? Facts are sticky. No matter how much hype and spin gets sprayed at them, the facts remain. Smoking really does kill you. As do guns. Arguments for their value are delusional, like Ben Carson's idiotic imagining that arming Germany's Jewish population would have prevented the Holocaust. (The French army had guns; didn't help them). Or episodic: Someone, somewhere occasionally uses a gun for a legitimate protective purpose. But that is an extreme rarity, the comfort hiding the peril. cigarettes make you more relaxed, so you ignore the danger. Ditto for guns. They help you feel safe, the illusion of protection masking the hard reality: that you don't usually shoot the gang-banger coming through the door; what happens, usually, is one of your kids shoots another. With cigarettes, before laws changed, perceptions had to change. Slowly smoking went from something desirable to a personal flaw. Ditto for guns. The NRA is trained to snarl against anyone proposing laws, but it's too early to push for laws. What we should push is the unvarnished truth, supported by the overwhelming evidence. Buying a gun makes you more imperiled, not safer. It increases the risk you will kill yourself, that you will kill your family members, or they will kill you - or each other. Those are just the facts. The father of those two boys bought his gun for what seems like a valid reason - he had testified against a gang member and was worried that the gang might come for him. But they never did. And now they don't have to. But let us not focus on this case. Because someone else will be shot tomorrow. And the day after that. And the day after that . . ."

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.89
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 651262
Article Title: A proposed education tax compromise"
Date: 12/13/2015
Article Content: I propose a compromise to David Boren's attempt to raise the state sales tax from 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent. Why raise Oklahoma's already high sales tax when consumers can avoid it altogether by shopping on Amazon? We should follow Texas' and other states' lead and pass a law instructing our state treasurer to negotiate with Amazon to begin collecting sales tax on purchases; this would add $130 million in revenue for the state. The state also should raise the tobacco tax, which hasn't been increased since 2004. We rank 33rd with a $1.03 tax per pack. If we raised it by 75 cents (barely over the national average), we would raise $170 million and also decrease our state's above-average smoking rate. The $300 million would be targeted toward $3,000-a-year teacher raises costing $250 million. The remaining $50 million would go to the state tobacco settlement fund to help create a permanent savings account to maintain these raises when people start smoking less. This is a proposal that a sound majority of Oklahomans can support, that won't give us the highest sales tax in the nation and leave us with a broken, ineffective tax system. John Clinger, Edmond "

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 660910

Article Title: An NFL coach wants moms to ‘get the message’ about football. This mom disagrees. - The Washington Post"

Date: 4/11/2016

Article Content: Kimberly Archie’s children, Paul Bright Jr. and Tiffani Bright, when they were eight and 10 years old, respectively. (courtesy of Kimberly Archie) Arizona Cardinals Coach Bruce Arians recently said that “we have to make sure that moms get the message” that they should let their kids play football. One mom has a different message, and it stems from her experience losing a son to what she described as the after-effects of his decade in the sport. The NFL “sold my kid a dream, and gave him a nightmare,” Kimberly Archie said, with a rueful chuckle. [Bruce Arians: Vital ‘moms get the message’ that their kids should play football] Actually, Archie was already an advocate for greater safety measures in youth sports when her son, Paul Bright Jr., died in 2014 at the age of 24. The cause of death was reckless driving on a motorcycle — one that Archie said had no license, insurance or registration, or that she even knew he owned — but the circumstances fit with what had become a troubling pattern of erratic behavior by the previously reliable and hard-working Bright. Kimberly Archie. Archie, whose concern for her cheerleader daughter’s safety had led her to create the National Cheer Safety Foundation, had also worked as a legal consultant on a case involving football-related head injuries. She had even done radio and TV interviews in which she mentioned the amount of hits her son had taken on the football field, and thus she had suspicions about what could have gone so wrong with him. Archie had Bright’s brain examined posthumously, and sure enough, it revealed an early stage of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), the degenerative brain disease at the heart of the NFL’s ongoing problems with concussions. Whereas Bright had played football from 7 to 17, Archie now feels that “it’s impossible to make [football] reasonably safe for kids under 14 to play.” It isn’t a shock that she isn’t buying what Arians spent the weekend selling. On Friday, the 63-year-old Arians had addressed high
school football coaches at a clinic, stressing the importance of “fundamentals” such as tackling with the shoulders and not the head. He also made comments that had him subsequently taking to social media to offer clarification. “This is our sport, and it’s being attacked,” Arians told the coaches. “We have to stop it at the grass roots. It’s the best game that’s ever been [expletive] invented. And we have to make sure that moms get the message, because that’s who’s afraid of our game right now. “It’s not dads, it’s moms,” Arians continued. “And our job is to make sure the game is safe, at all levels.” “His comments aren’t based on science, and to say that moms are attacking football is just ridiculous,” Archie said. She added, “There’s no magic tackling that’s going to make football reasonably safe for young kids.” A major problem for children playing tackle football is that their heads quickly grow to almost full size long before their bodies do, the necks in particular. That creates a “bobblehead” effect, one exacerbated by helmets, which can weight up to five pounds, an enormous amount for a young person who himself may only weight 50-60 pounds. “My son knew how to hit without using his head,” Archie said. “Your brain still slams against your skull even if you’re hitting shoulder to shoulder.” Out of apparent concern for how his remarks might be interpreted (and perhaps at the suggestion of a Cardinals public-relations executive), Arians posted this message Sunday to his Twitter account: “Just to be clear about kids playing football, my point is that moms are often the ones making those decisions in a family. We have to make sure that they’re getting the message about everything being done to make the game as safe as possible. They’re the ones we have to influence. It’s a great game and it’s even greater when it’s played, coached and taught the right way. Everybody involved with the sport has a responsibility to make that happen.” Archie did agree with at least one part of that note. “Moms are gatekeepers to children … and if we don’t want the kids to play, and if the dad thinks it’s perfectly safe, then guess what? Little Johnny isn’t playing,” she said. However, as for Arians’s claim about the NFL and others doing “everything” to make the game safe, Archie said, “They’re not. That’s a fallacy — it’s actually just complete fraud.” Bruce Arians is a two-time AP NFL head coach of the year. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy) The 46-year-old legal expert, based in Los Angeles, has been pushing for more federal and/or Congressional oversight of the sport, and she brought up the oft-made comparison between where the NFL is now on the concussions issue and where Big Tobacco was several years ago. Saying that football can’t “self-regulate,” Archie likened those efforts to cigarette companies pitching “light” cigarettes and stronger filters. Much like the way cigarette companies were criticized for ad campaigns that could be construed as glamorizing smoking to youngsters, Archie said of the NFL, “I think they’re selling kids a lie.” She claimed that her son, despite being just 5 feet 2 and 107 pounds at age 14, “believed that if he played football … he could have a chance” at a college scholarship or even a professional career. In Archie’s view, football executives “see their pipeline of future players as dwindling away,” and thus are desperately trying to counteract negative publicity. However, she said, “I see it the opposite — they’re beating the crap out of these kids’ heads, the majority of them are never going to play in the NFL, and so you’re killing your customers.” In light of her response to Arians’s comments from the weekend, one might imagine an even stronger reaction to remarks the coach made in March that “people who say ‘I won’t let my son play [football]’ are fools.” However, the sports-safety activist said she understood Arians’s contention at that time that football “teaches more values than any other game that you play.” Archie described football and cheerleading, the two sports her children loved the most (and she had something to do with the latter eventually being officially recognized in many states as a sport, and thus regulated as such), as being uniquely American, tied in with such cultural institutions as the homecoming king and queen. She also called them “true team sports,” and, noting that both endeavors require many more participants than, for example, basketball, Archie said, “You have a lot of people that have to work
together, and it really becomes exponentially dynamic, to get a group of people to work together for a common goal.” But Archie was quick to draw a sharp line at the practice of allowing tackling before high school. “As long as you are exposing kids to hits, you are exposing them to brain damage,” she said. “And that’s just irresponsible and ridiculous. There is no gain, there is no lesson, there is nothing that is worth brain damage.” So as much as Arians feels the need to enlist “moms” to his view of football’s virtues and its current safety level, there is at least one mom providing a different viewpoint, one cemented in grief over a death that confirmed her growing fears. “Even football, as great as it is, will not be able to supersede the love of a mother protecting her child,” Archie said. “And as more moms are aware of this exposure to brain damage, they are not going to play Russian Roulette with their kid’s brain. It’s just not going to happen. “I don’t know any mom who would know what I know and sign their kid up.” Des writes for the Early Lead and the D.C. Sports Bog, scouring the Web to bring readers items of interest, both serious and amusing. He also covers fantasy football, as well as fitness topics for the MisFits.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 112688

Article Title: Going to pot: legalised cannabis edges nearer in west after US states end ban | Society | The Guardian

Date: 5/23/2014

Article Content: Legalisation of cannabis is making slow but unstoppable progress across much of the developed world, many experts believe, following the end of prohibition in two US states. In Amsterdam, long famous for its coffee shops, identifiable by pictures of marijuana outside and fumes wafting through the door, international experts gathering to discuss cannabis regulation said the international conventions, once so heavily policed by the US, would now be increasingly flouted. Already many countries, most notably the Netherlands and Spain, have bypassed the rules. “The key is always the US in drug policy,” said Professor Robin Room of the charity Turning Point and Melbourne University in Australia. “It would be acting differently if it did not have Colorado and Washington on its conscience. “The dynamic in the United States looks unstoppable. Even if a Republican were elected to replace Obama, they would think twice before cracking down on it all. What would they gain from it? The Republicans realise they are in a box, appealing only to elderly white men. “It is an ocean liner that is exceedingly difficult to turn around but there will probably be a state or two in 2014 and another couple in 2016 voting for legalisation. That poses a big conundrum to the world: the most important nation in drugs policy is in defiance of the treaty it was responsible for.” The position of the US as the world’s enforcer of drugs prohibition has been undermined not only by cannabis legalisation in Colorado and Washington states, but also Uruguay in South America. The Obama administration has elected to ignore any flouting of the UN drug conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988, which require countries to prohibit the use, possession and supply of cannabis, although the US justice department has warned against allowing children to obtain the drug and profits going to criminal gangs. The treaty is rarely observed but
countries evade it in different ways. In Amsterdam and many, but not all, places in the Netherlands, the sale and use of cannabis is tolerated but not legal. But supply is illegal and prosecuted, which has led to the serious problems that have caused some towns to shut their coffee shops. Drug gangs involved in all kinds of criminality, including trafficking, flourish by supplying the drug. The Netherlands is deeply distressed that toleration may be encouraging crime, to the point where its justice minister favours closing down the cannabis trade altogether. But the model has spread. There are coffee shops in Ljubljana, Zagreb and Berlin. Spain, on the other hand, has networks of “cannabis social clubs”, where people get together to grow what they need for personal use. In the UK, now one of the countries with the toughest stance on cannabis, social clubs on the Spanish model have been quietly taking off. There are now 60 of them, with some 60,000 people in some way involved, said Greg de Hoedt, who is head of the UK Cannabis Social Clubs, a body set up to advise them and advocate for change and which has been busy lobbying politicians. Nick Clegg is one of those onsite, said De Hoedt, who was off to meet the coalition Home Office minister Norman Baker. Clubs secretly grow their own cannabis. “It’s about 100 times less than it costs on the street and it’s a better quality product,” said De Hoedt, who complains that the drug available on the street can contain fertilisers and sometimes heavy metals. “Criminal gangs aren’t taking account of that,” he said. A woman smokes cannabis at a ‘420 Day’ demonstration in London’s Hyde Park, calling for cannabis to be legalised. Photograph: Andy Rain/Camera Press The clubs also organise collective acts of civil disobedience. On 20 April – now a global celebration of cannabis known as “420 day” – about 10,000 people gathered in Hyde Park to smoke joints in defiance of the police. “People lit up en masse at 4.20[pm],” said De Hoedt. There were a few arrests and cautions, but that was all. De Hoedt said he understood the concern of the police that drug gangs might turn up, which is why the law needed to change. The Amsterdam meeting was convened by academics and public health experts involved in a five-year research project, funded by the European commission, called Alice Rap (Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe Reframing Addictions Project). It launched a policy brief unequivocally backing the legal regulation of cannabis. It rehearses the economic arguments – the costs of pursuing cannabis crimes versus the tax revenue from legal production – and the health arguments around separating cannabis from other drugs and checking on quality and strength. But the discussion was around not whether but how it should happen. “We are talking about a drug that is still problematic but by prohibition you make the problem bigger than it is,” said Dr Franz Trautmann of the Trimbos Institute – the Netherlands institute of mental health and addiction. The prevalence of cannabis in Europe is between 5% and 20%, he said, but appeared not to be affected by drug policy. Spain, France and Britain all have higher than average rates in Europe. “We have to deal with and acknowledge it is used by so many people,” he said, adding that a market existed that needed to be regulated. “It touches security, public order and safety in society. We have created a situation which has contributed to organised crime. “Cannabis is moving from prohibition to regulation. Tobacco, alcohol, gambling are moving from uncontrolled to regulation. If you see how tobacco or alcohol is regulated, it is similar to what we do with cannabis [no under 18s in coffee shops, not near schools, staff do not work in smoking rooms etc]. We know these measures are effective for tobacco. We are not able to ban the drug totally but we can control it better.” A lone voice against regulation was that of Dr Susan Weiss, of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in the USA, who has serious concerns about Colorado, which has ads for chocolate spread with “medical marijuana” and a free joint with a ski pass. “Things are moving very quickly and I’m afraid they are going to move even faster,” she said. “This is an issue that a lot of states are considering. Part of it is because they see all the tax revenue that could be generated. One of the concerns I have is that it could be shortsighted because they could be missing all
the health harms. “We have this idea that we know exactly what cannabis does because it has been around such a long time. But I don't think we have a full understanding.” She is worried too about the effect on young brains and the combination of marijuana and alcohol, which NIDA is studying. Some experts think the international conventions will just wither away. Few think there is a chance of overturning them. Russia, China, Sweden, Japan and parts of Africa are among the nations that would block it. Trautmann says it is not good to ignore international conventions, “but the more initiatives we get, the more potential we get to show that the regulations are not working and the more motivation and support we get to change something.”

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 658521

Article Title: NFL Demands Retraction of New York Times Story on Player Concussions | Bleacher Report

Date: 3/29/2016

Article Content: Luis M. Alvarez/Associated Press The National Football League reportedly sent a letter to the New York Times' legal counsel Monday demanding a retraction to the outlet’s story last week about the NFL’s research into concussions. Joe Pompeo of Politico Media reported Tuesday that NFL attorney Brad S. Karp called the New York Times article “false and defamatory” in the letter. The league also “seemed to threaten the possibility of further legal action,” and it requested those who worked on the story to preserve all of the information gathered for the piece. It’s the latest move in an increasingly heated battle between the NFL and the newspaper about the investigative report. Alan Schwarz, Walt Bogdanich and Jacqueline Williams of the New York Times wrote the piece titled: “NFL's Flawed Concussion Research and Ties to Tobacco Industry.” According to the report, more than 100 diagnosed concussions—which represented over 10 percent of the total—were omitted from previous league studies into the impact of football-related head trauma. In turn, the rate of concussions seemed lower than it actually was during a span from 1996 through 2001. It also looked into a possible connection to the tobacco industry: “The Times has found no direct evidence that the league took its strategy from Big Tobacco. But records show a long relationship between two businesses with little in common beyond the health risks associated with their products.” The NFL quickly responded to the article with a lengthy statement, per Mike Florio of Pro Football Talk. In part, it read: “The Times' sensationalized story is further refuted by the NFL's ongoing commitment on the issue of player health and safety.” The league also started an aggressive marketing approach to combat the article. Nick Niedziadek of the Wall Street Journal noted NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy confirmed it ran ads on the New York Times' own website as well as on Facebook and Twitter to highlight safety improvements. “We wanted readers to have all the information about all the work that we've done to improve the safety of the game,” McCarthy said. “We were concerned that our message was being mishandled by the Times.” Now, the NFL, which previously reported a nearly 32 percent increase in diagnosed concussions during the 2015 preseason and regular season, is demanding a full retraction of the story. While the fight between the sides continues, the fact remains head injuries are a major concern when it comes to the NFL's long-
term success. In September, Jason M. Breslow of PBS relayed results from a study by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University which showed 96 percent of the 91 former NFL players studied had chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). Finding a way to make the sport markedly safer to decrease those troubling statistics is an important challenge the league must try to tackle in the years ahead.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 656522

Article Title: Gardner Hitless in Return; Yankees Beat Blue Jays 2-1 - The New York Times"

Date: 3/16/2016

Article Content: TAMPA, Fla. — Brett Gardner went 0 for 2 in his first spring training game of the year, Starlin Castro hit a two-run homer and made a nifty defensive play and the New York Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 2-1 Wednesday night. Gardner played five innings in left field. He hit a grounder and struck out in his first game since bruising his left wrist in last year's AL wild-card loss to Houston. "The results weren't great, but I felt good," Gardner said. Castro hit an opposite-field drive to right off Drew Hutchison and made a running grab in shallow right on Kevin Pillar's pop fly. Acquired from the Chicago Cubs in December, Castro moved from shortstop to second base last season and played 38 games at the position. "I think he's doing pretty good," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We've been pleased with him so far at second base. I think he's done a really good job, worked extremely hard. The transition for him I don't think is going to be a problem." Hutchison, bidding for the fifth starter spot, allowed two runs and four hits in 4 2-3 innings. "I think I've been throwing the ball well," Hutchison said. "I've been accomplishing the things I wanted to accomplish." Nathan Eovaldi struck out two and walked two over two hitless innings in his second spring training appearance for the Yankees since his season was cut short after a Sept. 5 start due to right elbow inflammation. "My arm felt great," Eovaldi said. "I thought my pitches were good. Worked a lot on the counts." STARTING TIME Hutchison and Eovaldi also faced each other last Thursday. The Toronto right-hander allowed a run and three hits in 2 2-3 innings. "He's looked very good this spring," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. Eovaldi retired all six batters he faced Thursday.

TRAINER'S ROOM Blue Jays: Marco Estrada (sore back) was fine, one day after a minor league game in which he struck out four in two innings. Gibbons said it hasn't been determined if Estrada's next start will be in a minor or major league game. Yankees: C Brian McCann missed his second straight game with a bruised left knee but is scheduled to play Thursday against Pittsburgh. ... Alex Rodriguez said he was OK after being hit by a pitch on his left foot during the sixth. TOBACCO-FREE The Yankees had a sign posted in the clubhouse offering nicotine replacement therapy supplies — gum, lozenges or patches — for players and staff. Smokeless tobacco is now banned at stadiums in Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles. "It's not healthy, it's dangerous," said Girardi, who expects the list of chewing tobacco-free stadiums to rise. UP NEXT Blue Jays: Toronto has a split-squad Thursday with Brad Penny starting against Houston. Scott Diamond will face Team Canada. Yankees: Masahiro Tanaka will
look to extend his spring training stretch of five shutout innings in his third start Thursday against the Pirates. Luis Severino also is scheduled to pitch. Continue reading the main story "

Source Title: Web

E-cigarette texts

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_tanti”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1751

Article Title: Nixon vetoes electronic cigarette measure"

Date: 7/14/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - Missouri Governor Jay Nixon has vetoed legislation barring people younger than 18 from buying electronic cigarettes while also exempting the nicotine products from other tobacco sales restrictions. Nixon called the Senate bill a “thinly disguised and cynical attempt” to exempt e-cigarettes from the state’s 17 cent-per-pack cigarette tax as well as further public health restrictions. His rejection on Monday fell on the deadline for the governor take action on bills passed by state lawmakers earlier this year. Nixon noted that the federal Food and Drug Administration plans to regulate the $2 billion e-cigarette market by banning underage sales and adding warning labels. The veto was Nixon’s 32nd this year, the most in one year since he took office in 2009."

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 387064

Article Title: Ketchikan-area lawmakers push for island-wide tobacco tax"

Date: 4/27/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: KETCHIKAN, Alaska KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP) - Ketchikan local government officials are pushing for an island-wide tobacco tax that would include e-cigarettes. The Cooperative Relations Committee, a joint group of the Ketchikan City Council and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, unanimously voted Friday to work toward an excise tax on all cigarettes and tobacco products, the Ketchikan Daily News reported (http://bit.ly/1bKtkoS). The committee includes City Council Members Dick Coose, Bob Sivertsen and DeAnn Karlson along with Assembly Members Todd Phillips and Bill Rotecki. The committee directed managers to work out a way for the two governments to cooperate on a tobacco tax. The committee did not designate an amount for the tax, which would be
a per-pack fee on cigarettes and a percentage of total cost applied to tobacco products. The taxes would be paid by distributors, but typically shift to consumers through price increases. The borough tried to levy a similar tax in 2010. It was estimated then that a $1 per pack and 45 percent tax on other tobacco products would have generated more than $600,000. The council has been more supportive of a tax than the assembly, which could not pass the tax at its April 6 meeting. Sivertsen said there was a “growing consensus” among the council to levy the excise tax regardless of what the assembly decides, but noted council members were still “interested in an area wide tax” with the borough's participation. Until Friday, the inclusion of e-cigarettes as a tobacco product had been more contested than the tax itself. Information from: Ketchikan (Alaska) Daily News, http://www.ketchikandailynews.com"
to run. MATTINGLY: The new standard bearer of the Republican Party outlining some of his potential policies, taking a cue from Bernie Sanders when asked if he'll raise the minimum wage. TRUMP: I'm actually looking at that, because I'm very different from most Republicans. I mean, you have to have something that you can live on. But what I'm really looking to do is get people great jobs so they make much more money than that, so they make more money than the $15. If you start playing around with the lower number, you're not going to be competitive. MATTINGLY: And vowing to implement his ban of all Muslims from entering the U.S. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Are you sticking with the temporary ban? TRUMP: Until we figure out what's going on, we have to be very tough, we have to be vigilant, yes. MATTINGLY: Trump, now focused on potential running mates. TRUMP: I'm starting to think about it very soon. We'll be vetting people. MATTINGLY: In a possible push to unify the GOP, name checking previous rivals who have since supported him. TRUMP: I'm going to set up a committee. I may put Ben Carson on the committee. I may put Chris Christie on the committee. I've had a good relationship with John. I've gotten along with him well. But John, whether he is vice-president or not, I think he'll be very helpful with Ohio. MATTINGLY: John Kasich has always said there is zero chance that he would be Trump's VP. But his future is still left unknown. GOV. JOHN KASICH, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I have always said that the Lord has a purpose for me as he has for everyone. And as I suspend my campaign today, I have renewed faith that the Lord will show me the way forward. (END VIDEOTAPE) MATTINGLY: And guys, all eyes here in Columbus, really across the Republican Party, want to know what John Kasich will do next, not just related to a potential vice-president pick, but his support in general for Donald Trump. Kasich, one of many top Republican officials who grew sharply critical of Trump over the course of the campaign. A lot of those officials have grudgingly accepted Donald Trump as the nominee. They'll vote for the nominee. But it's an issue that a lot of them are facing this head on right now, one John Kasich took great pains to avoid last night during his speech, announcing the suspension of his campaign, deciding not to take questions from reporters. A lot of Republican officials aren't going to have that option in the weeks and months ahead, Alisyn. ALISYN CAMEROTA, CNN ANCHOR: Absolutely. It will be interesting to see how he responds in the future, Phil, thanks for that. Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, launching a new round of attacks against Donald Trump. The former secretary of state telling CNN's Anderson Cooper, a Trump presidency is too big a risk to take. CNN Chris Frates is live in Washington with more on that interview. Hi, Chris. CHRIS FRATES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, Alisyn. You're right, Hillary Clinton wasted no time hitting the freshly minted presumptive GOP nominee, slamming Donald Trump in an exclusive interview with our own Anderson Cooper. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) HILLARY CLINTON, (D) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think he is a loose cannon, and loose cannons tend to misfire. FRATES: Hillary Clinton says she is ready to take on Donald Trump in the general election, brushing off his crooked Hillary moniker, and repeatedly calling him a loose cannon. CLINTON: I've seen the presidency up close from two different perspectives, and I think I know what it takes. And I don't think we can take a risk on a loose cannon like Donald Trump running our country. Donald Trump has said it's OK for other countries to get nuclear weapons. I think that's just downright dangerous. [08:05:04] FRATES: But elsewhere Clinton is treading more light, declining to say whether she agrees with this tweet from Senator Elizabeth Warren, saying Trump, quote, “built his campaign on racism, sexism and xenophobia.” CLINTON: I think Elizabeth Warren is really smart. ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Do you agree with all that. CLINTON: I think anybody who has listened to him and how he's talked certainly can draw that conclusion. COOPER: Do you think he is a racist? CLINTON: I'm going to let people judge for themselves. FRATES: Clinton also seems unfazed by Trump's more personal barbs. COOPER: He has made reference to your marriage, your husband? (LAUGHTER) CLINTON: Well, he is not
the first one, Anderson. I can't say this often enough. He wants to go back to the playbook of the 1990s, if he wants to follow
in the footsteps of those who have tried to knock me down and take me out of the political arena, I'm more than happy to
have him do that. COOPER: You're ready for that? CLINTON: Oh, please. I mean, look, this is -- this is, to me, a classic case of a
blustering, bullying guy who has knocked out of the way all the Republicans because they were just dumbfounded. FRATES:
And fresh off his Indiana primary victory over Clinton, Bernie Sanders is also criticizing Trump's abrasive campaign
tactics at his rally last night. BERNIE SANDERS, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I know that there is a lot of nervousness around this
country that Donald Trump may become president. (BOOS) SANDERS: Ain't gonna happen. (APPLAUSE) SANDERS: The American
people will never elect a candidate who insults people every single day in incredibly ugly ways. (END VIDEOTAPE) FRATES:
Now, Sanders stuck mostly to criticizing Donald Trump. He didn't mention Clinton at all in his speech last night, but it remains
to be seen if this kinder, gentler Bernie Sanders will continue, because, remember, it's mathematically impossible for Sanders
to win enough delegates in all these remaining contests to clinch the Democratic nomination. But the Vermont senator has
vowed to take his fight all the way to the convention, hoping to convince enough super delegates to switch sides and hand him the
nomination. John, back to you my friend. BERMAN: Chris Frates in Washington, thanks so much. So both Hillary Clinton and Donald
Trump gearing up for what could be a general election like we have never seen before. Let us discuss now with Donald
Trump supporter, the former governor of Arizona, Jan Brewer. Governor, thanks so much for being with us. Nice to see you again.
JAN BREWER, (R) FORMER ARIZONA GOVERNOR: Good to be with you, John. BERMAN: So just moments ago, Donald Trump did an interview
where he said there is a 40 percent chance that he will pick his running mates from among the people that were competing against
him to be president of the United States. That's pretty high. So of the 16 people he was running against, just wondering if you
have an opinion of one or two who you think who make good running mate. BREWER: Well, I certainly think he has some really
great, good quality Republicans to choose from. I know the majority of them, if not all of them. I think that John Kasich would serve
him well. He has got a long history of representing the state of Ohio in Congress. He has worked at the Pentagon. He was very
successful turning the budget around. A great guy, personally, and has done a wonderful job in Ohio. Chris Christie, you know, very knowledgeable. You know, all of them are good. And you know, he is going to have to make that decision, somebody that he is comfortable with, somebody he can work with, that can implement his plans and his policies. And I look forward to hearing all about it. BERMAN: We'll mark you down on Kasich and Christi as pro them for now. Donald Trump has begun to turn his focus to the general election. The other guys have dropped out and he is running alone right now in the Republican race. And we're starting to hear more from him about policy and what he would do as president. Our Wolf Blitzer had a chance to speak with him just within the last 24 hours and he was asking Donald Trump about the minimum wage. Now, remember, Donald Trump at one point said actually he thinks wages need to be lower, not higher. But listen to what he told Wolf Blitzer. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) WOLF BLITZER, CNN HOST, "THE SITUATION ROOM": Bernie Sanders says he wants $15 an hour minimum wage. And he has really gone after you for saying you're happy with $7.25, the current federal minimum wage. You can't live on $7.25 an hour. TRUMP: No, and I'm actually looking at that, because I'm very different from most Republicans. You have to have something that you can live on. But what I'm really looking to do is get people great jobs so they make much more money than that. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: Is this a shift for Donald Trump? Before he said he didn't want to raise the minimum wage, now he says he is looking at it. That seems to be a shift. BREWER: Well, you know, I don't know whether it is a shift or not, or I don't know the whole background on his philosophy in
regards to that. [08:10:00] But traditionally, we know you have to have a good economy, you have to have a job, in order to get any kind of wages. And traditionally, if the economy is good, and wages will rise. If people work hard, they get paid more money. But bottom line is our economy has sunk and it's terrible. And we're probably headed into another recession. And so we need somebody there like Mr. Trump that can turn this economy around, bring jobs back to our country, get people employed, and the minimum wage probably will raise -- Berman: But the minimum wage, a lot of people were concerned during the primary that Donald Trump would say one thing in the primaries, then say something else in the general election. The general election campaign for Donald Trump is all of 20 hours old and he already does appear to be saying something different. Do you see where there might be concern there? Brewer: Well, we all know that as we move forward through these races, traditionally, year after year, election after election, candidates, you know, they pivot. But what Donald is trying to say, you bring jobs back to the country, you're going to increase the economy. And if you have an increased economy, the wages will raise. Berman: What is his plan to have wages go up? What is the economic plan he is going to use to raise wages? Brewer: Well, I certainly think he will get rid of rules and regulations, he is going to put people back to work. He's not going to close down the companies that are working here. An example in West Virginia, the coal mines, there's a good clean way to maintain and make sure those people maintain their jobs in West Virginia and likewise in other places, use our resources that we have here in the United States. You know, fair trade is really, really important. We know we're outmaneuvered on a lot of trade that is taking place in China and Korea. There is multiple ways of doing it. And he is a new, fresh face. He's somebody that has been successful himself in business and didn't come by it lightly. And he will be able to implement those kinds of things and strategies here in the United States. And the American people are very supportive of him, obviously. Berman: The Republican Party, he did -- he did win the Republican primaries right now. He is the presumptive nominee, no question about that. There is some dissension within the ranks, though, of the Republican Party. We've heard from a number of Republicans this morning saying they'll never vote for Trump. One even told us he'll support Hillary Clinton if he had to. In your own state of Arizona, the two senators, Jeff Flake and John McCain, I don't know that either of them have said at this point whether or not they will vote for Donald Trump. What is your message to these Republicans who are reluctant? Brewer: I think, well, just to correct the record, you know, I have not heard that Senator McCain nor Senator Flake said they would not vote for Mr. Trump. Berman: I haven't heard them say it in the affirmative just yet. Brewer: Republican nominee -- yes, well, you know, and I'm not -- I lost my train of thought. But the bottom line is that I think that dividing our party is absolutely ridiculous. It's wrong. And what are they going to do? Are they going to vote for Hillary? I mean, do they like the Hillary policy, somebody that is not a truth teller, somebody that we have been able to vet for 30 years. We know what she stands for. You know, she is a leftwing liberal who doesn't tell the truth. Berman: Let me ask you Ben Sasse, Republican senator from Nebraska, has called for someone in a third party to run right now. Are you saying that Republicans now who are not lining up behind Donald Trump, are you saying that they're not real Republicans? Brewer: Well, I think that trying to divide the Republican Party and our standard platform is ridiculous. I mean, you've got a choice here. Are you going to support Hillary, or are you going to divide the Republicans and lose the presidency? It's just simply irrational to me. I know Mr. Trump. And I think as people get to know him better and work with him that they will become supportive. He is a very kind, thoughtful person. He listens. And he can put the pieces together and lead this country out of the disaster that we've been living through for the last eight years. Berman: He has six months until the general election. Brewer: He can unite -- Berman: He has six months left in the general election to
make that case. He has some time where he is running in the clear before his own convention. So we'll see how he does. Governor Jan Brewer from Arizona, thanks so much for being with us, appreciate it. Alisyn? CAMEROTA: OK, John, a U.S. Army captain suing President Obama, saying the president does not have the proper legal authority from Congress to wage war on ISIS in Iraq and Syria. And 28-year-old Captain Nathan Smith filing the lawsuit as the president deploys more special ops forces to the region. [08:15:04] Smith says he strongly supports fighting ISIS but wants to uphold the constitution. The suit filed a day after a third service member in the U.S. -- sorry, led the campaign, no comment from the White House. Berman: California raising the legal age to buy tobacco to 21. Active duty can be 18. Also for the first time, vaping will be banned in California's restaurants, bars, theaters, and other public places where smoking is already banned. All of that takes effect in five weeks. CAMEROTA: You have to see this dramatic video out of Utah. You can see a chopper, hovering over crews on a rescue mission on the side of the mountain. They were about to load a woman's body into the helicopter, when the safety rope suddenly gets caught in the blade. The chopper immediately loses control. The rescuers tumble down the rocks, as the tail of the chopper flies over their heads. Believe it or not, the chopper landed safely in a nearby field and everyone here is OK. Berman: That is amazing. CAMEROTA: That is amazing. I don't know how, you know, helicopters fly on a good day. I mean, they're so sort of aerodynamically mysterious and then something like this happens and everybody could survive, amazing. Berman: It makes you want to get in one. CAMEROTA: No, it doesn't actually. Berman: All right. Sixteen minutes after the hour right now. Bernie who? Hillary Clinton has been laser focused on Donald Trump. What is her plan now to battle the Republican presumptive nominee, a potential matchup? We'll ask her chief strategist, next. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) [08:20:15] WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: Do you think the general election campaign has already started, you versus Hillary Clinton, that for all practical purposes, Bernie Sanders is out? DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Well, I think what has happened, there has been a little flip. I'm even surprised by it. I thought I'd be going longer and she would be going shorter. She can't put it away. (END VIDEO CLIP) CAMEROTA: That was Donald Trump, telling CNN's Wolf Blitzer that Hillary Clinton cannot overcome Bernie Sanders, and cannot put it away. Clinton labeling Trump a loose cannon and a risky choice. So, what kind of challenge will the presumptive nominee be for Clinton if she were to clinch the nomination? Let's ask Clinton's campaign chief strategist Joel Benenson. Thanks so much for being here. JOEL BENENSON, CLINTON CAMPAIGN CHIEF STRATEGIST: Happy to be here. CAMEROTA: That was Donald Trump talking about the irony that even he sees, that he has secured the nomination before Hillary Clinton. Are you surprised by that? BENENSON: Well, I think most experts acknowledged several weeks before last Tuesday that Hillary Clinton had secured the nomination that we had piled up an insurmountable lead. CAMEROTA: That's not what Bernie Sanders says. (CROSSTALK) BENENSON: I understand what -- Bernie Sanders has been saying that all the way through. He's also said he'll do everything he can to make sure Donald Trump never becomes president. The math is the math. Everyday, there is another construction from the Sanders campaign about, oh, how this person will switch, we're going to get more pledged delegates. We're going to get superdelegates. Those are people grasping at answers that aren't real at this moment. Hillary Clinton will be the nominee of the Democratic Party. CAMEROTA: But this was supposed to be more of a cake walk than it ended up being. When this started, people didn't predict by May 4th, she wouldn't really have secured it yet and Bernie Sanders would still be fighting. I think that Trump's point is that he says she can't close the deal. BENENSON: Look, Bernie Sanders has run a strong campaign. He has galvanized a part of the Democratic Party that feels very passionate about issues that all Democrats care about. How do we get incomes rising again? How do we get the economy working for average people out there
working hard and still not getting where they want to be, working two jobs trying to make it work. The truth here is, though, there's much more that unites us as Democrats than divides us from Republicans. They've had a much more contentious debate. Several people have dropped out because they can't sustain their campaign. Senator Sanders will make his decisions going forward, but the fact is, we'll be a united front behind Hillary Clinton to defeat Donald Trump in November. CAMEROTA: Let's talk about the general election. Hillary Clinton sat down with Anderson Cooper yesterday and she seemed very sanguine about the possibility that Donald Trump has said that he's going to go after her basically both barrels. She sort of laughed and said, you know, I'm used to it. But then, when Anderson gave her an opportunity to go after Donald Trump, with both barrels, she didn't take the opportunity. So let me play that moment for you. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Elizabeth Warren tweeted out that Donald Trump has built his campaign on racism, sexism and xenophobia. Do you agree with that? HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think Elizabeth Warren is very smart. COOPER: Do you agree with that statement? (LAUGHTER) CLINTON: I think anybody who has listened to him and how he has talked certainly can draw that conclusion. COOPER: Do you think he is a racist? CLINTON: I'm going to let people judge themselves. (END VIDEO CLIP) CAMEROTA: So she wouldn't say whether or not she thought he was a racist or xenophobe. She said he was a loose cannon. Is that strong enough language? BENENSON: She has said repeatedly that Donald Trump has used divisive, bigoted language and she has said very clearly, you don't great by tearing down what has made America great. She has said what makes America great is our diversity, the fact that this nation was built by immigrants, that we have people who come to the country because they aspire, build a better future for their children. That's a clear difference here between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Donald Trump talks about making America great, but he has no recipe for keeping America great. Hillary Clinton does. She is the one candidate, talking about making a real difference in people's lives that brings America together, that can solve the biggest challenges we face. She has said repeatedly, he is divisive, dangerous and risky candidate for America. CAMEROTA: So, on the campaign, how worried are you all about what the general election could look like in terms of the tone and what Donald Trump is going to throw at her? BENENSON: Well, I think, look, Donald Trump is, I mean, Secretary Clinton yesterday said he is a loose cannon. I think people have seen that. He says outlandish things day-to-day. But I think more importantly here is people will judge this in your own poll yesterday, CNN showed this, somebody who can get health care costs down for me and my family, make sure my kid gets a good education, no matter what zip code we live in. On all of those categories, dealing with income and equality, Hillary Clinton has a significant advantage, close to 20 points or more over Donald Trump. [08:25:02] CAMEROTA: There is one place where she doesn't have an advantage over Donald Trump. That is where the voters say the economy is most important to them. Let me put up the numbers. BENENSON: I know the numbers 50-45. CAMEROTA: Fifty to forty-five. BENENSON: And you know what that is? CAMEROTA: What is it? BENENSON: That is a smaller gap than any Republican has ever had going against the Democratic. CAMEROTA: He still wins. BENENSON: No, going against any Democratic, Republicans when you just ask a general question about economy always have an advantage against Democrats. I've looked at this polling data for decades, right? His five-point gap is tiny compared to where other Republicans start out. Mitt Romney had a big gap than that against Barack Obama in 2012 on the economy. When American people judge who's going to make the economy better, it's about their health care cost, access to health care, getting education for their kids, getting college education. CAMEROTA: But are you saying in the voting booth, that ends up not mattering, they vote for the Republican for the economy? BENENSON: I'm saying that the ingredients of what really comprises who will be better on the
economy, those things that people are struggling with in their lives everyday, not a broad question about the economy, but will you help me when it comes to health care, education, creating good paying jobs that I want for myself and family, and on those metrics, Democrats have been winning. And I think in this election, the contest will be clear and Hillary Clinton will maintain her double digit advantage over Donald Trump on improving people's health care, improving education and getting incomes rising.

CAMEROTA: Joel Benenson, thanks so much. Great to you have here on NEW DAY. BENENSON: Thank you. CAMEROTA: Let's get over to John. BERNAN: All right. Thanks, Alisyn. Frantic moments to get Prince help in the hours before he died. We're going to look at what his friends tried to do to save him. Talking to HLN's Dr. Drew Pinsky about the apparent battle with painkillers."

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

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Article Title: SHOW: New Day 6:30 AM EST Fight Over Attorney General Vote Heats Up; Aaron Hernandez Jurors Speak Out. Aired 6:30-7a ET"

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Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch, and she's been waiting 160 days for the Senate vote. Aaron Hernandez jurors spoke to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively, and they say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former New England Patriots star guilty. [06:32:27] CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: There's big development here -- 23-year-old Ohio man is in custody this morning, charged with providing material support to terrorists. Authorities say Abdurahan Shaikh Mohamud trained with Islamic terrorists in Syria last year before returning to America on a mission to kill. According to an indictment, Mohamud planned to execute soldiers at a Texas military base and had a backup plan to attack a prison. This is the first case brought by the American government against an American for allegedly planning attacks here after training over there. JOHN BERNAN, CNN ANCHOR: Big changes in security expected at the White House. The U.S. official tells us that temporary steel spikes will be added to the perimeter fence to help keep jumpers away. Word of the move comes after several alarming incidents including one last September where a man jumped the White House fence and made it into the White House itself all the way to the East Room. Replacement fence is expected to be built next year. POPPY HARLOW, CNN ANCHOR: A new study out finding the number of teens using e-cigarettes tripled in the last year in this country. This comes from the Centers for Disease Control, and it says high schoolers use the electronic cigarettes more than conventional tobacco cigarettes. Remember, no one under 18 is supposed to be smoking these. E-cigarettes don't contain tobacco. They do almost always have nicotine, which can harm brain development in children. And that is the big issue here. CUOMO: All right. So we are now hearing the 911 call from a Seattle airport worker who fell asleep and ended up taking off in a cargo hold of an Alaska Airlines jet. The emergency operator seemed to have trouble understanding that the panicked caller is actually stuck in the belly of a plane. Take a listen. (BEGIN AUDIO CLIP) 911 OPERATOR: Are you at the airport? AIRLINE WORKER: I'm not at the airport. I
feel like it's moving. (INAUDIBLE) 911 OPERATOR: Are you by yourself or with somebody? AIRLINE WORKER: By myself, geez. (END AUDIO CLIP) CUOMO: It is so bizarre and it's terrible. Obviously, the plane made an emergency landing. It's not obvious. Actually, luckily the pilots heard them. And after 14 minutes, they wound up landing again. They were hearing banging coming from underneath the floor. The worker wasn't hurt, amazingly, because that cargo hold was pressurized and temperature controlled. But he's banned from working on any Alaska Airlines flights. HARLOW: He was on a sleep. So, can you imagine waking up to that? BERMAN: Well, I don't think -- I can't imagine that and I can't imagine being the 911 operator getting that call. I don't think they train for, I'm trapped in the cargo hold of a plane that's flying right now. [06:35:00] So, when she asked are you alone, he's like that's not an important question right now. HARLOW: I know. But this is how they're trained to stay so calm throughout the 911 operators. CUOMO: It's also got hoax all over it in terms of if it's coming in. They have to take everything seriously, but she probably never heard anything like that before and hopefully never again. HARLOW: I don't think this is going to happen again. BERMAN: Let's hope not. All right. It is CNN Money now time. Chief business correspondent Christine Romans in the Money Center. Hey, Christine. CHRISTINE ROMANS, CNN CHIEF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, again, John. Apple Watch mystery. If you ordered one, get ready to wait until June to have it ship. The original plan was for watches to be on sale in stores next Friday. You can still have them, try them on in the stores. You can preorder them still online. But to have one on your wrist won't be next Friday as planned. No word from Apple why. Netflix added an unbelievable 5 million new subscribers in just three months, 5 million new customers. Looks like that gamble of original programming like “House of Cards,” looks like that's paying off. The stock surged 18 percent yesterday, $562 a share, folks. Some predict Netflix shares could double by the next year. Millennials don't talk about what are you watching on TV, they talk about what you're going to watch on Netflix. It's really changed the game -- Poppy. HARLOW: They do. They have a few good shows on Netflix, right, Romans? ROMANS: I'd say. HARLOW: Just a few. Coming up on NEW DAY, growing outrage as Loretta Lynch waits and waits and waits for her confirmation vote, just a vote on her confirmation as possibly the next attorney general. How much longer will she have to wait and what can Democrats do to move the process along? How much can they force the hand here? Also, the new CNN original series “High Profits” tells the extraordinary story of two marijuana entrepreneurs. It is only here on CNN this coming Sunday night. Here's a sneak peek. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're starting off with some of the most beautiful places in Colorado. We'd like to open a store in Crested Butte. We'd like to open one in Steamboat Springs and Vail, different states, different countries. I want the Breckenridge cannabis club to be a household name. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A lot of people made money selling picks and shovels during the gold rush. This is the green rush. I would say there will be three to five billionaires minted in this industry in the next three years. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This right here, this is the real stuff. You're not going to find this on the street. This is top quality organic bud. In 2009 when we first started, we started off very small. We were growing in a garage. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We had our own medical marijuana cards and a few other patients. Mostly just grew and gave that away until there was a profitable business plan that we could go forward with. And that's when we got into Breckenridge. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We didn't work as hard as we've worked the last four years to just scrape by. We have much bigger plans than that. (END VIDEOTAPE) [06:41:54] BERMANN: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch. She's been waiting 160 days for this Senate vote, but we should tell you there are signs that the block could be resolved soon. And perhaps as soon as next week, there could be a vote. But, man, it's taken a long, long time. Joining us now, Richard
Socarides, former senior adviser to President Bill Clinton and a Democratic strategist. Also here, Cheri Jacobus, a Republican strategist and the president of the political consulting firm Capital Strategies PR. Richard, I just said there are indications from our Senate folks from CNN that may be there could be a deal that would put a vote some time next week. Barring that, because these things have a tendency to fall through, you think this has gone on an inexcusably long time. RICHARD SOCARIDES, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: Way too long. And you know, you said that she's been waiting for a vote. The unfortunate part about it is that the American people have been waiting to have this woman confirmed, a career prosecutor, an African-American woman who has been waiting for the longest time since seven attorney generals combined, and for absolutely no good reason. I mean, the Republicans are blocking her without any reason whatsoever. BERMAN: Technically speaking, the Democrats are blocking a vote on a human trafficking bill because there is abortion language in that bill. Democrats aren't allowing that vote, the Loretta Lynch vote would have to come after the human trafficking. Cheri Jacobus, is this a fight worth having for the Republicans? Rudy Giuliani who thinks President Obama doesn't love America, Giuliani loves Loretta Lynch. He calls her an extraordinary pick to be attorney general. So, why not have the vote? Cheri Jacobus, Republican Strategist: Look, Mitch McConnell is well within his rights and job description to do this. This is the type of thing that happens all the time. The Democrats and Harry Reid did this sort of thing all the time to Republicans. In fact when he was majority leader, they actually instituted rules that made it harder for the minority to block and filibuster some lower level nominees. So this is him, you know, yelling and screaming. BERMAN: But, Cheri, does can mean should? He can do it, should he? JACOBUS: I think it's fine. I think it's going to have to be resolved at some point. But they're making the point. And the Democrats screaming about the abortion language in this bill is basically the Hyde Amendment, no federal funding for abortion, and it's been public since January. And they're acting like this was snuck in and we just found it. So, there's some politics on both sides. There's much ado about nothing. In terms of this nominee, yes, she's a strong nominee. When she reached the threshold of 51, it looked like this could be a done deal. However, very important position, it's now come out just as of yesterday, Senator Vitter sent her a letter asking her what would you be willing to or would you commit to an investigation of Hillary Clinton e-mail scandal? Which is very serious. That's not just partisan Republicans saying it, that's voters and the public when you look at the polls. And she wrote back yesterday and said, you know, I just don't have enough information so I can't commit to that. That might change a few votes. This is a very important issue. BERMAN: If there's a vote, which there isn't one yet because the whole thing is being held up. JACOBUS: Right. They want that 51 percent. Senators need to be comfortable that to the degree possible this nominee would not be partisan would do her job. [06:45:06] BERMAN: Richard, on the subject of politics you think it's very important, crucial, inexcusable that there's not an up or down vote on Loretta Lynch because you think they're playing politics. How come there isn't an up or down vote on the human trafficking bill? How come that's not just as much politics? SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri -- BERMAN: You don't have an answer for that. SOCARIDES: No, I do have an answer. BERMAN: OK. SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri raises the issue of woman's right to choose and Hillary Clinton e-mail scandal? How come that's not just as much politics? SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri raises the issue of woman's right to choose and Hillary Clinton e-mails in this context, because this is exactly what's happening. The Republicans are playing politics with a career prosecutor who's been nominated for the most important law enforcement job in the world. And all of a sudden, they've interconnected issues of a woman's right to choose and if Hillary Clinton's e-mails just as Cheri said with this issue. The point is this is a very important job. This is a job that American security and freedom depends upon this job. Now, the ironic thing here, of course, is that Republicans have complained for six years how horrible Eric Holder is and he's a partisan attorney general and now they're fighting to keep him. JACOBUS: They're
not fighting to keep him. That's a good point. (CROSSTALK) SOCARIDES: The hatred of Barack Obama by these Republicans is so without bounds that they have decided that they want to keep Holder in there just to punish -- (CROSSTALK) BERMAN: Hang on one second. Well, you know who thinks it might be a little better, who thinks that this is getting tied up? And it is Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush in New Hampshire yesterday commenting on the Loretta Lynch vote. He thinks the vote should go forward. Listen to what Jeb said. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JEB BUSH (R), FORMER FLORIDA GOVERNOR: I think presidents have the right to pick their team in general. The longer it takes to confirm her, the longer Eric Holder stays as attorney general. Look at it that way. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: So Republicans in the Senate really don't like Eric Holder one bit, yet ironically their inaction is keeping him in that attorney general's office more days. JACOBUS: It is. I think Loretta Lynch will eventually be, you know, she'll be in. It's going to take a little while longer, more questioning which the American people deserve. But I think it's the Democrats who are playing politics. This is actually not about a woman's right to choose. This is about federal funding for abortion. And so, let's not misrepresent what it is. It will be resolved. It's possible both sides are playing politics. But to say this is just Republicans, no, that's not true. I think we need to be sure about this nominee. I think Senator Vitter and others are doing the right thing by making sure that we can make sure to the degree possible she's not a partisan. BERMAN: I think it's more than possible both sides are playing politics. I think it's likely. But thank you both for being with us. Cheri Jacobus, Richard Socarides, thanks so much. Chris? CUOMO: All right, JB, good discussion there. So here's a big question, what made the case against Aaron Hernandez for jurors? They gave their answer to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively. They say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former New England Patriots star guilty. That's why it took seven days. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger or do you don't? FEMALE JUROR: I don't know. There's no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: Anderson in a huge issue there. So, if the jurors weren't sure who pulled the trigger, how did they find Hernandez guilty? The answer in a CNN exclusive you don't want to miss. [06:52:12] CUOMO: They deliberated for nearly 36 hours over seven days before deciding former NFL star Aaron Hernandez was guilty of first-degree murder. The jury foreperson says arriving at that verdict was by far the hardest thing she's ever done. Now, she along with her fellow jurors spoke exclusively with CNN's Anderson Cooper about the trial, and most importantly, how they reached their verdict. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) COOPER: So it wasn't premeditation? FEMALE JUROR: No. COOPER: You don't you can't say this was premeditated? FEMALE JUROR: No. I can't say with 100 percent certainty that he premeditated that while I was sitting in that jury room I can't say that. COOPER: But you do see extreme atrocity or cruelty? FEMALE JUROR: I see extreme atrocity and cruelty. COOPER: Was it with the number of shots? FEMALE JUROR: It was his indifference. And that was part of what I had to look at. And it was, even if there was no premeditation, he could have made choices there when he was there. They admitted that. And he could have made different choices and he chose not to. MALE JUROR: I think one thing in that regard that surprised a lot of us was that indifference. We watched the video footage at his home later in the morning or early afternoon after the incident occurred. And he was just lounging around by the pool and playing with the baby and just going about his regular life. I mean, for us to acknowledge he was there at the time that his close friend was murdered, personally, there's no way I could just carry on hours later like nothing ever happened. That's indifference. COOPER: So those videotapes, in particular his own security camera tapes were crucial. MALE JUROR: Hours later. FEMALE JUROR: Definitely. FEMALE JUROR: But in the instructions we weren't asked to use that after the murder to weigh our decision, to leave your friend on the ground knowing that he's not there anymore. He's either dead or
he's going to die, that's indifference. He didn't need to pull the trigger. He could have made different choices when that man was laying there. COOPER: Were there other signs to you of extreme cruelty? FEMALE JUROR: For me it was -- somebody had mentioned that, well, it was a gun. So for me trying to think about extreme cruelty, what are we talking about? Are we talking about somebody physically cutting off someone's arm and letting them bleed to death? Is that extreme cruelty? Or is the fact -- for me, it was a gun. You took a weapon, it didn't matter. You shot him once, but you kept going and shot him six times. [06:55:00] There's just no need for that. And there's no need to use a gun, period. No need to use a gun. So, for me personally, it was about the gun. It was about taking that weapon, knowing what you're going to do and shooting somebody and killing them. That's pretty cruel. COOPER: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger? Or do you know? FEMALE JUROR: I don't know. There's no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger, but he chose not to do anything about it. And he's the one that had the -- COOPER: In that moment or the aftermath? FEMALE JUROR: Exactly. In that moment is what I was looking at because that's what I was instructed to do in that moment. MALE JUROR: He played a role. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. MALE JUROR: Whether he was a shooter or the transport, he played a role in that murder. And that's what he was charged with. COOPER: I notice a couple of you have called him Aaron. And I think people who haven't been on a jury don't understand the intimacy that exists in a courtroom where somebody is sitting, you know, a couple feet away from you. FEMALE JUROR: For three months every day. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. COOPER: Did you look at him a lot? Did he look at you? FEMALE JUROR: Yes. FEMALE JUROR: I did. COOPER: You did? FEMALE JUROR: Oh, yes. One time we made eye contact and he actually nodded to me at one time. You know, it's hard. You come in that room every day and you see this person. And it's hard to come to that decision at the end because three months with them it's almost like you, you know, they're part of you. And all of a sudden, now, you've got to make that decision to either put him away or let him go. It's very hard. MALE JUROR: At the end of the day though you make sure you understand you didn't choose to make those decisions. You were just asked to decide if they were relevant. (END VIDEO TAPE) CUOMO: What stands out to you? BERMAN: Look, the jurors say that the defense admitted that Aaron Hernandez was there. The defense did that to offer the possibility he was there but didn't pull the trigger. And it seems to have been a big mistake perhaps. HARLOW: And they say the fact that in opening statements the defense alleged he wasn't there. Later in the trial says, all right, he was, but -- I think that change for them was a big deal. CUOMO: I think this was a great example of the humanity that is at play in a jury that often you don't suggest it's all about the documents and the clues and the gotcha and forensics. Anderson did a great job of listening. The impact of I saw him every day was a part of me then I have to make this decision. BERMAN: And they understood the law too. The idea did he pull the trigger or not pull the trigger? He didn't have to pull the trigger to get convicted. They understood that. It's not a totally easy concept. CUOMO: But it's a very high bar. If you don't feel beyond a reasonable doubt that he pulled the trigger, if you don't feel beyond a reasonable doubt that this was a premeditated evil plan, the bar is much higher for you to get over. It is interesting what they said they pointed to was the stuff that happened afterwards and his emotion and his reactions. HARLOW: Indifference. That word kept coming up, indifference. CUOMO: Things that a lot of people would dismiss, yes. What do you think? You know how to tweet us and Facebook us. Let's keep this conversation going because we just got great grist for the mail. Big story this morning. A lot of news. So, let's get to it. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Purgatory for Loretta Lynch. JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: She's waited now more than twice as long as the previous seven attorney general nominees combined. BUSH: Presidents have the right to pick their team. CUOMO: Terrorism here at home. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:
Twenty-three-year-old from Columbus, Ohio. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He left the United States last year to go join the al Nusra front in Syria. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On the brink of falling punishing assault on Ramadi. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is a test of the new government in Baghdad. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It won't be the end of a campaign. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Those pleas for help from the civilians, the commanders cannot be ignored. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 73-year-old Robert Bates may not have been telling the full truth about his training. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He provided service, he made an honest mistake.

ANNOUNCER: This is NEW DAY with Chris Cuomo, Alisyn Camerota and Michaela Pereira. (END VIDEO TAPE) CUOMO: Good morning. Welcome to your NEW DAY. Alisyn and Micky are off. Poppy and John are here with me this morning. Loretta Lynch, you know the name. She would make history as the first African-American to serve as attorney general. You know what? She's already made history in the wrong way for how long she's had to wait for a vote, 160 days and counting. That is longer than the last seven nominees combined. HARLOW: The fight over Lynch's stalled nomination is heating up. It may come to a head next week in the Senate. The Democratic leader of that chamber threatening to force a vote to force Washington's hand. Our Sunlen Serfaty joins from the White House this morning. I guess if you look technically at the rules, he can do that. SUNLEN SEFARTY, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: That's right. And, you know, he's one of the people on Capitol Hill, Harry Reid, saying that Loretta Lynch is in purgatory over this hold up. Now, Poppy, we know this hold up will at least continue into next week. But there are some small signs of progress. Democratic and Republican sources telling us that they are close to reaching a compromise on this other unrelated issue, the human trafficking bill that's standing in Loretta Lynch's way."

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 760575

Article Title: Drug, alcohol use among teens lowest in years, new study finds Public health"

Date: 12/29/2016

Article Content: The use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by teenagers declined significantly in 2016 at rates that are the lowest since the 1990s, according to a new study. And teens are lighting up less often when it comes to e-cigarettes and hookahs, the report showed. The annual Monitoring the Future study, now in its 42nd year, surveys about 45,000 students in grades 8, 10 and 12 in 380 public and private schools each year. It is conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The proportion of students who used any illicit drug in the prior year fell significantly between 2015 and 2016, the survey showed. This year's improvements were particularly concentrated among eighth- and 10th-graders. Considerably fewer teens reported using any illicit drug other than marijuana in the prior 12 months -- 5 percent, 10 percent and 14 percent in grades 8, 10 and 12, respectively -- than at any time since 1991. The overall percentage of teens using any illicit drugs, other than marijuana, has been in a gradual, long-term decline since the last half of the 1990s, when their peak rates reached 13 percent, 18 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Following are other results of the survey. Not all grades were surveyed for each question. The percentage reflects how
many youths have used the drug at least once in the past 12 months. Vaping The study found fewer teens vape now, the first significant reversal of a rapid rise in adolescent vaping. From 2015 to 2016, the percentage of adolescents who had vaped in the last 30 days declined: Eighth-graders: from 8 percent in 2015 to 6 percent in 2016. 10th-graders: from 14 percent to 11 percent. 12th-graders: from 16 percent to 13 percent. Marijuana The most widely used of illicit drugs. Eighth-graders: 9.4 percent. 10th-graders: 24 percent. 12th-graders: 36 percent. Heroin Eighth-graders: 0.3 percent (compared with 1.6 percent in 1996). 12th-graders: 0.3 percent (compared with 1.5 percent in 2000). Alcohol The use of alcohol by adolescents is more prevalent than marijuana, but it, too, is trending downward. For all three grades, both annual and monthly prevalence of alcohol use are at historic lows over the life of the study. Measures of heavy alcohol use are also down considerably, including self-reports of having been drunk in the previous 30 days and of binge drinking in the prior two weeks (defined as having five or more drinks in a row on at least one occasion). Binge drinking: Eighth-graders: 3 percent. 10th-graders: 10 percent. 12th-graders: 16 percent. Report of 10 or more drinks in a row: 12th-graders: 4.4 percent (13 percent in 2006)."

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 724196

Article Title: New E-cigarette rules will make it a lot harder for minors to vape"

Date: 8/8/2016

Article Content: New federal regulations for electronic cigarettes go into effect Monday, requiring greater scrutiny of the products and making it more difficult for minors to vape. The Food and Drug Administration will have to approve all e-cigarette products that have been available since February 2007. That means nearly every e-cigarette product on the market must go through an application process to deem whether it can continue to be sold. Manufacturers will be able to keep selling their products for up to two years while they submit a new production application, plus an additional year while the FDA reviews it. Vape shops cannot give free samples to customers or sell to people younger than 18, under the new regulations. Merchants will be required to ask for identification from customers who appear to be under the age of 27. E-cigarette vending machine sales are prohibited unless the machines are in adult-only facilities. Also covered are premium, hand-rolled cigars, as well as hookah and pipe tobacco. Before the new regulations, there was no federal law prohibiting retailers from selling e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco or cigars to minors, though almost all states already prohibit such sales. E-cigarette groups have already launched a legal battle to stop the FDA and warned that the vapor industry would go up in smoke if the regulations are fully implemented. “The bad news is that August 8th ... marks the beginning of a two-year countdown to FDA prohibition of 99.9%+ of vapor products on the market,” Greg Conley, president of the American Vaping Association, wrote Friday on the group's website."
I’m Christina Bellantoni, this is Essential Politics, and you’re invited to come play bingo with us this evening. Let’s face it — as political events go, tonight’s Republican debate is about as make-or-break as you get. The setting (Florida) is the state that could end things for Sen. Marco Rubio. The date (five days before major primaries) puts a punctuation mark on time running out for establishment Republicans who want to deny Donald Trump the party nomination. The stakes (yuge!) are high for three of the men who will be on the stage. We know that voters in several crucial primary states made up their minds in the final days of the race, and that debates have proved influential. Can Rubio stand out in his home state? Can Ohio Gov. John Kasich seize on momentum showing him within striking distance in his home state? How will Texas Sen. Ted Cruz attempt to win over the voters he has been losing to Trump? On the other hand, it may not matter when it comes to the GOP nomination. Nothing anyone has thrown at Trump has shaken the support of his ardent backers, who make up about 4 in 10 Republican voters.

But as as David Lauter explained, get outside the GOP primaries and the picture looks very different. Trump’s image with the wider public is extremely negative and getting worse.

NUMBERS GAME
Mark Z. Barabak finds Ohio is the only state that’s close in the grouping of states where Trump foes are attempting to stop — or at least slow — his march to the nomination. For the Democrats, Hillary Clinton nabbed 86 delegates from Tuesday’s contests, and remains far ahead of Sen. Bernie Sanders when you include the party leaders and local officials known as superdelegates. It can get complicated, so we’re tracking the delegate race so you don’t have to.

And to find out what’s happening on the campaign trail at any given point, keep an eye on Trail Guide and follow us at @latimespolitics.

DEMOCRATIC FACE-OFFS
Sanders and Clinton squared off in the most extensive forum yet focusing on immigration policy, arguing over who is more friendly toward immigrants. The debate in Florida was a stark reminder of the wide gulf between Democrats and Republicans, whose presidential candidates have emphasized increasing border security or deporting immigrants who are in the country illegally, as Chris Megerian and Michael A. Memoli write. And Kate Linthicum caught that Clinton’s pledge to differ from President Obama’s deportations policy by focusing on deporting “violent criminals, terrorists” and others who want to do harm actually is Obama’s policy almost verbatim. From talk about “the most beautiful tall wall” to a standing ovation, we caught every moment.

WATCH THE GOP DEBATE WITH US
Tonight’s the night! There’s still time to RSVP for the free L.A. Times debate watch party at The Regent in downtown Los Angeles. Join us! We’ll start with a political panel featuring me, John Myers and Seema Mehta, and we’ll be raffling off prizes and playing the best debate bingo in the business. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

FINAL VOTE ON TOBACCO?
All eyes in Sacramento are on the state Senate this morning, where a package of closely watched tobacco regulation bills could be sent to Gov. Jerry Brown by day’s end. We reported on these bills last week as they made their way through the Assembly, efforts that include raising California’s smoking age to 21. One of the bills, regulating electronic cigarettes, was the subject of some last-minute lobbying on Wednesday. Patrick McGreevy reports that industry officials met privately with the governor’s staff to urge that Brown veto the bill if it makes it to his
desk. And one more thing to watch: If the Senate takes action on the tobacco bills, it would also likely adjourn the Legislature’s special session on healthcare. That would mean one of 2015’s most talked about laws, allowing aid-in-dying rules for the terminally ill, would officially take effect as soon as June 8. You can track what’s happening each day in Sacramento on our Essential Politics news feed.

RECOGNIZING A LOS ANGELES ICON Next week, a red oak will be planted on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol to recognize the late Rep. Edward Roybal, who represented Los Angeles in Congress for 30 years and was the first Latino from California to serve in Congress since 1879. Roybal co-founded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, and founded the National Assn. of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2014. His daughter, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, led the effort to have the tree planted, and will attend the event along with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other congressional leaders.

TODAY’S ESSENTIALS— Is pouring bullet train money into water development projects a good idea? George Skelton says the ballot initiative proposal may be too good to be true.— Photographer Bryan Chan opens up on how he captured that iconic Nancy Reagan photo.— Police arrested Ricardo DeAratanha as he was on assignment for the L.A. Times photographing Reagan’s memorial service.— Rep. Darrell Issa returns to South by Southwest this weekend.— Business columnist David Lazarus remembers that time Trump tried to get him fired.— Cartoonist David Horsey considers the subject of tiny hands and goes there.

LOGISTICS
Miss yesterday’s newsletter? Here you go. Did someone forward you this? Sign up here to get Essential Politics in your inbox daily. And keep an eye on our politics page throughout the day for the latest and greatest. And are you following us on Twitter at @latimespolitics? Please send thoughts, concerns and news tips to politics@latimes.com.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – Web 2

Hand-coded Probability: 0.86

ArticleID: 745333

Article Title: E-cigarette fires and injuries on the rise with 66 explosions reported in 2015 and 2016 | Daily Mail Online

Date: 12/14/2016

Article Content: The number of injuries caused by exploding e-cigarettes is on the rise, the FDA has warned, with 66 explosions occurring in 2015 and early 2016 alone. That’s compared with 92 explosions between 2009 and September 2015—averaging around 18 a year, or 27 per cent of the most recent totals. And those figures could be an undercount—just one hospital, Seattle’s Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, says it has seen about 23 patients with e-cigarette burns since it started tracking them informally in October 2015. Exploding e-cigarettes have hit the headlines in spectacular and horrifying fashion over the past year. In April, Katrina Williams of Queens, New York, suffered third-degree burns on her leg when an e-cigarette exploded in her pants pocket ‘like a firecracker’ while she was driving. The blast was so bad, she said that the cigarette was propelled out of her pocket and became embedded in the dashboard. Williams, a freight manager, said she still hasn’t returned to work. ‘It was very disturbing,’ she said. Faulty batteries, coupled with increasing popularity, are the suspected culprits in the dramatic...
increase in injuries. The industry maintains e-cigarettes are safe when used properly. In late November, Otis Gooding, a clerk at a liquor store in New York's Grand Central Station, was casually leaning against a counter when the e-cigarette in his pocket erupted. A security camera captured him frantically trying to snuff out a fountain of white-hot sparks. Gruesome photos showed the skin on his leg melted away, and burned off his right hand. Surveillance video also captured an e-cigarette explosion in September, when a Louis Vuitton bag belonging to Mara McInerney, suddenly began smoking as she stood at a New Jersey checkout counter. No one was hurt in that incident. And police say a teenage girl on a train at the Universal Orlando amusement park suffered burns in October when an electronic cigarette belonging to another visitor exploded and shot a fireball at her. 'They are extremely dangerous and need to be revamped or revised,' said Marc Freund, a New York attorney who represents both Williams and a 14-year-old boy who was partially blinded when an e-cigarette device exploded at a smoking kiosk in a Brooklyn mall. The problems with the devices are linked to their lithium-ion batteries, which help vaporize liquid nicotine into a mist that distributors and some health experts say is far less harmful than traditional tobacco cigarettes. The same types of batteries are used safely in many consumer electronics, but they've also been behind fires in hover boards and smartphones. Last year, the federal Department of Transportation issued a rule prohibiting passengers from packing e-cigarettes in checked luggage to protect against in-flight fires. And their popularity cannot be denied: There were 10.8 million regular e-cigarette users in the US in 2015, generating $3.5 billion in sales, according to Euromonitor International, a market research company. Gregory L Bentley, a California attorney who won a nearly $2 million judgment for a woman burned by an e-cigarette last year, said he has a growing list of similar cases. Most of them, he said, involve batteries and other components manufactured in China that have been subject to little safety oversight. 'The problem is defectively manufactured batteries,' he said. 'Consumers need to know it's next to impossible to sue a Chinese company. If people want to seek compensation they have to target distributors, wholesalers and retailers.' Thomas Kiklas, co-founder of the Tobacco Vapor Electronic cigarette Association (TVECA), on the other hand, argues the devices are safe when used properly. He said the TVECA encourages proper recharging of the batteries as a way to prevent possible injuries. Last week, the US surgeon general called e-cigarettes an emerging public health threat to the nation's youth, although he highlighted the risk of nicotine addiction, not explosions. New York Senator Charles Schumer said the FDA should consider a recall. 'It's bad enough that e-cigarettes cause nicotine addiction and may be dangerous to a person's health, but now it seems they're doubling as a ticking time bomb,' he said. FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said the agency is reviewing the health impacts of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. He said the review will include an evaluation of the use of e-cigarette batteries, including 'amperage, voltage, wattage, battery type' and other issues.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 425866

Article Title: E-cigarettes BANNED from checked luggage on all US flights in new rules to prevent in-flight fires | Daily Mail Online
E-cigarettes BANNED from checked luggage on all US flights in new rules to prevent in-flight fires. The rule applies to all airlines flying from, to or within the United States. Charging e-cigarettes and their batteries on the aircraft is also banned. In August, a device caused the evacuation of a plane after it caught fire. By Georgia Diebelius For Mailonline Published: 11:22 EST, 2 November 2015 | Updated: 11:51 EST, 2 November 2015 Travellers will no longer be able to pack e-cigarettes in their hold luggage when flying. A new air safety rule, which will be implemented on November 6, means both passengers and crew flying to, within and from the U.S. are banned from bringing the devices on any aircraft in a checked bag - due to fears that they may cause a fire in the hold. Shisha pens, e-pipes, personal vaporizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems, are also prohibited. Scroll down for video. The latest ban will see all electronic smoking devices prohibited from checked luggage from November 6. The new rule, which will still allow passengers to bring e-cigarettes onto an aircraft in hand luggage, also bans the charging of the devices and their batteries on board the aircraft. The Department of Transportation said there have been at least 26 incidents since 2009 in which e-cigarettes have caused explosions or fires, including several in which the devices were packed in luggage. Mostly, these incidents have been caused by a passenger accidentally leaving the device on or the battery short-circuiting. The ban, which applies to all U.S. flagged carriers flying within, to and from the United States or anywhere in the world, as well as any international airlines flying to, from or transiting within the U.S, was launched following a series of incidents involving the devices at airports around the country. In January, at Los Angeles International Airport, a checked bag that arrived late and consequently missed a connecting flight, was found to be on fire in a baggage area - caused by an overheated e-cigarette inside the bag, revealed Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration. The ban applies to all U.S. flagged carriers flying within, to and from the United States or anywhere in the world, as well as any international airlines flying to, from or transiting within the U.S. In August, an e-cigarette inside a passenger's checked bag in the cargo of a passenger aircraft at Boston's Logan Airport caused a fire that forced an evacuation of a JetBlue aircraft. An airline ramp agent noticed smoke coming from the bag and it was removed from the aircraft before the cause was determined to be the device - which continued to burn after it was removed from the bag. The interim final rule, issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, applies to e-cigarettes and battery-powered devices that simulate tobacco smoking. Share or comment on this article."

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Anti – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 701398

Article Title: GAO's LDA review - POLITICO

Date: 3/25/2016

Article Content: With help from Cogan Schneier and Brianna Gurciullo COMPLIANCE: Out of a sample 80 lobbying disclosure reports reviewed by the Government Accountability Office, 8 percent failed to
provide documentation of income and expenses, 24 percent failed to document lobbying the House and 17 failed to show evidence of lobbying the Senate, according to the latest report just released. Also, 16 out of 37 reports that disclosed lobbying federal agencies failed to show documentation.

Story Continued Below

Twelve percent of lobbyists incorrectly filed their disclosure reports and 15 percent messed up their contribution reports last year, the GAO found. Both figures are on the high end of the range in previous years. The House clerk and Senate secretary have not yet referred any cases to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia for last year; in 2014 they referred 140, and 14 were brought into compliance. Since 2009 there are more than 1,000 referrals pending further action. Last August the USAO finalized the largest-ever civil penalty for violating the Lobbying Disclosure Act: a $125,000 settlement with the Carmen Group.

MOOLA MOOLA: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has eyed universities' being stingy with their endowments for years, but the rumblings are getting louder again, with Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) floating a proposal requiring universities to devote 25 percent of their annual endowment income to financial aid or lose tax-exempt status. Now it's not just Congress: Connecticut, facing a $266 million budget shortfall, has a bill moving through the Legislature that would tax endowment incomes of schools with endowments greater than $10 billion. In other words, Yale.

Bloomberg reports that both the university and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce have urged the state to drop the bill. The proposals will likely face fierce pushback from higher education groups and the institutions themselves, said Steven Bloom, director of federal relations at the American Council on Education. “It is not the role of state and federal governments to demand payouts or to tax charitable gifts made by private citizens to nonprofits,” David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, told PI.

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DOUBLE PLAY: About that baseball game in Cuba on Tuesday, MLB lobbyist Lucy Calautti said it will go down as one of those moments where sports help make history, noting the presence in the stadium of Rachel Robinson, Jackie's widow. The game came together after a long period of close work between the baseball commissioner, the White House and the National Security Council, she said. The Tampa Bay Rays' selection to play the Cuban national team was randomly determined by lottery, she said, but turned out to have extra significance because Cuban-born outfielder Dayron Varona was able to see his family for the first time in three years.

APOLLO VIII: The affiliate of private-equity giant Apollo Global Management that’s planning to buy University of Phoenix owner Apollo Education Group hired Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, reports Pro Education's Maggie Severns. Brownstein also lobbies for Apollo Global in the main. Apollo Education also previously employed lobbyists at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck but terminated the firm in October 2015. The move comes as Apollo Education, which owns University of Phoenix, prepares to be sold to owners who have promised a new direction for the company, which has come under scrutiny in Washington along with other for-profit colleges. Apollo Education Group employs lobbyists at three lobbying firms, and spent close to $1.4 million on lobbying in 2015, according to filings. http://politico.pro/1RD2Okm

CAREER CENTER: — John Horstman, legislative aide for Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) on energy, environment and transportation policy, is leaving to become regional manager for the Republican National Committee in central Pennsylvania. — Jill Shatzen Kerr, communications director for the House Rules Committee, will become the PR manager for public policy at Amazon. She worked for former Reps. Mary Bono (R-Calif.) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.), and Reps. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) and Pete Sessions (R-Texas). — SEIU promoted John Gray to director of legislation. He previously worked for NOAA. — Capital Alpha Partners hired Ian Katz from Bloomberg, focusing on banks, asset managers, insurers and Dodd-Frank.

http://bit.ly/1RAGMZ2 — CRAFT Media/Digital hired Rob Melick, who most recently was directing
MSNBC’s primetime shows and “Meet The Press.” He’ll lead CRAFT’s client media strategy and talent booking. — The American Council On Renewable Energy named new board members: Frank Armijo, vice president, Lockheed Martin Energy; Skip Grow, managing director, Morgan Stanley; and Shannon Kellogg, director of public policy, Amazon. http://bit.ly/1UfzT64 SMOKE SCREEN: Big Tobacco’s lobbying efforts are turning to smokeless e-cigarettes. The Center for Public Integrity reports that 21 entities, including Altria Group, the parent company of Philip Morris, and Reynolds American, had registered lobbyists in every state at one point from 2010 to 2014, and donated $63 million in their efforts over the past five years. In California, state Rep. Adam Gray, the chairman of the state’s committee that oversees tobacco legislation, has received $88,100 in contributions from Altria and Reynolds since 2011. Though tobacco companies face pushback from groups like the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association, they have spent about double what opponents have in California since 2011. http://bit.ly/1MGdGX4 CHEERS: Capitol Strategies co-hosted a reception at their offices with Heritage Distilling of Washington state, founded by former Senate staffers Justin and Jennifer Stiefel. The party featured custom cocktails using naturally flavored vodkas, Seahawks-themed Batch No. 12, Elk Rider Bourbon and their newest release, BSB Brown Sugar Bourbon. SPOTTED at the event were representatives from Washington, Oregon and Alaska House and Senate offices, the Washington and Virginia governor’s office, the Artisan Craft Spirits Association, D.C. and Republican State Leadership Committee and Northrop Grumman. — Nicole L. Weingartner, John Catsimatidis Jr., Nick Iacono, Mike Swanner, Ozzie Palomo, Mike Tracey and Bill Cortese hosted a “Young Professional Reception” fundraiser for Rep. Dan Donovan (R-N.Y.) last night at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron. NEW PAC REGISTRATIONS:Citizens Unite For America (Independent Expenditure-Only Committee, Unauthorized)Immigrant Voters Win PAC (Independent Expenditure-Only Committee, Unauthorized)Leave The Poor Man’s Tiny Hands Alone PAC (Non-Qualified Non-Party, Unauthorized)Parksite Inc. Political Action Committee (Non-Qualified Non-Party, Unauthorized)NEW LOBBYING REGISTRATIONS:Arnold & Porter LLP: Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Inc.Brody Group L.L.C. Public Affairs: National Center for Defense Manufacturing & MachiningBrownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP: VirtuStream, Inc.Carroll & LaDier, PLLC: 3M CogentLiebman & Associates, Inc.: Hyconix, Inc.Liebman & Associates, Inc.: True North Management Partners LLCMcGuireWoods Consulting (a subsidiary of McGuireWoods LLP): Clean Affordable Reliable Electricity Coalition (CARE Coalition)Rubin and Rudman LLP: Blink Health LTD (a Bermuda limited company)Sidley Austin LLP: Web Bank NEW LOBBYING TERMINATIONS:Hyundai - Kia America Technical Center, Inc.: Hyundai - Kia America Technical Center, Inc. "

Source Title: Web

E-cig Pro
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for E-cig Pro within the database is “cproecig2”.

E-cigarette texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_epro”.
DATELINE: SAGINAW, Mich. SAGINAW, Mich. (AP) - A hazy fog fills the air inside a storefront in Saginaw. A group of men, many sporting tattoos and some in hooded sweatshirts, sit with their heads down as they prepare to use pliers, wire cutters and screwdrivers to begin their intricate work. "It's building time," a voice calls out. A half-hour later, a timer sounds and the men use their creations to transform into puffing dragons. They work to produce from their mouths the largest puff of what looks like smoke. It's actually e-cigarette vapor, according to The Saginaw News (http://bit.ly/1NqgWZ6). The group has gathered inside the Vapor House for some friendly competition. A few spectators are there to watch the contest as well. Mike Bauer, 26, is one of the entrants in the "cloud competition," in which e-cigarette enthusiasts face off in a bracket-style tournament to see who can blow the biggest cloud of water vapor. "It becomes more of a hobby than a habit," Bauer said. He's joined by friends and fellow vapor lovers, Chauncey Price and Chris Berry. They have a passion for the alternative to smoking cigarettes. Michael Enderby is owner of the Vapor House. He started the cloud competitions in April 2014, when he originally opened the business. Since the Old Town opening last year, he opened a second store inside Fashion Square Mall in Saginaw Township, where cloud competitions are also held. "The cloud (competitions) give them more awareness of the actual products," Enderby said. "It's popular with, primarily, the younger crowds." The e-cigarettes used in cloud competitions aren't the small sticks sized and colored to look like plastic versions of real cigarettes. These "mods," also referred to as vaporizers, are much larger, with coils constructed by the user and e-liquid manually dropped onto cotton that surrounds the coil. Some look like a large, metal cylinder or a rectangular box with a mouthpiece at the top. The first duo to participate in the mechanical mod bracket, Berry and Bauer, stand back-to-back as Adam Martin, general manager of the Vapor House location in Old Town, counts down from three and says "Go." The men inhale water vapor from their mods for up to 7 seconds before Martin says "pull," and they exhale puffy, expanding white clouds of water vapor. "It's judged on the distance, density of the cloud and how fast it dissipates," said Martin. Once in a while, it's too close to call and the competitors must produce another cloud. While many competing in the cloud competition typically use e-liquid that contains nicotine in their daily lives, the Vapor House provides all participants with the same liquid during the contest that contains no nicotine. "That way, there's no problem getting winded," Martin said. Liquid sold at the Vapor House ranges from zero to 24 milligrams of nicotine. One of the youngest participants, the 20-year-old appropriately-named Ryan Champion, won the mechanical division of the cloud competition held on Feb. 28. He took home a $50 gift card and a bottle of Vapor House e-liquid. Champion started using vaporizers about 6 months ago, he said. The competition was the second he has attended. He said one reason he competes is for the camaraderie. "It's almost community-like," he said. "Everybody's cool with each other. But, he has another reason for enjoying the cloud competitions. It's a reason he calls "silly." "It looks cool," he said. Enderby said the look of the huge vapor clouds draws attention to his shops during the competitions, especially the mall location. "There's a curiosity," Enderby said. "They walk in and wonder what it is."
You'll notice a lot of regular cigarette smokers that come in." According to Enderby, people have a positive response to the competitions. "We don't really get negative comments," Enderby said. "They laugh. They think it's funny." Many of those new to the vaporizer concept end up buying products, he said. Enderby said he hears plenty of stories from customers who say they feel better after making the switch from cigarettes to e-cigarettes. "One lady said she used to get really bad headaches and 2 weeks later, she said she wasn't getting headaches anymore," he said. The Food and Drug Administration currently does not regulate e-cigarettes, but Enderby said he thinks that will change soon. "There will be regulation on it, eventually, and we support that," he said. The regulations are inevitable, according to Enderby, because e-cigarettes are not just a fad. "I think this is actually the future," Enderby said. "Now, you have big tobacco (companies) that make their own lines of e-liquid. That, to me is a sign that it's here to stay." If it is the future, as Enderby suggests, people like Jonathan Edwards are leaders in the change. "You don't smell like an ashtray," said Edwards after winning the regulated division of the cloud competition. Edwards, 29, said his real reason for making the switch from cigarettes to e-cigarettes is his children. "My son is 3-years-old; my daughter is 2," he said. Berry also backs the product. "All I know is that I feel a lot better," said Berry about his switch more than a year ago from cigarettes to e-cigarettes or vapor mods. "I can't even touch (cigarettes) now." Enderby is currently busy working to open a third location, slated for a mid-March inside the Midland Mall. The next cloud competition is scheduled for March 21 at the Fashion Square Mall store. It is free to enter or attend. ___ Information from: The Saginaw News, http://www.mlive.com/saginaw This is an AP Member Exchange shared by The Saginaw News.

Source Title: AP

Ecig Pro – Ecig – MPM – AP 2

Predicted Probability: 0.98

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 408875

Article Title: Eastern Indiana sheriff considers e-cigarettes for inmates

Date: 8/23/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: MUNCIE, Ind. MUNCIE, Ind. (AP) - An eastern Indiana sheriff is considering allowing inmates to use electronic cigarettes as an incentive to help with prisoner behavior issues. "We would use it as a tool," Delaware County Sheriff Ray Dudley told The (Muncie) Star Press (http://tspne.ws/1IY6zJC). "It would help with anger issues." Smoking is outlawed in most public buildings in Delaware County and the ban includes jail inmates. But other Indiana county jails allow inmates to use e-cigarettes, and Dudley said he has brought up the idea with Delaware County commissioners. Dudley said that of his approximately 270 inmates, conservatively about 80 percent smoke. The e-cigarettes would be sold at the jail commissary for $10 to $15 apiece, with Dudley saying the e-cigarettes are "equivalent to two packs of cigarettes." Staff could use them as an incentive for inmates to behave and be moved into "model inmate" cellblocks, Dudley said. "This could really curb anger issues," Dudley said. "If inmates do good, they'll get in a better cellblock." The move won't happen immediately. Dudley said he'd like to get the jail population down to 200 first and that could take three to six months. Dudley said took one of the e-cigarettes apart and determined there was nothing that
would harm an inmate or guard. He also spoke with the county health department, which told him it recommends the jail be kept smoke-free, including e-cigarettes, but Dudley said he determined the cigarettes wouldn't have an adverse effect on air quality. Information from: The Star Press, http://www.thestarpress.com

Source Title: AP

E cig Pro – E cig – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.94

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 30759

Article Title: SHOW: EARLY START 5:30 AM EST Republicans Reject the Tea Party; McConnell Wins Big
Date: 5/21/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: GOP establishment candidates beat Tea Party challengers in many key primaries. Intelligence officials pouring through al Qaeda threat stream. JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: Breaking news overnight. A big victory for the establishment, the Republicans. Taking down Tea Party challengers across the country and putting themselves in position, perhaps to take the Senate from the Democrats this November. We are breaking down the big primary races, live. Welcome back to EARLY START, everyone. A lot to talk about this morning. I'm John Berman. POPPY HARLOW, CNN ANCHOR: And I'm Poppy Harlow. It is 31 minutes past 5:00 a.m. here on the East Coast. Some Republicans breathing a sigh of relief this morning. Others wondering what happened. Voters have said no to Tea Party challengers almost across the board in six primary elections choosing to go instead with tried and tested, picking incumbents over newcomers. The implications could be huge for the general election this fall. BERMAN: Let’s start with perhaps the biggest surprise. Not that he won, but just how easily Senator Mitch McConnell beat back a challenge by Tea Party favorite Matt Bevin. Bevin really lost handily to the five-term senator from Kentucky in that state's Republicans primary. But now, a big, big fight begins. McConnell will face the Democratic secretary of state, Alison Lundergan Grimes this fall. She easily won her primary. She's backed by many prominent national Democrats. McConnell and Grimes already trading serious bars. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MCCONNELL: My opponent is in this race because Barack Obama and Harry Reid want her to be in this race. There's a reason, my friends, a reason every Hollywood liberal is sending her a check. GRIMES: Together, we will take this fight to Mitch McConnell and hold him accountable for his 30 years of failed leadership. (END VIDEO CLIP) HARLOW: A defeat for the Tea Party also in Idaho. Considered by many to be the centerpiece of this year's fight for control of the GOP. CNN projects Republican congressman Mike Simpson has won his primary there turning aside a challenge from the Tea Party backed lawyer, Bryan Smith. Simpson is the chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Also Governor Butch Otter also appears to be victorious in his fight to run for another term. Results so far show him leading by a significant margin against State Senator Russ Fulcher who campaigned as a more conservative candidate. BERMAN: A lot of action in Georgia. It will take a runoff to figure out which Republican will run for the seat of retiring Senator Saxby Chambliss. But some of the Tea Party choices in that race will not be taking part. CNN projects businessman David Purdue and Congressman Jack Kingston topped the crowded field and held off Secretary of State Karen Handel. She received backing from Sarah Palin among others. The eventual victor will face Michelle
Nunn in the fall. She’s a nonprofit executive and also the daughter of former Senator Sam Nunn. National Democrats believe she may be the best chance for retaking the Senate seat that her father once held. HARLOW: And Oregon’s incumbent Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley will face pediatric neurosurgeon Monica Wehby in the fall. She topped an opponent who claimed to be more conservative despite the recent revelations of harassment complaints from an ex-husband and a former boyfriend. She blamed Democratic dirty tricks for that information coming into light. Berman: The governor’s race in Arkansas will pit two former congressmen against each other. Democrat Mike Ross and Republican Asa Hutchinson both handily won their primaries as did Democratic Senator Mark Pryor. He will face Congressman Tom Cotton in the fall as he tries to retain his seat. HARLOW: And Chelsea Clinton’s mother-in-law will not be returning to Congress in Pennsylvania. Former Congresswoman Marjorie Margolis lost her Democratic primary in suburban Philadelphia despite some last-minute campaigning and robocalls for her by the Clintons. As for the governor’s race there, CNN projects Democratic voters have chosen Tom Wolf to go up against incumbent Tom Corbett. Wolf is a businessman and put millions of dollars of his own money into this race. Corbett is seen as one of the most vulnerable Republican governors up for re-election this fall. Berman: So what does this all mean? CNN political editor Paul Steinhauser joins us live from Washington. And Paul, we said the word dozens of times this morning, establishment. PAUL STEINHAUSER, CNN POLITICAL EDITOR: No doubt about it. This really was a clean sweep for the establishment. You mentioned those marquee battles last night in Kentucky, in Georgia, in Oregon and Idaho. The establishment coming out on top. We saw a similar story line earlier this year in primaries in Texas and in North Carolina. What’s going on here? Why are they doing this? They are running smart campaigns, the establishment candidates, the incumbents. They are also getting lot of help from outside groups. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, for instance, that pro-business group, spending $4 million to back candidates who won last night. You know, it was a very different story in 2010 and 2012 elections when the Tea Party candidates won a lot of high-profile contests. But come November, they lost out to the Democrats. And Republicans will argue they lost five Senate seats because of weak candidates come November. It could be a different story line this time around in November. Here is the lay of the land in the battle for the Senate. Right now the Democrats have a 55-45 majority including those two independents who caucus with the party. But guess what guys? 21 of the 36 Senate seats up for grabs in November, the Democrats are defending with better, I guess you could say with more establishment friendly Republican candidates. The GOP’s odds of winning back the Senate, yes, they’ve definitely improved. And in the primaries to come, the polls indicate that the establishment candidates have the upper hand now over the Tea Party types. HARLOW: And when it comes to the bluegrass states in November, the fighting has already begun. The ads have already started rolling out this morning. You were telling us earlier in the show, this could be the most expensive race we have seen? STEINHAUSER: You are right. You’re absolutely right. So one pro- McConnell group starting today is going to spend $500,000 to run ads attacking Alison Lundergan Grimes there. The record right now for Senate race, most expensive Senate race was two years ago in Massachusetts, around $82 million was spent. This race could top that when we get -- by the time we get to November. Hey, we got a preview last night, an appetizer. Take a listen to McConnell and take a listen to Grimes. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MCCONNELL: Kentuckians are not going to be deceived. Alison Lundergan Grimes is Barack Obama's candidate. They know it. And they'll issue the same verdict on this candidate that they've issues twice before on him. GRIMES: Mitch McConnell, he wants to tell you who I am. Well, I'm here to tell you tonight, my fellow Kentuckians, I am not an empty dress, I am not a rubber stamp and I am not a cheerleader. I am a strong, Kentucky woman who is an independent thinker. (END VIDEO CLIP)
STEINHAUSER: You know what's also interesting. Within minutes last night of the race being called for McConnell in Kentucky, some of those anti-establishment Tea Party groups that were backing Matt Bevin, the challenger, you know what they did? They came out immediately and said time to unite around McConnell. HARLOW: Yes. STEINHAUSER: So it's really interesting what's going on here. Stay tuned. A lot of action to come, guys. HARLOW: It is just beginning indeed. Appreciate the report this morning. Thanks so much, Paul. Berman: Thirty-eight minutes after the hour right now. Some other big news to tell you about. CNN has learned this morning the U.S. intelligence officials are pouring over new possible threats from al Qaeda. The so-called threat stream is evolving and now includes potential evidence of operational cells working towards an attack in this country. Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr has the very latest. BARBARA STARR, CNN PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT: Poppy, John, a senior U.S. official tells me over the last six months they have seen an increasing series of al Qaeda based threats suggesting the possibility of attacks against U.S. and Western targets overseas and U.S. targets here even at home. None of the threats have been validated. They don't think that there are operational al Qaeda cells here in the United States, but they are very concerned about what this may mean about the growing strength of al Qaeda. One place they are looking is right back in Pakistan where al Qaeda began. They believe there are operatives there potentially planning attacks against U.S. and Western interests. They also believe in Syria. This is now a place where there are a growing number of Americans, perhaps 70 to 100 who have gone there to fight and al Qaeda operatives in Syria have been aiming to try and get those people back into the United States or into Europe. There is also the situation in Yemen. The U.S. embassy has been closed there for several weeks. And it looks like it's going to remain closed for several more days due to what officials are saying is an active threat stream -- Poppy, John. HARLOW: Our thanks to Barbara Starr for that. Meantime, we could soon learn the Obama administration’s legal justifications for targeting U.S. citizens in terror operations abroad. Under pressure the White House will release a secret memo explaining their rational. Last year, officials acknowledged killing four Americans in drone strikes since 2009. Now what about the timing of all of this? The president has nominated one of the memo’s authors to a federal appeals court seat. The Senate is expected to vote on that nomination today. Berman: Today Phoenix VA medical facility is getting a visit from a top White House aide. Rob Nabors has been charged with helping reform the embattled department and will see the facility accused of falsifying records to conceal deadly long waiting lists. And as the scandal grows well beyond Phoenix, the House is taking up new legislation the Republicans say will help. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) CANTOR: We also are going to be bringing up a bill this week having to do with the mess at the Veterans Administration and to try and provide the tools to the administration to hold senior managers accountable. I mean, the American people are frustrated, especially when those who have served our country in uniform have been treated the way they have and god forbid who have perished because of the mess at the VA. (END VIDEO CLIP) Berman: Officials say that 26 facilities are now being investigated. HARLOW: All right. Time for a quick check at the markets this morning. Looking slightly higher across Europe and trading ahead of the open here in the United States. McDonalds in focus facing a new wave of protests today. Workers are set to demonstrate outside of the company headquarters, right outside Chicago, asking for higher wages. This follows a global strike at fast foods chains last week asking for them to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour. Fast food workers in this country make an average of $9.09 an hour. That is above the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour. Though if you are supporting a family, that wage still puts you below poverty level. McDonald’s is holding its shareholder meeting tomorrow. We are expecting even more protests then tied to everything from wages to food health to how much the CEO is paid. Berman: Forty-two
minutes after the hour right now. And new details this morning on how Donald Sterling allegedly tried to cover up the racist remarks that got him banned for life from the NBA. We'll have the details, you want to hear them, next. HARLOW: Well, the NBA claiming Donald Sterling tried to cover up the racist comment that got him banned from the league for life. According to the "L.A. Times" the NBA alleged that Sterling asked V. Stiviano to lie to league investigators and say she altered the recording and that it wasn't him making those racist remarks on the tape. Team owners will vote June 3rd on terminating Sterling's ownership of the L.A. Clippers. NBA commissioner Adam Silver said last night in a press conference, it is full steam ahead. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SILVER: My confidence level is high. We know we're doing the right thing and I know I have the owners behind me. And the timing is laid out in the NBA constitution. We're following it to the letter in terms of numbers of days that Mr. Sterling has to respond and then when the hearing will be held. And as I said, I know we are doing the right thing here. (END VIDEO CLIP) HARLOW: Well, the NBA also accuses Sterling of destroying evidence in this case.

BERMAN: We'll see what happens there. All right. Let's take a look at what's coming up on "NEW DAY."

The knowledgeable and fragrant Chris Cuomo joins us right now. HARLOW: Fragrant? CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR, NEW DAY: Well said. Well said. Well, it also says right here, John Berman, that it was a big night for the GOP. The Grand Old Party has reason to celebrate. Beat back Tea Party rivals in primaries in six states. We'll break it down. The implications both overnight and for what happens in the Senate in the upcoming elections. You're looking at the man right there, Senate minority leader, Mitch McConnell. He took care of his more conservative challenger in the primary. But what about in the general? He has an interesting race. We'll take a look at that. We're also going to talk with Jason Carter. He won Georgia's Democratic primary for governor. Happens to be the grandson of former president, Jimmy Carter. Plus, a story stirring outrage across the country. A wealthy businessman convicted of his seventh DUI sentence to, wait for it, an orange face. No, sentences to work release. Got permission to attend the Super Bowl. How is this fairness under the law? Is it proof of two-tier justice? We're going to take that on. Also, in a story we'll touch on today, John Berman and Poppy Harlow, barely a day goes by that John Berman does not tell me to grow a pair and now a mayor is echoing his sentiment in California saying that bullying has made our kids soft. John Berman, is he a relative? Do you have family in California?

BERMAN: No, no. But that's an interesting story. I'm still just about the guy, the drunk driving thing, Chris. HARLOW: Yes. BERMAM: That's downing. I can't wait to hear the lawyer's explanation for that.

CUOMO: It is at this point falling under the category of traveshamockery. Hopefully his lawyer will be able to explain why it's OK. HARLOW: People have been asking if this is case of affluenza. BERMAM: Yes. HARLOW: So we saw -- (CROSSTALK) BERMAM: Got to get a vaccine for that. Forty-eight minutes after the hour. Thanks so much, Chris. HARLOW: Thanks, Chris. BERMAM: Coming up, ex-NFL players accusing the league of putting their lives in jeopardy with dangerous, dangerous drugs and treatment. HARLOW: Also new research this morning explaining why e-cigarettes could be good for your health, next.

HARLOW: Wedding bells will ring for many same-sex couples in Pennsylvania today. Now that a federal judge has thrown out the state's ban on same-sex weddings. The judge said the law belongs on the ash sheet of history calling Americans better people than these laws represent. His ruling took effect immediately. The governor is considering an appeal. But the state attorney general has said she will not challenge this. BERMAM: The NFL is accused of putting profits ahead of player's health in a new lawsuit. The suit filed by a group of retired players claims the league illegally supplied them with powerful painkillers and other drugs that kept them in the game but led to serious medical complications later in life. Some players claimed they were never told they had broken bones and instead were given pills to mask the pain. Other players say they developed heart, lung, kidney problems as a result. So far no
comment from the NFL on this lawsuit. HARLOW: And a new very interesting study out this morning saying e-cigarettes might really work when it comes to helping smokers quit. The research suggests that those battery powered vaporizers can be significantly more effective than other method. Twenty percent of e-cigarette users reported quitting smoking compared to just 10 percent of those who opted for nicotine patches or gum. Still, though, some big questions remain about the health impact of inhaling significant amounts of nicotine. BERMAN: More recalls for General Motors. Millions of them and there could still be more to come. That's what Poppy Harlow reports. What's going on with GM? That's next. HARLOW: Welcome back to EARLY START. It is money time. Stock futures here in the U.S. pointing up slightly after a down day on the street yesterday with the Dow falling 138 points. A lot of that to blame on retail stocks. Staples, Dick's Sporting Goods, Urban Outfitters, TJ Maxx, all those retailers reporting worse than expected earnings yesterday. One stock you're going to want to watch today, Netflix. The company is expanding their service in Europe to include Germany, France and four other countries in Western Europe. That the group there in yellow. Netflix actually first launched in Europe in 2012. You can see those countries in red where it already operates. Europe has more Web users in the United States by far but so far streaming video has been slower to catch on than here. Meantime, General Motors in the news again putting 2.4 million more cars on its recall list. 1.3 million of those are newer model crossover SUVs being recalled for a seatbelt defect. 1.1 million are older model cars being recalled because of a transmission cable issue that has been tied to at least 18 crashes. All told GM has now recalled 13.6 million vehicles in the U.S. alone this year. The most serious being that ignition switch defect that led to 13 deaths. The company learned of that defect years before, a decade before it issued a recall. That is why we are seeing, John, all of these recalls really coming -- getting out in front of it so that they don't face the issues of fines and the investigation they are now with that other defect. BERMAN: You also get the sense that if they're going to have so many recalls in one year -- HARLOW: What's another million? BERMAN: Get it all out of the way now in this calendar year. It won't make the bottom like that much worse. HARLOW: Yes, they are being very aggressive and pro-active and outfront in front of this. We'll -- it hasn't hurt their sales yet. Really interesting. BERMAN: And you say there could be more to come. HARLOW: There will be two more to come, we know. BERMAN: All right. Poppy Harlow, great to have you here this morning. HARLOW: Good to be with you. BERMAN: "NEW DAY" starts right now. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R), KENTUCKY: I never let up. Ever. (END VIDEO CLIP) CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: Breaking overnight, the establishment strikes back in the biggest day of voting so far, the Tea Party is beaten back. Who won? Who lost? Will it mean a shift in power in November? We break it all down. KATE BOLDUAN, CNN ANCHOR: New allegations that Donald Sterling asked his mistress to lie to NBA investigators and new information about whether or not he and his wife really are separated. We have the very latest. MICHAELA PEREIRA, CNN ANCHOR: Not so happy, the video that went viral across the world, young Iranians dancing to "Happy" has now landed them in jail. Forced to apologize on state TV. Pharrell is now weighing in. CUOMO: Your NEW DAY starts right now.
SHOW: EARLY START 4:30 AM EST GOP Victory; New Information Says Al Qaeda Could be Growing; Are E-cigs Good For You?; Nigerian Terror

Date: 5/21/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Breaking news overnight: a big victory for the GOP, taking down tea party challengers across the country and putting themselves into position to take the Senate from Democrats possibly this November. Al Qaeda's resurgence. New information that the terror group could be growing and rebuilding, the U.S. in its cross hairs. And terror in Nigeria. Dozens dead after a market bomb blast, and the attack is possibly linked to the terrorists responsible for kidnapping hundreds of schoolgirls. A new study out this morning says e-cigarettes really might work when it comes to helping smokers quit. The research suggests the battery powered vaporizers can be significantly more effective than other methods; 20 percent of e-cigarette users reported quitting smoking compared to just 10 percent of those who opted for nicotine patches or gum. POPPY HARLOW, CNN ANCHOR: Breaking news overnight: a big victory for the GOP, taking down tea party challengers across the country and putting themselves into position to take the Senate from Democrats possibly this November. We'll break down all the primary races live, straight ahead. JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: Al Qaeda's resurgence. New information that the terror group could be growing and rebuilding, the U.S. in its cross hairs. We'll give you the very latest just ahead. HARLOW: And terror in Nigeria. Dozens dead after a market bomb blast, and the attack is possibly linked to the terrorists responsible for kidnapping hundreds of schoolgirls. We'll take you live to Nigeria with the latest, as well. Welcome back to EARLY START, everyone. I'm Poppy Harlow. BERMAN: And I'm John Berman. Great to see you this morning; 32 minutes past the hour. Hear that sound? It means key election results across the country. And many in the Republican party breathing a sigh of relief this morning while others wonder what went wrong. Voters have said no to tea party challengers almost across the board, choosing instead to go with the tried, the tested, the establishment, picking incumbents over upstarts in six states, and the implications really just huge for Republicans and for Democrats in the fall. HARLOW: Yeah, the biggest surprise was just how early Senator Mitch McConnell beat back a challenge by a tea party favorite, Matt Bevin. The conservative fell to the five-term senator from Kentucky in that state's Republican primary. But now, the real fight begins. McConnell will face the Democratic secretary of state Alison Lundergan Grimes in the fall. She easily won her primary backed by many prominent national Democrats, and the two are already trading barbs. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL (R- KY): My opponent is in this race because Barack Obama and Harry Reid want her to be in this race. There's a reason, my friends, a reason every Hollywood liberal is sending her a check. MARY LUNDERGAN GRIMES, SECRETARY OF STATE, KY: Together, we will take this fight to Mitch McConnell and hold him accountable for his 30 years of failed leadership. (APPLAUSE) (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: Solid and big defeats for the tea party in Idaho, considered by many to really be the centerpiece of this year's fight for control of the Republican party. CNN projects the Republican Congressman Mike Simpson has won his primary easily turning aside a challenge from the conservative back lawyer Brian Smith. Simpson is the chairman of the powerful House of Appropriations Committee seen as an insider. Governor Butch Otter also appears to be victorious in his fight running for a second term. Results show he's leading by a significant margin against state senator Russ Fulcher who against ran as the more conservative candidate. HARLOW: And in Georgia, it will take a run off to figure out which Republican will run for the seat of retiring Senator Saxby Chambliss. But a conservative candidate won't be taking part. CNN projects businessman David Perdue and Congressman Jack Kingston topped the crowded field and held secretary of state Karen Handel off. She had received
backing, though, from Sarah Palin. The eventual victor will face Michelle Nunn in the fall. She's a nonprofit executor, also the daughter of former Senator Sam Nunn. And national Democrats called her their best chance for retaking that seat he once held. Berman: Oregon's incumbent Democratic Senator Jeff Merkley will face pediatric neurosurgeon Monica Wehby in the fall. She topped a more conservative opponent in her race as well. That's despite some recent revelations of harassment complaints from an ex-husband and former boyfriend. She blamed Democratic dirty tricks for that information coming to light. Harlow: The governor's race in Arkansas will pit two former congressmen against each other, Democrat Mike Ross and Republican Asa Hutchinson. Both handily won their primaries as did incumbent Senator Mark Pryor. He'll face Congressman Tom Cotton in the fall as he tries to retain his seat there. Berman: Yeah, and something as a defeat for the Clinton family. Chelsea Clinton's mother-in-law will not be heading back to Congress from Pennsylvania. Former Congresswoman Marjorie Margolies lost her Democratic primary in suburban Philadelphia despite last minute campaigning and robocalls for her by the Clinton's. As for the governor's race in Pennsylvania, CNN projects Democratic voters have chosen Tom Wolf to go up against incumbent Tom Corbett. Wolf is a business, a wealthy businessman, put millions of dollars of his own money into the race. Governor Corbett is seen as one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents in the fall. Harlow: Our political editor Paul Steinhauser joining us live this morning. Not a lot of sleep. You were up watching this all last night. But help us make sense of the results. I mean, we saw the more moderate conservatives really take it here. Paul Steinhauser, Political Editor: Yeah, it was pretty much a clean sweep, I guess you could say, for the establishment, the more moderate incumbent Republicans over those candidates backed by the tea party and other grass roots conservatives. You saw it, as you mentioned, in the marquee battle in Kentucky, but also in the Senator contest in Oregon and in Georgia and in that big House showdown in Idaho. The tea party not winning this time. And that was a very different story, guys, back in 2010 and 2012, the last two election cycles when a lot of tea party candidates won some high profile showdowns with the establishment. And that had consequences. What happens in the primary has consequences come November. In those cases, all the candidates lost, and the Republicans arguably lost five Senate seats because of that. Not this time, so far. The Republican establishment having the upper hand thanks in part to some big support from outside groups. Here is why it matters. Take a look at this. This is the lay of the land right now in the Senate. The Democrats have a 55/45 majority, but they are defending 21 of the 36 seats up for grabs in November. A lot of those contests in red or purple states with more establishment or moderate Republicans running in November on the ballot. This helps the Republicans. It ups their odds to retake the chamber. Guys? Berman: Let's go bluegrass for a moment here, Paul. Kentucky may be the marquee match-up come November with the Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell going against Alison Lungeran Grimes, two very disciplined candidates sort of hitting their stride at the same time. Steinhauser: Yeah, I think you're absolutely right, John. I think we got a little appetizer last night, a little taste of things to come. Take a listen to both candidates in their stump speeches. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BLENNY: Kentucky is not going to be deceived. Alison Lungeran Grimes is Barack Obama's candidate. They know it, and they'll issue the same verdict on this candidate that they've issued twice before on him. LUNDERGAN GRIMES: Mitch McConnell, he wants to tell you who I am. I'm here to tell you tonight, my fellow Kentuckians, I am not an empty dress, I am not a rubber stamp, and I am not a cheerleader. I am a strong, Kentucky woman who is an independent thinker. (END VIDEO CLIP) Steinhauser: That argument there by Mitch McConnell tying Grimes to the president, that's going to be an argument you're going to hear a lot of Republicans make over the next couple of months straight up through November as they try to tie the Democrats to the president and a lot of his
policies like Obamacare. Stay tuned, this is just starting. BERMAN: All right, Paul, great to see you this morning. Up all night covering the election results. HARLOW: We appreciate it, Paul. Also this morning, CNN has learned U.S. intelligence officials are pouring over new possible threats from al Qaeda. The so-called threat stream is evolving and now includes potential evidence of operational cells working towards an attack on this country. Our Pentagon correspondent, Barbara Starr has the latest on that.

BARBARA STARR, CNN PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT: Poppy, John, a senior U.S. official tells me over the last six months they have seen an increasing series of al Qaeda-based threats suggesting the possibility of attacks against U.S. and western targets overseas and U.S. targets even here at home. None of the threats have been validated. They don’t think that there are operational al Qaeda cells here in the United States, but they are very concerned about what this may mean about the growing strength of al Qaeda. One place they are looking is right back in Pakistan where al Qaeda began. They believe there are operatives there potentially planning attacks against U.S. and western interests. They also believe in Syria. This is now a place where there are a growing number of Americans, perhaps 70 to 100 who have gone there to fight, and al Qaeda operatives in Syria have been aiming to try to get those people back into the United States or into Europe. There is also the situation in Yemen. The U.S. embassy has been closed there for several weeks. And it looks like it’s going to remain closed for several more days due to what officials are saying is an active threat stream. Poppy? John? BERMAN: Our thanks to Barbara Starr for that report. Today, Congress hears first hand from a victim of Boko Haram, the terror group responsible for abducting hundreds of schoolgirls in Nigeria. Deborah Peters (ph) is set to discuss her ordeal surviving an attack on the same small village where those girls were taken from. This comes a day after bombs tore through the Nigerian city of Jos leaving at least 118 people dead. It seems Boko Haram may have been responsible for that attack. Our Vladimir Duthiers is live in Abujah. And Vlad, let’s first talk about the missing girls. What do we know about the government effort at this point to find them?

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Morning, John. Hey, so we know that President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria has said that he has 20,000 Nigerian troops in northeastern Nigeria dedicated to looking, searching for these girls. We also learned from this summit that was held with the leaders of Benin, Cameroon, Niger, along with Nigeria led by the French president that each of those countries, those regional countries will put into place a regional action plan. They’ll each contribute one battalion to control the borders because the borders are very coarse right now. U.S. intelligence reports suggesting that some of these girls may have been broken up into smaller groups and trafficked into the neighboring countries. But it will still be difficult, John. You’re talking about an area that is very large area. Most of it is covered in forest. And in fact, if you try to send in a rescue mission when there are hostages on the ground, that could lead to tragic results. BERMAN: This is a very complicated situation. Vlad, tell us about the explosion. Has anyone claimed responsibility, yet? DUTHIERS: No one’s claimed responsibility. This appears to be the hallmark of the terrorist group, Boko Haram, the same group that kidnapped these 200 girls. But in the past, this area has also seen some kind of ethnic violence, religious violence not necessarily tied to Boko Haram. But on the scene, two explosions, over 100 people killed. People running, screaming. This happened in several markets. These markets are usually packed with traders, hawkers, shoppers, people describing the scene as gruesome and gory, body parts everywhere, bodies being carted in wheelbarrows to the hospital. When journalists tried to call the hospital, talk to nurses, we could barely hear the nurses talking because the screams were so loud from the hospital, John. Really gruesome scene. And we are hearing from the president, which is rare. The Nigerian president finally making a statement, which is not common. They usually wait several days or several weeks before commenting on any kinds of attacks that happened in Nigeria. BERMAN: It’s clear that
attack was horrific no matter who carried it out. Vladimir Duthiers live for us in Abuja this morning. Thanks so much. HARLOW: Well, we could soon learn the Obama administration's legal justification for targeting U.S. citizens in terror operations abroad. Under pressure, the White House will release a secret memo explaining their rationale. Last year, officials did acknowledge they killed four Americans in drone strikes since 2009. And this is very important regarding the timing of this memo release. The president has nominated one of the memo's authors to a federal appeals court seat. The Senate is expected to vote on that nomination today. BERMAN: Today, a Phoenix V.A. medical facility is getting a visit from a top White House aide. Rob Nabors has been charged with helping reform the embattled V.A. Department and will see the facility accused of falsifying records to conceal deadly, long waiting lists. And as this scandal grows, well beyond Phoenix, the House is taking up new legislation that Republicans say will help. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ERIC CANTOR (R-VA): We also will be bringing up a bill this week having to do with the mess of the Veterans Administration. And to try to provide the tools to the administration to hold senior managers accountable. The American people are frustrated, especially when those who served our country in uniform have been treated the way they have. And God forbid who have perished because of the mess at the V.A. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: Officials say 26 facilities are now being investigated. HARLOW: Time for an EARLY START check on your money. Right now, markets slightly lower across Europe this morning. One stock to watch, Netflix. Investors in Germany and France will soon be able to use the service. The company announced this morning that it would launch the streaming service there as well as in Austria, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg. Netflix launched in Europe in 2012. You can see the countries where it first launched there in red. Western Europe has nearly 50 million more broadband households than in the United States. A lot of opportunity there, but interestingly, video streaming is still catching on in much of Europe in terms of avid users of this service. Netflix stock of course surged earlier this year, but started sliding a bit in March. We'll see if today's news boosts the company's stock when the market opens. BERMAN: Norway is the new black. HARLOW: Norway is the new black. BERMAN: In Netflix terms. New details this morning on how Donald Sterling may have tried to cover up the racist remarks that got him banned for life from the NBA. Plus, ex-NFL players accusing the league for putting their lives in jeopardy with dangerous drugs. HARLOW: And new research this morning explaining why e-cigarettes could be good for your health. This is a contentious debate. We'll explain, straight ahead. HARLOW: The NBA claiming Donald Sterling tried to cover up the racist comments that got him banned from the league for life. According to a report in the "L.A. Times", the NBA alleges that Sterling asked his girlfriend V. Stiviano to lie to lead investigators and that it wasn't him making the racist remarks on the tape. Team owners will vote on June 3rd whether or not they will terminate him. NBA commissioner Adam Silver talked about that and a lot more on this issue last night. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ADAM SILVER, NBA COMMISSIONER: My confidence level is high. We know we are doing the right thing. And I know I have the owners behind me. And the timing is laid out in the NBA constitution. We are following it to the letter in terms of numbers of days Mr. Sterling has to respond and then when the hearing will be held. And as I said, I know we are doing the right thing here. (END VIDEO CLIP) HARLOW: The NBA also accuses Sterling of destroying evidence in that case. BERMAN: Wedding bells will ring for many same-sex couples in Pennsylvania today now that a federal judge thrown out the state's ban on same-sex wedding. The judge said the law belongs on the ash heap of history calling Americans a better people than these laws represent. His ruling took effect immediately and the governor is considering an appeal. But the state attorney general has already said she will not challenge the ruling. HARLOW: Interesting story. I know you have been probably reading and talked a lot about this one. The NFL is accused of putting profits
ahead of player's health. This is in a new lawsuit. It was filed by a group of retired players. They claimed the league illegally supplied them with powerful painkillers and other drugs that kept them playing, kept them in the game, but led eventually to serious medical complications later in life. Some of those players claiming they were never told they had broken bones and instead were given pills to mask the pain. Others say they developed heart, lung and kidney problems as a result of this. So far, though, no comment really on the NFL. I think so far, they have said they haven't received the lawsuit yet. BERMAN: It will be an interesting issue. A new study out this morning says e-cigarettes really might work when it comes to helping smokers quit. The research suggests the battery powered vaporizers can be significantly more effective than other methods; 20 percent of e-cigarette users reported quitting smoking compared to just 10 percent of those who opted for nicotine patches or gum. That's a fascinating issue. HARLOW: It is, and, you know, but people that I know that smoke e-cigarettes also talk about how they smoke them all day long at their desk, so the question is -- BERMAN: And there haven't been a lot of studies yet about what all that nicotine and other things can do. HARLOW: And what -- there have not been a lot of studies on the independent effects of nicotine. Meantime, today New York City is saying ahoy again to fleet week. The annual celebration of the Navy is back after a one-year hiatus because of budget cuts. Three Navy ships and two Coast Guard cutters will arrive in New York harbor. This morning, a beautiful morning to welcome them. They will carry some 1500 service members. The Navy plans to take part in fleet week festivities in other cities this summer as well. BERMAN: Hope they have a great week. HARLOW: New trouble for General Motors. Another recall. Millions more cars recalled over really troubling problems. That story straight ahead in money time. HARLOW: Welcome back to EARLY START. It is money time. Stock futures here in the United States up slightly after a tough day on Wall Street yesterday with the DOW falling 138 points. Retail stocks at the center of the decline. Staples, Dick's Sporting Goods, Urban Outfitters, T.J. Maxx, all reporting worse than expected numbers yesterday. Meantime, General Motors is putting 2.4 million more cars on its growing recall list. 1.3 million or newer model cross-over SUVs, they are being recalled for a seatbelt defect; 1.1 million are older models being recalled as part of a transmission cable issue that caused has at least 18 crashes. No deaths tied to any of these recalls. But all told, this year General Motors has now recalled 13.6 million vehicles in the United States alone, the most serious being that ignition switch defect which GM says has been tied to at least 13 deaths. They are clearly a company trying to get out in front and not have what happened before because they didn't tell anyone about that ignition switch defect for a decade. BERMAN: No, it's clear that they have changed the culture or at least changed the way they handle these types of situations. All right, just a few minutes before the hour, breaking news overnight. Could be big trouble ahead for Democrats this November. Why? We'll tell you what the overnight election results when EARLY START continues after the break.
Article Content: Study finds e-cigarette helped smokers to quit NEW YORK - A large British study involving 6,000 smokers has found that those trying to quit were substantially more likely to succeed if they used electronic cigarettes rather than over-the-counter therapies such as nicotine patches or gum. Story on A7."

Source Title: News

Ecig Pro – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 409039

Article Title: Burdensome vaping regulation about revenue, not our health"

Date: 8/16/2015

Article Content: The state Legislature will introduce several bills for debate in a special session Wednesday which, again, will seek to wrongly equate vapor products - including electronic cigarettes - with tobacco, ban vaping in vape shops and allow local jurisdictions to tax tobacco. A bill seeking to equate tobacco products and vapor products was defeated in an Assembly policy committee last month. Locally, Costa Mesa concurrently is trying to restrict the use of vapor products in public parks and city buildings. Although vape shops are excluded from the city’s proposed plan, we urge restraint - such as San Clemente’s “wait and see” approach - which avoids creating a patchwork of inconsistent laws. Vapor products are technology products, not tobacco products, and we oppose equating the two. Even California’s State Board of Equalization says vapor products do not fall under the current definition of a cigarette or tobacco product, since they do not contain tobacco and are not subject to California’s excise tax. We couldn’t agree more. Scientific research shows that vapor products represent a significant alternative to combustible tobacco, which, for many smokers in California and millions across the country, is the only way they have been able to reduce or eliminate their habit of smoking cigarettes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration also has acknowledged that vapor products may be a viable option to help smokers who are otherwise unable or unwilling to quit. Our opponents continue to cite underage usage fueled by candy-themed e-liquid flavors. Let’s be clear. We are adamantly opposed to minors using vapor products and fully support age-restrictions on their use. These products are intended only for adult smokers and adult vapers. While some teens continue to experiment, it is vital that Orange County parents and guardians talk to their children about not using any age-restricted product, whether alcohol, tobacco or e-cigs. Coincidentally, a recent study published in the National Institute of Health’s National Center for Biotechnology Information found that “candy” vapor flavors appealed much more to adults than non-smoking teens. Many other studies confirm that the variance in flavors were “very important” in people’s efforts to stop smoking and switch to e-cigs. Let’s also not overlook the fact that vapor products are approximately 95 percent less harmful than smoking, according to many scientific researchers and cardiologists. These truths make clear that the vapor debate should focus on getting adult smokers to make the switch to vaping, rather than punish an industry that provides thousands of new jobs throughout the county and state, millions of dollars in tax revenue and, most importantly, the potential to positively impact the lives of California’s nearly 4 million smokers. Lowering the number of cigarette smokers would help reduce California’s annual $18 billion burden in economic
and health care costs due to combustible tobacco. Fewer smokers also will contribute to cost savings among Medicaid patients, where the prevalence of tobacco smoking is twice the general public and about 45 percent of California smokers receive Medicaid. Vapor products provide real economic and societal benefits. So why burden an industry with excessive regulation and unfair taxes? The motive may be more about money than the public health. Consider that tobacco tax revenues are declining as consumption rates continue to fall. The sad truth is that California received $1.52 billion in excise taxes and settlements in 2014, but only used 4.3 percent on prevention and cessation programs. We continue to support sensible regulation, such as prohibitions on selling to minors, reasonable licensing requirements and child-resistant packaging. Extending tobacco regulations and taxes to vapor products is harmful and will only discourage smokers from switching to e-cigs and keep smokers smoking. Mark Burton is co-president of the Southern California chapter of the Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association."

Source Title: News

E cig Pro – Ec ig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 735300

Article Title: Pro-vaping documentary 'A Billion Lives' makes a compelling case - LA Times"

Date: 10/27/2016

Article Content: Enlisting a variety of personalities ranging from doctors to the former Winston Man, “A Billion Lives” credibly explores a conspiracy behind anti-vaping legislation. Talking-head interviews combine with news footage and occasional investigative journalism to reveal that it isn’t just Big Tobacco who is against the rise of electronic cigarettes. Instead, the film also delves into the connections between the public health industry and traditional cessation aids, as well as the massive amounts of money governments make from the sale of cigarettes. “A Billion Lives” replays the evolution of tobacco and cigarettes for much of its running time, before it addresses the more recent disruption by vaping and its advocates. The movie effectively argues that nicotine — found in traditional cigarettes, as well as in most e-cigarette liquid — isn’t the primary cause of smoking-related health issues. Instead, it’s the smoke that is most deadly, making the alternative a far safer option for 1 billion smokers around the world. Though its argument is often compelling, the documentary would be better served by featuring a greater number of persuasive advocates for its case and fewer webcam testimonials. Director Aaron Biebert is making his debut here, and his appearances and voice-over throughout the film feel more sporadic than intentional. “A Billion Lives” employs a variety of experts in relaying its message, but it sometimes feels like a statistic-filled, 95-minute commercial for the vaping industry rather than a feature-length documentary.-------- ‘A Billion Lives'Not ratedRunning time: 1 hour, 35 minutesPlaying: Laemmle Music Hall, Beverly Hills See the most-read stories in Entertainment this hour » "

Source Title: Web
If you can afford to smoke then you can afford to vape - Telegraph

Does this mean that the NHS should dish them out for free? Not at all. E-cigarettes have undoubtedly helped many people, including myself, stop smoking, but they remain a recreational product. Ordinary taxpayers would rightly feel aggrieved if their hard-earned money was used to subsidise the pleasure of vapers. E-cigarettes are not medicines, they do not market themselves as medicines, and they should not be regulated and distributed as medicines. If you can afford to smoke, you can afford to buy your own e-cigarettes. I estimate that my vaping habit costs around £30 a month, including occasional hardware upgrades. When I smoked, the cost was closer to £200 and that was only because I went abroad often enough to avoid UK duty. At current prices, a pack-a-day habit can cost up to £300 a month if you buy your cigarettes in Britain. Surveys consistently show that one of the major reasons for smokers wanting to quit is the prospect of saving money, but when vaping is an order of magnitude cheaper than smoking, the incentive to switch to e-cigarettes already exists. They do not need to be given away at the taxpayer's expense. The “public health” lobby is a lumbering beast that goes from one extreme to another. If it is not trying to ban something, it is trying to subsidise it. What e-cigarettes and their users really need is to be left alone. At the moment, the e-cigarette industry exists in an almost textbook example of a free market, with lots of competition, low prices, few barriers to entry and rapid innovation. The product is not “unregulated”, as some people claim, it is appropriately regulated as a consumer product and an electrical device. The Welsh government is seeking to ban e-cigarettes in public places. Elsewhere in the world, things are less rosy. Several countries have abused the precautionary principle to introduce bans, de facto bans and over-regulation that have effectively protected the incumbent nicotine industries (tobacco and pharmaceutical). Britain has so far avoided meddlesome and counter-productive regulation, but that is all going to change next year when Article 20 of the European Union’s Tobacco Products Directive comes into effect. This legislation will effectively ban most of the vaping devices and fluids you see today. Advertising will be prohibited, prices will rise and innovation will be stifled. The best thing the British government can do right now is find a way to implement the EU legislation in the least damaging way. Finally, and rather anti-climactically, it should be said that despite the front page headlines, it is far from clear that Public Health England really do want e-cigarettes to be available on prescription. Their report makes no such recommendation and since no brand of e-cigarette has been approved under medical regulations, it is difficult to see it happening in the near future. The take-home message from their report is that e-cigarettes are vastly less hazardous than tobacco cigarettes and there is no evidence of a gateway effect. This has been obvious for some time, but there is so much misinformation about this disruptive new technology that it bears repeating. "

Source Title: Web
Article Title: Doctors urge WHO to rein in e-cigarettes market | Society | The Guardian

Date: 6/16/2014

Article Content: More than 100 leading public health doctors and specialists from around the world have signed a letter to the director general of the World Health Organisation, Margaret Chan, calling for new controls on e-cigarettes and warning that they may be a stalking horse for the tobacco industry. The experts want the WHO to bring e-cigarettes under the same tight controls as tobacco products, with bans on advertising and promotion. They say there is insufficient evidence so far that e-cigarettes are harmless and can help people to quit smoking. Their biggest concern is that, if advertising and marketing are allowed, smoking will be “renormalised”, undermining public smoking bans and undoing decades of effort to marginalise cigarettes and persuade people of the harm they do. “By moving into the e-cigarette market, the tobacco industry is only maintaining its predatory practices and increasing profits,” says the letter. It says the WHO must not be misled by the industry's efforts to present itself as a partner, as it did with filters and “low-tar” cigarettes in the past before scientists showed that those things did not reduce harm. “If the tobacco industry were committed to reducing the harm caused by tobacco use, it would announce target dates to stop manufacturing, marketing and selling its more harmful products rather than simply adding e-cigarettes to its product mix and rapidly taking over the e-cigarette market. “It would also immediately desist from its aggressive opposition to tobacco control policies such as tax increases, graphic health warnings and plain packaging,” says the letter, whose signatories include Prof John Ashton, president of the UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH); Prof Rifat Atun, of the Harvard School of Public Health; and Prof Robert Beaglehole, of the University of Auckland. Supporting the public health doctors are experts in paediatrics and cardiovascular disease, including Dr Hilary Cass, from Guy's and St Thomas' NHS trust in London, and Prof Helmut Gohlke, of the German Cardiac Society. Other signatories include Dr Jay Berkelhamer, of Emory University School of Medicine in the US, and Prof Frank Chaloupka, director of the Health Policy Centre at the University of Illinois. The issue is controversial even within the public health community. This month, 53 scientists who take a different view wrote to Chan (pdf), saying that regulating e-cigarettes in the same way as tobacco products would cost lives by reducing the number of people using them to quit smoking. “These products could be among the most significant health innovations of the 21st century – perhaps saving hundreds of millions of lives. The urge to control and suppress them as tobacco products should be resisted,” they wrote. But Simon Capewell, professor of clinical epidemiology at Liverpool University, speaking on behalf of the FPH, said its members were worried by the boom in e-cigarette use and the possible commercial interests behind it. “The FPH is deeply concerned about the superficial analysis of e-cigarettes and that the potential harms of e-cigarettes have been systematically underestimated,” he said. “The faculty is also concerned that the tobacco industry is cynically using discussions around e-cigarettes to undermine successful tobacco controls.” He said the industry was claiming e-cigarettes were solely a device to help people stop smoking, but the addition of flavours such as strawberry and bubblegum to the nicotine vapour suggested children were being targeted. It was possible that they might help some people to quit, but more evidence was needed, he said. “From the faculty's point of
view, that is the single possible value they might have." Prof Robert West, from University College London, whose recent study showed e-cigarettes were more effective than nicotine replacement therapy at helping people stop smoking, was a signatory to the earlier letter asking the WHO not to clamp down. "The reason I was keen to join in with the original letter is that whatever policies are recommended by WHO or anyone else, the crucial thing is they should be based on a dispassionate evaluation of the evidence and what is worrying is that that is not what they are getting," he said. He felt, however, that concern about the tobacco industry's involvement was valid. "That is a perfectly legitimate argument as long as no one is trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes," he said.

Source Title: Web

E cig Pro – E cig – MPM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 795523

Article Title: Sweden cut its smoking rate to just 5% - what the world can learn - Business Insider

Date: 6/14/2017

Article Content: Michael Campanella/Getty Images In the United States, about 15% of people smoke. Over the next three years, the Centers for Disease Control hopes to get that rate down to just 12%. Sweden, meanwhile, has been living in the single-digits for years. Its national smoking rate is just 5%. According to recent data, the next-lowest rate in Europe is Denmark's, at just over 15%. The world has a lot to learn from Sweden's success in cutting the national smoking rate — the biggest lesson being that so-called "harm reduction," not death prevention, could make for the greatest leaps forward in public health. Harm reduction is the philosophy that certain addictions can be rerouted toward less-harmful, non-lethal behaviors. In the case of smoking, it has meant a federal push in Sweden since the 1980s to wean smokers off their cigarettes by getting them to switch to a moist tobacco powder known as snus. Roughly 19% of Swedish men use snus on a daily basis, while 4% of Swedish women do, according to 2013 data. "Sweden boasts Europe's lowest male lung-cancer death rate — as well as the lowest male death rate from smoking-related cardiovascular diseases, and the lowest male death rate from other cancers that are attributable to tobacco," professors and public health experts Kenneth Warner and Harold Pollack wrote in The Atlantic in 2014. Warner and Pollack believe the low cancer rates can be traced directly to the early days of the snus experiment more than 30 years ago. Although snus users still contract oral cancer at higher rates than the non-using population, the rates are lower than among those who smoke. Harm reduction is a controversial approach to improving public health in many Western countries, because governing bodies and medical organizations feel obligated to advocate for nothing less than total cessation. The mindset is, recommending any product that could cause harm — no matter the potential upside to save lives — ultimately harms public health. As a result, the US Food and Drug Administration refuses to advertise snus as a healthier alternative to combustible tobacco products. In many EU countries, businesses aren't even allowed to sell it. Harm reduction advocacy groups claim approaches like Sweden's are more effective in getting people healthier because they meet them "where they're at." They don't ask people to kick their habit all at once; they provide a smoother off-ramp, in the form of nicotine patches, e-cigarettes, and other products. And, importantly, they help
people ditch the actual culprit leading to life-threatening disease: smoke. “The enemy is not nicotine per se,” Johns Hopkins University public health professor David Abrams wrote in 2014. “It’s burning tobacco.”

Source Title: Web

Ecig Anti
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Ecig Anti within the database is “cantiecig2”.

E-cigarette texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_eanti”.

Ecig Anti – Ecig – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 2891

Article Title: Loose e-cigarette laws may be hard to tighten"

Date: 10/4/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - In a rush to keep electronic cigarettes out of children's hands while the federal government creeps forward with a proposed national ban for minors, experts say that many states are passing laws that could mean fewer restrictions on the nicotine devices later. Lawmakers last month made Missouri the 41st state to outlaw selling e-cigarettes to minors. Age restrictions have wide support, but Gov. Jay Nixon and public health advocates opposed a piece of the legislation that prevents tobacco taxes or regulations from being imposed on the electronic devices, which heat liquid nicotine into an inhalable vapor. E-cigarette makers have been in a tug-of-war with state and federal governments since the battery-powered devices first were sold in the U.S. in 2007. A 2009 law gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the power to regulate a number of aspects of tobacco marketing and manufacturing. It first said it planned to assert authority over e-cigarettes in 2011, but it hasn't yet done so. In April, the FDA for the first time proposed a set of regulations for e-cigarettes, including banning sales to minors and requiring health warning labels, as well as approving new products. The agency has said its proposal sets a foundation for regulating the products but the rules wouldn't immediately ban the wide array of flavors of e-cigarettes or curb marketing on places like TV. In the absence of regulation, members of Congress, state leaders and public health groups have raised concerns over e-cigarettes and questioned their marketing tactics. An FDA official said the agency has similar concerns and acknowledged that it has taken the agency too long to act. “Part of what is driving those elected officials are public health concerns that we share about any aspect of the marketing of this emerging technology that is appealing to kids,” Mitch Zeller, director of the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, said in a recent interview with The Associated Press at the agency's sprawling campus in suburban Maryland. “It took us too long to get the proposed rule out and we don't intend a repeat of that as we go from proposed to final.” Zeller did not give a timeline for when the final regulations would be in place, but has said any rules will have to be grounded in scientific
evidence. Scientists haven't finished much research on e-cigarettes, and the studies that have been done have been inconclusive. The government is pouring millions into research to supplement independent and company studies on the health risks of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products - as well as who uses them and why. Most lawmakers, as well as e-cigarette manufacturers, agree that they don't belong in children's hands. Yet as states enact age restrictions, experts say lawmakers could also be making it more difficult to regulate and tax e-cigarettes down the road if the FDA determines they're unhealthy. Of the states that have banned e-cigarette sales to minors, 31 have specified that e-cigarettes are “alternative nicotine” or vapor devices, not traditional tobacco cigarettes, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Some lawmakers say these definitions would prevent e-cigarettes from later being treated as a tobacco product, but others disagree. Missouri's law apparently is the first to explicitly state that e-cigarettes can't be regulated or taxed as a tobacco product, said Michael Eriksen, dean of the School of Public Health at Georgia State University. Regulations that currently apply to tobacco would restrict where the electronic cigarettes can be used, and how and where they can be advertised, among other things. Such regulations also would likely end the use of candy-flavored nicotine solutions, Eriksen said. Laws skirting those restrictions have the blessing of e-cigarette companies, which contend that the devices aren't the same as regular paper-and-tobacco cigarettes and don't pose the same public health risks, so taxing and regulating them the same way doesn't make sense. Just six states classify e-cigarettes as a tobacco product, the NCSL reports. Only two states, Minnesota and North Carolina, have approved taxes on e-cigarettes, while three others, Michigan, Ohio and New York, are considering it. Instead of adding e-cigarettes to existing tobacco laws that ban smoking indoors or tax the products, lawmakers in Missouri and possibly other states will have to create new tax structures and write regulations from scratch, said Mark Gottlieb, executive director of the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston. It's a lot of work, he said, and unlikely to happen. “In practice,” Gottlieb said, “this can hamstring the state and what it can do.” ___ Felberbaum reported from Richmond, Virginia. ___ Follow Summer Ballentine at: http://twitter.com/esballentine and Michael Felberbaum at http://www.twitter.com/MLFelberbaum"
in the amount of tax paid by smokers. Retailers have successfully fought off several attempts to raise the state's tobacco tax in the past two decades. The last increase was imposed in 1993. Tax on other tobacco products, including liquid nicotine for electronic cigarettes, would increase 28 percent to 56 percent of the wholesale purchase price under the ballot measure, the group said. Supporters said the additional tax could swell North Dakota's treasury by more than $200 million during the next two-year budget cycle; the money would pay for health-related programs and establish a trust fund to support health care services and programs for military veterans. Opponents, including the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, argue the tax punishes retailers and unfairly targets low-income residents."

Source Title: AP

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 785367

Article Title: SHOW: All Things Considered 08:00 PM EST Marijuana's Health Effects? Top Scientists Weigh In ANCHORS: Patricia Neighmond"

Date: 1/12/2017

Article Content: ROBERT SIEGEL: More than half of all the states have legalized marijuana, also known as cannabis, for medical use, and eight states have legalized it for recreational use. Well, now a report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine examines what we know about the health effects of marijuana. NPR's Patti Neighmond reports. PATTI NEIGHMOND: Researchers looked at more than 10,000 scientific studies. Marie McCormick with Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health headed the research which is timely not only because marijuana is more widely available and used. It's also stronger than ever and comes in lots of new and different forms. MARIE MCCORMICK: There's vaping, which is same as it is for nicotine. There's dabbing, which is taking a concentrated form, heating it up and inhaling the vapor. There is also edibles - the classic marijuana brownie but also chewy bears and things of that sort. PATTI NEIGHMOND: The report explores 11 different health conditions. It finds cannabis can be beneficial when it comes to chronic pain or nausea related to chemotherapy. MARIE MCCORMICK: Some people with chronic pain, muscle spasms for multiple sclerosis or nausea and vomiting from cancer chemotherapy obtained some relief of their symptoms from using cannabis-based products or cannabis. PATTI NEIGHMOND: But there are potential harms. Marijuana may increase the risk of developing schizophrenia, although McCormick says it could be that people with the disorder are more likely to smoke it. The drug may also increase the risk for certain social anxiety disorders. For pregnant women, marijuana, like cigarettes, can increase the risk of having a low-birth-weight baby. MARIE MCCORMICK: It's generally thought that smoking cannabis limits the growth of the infant, limits the effectiveness of the transfer of nutrients across the placenta. PATTI NEIGHMOND: Smoking marijuana regularly is associated with more bouts of bronchitis and other respiratory problems. People already diagnosed with heart disease may have an increased risk of heart attack. But for healthy individuals, there seems to be no increased risk of stroke or cancer, including tobacco-related lung and head cancers. And while marijuana does not seem to increase the use of other drugs or tobacco products, it may increase the risk of dependency, particularly among younger users. MARIE
MCCORMICK: The adolescent brain is very sensitive to these kinds of substances. And so they continue to use it and may use it in increasing amounts and are at risk for developing problematic cannabis use.

PATTI NEIGHMOND: Which can impair functioning, both academically and socially. Erik Altieri directs the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML, which wants to see marijuana legalized for adult use nationwide. He says lots of research finds little harm in marijuana use. And a hidden benefit of legalization - he says it could actually reduce marijuana use among teenagers under 18. ERIK ALTIERI: That's because we are taking marijuana off of the street corner, out of the hands of drug dealers who have nothing but incentive to sell to everyone and anyone, putting it behind the counter of a regulated business that has to check for ID, that has to answer to the government and has oversight. PATTI NEIGHMOND: And in states that have legalized recreational marijuana, Altieri says there has not been an increase in use among underage teens in part because it may be harder to get and in part because the cool factor is lessened. ERIK ALTIERI: By legalizing it and normalizing it, it's become just another everyday thing that adults partake in. It doesn't have that same draw to it that it used to. PATTI NEIGHMOND: Even so, researchers say a lot more information about potential harms of marijuana needs to be studied and understood. Patty Neighmond, NPR News. (SOUNDBITE OF GENERATIONALS SONG, “SAY WHEN”)"

Source Title: BTN

E cig Anti – E cig – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 31261

Article Title: E-cigarettes Grow In Popularity Among Teen Students, Survey Says ANCHORS: Debbie Elliott"

Date: 4/17/2015

Article Content: DAVID GREENE: It's sure looking like electronic cigarettes are more than a passing fad, and that apparently is true for kids as well. E-cigs came on the market in 2006. And now the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the devices are now more popular among kids than conventional cigarettes. There is a debate now over what this means for public health, as NPR's Debbie Elliott reports. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: Unlike combustible cigarettes that make smoke, electronic cigarettes create a nicotine vapor to inhale. And according to the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2.5 million middle and high school students are using e-cigarettes, triple the number from the year before. CDC director Tom Frieden calls the increase alarming. TOM FRIEDEN: We need to stop before another generation gets hooked on nicotine. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: Another youth smoking fad, the hookah water pipe, is also on the rise, with use doubling in the past year. At the same time, traditional cigarette smoking showed a sharp decline, down to about 9 percent. By comparison, 13 percent of high schoolers surveyed said they'd tried e-cigarettes. Frieden says no matter the delivery device, nicotine is dangerous for kids whose brains are developing. He blames the rising popularity of e-cigarettes on the industry's aggressive advertising and promotion tactics. TOM FRIEDEN: What we've seen in the marketing is essentially a “Mad Men”-come-to-e-cigarettes. Marketing that we're seeing for e-cigarettes looks just like tobacco marketing did in the 1950s. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: He says sweet flavors, cartoon
characters and provocative ads are part of the toolkit. (SOUNDBITE OF E-CIGARETTE AD) JENNY MCCARTHY: You know, I love being single. But here's what I don't love, a kiss that tastes like an ashtray. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: This ad is a celebrity endorsement from a former Playboy playmate. (SOUNDBITE OF E-CIGARETTE AD) JENNY MCCARTHY: I'm Jenny McCarthy, and I finally found a smarter alternative to cigarettes, Blu e-cigs. Blu satisfies me. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: Matt Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, says the government has been too slow to react. MATT MYERS: The explosive rise in e-cigarette use threatens to undermine literally 50 years of progress in reducing how glamorous teens see smoking. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: Myers says the Obama administration needs to move quicker than it has to curtail the marketing of e-cigarettes and make sure kids can't get them. The Food and Drug Administration has yet to implement any rules, despite saying four years ago it would do so. But how best to regulate e-cigarettes is complicated by the lack of consensus among anti-smoking activists as to whether they help people quit smoking conventional cigarettes. University of Michigan public health professor Kenneth Warner says for all the alarm about e-cigarette experimentation, don't lose sight of the good news from the Youth Tobacco Survey - the sharp decline in teen smoking. KENNETH WARNER: To see that drop is astonishing. It's fabulous for public health. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: Warner says the numbers taken together raise a question. KENNETH WARNER: Is it possible that kids are starting to substitute the use of e-cigarettes for conventional cigarettes? And if so, if e-cigarettes are helping to drive down cigarette smoking, that could represent a positive development. DEBBIE ELLIOTT: On the other hand, he says, it could turn out that e-cigarette use encourages kids to graduate to more harmful tobacco products. And that uncertainty is why public health officials are so concerned about this latest youth smoking snapshot. Debbie Elliott, NPR News."

Source Title: BTN

E cig Anti – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 21604

Article Title: Medical marijuana zoning, tobacco smoking bans advance"

Date: 4/10/2015

Article Content: The Hillsboro City Council on Tuesday evening approved the first readings of two ordinances that would ban smoking and vaping on city property and regulate zoning for medical marijuana dispensaries. Both ordinances will be up for a final vote at the council’s next meeting, on April 21. The city needs to finalize medical marijuana zoning before its ban on the dispensaries expires on May 1, as required by the Oregon Legislature. The Hillsboro Planning Commission recommended that the council adopt regulations prohibiting dispensaries within 1,000 feet of active-use parks and public plazas and 2,000 feet of other dispensaries. The commission also recommended banning the facilities in the SCC-DT zone, which applies to downtown Hillsboro, and the neighborhood commercial zone, which applies to areas like the small commercial plaza opposite Glencoe High School. State law also prohibits dispensaries within 1,000 feet of schools. Councilor Megan Braze cast the sole “no” vote on the zoning regulations. She said they should be less restrictive, and she worried about adequate access to medical marijuana for those who need it. The smoking and vaping ban would apply to tobacco products, but not
smokeless tobacco. Smoking and vaping is already illegal in Hillsboro parks; this measure would extend the ban to all city property. That proposal also received one “no” vote, this time from Councilor Fred Nachtigal, who said while he doesn't “advocate it,” he is a smoker himself. “I don’t think there's any scientific evidence that indicates secondhand vaping is unhealthy,” Nachtigal said, criticizing one rationale given for the ban. The ordinance says that “although the long-term effects of secondhand exposure to vapor released from electronic cigarettes are currently unclear, recent studies have shown that the vapor contains several known toxins.” During public comment time, Hillsboro resident and former political candidate Kyle Markley also opposed the ban. “This should be up to parents,” Markley told the council. “Not up to you.” Medical marijuana zoning, tobacco smoking bans advance.

Source Title: News

Ecig Anti – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 2

Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 650172

Article Title: Amherst Town Board is ruled by special interests

Date: 12/22/2015

Article Content: Amherst Town Board is ruled by special interests It's a special time of year. Christmas. New Year's. Family and friends and festivities. The hunt for the extra special gift. And usually a time for a lull in government meetings and public hearings. But not in the Town of Amherst. Nope. Not this year. And certainly not when the majority party in Town Hall is set to flip on Jan. 1. Scheduled for the week between Christmas and New Year's, there are not one, but two special meetings. Special meetings are unusual. Two, back to back, is extraordinary. Highly irregular. Perhaps unprecedented. And they are special because they are unplanned, unscheduled and called in order to act on items of import to special interests. First, a special Town Board meeting on Dec. 28 is likely to approve the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the hot potato Westwood property. The next day, a special Zoning Board meeting is expected to act on a colossal variance for the Youngs Road senior project set to encroach on federal wetlands. Both projects have drawn the special ire of the community. And despite yeoman efforts, both remain open items as the year is ending. So what happens when our special friends don't get the special gift they wanted at this special time of year? They use their special powers and schedule a special meeting or two at a time when those pesky neighbors are most likely busy doing something special with their families. The neighbors and residents of Amherst are not looking for special treatment, but remain in search of a semblance of fairness to return to the decision making in Town Hall. That would be special. Michele F. Marconi Amherst Orchard Park officials deserve a lump of coal Regarding Rod Watson's column of Dec. 10 and Orchard Park Councilman Mike Sherry's letter in response, I must ask: Why are we hearing from the councilman and not Village of Orchard Park Mayor Jo Ann Litwin Clinton? Why are we getting Sherry's “spin” and not the mayor's immediate dissociation with her husband's comments? Why isn't the mayor proclaiming the village is “open to all” instead of refusing to comment? A lump of coal to all three of them. David Schuster Orchard Park Writer crossed the line with attack on military In her Another Voice guest editorial, Victoria Ross accused the U.S. military of being a terrorist organization. This deeply offensive notion is an insult to the brave American women and men of the
military who have sacrificed much, including their lives, to protect the freedoms of all Americans from enemies who would wipe us out given half a chance. The freedom of speech Ross abuses was paid for by our military in blood, spilled on the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima, in the freezing cold of the Chosin Reservoir, in the jungles of Southeast Asia, and currently in the deserts and towns of the Middle East. The enemies our military is fighting are brutal barbarians with 21st century weapons, who must be defeated lest they continue to engage in murder, genocide, torture, terrorism and other actions too awful to mention in a family newspaper. And make no mistake, these enemies are skilled in the arts of propaganda and social media as well as combat, so that their malign influence is felt all over the world, from Chattanooga, New York and San Bernardino to Russian airliners, from Paris to the Yazidi and Kurdish areas of Iraq and Syria, from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to anywhere free people attempt to live out their lives without being enslaved and murdered by terrorist tyrants. Ross' column ended by inviting people to a rally promoting nonviolence, a civil society and “the common good.” Yet her unwarranted savaging of our military just a few days after the anniversary of Pearl Harbor leads me to doubt her overall agenda, and the agenda of the rally she promoted. Daniel H. Trigoboff, Ph.D. Williamsville Republican candidates are big disappointment I tuned in to the Dec. 15 Republican presidential debate hoping to hear some ideas from the candidates on how they planned on helping the ever shrinking middle class deal with the skyrocketing cost of college education, housing, etc. What I saw was basically the usual sniping between the millionaires (OK, at least one billionaire) on stage and a debate mostly filled with fear-mongering rhetoric. I should have known better and watched the Sabres game instead. As I continued looking on, I couldn't help but think of a couple of quotes from two former U.S. presidents and what their thoughts would be today had they witnessed this spectacle. Franklin Roosevelt once said that “we have nothing to fear but fear itself” and Dwight Eisenhower warned us of the dangers posed to our democracy by “the military-industrial complex.” Both FDR and Ike got it right. Sen. Rand Paul got it right, too, when he said, “We defeat terrorism by showing that we do not fear them.” Unfortunately, the other folks on stage did not, and only seem to care about fanning the flames of fear and hatred for their own perceived benefit. Daniel Glowacki Hamburg Buffalo should prohibit smoking in bus shelters People frequently smoke in Buffalo's bus shelters. Pregnant women and children who stand and sit in the shelters are exposed, as well as people like myself who, for health reasons, don't wish to inhale secondhand marijuana or cigarette smoke. I also do not want the smoke blowing onto my hair and clothing, causing both to smell as though I've been smoking marijuana or cigarettes, since I never smoke either substance. It is unhealthy and offensive. At the entrance to the bus terminal downtown, there's a sign posted that bans smoking within a certain number of feet from the entrance. Yet signs banning smoking are not posted in any of the city's bus shelters, so people smoke until the bus arrives. Sometimes, people who aren't even waiting for a bus sit in the shelters and smoke, and sometimes several people are smoking at the same time. Then I'm the one who has to leave and stand outside (sometimes in the rain) to get away from the smoke. Marijuana and cigarette smoking occurs in both city and suburban bus shelters and it happens almost every day when I'm waiting for the bus. I hope a resolution or legislation will be passed that will prohibit smoking any substance inside of, and within a certain number of feet of, bus shelters. If smoking e-cigarettes has been banned in public places in Erie County for health and safety reasons, then marijuana and cigarette smoking in bus shelters shouldn't be allowed either. If it has already been banned, then signs should be posted inside the bus shelters just as they are posted inside the buses and trains. Lavinia G. Hairston Buffalo"
E cig Anti – E cig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 424936

Article Title: Man in Miami Hospital After E-cigarette Explodes in His Face: Family | NBC 6 South Florida
Date: 10/27/2015

Article Content: A Naples man is recovering in a Miami hospital after his family says he was badly burned when an electronic cigarette exploded in his face. (Published Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015) A Naples man is recovering in a Miami hospital after his family says he was badly burned when an electronic cigarette exploded in his face. Evan Spahlinger, 21, was at the burn unit at Kendall Regional Hospital Tuesday, a day after he was injured in the face and neck by the explosion. His mother told NBC 2 that he underwent cosmetic surgery Tuesday and was heavily sedated. Spahlinger is heard coughing and vomiting in the background of a 911 call of the incident released Tuesday. “It exploded in his face, electric (sic) cigarette,” a woman tells a 911 operator in the call. “he's awake but he doesn't look good...he's barely breathing.” The woman requests firefighters and says the smoke alarm is going off, while the operator asks about his injuries. “It's his face, he has burns on his neck too that I'm seeing,” she says. Spahlinger was taken to a Naples-area hospital before he was flown to Miami. Family members didn't say what type or brand of e-cigarette Spahlinger was using and it's unknown what caused it to explode. Published at 4:23 PM EDT on Oct 27, 2015

Source Title: Web

E cig Anti – E cig – MPM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 801445

Article Title: House panel agrees to outlaw vaping on planes, to bolster a DOT ban
Date: 6/27/2017

Article Content: A man uses an electronic cigarette April 23, 2014, in Chicago. (Photo: Nam Y. Huh, AP)WASHINGTON – A House panel voted Tuesday to outlaw vaping on planes, even though the Transportation Department already snuffed out the practice by regulation. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., proposed to ban electronic cigarettes as part of legislation setting Federal Aviation Administration policy. Her proposal would have complemented a 30-year law against smoking cigarettes in airline cabins as a health risk, and a ban against stowing electronic cigarettes in checked baggage because of fire concerns. Airlines already tend to prohibit vaping during flights. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee narrowly supported Norton's proposal on a 30-29 vote. She had won a similar vote last year in the committee, but her provision didn't become law. In the meantime, the department banned electronic cigarettes by regulation in April 2016 on all U.S. and foreign flights into or out of the country. Norton said Tuesday that regulations could change as electronic cigarettes become more popular, so Congress should act. “It is necessary to update our laws to reflect
this new nuisance,” Norton said. “Congress should institute a permanent statutory ban on the use of electronic cigarettes on planes, particularly considering the increasing popularity of electronic cigarettes.” Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., argued that nicotine vaporizers help smokers quit the habit without actually burning tobacco like cigarettes. He demonstrated vaping with two devices during the committee’s voting session. One device had nicotine, which would be banned under Norton’s provision, while the other didn’t, he said. “This is just more extraneous law,” Hunter said. The panel's chairman, Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., also opposed Norton’s provision. “I think it’s settled,” Shuster said. Read or Share this story: https://usat.ly/2tlOOVL"
because of lax U.S. consumer protection laws, it really is outrageous.” Do you think e-cigarettes are dangerous, readers, and what about child restraints — should the U.S. have them or should people keep a better watch on their kids? (Or both?) Sound off in our comments section. [Image via Shutterstock]  "

Source Title: Web

_Ecig Anti – Ecig – MPM – Web 4_
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 744785

Article Title: Nicotine in e-cigarettes harmful to teens, surgeon general warns - Videos - CBS News"

Date: 12/9/2016

Article Content: December 8, 2016, 6:47 PM| A new surgeon general's report warns of the dangers posed by e-cigarettes, especially when used by teenagers. Although they do not have the cancer-causing tar of traditional cigarettes, e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which can harm the developing brain. Dr. Jon Lapook reports. "

Source Title: Web

_Health_

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Health within the database is “chealth8”.

_Tobacco (no ecig) texts_

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_heal”.

_Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1_
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 755947

Article Title: New Alliance for Healthier Indiana to focus 1st on tobacco"

Date: 11/18/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A coalition including the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana State Medical Association has formed to work toward reducing smoking and improving the health of Hoosiers in other ways. The group called the Alliance for a Healthier Indiana announced Thursday its primary focus heading into the new year will be reducing tobacco use as the leading cause of preventable death in Indiana. The alliance will work toward increasing the smoking age from 18 to 21 and repealing special treatment for smokers. Other health issues the alliance will press include opioid abuse, obesity and infant mortality. Community Health
Network CEO Bryan Mills says improving the health of Hoosiers will require a focused plan of action and the support of state legislators, hospitals and the business community."

Source Title: AP

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2

ArticleID: 3295

Article Title: News briefs from around Tennessee at 1:58 a.m. EDT"
was filed by Regina Taylor of Hendersonville, on behalf of her 10-year-old twin sons Brandon and Jordan and by Dick and Patti Posan, who live in Sewanee, Tennessee. The Posans are the legal guardian of their grandson, Austin, a 13-year-old who has been diagnosed with autism, an inherited form of intellectual impairment known as Fragile X, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. “He came to the Tennessee Virtual Academy not reading and now he's reading at a fourth-grade level in two years,” Patti Posan said. “Oh, my God, he’s a different child.” The Posans say they worry about Austin being bullied if he has to go back to a traditional public school. Taylor says her son Jordan is too medically fragile to attend a traditional school.

___ Report: Raising legal age for tobacco would stop, delay use RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Raising the legal age to buy tobacco to higher than 18 would likely prevent premature death for hundreds of thousands of people, according to a report issued Thursday by the Institute of Medicine. The report examines the public health effects of increasing the age to 19, 21 or 25. While it doesn’t make any recommendations, officials say, it provides the scientific guidance state and local governments need to evaluate policies aimed at reducing tobacco use by young people. It also adds backing to government efforts to reduce the death and disease caused by tobacco on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1964 surgeon general’s report that launched the anti-smoking movement. Most states currently have set the age at 18, which is the federal minimum. Four states have set the age at 19 and several localities, including New York City, have raised the minimum age to 21. Increasing the federal age would take an act of Congress, which mandated the report in a 2009 law that gave the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate tobacco. The report concluded that if it were to be raised to 21 now, it would result in about 249,000 fewer premature deaths, 45,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost for people born between 2000 and 2019 when they reach their 40s and 50s. Survey results released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in June showed fewer than 16 percent of the teens smoked a cigarette in the previous month - the lowest level since the government started doing the survey in 1991, when the rate was more than 27 percent. Another CDC study had already put the teen smoking rate below 16 percent.

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Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1
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Article Title: SHOW: ALL IN with CHRIS HAYES 8:00 PM EST ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES for September 29, 2015

Date: 9/29/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Interview with former Vice President Al Gore. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) CHRIS HAYES, MSNBC HOST (voice-over): Tonight on ALL IN -- AL GORE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT: This is a bigger challenge than we’ve ever faced. HAYES: From the Climate Reality Project Conference in Miami, an ALL IN exclusive. GORE: There has been a very well-organized and well-funded effort on part of the anti-climate forces. HAYES: Tonight, former Vice President Al Gore on everything from the Republican Party to the Democratic fight for 2016. Plus, the state of the climate change fight. And why the tide
keeps rising, the sinking state of Florida. Then, the Republican war on women. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I don’t think we’re agreeing to disagree. I think you’re not answering my question. HAYES: The fight to defund Planned Parenthood gets nasty on Capitol Hill. CECILE RICHARDS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD PRESIDENT: If you would give me one moment to explain. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Sure. HAYES: ALL IN starts right now. (END VIDEOTAPE) HAYES: Good evening from Miami. I’m Chris Hayes. Tonight, my exclusive interview with former Vice President Al Gore. I’m here in Miami participating in a conference organized by the Climate Reality Project, non-profit chaired by Gore that in the last 18 months has trained thousands of people from over 100 countries the facts of our climate reality. And the backdrop for the conference could not be more appropriate. Yesterday, the streets of Miami Beach were hit with coastal flooding exacerbated by climate change. And a report this summer found that Florida faces more risk from the effects of climate change than any other state in the union. Joining me now is former vice president and climate activist, Al Gore. Wonderful to have you here. AL GORE, CHAIRMAN, THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT: Well, it’s great to be here. And thank you very much for participating in the conference. HAYES: You know, I was thinking to myself that you -- the last time you were running for office, you were in elected politics was 15 years ago. And, you know, we’re all watching this campaign happen. We’re all watching politics now. And there’s some sense things have gone off the rails or the center cannot hold. GORE: Yes. HAYES: What do you think when you watch this play out? Does it feel to you like we’re seeing some sort of seismic shifts? Is this something that seems vaguely recognizable? GORE: Well, vaguely, but the -- American democracy has been hacked. It no longer is operating the way it was intended to operate. And the principle reason for the degradation of the process is the influence of big money. And yet, the many proposals for campaign finance reform have been inadequate to solve this problem because the main underlying reason for the bigger role of money is that we know longer have the way of communicating with one another that existed when our Founders wrote the Constitution. The printing press created a public forum in which individuals could freely enter and participate. But the dominance of television since the last third of the 20th century put up barriers to individuals participating. Gatekeepers charge a lot of money for the kind of regular communication that comes in the campaign television commercials. But the good news is the Internet is now moving television off of center stage. A lot of it is video but the barriers to entry are very low once again. So, we have some hope of restoring the vitality of our democracy. HAYES: It does seem like there’s this kind of centrifugal force pulling and sometimes the center cannot hold. Sometimes for better or ill, I mean, when you look at the parties, the Democratic party, Republican Party as institutions seem to me -- and I’d be curious what you think -- incredibly weak right now as institutions, as things that can tell people do this, do that. Don’t do that, do this. GORE: Yes. And, again, that is principally because some of the power they used to exercise to keep the process orderly is now taken over by big money. You know, our elected officials and most candidates for office incredibly spend four, five, six hours every day begging special interests and wealthy individuals for money. HAYES: You used to have to do that. GORE: Well, when I first entered the process in 1970, I was elected the first time in 1976 -- HAYES: Right. GORE: -- I didn’t have a single fund-raiser. And I did -- I watched it build over time. HAYES: Eat up more of your schedule. GORE: That’s right. But it was not nearly as bad then as it is now. But the influence of money has to be curbed and Citizens United has made it even worse. The idea that corporations are people is, of course, absurd and ridiculous. But that is now what has happened. And it’s another layer of problems for the election process. HAYES: Hillary Clinton right now is trying to do something that you’re the last person who tried to do. She’s trying to run as the presumptive favorite nominee off of a successful and popular Democratic presidential two terms. What challenges are there in that position from your
experience? GORE: Well, I’m not an expert on political punditry, but there does seem to be kind of a pendulum effect in American politics. But it’s probably a weak and there are people who have done the analyses that show it can be overcome. It’s not immutable. So I don’t think that’s an impassable barrier. HAYES: On the other side, you have a Republican Party right now where you don’t have a single person in this race, maybe I guess George Pataki said something the other day. GORE: Yes. HAYES: Historically large field, right? There’s some conflict about a bunch of different positions. There’s no one on climate. GORE: Yes, that’s odd, isn’t it? HAYES: In the entire lineup. GORE: Yes. HAYES: Last time around, you at least had Jon Huntsman who didn’t fare very well. GORE: Yes. HAYES: But there’s not a single person who stands up there and says, “Yes, it’s a real big problem. We really need to address it.” GORE: Yes, Lindsey Graham has made some -- HAYES: Yes, that’s true. GORE: -- some appropriate noises from time to time. HAYES: I take that back. GORE: But you’re right. Those who are in the top tier, if you will, are all denying the science and are seemingly afraid to break ranks with the large carbon polluters. And that -- it’s astonishing on one level and it’s sad for our country because this is the biggest challenge that we face. We have to mobilize public opinion and we’re the only country in the world where one of the major political parties denies the reality of science. And it puts our country in a difficult situation because the kind of debate that we should be having about the best solutions, about how we can create the most jobs by installing solar panels on roofs and putting new LEDs and better windows and insulation, we could create tens of millions of new jobs if we had a legitimate debate about the best way to go about that. HAYES: You know, there’s -- Jonathan Chait wrote this the other day. There was a study about conservative parties across the world -- GORE: Yes. HAYES: -- finding that the American conservative party is the only one that has this position. GORE: Yes. HAYES: You know, you can imagine on health care, people say the market should handle this. GORE: Yes. HAYES: But there’s no one saying, well, no one gets sick. GORE: Yes. HAYES: It’s just doesn’t happen. But that’s what -- why -- do you have an understanding why that is the case? What’s the exceptionalism at play that -- GORE: Well, I think, in some ways, it’s not as big a mystery as it might seem. There’s an old saying in the South, if you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you can be pretty sure it didn’t get there by itself. And in this case, the carbon polluters made a calculated decision quite some time ago to spend a huge amount of money putting out false ideas, creating false doubts. They took their playbook from the tobacco industry. There’s a great book called “Merchants of Doubt” that documents this. Others have documented a big part of it. And, you know, the tobacco companies after the surgeon general’s report came out hired actors and dressed them up as doctors and put them in front of cameras with the script that said, “I’m a doctor. You don’t have to worry about any health problems with -- from smoking cigarettes.” It was a lie. They knew it was a lie. They’ve been held to account now, but they delayed action for 40 years. So, the large carbon polluters have done essentially the same thing. And they have people pretending to be credentialed scientists in the relevant areas of science putting out totally false information. And we now know that ExxonMobil, for example, thanks to the investigators at “Inside Climate News”, winners of the Pulitzer prize -- and, by the way, congratulations on your Emmy for the poverty series. HAYES: Thank you. GORE: But we now know from “Inside Climate News” that ExxonMobil, the largest of these companies, knew all the facts thoroughly as far as back as 1977 and chose to put out false information or to support those who put out false information. HAYES: OK. But here’s the thing, right? That applies as a sort of theory off American democracy is functioning the way it is, right? It applies to Germany, it applies in Australia. I mean, it applies across the globe, right? The fossil fuel companies have the same interests across the globe. They have tried to muddy the waters across the globe. It has been uniquely successful it seems to me here politically with the Republican Party. GORE: I think that’s right. The
European oil companies just changed and abandoned that position and have formally as a group called for a price on carbon. They tried to get some of the American oil companies to go along with them. And the American oil companies said, “Sorry, we can’t do it.” One of them, this is from information inside in the European industry shared with me, one of them said that they were scared of American political leaders -- in the United States Senate particularly -- some that protect the coal industry and want to have an alliance between coal and oil and gas, and they want to keep that together. I don’t think it can last. I think we are winning this debate. I think that the coal industry is on the ropes here in the U.S. And, by the way, we ought to help the people, the miners. We ought to help them. We’ve got jobs for them to do. Let’s don’t leave them stranded. But the financial assets are in danger of being stranded. And just today, the head of the Central Bank in England, Mark Carney, made a really powerful statement about how the British economy in his words is at dire risk because of continued large investments in carbon fuel companies -- oil, coal and gas. He said, “Look, we have to change. And we can’t wait.”

HAYES: We’ve got questions on our Facebook page. I want to ask you one of those about a big victory that happened recently. I want to ask you about Keystone if you’ll stick around for another block. GORE: Sure. Absolutely. HAYES: Don’t go anywhere. More with the former vice president. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TIM RUSSERT, NBC NEWS: All Al Gore needs is Florida. All George Bush needs Florida. They need Florida -- Florida, Florida, Florida. Let me show you one more time, this is it right here -- Florida, Florida, Florida. (LAUGHTER) RUSSERT: It’s that kind of night. (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: I’m here in the state that decided the 2000 election denying Al Gore the presidency, the same state that will likely be ground zero for climate change and the political fight over climate change as we head into the 2016 election cycle. Neither of the two Republican politicians from that state running for president or its current governor are putting forth any plan on climate change. But the mayor of South Miami is not in denial. He’s got some thoughts you’re definitely going to want to hear. That’s ahead. My interview with the former vice president continues next. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. MARCO RUBIO (R-FL), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: There are other countries that are polluting in the atmosphere much greater than we are at this point -- China, India all these countries that are still growing. And they’re not going to stop doing what they’re doing. America is a country, it’s not a planet. GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE (R-NJ), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: We shouldn’t be destroying our economy in order to chase some wild left wing idea that somehow us by ourselves is going to fix the climate. CARLY FIORINA (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: A single nation acting alone can make no difference. So, why would we destroy all these jobs with regulation when the answer to climate change is innovation, not regulation? (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: All right. Back here in Miami with former vice president and climate activist, Al Gore. This is the new argument you hear. For a while, it was -- you know, it’s snowing in D.C. So, obvious -- you know, largely that has been abandoned by people that I think don’t want to seem ridiculous. You also have polling that shows that 50 percent of voters in the GOP primaries believe in, you know, human caused climate change. So, the next argument is the argument like that. Yes, it’s a problem. But it’s a big planet. Everyone’s going to try to game each other. We shouldn’t be the ones to go first and destroy American jobs and put people in Kentucky out of work when everyone else is just going to cheat. We can’t do anything about it. GORE: Well, of course, there are at least two big flaws in that argument. First of all, we can create jobs by taking on this challenge. And we can create jobs that cannot be outsourced, jobs like refurbishing buildings to make them energy efficient, installing solar panels on rooftops so individuals can have lower electricity bills. There are tens of millions of jobs in this, and it’s one of the few areas in our economy where the jobs are growing in number fairly rapidly. Eighty-eight percent growth in green jobs year over year over the past year. And secondly, since when did the United States abandon its traditional world leadership role,
especially at a time when just this past week the president of China says, OK, we’re going to adopt a cap-and-trade program and we’re reducing our CO2 emissions and we want to create jobs and solar and wind and efficiency. So, the rest of the world still does look to the United States for leadership. This is the most serious global challenge we’ve ever faced. No other country can play the role that the U.S. can play.

HAYES: One of the Facebook questions that came up a lot today when we were asking our viewers was people wanted to get to you respond to the Shell decision. GORE: Oh, yes. HAYES: In which Shell had invested $7 billion in this highly controversial plan to drill in the Arctic. They abandoned this week. There had been a tremendous outpouring of activism. What do you make of that decision? GORE: Well, first of all, I would like to express my thanks and give due honor to all of those activists and kayaktivists, as they call themselves, that helped to build resistance to drilling in the Arctic. It was insane to try to drill for oil in the Arctic. I hope this is the last effort. It may not be, of course, because other countries, other companies also have some interest in it. But I think that the main reason Shell pulled the plug is that oil prices are still staying at much lower levels than what would be required to justify the enormous expense of drilling in the Arctic. But, of course, the Arctic is almost a closed basin. The kind of catastrophic accident that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico with the BP Deepwater Horizon, if that kind of accident occurred in the Arctic Ocean, it would be utterly catastrophic for the world. So, it was a crazy idea in the first place. I’m glad they pulled the plug. I hope nobody else tries it. HAYES: Keystone has been one of the other sites of client activism that the pipeline that would bring carbon-intensive fuel oil, dirty sand oil. Hillary Clinton just announced she is opposing the pipeline. She was at secretary of state when State was involved in the negotiations around it. Bernie Sanders had already come out against it. Were you surprised by Clinton announcing that? GORE: No, I’m glad now that all three of the Democratic candidates have come out against it. I doubt it will go forward. I don’t think at this point the Canadians are even counting on it going forward. I could be wrong about that. But the process by which that tar sand resource is turned into oil produces way more greenhouse gas pollution and it also befoils the landscape and chews up beautiful areas in western Canada. It really -- I was asked about it several years ago in Alberta, and I made an intertemperate comment when asked about it, I said, “Well, junkies find veins in their toes when the ones in their arms and legs no longer work.” And it’s -- maybe it’s not the best way of saying it, but what it means is, if we are so addicted to fossil fuels that we have to go to such absurd extremes at such heavy environmental cost, it’s time to re-examine our whole relationship to fossil fuels. Now, here’s -- here’s the good news, Chris. And you’re aware of this I know, but I want to be sure to say this: the cost of electricity from solar energy is coming down so fast now, it is bringing with it an energy revolution that is unprecedented in the history of the world. Solar PV on rooftops, plus more affordable batteries is changing everything. And this state of Florida is going to be a battleground in next year in the election year where a bipartisan coalition that includes the some of the Tea Party groups, the Christian coalition, Democrats, progressives, Republicans, conservatives, it’s across the board, they’re saying, we want to be able to buy electricity from solar panels on our rooftops. HAYES: Right. GORE: This is one of only four states where the government in cahoots with the big monopoly -- HAYES: Stops you from doing it. GORE: -- coal-burning utility says it is illegal for you to buy electricity from somebody that puts solar panels on your roof. And they go beyond that and put a tax on the solar panels. It is -- it’s unacceptable. And there’s going to be a political revolution here in the state of Florida, mark my words. HAYES: Are you done with public life politics? GORE: I’m enjoying what I’m doing now. I’ve often said, perhaps once too often, but I’m a recovering politician and the longer I go without a relapse, the less likely one becomes. HAYES: It must be -- in the universe of Citizens United, I can’t imagine it feels more appealing to be in a campaign now than it would have -- I mean, as time goes by,
the structural way a campaign is run must be least appealing, or maybe I’m wrong. GORE: Well, I do think that the influence of money we talked about earlier does degrade the process but I have a lot of respect for those who choose to go through this process. I’ve run four national campaigns, two for president, two for vice president. I know what they’re going through, and I deeply respect what individuals in both parties are doing. And there are things that I miss about it. But I would like to see reforms in the process. I would like to see democracy restored to good health. I do think our system’s been hacked. I think it needs to be restored. We need a kind of occupied democracy movement in this country. And I think the kind of grassroots activism that we’re seeing across ideological lines to promote renewable energy is one of the ways we can get our democracy back in good working order. HAYES: Are you going to endorse? GORE: So far -- you know, we get the impression from this coverage that the election is next week. HAYES: It is, it’s next week. GORE: Yes. (LAUGHTER) GORE: It’s a long way off. And I’ll wait on that decision. HAYES: All right. Former Vice President Al Gore, really, a great pleasure to have you here. GORE: Thank you very much for having me. Absolutely. HAYES: Thank you. Coming up, the spectacle of today’s Planned Parenthood hearing. Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman was in that chamber and she will join me live, ahead. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) REP. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN (D), NEW JERSEY: Thank you, Ms. Richard...
compensation went up some $240,000. Your compensation we’re showing baseline tax returns is $590,000. Correct? RICHARDS: That’s not my annual compensation. Actually my annual compensation is $520,000 a year. REP. CAROLYN MAHONEY, (D) NEW YORK: The entire time I’ve been in congress, I’ve never seen a witness beaten up and questioned about their salary. Miss Richards heads a distinguished organization providing health care services to millions of Americans. And I find it totally inappropriate and discriminatory. (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: The real piece de resistance came when Chaffetz presented a slide to Ms. Richards claiming it came from Planned Parenthood’s reports. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) RICHARDS: Again, you created this slide. I have no idea what it is. CHAFFETZ: Well, it’s the reduction over the course of years in pink, that’s the reduction in the breast exams and the red is the increase in the abortions. That’s what’s going on in your organization. RICHARDS: this is a slide that has never been shown to me before. I’m happy to look at it. And it absolutely does not reflect what’s happening at Planned Parenthood. CHAFFETZ: You’re going to deny that if we take those numbers out of your report. RICHARDS: I’m going to deny the slide that you’ve just shown me that no one has ever provided us before. We have provided you all the information about everything, all the services that Planned Parenthood provides. And it doesn’t feel like we’re trying to get to the truth here. You just showed me this. I’m happy to look at it. CHAFFETZ: I pulled those numbers directly out of your corporate reports. RICHARDS: Oh, excuse me, my lawyers are informing me that the source of this is actually Americans United for Life, which is an anti-abortion group. So, I would check your source. CHAFFETZ: Then we will get to the bottom of the truth of that. (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: all right. That slide, that slide that was a centerpiece of the dig dramatic confrontation came from an anti-abortion group Americans United for Life. And just take a look the at it for a moment. The numbers as they are presented on this graphic make no sense. The bigger number is below the smaller number. The chart implies that Planned Parenthood has been providing more abortions while cutting service on other services which is not true. In fact, the number of STD tests and treatments the organization has given has actually gone up. Here’s how that graphic, which is about cancer treatment, how that should look as Vox (ph) pointed out using the Planned Parenthood figures. You see the purple line is above the red line, because that number on top is bigger than the number on the bottom. Now, there’s a lot about today’s hearing that didn’t make a whole lot of sense. Next, I’ll talk with two women on the front lines of this fight, including a Democratic lawmaker who was in the room. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) REP. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN, (D) NEW JERSEY: Are we here simply because the ideological right wing of this Republican conference here in congress, the dysfunction that’s manifested simply so anti-women’s right to choose that they would bring you here for a fourth hearing? Or are we here because somebody believes that Planned Parenthood doesn’t need federal reimbursement for the health care that it gives? (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: That was Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman defending the president of Planned Parenthood Cecile Richards at today’s congressional hearing. Congresswoman, I -- it was a pretty remarkable scene in that committee room just the level of tension, the tone that certain of your colleagues seemed to take towards the witness. Obviously, heated exchanges aren’t completely out of the ordinary. What did you make of it? COLEMAN: Well, I thought the tone that was established from the very beginning with our chairman sort of signaled to us that we were going to be going downhill for the rest of the day. I don’t think that there was any issue of truth seeking there. Certainly wasn’t any investigation going on there. We had one witness. We had Cecile Richards who handled herself in an exemplary manner who was treated disrespectfully, wasn’t given the opportunity to ask questions. And you know what I think that this was today? This was an illustration of what to do when you can’t figure out what you’re supposed to be doing as a majority. They’re in disarray. They’re dysfunctional. The only
thing they can seem to agree on is that the right wing minority within that conference is holding them hostage. And the only thing they can agree on is this fight against women. So we get to this hearing. First, we thought the hearing was about the videos. We know that’s blowing up and how bogus that has been and there have been forensic studies that have established that you can’t even rely upon those videos. So then the questioning got to be, well, are you -- do you really need money from federal government to issue your services to women? And so they were all over the place because they did not have any rational reason for being in that hearing. And I asked them, how are you going to make a decision about whether or not to defund Planned Parenthood when you don’t even know why you’re here today. HAYES: Well, it also struck me that part of the issue here is there’s such tremendous bad faith around the whole thing. I mean, the members -- your Republican colleagues on that committee, they for the most part I think unanimously are as opposed to abortion being legal. They think abortion is a great moral transgression, Planned Parenthood is an organization committed to insuring that it’s legal, safe. It provides the service to women. And so they don’t like that. But because that is not an avenue they can productively go down, instead what you get is an attack on the organization as a whole from every direction as if it’s some big con game being run on its patients. COLEMAN: So Planned Parenthood treated at least 2.7 million women last year -- and men and men, please let me add that they also treat men. Those patients primarily came from underserved areas, areas where it’s difficult to have access to health care. And they’re very poor patients. So this Republican majority would choose to put that whole cohort of people in peril just to further its ideological dark age manifestation of fighting against a woman’s right to choose. It is absolutely ludicrous, but when you fail to do your job which is to help create jobs, to pass the civil rights -- voting rights legislation, when you fail to bring an infrastructure bill creating jobs that way, creating export/import banks so that we could create an economy, when you can’t come together around issues that people actually need you to address, then you go to something that is so far extreme that represents to people who are paying attention that this is a dysfunctional majority that doesn’t know how the to govern. HAYES: Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, thank you very much. Joining me now is Ilyse Hogue, the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. And Elise, it’s interesting. I’ve been seeing a lot of head scratching among conservative writers and folks opposed to abortion rights about why Planned Parenthood has not taken a bigger hit. Here’s the latest NBC News poll showing that the net favorability of Planned Parenthood is better than Barack Obama, the Democratic Party, the Republican Party and Donald Trump among others. Is it surprising to you the resilience in the popularity of Planned Parenthood after these last few months? ILYSE HOGUE, PRESIDENT, NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA: No, it’s not surprising at all. It’s not surprising because seven in ten Americans believe in legal abortion, actually trust women and our families to make our own decisions. And it’s not surprising because of the number of lives that Planned Parenthood has touched. Cecile Richards in that room today has done more women and Americans’ health than anyone else sitting there. And Americans know that, therefore, they’re going to continue to be there. We were part of a coalition that delivered 2 million petitions to congress to stand with Planned Parenthood today. Where are there 2 million petition? Where is their Cecile Richards? They won’t let the David Daleiden, who is the guy behind these bogus videos, testify because they know he can’t withstand the truth. HAYES: Yeah. I was sort of surprised by that actually, that the organization that conducted this fairly sophisticated operation of setting up sort of fake organizations and getting in with cameras to produce these videos the person who runs that, that you would think the Republican committee would want to hear from him also. HOGUE: You know, if the Republicans -- what was interesting about today is it was a perfect pageant of the extreme GOP priorities, right? There was a total disregard for facts. There was a
complete denigration and disdain for women, Cecile most specifically but women in general. And there is this obsession with outlawing abortion at the expense of everything else that needs to happen in this country. David Daleiden is the perfect example of that, but he can`t actually testify because the GOP knows he`s a house of cards that will fold. HAYES: You know, the other context that struck me as relevant here, this is some data in the Guttmacher Institute -- you know, unwanted pregnancies and abortions are actually trending downward. There`s seeing great movement in the teen pregnancy rate, as well. So there`s actually been positive movement in the direction towards people being able to control their own reproductive health and choose affirmatively when they want to bear a child. That is totally removed from the kind of reality that is being painted inside that committee room. HOGUE: Absolutely removed and that`s because you know, what I say all the time is these folks are not actually anti-abortion. If they were they would join hands with us and fight for universal access to contraception, paid parental leave, the kinds of things that support working families. What they are is anti-any woman living her life any way different from what they see fit. And that`s just completely out of step with how most Americans live today. So, they`re going to get theirs. HAYES: All right, Ilyse Hogue, great thanks. Don`t miss Cecile Richards who will sit down exclusively with Rachel Maddow coming up at 9:00 p.m. Eastern. Up next, some people I truly admire were named recipients of the MacArthur Genius Grant, some you may have heard of, one of them, but you almost certainly haven`t heard of another. I`ll introduce her ahead. HAYES: All right, so last night a little after midnight, I was looking at my phone in bed which I shouldn`t do, but we all do, right. And I saw a tweet from someone who had congratulated Ta-Nehisi Coates, my good friend and friend of the show, for winning the esteemed MacArthur genius grant, that is of course, the award given out every year by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. And the idea is to reward genius in all its many forms: writers and scientists, dancers and economists. The award comes with this stipend of $625,000 to be paid out over five years so that the recipients can pursue whatever they want. And I was so thrilled that Ta-Nehisi won, that he was one of the 24 genius grant recipients. And then I saw another tweet that my friend from high school Lin-Manuel Miranda, the writer and star of the hit Broadway musical “Hamilton” also won the MacArthur genius grant which is fitting since we here on the show highlighted him back in March as part of MSNBC`s seven days of genius. So, two friends, two genius awards. And that`s when I got curious. Well, who else is on the list? And I went to the MacArthur Foundation`s web page to see who else was there. I scrolled down and my aunt is there. Alex Truesdel. That`s my aunt. I was like holy crap. Aunt Alex. I was literally jumping up and down in my room because there is not a single person I could think of more deserving. Alex runs this amazing organization called Adaptive Design Association. And they make custom built adaptive furniture for children with disabilities. Each thing they build, from a desk that allows a child to sit for the first time in class comfortably with her school mates, to a custom tricycle that gives the child the thrill of mobility, each of those items is specified to the minute needs of each child. And the stuff is affordable because it`s made out of cardboard and glue, and they open source their technology because they want to share it with as many as others as possible. And they have made incredible, tangible life changing improvements in the lives of hundreds of kids. And if that is not genius, I don`t know what is. HAYES: Two nights ago, everyone across the country was watching the supermoon. Here in Miami it was a source of wonder, in part because of the lunar eclipse, but the supermoon was also a source of headaches because it caused a lot of flooding. You see, the moon was uncharacteristically close to the earth and the tide, referred to as a king tide, was uncharacteristically high. There was flooding yesterday in Fort Lauderdale Beach, as well and other parts of south Florida`s coastline, flooding that may well not have happened as recently as a decade ago when sea levels were
considerably lower. Florida has more people living less than four feet above sea level than any other state except Louisiana and rising sea levels produced by climate change threaten the estimated $15 billion of beachfront property. NASA recently warned that rising sea levels could threaten its launch sites, including the Kennedy Space Center. All of which clarifies for the residents of Florida, that climate change is not some abstract thing in the future, but is literally flooding their streets right now. And you would think it would affect the policy proposals of the two gentlemen from the state of Florida who are running for President, former governor Jeb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio. But Rubio is pretty solidly in the camp of why should we take action when we know the Chinese won’t, ignoring the fact the Chinese have entered into an historic agreement with the U.S. to curb emissions. And today, Jeb Bush unveiled his energy plan, which would basically put a whole lot more carbon in the air by policy prescriptions such as ending the 40 year ban on crude oil exports and rolling back restrictions on natural gas exports. But not every Florida politician is as blind. In fact, one mayor in this area happens to be a biologist who has strong words for his fellow Floridians who are touring the country right on a campaign of evasion and denial. I asked him what he would say to Bush and Rubio. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MAYOR PHILIP STODDARD, SOUTH MIAMI: Your arguments are complete (EXPLETIVE DELETED). I mean, that the idea you don’t want to harm the economy by engaging the problems with sea level rise, what do you think sea level rise is going to do to our economy? It’s going to destroy it. (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES: That mayor just ahead. HAYES: Earlier today I spoke with Mayor Philip Stoddard of South Miami about Florida’s place on the frontline of climate change in this country. Because the mayor of South Miami also happens to be a biology professor at Florida International University, I asked him about the rarity of being both a scientist and a politician. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GODDARD; It’s not common. Scientists love being scientists so much they rarely run for elected office, but you know I was a sucker. I went for it. So, here I am today. HAYES: And you know I keep thinking you’ve got two people in the Republican field who many are saying the two most likely to actually get the nomination when the whole thing is done -- Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio, both from Florida, both from Miami, both going around saying basically, shrugging at climate change, not hardcore denialists, but well, the jury’s still out. And even if it isn’t, what can we really do? As someone who lives here, represents constituents here and is a biologist, what’s your reaction. GODDARD: Well, my first reaction is disappointment. I mean, we expect our elected leaders to be the adults in the room, to take responsibility to look after everybody’s best actions. And they’re not doing it, frankly. It’s a puzzle coming from Jeb Bush because he has such strong connections to the real estate community. They’re the ones with the most to lose. So why isn’t he engaging this issue like all of the big banks are and like the big financial houses and now like the underwriters? I mean, that’s a mystery. Marco Rubio is a different mystery. Marco Rubio has got young children. This is going to be their future. He should be looking out for the future of his own family and his own kids. And that means taking a firm hard look at the best science and doing what’s best for the next generation. HAYES: And it’s not -- I mean, really down here in Miami. It is not remote or abstract at all. I mean, there is a tide for the super moon just two nights ago. GODDARD: Yeah, there was. HAYES: That created flooding. You guys are right here on the water. There’s all sorts of studies that suggest Miami is the city the most immediately imperiled by the effects of climate change. GODDARD: Yeah, and Thomas Edison was the one who predicted that the industrial revolution would put enough carbon into the atmosphere to change our climate. This is not a new idea. We’ve depended on Edison science and technology for everything we’ve done. And he predicted climate change back then. And here it is today. So, it’s no big surprise. HAYES: Well, I mean, so what is your explanation? Is there -- is there -- in Florida politics as a whole doesn’t seem to be particularly worked up about something that is so obviously
manifestly a threat to not just people but as you said billions of dollars. GODDARD: Well, as a whole, it’s not worked out. As a half it is worked up. I mean, you’ve got people on the take, obviously, from some very specific moneyed concerns saying it’s no big deal or we can’t do anything about it even if it is a big deal. And you’ve got the rest of the world who is listening to the scientists and saying this is the largest crisis that mankind has yet engaged. And we have to engage it with everything we’ve got. HAYES: Do you guys see it here? Do you see the front edge effects here? GODDARD: Of course we do. Of course we do. I mean, we’ve seen our summer season extending by a month over the past few decades. We see saltwater coming up out of the storm drains when it didn’t used to do it. HAYES: Saltwater coming out of the storm drains? GODDARD: Yeah, saltwater coming out of the storm drains. So, particularly along the coastal reaches, when the tides come in, especially when there’s a full moon, all the drains become suppliers of saltwater into the streets. And that’s what we call rainy day flooding. You can have a beautiful -- beg your pardon, that’s what we call sunny day flooding. You can have a beautiful day and the streets fill up with water. And everybody is saying where is it coming from? You stick your finger down there and you taste it and you go that’s saltwater. That’s not rain water. HAYES: So, a beautiful sunny day, you sea level rise. There’s already been significant sea level rise and high tide sucks in the saltwater into the storm drainage system. GODDARD: Pushes it right in. HAYES: Pushes it right in. And you get actual flooding in the streets. GODDARD: You get flooding in the streets. Sea water out of the storm drains. And in fact, the sea level has risen five inches in Miami in the past five years, an inch a year. And that’s not global sea level rise, that’s local sea level rise so there’s differences and changes in the ocean currents that can shift the water this way, that way. HAYES: five inches in five years? GODDARD: Five inches in five years. HAYES: That’s a lot. GODDARD: It is a lot. HAYES: It seems to me still a puzzle. I mean, you talk about -- well, he’s close to real estate. And I was talking to someone earlier today about you have an entire industry around assessing risk particularly in places like this, they’re subject to hurricanes and to flooding. You would think that all of this concentrated money and power would be grabbing people by the lapels in the Florida state legislature or the two gentlemen who were running for office and saying... GODDARD: Yeah, you would think so. But it’s happening in New York. I mean, the financial markets in New York are waking up and they’re dealing with it. But Florida is years behind the rest of the country. HAYES: The former governor of your state, resident here, the current U.S. senator represents you, you’re one of his constituents. He represents your constituents of 14,000 residents of South Miami. I mean, if you could sit down with either of these gentlemen in a coffee shop in South Miami, what would say to them? GODDARD: I would say your arguments are complete (EXPLETIVE DELETED). I mean, the idea that you don’t want to harm the economy by engaging the problems with sea level rise, what do you think sea level rise is going to do to our economy? It’s going to destroy it. I mean, you have -- we’re going to be underwater for heaven’s sakes. How can you give these specious arguments about wanting to protect the economy when the biggest threat to the economy we’ve seen is coming down on us like a truck. I mean, that’s what I would say to them. HAYES: Well, maybe if they’re watching you’ll get it across. Mayor Stoddard, it’s been a great pleasure. GODDARD: Thank you. HAYES: Thank you so much. (END VIDEO CLIP) HAYES; That is All In for this evening. The Rachel Maddow Show starts right now. THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED.”

Source Title: BTN

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88
A woman appears to hit a baby on the head with an iPad. She is unaware that a witness is recording the whole thing. Some new moms and dads are drinking and eating their own afterbirth. (MUSIC INTRODUCTION) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Let us get started. Let us get started with the “Top of the Feed.” What you cannot stop talking about on Twitter and Facebook. This woman caught on camera hitting a 3-year-old in the face with an iPad. Have a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED BOY: (Crying) YVONNE CAMARGO, 39-YEAR-OLD VICTORVILLE MOTHER: Here. Shut up. EDWARD: Hey, why are you hitting that kid like that? Hey! UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Did you know that it was caught on video along with your license plate? EDWARD: Why are you hitting that little baby? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER (1): Why are you hitting him like that? You can go to jail for that. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER (2): Hitting a kid that cannot protect themselves. What if someone grabbed you by your hair and (EXPLETIVE WORD) threw you around you ugly (EXPLETIVE WORD). (END VIDEO CLIP)

PINSKY: That woman is 39-year-old Yvonne Camargo. Police make contact later that same night. She has not been charged. We are not sure if that is the mother or a babysitter. Joining us, Judy Ho, Clinical Psychologist, Professor at Pepperdine University. Mike Catherwood, my co-host on “Love Line” and Vanessa Barnett, Hiphollywood.com. Welcome them, please. And, Mike, we also do a radio show on KABC. Forgot to mention that, as well. MIKE CATHERWOOD, DR. DREW’S CO-HOST ON “LOVE LINE”: Of course. Yes. PINSKY: We just finished. And, Vanessa, I am going to start with you and ask, was that woman abusing that child? VANESSA BARNETT, SOCIAL COMMENTATOR: OK. You cannot ever justify hitting a 3-year-old in the face with an iPad. I will start there, but I do not know if I will go as far to say it is abuse. And, I -- PINSKY: What are we going to call it? BARNETT: it is unjustified. It is excessive. I do not know if this woman should necessarily be behind bars. And, I will say because I watched the video several times. I do not think it was a hard hit. It was an unnecessary hit. And, I am not defending this woman but I -- I got spankings growing up. And, I have never been hit in the face with an iPad. I do not think you should ever hit a child in the face with an iPad. I do not feel like this is the type of woman that bashed this iPad on this child’s head. I think she went too far. She was frustrated, but I think -- PINSKY: I am speechless, Judy. I do not know. Where do you draw the line if that is not abuse? You are allowed to tap them on the face with your iPad? JUDY HO, CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST: Right. CATHERWOOD: iPad mini. PINSKY: iPad mini? Mini is OK? CATHERWOOSE: iPad mini. HO: Right. CATHERWOOD: No one really cares. HO: No. There are clear guidelines for what spanking actually is. It is on the bottom. And, it is in a certain way with open fist. PINSKY: Open hand -- Open fist? HO: Right. Open fist? Open hand. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: But it is not with intent to harm. It is not with intent to leave marks. HO: Right. PINSKY: I mean -- But Mike, my question is that bystanders, did they do the right thing filming this? CATHERWOOD: Well, I think that the idea behind what they were doing is great, because if
you can expose something that is wrong morally, ethically, whatever you think, it is subjective. But, if you are going to expose something that is going down that is going down the wrong, it is a good thing. I think the way they went about it, maybe her language. You do not need to get to the point where you are also insulting the lady. It is like, “Hey! We are bringing awareness to the fact that you just struck a child. PINSKY: Well -- well. No, listen. The couple that shot that video also posted this following post, which said this lady was pulling the kid by the hair out of the Kohl’s store. So, they decided to make a movie of her dumb ass. Watch now as she smacks the kid with the tablet. So, they have already seen her abusing the kid. CATHERWOOD: Right. Listen, I do not think that I am going to pooh- pooh your argument, but that it is not necessarily abuse. I just think that the idea of striking another person, regardless if it is a 3-year-old or a grown man, you know, it is a very serious thing. I mean, it is kind of like an instinctive human impulse to defend yourself or like to act out on that way but it is a primitive one. BARNETT: No. CATHERWOOD: I think like -- maybe like exposure to too many violent movies and things like that. PINSKY: Vanessa, stop it. Wait a minute. CATHERWOOD: The idea of like truly striking someone, whether it is hard or not, even hitting a dog, what you are conveying, the message you are conveying by striking something else is a purely violent one. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Well, listen, I am glad you brought up the animal. If this were an animal, Vanessa, people would be crying abuse from here to kingdom come. BARNETT: And, that is our problem, people go crazy over their animals. PINSKY: But, hold on a second! In what world does hitting the animal change the behavior in a positive way? Which you get is a cowering animal that bites. That put you end up with. BARNETT: No. I believe -- PINSKY: And, guess what? You have it with the same kind of human. BARNETT: No, absolutely not. I have given spankings. I have seen children get spankings. Spare the lives -- PINSKY: Well, she have to stay away for good. BARNETT: -- for the child. I do not think it is wrong to spank a child on their thigh, on their bottom. No, you do not hit them in the face with an iPad. But, I do not think a spanking is wrong and we have seen many people that have grown up with spanking. Me, included and I think I turned out fine. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) [21:05:03] PINSKY: We can debate that. HO: Oh, no -- PINSKY: But, that is another topic. (LAUGHING) HO: And, here is another problem, Dr. Drew. This is another problem with technology, right? Just another great weapon now for your children. But, when we are talking about decision making, Mike made a really good point. They are not in their right minds when they are angry, they are frustrated. I mean your brain. Pick up the brain. PINSKY: Yes. HO: Right? They are not using their frontal lobes anymore. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINEKY: Right. You are using -- when you hit somebody -- why are you smiling like that? CATHERWOOD: You got to focus on using your frontal lobes. I have been saying that my whole life. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: Well, but when you are acting out of aggression that is not thoughtful, that is not sort of evolved, you are using this part of the brain down in here as opposed to the prefrontal cortex up here, which is something that evolves very, very late, where people are deliberative and consider the consequence as opposed to, “I am angry. I need you to stop, and I need to feel better.” Remember how we got so angry with that girl that murdered her boyfriend because seeing him die made her feel bad? This is not a lot different than that. CATHERWOOD: Yes. BARNETT: Oh -- PINSKY: It is not. BARNETT: OK. I will let you finish. (LAUGHING) CATHERWOOD: Listen. I think that -- You are a parent and you have young children. I have a 1-year-old and so -- I think that it is naive to say like you do not feel those -- where you are just so frustrated and confused on what to do, how to behave when your child is misbehaving or is going to go nuts. But, like think of it like you have a problem -- It is like trying to put gasoline on a wound to help it feel better. You know what I am saying? It is your impulse reaction to resort to violence and it is not in the long run going to make you think any better. PINSKY: Mike. Mike. Wait, wait, wait. I got an idea for Mike. Mike, you are from Mexican
descent. CATHERWOOD: Yes. I am. PINSKY: Hispanic descent. And, there is tons of glorious solutions in the Mexican mythology. CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: The OHO. CATHERWOOD: Yes. No. My grandma would think that it is a great idea to deal with, you know, broken leg with mango puree and sea salt. It does not necessarily mean -- and she may have been doing it for generations, like that is never really an excuse or a valid argument to say something is good -- PINSKY: We heard -- wait, wait -- but we heard all these myths about how you can make a child stop crying by -- CATHERWOOD: Rubbing an egg on its belly. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: Yes. It is weird stuff. Weird stuff. BARNETT: Like we did. We have done crazy thing, too. You put some Tussin on it, and it will feel better. You put some Vicks vapor rub and it will cure everything -- No, not everything. It works, but I bet if you mouth off to my mama and she pops you in your mouth, you will not do it again. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: You will not do it again. You will not do it again, but it has consequences, Judy, in other areas of behavior and other capacities for which will affect regulation, which is a mature adult -- help me with this, Judy. HO: That is right. CATHERWOOD: I mean, I hate to interrupt, but I am speaking -- I hit - - sometimes when my DirecTV does not come through -- like if it is wavy -- I am serious. I will hit it and it will work. It will work, but I guarantee you that is not the right way to solve the DirecTV problem. PINSKY: And, it will not continue to work for a long time. CATHERWOOD: Yeah, yeah, yeah. PINSKY: But, it does have -- that is right. It has consequences down the line. If people do not understand those consequences. HO: Right. And, some of those consequences are not even that far down the line. PINSKY: Yes. HO: Dr. Drew, they start to show behavioral problems in school pretty early on. They tend to use aggression more themselves to solve problems. And as adults, they tend to have more disciplinary consequences. Sometimes they do get involved with the law themselves. I mean we can go far very with from this. Vanessa probably did turn out OK because as far as I know, she does not have a criminal record. But, there are probably some other things in there, you know? Just the fact that it is generational that when you are somehow physically disciplined yourself, you are more likely to use it yourself on your own children later. And, it is not always justified. PINSKY: Well, we will get into what is spanking and what is something a little more too. We can debate that. And, that is actually a legitimate thing to think about and we will do so after this. (MUSIC PLAYING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) [21:11:58] (TODDLER CRYING) CAMARGO: Stop screaming at me. Get in the car. Here! Shut up. EDWARD: Hey! Why are you hitting that kid like that. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We have your license plate number. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: We are talking about that woman caught on camera hitting a 3- year-old in the face with an iPad. Back with Judy, Mike, Vanessa. Mike, now, there are people online saying, believe it or not -- I get speechless when I hear this. But, saying that it is not abuse what that woman did. CATHERWOOD: Right. And, Drew, we have talked about this for other topics as well. They have your license plate number. And that just because something has gone on for a long time is not really a valid argument for its necessity, you know? -- PINSKY: Continuity. Continuing it. CATHERWOOD: Yes. And, I mean a lot of things went on for very long time. Slavery, and you know, the consideration of ownership of women. And, it is like, “Well, we kind of grow out of that.” And, I am not speaking as if this is not tantamount to slavery but a lot of families feel like it is an appropriate thing to do, spank your children. PINSKY: Here is a thing. There is a correlation with physical aggression, physical discipline and behavioral problems and criminality, emotional problems and drug abuse. It correlates almost directly. But, Vanessa, to your point, what is spanking? You know, probably did not do anything. You are probably right. But if you are causing a physical reaction to the child, if they feel helpless, if they feel endangered, you have crossed over. BARNETT: Look. Scarring, marks, blood, concussion -- PINSKY: You have crossed way over, way over! HO: Way over. BARNETT: All are abuse. But, a pop pop here, no. It is not an abuse. PINSKY: All right. Well, let us get more into it with our audience. What do you got for
us? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. I kind of agree with her in a level of spanking, because I grew up in the generation of spanking. I was spanked and I do not agree with what that mother did, especially at that age. PINSKY: OK. So, hitting -- what age do you spank then? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Well, I think at a level that they can understand and I think explaining why you are doing it. I have seen kids throw major tantrums. I know I probably got a spanking and I deserved it. And, it was on the butt. And, it was once and it was not with a weapon or you know? PINSKY: OK. OK. So, we can at least all agree that grabbing an object is potentially problematic? Vanessa. BARNETT: Potentially, yes. PINSKY: OK. And hitting with intent to cause real pain, we are trying to catch their attention, right? But, then see how people sort of generalize that? Well, let us just -- well, I am just trying to get his attention, iPad in the face now. That is not crossing the line you agree with that, though, right? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, I absolutely agree, I think. But, I think a hands on the butt and letting your child know why when you have given them warnings and you do it in a calm way and your energy -- PINSKY: OK. OK. That is another issue, which is that the calm way. HO: Right. PINSKY: If a child feels that aggression coming at them, not so good. HO: Right. How are you going to really make sure every time is calm, though? Right, Dr. Drew? PINSKY: Yes. HO: And, here is my problem with spanking at all. I would say not do it, because of the fact that there are so many other more developed ways for us to discipline our children and teach them lessons. [21:15:00] PINSKY: And, that Vanessa is the point. Hang on, do not applause. The point is that if it really worked or if there were not better ways, why would not people like Judy recommend it? We would recommend it. We got somebody against it? BARNETT: I could understand, but I can guarantee you there are some serial killers out there that got time-out that should have got a pop on the butt. I can guarantee you. (LAUGHING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: All right. Let us go back to our audience. You have a question or comment. Yes. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Do you think it is OK to spank someone else`s child. BARNETT: Oh, hell no. You do not touch mine. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: OK. We are all in agreement with that, Mike. CATHERWOOD: That sets a very strange precedent then. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: I mean, so you are saying that it is OK to do something to your own child, but it is so vastly inappropriate to even consider doing it to someone else`s? It does not really make any sense. That would be like Dr. Drew saying, “I would never prescribe this to you, a patient, because it is far too dangerous, but I will take it to myself.” PINSKY: Or give it to my kids. Fine. CATHERWOOD: Yes. I mean that does not really make much sense. PINSKY: Another question. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. I am a mom of three and a granny of two. And, I would never ever spank any of them. I have never spanked. I did not need to. But, does not that the just teach them to want to hit other kids? PINSKY: To be aggressive. Yes, that is what Judy was saying. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Right. PINSKY: That it models aggression. It says aggression is how you solve problems. Aggression is what you do if somebody upsets you. It does not do what you asked them to do. You used your hands. HO: Right. And, there is a whole number of other things that happen when you get aggressive. PINSKY: Yes. We are talking about how you are not using the contemplative part. You are using the aggressive part. But here is what happens. It is really awful is that the kid`s frontal lobe does not develop normally. HO: Yes. PINSKY: And, the integration, the wiring between the reasoning of the brain gets halted, and literally sometimes even breaks down if the aggression -- if the physical abuse is sufficient. And, that is how people end up with drug addiction because they cannot regulate and they go into the world really out of control with feelings that are too intense, too prolonged, too negative and they try to solve that by taking a substance. What is your question? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: So, when you do get to the point as a mom and you have these children and you are getting impatient, you are tired, you are cranky and all this stuff, what do you recommend doing to kind of dial
back that own anger that you are feeling and taking out on your child? Like how do you dial back on the anger? PINSKY: Vanessa just hits. BARNETT: No, I do not. I walk away. Like I am a mother of an almost 2-year-old. And, there are times when you are extremely overwhelmed. But, I can feel that in myself. And, I feel like I am very unsure of myself and I walk away. I say to my husband, can you handle this? I may -- you know, there are other ways I would not pop my 2-year-old. But, a 7-year-old sometimes needs a pop. And, it is just -- PINSKY: A pop? BARNETT: A little -- (LAUGHING) HO: Why do you need a pop when you can communicate with them verbally at that age? They can understand consequences -- BARNETT: Because -- HO: They can understand what you are telling them. BARNETT: It does not work for some children. I was a child if you took things away from me, I responded better and I acted accordingly.

PINSKY: Good. BARNETT: My brother was a child that needed a spanking and would respond accurately as he was supposed to. PINSKY: Mike, how about the guy that took the film? Did he do something right in doing that? CATHERWOOD: Yes. I think so. I mean I really do. It is a really murky territory, especially now, so many controversies are started by someone taking their cell phone out and filming people. But if you are watching, you know, even people who are proponents for spanking, I think that we can all agree. Like it is not Ok to smack a 3-year-old because a 3-year-old is brain is like Jell-o. They do not know what is going on. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: And, all they know is like I just got hit in the face with an iPad. PINSKY: That is right. CATHERWOOD: I mean it is like a rush from zero. PINSKY: All right. So, let me finish some of my thoughts and I think we are all kind of saying the same thing, which is first of all, picking up an object, you have crossed the line. That is an easy thing to see. And, whenever I am working with patients. And, I have to -- When I deal with that, I asked them if they were physically abused. And, they always say, no. And, I go, “Were you ever hit? No. No. They go, “Well, I guess I was disciplined. Well, OK. “Did anybody ever hit you with an object?” “Well, sure, like anybody. A baseball bat, whatever.” You will be shocked how often that happens. People dismiss and disconnect from traumatic experiences and they incorporate it into their philosophy and their culture and say, “Hey, it is what I need. Look how great I am now. The heroin is a little problem but otherwise I am great.” Literally, that is how people think. I am not accusing you of that, Vanessa. But, that is what happens. That is what happens. Now, that is an extreme example. And, I am not saying that spanking per se is wrong. Except to say that in every study that is been done, the more you spank, the more the correlation with adverse outcome. So, why do that especially we have all these alternatives that do not have the correlation. If you do not do them right, well, then maybe you should do spanking but not too much. Back after this.

(LAUGHING) (MUSIC PLAYING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) [21:23:20] (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Time now for a segment we call sexting, your chance to ask me and my panel all the sex and relationship questions you might have. You can talk to us on Facebook, Twitter, right here in our studio audience. I am back with Judy, Vanessa, Mike. And, we are going to start with Dawn on Twitter. All right. Here it is. “When a man reaches climax quickly, does that mean he cares less about the woman?” CATHERWOOD: What? (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: Mike, that must mean, “You do not care about any women ever.” CATHEDWOOD: I must hate all women ever. Yes, I do. I have had four orgasms during the show. (LAUGHING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: In fact -- in fact, usually means a man if anything, cares more. CATHERWOOD: Yes, I mean. Look, there is one of two things in play or a combination of the two. And, that is a guy is really turn on by you or he has, you know, real medical premature ejaculation or like probably both. PINSKY: Both. Some guys clocks are just a little quick. Some guys clocks are a little prolonged. And, if your tendency is to go fast and you are into your partner, well, then that is going to be that. It is going to be hard for him to be otherwise. What is up? You have something to say? CATHEDWOOD: Well, no -- Yes. I was going to say. I mean a lot of women, if they -- PINSKY: By the way,
look at those two listening to you. They are like, “Tell me more. What is going on? How did this work?” (LAUGHING) CATHERWOOD: But, I would say by the way she worded the question it is almost perplexing that I am thinking that maybe this guy, like purposely does it quickly and then -- PINSKY: Go and gets out of there. CATHERWOOD: -- is like, “OK, I am going to watch the Bulls game. PINSKY: Yes. Yes. Yes. It could be. Let us go to the audience. What do you got for us? Yes, ma’am. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. I just had the thought that technology was really dating, websites like Tinder and all those stuff, all of a sudden every guy thinks you just want to hook up. [21:25:02] PINSKY: You know, by the way, we need to do an entire show about that. HO: Yes. PINSKY: Because, really, that is a huge question. CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: I mean women are putting up with unbelievable stuff on Tinder. CATHERWOOD: I will tell you, when I am on Grinder, it is like -- I mean (LAUGHING) never mind. Never mind. I am sorry, ladies. Go ahead. BARNETT: My friends have horror stories. But, it is not so much that is ruining dating. It is like completely taking out the dating. They get penis pics all the time. Like that is all they are integrated with -- PINSKY: And, guys think you like that. BARNETT: Yes. They think and then it is like, “I do not want to take you out. Let me just come over and we will chill.” We all know what that means. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: Yes. And, let me just a couple sort of pearls from the clinical world right now. Porn addiction is way off the chart right now. It is very high. Now, the other thing we are seeing is we sort of see sexual dysfunction in young males, like young males that should not be having difficulty with erectile dysfunction. They are so depleted from the arousal of the pornography that they are having trouble functioning. Judy says, yes. Lauren on Facebook says, “Do you believe once a cheater always a cheater? My boyfriend cheated on his last girlfriend. Am I naive to trust him?” That is a complicated question. There is such thing that are guys that are just cheaters. Some somebody is using drugs and alcohol, you have to worry they are going to cheat. What do you say, Mike? CATHHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: Definitely. And, also, that is such a complicated question for a lot of reasons. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: This is way out of my pay grade. This is for you and Judy. But, some people are -- they have clinical problems where they do not understand other people is feelings. PINSKY: Right. CATHERWOOD: And, they do not even look at it as cheating. PINSKY: Right. CATHERWOOD: It is like they metabolized their opportunities. PINSKY: Some guys are sociopath. Some guys are just 22. CATHERWOOD: But, I was just saying -- yes. With guys, you may have cheated on girlfriend “A” when you are 22. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: By the time you are 30, you are a whole different person. PINSKY: That is right. CATHERWOOD: You are completely different person. It does, you know, relate necessarily. PINSKY: Did you have experiences with guys in college that now they are good. BARNETT: I also was a cheater. I used to cheat on guys all the time. My mom would tell me -- No, I am not bragging. I am not bragging. But, I am just saying when I was younger I did not value the other person’s feelings as much as my own. PINSKY: I told my wife, I said, “You know,” we were sort of talking about how we had to -- the stuff we had to go through in the early part of our relationship. I said, “You know, people in their 20s, we just treat each other like crap in our 20s. That is what men and women do when they are 20’s. They do not treat each other well.” CATHERWOOD: But, I think that going through that process with a lot of the technology, getting back to the last question, it kind of -- you forgo a lot of that where you interact with other people rage. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: And, you treat each other poorly. That kind of gives you knowledge to build upon, so that later in life you become a little bit more adept at like dealing in social situations. PINSKY: Yes. You are right. Yes. CATHERWOOD: And, I think if you can just like swipe right and a girl comes over to your house, it really kind of screws up your whole understanding of that dance routine. PINSKY: You are never going to learn much. Back to the audience. UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Hi. Yes, I have a question about a -- well, I have a girlfriend of two years
now. CATHERWOOD: Nice. UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: She is a little more reserved and conservative.

I want to try new things in bed, but I do not know how to break it to her, you know, without freaking her

out. CATHERWOOD: I hear you, brother. I hear you, brother. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: Try to get rid of that

inappropriate smile when you ask her those questions. That is all I am saying. BARNETT: Be less creepy.

PINSKY: Yes. Just a little bit cooler about it. But, so, how do you bring these sorts things up, Judy?

(LAUGHING) HO: Well, you know, I think you are saying that your girlfriend is a little more conservative.

But, how much have you actually openly discussed this with her? How much are you actually going to

her without the creepy grin that you are having here and actually proposing it seriously and asking her

what she wants. It does not matter if you do not seem as adventurous, but if you have that give and take

with her and you ask her, “or there is something you can do for me.” Yes. PINSKY: Have you ever gone an

-- ask her an open-ended question like, “Is this stuff you want to do?” UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER:

We talk about it sometimes but then she just kind of giggles it off or just -- PINSKY: Oh, yes. BARNETT:

This girl sounds like she might be a freak. (LAUGHING) HO: Yes. She is giggling. BARNETT: It is kind of

crazy a bit. PINSKY: Vanessa knows freaks, let me tell you. (LAUGHING) HO: She is giggly because she is

like, “I know something you do not know.” BARNETT: Yes. PINSKY: But, Mike, back me up on this.

CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: She maybe sort of giving him a little hint, expecting him to carry through.

CATHERWOOD: Well, it is hard as a young man, because you can only think through the prism of a man

brain. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: We are like, “Well, it is something in sex that will make you get

sexually aroused, why not try it?” And, that is the way you think when you have a penis because

everything is so easy when you have a penis. But, because, like biologically, psychologically, the whole

thing with a woman is very complicated, you got to build off of vagina. That is all what I would like to

say. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: That is your policy for living. CATHERWOOD: Yes. The nucleus of what you do

in the bedroom has to always -- the nucleus is the vag and then you build around that. So, you figure out

what pleases her. Seriously, you got to figure out and be in tune with her and figure out how you can

have the female orgasm. Then from there, then you build off. You got to start there. Because once a

woman can consistently achieve orgasm you could be surprised how big your margin gets by what you

can pull off. You know? (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Thank you. Thank you. PINSKY: What do you

think of Mike so far? You were applauding pretty aggressively there with that last comment. What do

you think? [21:30:00] UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: He is correct. PINSKY: He is correct. You are all

right, otherwise, he is not offending you or anything. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Not at all.

PINSKY: OK. Rhoda, everybody, our stage manager. (LAUGHING) CATHERWOOD: Thanks, Rhoda.

(AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: All right. Dan on Facebook. His wife, he says, “My wife has a high-

powered job with all male co-workers. When she comes home, she picks fights and tries to boss around.

How can I get her to stop competing when she has left the office?” Well, that is a hard one. Because we

want to evaluate what is really going on in that relationship. He may be blaming it on the work

environment but it may not be that. HO: It may not be that. PINSKY: Yes. HO: It is such to be her default

personality. It might be a conflict they have had in their relationship for a long time. He wants to find an

externalizing outside problem to explain it, but maybe they need to look internally and look at the

relationship. PINSKY: I think that is it -- almost -- CATHERWOOD: Yes. Nothing is more appealing than

when you deal with any type of conflict by stepping your own game up. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD:

You know, like he is looking at it externally like, “Oh, she is around hot dudes that are high and powerful,

how can I compensate for that and get to the core of what she needs to do.” How about just make

yourself more powerful and sweet. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: And, then you honestly none of that

will apply. PINSKY: Or you can changes yourself. One last quick question. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE
SPEAKER: Hi, Dr. Drew. PINSKY: Hi, ma’am. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: So, we hear a lot about the sex lives of celebrities, teen moms and every day people on your shows. So, now, I am curious. Do you or anybody on your panel have some crazy sex stories or fetishes? (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Do we have time to answer that question? HO: Vanessa. PINSKY: Vanessa is on this panel. It can take a little while. Come on now -- hang on, do I actually have time to get into this or should we take -- all right, we are going to keep going. BARNETT: Yes. CATHERWOOD: Can I talk about the time, you and I were in a Bissau with all the Molly and the poppers. PINSKY: But, she wants to know what happens at home, though. BARNETT: I think -- we are both married and we have kids. I think when you are married with kids you have to be spontaneous. And, sometimes where you do it, how fast you do it, on top of what apparatus you do it on. It could be very exciting of no apparatus? CATHERWOOD: No. You said how fast you do it. I am like, I can relate to that. Yeah. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: And, mike, you have a little baby at home. So, it is -- CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: You have to -- it is a whole different thing. The biology changes after pregnancy. You have to be the dad for a while, right? CATHERWOOD: Well, and it is also really weird when you get married and you are in a marriage where like you have a healthy sex life, because it is almost like the male brain does not understand it. (LAUGHING) It is like -- I was a little boy. I remember I would go to Chuck E. Cheese’s or like arcades and you put a quarter in to play a game. And, it was always such a problem because you had to figure how to get quarters because you are a little kid, you did not have any money. And, then I went to this one kid, like his dad was super bowling and he rented out a bunch of Arcadians. And, you could just play as much as you want without putting any quarters and I almost could not take it. Like my brain did not get it. I was like, “This is too good to be true.” And, like having a committed relationship where you can just have sex all the time, like sometimes I still do not like wrap my head around it. I was like, “Wait, I can just -- like we can bang whenever?” Like, “It is OK and it is healthy?” PINSKY: As it pertains to that, note that to your questions. No fetishes but the empty nest thing is “BS.” It is like the guy buying out the arcade. We have the house to ourselves. It is good times. Once more to the audience. Here we go. UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Hello. I have kind of a problem. My ex just dumped me. And, I do not think it is my problem. I think she just could not hang with me, because I could have multiple orgasms. So, she thinks -- Thank you. She thinks I need to get checked out. She thinks it is a medical condition. And, I am like, “I do not think it is. I think it is awesome for you.” (LAUGHING) PINSKY: You have sequential orgasms. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes. Like “Aah!” And I just keep going. Aah! (LAUGHING) PINSKY: No. No. Oh, my gosh. What show are we on here? (LAUGHING) UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: That is the thing. She has them and she has to take a break, but I am still going. PINSKY: OK. So, it is not -- women have multiple orgasms. They have no refractive period. Men have multiple sequential orgasms. OK. Let us go to break. We will be right back. (LAUGHING) (MUSIC PLAYING) [21:34:05] (COMMERCIAL BREAK) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER: A trend for thousands of new moms cost a woman her business. Baby nurse Kathryn Beale makes placenta shakes and pills for women to eat. She and other placenta advocates say, “A dried powder version was used in Europe centuries ago. But, health authorities have shut Beale down saying her current day products pose a potential risk. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: Oh, my God. This is time for “What the?” Unbelievable stories dominating your conversation at the office, at home and on the internet. Back with Mike, Judy and Vanessa. Placenta consumption. Can afterbirth weenies -- I think we are seeing there, the sausages. Can afterbirth of any type really help with postpartum medical issues? Mike, come on now. CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: Come on. CATHERWOOD: I -- my wife and, we ate her placenta. PINSKY: You partook? CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: But, I think when people hear eat placenta, it is become sort of a whole procedure, right? They do a bunch to the
placenta. CATHHERWOOD: Well -- PINSKY: They collect it. CATHHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: Then they steam it, then they dehydrate it. Then they ground it into pills. CATHHERWOOD: Not ours. No, no. PINSKY: I mean combine it with juices, then they make a smoothie out of it. CATHHERWOOD: They can make a pitcher or they can make like beef jerky. But, we just got it -- they clean it and then we got it like that. Like it was slab of a beef. I would make smoothies for my wife every morning. PINSKY: Out of the beef? CATHHERWOOD: Yes. And, I would mask the flavor with like, you know, maple syrup and fruits and things like that. And, she just drank it down. And, one time, I tried -- I was like a half dude. This was my only time I can ever pull off cannibalism. So, I like fried it up and stuff and I ate it. PINSKY: No? HO: No. PINSKY: Yes. I am with you. [21:40:00] HO: No. Yes -- I mean there is no clinical research that supports this in that it is benefiting the mother or the father in any way. PINSKY: Right. Right. All kinds of claims, claims postpartum depression is down. Claims that breast milk is enhanced. HO: Right. Better energy for the mother. PINSKY: I mean just because a dog eats its placenta after it has given birth, it also eats its poop. HO: That is right. Yes. Mammals eat a lot of things that we do not eat. So, just as mammals eat placenta does not mean we should also eat placenta. CATHHERWOOD: My wife was way into it and -- PINSKY: The pill or the placenta. CATHHERWOOD: The Placenta -- My wife is into the idea of that this was going to have some healing properties and therapeutic properties. And, so I was not going to argue with her. PINSKY: All right, well, she is a hippie, we know that. Am I wrong? (LAUGHING) CATHHERWOOD: My wife is a hippie. BARNETT: I am here for this. It is mine. Why cannot I have it? PINSKY: Did you do it? BARNETT: I really, really want to, but my husband was against it. He was like it is too expensive. It is pretty expensive. PINSKY: Talk to Mike. He has all kinds of recipes. BARNETT: Yes. Look -- PINSKY: You can hang it on strip outside your house and try it with the -- BARNETT: And I will definitely do that. It is mine. CATHHERWOOD: I made placenta Carne Asada Tacos. It was fantastic. (LAUGHING) PINSKY: All right. Let us go to the audience. What do you got for us? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: This is a question for everyone. Is there any scientific research that is coming out or is anyone trying to study whether this has an actual effect on people`s hormone regulation?” PINSKY: Well, people are studying it. I do not know of any large- scale good studies. There has to be something under way. Because there is a lot of this being done. Fortunately, there seems to be certainly no harm from this. Right? No harm. So, that is the good news. But, apparently January Jones, Alicia Silverstone, they have all said, “Oh, yes! Placenta, I am in.” They also, of course, will not take vaccines, whatever. I do not know that about those two. But, I mean people is thinking about biology is primitive and bizarre. HO: That is right. And, most of the studies are anecdotal so far. And, there is like -- PINSKY: Is that pizza we are looking at? What is that? HO: Yes. Oh, God! I cannot even concentrate right now. I know. But, yes, it is anecdotal so far. So, they have not really separated out what the benefits are from. And, so the placebo effect is very, very strong. PINSKY: Yes. HO: So, people do say they feel better, but we just do not know what from. PINSKY: Please, everybody, the placebo, really, it is not something that we are saying -- I am not diminishing placebo. It is an extremely powerful phenomenon. And, that may be all we are seeing here. So, until it is studied against something that is not containing placenta, we do not know what is going on. Back after this. (MUSIC PLAYING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) [21:46:27] PINSKY: Time for “Click Fix” where this panel tells me what is happening on their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds. We are still -- of course Judy, Mike, Vanessa. And, we are starting with Vanessa. What is up, Vanessa. BARNETT: All right. So, I am on Facebook and I see guaranteed orgasm. I stop, obviously, because everybody wants one of those. And, it is actually birth control for women that they say 100 percent will make -- will give you an orgasm and so it is called Vawow! I have some stats here -- PINSKY: What is it called? I got to look his up? BARNETT: Vawow! CATHHERWOOD: Vawow? BARNETT: Well, what else would you call it? PINSKY: Wait, spell it.
Spell it. BARNETT: It is V-A- WOW! PINSKY: Vawow! BARNETT: Like -- yes, like orgasm, wow. PINSKY: Like vavoom. Like vavoom. CATHERWOOD: V-A- WOW? BARNETT: V-A-WOW. PINSKY: OK. BARNETT: And, after the first use, 70 percent got their orgasm. Second use, 84 percent got their orgasm. After the fourth use, 100 percent of women got their orgasm. What it is, it is like a condom with a ring on the outside. It jiggles and ventilates. PINSKY: I want to phone down. (LAUGHING) BARNETT: You wanted something better? PINSKY: You say a birth control. I mean I thought it was something you ingest or something. BARNETT: No. You put it in. PINSKY: OK. So, it is like a female condom with a vibrating ring. Got it. BARNETT: Judy? HO: We, I founded this really interesting blog. This dad named Steven who has a 2-year-old son, wrote a blog celebrating his wife. And, in the blog he actually talks also about the fact that she is worth a lot of money as a stay-at-home mom. He actually calculates, breakdown he cause. She says that she would earn at least $74,000 when you think about child care, running groceries, errands and bookkeeping. And, at the end of the blog he says, “I cannot afford you, baby. You are worth more to me than rubies.” Thank you. PINSKY: There it is. There is the breakdown. HO: Yes. PINSKY: Absolutely. I have said that forever. And, unfortunately, women are not able to own that. HO: Yes. PINSKY: You know, what I mean? It is really -- It makes me sad because it is actually more in the priceless zone. Having your mom there for your kids, having her there for me when I need her. It is -- come on now. HO: Right. PINSKY: Women need to embrace that. CATHERWOOD: I also think that there is an idea that men do not recognize that. I think it is far greater other women do not recognize that. PINSKY: Yes. CATHERWOOD: Because once you have a child with a woman, it pretty much switches. The whole outlook on what women do as mothers, it really does switch around. PINSKY: Absolutely. Later on they want to be back in the world again. We have to be able to do that because that is another way you got a sense of meaning in life about yourself. What is up, Mike. CATHERWOOD: Speaking of women back in the world, Dr. Drew. I have a very interesting study about divorce. Everybody in this country seems to be getting divorced. And, I founded this study that shows that, “Women who have been divorced once or men who have been divorced at least twice are more likely to have a heart attack than people who stay married. The truly bad news is that women who have been divorced twice or more have the same level of health risk as someone with diabetes or high blood pressure. PINSKY: Or heart disease. CATHERWOOD: Yes. PINSKY: Or Heart attack. CATHERWOOD: Yes. And, the good news for men if they remarry can reverse the risk of heart attack. And, it is just because guys are gross and they always remarry someone like 40 years younger. PINSKY: All right, you guys thanks for the “Click Fix.” We are going to take a quick break. And, back with audience after this. (MUSIC PLAYING) (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) [21:49:42] (COMMERCIAL BREAK) PINSKY: Time now for what we call, “Dr. Drew’s Qs.” Your chance to ask e anything on Facebook, Twitter, of course here in audience. I will answer your questions on any topic. Let us start with Chris on Twitter. “I stopped smoking cigarettes, but I want to keep smoking pot. Is it just as bad?” Very, very, very different. Certainly not carcinogenic the way tobacco is certainly not. Androgenic that is causing vascular disease the way tobacco is. But, I sometimes do feel, when we come into the age when marijuana is being legal in many, many states, that I feel like Benjamin rush back in 1780. He is looking at tobacco, going, “I do not think this is going to go so well. I am just a little concern about it. So, but it is very different. So, totally different issue. Question from the studio audience. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I just started dating this guy who has been five years sober from alcohol and heroin. And, I notice, he is really moody. I am curious, how long must someone be sober before they establish some sort of chemical balance. PINSKY: Well, it could be a long time. Sometimes it is sort of -- depending on how much drugs they did. They can always have some struggling with mood. I will tell you the fact that, “He went to Opiate, suggested he had trauma. And, sometimes,
people do not get their trauma properly treated in their recovery. Someone five years out should really be working on trauma therapies, who is an opiate addict. So, there is something I call complete recovery or thorough recovery or complete flourishing. [21:55:00] So, he has done great with recovery, which is amazing and congratulations to him. But urge him to now get some trauma therapy also to deal with whatever -- regulatory problems and his emotions were there before he was using the heroin that motivated the heroin. Got it? OK. That is it. Let us go to Facebook. Steve on Facebook. “Have you ever had a one-night stand?” Me? Have I ever had one-night stand? Is that what they are asking? That was a long time ago, I am sure I have. Yep. Yeah, I am sure I have. I was (EXPLETIVE WORD) when I was 20 also. All men were, are not they? Question from our studio audience. Let us get on it. UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Hey, Dr. Drew. So, I recently moved to L.A. where all of the drugs are. So, what are the good, safe or safer drugs? I know you have got an opinion? PINSKY: Safer drugs? Well, pot is a safer drug. People do not die of that. But, do not mistake it for one that is not addictive if you have a problem in that way. The things that kill my patience today are the prescription drugs. If somebody have been addicted to cocaine and heroin, when they die, they die over a prescription overdose. So, the most dangerous comes from my peers, which is the scariest thing of all for me. UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Things that do not cause cognitive impairment, long-term in any way. PINSKY: Do not cause long-term -- the things that cause long term -- I do not worry about cognition when it comes to drugs. It is more of the motive centers that get screwed up. The things I saw working in the psych hospital is severe mood disturbances down the line particularly the hallucinogens. I would see it from stimulants, methamphetamine. What are you looking for? CATHERWOOD: Whatever you are doing, Drew. PINSKY: I am doing coffee. Just stay with coffee. That is my recommendation. All right, do I think programs like AA work for all addicts or can acupuncture, hypnosis and meditation be effective treatments? Those are what we call adjunctive treatments. They are not treatments in and of themselves. Hypnosis can be useful. Certainly, meditative mindfulness for sure. 12-step, of course, is not for everybody. But, boy if somebody has severe addiction, if somebody has severe enough addiction they need to see me, they are going to need 12 steps. If for no other reason that somebody has to sit on them. People who have been through that recovery process are willing to dedicate themselves, their time, their energy to someone struggling with the same condition and you need somebody who will just sit on them for months at a time sometimes. And, you just cannot do that professionally with a professional. And, you cannot do it with your family and friend. They will not tolerate that, but someone who can really understands what you are dealing with and has benefited themselves for somebody doing that from them -- for them. They will do it. So, severe addiction, yes, 12 step. Studio audience. Hi. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Debbie and I am a nine-year sober alcoholic. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Congratulations. Way to go. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you. And I am new to Southern California. My support system is all in Central California, in the Modesto area. And, so being new to the area, I am just trying to figure out what is the most important thing I can do to keep my sobriety here in this? PINSKY: Do you still have a relationship with your sponsor up north? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: No. She moved to Hawaii. PINSKY: Your first order of business is find a sponsor. I do not care if you find a home meeting. I do not care if you go to lots of meetings, find that connection with somebody who has at least five years sobriety also. Do you actually give service to other people. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I have been in service in Modesto for the last eight years. So, being here is like a fish out of water, not knowing -- PINSKY: You know what? I know lots of people in the program. I will hook you up with somebody right after this program. How about that? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you. PINSKY: That is the way to do it. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) PINSKY: Here is
on twitter, “My feelings on powdered alcohol and the abuse that will occur.” Listen, I actually -- It is weird. I do not have a lot of strong feelings about that. My feeling is that if people -- if they want alcohol, they are going to find ways to use alcohol, whether it is powder, or whether it is -- enema, binging it or snoring -- they will use alcohol powder just another form. And, I do not know why we need it, but you know, I guess they can pour it and bring it around more easily that way, which is a problem and young people can can hide it, what not. Whenever these advance come along -- advances, figuratively speaking. It is the young people that take the brunt of the problem. They think it is cool and they end up getting hurt. Do we have time for one more audience question? All right, one more audience question. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Dr. Drew, hi. PINSKY: Yes. Hi. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I have a question about the growing asexual movement. What are some tips for someone to come out of that? Because many people, you know, dismiss it as they have issues or medical. They really might not. PINSKY: No. When they do not they need to come out, it is another group, you know? They are the latest group to come to the table that need awareness and support. I think transgender now is with Bruce Jenner`s thing. People are getting a lot of awareness about that. There is a group that identifies as asexual. And, they should be as welcome as anybody else. I mean it is silly, I hope they do not get -- I will be surprised if that group gets judged as much as some of the other sexual orientations have but they get marginalized. So, do not let that happen. It is not appropriate.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Wonderful. Thank you. PINSKY: All right, everybody. Thank you to the live audience. Thank you for watching at home. See you next time. Good night. (AUDIENCE APPLAUDING) [22:00:00] (MUSIC PLAYING)"

Source Title: BTN

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 725098

Article Title: Dual deadly drugs"

Date: 8/7/2016

Article Content: The outstanding article “How's Amanda?” [front page, July 24] was an excruciatingly accurate portrayal of the everyday reality of countless families overwhelmed by the power of heroin addiction coupled with their frustration with the high rate of relapse to heroin use after entering treatment. But the article said the average heroin addict dies after 10 years of heroin use. Taking the article's accurate estimate of a total of about 1.6 million heroin addicts in the United States and linking it to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention count of annual heroin overdose deaths, 10,574 in 2014, the risk of overdose death for a heroin addict is about 0.6 percent a year. That means that over the course of 10 years of heroin addiction, about 6 out of 100 heroin addicts die of a heroin overdose. This shockingly low number explains why so many heroin addicts are oblivious to the risk of overdose death: Overdoses kill a very small percentage of their heroin-using friends each year. Robert L. DuPont, Rockville The writer was director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1973 to 1978. Although I agree that heroin addiction is a tragic and growing problem in our country, I was appalled by the casual treatment given to tobacco addiction. Although Amanda Wendler was depicted as smoking cigarettes
throughout the article, her act of smoking was never referred to as an addiction, only as a crutch to help her avoid heroin use. The article stated that 350 people start using heroin every day. In contrast, the surgeon general estimates that more than 2,500 kids try their first cigarette each day and there are more than 42 million addicted smokers in the United States. There are almost 500,000 deaths each year from tobacco use - more than from alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders, suicides and AIDS combined. I find it interesting that when dealers of illegal drugs are apprehended, they generally are sent to prison, whereas the tobacco industry purveys its addictive product with impunity. John O’ Hara, Bowie The writer is president of the Maryland Group Against Smoker’s Pollution.

Source Title: News

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 665132

Article Title: Cat videos aid stop-smoking campaign"

Date: 2/20/2016

Article Content: In yet another sign of the power of cat videos, an ad warning young smokers about the health dangers of secondhand smoke for their cats and featuring some of the biggest Internet cat video stars is creating quite a buzz. The 30-second ad aired on television during the Grammy Awards and became an instant hit. Soon the alarmist hashtag #CATmageddon was trending on Twitter. An anti-tobacco group, Truth Initiative, is behind the edgy ad campaign, which uses images of famous cats such as Shark Cat (a cat in a shark costume riding a roomba) and Pirate Cat (a cat in, you guessed it, a pirate costume). A siren blares in the background as these words pop up on the screen: “Cats are twice as likely to get cancer if their owner smokes.” The ad also warns: “Smoking = no cats = no cat videos.” If that doesn't cause your back to arch up, what will? Those who work with people trying to quit smoking applauded the ad's unusual approach to reaching teens. “Part of it is if you want to break through and get your message heard, you need to be a little different and edgy. This campaign certainly does that,” said Mike Sheldon, senior communications manager for Clearway Minnesota, a nonprofit organization that provides support for people who want to stop smoking. “Obviously, cats are a big YouTube star. [The ad] does a good job of being relevant to teens. Whatever is motivating to you to help you quit, we're all for it.” To see the video, go to youtube.com/watch?v=tLtschJxRy8 U.S. dementia rates falling Despite fears that the coming silver tsunami will trigger a dementia epidemic, a surprising new study suggests that it may be possible to delay - or even prevent - some kinds of dementia. Dementia rates in the United States dropped by 44 percent from the late 1970s to 2010, according to a Boston University study. And the average age when people showed symptoms rose from 80 to 85. The report, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, analyzed data from a long-running study of thousands of people in a small Massachusetts town. While scientists don't know the exact reason for the decrease in dementia cases, they highlight two contributing factors: education level and heart health. People who earned at least a high school diploma had a much lower dementia risk than those with less education. The largest decrease was reported in dementia cases caused by stroke and other vascular diseases.
People in the study who improved their heart health saw a reduction in their dementia risk. “To Your Health” offers quick doses of health news several times a week. Allie Shah · 612-673-4488

Source Title: News

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.80
Hand-coded: No
ArticleID: 719857

Article Title: Cash may convince some smokers to quit | Fox News

Date: 8/25/2016

Article Content: Paying smokers to quit and giving them more money the longer they avoid cigarettes might help get more people to kick the habit than cessation advice on its own, a recent study suggests. To test the power of money to combat addiction, researchers in Switzerland offered about 800 low-income smokers pamphlets and online cessation guides. Half of them were also eligible to receive as much as $1,650 if a series of six lab tests verified that they stopped smoking. These payments started out at $100 if lab tests verified participants hadn’t smoked after one week, and gradually increased to $440 by the time the last test was done at six months. More on this... At six months, 36 percent of the payment group and about 6 percent of the control group had quit smoking. One year after the payments ended, about 10 percent of the people eligible for financial incentives remained abstinent, compared with roughly 4 percent for the control group. “Money compensated for the loss of a valued activity (smoking) and increased both the likelihood of making a quit attempt and the likelihood of succeeding when trying to quit,” said lead study author Jean-Francois Etter, a public health researcher at the University of Geneva. The participants were around 32 years old on average at the start of the study and they had typically started smoking around age 17. They tended to smoke about 16 cigarettes a day, a little less than a pack. About one in five were unemployed and roughly 45 percent were students. Half of them made no more than about $20,000 a year. All of the participants received self-help books with advice for quitting and researchers also encouraged them to enlist a friend or family member to support their efforts. Researchers tested for carbon monoxide in exhaled air and a byproduct of nicotine in saliva samples to confirm whether participants had quit or continued to smoke. While many people who quit relapsed after payments ended, abstinence rates at the 18-month mark for the group that received financial motivation were nearly 10 percent, compared to less than 4 percent in the group that didn't get any money, researchers report in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. With a difference of about 6 percentage points between the control and the payments group one year after the money stopped flowing, 17 people would need to go through an incentive program like the one in the study to get one person to quit, the authors note. One limitation of the study is that a large proportion of the 81 participants who dropped out of the study were in the control group, not the payments group, the authors note. Any participants who dropped out or had missing data were counted as smokers. People joining the study also knew some participants would receive incentive payments, which could have impacted behavior, the authors also point out. Previous research, however, has shown that financial incentives can help smokers remain abstinent, particularly among more affluent employed smokers who have access to counseling and other cessation support, Etter said by email. With low-
income smokers, cessation can be hard to encourage, Etter said. “Many interventions based on education (booklets, leaflets, various education strategies) tend to work less well among people with low income and low education, in whom smoking prevalence is particularly high,” Etter said. Still, the findings suggest that this method would cost about $28,000 a year to get just one additional long-term quitter, Judith Prochaska of Stanford University in California writes in an accompanying editorial. This might limit adoption in the real world. The appeal of this intervention is its simplicity, Prochaska told Reuters Health by email. “Individuals could create this type of intervention for themselves.” Prochaska said. “A pack a day smoker who puts that money aside rather than purchasing cigarettes would save over $2000 a year - more than the payment provided in the study.”

Source Title: Web

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 106682

Article Title: As ‘Mad Men’ ends, one legacy is new awareness of iconic American brands - MarketWatch

Date: 5/16/2015

Article Content: You can’t buy advertising like this. People may be talking about humming about the “Mad Men” ending for days, even years, to come. In the final moments of AMC’s television series “Mad Men” final episode, Don Draper meditates in a Californian retreat and smiles to himself. Has he discovered the meaning to life? No. It is suggested that he just came up with the idea for arguably the most famous advertisement of the 1970s. The 1971 McCann Erickson Coca-Cola jingle “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing” plays on the screen, digital consumption — mentions of a brand — for the soft drink increased 991%, comparing May 18 to May 17, according to the digital media company Amobee Brand Intelligence. “This is pretty unprecedented in the history of television, a completely earned reason to within the context of the story to end a popular TV series with an actual ad,” says Ammiel Kamon, senior vice-president of products and marketing at Amobee. Coke KO, +0.19% received the equivalent of two weeks of consumption in less than a day. Consumption around McCann Erickson — the agency that came up with the iconic advertisement — also increased 1,055% so far on May 18 compared to May 17, around their involvement in the real “I’d Like to Buy the World a Coke” campaign. There were 21,204 tweets around Coca-Cola in the three hours since the “Mad Men” final began airing, and 2,925 tweets around McCann in the same time period. Some 828 of the McCann Erickson/Mad Men-related retweets came around them congratulating Don on finally coming up with a good idea, Kamon says, as they embedded the “I’d Like to Buy the World a Coke” advert. Meanwhile, 612 of Coke’s retweets came around their sharing the same video on Twitter. For the entire run of the seventh and final season, the most popular brand from “Mad Men” no longer exists. Just like the fictional advertising agency, Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, it was gobbled up. “Mad Men,” a show about a Madison Avenue advertising company in the middle decades of the 20th century, may have ended on Sunday, but it helped boost awareness of at least a dozen iconic brands, Amobee found. Fast-food restaurant Burger Chef got the biggest traction online from April 1, 2014, when the final season began. Computer company IBM and the
ad agency McCann Erickson followed close behind with 90% and 84% of the recognition of Burger Chef. There’s just one problem: Burger Chef, which had over 1,000 restaurants by the early 1970s, when the final episodes of “Mad Men” were set, was eventually consumed by Hardee’s and ceased operating as Burger Chef in 1996. The most popular brand from “Mad Men” no longer exists. Just like the fictional advertising agency, Sterling Cooper Draper Pryce, it was gobbled up. AMC’s television series “Mad Men” about a Madison Avenue advertising company in the middle decades of the 20th century may have ended on May 17 after seven seasons, but it helped boost awareness of at least a dozen iconic brands, according to the digital media company Amobee Brand Intelligence. Fast-food restaurant Burger Chef got the biggest traction online from April 1, 2014, when the final season began. Computer company IBM and the ad agency McCann Erickson followed close behind with 90% and 84% of the recognition of Burger Chef. There’s just one problem: Burger Chef, which had over 1,000 restaurants by the early 1970s, when the final episodes of “Mad Men” were set, was eventually consumed by Hardee’s and ceased operating as Burger Chef in 1996. At Target, it’s Campbell Soup vs. millennials, who wins?

Target has some surprising news for some of its top suppliers, including Campbell’s Soup: it’s switching its focus to organic foods and healthier brands. Analyzing 600,000 websites, Amobee Brand Intelligence found that the top 10 most recognizable brands were Burger Chef, followed by IBM, +0.42%, McCann Erickson, Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc, HLT, +0.39%, Kodak Carousel slide-projection system, Hershey Co., HSY, +0.60%, Lucky Strike cigarettes, Peter Pan peanut butter, Banana Republic GPS, -1.41% and the New York Mets. Although Banana Republic was founded in 1978, after the show’s timeline, “Mad Men” costume designer Janie Bryant and Banana Republic released a clothing line inspired by the show. “Hershey is a big winner,” says Robert Tuchman, president of New York–based entertainment and sporting-events firm Goviva. “It reinforced the brand’s iconic stature and good feeling about the product associated with childhood memories.” See: 10 endorsement deals gone bad

Even though cigarette companies are no longer allowed to officially advertise on American television, Don Draper creates a fictional advertising campaign, “It’s Toasted,” for Lucky Strike at a time when studies showed smoking caused cancer. “This is the greatest advertising opportunity since the invention of cereal,” Draper says. A real-life “It’s Toasted” Lucky Strike campaign actually ran 40 years earlier than the fictional campaign on “Mad Men.” But Draper’s campaign proved portentous for his glamorous ex-wife Betty, who discovers that she is dying of lung cancer in the penultimate episode and, Amobee found, has also helped raise cancer awareness. Bad publicity isn’t always a bad thing, says Jonah Berger, associate professor of marketing at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. “Lucky Strike is not a huge brand compared to other cigarette brands,” he says. “Nobody wants to die from cancer,” he allows, but more smokers will now at least be aware of the brand. (British American Tobacco didn’t reply to a request for comment.) There are occasions when negative publicity can increase sales, particularly bad reviews of works by little-known authors, a 2010 study co-authored by Berger found, and one of the most famous examples of this is when O.J. Simpson famously said he never wore “ugly ass” Bruno Magli shoes during the 1990s murder trial of his ex-wife and her friend. In the immediate aftermath of that court case, sales of that brand spiked.

Source Title: Web

Health — Tobacco (no ecig) — MPM — Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.85
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 718869

Article Title: Life lessons from a small-town undertaker as white women die younger in America - The Washington Post

Date: 8/20/2016

Article Content: Pallbearers unload a coffin at Smith Cemetery in Strunk, Ky. Over the last 15 years, the state’s McCreary County has seen a 75 percent increase in the mortality rate for white women between the ages of 35 and 59, one of the highest increases in the nation, according to a Washington Post analysis of national mortality rates. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post) UNNATURAL CAUSES SICK AND DYING IN SMALL-TOWN AMERICA | Since the turn of this century, death rates have risen for whites in midlife, particularly women. The Washington Post is exploring this trend and the forces driving it.

UNNATURAL CAUSES SICK AND DYING IN SMALL-TOWN AMERICA | Since the turn of this century, death rates have risen for whites in midlife, particularly women. The Washington Post is exploring this trend and the forces driving it.

Read part one, part two, part three and part four. MCCREARY COUNTY, Ky. —She died alone in the middle of the night, and her body was swiftly autopsied, embalmed and carted 135 miles to a remote Kentucky county where she had been raised. There, Dan Ridener waited. The undertaker watched as the Cadillac Escalade pulled up and the corpse was wheeled inside. Then he removed the blanket covering McCreary County Funeral Home’s newest arrival. Curly, blond hair. A haggard face. Dark circles under both eyes. Nails bitten and bloodied. A provisional report of death came with the body. “Name: Lois A. Maxwell.” “Age: 44.” “Race: W.” “Sex: F.” The document didn’t say anything about a cause of death, but Ridener didn’t need it to know what had happened: Another white woman had died in what should have been the prime of her life. Across America, especially in rural and working-class communities, death rates have been accelerating among middle-aged white women for a generation, and in McCreary County, which is 91 percent white, no one knows this better than the undertaker, who now lifted Maxwell’s body onto an aluminum table. “She doesn’t look 44,” an assistant said, snapping on blue latex gloves. “She looks older,” said Ridener, who did the same. “She looks a lot older than that,” the assistant said. “She looks 60, I’d say.” Ridener peered down at the body. As with most of the people who end up on his table, he was familiar with Maxwell and the troubled life she had led. In the last decade, Kentucky courts had convicted her of 11 separate drug- and alcohol-related charges. At the time of her death, she was facing four more. “Drugs,” Ridener said, looking at the effects. He placed a fresh sheet over Maxwell’s body, and then, knowing that nothing dries out skin like death, his assistant began slathering moisturizing cream on her face to prepare her for the coming arrival of her family. Customers eat at a diner-style restaurant in Whitley City, Ky. A study by a research center at the University of Washington found that McCreary County women are more likely to be obese and engage in life-shortening behaviors such as binge drinking than in previous generations.

(McCreary County women are more likely to be obese and engage in life-shortening behaviors such as binge drinking than in previous generations, and a separate tally kept by the funeral home showed that, in fact, the number of obituaries recorded for drug-related deaths has tripled over the past decade. In addition, a recent study by researchers at the University of Kentucky found that the prevalence of binge drinking among women in McCreary County has increased significantly in recent years, with the highest rates observed among younger women. This has been linked to increased levels of stress and financial instability, which can contribute to harmful behaviors such as binge drinking. These findings are consistent with broader trends in the United States, where obesity and binge drinking have become more prevalent in recent years, particularly among middle-aged white women.

So there would be a funeral in McCreary County, another funeral, which, in and of itself, was nothing remarkable. In a county of 18,000 people in southern Kentucky, about 250 of them die each year, a number that hasn’t changed significantly in decades. What has changed, however, is the age of the people dying. Over the last 15 years, McCreary County has seen a 75 percent increase in the mortality rate for white women between the ages of 35 and 59, one of the highest increases in the nation, according to a Washington Post analysis of national mortality rates. The analysis also showed that the mortality rate for similarly aged white women nationally increased 23 percent; for white men increased 16 percent; for black women decreased 10 percent; for black men decreased 20 percent; for Hispanic women decreased 11 percent; and for Hispanic men decreased 16 percent. Another study, by a research center at the University of Washington, found that McCreary County women are more likely to be obese and engage in life-shortening behaviors such as binge drinking than in previous generations, and a separate tally kept by the funeral home showed that, in fact, the number of obituaries recorded for drug-related deaths has tripled over the past decade. In addition, a recent study by researchers at the University of Kentucky found that the prevalence of binge drinking among women in McCreary County has increased significantly in recent years, with the highest rates observed among younger women. This has been linked to increased levels of stress and financial instability, which can contribute to harmful behaviors such as binge drinking. These findings are consistent with broader trends in the United States, where obesity and binge drinking have become more prevalent in recent years, particularly among middle-aged white women.\n
* * *
2013, 20 white women younger than 60 were buried; last year it was 31. Those deaths have all been charted by Debbie Murphy, the owner of two of the county’s three funeral homes, where she employs Ridener as her undertaker. She maintains spreadsheets that enumerate every burial in McCreary County, and, like Ridener, knows most of the people, too. Dan Ridener, who serves as undertaker for McCreary County Funeral Home, drives a hearse to a service. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

“She killed herself,” she said to Ridener one morning, scanning the lists. She pointed to another name. “She drank herself to death.” She pointed to two more names. “Jerry and Amanda.” “He actually shot her,” Ridener said. “And then shot and killed himself.” “And they were in the same casket together,” Murphy said. “And they’re my cousins,” Ridener added. “That was drugs,” he said of another, as Murphy nodded. “Drug use,” he said of another. “I don’t remember her,” Murphy said of a 49-year-old. “I don’t think she was drugs, though, was she?” “She wasn’t drugs. She was just lice,” Ridener said, and not long after that came word of another death, this one a 59-year-old woman. He got behind the wheel of one of Murphy’s three hearses and drove through a landscape that in his 48 years has gone from a place of promise to one where, according to Census Bureau and state figures, nearly 40 percent of households receive food stamps and 77 percent of students qualify for free or reduced school lunches. He passed turnoffs for once-thriving coal mines, the last of which stopped producing in 1995. He passed by desolate factory towns where hundreds once found work; the main row of restaurants, all of them fast food; the local grocery store that’s always selling out of Mountain Dew; and skinny roads leading to cemeteries where the county gravedigger has found syringes in the grass. Now as he drove past Blue John Road, where in 2008 the county coroner was arrested for drug use after being found slumped over the wheel of an official Chevrolet Suburban, a syringe in his hands, Ridener found himself thinking there wasn’t a single family in McCreary County that hasn’t been affected by drugs, including his own daughter’s. He remembered a day when he got a phone call from his 8-year-old grandson. “He said, ‘I need you to come pick me up. Dad is high. He’s got this white powder laying there.’” He remembered going to the house and his grandson coming outside. “He said, ‘I didn’t want you to think I was lying to you, so I brought you proof.’” He remembered the boy opening his clenched fist, the boy’s surprise that the powder had disappeared, his own fear that the boy had absorbed the powder through his skin, the trip to the emergency room, his threat to his son-in-law that, “If anything happens to my grandson, I’m going to kill you,” and his relief when his daughter and grandson moved out, not that they’ve had an easy time of it since. He now parked the hearse outside Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital and went up to a room on the fourth floor. He expected to meet a family crowded around the remains. Instead, he found a dead woman by herself. The body was that of a woman named Betty West, who was born in McCreary County and lived in a home of corrugated iron and plywood, supported herself with disability checks, died of lung cancer, and whose life had come down to sitting in a brown recliner, watching television and smoking cigarette after cigarette. “They don’t think that smoking really will kill you,” a nurse, Desiree Middleton, 32, now said to Ridener. “It’s one of those teenage mind-sets.” There was a whiteboard with four phone numbers hanging on a wall. Each belonged to one of West’s family members. When West was about to die, Middleton said, she had started calling the numbers even though it was 4 a.m. “I called her husband,” Middleton said. “We tried calling every kid, and I even resorted to calling grandchildren, and got nothing. But I stayed with her, and that’s what I’m here for.” She looked down at West, whose face was wrinkled and worn. “That is what makes it harder. She looks a lot older than 59.” “We got a 44-year-old yesterday,” Ridener said. “And she looks a lot older than 44.” Ridener hoisted West’s body onto a gurney and zipped around it a maroon body bag emblazoned with “McCreary Funeral Home.” Then he wheeled the gurney to the elevator. The doors opened. “Y’all going
down?” he asked the people inside. “Y’all care to ride with a body?” Debbie Murphy waits for her husband, Jim Murphy, and undertaker Dan Ridener to remove a coffin from a hearse outside McCreary County Funeral Home in Whitley City, Ky. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post) * * * Two dead white women now in the funeral home: Lois Maxwell in the embalming studio, Betty West in the casket room. Ridener wanted to keep them separated. He was worried the sight of too many bodies would upset members of West’s family, two of whom now walked into the funeral home. One was West’s 20-year-old granddaughter, Kristen Chitwood, accompanied by her mother-in-law. Chitwood walked toward the body. In silence, she looked at the woman who had raised her when her own mother went to prison on drug charges, and then she touched her grandmother’s arm, red and bruised from IV lines. “I just want it to be a dream,” she said. Ridener arrived with tissues. “What’s some of the things she did in her life?” he asked. “What kind of work did she do?” “She was just a housewife,” Chitwood said. “She took in children that weren’t hers to raise them.” “Did she smoke?” Ridener asked after a moment, remembering what the nurse had told him. “She smoked off and on,” Chitwood said. “She used to smoke five packs a day.” “A lot of them will say that it was cigarettes,” Chitwood’s mother-in-law said. “But it wasn’t that. My mother-in-law is 85, 84 and she gets around better than me and she has smoked two packs of cigarettes her whole life since she was 14, probably.” Chitwood continued staring down at her grandmother. Nearby was a brochure listing coffins for sale. The Bronze Tribune: $4,295. The Wilbert Bronze: $4,395. The Venetian: $1,995. There would be other costs as well. Embalming would be $595. Rent for the chapel would be $495. The hearse would be $200. The services rendered by staff would be $1,750. All totaled, the cheapest funeral would be nearly $5,000. Chitwood stroked her grandmother’s hair and wondered how her family would come up with the money, while Ridener excused himself to take care of some paperwork in the office. Only after the two visitors left did he step into the embalming studio. He flipped on the fluorescent lights. He and an assistant wheeled out Maxwell and wheeled in West. Ridener fitted a pinch of chewing tobacco into his mouth, and the men stretched on blue latex gloves. He walked over to two cabinets on the far wall. Each was filled with embalming chemicals. One was for drug users who “don’t embalm like a normal body” because “they’ve already got so many toxins in their system.” The other was for people such as West, who didn’t have a history of drug use. Ridener opened five bottles and poured them into a machine, which churned them into a soupy mixture. He lifted West’s bluing body onto an aluminum table. He placed her hands in repose across her stomach. Then he pulled out a scalpel, made an incision underneath West’s collarbone, fished out an artery and inserted a tube into it that unleashed bursts of chemicals with the deliberate rhythm of a heartbeat. “You can see the color coming back,” the apprentice said. Pinkness returned to West’s cheeks and appendages, erasing the blues. Her skin began to feel firm. Ridener started washing her scalp. “This hair is going to be a mess,” he said. “She’s got real thin hair and very little of it.” The embalming fluid continued to cycle in, and little by little West came back to appearing as the woman she had been the day before: 59, filled with cancer and one heartbeat away from an early death. Debbie Murphy stands outside a service at Pine Knot Funeral Home in Pine Knot, Ky. She owns that mortuary and McCreary County Funeral Home in Whitely City. Murphy knows about the rising trend of early deaths for middle-aged white women in her area, and pays attention to her health: She eats vegan meals and does Pilates. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post) * * * The following day, Debbie Murphy was returning from another lunch at McCreary County’s only vegan restaurant. To Murphy, burying people has been a constant education, and one of the things she has learned from burying so many middle-aged women is that she doesn’t want to be one of them. Her own mother died at 51 of breast cancer. Then came her sister-in-law: dead at 50 when Murphy’s nephew, high on drugs and hallucinating, shot her to death in her bed. Fifty-six
years old now, Murphy wears a patch on her shoulder that releases nutrients into her body. In the evenings, she practices Pilates. In the mornings, she makes a shake from a pouch of antioxidant leaf powder. And lunch is at the vegan restaurant, where she always orders the special. Back in the funeral home now after some ratatouille, she was at her desk when a young woman walked in carrying a pair of blue jeans, a white button-down shirt, a black tank top and a pair of gold hoop earrings. “And you are?” Murphy asked. “Erica,” the woman said. She was Erica Leach, Maxwell’s only daughter, who had come to drop off clothing for her mother’s burial. She handed over the bundle of clothing, and Murphy unfurled the jeans. They were well-worn. The white shirt had cigarette-burn holes on the front. “I didn’t really want a pair of jeans, but I kind of got what I could get,” Leach said. “That’s the only jewelry I could get. I mean, I don’t even know if she could even fit in this stuff. I mean, I found the clothes I could, so . . .” “Well, let’s see,” Murphy said. “I had an outfit picked out for her, but it wasn’t there. Or I couldn’t find it,” Leach said, beginning to stammer, and then explained that right after her mother died, her house had been broken into, and “the whole house is like disheveled and everything.” “Do you have any idea of why, or who?” Murphy asked. “She has been prone to, like, she does have a reputation,” Leach said of her mother’s chronic drug use. Maybe the thieves were after drugs, maybe it was money. Maybe it was retribution. Whatever the reason, Leach had photographs of what they had done. One showed a door ripped off its hinges and thrown across the living room. Another showed a ransacked kitchen. A third showed her own childhood bedroom, also ransacked, which was where her mother had taken to sleeping lately at the end of a life that hadn’t gone according to plan: a car accident that led to a prescription for pain relievers, some mental health issues and more pills, a divorce and more pills, arrest after arrest and always more pills, until the end. There was a silence, and Leach explained that she wasn’t living with her mother anymore, that she was in college and spending the summer in Lexington: “I’m majoring in psychology and minor in international studies, and I’m going to get a Japanese certificate.” “Really?” asked an employee who had been listening. “You know Japanese?” “I can already speak a little of it,” Leach said. “And I’ve been through 101 and 102, and it’s one of my backup plans to teach English in Japan.” Murphy and Ridener looked at her for a long moment, quietly measuring the distance between a daughter who had gotten away and a mother who had died alone in that daughter’s bed. “Are you driving back up?” Ridener asked her. “I’m driving to Corbin,” she said of the town where her mother had lived and died. “I’ll be here tomorrow.” Ridener nodded and watched her leave. Undertaker Dan Ridener, left, and apprentice Israel Clark prepare a coffin in the embalming room in Pine Knot, Ky. Samples of vaults are on display outside, at a range of prices. Many cost thousands of dollars. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post) * * * The next morning, he was still thinking about what Leach had said. “That little girl going to college is a breakthrough,” he said. He was standing in the embalming room. The funeral home was quiet and empty. It was his favorite time of day, before more families walked in with more tragedy, before other employees showed up. “It’s a huge accomplishment,” he said, and then he turned his attention to her mother. It was time to get her ready. He started with the blue jeans Leach had brought. “These pants are not going to fit,” he said, trying to pull them up over a body that was stiff to the touch. He tried again, tugging a little. “I really believe these jeans didn’t belong to her, but to that little girl.” He tugged harder. “There’s no way.” But he got them on, buttoned her into the shirt with the cigarette burns and added the black tank top over that. “That adds a lot more class to that shirt, and it hides the pants,” he said. Next, he wheeled in her coffin. He fluffed its pink pillow and laid her body inside. He shaped her blond hair and slid the gold hoop earrings through her ears. An assistant arrived with a bottle of red nail polish. “All right now, get to painting,” Ridener said. “Ain’t nothing going to make her nails look good,” the assistant said, scrubbing away at a lifetime spent in this
place. “I’m trying to get this dirt off.” “Okay,” Ridener said after the job was done. “She’s ready.” Two hours later, the first family member to show up for Maxwell’s funeral was Leach. She walked into the funeral home, saw the coffin propped open in the chapel and decided not to go in until it had been closed. “Everyone else can go in,” she said. “I don’t want to see it.” More people began arriving, including several women who remained outside, smoking cigarettes and drinking Mountain Dew. “We got to figure out what we’re doing, because I didn’t bring enough cigarettes,” one of the women said to her daughter. Some of Leach’s college friends arrived, too, and they were nearby Leach when an old man in cowboy boots recognized her. “You still making good grades in school, Erica?” he asked. Now a skinny woman came over, knelt down, whispered condolences and went back to her cigarettes. From the back, the undertaker watched it all. He watched as the friends and relatives of Maxwell folded themselves into the pews, then rose again when the service was finished and went back outside to their cigarettes. He was there to advise the pallbearers who nearly dropped the coffin when placing it inside the hearse, and then he was driving the hearse deep into the countryside, into a terrain of hills and hollows and little else, until he came upon a cemetery so small and so remote it didn’t have an address. “It was a good funeral,” he would say later, when he had a moment to think about it, “a good funeral,” but for now he had to hurry. It was late afternoon, and he had a long drive back to McCreary Funeral Home, where Betty West awaited. He didn’t have much time to prepare. The funeral of one dead white woman was over, and in a few hours, the next one would begin. The McCreary County gravesite of Lois Maxwell — who died at 44 — at a cemetery so small and remote that it does not have an address. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post) Dan Keating and Julie Tate in Washington contributed to this report.

Source Title: Web

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.87
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 712580
Article Title: **Smoke Less, Drink Less?**
Date: 7/22/2016
Article Content: **Smoke Less, Drink Less?** Study found those who tried to quit cigarettes drank less alcohol, but reasons unclear WebMD News from HealthDay By Robert Preidt HealthDay Reporter FRIDAY, July 22, 2016 (HealthDay News) -- **Smokers** who try to give up tobacco drink less alcohol than other smokers, a new study suggests. Researchers analyzed survey data from nearly 6,300 smokers in England, including 144 who said they had attempted to quit smoking the week before they were surveyed. Those who tried to quit cigarettes drank less alcohol and were less likely to binge drink than those who did not try to quit. “These results go against the commonly held view that people who stop smoking tend to drink more to compensate. It’s possible that they are heeding advice to try to avoid alcohol because of its link to relapse,” said study lead author Jamie Brown, from University College London. The reasons for the findings aren’t clear. Smokers may reduce their alcohol consumption when trying to quit smoking to lower the risk of relapse, or people who drink less may be more likely to quit smoking, the researchers suggested. If the latter is true, smokers who are heavier drinkers may need
additional help to quit smoking, according to Brown. The findings were published July 21 in the journal BMC Public Health. “We can't yet determine the direction of causality. Further research is needed to disentangle whether attempts to quit smoking precede attempts to restrict alcohol consumption or vice versa. We'd also need to rule out other factors which make both more likely,” Brown said in a journal news release. "

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“tobnoecig_SOURCE_hea” – “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_hea”).

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 693696

Article Title: Adoptee's search opens new world''

Date: 4/17/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: MAPLE SHADE, N.J. MAPLE SHADE, N.J. (AP) - Wendy Marano couldn't answer the basic questions about her biological identity. Did breast cancer run in her family? Did she have any close family members with high cholesterol, or diabetes, or heart disease? Though her adoptive parents shared the scant information they had about her birth, Marano didn't have access to her original birth certificate, so she could not fill in those blanks. Thanks to a new law in her home state that opened adoptees' birth records last year, the 52-year-old Maple Shade resident has many more answers - and a family that has suddenly grown to include a pair of siblings she never knew existed. It's a peek at what could happen to thousands of adoptees in January, when New Jersey opens its own birth records for the roughly 400,000 people born here and adopted between 1940 and 2015. Through 2016, birth parents can ask the state to withhold their personal information from birth certificates released to the children they gave up for adoption. They can also register their contact preferences. The law includes a requirement for birth parents to file a detailed family history form along with their requests. Pam Hasegawa, an adoption advocate at the N.J. Coalition for Adoption Reform & Education, told the Courier-Post of Cherry Hill (http://on.cpsj.com/23PPfjG ) that in states with similar laws, few birth mothers have opted to keep their identities a secret. “The overwhelming majority have wanted contact either directly or through an intermediary, so the odds are in our favor,” said Hasegawa, who is herself an adoptee. Marano's story is the kind of scenario Hasegawa can see happening more often to New Jersey's adoptees, especially since older adoptees have likely outlived their birth parents. “I would be so elated to know that I had a sibling,” Hasegawa said. “It would blow me away.” Adopted when she was just three days old, Marano grew up knowing that she was adopted. “I think because of my parents' openness about how we came to be a family, I never had any traumas. I never felt abandoned or unloved by my birth mother and always felt she did what she thought was best, even though I didn't know the specific circumstances of why I was placed for adoption,” Marano observed. But in 1986, Marano learned the devastating possibilities of not knowing her genetic background. Her older adopted brother, Chris, died suddenly that year at age 24 from an undiagnosed genetic condition called Marfan
syndrome. “Had my parents known it ran in his family, he probably could have been monitored and treated and most likely had a normal lifespan,” said Marano, public relations manager for Cooper University Health Care. “That was when I became somewhat interested in my background.” When Marano was born in 1964, Ohio had already closed its birth records for adoptees. So she watched with interest as Ohio debated and then passed legislation to release original birth certificates to children relinquished by their biological parents. By then, both of her adoptive parents were gone. After some procrastination, Marano requested her information last fall and supplied the necessary documents to prove her identity. On Nov. 8, after coming home from her daughter’s soccer game, she found a fat envelope from Ohio in the mail. She sat on the top of her stairs and tore it open. Just months earlier, Beth Wachsman of Columbus, Ohio, was enjoying a visit from her out-of-state uncle, when he let a long-held family secret slip. After she questioned another relative, the truth tumbled out. More than 50 years earlier, her mother had given birth while she was a student at Ohio State University and had given an infant girl up for adoption, Wachsman learned. “The thing to do back then was to hide out with relatives,” said Wachsman, whose mother died in 1999 at age 54. “I think she was forced into it.” It was a stunning revelation. Wachsman, a 46-year-old attorney, soon shared the news with her older brother, Mike, over breakfast at a diner. It was a long conversation. They didn't know if this person was alive, or if she would want to be found. “We didn't know if that would open up a Pandora's box,” said Mike Wachsman, 50. “We didn't know how it was going to turn out.” They took a chance, and decided if their sister was looking for them, they would make themselves available to her. Beth Wachsman filled out the paperwork to have her own name and contact information added to her older sister's adoption file. Then she waited. When Marano opened her envelope a short time later, she found her original birth certificate with her original name, Katherine, and that of her biological mother. She was indeed 19, a teenager just as Marano had imagined. And there was another page with a sister's name and home address. She ran outside to tell her husband. “I have a sister and she's looking for me!” Marano told him. “That stunned me probably more than anything,” Marano said later. “I never let myself go there.” She did some online research and quickly found her biological mother's obituary. Then she wrote a three-page single-spaced letter and mailed it to the address listed on the form. “How do you start a letter like that? Hey, I'm your sister ... here I am!” Wachsman wasn't expecting a letter from a woman named Wendy. So when Marano's letter arrived, she had to read the first three lines before realizing it was from the sister she never knew she had until a few months earlier. She immediately told her wife, Laura, then called her brother and their aunt who had confirmed the family secret. “(My aunt) was stunned but she was immediately overcome with joy,” Wachsman recalled. “I could just hear it on the other end of the line, the relief in her voice of 50-some years of waiting to find out what happened to her niece.” Since then, it's been a whirlwind of e-mails, phone calls and catching up. The siblings and their families met for the first time a couple weeks ago in Ohio. Mike Wachsman brought along an urn with some of their mother's ashes to scatter near a tree planted in her memory. It was also the 17th anniversary of her death. Marano learned that her family tree stretches from Ireland and Norway, that cancer doesn't run in her mother's family, that smoking was likely the major contributing factor to her biological mother's early death from heart disease, and that she and her brother shared the same love for sports and college major: journalism. Mostly, the siblings share a sense of gratitude - for their instant bond, for Marano's own loving, adoptive parents, and for their newly expanded family. Marano's only regret is that she was never able to tell her birth mother that it was all OK. “I feel incredibly blessed,” Marano shared. “It's such a lovely gift at this point in my life to have all these wonderful family members ... It felt
DATELINE: CHICAGO

CHICAGO (AP) - Americans in certain struggling parts of the country are dying from cancer at rising rates, even as the cancer death rate nationwide continues to fall, an exhaustive new analysis has found. In parts of the country that are relatively poor, and have higher rates of obesity and smoking, cancer death rates rose nearly 50 percent, while wealthier pockets of the country saw death rates fall by nearly half. Better screening and treatment have contributed to the improvement in the nation as a whole - but the study underscores that not all Americans have benefited from these advances. "We are going in the wrong direction," said Ali Mokdad, the study's lead author and a professor at the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. "We should be going forward, not backward." Stark differences in regional cancer death rates have been found in previous research, but this one stands out for providing detailed estimates for deaths from nearly 30 types of cancer in all 3,100 U.S. counties over 35 years. From 1980 to 2014, the U.S. death rate per 100,000 people for all cancers combined dropped from about 240 to 192 - a 20 percent decline.

More than 19 million Americans died from cancer during that time, the study found. The picture was rosiest the Colorado ski country, where cancer deaths per 100,000 residents dropped by almost half, from 130 in 1980 to just 70 in 2014; and bleakest in some eastern Kentucky counties, where they soared by up to 45 percent. "We all know this is unacceptable ... in a country that spends more than anybody else on health," Mokdad said. The Affordable Care Act took effect in the study's final years and emphasized prevention services including no-cost screenings for breast, colorectal and cervical cancers. Any resulting benefits wouldn't be evident in the latest results, since cancer takes years to develop. It's unknown whether similar coverage will be part of the replacement system the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans are seeking. An editorial published with the study by Stephanie Wheeler, a University of North Carolina health policy specialist and Dr. Ethan Basch, a University of North Carolina cancer specialist, notes that many areas with the highest cancer death rates also strongly supported Donald Trump, "raising hopes that future policies developed by the incoming administration will provide resources" for these communities. Researchers estimated county death rates using U.S. government death records and U.S. Census Bureau data. Results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Ahmedin Jemal, an American Cancer Society researcher, said better understanding variations in cancer death rates will help target cancer prevention and control. Among the more striking disparities: -In counties with the highest 2014 cancer death rates, six of the top 10 were in eastern Kentucky. Six of the 10 lowest rates were in the Colorado Rockies. -For lung cancer deaths, four of the five counties with the highest 2014 rates were in eastern Kentucky, with rates up to
80 percent higher than in 1980. Three of the five counties with the lowest 2014 rates were in the Colorado Rockies, where rates dropped by up to 60 percent. -Death rates for breast and colorectal cancers increased in Madison County, Mississippi and in 2014 were at least five times higher there than in Summit County, Colorado, where the rates fell. These are among cancers that can be successfully treated if detected early. Smoking, obesity, physical activity and income explain many of the disparities, said study co-author Dr. Christopher Murray, also at the University of Washington. But the study also raises questions. For example, relatively high rates of testicular cancer were found in parts of Southern California and far southern Texas for reasons that are unclear. Since treatments for this rare cancer are extremely effective, "almost nobody should die of testicular cancer," Murray said. The poor showing for eastern Kentucky contrasts with wealthier parts of the state and "is tremendously troubling," said Ben Chandler, president of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, a nonpartisan group that funds health policy research and advocacy. Chandler cited poor access to health care and high smoking rates and said the disparities highlight a need for statewide smoke-free laws. The foundation funded a study that found that Kentucky's 2014 Medicaid expansion under the ACA covered costs for many cancer-related preventive health measures including mammograms and colon cancer screenings. How that expanded access will fare under the health care law's expected repeal "has been of great concern to us," Chandler said. ___ Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner. Her work can be found at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner

Source Title: AP

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 1
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Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 666315

Article Title: Strokes On The Rise Among Younger Adults ANCHORS: Rae Ellen Bichell"

Date: 2/22/2016

Article Content: DAVID GREENE: Today In Your Health, the rising rate of strokes in middle-aged adults. While fewer people are having strokes now than a few decades ago, the improvement appears to be happening mostly in the elderly. The incidence of stroke among adults under 50 is actually increasing. NPR's Rae Ellen Bichell visits a man who had a stroke when he was only 41. TROY HODGE: I'm Troy Hodge. I am from Carroll County, Md. I am what I like to call, the new stroke. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: The new stroke, he says. Two years ago, when he was 41, Troy Hodge's brain just stopped communicating with the left half of his body. He was at home, getting ready for work as a food service director at a nearby nursing home. He remembers going in the bathroom downstairs to take his blood pressure medications. After that, his memory is pretty fuzzy. TROY HODGE: I remember setting myself on the floor because I was really hot. And I wanted to get some water to splash on my face. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: A colleague got worried when he didn't show up for work on time. When she came over and found him on the floor, she called 911. TROY HODGE: I remember telling her not to let me die. And from then on, I really don't remember that much. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: He says he woke up a day or so later at a trauma center one state over. STEVEN KITTNER: Troy experienced what we call an intracerebral hemorrhage, which basically just means bleeding within the substance of the brain. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: That's one of
Troy's doctors, Steven Kittner He's a stroke neurologist at the University of Maryland's school of medicine. STEVEN KITTNER: Probably the major mechanism is damage to the small blood vessels due to the high pressure on these tiny vessels. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy is one of many Americans having strokes at a young age these days. The risk factors are the ones Troy had - high blood pressure, overweight, off kilter cholesterol, smoking. And what's alarming doctors is that one type of stroke, ischemic stroke, is actually increasing in people under 50. Dr. Amytis Towfighi is a vascular neurologist with the University of Southern California. She studies why young people have strokes. AMYTIS TOWFIGHI: The majority of strokes are still happening in older individuals. What's concerning is that the incidence and prevalence of stroke amongst younger individuals has increased. And it's increasing significantly. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: In one study, she says the stroke rate among people under 45 went up 44 percent over the course of a decade - the most likely reason, obesity and the constellation of health issues that come with it that can wear down or block a person's blood vessels. AMYTIS TOWFIGHI: We're giving people blood pressure medications and cholesterol medications. So we're trying to keep those at bay. But one of the underlying causes is obesity. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy is a big guy. And he says he's had high blood pressure for a long time. That day, it probably caught up with him. Like water in a bent hose, the volume of blood moving through his veins overloaded a delicate vessel deep inside his brain and burst. It was key that Troy's colleague found him early on in the stroke so that surgeons were able to drain some of the blood before it caused irreversible damage. But still, in one day, Troy became a patient at a facility just like the ones he used to work in. TROY HODGE: You know how they say when you have a baby, it changes your life? Well, this changes your life. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: He couldn't walk or do anything that involved both hands. He started making lists because he says his short-term memory took a hit. TROY HODGE: Let me get week my wallet and my keys. I love hoodies with pockets 'cause I can just shove everything in my pocket. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy's getting ready to go to occupational therapy. It's a bitterly cold day outside, but he doesn't wear a coat. TROY HODGE: Because it's just too hard putting it on. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: He says with only half his body in control, even something like getting dressed, cutting an onion or stepping off a curb is a huge task. TROY HODGE: You basically have to start over again. I mean, you retrain your brain to use your limbs. You retrain your brain to remember. You retrain everything. It's pretty devastating. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy ended up living in a rehab facility for a year, relearning in his 40s how to do things that he'd done every day of his life. Towfighi says a lot of her younger patients have similar experiences. At her clinic, the average age of stroke is 56. She says even though young people tend to recover their abilities better, they also have a tough time with recovery. AMYTIS TOWFIGHI: It has significant effects on the family and can have socioeconomic consequences because they're unable to work immediately after the stroke. And one of my studies showed that younger age is a risk factor for depression after stroke. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy didn't get depressed. But he had to make some tough adjustments. He told his 18-year-old daughter he wouldn't be able to pay for her college or her car, that she'd have to be on her own for a bit because he couldn't help out the way he used to. TROY HODGE: It was a long year. I'm not going to say it wasn't. And there was times when I would just cry and not stop crying. But, you know, it passed, and I moved on from there. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Now he lives in his own apartment and works part-time at an exercise facility for the disabled. He's working on his blood pressure, trying to cut down on cigarettes. And he goes to occupational therapy, or OT, once a week to work on everyday skills. To help get through it, he gave his weak leg a name. TROY HODGE: I named them. This is Eddie, and my arm is Douglas. Douglas, I talk to Douglas because I'm not so sure about him. He just kind of does his own thing. LYDIA BONGIORNI: (Laughter). It shows a sense of humor. That's good. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Lydia Bongiorni is a
occupational therapist at the outpatient neurorehabilitation institute. It’s at the University of Maryland.
LYDIA BONGIORNI: How does that feel? TROY HODGE: All Right. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: She worked with Troy when he first entered rehab. Today they're working on Douglas, Troy's notoriously uncooperative left arm and hand. It's stuck in a stiff curl. LYDIA BONGIORNI: Your fingers do not want to open up today. That's OK. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: His muscles are fine, Bongiorni explains. It's the messaging system from his brain to his muscles that needs repair. LYDIA BONGIORNI: Squeeze. Lean into it. TROY HODGE: Lean into it? RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Troy's face strains as he grasps the deodorant stick and brings it haltingly up to his armpit. LYDIA BONGIORNI: Keep going. Keep going. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Bongiorni's trying to get him to use his left hand as a tool rather than like a stump. They practice washing dishes, walking with a weight in that hand and bringing a cup to Troy's mouth. LYDIA BONGIORNI: Hold it and lift up. Good. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: Next on his list of goals, taking out the trash. TROY HODGE: I can take the trash out. That's why I have a can out there. But I'm not up to walking to the dumpster just yet. You know, I'm going to get there. I'd say by the summertime, I'll probably be taking it to the dumpster, but not quite. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: He's going to have to keep practicing these things every day on his own, like a musician mastering an instrument. TROY HODGE: PT, OT, I've accomplished to them what I'm going to accomplish, I think. For the rest, it's up to me. And being young - I'm only 43. So I have time to do that. RAE ELLEN BICHELL: He picks up his cane. Its name is Genevieve, after his mom. Rae Ellen Bichell, NPR News."

Source Title: BTN

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 2

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 800275

Article Title: SHOW: CNN 10 4:00 AM EST Britain`s Leader Calls For An Early Election; Trump Signs a New Executive Order; Health Impacts of Loneliness"

Date: 4/19/2017

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: British Prime Minister Theresa May said the government would try to hold a snap election, an early election, on June 8th of this year. U.S. President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order that aims to follow through on a pledge he made on inauguration day. Research suggests that loneliness is actually associated with heart disease or actually living a shorter life. CARL AZUZ, CNN 10 ANCHOR: A surprise announcement from the United Kingdom leads things off today on CNN 10. I`m Carl Azuz. Great to have you watching. In Britain or the U.K., general elections are scheduled to take place every five years. The last one happened in 2015, the next was initially scheduled for 2020. But yesterday, an unexpected move was made. British Prime Minister Theresa May said the government would try to hold a snap election, an early election, on June 8th of this year. This is legal in Britain and has been done before. But Prime Minister May had said previously that she wouldn`t call for an early election. The reason she did -- political disagreements in Westminster, which is the Washington, D.C. of Britain. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) THERESA MAY, BRITISH PRIME MINISTER: At this point of enormous national significance, there should be unity here in Westminster. But instead, there is division. The country is coming together, but Westminster is not. (END VIDEO CLIP) AZUZ: The moment of national
significance she referred to is the Brexit, the British exit from the European Union. Last summer, British voters approved separating from the union by a margin of about 52 percent to 48 percent. The process has begun. It’s a long one, with a lot of negotiations. It’s expected to take two years. The nation’s deeply divided over it in exactly how the Brexit should be carried out. That brings us to Prime Minister May. Her political party, the Conservative Party, has a majority in Britain’s parliament, but it’s a small one. And the parties that opposed it had been complicating the conservatives’ Brexit plans, though most British lawmakers say they will go through with the Brexit. By calling for early elections, what the prime minister is hoping is that her party will gain seats to show it has the support of the British people, and that could strengthen its strategy for the Brexit. It appears that Prime Minister May does have the support she wants. Her personal approval ratings are high, and her party is expected to win more seats in the vote. Opposition parties say they welcome the early election decision. It’s put the country in the full throttle election mood. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MAY: We agree that the government should call a general election to be held on the 8th of June. NIC ROBERTSON, CNN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC EDITOR: The one thing you need to know about Theresa May’s announcement of a snap election on June the 8th is that she wants to have a stronger hand in the Brexit negotiations. She says that the opposition parties, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party in Scotland are all working to undermine unity in Westminster. She also criticized the House of Lords, saying they were doing the same. Theresa May’s critics however say that she is not working in the national interests, that she is, in fact, working to strengthen the position of the conservative party. Polls, if they’re to be believed, and they’ve been notoriously unreliable in recent years, indicate that her party is doing well over the Labour Party. What Theresa May says she wants to do is to avoid arriving towards the end and the toughest part of the Brexit negotiations, at the same time, the country is preparing for general elections. This is widely seen as an attempt by Theresa May to force her way with a hard Brexit. (END VIDEOTAPE) AZUZ: U.S. President Donald Trump has signed a new executive order that aims to follow through on a pledge he made on inauguration day. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) DONALD TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We will follow two simple rules: buy American and hire American. (END VIDEO CLIP) AZUZ: Yesterday, the president visited the headquarters of a Wisconsin- based tool manufacturer. He said his administration would do everything it could to make sure more products are stamped with the words “made in the USA”. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TRUMP: This historic action declares that the policy of our government is to aggressively promote and use American made goods and to ensure that American labor is hired to do the job. (END VIDEO CLIP) AZUZ: But Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said in a conference call that the president hasn’t stood up to China, which is blamed for taking American jobs, or do enough to help American workers. (BEGIN AUDIO CLIP) SEN. CHARLES SCHUMER (D-NY), SENATE MINORITY LEADER: The president makes a promise, signs an empty executive order that won’t help the life of a single American worker, smiles at the cameras and goes right back to happening, helping out the special interests and leaving America’s workers out to dry. (END AUDIO CLIP) AZUZ: One thing the executive order does is prioritize using American companies to carry out U.S. government projects. It also pushes for stricter enforcement of H-1B visa laws. That program aims to bring skilled workers from other countries into the U.S. But the Trump administration says it’s been abused by some companies to hire workers who will accept less pay than Americans would. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) REPORTER: If you’re a highly skilled foreigner looking for a job in the U.S., chances are you’re looking for an H-1B visa. But there’s concern among some lawmakers that outsourcing firms may be exploiting the program. They flood the market with applicants who often are making less money than Americans. Let’s look at the facts: H-1B visas are offered through a lottery. There are 85,000 people awarded the visas each year and
they’re good for three years. The median salary for an employee on an H-1B is $79,000. And if the visa holder was hired through an overseas outsourcing firm, that firm makes money, too. For example in India, the money earned by outsourcing firms makes up almost 10 percent of the country’s GDP. The majority of H-1B petitions, around 70 percent, are from Indian nationals. China has the second most at just under 10 percent. California seeks out more H-1B workers than any other state, followed by Texas, New York, New Jersey and Illinois. And where are they going? Silicon Valley. Two-thirds of H-1Bs granted in 2015 were for tech jobs. And while sections of corporate America claimed to rely heavily on H-1Bs, many agree the system needs to be fixed. (END VIDEOTAPE) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) AZUZ (voice-over): Ten-second trivia: Which of these objects cost the most to build? Burj Khalifa, Large Hadron Collider, Channel Tunnel or International Space Station? The International Space Station is said to be the most expensive single object people have ever built. Its estimated cost has exceeded $110 billion. (END VIDEO CLIP) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ANNOUNCER: Three, two, go for main engine start, one, zero and lift off of the Atlas V rocket with Cygnus and the SS John Glenn, extending the research legacy for living and working in space. (END VIDEO CLIP) AZUZ: The scene yesterday in Cape Canaveral, Florida. It’s a cargo delivery for the International Space Station. More than 7,600 pounds of science experiments, hardware and supplies for the astronauts who are on the ISS. The spacecraft taking it there was built by private space company Orbital ATK, under a multibillion dollar contract from NASA. It’s scheduled to reach the station this Saturday and it will eventually be destroyed, along with several thousand pounds of garbage when the spacecraft reenters earth’s atmosphere in July. The U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, has said that the most common health problem in America isn’t cancer, obesity or heart disease, but isolation, being cut off socially from others. Research suggests that this is actually associated with heart disease or actually living a shorter life. Fortunately, there’s something simple we can do to fight it off. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) DR. SANJAY GUPTA, CNN CHIEF MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT: This will shock you, just how much of an impact being lonely can have on your health. What they have found now in a few different studies is that it’s on par with being a smoker. It increases your risk for real diseases like heart disease, like diabetes. So, we think about loneliness in this abstract sense, but the health effects are very objective and very real. As a neuroscientist, I was so interested in this idea that we know where pain resides in the brain. And what we now know is that people who are chronically lonely, they have higher activity in that pain part of the brain. So, even though it’s loneliness it can register as physical pain. Having friends really does seem to keep people healthy. The simple act of being social, we find people’s immune system actually perform better. Simply saying “hello” can make the person who gets that greeting live longer. The evidence is pretty clear on this. And we’re starting to get more and more evidence that you yourself by saying hello, it’s so empowering that could actually do wonders for your health as well. (END VIDEOTAPE) AZUZ: In October, we told you about a dog that set a Guinness World Record for popping 100 balloons in 39.8 seconds. Well, Toby the whippet put his speed and teeth to the test last month in a doggone fine effort to break that record. The challenge was the same: 100 balloons, but Toby here with the help a woman named Christie Springs took all the air out of the balloons in a new record time of 36.53 seconds. More than 3 seconds faster than the old record, he was nipping at its heels. Toby and Devo (ph) teach us that when a challenge comes along, you must whippet. He did a whippet good job and was able to go forward and move ahead by setting a new high bar. Hope you’ll pop back again on CNN 10 tomorrow. I’m Carl Azuz."
Dec. 28, 2008, was a devastating day for John Nealon's family. The 83-year-old father of 11 suffered massive bleeding in his brain, killing him three days later on New Year's Eve in Ireland. Ultimately, though, Nealon's death may have saved the lives of five of his children, including one who lives in Chicago. A year after Nealon died, one of his children started hearing ringing in her ear. She went to a specialist, and when the doctor heard about Nealon dying from a brain hemorrhage, he sent her for an MRI. The images were a shock. Not only did Pauline Nealon Shortall in Dublin have an aneurysm in her brain that could have ruptured and killed her at any moment, but so did four other siblings. All five siblings had what's known as a cerebral aneurysm, which occurs when there's a weak or thin spot on a blood vessel in the brain that balloons out and fills with blood. Rosemary Nealon McNulty, 59, of Lincoln Square, had two aneurysms that were “relatively large . . . and looked like they would have ruptured in the near future,” said Dr. Bernard Bendok, the surgeon who performed both of McNulty's brain surgeries at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. “I was a ticking bomb and had no idea,” McNulty said. “I was shocked.” An estimated 6 million people in the United States have an unruptured brain aneurysm, or 1 in 50 people, according to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation. Many aneurysms pose no threat, and people may have no clue they have one because, as was the case with Nealon’s children, they typically have no symptoms. Yet 40 percent of people die when an aneurysm ruptures, the foundation says. The sudden onset of an unusually severe headache, loss of consciousness, or getting nausea, vision impairment or vomiting can be warning signs. Family history is a known risk factor for aneurysms, and family members are more likely to have an aneurysm rupture. Smoking or high-blood pressure also are risk factors. The ringing that Shortall had in her ear turned out not to be related to her having an aneurysm, McNulty said. But Shortall told her sister, “Oh, that was Daddy ringing me to tell me, 'Get your head sorted out, girl.' “ Between 2009 and 2012, all five siblings underwent surgery to prevent their aneurysms from bursting, with the procedures done in three different countries. “I feel enormously blessed and thankful that we've all come through it,” said McNulty, who will have to go for yearly MRIs but otherwise requires no other precaution, such as taking medication to avoid a rupture. Bendok, a professor of neurological surgery and neurology at Northwestern’s Feinberg School of Medicine, said the Nealon family “is an example of how knowing your family medical history can save your life.” As much as she misses her father, McNulty says the aneurysm saga the siblings went through is proof that their father is their “guardian angel.” “We still reckon he's looking out for us. And taking care of us,” McNulty said. Email: mjthomas@suntimes.com Twitter: @MonifaThomas1"
Gorky Charpentier walks eight miles, rides a stationary bike, and then spends about an hour exercising in the pool -- daily. He eats well and takes care of himself. So, it's hard to believe the 75-year-old retired consul general of Ecuador had a heart operating at less than 30 percent. Without recent advances in minimally invasive valve procedures, Charpentier probably would have died. And he's not alone. For inoperable patients who suffer from mitral valve prolapse and related valve abnormalities, their only option is a minimally invasive procedure -- not the usual route of open heart surgery. High-risk or inoperable patients are typically older, with other health issues or heart conditions, or are smokers. Mitral valve prolapse is not a disease, Dr. Ramon Quesada said. It's an abnormality of the tissue of the MVP into the atrium. In most people, it isn't life-threatening and doesn't require treatment. When the heart's left atrium and left ventricle don't close properly, MVP occurs. When the valve fails to close, blood flows backward in the heart -- a condition known as mitral valve regurgitation. Symptoms include shortness of breath, lung congestion and difficulty walking. “It’s like you’re drowning,” said Quesada, interventional cardiologist at Miami Cardiac & Vascular Institute at Baptist Hospital. Minimally invasive procedures, like Baptist's MitraClip, Mount Sinai's Ring and Sling and University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), provide an alternative to surgery for those patients who don't have the option of open heart surgery. Baptist Health started the MitraClip trials nearly 10 years ago. Until it received FDA approval in November 2014, Quesada was the only doctor in Florida performing the procedure, which involves implanting a MitraClip into patients by making a puncture in the skin of the groin, and threading a catheter with the clip up to the heart valve through an artery in the leg. The clip then grasps the two leaflets that make up the valve and helps them close. “It’s one of the most emotionally rewarding procedures because you can immediately see the results. Some patients are better after one day, and some need a couple of days,” he said. “The heart gets stronger within a year.” For some, one clip is enough. Charpentier needed two MitraClip procedures. His quality of life has improved significantly. “I'm feeling happy because I'm living in good conditions,” Charpentier said. Quesada has performed the procedure more than 100 times on patients ranging in age from 41 to 98. He stressed that the nonsurgical option is not a replacement for surgical repair and long-term effects have yet to be seen. The same goes for Dr. Mauricio Cohen, an interventional cardiologist with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Cohen has been performing transcatheter aortic valve replacements since 2009, when he joined the University of Miami medical school, and said that despite its success, it needs to be tested over time. “We need to understand the durability of these powerful medical technologies, and we need to assess whether or not we can apply the treatment, not only to high-risk patients likely to do poorly with open-heart surgery, but also to moderate and low-risk patients in whom surgical aortic valve replacement is still the standard of care,” he said. “One day TAVR may replace open-heart surgery, but we are not there yet.” TAVR is a minimally invasive approach to replacing a failing aortic valve in patients who are not good surgical candidates. Smaller catheters and repositionable valves, which UM is researching, allow for a wider range of patients to be treated in a minimally invasive way -- through the groin. “Before we had these treatments, the only way to treat was open-heart surgery” Cohen said, calling TAVR revolutionary in the treatment of heart valves. Cohen performed TAVR on 88-year-old Martin Mostovy in June 2014. He had the procedure on a Monday morning, ate a normal dinner that evening and went home that
Wednesday. He said the recovery has been amazing. Age, as well as other significant health issues, made him a poor candidate for surgical aortic valve replacement, so the minimally invasive procedure became a life-saving solution for him. Bob Hundevadt's heart was operating at about 35 percent prior to his valve procedure. Hundevadt, director of security for Miami Heat and the American Airlines Arena, left Miami to attend an NBA All-Star weekend with a cold and came back with a cold. “My wife said, ‘You look like s---t,’” he said. He found his way to Mount Sinai’s chief of cardiac surgery, Dr. Joseph Lamelas. Lamelas performs the Ring and Sling, a minimally invasive procedure that treats mitral valve insufficiency. He makes a two-inch incision between the ribs on the right side of a patient's chest. Then, Lamelas separates the ribs without cutting them, takes a tube inside the heart to grab the muscles and pull them together -- acting as a ring and sling that strengthen the heart and fix the leak. Before the procedure, “blood can't be pumped out effectively,” he said. “These patients are typically very short of breath and fatigued. Most are not just 'really tired.'” Recovery is faster than traditional methods of valve replacement or repair. Most surgeons use rings to fix leaky valves or replace them entirely, he said. About 30 percent of patients will come back with a severe valve leak. “When you use only a ring, you're not doing anything to the heart muscle,” Lamelas said. Over the last 20 years, minimally invasive surgeries have become a lot more advanced. While patients younger than 40 aren't typically in need of ring and sling procedures, it does happen and minimally invasive techniques are more appealing, aesthetically and otherwise. “If the valve can be repaired [in younger people], they should have surgery earlier,” Lamelas said. Nearly a year after his Ring and Sling procedure, Hundevadt, who has high blood pressure, said he feels 98 percent back to normal. Hundevadt, 57, had mitral valve regurgitation. His heart was enlarged because it was overcompensating for the lack of blood flow. Had he not had the procedure? “I think I would have probably died.”

Source Title: News

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 134545

Article Title: Accident and sickness insurance: what you need to know | Money | The Guardian

Date: 6/17/2014

Article Content: How would you keep a roof over your head if you couldn't work due to ill health? Many of us wrongly adopt the “it-will-never-happen-to-me” mentality, but for millions of households, putting your head in the sand could have dreadful consequences. Recent research from Shelter showed that nearly four million families could not keep up with housing costs in the event of a month's missed pay. “There is little or no room for manoeuvre for people with stretched household budgets,” says Gillian Guy, chief executive at Citizens Advice. “Many are still feeling the effects of the recession as low wages and high costs mean people face a daily battle to make ends meet. A month without a pay cheque can easily prove disastrous.” So how can you ensure you are properly protected should you find yourself out of work due to an accident or sickness? It is worth considering insurance such as income protection or critical illness cover. These policies can pay vital bills in the event of prolonged periods unemployment due to poor health. According to figures from the Institute of Actuaries and insurer LV, a 30-year-old,
A non-smoking man is nearly twice as likely to suffer a serious illness before the age of 70 than to die. Yet despite this, just one in 10 of us have this type of financial protection in place. “Anyone with debts or dependents should consider some form of financial protection insurance,” says Tom Baigrie, chief executive of Lifesearch, the insurance brokers. “For many people affording both types of cover would be difficult, however, the products do complement each other as they cover different risks.” Critical illness cover pays a tax-free lump sum on diagnosis of any one of a list of serious illnesses, while an income protection policy pays a monthly income if you are unable to work through sickness. “It’s really important to think about why you might be unable to work for an extended period of time,” says Phil Jeynes, spokesman for insurance provider PruProtect. “Statistically, injury or illness are the biggest causes of absenteeism and many employers stop paying sick pay after quite a short period of time.”

Most people dramatically overestimate the amount of state aid they will receive if they are taken ill. According to Lifesearch, a 30-year-old earning a salary of £35,000 would only be entitled to around £300 a month in benefits if they were to become too ill to work. However, an income protection policy from Exeter Friendly, costing £15 a month, would guarantee a monthly income of £1,400 if the person buying it opted for payouts to begin after a six-month deferral period. When you consider figures from Aviva that show that the average length of an income protection claim is nine years and four months the sum can soon add up. Based on the Exeter Friendly policy above, this cover could be worth nearly £150,000 over the course of your claim. Policies are priced according to your age, general health and the amount you want to receive if you have to make a claim. When calculating how much cover you need, it makes financial sense to consider all the monthly outgoings you pay every month. “As well as your mortgage, rent or loan commitments, you must include those everyday essentials such as council tax, utility bills and the weekly food shop,” says Simon Burgess, director at protection provider British Money. “If you only take out enough cover to repay a loan or mortgage, you could still end up in debt trying to meet your other commitments.” Financial experts agree that due to society’s increasing life expectancy, it is crucial to think past traditional retirement ages when taking out a protection policy to ensure that you will be adequately covered for the duration you require. “Given that we may all need to work much longer to be able to afford to retire, one must think beyond age 65 as a maximum term,” says wealth manager Philippa Gee. “You still need to consider just how long your working life could be and scope a product to reflect that.” Bear in mind, however, that this could increase the cost of the policy, depending on the length of cover you are after. While these policies complement each other, they do different things and cover different risks so it is important to carefully consider both before making a purchase. If you have a heart attack, for instance, and return to work after six months, a critical illness policy would have paid the lump sum, where income protection payments would stop when you go back to work. When it comes to taking out insurance, policyholders must be careful to disclose all previous medical conditions. Failure to report even minor conditions, tests or even a complaint made to a GP could potentially invalidate a later claim, or result in a reduced payout. When it comes to choosing an income protection policy, consumers should look to insure their “own occupation” – claimants who are unable to do their own job – rather than any work at all because they fall ill. The good news is that this type of cover, while offering better protection, may not be more costly as it is factors such as age, smoking, occupation, length of policy and amount of cover that determines the premium. Get the most for your premiums and opt for two single policies rather than joint cover if you are in a relationship. Despite higher premiums of roughly 10%, these two policies can pay out twice, whereas a joint policy will only ever pay out once.

Source Title: Web
Article Content: How much will a 65-year-old retired couple spend on medical expenses for the rest of their lives? $260,000. That’s the estimated amount needed in today’s dollars, according to a recent study by Fidelity Investments. For many older workers approaching retirement, medical expenses represent one cost of living that can increase significantly when they retire, assuming they were covered by a typical employer-sponsored medical plan while they were working. That’s why older workers will want to factor in their estimated medical expenses during their retirement years when assessing whether their Social Security, pensions (if they have one) and retirement savings are adequate to finance their retirement. Fidelity’s medical expense estimate includes future Medicare premiums, deductibles and co-payments associated with Medicare Parts A (hospital services), B (outpatient services) and D (prescription drugs). It also assumes you won’t be covered by a supplemental medical program such as an employer’s retiree medical plan.

The trouble is, most older workers don’t have $260,000 in retirement savings to cover all their living expenses, let alone their medical costs. For example, the 2016 Retirement Confidence Survey, administered by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), found that more than half (54 percent) of workers age 55 or older reported that they or their spouse had saved less than $100,000 for retirement. Fortunately, it’s not absolutely necessary for you to set aside $260,000 in savings when you retire to devote to future medical expenses (although that might be one good strategy). You can pay for future medical expenses with regular income you might receive in the future from Social Security, pensions (again, if you have one) and income you get from working.

Here are a few other ways you can manage your medical costs:

Selecting a Medicare Advantage plan that delivers benefits normally paid by Medicare Parts A, B and D, typically through a managed care network. Buying a Medigap plan that pays for Medicare’s deductibles and co-payments, if you elect traditional Medicare coverage. Taking care of your health by quitting smoking, exercising more, improving nutrition, losing weight and managing your stress. It’s a tall order, but it might help. Chronic conditions that require prescription drugs are often responsive to lifestyle remedies. Becoming a savvy medical consumer by exploring all your treatment options with your physician and other medical professionals. Working for awhile at an employer that offers employee medical coverage. Low-income retirees might also be eligible for Medicaid, depending on the state they live in. One great way to save for medical expenses in retirement is with a Health Savings Account (HSA), which has a triple tax advantage: Contributions are tax-deductible; Investment income on your contributions accumulate tax-free; you don’t pay taxes on withdrawals if you use them to pay for qualified medical expenses. However, you’re eligible to contribute to an HSA only if you participate in a high-deductible medical plan (a deductible of at least $1,300 for a single person and $2,600 for family coverage). The maximum amount you can contribute to an HSA in 2016 is: $3,350 for single coverage; $6,750 for family coverage. A $1,000 catch-up contribution if you’re 55 or older HSAs won’t solve the soaring medical costs for American retirees, however, as some politicians have recently suggested. EBRI reports that the average account balance in an HSA for 65-year-old workers was $5,016 at the end of 2014. That’s just a pocket
change compared to the $260,000 goal. The thing is, HSAs haven’t been around long enough for current older workers to accumulate significant amounts, but they can be an effective tool for younger workers to save for their future medical expenses. Many people aren’t aware that Medicare doesn’t cover most long-term care expenses, which is most often custodial care when you’re frail, including help with daily living activities such as bathing, preparing food, administering medications and using the bathroom. Medicare primarily covers medical treatments and services only. Fidelity estimates that in addition to $260,000 for retiree medical expenses, a 65-year-old couple would need $130,000 to insure against long-term care expenses. This assumes the couple is in good health and purchases a long-term care insurance policy with $8,000 monthly maximum benefit, up to three years of benefits and an inflation adjustment of 3 percent per year. Most people don’t purchase long-term care insurance, however. In this case, they may want to keep home equity in reserve to tap in case they incur significant long-term care expenses. Fidelity’s estimates also don’t include over-the-counter medications, most dental expenses and vision care. If you’re an older worker approaching retirement and are currently covered by dental or vision insurance as an active employee, you’ll want to make sure you get any necessary work completed before retiring. Here’s the bottom line: If you’re retiring in your mid-60s, you and your spouse, if you’re married, could be facing 30 years or more of medical expenses. For most people, this will add up to a lot of money. This is one very good reason to take the time to carefully assess the adequacy of your retirement resources and consider working part-time while in your 60s or 70s to cover as many expenses as possible."

Source Title: Web

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 640531

Article Title: From naked jogging to killer bacon... Take our fun 2015 health quiz | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 12/26/2015

Article Content: Flame-haired Hollywood star Julianne Moore won an Oscar for her starring role in the film Still Alice, the story of a college professor with which disease?CALL THE DOCTOR! By Dr Ellie Cannon, Mail on Sunday GP1. The chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, this year declared employers must be open to talking about which problem suffered by women that affects their performance in the workplace?a Unwanted male attentionb Symptoms of the menopausePanc Pain caused by high heels2. Flame-haired Hollywood star Julianne Moore won an Oscar for her starring role in the film Still Alice, the story of a college professor with which disease?3. The female version of which ‘blue pill’ was finally approved by prescribing watchdogs?4. In April, 30-year-old Russian computer scientist Valery Spiridonov became the first person to volunteer for which procedure?5. Having a pet may protect your child from what?a Anxiety and stressb Asthma and allergy All of the above6. Media mogul and chat-show star Oprah Winfrey became the face of which diet?7. Which over-the-counter medicines were recently rapped by health watchdogs for making misleading promises?8. I got hooked on the latest food craze this year: fermenting. The process – in which vegetables are left to soak in their own juices with no oxygen – naturally enriches foods with what?a ‘Friendly’ probiotic bacteriaib A revolting smellc FibreEAT
YOURSELF WELL
By Jackie Lynch, Nutritional Therapist

1. Public Health England recently declared that what is responsible for more chronic disease in the UK than smoking?
2. The World Health Organisation declared which food a possible carcinogen?
3. Bacon
4. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver’s most recent campaign is for a tax to be put on what?
5. Which singing star credited green juice for his dramatic weight loss when he cleaned up at the 2015 Grammy awards?
6. Which festive-favourite vegetable has doubled in weight this year due to an unseasonably warm autumn?
7. Which must-have gadget is rumoured to have played a key part in the Duchess of Cambridge regaining her svelte figure so soon after giving birth?
8. Over-50s were identified as at risk from which hidden health problem in a British Medical Journal study that made news in July?
9. Which diet plan is rumoured to have played a key part in the Duchess of Cambridge regaining her svelte figure so soon after giving birth?
10. TV cook Nigella Lawson claimed that doing what slowly helped her slim down from a size 16 to a size 12?
11. Australian Reg Foggerdy, 62, survived while lost in the outback for six days by eating ants – a tip he learned from watching a Bear Grylls’s TV show. How many calories are there in one ant?
average child’s mouth. 6. Three teaspoons. 250ml of bubbly contains 12g of sugar – but it’s still one of the lowest-sugar choices in wine. 7. Drinking. A study of more than 9,000 people revealed that alcohol over-consumption is a ‘hidden’ health and social problem among affluent middle-aged people. 8. A Nutribullet. Kate is rumoured to be a big fan of healthy home-made smoothies and vegetable juices.

SHAPING UP, MATT ROBERTS 1. c: 55-year-old Lawson told Good Housekeeping magazine that ‘slow’ Iyengar yoga, rather than a diet, was behind her weight loss. 2. Carol Vorderman. In August the former Countdown star revealed that she was ‘covered in burns’ after falling off a treadmill while running naked. 3. A weight-loss protein ‘shake’ drink, from brand Protein World. 4. Eating disorders. The number of teenagers admitted to NHS clinics suffering from this has nearly doubled in three years, to more than 1,800. 5. 10,000 steps. 6. American Pharoah. A readers’ poll named the racehorse, who won the American Triple Crown – the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes, considered a thoroughbred’s highest achievement. Serena supporters were quick to point out a horse wasn’t a ‘person’. 7. c: Social media critics claimed the singer was ‘too thin’ when she appeared at the Billboard Awards in Las Vegas. 8. There are 1.5 calories in an ant.

Source Title: Web

Health – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 763856

Article Title: MPs launch Jo Cox Commission to tackle loneliness - BBC News

Date: 1/31/2017

Article Content: Media caption Kim Leadbeater, Jo Cox's sister, tells Radio 4’s Today about how she wants to 'eradicate' loneliness. Colleagues and family members of the murdered Labour MP Jo Cox have launched a campaign to tackle loneliness. Mrs Cox had started work on the cross-party campaign before she was killed in her constituency last year. The commission, in her memory, will work with 13 charities including Age UK and Action for Children to come up with ideas for change. They will provide findings as part of monthly campaigns on people such as new mums, carers and the elderly. 'Sociable but lonely' - how it feels when loneliness strikes. The campaigners will put together a manifesto of the charities' findings and ask the government to look into ways of reducing the problem. Research by the partners shows over nine million people say they are “always or often lonely”, but two-thirds of those would not talk about it in public. ‘Real difference’ MPs want the report to be a call to action to encourage people to chat and start conversations. The commission is asking people to do more, for example knocking on a door or picking up a phone. Mrs Cox's sister, Kim Leadbeater, said she wanted to continue the MP's legacy “by ridding society of loneliness one conversation at a time.” Mrs Cox, who was the Labour MP for Batley and Spen, suffered from loneliness when she went to university and was split up from her sister. “It was one of those issues where she felt she could make a real difference,” she told the BBC News Channel. “I can't go back to normality because there is no normality without Jo, but what I can do is try and work to continue the good stuff that she did and try and make her proud.” Despite the family's “dark days”, Ms Leadbeater said she would not be beaten by what had happened and that she would “come out fighting.” "I'm going to try and make some of the change and difference Jo can't make for herself"
anymore”, she added. The co-chairwoman of the campaign, Conservative MP Seema Kennedy, said loneliness could be “profoundly detrimental” on mental and physical health. “If you are chronically lonely, it is as bad as smoking **15 cigarettes** a day. You might have an increased risk of high blood pressure. “Mrs Cox was determined to shine a spotlight on how loneliness affects people of ages, Ms Kennedy said.

Source Title: Web

**E-cigarette texts**

**More than Passing Mentions**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_hea”.

**Health – Ecig – MPM – AP 1**

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 693563

Article Title: Recent Missouri Editorials"

Date: 4/12/2016

Article Content: The Columbia Daily Tribune, April 11 Not a simple piling-on As members of the Missouri General Assembly work through the politics of dealing with the University of Missouri, they are trending toward the inevitable; their reaction to the university can’t be as simple as beating Melissa Click. Now that they have gotten their ounce of flesh - Click has been fired from the MU faculty - what’s next? Suddenly they are confronted with making next year’s budget, much of which involves spending for the University of Missouri. After a season of tough talk, much of it issued by people who know better but apparently regard university kicking as politically wise during this electoral year, they now must engage in more serious business. Happy to say, making the budget seems to have ameliorated some of their thinking. In a series of compromises, the Missouri Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill Thursday restoring most of the cuts to UM made earlier by the House of Representatives - providing the university does not raise tuition costs, and it will undergo examination by an independent review commission established by a Senate resolution sponsored by Sen. Kurt Schaefer as part of his elaborate effort to blend support for his home district institution with what he hopes is a credible statewide posture of punishment for that same institution in the wake of recent campus protests. Schaefer doesn’t consult with me for image advice, which at this moment is indistinguishable from campaign strategy in his race for Missouri attorney general. He might be making the best of it with his stance on the university. In his role as Senate budget chairman, he engineers more accommodating financial treatment of the U along with promises of serious second-guessing by the review commission he also engineered. He said the university will have a chance to show whether it wants to be accountable to lawmakers. If university curators choose to ignore changes proposed by the review commission, “just as it says in the resolution - that is something that will be considered by the General Assembly next year.” This is lovely rhetoric. Schaefer and several of his colleagues won’t be in the legislature next year. But actually the commission is not a bad idea. The university can show it is willing to be accountable by doing what comes naturally: submitting to second-guessing by the legislature and the public. Whether any of the commission's
findings earn substantial support is yet to be seen, but sure to occur is ready cooperation from campus leaders for the commission's work. Interim UM System President Mike Middleton indicated as much when Schaefer's commission idea was launched. Not only is this essential politics; it has potential benefit for Middleton and the Board of Curators. The commission might generate some good ideas, and outside political pressure might prove helpful to campus leaders wanting to make governance changes likely to be resisted on campus. None of us from our distant perspective can know how this will shake out, but from this minor vantage point I think the dance is proceeding rather well. The Senate has moved toward its partner in a passable pas de deux. Now it's up to the House to keep the choreography going, albeit likely to be attended by a measure of the aforesaid rhetorical feinting. Ignore the blather. Watch their feet. One, two. One and two. As they dance toward their coda, no stumbles, please. _____

Kansas City Star, April 10 Solid Tobacco 21KC campaign gains momentum in area cities Not every local city in recent months has raised the minimum legal age for buying tobacco products from 18 to 21. But Tobacco 21KC has enjoyed a lot of success since the smoking cessation initiative began in October. Healthy KC - a partnership of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City - started Tobacco 21KC to improve the health and well-being of area residents. Its four pillars are nutrition, physical activity, work/life integration and tobacco cessation. The Healthy KC Tobacco Action team has made presentations to attack the smoking problem before it would normally start in teens. Increasing the legal age to 21 for tobacco purchases, including e-cigarettes, curtails smoking among 14- to 15-year-olds because the younger teens largely rely on older peers to buy cigarettes for them. Studies have shown that raising the age limit will lead to fewer long-term smokers and reduce overall smoking rates by 12 percent. That's a sound reduction. Fortunately, the campaign has won buy-in from city councils in Kansas City; the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan.; Independence; Olathe; Gladstone; Prairie Village; Bonner Springs; and Iola, Kan. Last week, it passed in Lenexa. Aldermen in Grandview studied it and could take action soon. The Lansing City Council is expected to vote on Tobacco 21KC on Thursday. Overland Park - one of the area's largest suburbs - could decide the issue in May. Tobacco 21 started in 1996 as a national effort. Needham, Mass., became the first city to act in 2005 and reported a dramatic decline in teen smoking. Columbia was the first Missouri city to sign on, in 2014. New York City and dozens of other cities in the U.S. have passed Tobacco 21 measures, as has Hawaii. Some businesses that sell tobacco products and e-cigarettes have come out against Tobacco 21KC. City councils have defeated it in Leavenworth, Gardner and Mission. That's a shame. Some officials in those cities used the senseless argument that if young people at age 18 are legally able to vote in this country and to enter the military, they should be wise enough to decide for themselves whether or not to smoke or use other tobacco products. Currently, 23.1 percent of Missouri's high school students and 24.1 percent of students in Kansas high schools are tobacco users, compared with 22.4 percent nationwide. We can do better than that, considering that about 90 percent of adult smokers start before age 18. Most smokers say they wish they had never taken their first puffs as teenagers when they were trying to be cool with their peers. Governments should feel obligated to help young people, realizing that the addictive power of tobacco products is greater on teenage brains. Smoking is a huge public health concern because of the greater risks of stroke, heart disease and cancer. More than 480,000 deaths annually in the U.S. are attributed to smoking. Tobacco 21KC's success is expected to decrease annual tobacco sales by only 2 percent but result in millions of dollars saved in health care expenses. That's an excellent reason for more city, county and state governments to join the Tobacco 21KC campaign. _____ The St. Joseph News-Press, April 10 Medicaid shift due scrutiny An evolving plan to move more and more Missouri Medicaid
patients into privatized managed care is worthy of close review and continuous reassessment. This should be true whether you favor managed care - under which providers receive a fixed monthly payment for each enrolled member - or the traditional model where fees are linked to services provided. This issue has bubbled up after a state Senate debate over funding. The Senate voted last week to preserve nearly all of the $7.9 billion proposed by Gov. Jay Nixon for Medicaid in the next fiscal year. Still, a measure passed last year moved 200,000 Medicaid recipients into managed care as a step intended to restrain costs. Contracts coming up for renewal this year will be shifted to managed care as the program expands statewide except for the elderly, blind and disabled. Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, is the appropriations Committee chairman and a candidate for state attorney general. He is a chief proponent of the move to managed care - which The Kansas City Star notes put him directly at odds with state Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph. Schaaf, who is a physician, failed in an attempt to reverse the planned statewide shift of Medicaid patients into managed care. He contends, as the Star reported, there is no evidence managed care saves money except for what might result from “the rationing of care.” Schaaf also cites a Department of Social Services report that says managed-care enrollees in Medicaid are more likely to use emergency room services and perform worse on five of six clinical quality measures. We’re convinced the state’s medical community, including experts with the state and the University of Missouri, can devise tools to make sense of these numbers and other relevant data as the rollout of managed care continues. If it turns out managed care saves lots of money by removing some of the choices that used to be available to participants in the taxpayer-funded program, that’s one thing. But if the savings are not significant or come at a big cost - such as worse medical outcomes than under the traditional model - the rest of the Senate needs to take note and promptly give Schaaf another opportunity to press for a rollback of this significant change. ____ The Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal, April 7 Anti-gay measure could become law Where could Missouri’s new anti-gay bill lead? To answer the question, digest four facts. Fact One. Priests, rabbis, ministers, imams - no religious leader under the U.S. Constitution is required to conduct religious rites, including marriage, for anyone outside of their faiths. What people do or do not do within the faith community is between them and God, but when they leave the faith community to interact with broader society, then society’s laws prevail so that everyone plays by one set of rules. Fact Two... To get to this fact, consider a scenario: A black person enters a bakery to order a cake, and the man at the counter says, “Ah’m sorry, but Ah belong to a church that bee-liesves the curse of Cain is upon thee and Ah therefore will not serve thee.” Should that be legal? How would that same scenario differ, using the religious freedom argument in Missouri’s proposed constitutional amendment, if the person who walks into the bakery is gay? Or the person had Irish red hair, Scandinavian blonde hair, long hair, no hair, facial hair. A physical or mental handicap? Odd clothes? Sen. Jason Holsman, D-Kansas City, said the state’s proposed constitutional amendment could let businesses hang signs banning LGBT people. If a person’s chosen religion forbids serving “undesirable” people, who some might call der untermenschen, then that same excuse could be expanded to prevent the untermenschen from eating at restaurants, joining country clubs, shopping at certain stores and so on. Fact Three. Using the proposed law to re-enforce all sorts of bigotry in the name of religion is not at all far-fetched, being fetched easily. The U.S. Constitution is manipulated easily. The law lets any American start a church whose members, whether 10 or 10 million, can advocate and act on diverse beliefs. In the eyes of the law, traditional churches have no more rights than those practicing witchcraft, Fred Phelps’ homophobia, nondenominational churches that have sprung up everywhere, Scientology and the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster may sound like an argument thrown in for humor; it is not. The church is real. The
church originated in Kansas as a backlash against fundamentalists hell-bound and determined to teach creationism on equal footing with evolution. Pastafarians and pirates, as Monster members call themselves, now exist across the planet and preach of a heaven occupied by a beer volcano and stripper factory, with spaghetti and meatballs as their god. The ease with which the Constitution can be manipulated in religion's name leads to fact four. Fact Four. Because anyone can start a church that preaches whatever they believe - whether members be pirates, witches or “normal” people - if Missouri's proposed religious freedom bill passes, then a group like the Ku Klux Klan could organize as a church. The Klan or others could make a fundamental part of their religious canons that members working in service jobs need not serve blacks, Catholics, Jews, Mexicans, liberals, heterosexuals or anyone else who does not fit into the religious preferences of bigots. Given these facts, the so-called religious freedom bill could lead to these possibilities. . The Republican-dominated House, following the Senate’s lead, is likely to pass what is touted as a religious freedom bill; . At the ballot box, politicians can expect “their” type of voters to not only pass the issue, but sweep them once again into office - a splendid little byproduct; . The public likely would pass the bill into law, because gays differ from the majority and the majority rejects, typically, what is different; and . Passage would open wide the door to anyone who wants to form a church that not only preaches racial, ethnic or any other type of social separation, but allows members the freedom to act upon their prejudices due to a “sincere religious belief.” The idea that “it doesn't matter what one believes as long as one's sincere,” which is a core principle in the proposed law, does not bode well for those who seek a peaceful and just society."

Source Title: AP

Health – E cig – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 780162

Article Title: Senate endorses bill to increase tobacco taxes"

Date: 3/31/2017

Article Content: DATELINE: HELENA, Mont. HELENA, Mont. (AP) - Montana Senate President Scott Sales was taken to task Thursday after arguing against a proposed rise in the cigarette tax by asserting during a floor debate that smoking might save money. “The dirty little secret is, if we really want to be honest, a smoker probably saves us money in the long run,” said Sales, adding that he’s had two family members die of lung cancer and has a son who smokes. “I’m not advocating smoking,” said the Bozeman Republican, but he suggested in his floor speech that smokers have a lower life expectancy and die in their 60s and 70s. “They don’t end up in a Medicaid-funded old-folks home until they're 105 at taxpayers' expense,” he said. Amanda Cahill, government relations director for the American Heart Association in Montana, was sitting in the Senate gallery as Sales spoke. “I was really shocked. There are certainly a lot of arguments that Republicans can make against tax increases, but I wasn't expecting this one,” she said. “It's a way of saying we don't need to take care of people who made bad choices.” In the end, the chamber approved the bill 27-22 to raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes from $1.70 to $3.20 and, for the first time, impose a tax on e-cigarettes. If approved by both chambers and signed into law, the proposal would also increase the tax on a can of moist snuff from 85 cents an ounce to at least
$3.20. The tax on all other tobacco products would increase from 50 percent of the wholesale price to 74 percent. The change would take effect on May 1. The resulting tax would generate nearly $31 million for the state's general fund during the next fiscal year. The money would help boost wages for direct care workers serving the elderly and disabled who are covered by Medicaid. While proceeds from the tax increase would help fill holes in the state budget, supporters also argued that the tax would help deter smokers by making cigarettes and other tobacco products more expensive. But Sales and other Republicans argued that the tax would primarily hurt poor people and would be an unnecessary permanent tax increase. "This tax is punitive to the people who are least able to pay, and we should not balance the budget on the backs of these people," said Sales."
Who`s attracted to cherry, berry, vanilla? Who`s attracted to that, adults? CRAIG WEISS: Adult smokers.

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER They are? That`s interesting. (End VT) VINITA NAIR: So Holly, what is the market for e-cigarettes? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: You know, just a characterized market. It`s fair to say that it`s completely exploding, right? It-- it`s already a several billion- dollar industry. And regardless of whether or not they`re being marketed to young people, they clearly appeal to young people. You know, the number of teens who`ve used these cigarettes doubled in just a year. ANTHONY MASON: How easy is it for them to get it-- get them, Holly? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: You know, it`s very easy. One of the things the FDA is reviewing exactly how they can regulate both ads around e-cigarettes and sales. But we also have to remember, half of all e-cigarette sales happen online. So even if we ban minors from purchasing them, it`s much more difficult to regulate that when so much of the sale happens online.

VINITA NAIR: But one of the consistent things you hear is that these are, at least, a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes. Is that true? Are they safer? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: You know, Vinita, the jury is still out. I`m going to say we don`t have enough data right now. We do know you get less tar exposure but there are still carcinogens, and nicotine is still an incredibly, incredibly addictive substance. You know, and just to put it into context, fifty years ago we thought regular cigarettes were safe. And clearly, they`re not. So it`s going to take some time, more research before we can say definitively.

ANTHONY MASON: All right. A new weapon in the battle against diabetes also made headlines this week. It`s called a Bionic Pancreas. The device works with a smartphone to check blood sugar continuously. Then it automatically triggers doses of medications. The Bionic Pancreas helped adults and children with type I diabetes, improve their blood sugar levels overall with fewer cases of dangerously low blood sugar. Researchers hope similar devices could also help fight other diseases. VINITA NAIR: First Lady Michelle Obama met with medical and health reporters at the White House Wednesday to talk about enforcing federal requirements on school lunch nutrition. So Jon, you were not only at this meeting, you were sitting right next to the first lady. DR. JON LAPOOK: Right. Well, she invited a small group of medical correspondents and she came in with Doctor James Perrin, who`s the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and Sam Kass, who`s one of her senior nutritional advisers. And she started off by saying, look, a couple of years ago, we were all celebrating because there was legislation pass that improve nutrition standards in schools for the first time in, like, thirty years. And there was a ninety percent compliance rate with this. This was according to the best evidence by the Institute of Medicine. And then in the last couple of years, there`s been some pushback by school districts and others who were saying, look, this is too hard, it`s too expensive. And this has led to last month in the House Appropriations Committee, a bill was passed that said, look, if school districts are losing money on this, on the-- on the meal program for six months or more, they can opt out. And this has not become a law yet, but this is causing the first lady to be extremely concerned that this could lead to a roll back of the entire program. ANTHONY MASON: Holly, this is such an obvious positive thing to do for kids. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Mm-Hm. Right.

ANTHONY MASON: Why do you think it`s still so controversial? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Yeah, Anthony, money. Money, money, money. VINITA NAIR: Yeah. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Really. I think school districts are concerned they`re going to lose money on their school meal programs. They`re-- they`re fearful that kids won`t buy the healthy lunches or they`ll just opt for things in vending machines that-- that are unhealthy. But, you know, we also have to keep in mind half of all the calories kids consume happens in school. So it`s not really something where we can opt out. We`ve got to figure out a way to make this work, you know. And it`s surprising that the adults are doing the pushback as opposed to the kids.

VINITA NAIR: Right. ANTHONY MASON: Mm-Hm. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: But we got to make it work. DR.
JON LAPOOK: Yeah, that's exactly what the first lady said. She said she expected the kids to push back, where’re my French fries and chicken nuggets. But she really was surprised that it’s the grownups."

Source Title: BTN

*Health – E cig – MPM – BTN 2*

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 31837

Article Title: SHOW: New Day 6:30 AM EST Fight Over Attorney General Vote Heats Up; Aaron Hernandez Jurors Speak Out. Aired 6:30-7a ET"

Date: 4/17/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch, and she's been waiting 160 days for the Senate vote. Aaron Hernandez jurors spoke to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively, and they say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former New England Patriots star guilty. [06:32:27] CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: There's big development here -- 23-year-old Ohio man is in custody this morning, charged with providing material support to terrorists. Authorities say Abdirahman Shaikh Mohamud trained with Islamic terrorists in Syria last year before returning to America on a mission to kill. According to an indictment, Mohamud planned to execute soldiers at a Texas military base and had a backup plan to attack a prison. This is the first case brought by the American government against an American for allegedly planning attacks here after training over there. JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: Big changes in security expected at the White House. The U.S. official tells us that temporary steel spikes will be added to the perimeter fence to help keep jumpers away. Word of the move comes after several alarming incidents including one last September where a man jumped the White House fence and made it into the White House itself all the way to the East Room. Replacement fence is expected to be built next year. POPPY HARLOW, CNN ANCHOR: A new study out finding the number of teens using e-cigarettes tripled in the last year in this country. This comes from the Centers for Disease Control, and it says high schoolers use the electronic cigarettes more than conventional tobacco cigarettes. Remember, no one under 18 is supposed to be smoking these. E-cigarettes don't contain tobacco. They do almost always have nicotine, which can harm brain development in children. And that is the big issue here.

CUOMO: All right. So we are now hearing the 911 call from a Seattle airport worker who fell asleep and ended up taking off in a cargo hold of an Alaska Airlines jet. The emergency operator seemed to have trouble understanding that the panicked caller is actually stuck in the belly of a plane. Take a listen.

**(BEGIN AUDIO CLIP) 911 OPERATOR: Are you at the airport? AIRLINE WORKER: I'm not at the airport. I feel like it's moving. (INAUDIBLE) 911 OPERATOR: Are you by yourself or with somebody? AIRLINE WORKER: By myself, geez. (END AUDIO CLIP) CUOMO: It is so bizarre and it's terrible. Obviously, the plane made an emergency landing. It's not obvious. Actually, luckily the pilots heard them. And after 14 minutes, they wound up landing again. They were hearing banging coming from underneath the floor. The worker wasn't hurt, amazingly, because that cargo hold was pressurized and temperature controlled. But he's banned from working on any Alaska Airlines flights. HARLOW: He was on a sleep. So, can you imagine waking up to that? BERMAN: Well, I don't think -- I can't imagine that and I can't
imagine being the 911 operator getting that call. I don't think they train for, I'm trapped in the cargo hold of a plane that's flying right now. [06:35:00] So, when she asked are you alone, he's like that's not an important question right now. HARLOW: I know. But this is how they're trained to stay so calm throughout the 911 operators. CUOMO: It's also got hoax all over it in terms of if it's coming in. They have to take everything seriously, but she probably never heard anything like that before and hopefully never again. HARLOW: I don't think this is going to happen again. BERMAN: Let's hope not. All right. It is CNN Money now time. Chief business correspondent Christine Romans in the Money Center. Hey, Christine. CHRISTINE ROMANS, CNN CHIEF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, again, John. Apple Watch mystery. If you ordered one, get ready to wait until June to have it ship. The original plan was for watches to be on sale in stores next Friday. You can still have them, try them on in the stores. You can preorder them still online. But to have one on your wrist won't be next Friday as planned. No word from Apple why. Netflix added an unbelievable 5 million new subscribers in just three months, 5 million new customers. Looks like that gamble of original programming like “House of Cards,” looks like that's paying off. The stock surged 18 percent yesterday, $562 a share, folks. Some predict Netflix shares could double by the next year. Millennials don't talk about what are you watching on TV, they talk about what you're going to watch on Netflix. It's really changed the game -- Poppy. HARLOW: They do. They have a few good shows on Netflix, right, Romans? ROMANS: I'd say. HARLOW: Just a few. Coming up on NEW DAY, growing outrage as Loretta Lynch waits and waits and waits for her confirmation vote, just a vote on her confirmation as possibly the next attorney general. How much longer will she have to wait and what can Democrats do to move the process along? How much can they force the hand here? Also, the new CNN original series “High Profits” tells the extraordinary story of two marijuana entrepreneurs. It is only here on CNN this coming Sunday night. Here's a sneak peek. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're starting off with some of the most beautiful places in Colorado. We'd like to open a store in Crested Butte. We'd like to open one in Steamboat Springs and Vail, different states, different countries. I want the Breckenridge cannabis club to be a household name. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A lot of people made money selling picks and shovels during the gold rush. This is the green rush. I would say there will be three to five billionaires minted in this industry in the next three years. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This right here, this is the real stuff. You're not going to find this on the street. This is top quality organic bud. In 2009 when we first started, we started off very small. We were growing in a garage. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We had our own medical marijuana cards and a few other patients. Mostly just grew and gave that away until there was a profitable business plan that we could go forward with. And that's when we got into Breckenridge. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We didn't work as hard as we've worked the last four years to just scrape by. We have much bigger plans than that. (END VIDEOTAPE) [06:41:54] BERMAN: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch. She's been waiting 160 days for this Senate vote, but we should tell you there are signs that the block could be resolved soon. And perhaps as soon as next week, there could be a vote. But, man, it's taken a long, long time. Joining us now, Richard Socarides, former senior adviser to President Bill Clinton and A Democratic strategist. Also here, Cheri Jacobus, a Republican strategist and the president of the political consulting firm Capital Strategies PR. Richard, I just said there are indications from our Senate folks from CNN that may be there could be a deal that would put a vote some time next week. Barring that, because these things have a tendency to fall through, you think this has gone on an inexcusably long time. RICHARD SOCARIDES, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: Way too long. And you know, you said that she's been waiting for a vote. The unfortunate part about it is that the American people have been waiting to have this woman confirmed, a career
prosecutor, an African-American woman who has been waiting for the longest time since seven attorney generals combined, and for absolutely no good reason. I mean, the Republicans are blocking her without any reason whatsoever. BERMAN: Technically speaking, the Democrats are blocking a vote on a human trafficking bill because there is abortion language in that bill. Democrats aren't allowing that vote, the Loretta Lynch vote would have to come after the human trafficking. Cheri Jacobus, is this a fight worth having for the Republicans? Rudy Giuliani who thinks President Obama doesn't love America, Giuliani loves Loretta Lynch. He calls her an extraordinary pick to be attorney general. So, why not have the vote? CHERI JACOBUS, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Look, Mitch McConnell is well within his rights and job description to do this. This is the type of thing that happens all the time. The Democrats and Harry Reid did this sort of thing all the time to Republicans. In fact when he was majority leader, they actually instituted rules that made it harder for the minority to block and filibuster some lower level nominees. So this is him, you know, yelling and screaming. BERMAN: But, Cheri, does can mean should? He can do it, should he? JACOBUS: I think it's fine. I think it's going to have to be resolved at some point. But they're making the point. And the Democrats screaming about the abortion language in this bill is basically the Hyde Amendment, no federal funding for abortion, and it's been public since January. And they're acting like this was snuck in and we just found it. So, there's some politics on both sides. There's much ado about nothing. In terms of this nominee, yes, she's a strong nominee. When she reached the threshold of 51, it looked like this could be a done deal. However, very important position, it's now come out just as of yesterday, Senator Vitter sent her a letter asking her what would you be willing to or would you commit to an investigation of Hillary Clinton e-mail scandal? Which is very serious. That's not just partisan Republicans saying it, that's voters and the public when you look at the polls. And she wrote back yesterday and said, you know, I just don't have enough information so I can't commit to that. That might change a few votes. This is a very important issue. BERMAN: If there's a vote, which there isn't one yet because the whole thing is being held up. JACOBUS: Right. They want that 51 percent. Senators need to be comfortable that to the degree possible this nominee would not be partisan would do her job. [06:45:06] BERMAN: Richard, on the subject of politics you think it's very important, crucial, inexcusable that there's not an up or down vote on Loretta Lynch because you think they're playing politics. How come there isn't an up or down vote on the human trafficking bill? How come that's not just as much politics? SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri raises the issue of woman's right to choose and Hillary Clinton e-mails in this context, because this is exactly what's happening. The Republicans are playing politics with a career prosecutor who's been nominated for the most important law enforcement job in the world. And all of a sudden, they've interconnected issues of a woman's right to choose and Hillary Clinton e-mails just as Cheri said with this issue. The point is this is a very important job. This is a job that American security and freedom depends upon this job. Now, the ironic thing here, of course, is that Republicans have complained for six years how horrible Eric Holder is and he's a partisan attorney general and now they're fighting to keep him. JACOBUS: They're not fighting to keep him. That's a good point. (CROSSTALK) SOCARIDES: The hatred of Barack Obama by these Republicans is so without bounds that they have decided that they want to keep Holder in there just to punish -- (CROSSTALK) BERMAN: Hang on one second. Well, you know who thinks it might be a little better, who thinks that this is getting tied up? And it is Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush in New Hampshire yesterday commenting on the Loretta Lynch vote. He thinks the vote should go forward. Listen to what Jeb said. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JEB BUSH (R), FORMER FLORIDA GOVERNOR: I think presidents have the right to pick their team in general. The longer it takes to confirm her, the longer Eric Holder stays as
attorney general. Look at it that way. (END VIDEO CLIP) Berman: So Republicans in the Senate really
don't like Eric Holder one bit, yet ironically their inaction is keeping him in that attorney general's office
more days. Jacobus: It is. I think Loretta Lynch will eventually be, you know, she'll be in. It's going to
take a little while longer, more questioning which the American people deserve. But I think it's the
Democrats who are playing politics. This is actually not about a woman's right to choose. This is about
federal funding for abortion. And so, let's not misrepresent what it is. It will be resolved. It's possible
both sides are playing politics. But to say this is just Republicans, no, that's not true. I think we need to
be sure about this nominee. I think Senator Vitter and others are doing the right thing by making sure
that we can make sure to the degree possible she's not a partisan. Berman: I think it's more than
possible both sides are playing politics. I think it's likely. But thank you both for being with us. Cheri
Jacobus, Richard Socarides, thanks so much. Chris? Cuomo: All right, JB, good discussion there. So
here's a big question, what made the case against Aaron Hernandez for jurors? They gave their answer
to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively. They say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former
New England Patriots star guilty. That's why it took seven days. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) Anderson
Cooper, CNN Anchor: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger or do you don't? Female juror: I don't know.
There's no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger. (END VIDEO CLIP) Berman: Anderson in a
huge issue there. So, if the jurors weren't sure who pulled the trigger, how did they find Hernandez
guilty? The answer in a CNN exclusive you don't want to miss. [06:52:12] Cuomo: They deliberated for
nearly 36 hours over seven days before deciding former NFL star Aaron Hernandez was guilty of first-
degree murder. The jury foreperson says arriving at that verdict was by far the hardest thing she's ever
done. Now, she along with her fellow jurors spoke exclusively with CNN's Anderson Cooper about the
trial, and most importantly, how they reached their verdict. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) Cooper: So it wasn't
premeditation? Female juror: No. Cooper: You don't you can't say this was premeditated? Female
juror: No. I can't say with 100 percent certainty that he premeditated that while I was sitting in that
jury room I can't say that. Cooper: But you do see extreme atrocity or cruelty? Female juror: I see
extreme atrocity and cruelty. Cooper: Was it with the number of shots? Female juror: It was his
indifference. And that was part of what I had to look at. And it was, even if there was no premeditation,
he could have made choices there when he was there. He was there. They admitted that. And he could
have made different choices and he chose not to. Male juror: I think one thing in that regard that
surprised a lot of us was that indifference. We watched the video footage at his home later in the
morning or early afternoon after the incident occurred. And he was just lounging around by the pool
and playing with the baby and just going about his regular life. I mean, for us to acknowledge he was
there at the time that his close friend was murdered, personally, there's no way I could just carry on
hours later like nothing ever happened. That's indifference. Cooper: So those videotapes, in particular
his own security camera tapes were crucial. Male juror: Hours later. Female juror: Definitely.
Female juror: But in the instructions we weren't asked to use that after the murder to weigh our
decision, to leave your friend on the ground knowing that he's not there anymore. He's either dead or
he's going to die, that's indifference. He didn't need to pull the trigger. He could have made different
choices when that man was laying there. Cooper: Were there other signs to you of extreme cruelty?
Female juror: For me it was -- somebody had mentioned that, well, it was a gun. So for me trying to
think about extreme cruelty, what are we talking about? Are we talking about somebody physically
cutting off someone's arm and letting them bleed to death? Is that extreme cruelty? Or is the fact -- for
me, it was a gun. You took a weapon, it didn't matter. You shot him once, but you kept going and shot
him six times. [06:55:00] There's just no need for that. And there's no need to use a gun, period. No
need to use a gun. So, for me personally, it was about the gun. It was about taking that weapon, knowing what you're going to do and shooting somebody and killing them. That's pretty cruel. COOPER: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger? Or do you know? FEMALE JUROR: I don't know. There's no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger, but he chose not to do anything about it. And he's the one that had the -- COOPER: In that moment or the aftermath? FEMALE JUROR: Exactly. In that moment is what I was looking at because that's what I was instructed to do in that moment. MALE JUROR: He played a role. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. MALE JUROR: Whether he was a shooter or the transport, he played a role in that murder. And that's what he was charged with. COOPER: I notice a couple of you have called him Aaron. And I think people who haven't been on a jury don't understand the intimacy that exists in a courtroom where somebody is sitting, you know, a couple feet away from you. FEMALE JUROR: For three months every day. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. COOPER: Did you look at him a lot? Did he look at you? FEMALE JUROR: Yes. FEMALE JUROR: I did. COOPER: You did? FEMALE JUROR: Oh, yes. One time we made eye contact and he actually nodded to me at one time. You know, it's hard. You come in that room every day and you see this person. And it's hard to come to that decision at the end because three months with them it's almost like you, you know, they're part of you. And all of a sudden, now, you've got to make that decision to either put him away or let him go. It's very hard. MALE JUROR: At the end of the day though you make sure you understand you didn't choose to make those decisions. You were just asked to decide if they were relevant. (END VIDEO TAPE) CUOMO: What stands out to you? BERNAN: Look, the jurors say that the defense admitted that Aaron Hernandez was there. The defense did that to offer the possibility he was there but didn't pull the trigger. And it seems to have been a big mistake perhaps. HARLOW: And they say the fact that in opening statements the defense alleged he wasn't there. Later in the trial says, all right, he was, but -- I think that change for them was a big deal. CUOMO: I think this was a great example of the humanity that is at play in a jury that often you don't suggest it's all about the documents and the clues and the gotcha and forensics. Anderson did a great job of listening. The impact of I saw him every day was a part of me then I have to make this decision. BERNAN: And they understood the law too. The idea did he pull the trigger or not pull the trigger? He didn't have to pull the trigger to get convicted. They understood that. It's not a totally easy concept. CUOMO: But it's a very high bar. If you don't feel beyond a reasonable doubt that he pulled the trigger, if you don't feel beyond a reasonable doubt that this was a premeditated evil plan, the bar is now much higher for you to get over. It is interesting what they said they pointed to as the stuff that happened afterwards and his emotion and his reactions. HARLOW: Indifference. That word kept coming up, indifference. CUOMO: Things that a lot of people would dismiss, yes. What do you think? You know how to tweet us and Facebook us. Let's keep this conversation going because we just got great grist for the mail. Big story this morning. A lot of news. So, let's get to it. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Purgatory for Loretta Lynch. JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: She's waited now more than twice as long as the previous seven attorney general nominees combined. BUSH: Presidents have the right to pick their team. CUOMO: Terrorism here at home. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Twenty-three-year-old from Columbus, Ohio. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He left the United States last year to go join the al Nusra front in Syria. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On the brink of falling punishing assault on Ramadi. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is a test of the new government in Baghdad. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It won't be the end of a campaign. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Those pleas for help from the civilians, the commanders cannot be ignored. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 73-year-old Robert Bates may not have been telling the full truth about his training. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He provided service, he made an honest mistake. ANNOUNCER: This is NEW DAY with Chris Cuomo, Alisyn Camerota and Michaela
Pereira. (END VIDEOTAPE) CUOMO: Good morning. Welcome to your NEW DAY. Alisyn and Micky are off. Poppy and John are here with me this morning. Loretta lynch, you know the name. She would make history as the first African-American to serve as attorney general. You know what? She's already made history in the wrong way for how long she's had to wait for a vote, 160 days and counting. That is longer than the last seven nominees combined. HARLOW: The fight over Lynch's stalled nomination is heating up. It may come to a head next week in the Senate. The Democratic leader of that chamber threatening to force a vote to force Washington's hand. I guess if you look technically at the rules, he can do that. SUNLEN SEFARTY, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: That's right. And, you know, he's one of the people on Capitol Hill, Harry Reid, saying that Loretta Lynch is in purgatory over this hold up. Now, Poppy, we know this hold up will at least continue into next week. But there are some small signs of progress. Democratic and Republican sources telling us that they are close to reaching a compromise on this other unrelated issue, the human trafficking bill that's standing in Loretta Lynch's way."

Source Title: BTN

Health – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 698759

Article Title: Keeping E-cigarettes Away From the Kids"

Date: 5/7/2016

Article Content: The Food and Drug Administration issued sensible regulations on electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products on Thursday. The rules should help curb addiction to nicotine from e-cigarettes among young people. Starting on Aug. 8, retailers will not be allowed to sell e-cigarettes, cigars and hookah tobacco to people younger than 18, the F.D.A. said. People under the age of 26 who are buying these products will have to show photo identification. Businesses will no longer be able to give free samples of these products or sell them through vending machines, except in adults-only locations, like bars. After two years, the products will also be required to carry health warnings. While the proportion of teenagers who smoke conventional cigarettes has fallen in recent years, the use of e-cigarettes, which provide nicotine in vapor form, and other tobacco products has increased at an alarming rate. In 2015, 16 percent of high school students said they had used e-cigarettes in the last 30 days, up from just 1.5 percent in 2011, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though not as common, hookah tobacco use also increased among high school students; cigar use declined. Using e-cigarettes, or vaping, is dangerous for teenagers because the nicotine can "disrupt the formation of brain circuits that control attention, learning and susceptibility to addiction," the C.D.C. says. Public health experts also say that the vapor can contain carcinogens and metal particles. Some public interest groups, like the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, have argued that the F.D.A. should go further and prohibit sales of candy- and fruit-flavored e-cigarettes, which are particularly appealing to children. The agency said it was unwilling to do that because the flavored products might help some adults stop using cigarettes. It should certainly revisit this issue as more evidence comes in. Electronic cigarettes might help some people quit using conventional tobacco, which causes about six million
deaths a year around the world, but many public health experts say there is not enough evidence to draw that conclusion. They certainly offer no benefit to young people who have not previously used tobacco, and there is some evidence that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to move up to conventional tobacco. Even though the new rules did not ban broad categories of e-cigarettes, the Food and Drug Administration could still prohibit specific flavors because manufacturers have to submit all electronic tobacco products introduced since Feb. 15, 2007, to the agency for approval within the next two years. The agency should also consider marketing restrictions similar to those that apply to conventional tobacco, like prohibitions on sponsoring sports, music and cultural events. Lawmakers and regulators around the world are also strengthening tobacco regulations. The European Court of Justice on Wednesday upheld European Union regulations that banned menthol cigarettes and imposed marketing and other restrictions on e-cigarettes. That same day, Gov. Jerry Brown of California signed legislation that set the age to buy tobacco products at 21, up from 18, joining Hawaii and more than 100 cities in doing so. Some in the electronic cigarette and tobacco industry say the F.D.A.'s rules are a form of prohibition. That is ridiculous. The agency proposed these rules two years ago and has produced a final version that is thoughtful and measured. Follow The New York Times Opinion section on Facebook and Twitter (@NYTopinion), and sign up for the Opinion Today newsletter. URL: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/07/opinion/keeping-e-cigarettes-away-from-the-kids.html"
launched with a marketing campaign that lets smokers know it's different and harder to use than traditional cigarettes but to “stick with it, because it's totally worth it,” O’Brien said. Revo will cost about the same as a premium pack of regular cigarettes, which varies across the country but averages close to $6. With the health risks associated with traditional cigarettes and changes in societal expectations, it’s no wonder many of the world’s 1 billion smokers want to quit or try other tobacco alternatives. In the United States, nearly half of the nation's 42 million adult smokers try to quit each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In more recent years, much of the attention to quitting has steered away from nicotine gum and patches to electronic cigarettes, which many smokers credit with helping them kick the habit. The company’s move follows that of overseas Marlboro maker Philip Morris International, which launched Marlboro HeatStick and an accompanying device called iQOS (pronounced EYE-cohs) in a test market in Nagoya, Japan, earlier this month. The short, cigarette-like sticks are heated to maximum of 660 degrees Fahrenheit in the hollow penlike device to create a tobacco-flavored nicotine vapor. Philip Morris International has plans for another test market in Italy, with further expansion plans in 2015. It’s one of several so-called “reduced-risk” products Philip Morris International plans to test as the industry diversifies beyond traditional cigarettes amidst declining demand. The world’s second-biggest tobacco company and former parent company Richmond, Va.-based Altria Group have agreed to share their technology for electronic cigarettes and other new alternatives to traditional cigarettes, so HeatSticks could potentially be marketed in the United States eventually.

Source Title: News

Health – Ecig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 416225

Article Title: School pupils 'exposed to e-cigarettes' - BBC News

Date: 9/26/2015

Article Content: Image copyright PA More than half of secondary school pupils questioned in a study said they had been exposed to e-cigarette marketing. The Scottish government-commissioned survey found 60% of pupils questioned had seen e-cigarettes for sale in shops, shopping centres or stalls. About a quarter (26%) had seen outdoor poster adverts. And 23% of the 2,016 11 to 18-year-olds questioned had seen or heard adverts on TV or radio in the past week. Although 16% had used an e-cigarette, most had only tried them “once or twice”, the survey found. Only 5% of pupils who had never smoked tobacco had tried e-cigarettes. Curiosity was the main driver for use, sometimes motivated by seeing a friend or family member trying them, the report found. 'Less harmful' The forthcoming Health Bill proposes a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to under-18s, "proxy purchase" by adults for minors and restrictions on the marketing of the products. Public health minister Maureen Watt said: “This is an extremely useful survey, that gives us one of the first good indications of young people's awareness and experience of e-cigarettes. "Of particular interest is the large number of children who are being exposed to marketing of these products. “While more research is needed, e-cigarettes are almost certainly less harmful than tobacco and if people are using them as an aid to quit smoking that is a good thing.” However, the Scottish Government does not believe that children should have access to them.
This is the balance we are aiming for in our forthcoming Health Bill. "We would consult with stakeholders to consider where exemptions might apply, such as at point of sale where adult smokers who might benefit from e-cigarettes and can find out more about the products." "

Source Title: Web

*Health – Ecig – MPM – Web 2*

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 670852

Article Title: The FDA finally steps up on e-cigarettes - The Washington Post"

Date: 5/10/2016

Article Content: (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images) OVER THE past several years, the e-cigarette business has boomed, tying public-health experts in knots. On one hand, the devices are far less dangerous than conventional cigarettes. It would be a public-health victory if every smoker stopped lighting up and chose to vape instead. On the other hand, e-cigarettes seem designed to appeal to children and teenagers. E-cigarette liquids come in a variety of candylike flavors that, according to federal health officials, have driven interest among young users. Some young people — it is unclear how many — would not have gotten hooked on nicotine without e-cigarettes. As youth e-cigarette use jumped — 900 percent between 2011 and 2015, according to federal officials — the federal government hardly reacted. Astonishingly, there has been no ban on selling e-cigarettes and vaping liquids to minors, let alone consistent regulations on packaging, labeling and advertising or professional review of the ingredients that vaping companies put in their products. Though these products doubtless are less harmful than conventional cigarettes, they certainly contain nicotine, which may harm adolescent brains, and they might contain other chemicals that pose health dangers. The risks associated with inhaling secondhand vapor are also unknown. This regulatory vacuum has been unnecessary. Under the Tobacco Control Act, the Food and Drug Administration has wide-ranging power to regulate tobacco products. The agency finally has decided to begin using it more fully, announcing a final rule on e-cigarettes, cigars and hookahs. The rule bans e-cigarette sales to minors and requires sellers to check buyers’ ages but stops short of cracking down as hard as the FDA could, by banning certain flavorings, for example. The most controversial part of the rule requires e-cigarette and e-liquid makers to submit their products to extensive FDA review before sale, providing ingredient lists and any data they have on health effects. Critics castigated the agency for cracking down on a young industry filled with small operators. The result, they say, will be more expensive and less desirable e-cigarette products, which will drive up conventional smoking and reward big tobacco companies that can afford to navigate the FDA process. This view neglects the danger that e-cigarette use will become increasingly common among youths, who without regulation would assume the products were safe, addicting a generation of children and teens to nicotine. E-cigarette businesses, whether small or large, are mixing highly addictive batches of chemicals and selling them with almost no federal oversight. Figuring out what is in these products is necessary for figuring out how dangerous they are — and how to make safer nicotine delivery devices for those trying to quit conventional smoking. The FDA’s e-cigarette rules do not overreach. They are long overdue."
E-cigarettes do not contain tobacco. They contain nicotine, a chemical derived from tobacco and other plants. Plain English was never a deterrent, though, to regulators on an empire-expanding mission. The Food and Drug Administration this week rolled out new regulations on e-cigarettes based on a 2009 law giving the agency power over products that “contain tobacco.” That law, we’re duty-bound to add, was practically written by Philip Morris PM 0.14 % (now called Altria MO 0.00 % ). Plain English also does not authorize inclusion of e-cigarettes under the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement, the deal struck between the cigarette industry and 46 states that settled a bunch of lawsuits by imposing a government-run cartel to jack up the price of cigarettes (in the name of curbing consumption, naturally) and distribute the excess profits to the states and a handful of now-plutocrat trial lawyers. To this day, e-cigarettes enjoy a considerable retail price advantage over products covered by the MSA. If you don’t think this fact plays a role in the move to regulate e-cigarettes, Donald Trump has some inaugural ball tickets to sell you.

Lovers of freedom and enemies of regulatory overkill do not exaggerate when they say FDA rules are designed to murder numerous small manufacturers and thousands of “vape” shops that account for about half the electronic-cigarette business. E-cigarettes, let’s remember, operate by heating a solution containing nicotine, rather than burning tobacco. These small operators are unlikely to afford the estimated million-dollar cost of submitting each and every existing product and product variation for retroactive consideration by the FDA, as required by the law. Their trade group, the Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association, estimates that 99% of existing products therefore will exit the market during the two-year phase-in of the prohibitory new rules. While government is laying waste to this small-business sector, expect to hear a great deal about how e-cigarettes represent unknown dangers, how they induce youngsters to smoke who wouldn’t otherwise smoke, how they aren’t really useful for smokers trying to quit or curb their usage. As the redoubtable Jacob Sullum of Reason Magazine puts it, “The FDA’s regulatory scheme, in other words, privileges the most dangerous nicotine delivery devices (conventional cigarettes) while threatening to eliminate much safer alternatives and blocking the introduction of even better products.” In time, what remains of the market will be consolidated in the hands of Big Tobacco companies that already dabble in e-cigarettes, i.e., Altria and Reynolds. Then expect to hear more about the benefits of e-cigs: a British study finds them 95% safer than traditional smokes; their market consists largely of smokers trying to cut down their risks. At this point, unless we miss our guess, loud will become talk of the need to “level the playing field” with the MSA-covered brands—i.e., to bring e-cigs under the government-sponsored cartel (in the name of suppressing nicotine addiction of course) before they undercut the states’ $23 billion annual haul from Marlboro, Winston, Newport, etc. All this will serve what purpose? To placate anti-smoking groups that have already shown themselves willing to be satisfied with “victories” over Big Tobacco that amount to big
wet kisses to Big Tobacco? To assuage the need of politicians to pose as enemies of smoking while simultaneously receiving most of the profits of smoking? Unasked will be the question: Has our nicotine prohibition gone too far now that we are trying to ban products that never caused the health problems that prompted the original smoking crackdown? Nicotine is not alcohol or even pot, which is legal in many places. Nicotine is more like caffeine or aspirin—an excellent drug, with few serious side effects (though mildly addictive) and many fine properties: It relieves bad feelings, improves concentration, calms the nerves. Is the real problem here that many organized activists have made careers out of opposing smoking (or redistributing the revenues of smoking)? To desist would be to deprive themselves of a leverage point that can continue to pay personal and political dividends. Like an army formed to oppose a real enemy, when the war is over, instead of disbanding, it turns to plundering the people it was supposed to protect. In the latest issue of the Yale Journal of Regulation, Case Western’s Jonathan Adler and several co-authors describe the e-cig fight in terms of classic “Baptist” and “bootlegger” coalition, in which do-gooders and self-interested parties cooperate to impose regulation that mostly benefits the self-interested parties—in this case, Big Tobacco. Their theory perhaps needs to be updated for when the do-gooders degenerate into do-gooders manqué, existing only to prettify the market manipulations that politicians undertake on behalf of big business. What’s more, if you don’t think such activities play a role in the U.S. economy’s poor performance in recent years, Hillary Clinton has an entire economic agenda to sell you. ”

Source Title: Web

Health – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 165699

Article Title: It’s Time to Regulate E-cigarettes - NYTimes.com"

Date: 4/23/2015

Article Content: WHEN the federal government announced last week that youth e-cigarette use tripled in just one year, surpassing the use of traditional cigarettes, the reaction was appropriately strong. “A wake-up call,” said one commentator, echoing others. We agree. But a word that shouldn’t be used to describe it is “surprising.” It’s not. E-cigarettes have so far escaped federal regulation and are being promoted using the same playbook cigarette companies have used to addict generations of teenagers. These marketing tactics include celebrity endorsements, slick TV and magazine ads that portray e-cigarette use as glamorous or masculine, sponsorships of race cars and music festivals and the use of sweet flavors like gummy bear and cotton candy. The Food and Drug Administration has been empowered to regulate all tobacco products since 2009. Six years later, there is still no rule on the books governing e-cigarettes. Although a proposed regulation is wending its way through the bureaucracy, it is unclear when it will be finalized, or in what form. The proposal would ban the sale of e-cigarettes to those under 18 (in some states, anyone can still buy the product). But it doesn’t address the aggressive marketing of this product to teenagers or the use of flavorings to win them over. Leaving these issues unaddressed is a big mistake. The cigarette industry has long understood that virtually all new tobacco users in the United States are children and that if it doesn’t hook them as kids, it probably never will. We
can’t let the *e-cigarette* industry do the same. Many of us who are veterans of the long, hard fight against the powerful tobacco industry are deeply alarmed by the rapid rise in youth use of e-cigarettes, and our nation’s health regulators should be as well. From the “Mad Men” era on, we as a nation fought to de glamourize cigarette smoking. It worked. In the last 15 years, the smoking rate for high school students fell by 67 percent to a record low 9.2 percent. But the egregious and aggressive marketing of e-cigarettes to teenagers threatens to undermine these gains and make smoking cool again. It’s no wonder that e-cigarette use among high school students jumped to 13.4 percent in 2014 from 4.5 percent in 2013. It’s still an open question whether e-cigarettes are a pathway to other tobacco products or may help adult smokers protect their health by giving up cigarettes. But we should be able to agree on one thing: Kids should not use e-cigarettes or any tobacco product. E-cigarettes pose multiple risks. The tobacco industry has long recognized that its products are, in essence, drug delivery systems for nicotine, a highly addictive chemical compound, and that its future revenues depend on how many young people it can ensnare. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has pointed out, young people are particularly susceptible to nicotine addiction. Evidence suggests that nicotine exposure may also affect adolescent brain development. Our kids should not be guinea pigs in a rules-free experiment run by the e-cigarette industry. In promoting their products, e-cigarette makers have been way ahead of regulators. It’s time for the F.D.A. and the Obama administration to catch up. In 2011, the F.D.A. announced its intention to impose rules on e-cigarettes as a tobacco product. The F.D.A. finally issued proposed rules in April 2014. But those rules still have not been finalized, and the administration has not committed to a firm date to take action. During that time, e-cigarette proponents lobbied heavily — and successfully — against restrictions on marketing or use of flavors. In addition to prohibiting retailers from selling e-cigarettes to anyone under 18, the F.D.A. proposal would require them to verify age for all sales and restrict vending machines to adult-only facilities. Warning labels would be mandated and manufacturers would be required to disclose what is in these products. These steps are important, but the proposal needs to go further. It should prohibit self-service store displays that make e-cigarettes more accessible to children and restrict the type of marketing that has made e-cigarettes so appealing to young people. Online sales of e-cigarettes should be banned. The 2009 law prohibited the sale of candy- and fruit-flavored cigarettes, and for good reason: Those cigarettes were a blatant appeal to teenagers. But e-cigarettes now come in more than 7,000 flavors. An extension of the flavored cigarette prohibition to e-cigarettes is more than justified. Adult e-cigarette users don’t need flavors like cotton candy. We cannot afford to waste more time while the tobacco industry addicts another generation of kids. David A. Kessler was the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration from 1990 to 1997. Matthew L. Myers is the president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. A version of this op-ed appears in print on April 23, 2015, on page A27 of the New York edition with the headline: It’s Time to Regulate E-cigarettes. Order Reprints | Today’s Paper | Subscribe

Source Title: Web

**Passing Mentions**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“ecig_SOURCE_heated” – “ecigmpm_SOURCE_heated”).

*Health – E cig – PM – AP 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.98

Hand-coded: Yes
Researchers find mold, fungi in medical marijuana samples

DATELINE: DAVIS, Calif. DAVIS, Calif. (AP) - Researchers at UC Davis are warning some medical marijuana users after identifying potentially lethal bacteria and mold on cannabis samples from 20 Northern California dispensaries. Microbiology professor George Thompson is advising those with weakened immune systems to avoid vaping or smoking marijuana. Thompson says leukemia, lymphoma, AIDS or cancer patients who use contaminated cannabis could put themselves at risk of lung infections. Patients with lowered immune systems are typically told to avoid cut flowers and unwashed fruits or vegetables because they may harbor potentially harmful bacteria and mold, or fungi. Thompson says marijuana also belongs in that group. Researchers say the risk of infection is low for the majority of medical marijuana users. The Sacramento Bee reported Tuesday (http://bit.ly/2kSB2EV ) that the study's findings are in the journal Clinical Microbiology and Infection. ___ Information from: The Sacramento Bee, http://www.sacbee.com

SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST Like many college stars, Daniel Holtzclaw dreamed of joining the NFL. Instead, he became a police officer in Oklahoma City. Now he could face life in prison after being convicted of sexually assaulting thirteen women. It went on for months until one brave victim said, enough. VINITA NAIR: Well, you can say she punched through the glass ceiling. The new National Women`s Hockey League has made its first ever player suspension. Connecticut Whale defender Molly Engstrom is banned for one game after multiple hits and a sucker punch to Buffalo Beauts-- Beauts-- Beauts, thank you, sorry, forward Meghan Duggan on Sunday. ANTHONY MASON: Duggan fell to the ice after the punch and was injured. Engstrom was suspended for a game, which is a lot considering how each team in the women`s hockey league plays on eighteen games. VINITA NAIR: I mean, it`s-- it`s a punch closer. ANTHONY MASON: That`s it-- VINITA NAIR: A punch closer to that glass ceiling like we-- ANTHONY MASON: All right. Like many college stars, Daniel Holtzclaw dreamed of joining the NFL. Instead, he became a police officer in Oklahoma City. Now he could face life in prison after being convicted of sexually assaulting thirteen women. It went on for months until one brave victim said, enough. Manuel Bojorquez has the story. (Begin VT) MANUEL BOJORQUEZ (CBS News Correspondent): Jannie Ligons was the first to come forward after she was sexually assaulted last year. JANNIE LIGONS: All I could think that he was going to shoot me, he was going to kill me. He did things to me that I didn`t think a police officer would do. MAN #1 (in court): Defendant is guilty of the crime of sexual battery. MANUEL BOJORQUEZ: Twenty-nine-year-old Daniel Holtzclaw sobbed uncontrollably
Thursday as he was convicted on eighteen of thirty-six counts that included first-degree rape and sodomy. Prosecutors said Holtzclaw targeted thirteen African-American women in the poorest parts of Oklahoma City over a six month period. In some cases, he specifically sought out women who had outstanding arrest warrants. All thirteen women testified. Sharday Hill said she was arrested then taken to a hospital for detox, where Holtzclaw sexually assaulted her. SHARDAY HILL: I was scared. I felt like I had to do that. He’s in control, he’s the police, he has the badge. And, you know, I’m handcuffed to a bed. MANUEL BOJORQUEZ: Some of the victims described how he tried to buy their silence by offering to drop pending charges. Others say as women of color, they were afraid to speak out against an officer, not Liggons. JANNIE LIGONS: I have no record, I didn’t do anything wrong. I was innocent. And he just picked the wrong lady to stop that night. MAN #2: Yes. MANUEL BOJORQUEZ: Attorney Benjamin Crump represents five of the women. BENJAMIN CRUMP: When the police is doing the nefarious act, the criminal act, who do you tell? This is a serial rapist with a badge. Who do you report him to? MANUEL BOJORQUEZ: Holtzclaw is set to be sentenced next month. His victims want him to receive the maximum punishment of two hundred sixty-three years in prison. For CBS THIS MORNING: SATURDAY, Manuel Bojorquez, Oklahoma City. (End VT) ANTHONY MASON: Coming up, an alert California driver manages to escape with his life. He acted quickly when a steel beam came crashing through his windshield. But first, a look at the weather for your weekend. (LOCAL WEATHER BREAK) VINITA NAIR: Up next, medical news in our Morning Rounds, including e-cigarettes. Lots of former tobacco smokers now vape instead, believing it’s much safer. But a new study found otherwise. We’ll tell about it. ANTHONY MASON: Plus, doctors Jon Lapook and Holly Phillips on why it’s so hard to watch a screen and listen to another person at the same time. There’s actually a medical term for that. You’re watching CBS THIS MORNING: SATURDAY. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"
to-- GAYLE KING: Yes. CHARLIE ROSE: --how I was doing. That first picture that you took made a lot of difference. People said he ain`t gone. GAYLE KING: Yes. And look good. Yeah. CHARLIE ROSE: Secondly, Anthony Mason, who did a-- GAYLE KING: Yes. CHARLIE ROSE: --wonderful job staying in here. NORAH O`DONNELL: He did. GAYLE KING: Yeah. CHARLIE ROSE: And, thirdly, the people out there who were enormous in terms of what they sent to me-- GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. CHARLIE ROSE: --saying we think about you, we care about you, you know, we miss you, all of that. And so I said to them, stay close and they stayed close. GAYLE KING: Yeah. And isn`t it nice as you said in the last hour that the doctors said it went better than expected. It`s always good when you come back, Charlie, and people are glad to see you as opposed to, oh, he`s back, or apparently happy. CHARLIE ROSE: Or-- or he looks like a corpse. GAYLE KING: No one is saying that. Anna Werner just said it, Charlie, you look fantastic. There`s a lot of that today. CHARLIE ROSE: Well, it`s great to be back. And my thanks to everybody out there for-- for hanging in there-- GAYLE KING: Yeah. NORAH O`DONNELL: Yeah. CHARLIE ROSE: --as I went through this. And it came out really good, so I`m pleased to be back. And we now look at some of the morning`s big headlines. The Washington Post says one of the highest profiled federal prosecutors is out of a job. Preet Bharara said on Twitter, "I was fired as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York." He had refused a request to resign. Attorney General Jeff Sessions asked Bharara and forty-five other U.S. attorneys to step down on Friday. Bharara said President Trump asked him to stay when they met after the election. The U.S. attorney based in Manhattan made his name prosecuting public corruption, Wall Street, and terrorism cases. GAYLE KING: The Los Angeles Times reports on possible vandalism at President Trump`s golf course outside L.A. Video appears to show at least four people carving letters into the green at Trump National Golf Club. It spelled out no more-- no more Tigers, no more Woods in letters six feet tall. Now, this video is, reportedly, from environmental activists protesting against the President. Police are now investigating. NORAH O`DONNELL: USA Today reports that a baby is hospitalized every eight minutes for an injury involving a nursery product. A twenty-one-year nationwide study found that baby carriers account for twenty percent of those injuries. Nineteen percent of the cases come from cribs or mattresses and another seventeen percent involve strollers. Eighty-one percent of the injuries were to the head, face, or neck. CHARLIE ROSE: The Las Vegas Review-Journal says two drivers scuffled after yesterday`s NASCAR race in Vegas. Kyle Busch came away blooded after taking a swing at Joey Logano. Busch was going for a third place on the final lap when Logano bumped him off the track. Busch blamed Logano for the crash. Logano said the collision was unintentional. GAYLE KING: They walked right up and smacked him. NORAH O`DONNELL: Mm. GAYLE KING: And Harrisburg, Pennsylvania`s Patriot-News says the federal government is investigating what it says is the first U.S. death linked to a hoverboard fire. A three-year-old girl was killed this weekend in a house fire that officials say was caused by a hoverboard that was charging at the time. Anna Werner is here with the danger that first became an issue last summer. Anna, good morning. ANNA WERNER (CBS News Correspondent): Good morning. Last year the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of over half a million hoverboards after dangerous battery defects were discovered. This fire is the latest reminder of the risks consumers may be facing when using some products with a lithium-ion battery even with a federal government recall. (Begin VT) ANNA WERNER: Fire officials in Pennsylvania believe it was a hoverboard that was responsible for this house fire in Harrisburg that killed three-year-old Ashanti Hughes and critically injured two others. BRIAN ENTERLINE: I heard some sizzling and crackling in the hoverboard and shortly thereafter it exploded in flames. ANNA WERNER: Harrisburg fire chief Brian Enterline says the family was charging a hoverboard on the first floor when the fire started Friday night. BRIAN ENTERLINE: Lieutenant Dennis Devoe was responding to that call. ANNA WERNER:
Lieutenant Dennis Devoe was also killed. He was a twenty-one-year veteran of the fire department involved in a fatal traffic accident while responding to the emergency call. Since 2015 consumers have reported nearly one hundred incidents associated with overheating hoverboard battery packs, including this exploding unit at a mall in Texas. ELLIOT KAYE (CPSC Chairman): If you own a hoverboard, please stop using it immediately. ANNA WERNER: Last summer the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled over half a million hoverboards produced by eight different manufacturers, all fabricated in China. The commission says the lithium-ion battery packs can overheat and in some cases start smoking, catch fire, or explode. BRIAN ENTERLINE: These hoverboards are notorious for starting fires and causing fires across the country. ANNA WERNER: Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries and consumer products have been linked to other dangerous defects in electronics, including the 2016 global recall of Samsung’s Galaxy Note 7 phone and defects in a number of laptop computers and electronic cigarettes. (End VT) ANNA WERNER: It’s not immediately clear what brand of hoverboard may have caused that deadly house fire or when it was made, but investigators undoubtedly will be looking for those details. And, Charlie, welcome back. So good to see you. (INDISTINCT) to say that. CHARLIE ROSE: It’s good to be back. Great to see you. GAYLE KING: It’s another painful and deadly reminder stop charging the hoverboards. They told us that last summer. ANNA WERNER: Yeah. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is saying these things are not safe. GAYLE KING: All right. CHARLIE ROSE: Mm. NORAH O’DONNELL: Another reminder. GAYLE KING: Message received. NORAH O’DONNELL: Yeah. Thank you, Anna. GAYLE KING: Thanks, Anna. NORAH O’DONNELL: A new documentary questions what happened before the deadly confrontation between Michael Brown and a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer. The documentary is called Stranger Fruit. And it claims that newly uncovered surveillance video shows the teenager did not shoplift before he was killed by Officer Darren Wilson. Wilson was responding to the reported robbery. The film’s director insists Brown gave the store clerks marijuana in exchange for two boxes of cigarillos. JASON POLLOCK (Director, Stranger Fruit): He didn’t rob the store. He traded the store like many other people in the community do. He got some stuff from the store, he left it at the store, he went back the next day to get it. NORAH O’DONNELL: Well, the store’s attorney claims that the documentary edited the surveillance footage. Pollock denies doing that. Michael Brown’s family is suing the city of Ferguson over his death. Missouri prosecutors did not respond to CBS THIS MORNING’s request for comment. The Ferguson Police Department said its spokesmen were not available. CHARLIE ROSE: A California man accused of jumping the White House fence is due in court today for a bond hearing. Jonathan Tran was arrested Friday night near the White House South Portico not far from President Trump’s private residence. The twenty-six-year-old suspect appeared in court on Saturday. Police say Tran was arrested with two cans of mace inside a backpack. He claimed to be a friend of the President. Mister Trump was in the White House at the time but the Secret Service says he was never in danger. Tran faces up to ten years in prison. GAYLE KING: Most friends of the President aren’t jumping the fence at midnight saying I’m a friend. And he knows I’m coming. NORAH O’DONNELL: Yeah. That’s right. GAYLE KING: Okay. All right, Mister Tran. NORAH O’DONNELL: He usually gets to walk through the gate. GAYLE KING: Yes. CHARLIE ROSE: It’s not the— it’s not the first piece of evidence you use, isn’t it? GAYLE KING: No. CHARLIE ROSE: I’m coming in. GAYLE KING: Maybe coming up with something else. NORAH O’DONNELL: But I tell you, it is amazing, you know, how far they get. GAYLE KING: Yeah. CHARLIE ROSE: It’s not funny in the end. NORAH O’DONNELL: That’s right. Yeah. GAYLE KING: I do think that too, Norah. He got very, very close. A growing number of pets are getting pain and anxiety relief from marijuana. Ahead, why their owners swear by this treatment and why some veterinarians are reluctant to endorse it. And later, companies are plunging into a new kind of work retreat. DANA JACOBSON: How far would
you go to bond with your co-workers? How about simulating a plane crash into the water. I’m Dana Jacobson. Coming up on CBS THIS MORNING, we will show you-- we’ll show you the survival school that’s boosting office morale. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)

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Article Title: Pharma seeks its piece of the pot

Date: 8/14/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Southern California biotech businesses hope to capture benefits of medical cannabis with federally sanctioned drugs. At least once a week, Steve McDonald drives from his home in Irvine to an industrial stretch of Santa Ana filled with auto shops and home-improvement wholesalers. Inside a beige storefront, McDonald consults with young budtenders about the jars of raw cannabis flowers and rows of infused edibles that fill the shelves at From the Earth medical marijuana dispensary. The 40-year-old said cannabis products help him avoid prescription medications for pain from severe burns he suffered in a fire two years ago, as well as lingering back trouble and anxiety that plague him from his days as a paratrooper in the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division. "Some days are better than others," he said. "Cannabis isn't a cure-all ... But it has a lot of benefits - more than negatives." Two miles to the west, in a Costa Mesa high-rise with views of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, a team of doctors and executives also discuss ways in which patients like McDonald can be helped using marijuana. Only, they never say that word. "We don't talk about marijuana or cannabis," said Dr. Brian Murphy, CEO of Nemus Bioscience. "We talk about cannabinoids." Those are the chemical compounds in marijuana that have both psychoactive and therapeutic effects. And they are enticing pharmaceutical companies to spend years and millions of dollars pursuing government approval of new drugs inspired by the plant. The United States' conflicted history with marijuana regulation has caused it to lag behind countries such as Israel and Canada in developing pharmaceutical-grade drugs based on cannabis. But as public support and legalization of medical marijuana spread, a growing number of cannabis biotech companies are joining Nemus in Southern California, including two in Irvine, two more in San Diego and one each in Los Angeles and Manhattan Beach. The sector has surged over the past 18 months, said Scott Greiper, president of New York-based Viridian Capital Advisors, which tracks the cannabis industry. More than half of all investments in the marijuana industry are now going to biotech companies seeking the "next billion-dollar drug" based on cannabis, he said, with three such companies trading on the Nasdaq and many more on the penny stock exchange. And he predicts the market for such drugs could reach $20 billion by 2020. Just last week, the federal government promised to expand the number of suppliers permitted to provide researchers and drugmakers with government-approved marijuana. "It is profound that we have this opportunity to be right in the middle of such powerful changes in the pharmaceutical industry," said Raymond Dabney, who recently moved his firm, Cannabis Science, from Colorado to Irvine. The companies are developing products for patients who don't feel comfortable buying flowers in dispensaries that can smell like weed, but would buy a cannabis-inspired syrup from
their local pharmacist. They’re also hoping to persuade patients relying on California's 20-year-old medical marijuana community and other entrenched markets across the country to switch from smoking Bubba Kush and Maui Gold to filling prescriptions for drugs named Syndros, Epidiolex and the like. That may be a tough sell. Many medical marijuana users view cannabis the way McDonald does: as a holistic alternative to pharmaceuticals with far fewer side effects. Moreover, in states such as California, patients can legally grow medicinal pot in their backyards. But with medical cannabis a $2.7 billion-a-year industry in California alone, drug companies see a major opportunity for new products that are rigorously tested, will likely be covered by insurance and - unlike traditional marijuana plants - can be patented.

IMPROVING ON A 'MIRACLE'? There are 173 ailments, from arthritis to epilepsy, that patients say they’ve treated by smoking, vaping or otherwise ingesting marijuana, according to the advocacy organization United Patients Group. Extensive studies back up some of those claims, while others rely only on anecdotal evidence. Skeptics say pot is no "miracle plant" and question the rigor of existing research on its medical use. But scientists working to develop drugs based on marijuana have faith in its pharmaceutical potential. "The tricky bit is getting the drug in the body correctly," said Nemus' Murphy. Take glaucoma. Research dating back to the 1970s shows THC (the cannabinoid in marijuana that makes users feel high) can ease symptoms of the disease by relieving eye pressure. But the benefits of smoking marijuana last only a few hours, meaning consistent relief may require burning through eight joints a day. Decades ago, researchers sought a solution via an eyedrop. They extracted THC from marijuana and placed a liquid version in the eye, but nothing happened. That's because THC is fat-soluble, meaning it binds to fat and not liquid - a problem considering the constant wetness of the eye. Plus the cornea is good at keeping foreign substances out. Nemus is now manipulating THC molecules in hopes of making a version that's more easily absorbed. And since many people struggle to get drops in their eyes, the company is also developing an implant that would steadily release synthetic THC. That drug and others Nemus is planning are in the preliminary phase of seeking U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval. Already, federal regulators have approved three cannabis-based drugs to treat nausea and promote weight gain for cancer and AIDS patients. Edmond Arlington took one such drug - the "pot pill" Marinol - for several years after he injured his back lifting heavy equipment. The Riverside native first tried smoking marijuana to combat nausea caused by the "arsenal" of painkillers he was taking. But the accompanying high interfered with his ability to function, he said. Marinol, which delivers a dose of pure THC, calmed his stomach without making him stoned, he added. But Dr. Allan Frankel, a Santa Monica internist focused on medical marijuana treatments, said he's never had a patient who thought Marinol worked better than cannabis. "The whole plant is tremendously different than a single molecule," he said. That's why pharmaceutical companies are experimenting with a variety of cannabis compounds as they develop new products. There's a mouth spray that aims to ease muscle spasms in people with multiple sclerosis. There's a patch that's said to dull chronic pain; another could treat osteoporosis. There's a gel that promises to treat issues triggered by Fragile X syndrome, a rare condition that can cause serious intellectual disabilities. If these drugs get FDA approval, patients could save a lot of money, Murphy argues. As it stands, they might spend $500 or more to buy a month's supply of marijuana at a dispensary. If they could buy a marijuana-based mouth spray at CVS, they might instead face a $10 copay from their insurance company.

HURDLES TO OVERCOME Several hurdles have kept pharma giants such as Pfizer or Novartis from developing major cannabis drugs. The federal government recently reaffirmed its ranking of marijuana alongside heroin as a Schedule I drug, a classification reserved for substances that have no proven medical use and are highly addictive. Doctors can't write prescriptions for Schedule I drugs - or any controlled substance that isn't FDA-approved. So in California
and the other 24 states where medical marijuana is legal, doctors write "recommendations" for patients to use the plant. The Schedule I designation makes research more challenging and can make it difficult for drug companies to attract investors. But Murphy notes the FDA can change the classification of individual cannabis-related pharmaceuticals if they're approved for patient use. Marinol, for example, is a Schedule III drug, akin to Tylenol with codeine. And a similar pill, Cesamet, is Schedule II, which includes oxycodone and Ritalin. Another hurdle for developing pharmaceutical marijuana drugs has been the limited supply of federally approved cannabis, some experts say. For nearly 50 years, the only sanctioned source for federally regulated research and drug manufacturing has been a pot farm maintained by the University of Mississippi. The Drug Enforcement Administration this week announced it will allow more growers to supply marijuana for research and commercial production of approved drugs, though it's expected to be some time before those new pipelines are open. The three companies with FDA approval for cannabis-based drugs bypassed that supply hurdle by creating synthetic THC in labs. But a British company with U.S. headquarters in Carlsbad is close to developing the first federally sanctioned drugs extracted directly from marijuana plants. GW Pharmaceuticals is in the final stages of clinical trials on Epidiolex, a syrup that contains pure CBD, the compound in marijuana thought to have the most medical benefits without getting users high. In tests with some 2,000 patients, Epidiolex has helped reduce seizures in children with two of the rarest forms of epilepsy, according to CEO Justin Gover. The company grows its strain of organic cannabis in a greenhouse in England and imports the CBD syrup to the United States. Gover said it hopes to get FDA approval for Epidiolex in 2017 and start selling it by early 2018. For its supply, Nemus has inked a deal with Teewinot Life Sciences Corp. The Florida company takes DNA from cannabis plants, implants it in microorganisms and grows colonies that can produce cannabinoids it says are genetically identical to those found in marijuana plants. But rather than waiting 12 weeks to harvest the plant, Teewinot says it can grow the compounds in a lab in 48 hours. NO FAITH IN PHARMA Given such advances, experts believe it's inevitable that more cannabis-inspired drugs will hit pharmacy shelves. That's a scary prospect for many medical marijuana patients, who worry about Big Pharma squeezing out their favorite dispensaries and then hiking the cost of replacement drugs. "The trust of pharma just isn't there," said McDonald, the veteran from Irvine. A spokeswoman for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America or PhRMA, a trade group representing drug companies, said the organization doesn't have a position on how the federal government classifies marijuana. But Aaron Herzberg, who runs the Costa Mesa investment firm CalCann Holdings, is among the many marijuana advocates who blame drug companies for keeping the plant illegal. The Arizona company Insys Therapeutics, for example, petitioned against a Department of Health and Human Services recommendation to reclassify naturally derived THC as a Schedule III drug. And investigations by Vice and The Nation suggest pharmaceutical companies pay leading anti-marijuana academic researchers and support groups that lobby to keep cannabis in Schedule I. In states where medical marijuana is legal, a recent University of Georgia study showed prescriptions for painkillers and seizure medicines dropped significantly. In the 17 states studied, Medicare expenses for those drugs fell by $165 million, which critics say points to the motivation for pharmaceutical companies to fight federal reclassification of marijuana. Even if more FDA-approved cannabis drugs come to market, John Hudak with the Brookings Institution doesn't believe the current medical marijuana industry will be wiped out. He argues the federal government never will sanction patient use of cannabis plants. Rather, he predicts pills and patches will be sold through pharmacies while flowers and edibles will still be sold at dispensaries. Frankel, a physician, bets that herbal marijuana will come out on top. But if biotech companies manage to produce affordable drugs that capture the plant's benefits without
introducing new side effects, he sees it as a win-win. "If it's better medicine and people get treated ...," he said. "Hey, I'm a doctor, and that's what I want." 714-796-7963 or bstaggs@ocregister.com Twitter: @JournBrooke

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Article Title: CDC warns coffee workers | GASPING FOR ACTION A JOURNAL SENTINEL WATCHDOG
UPDATE Compound from roasting, grinding can damage lungs

Date: 10/4/2015

Article Content: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has posted a warning to people who work in the coffee processing business: Their rrutledge@journalsentinel.com occupations could be exposing them to dangerous levels of chemicals known to cause lung damage. The notice is directed at workers in facilities that roast, grind or flavor coffee, cautioning that two compounds tied to serious lung disease - diacetyl and 2, 3-pentanedione - are formed naturally through roasting unflavored coffee and are released during roasting and grinding. It also informs employers of the need to test the air and, depending on results, take measures to mitigate exposure. The federal agency added the coffee process-ing industry to its list of occupations that put workers at risk for flavor-related lung disease, calling the informationof interest and importance to those in the coffee business. The notice comes amid the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's ongoingGasping for Actioninvestigation, whichhas brought to light serious lung damage to workers grinding and roasting flavored coffee. It also has uncovered, through groundbreaking testing, that workers are being exposed to high levels of the chemicals in roasting facilities that don't use added flavors. Workers who had been exposed to similar levels in microwave popcorn plants suffered serious lung disease. One former Milwaukee roaster said the federal notice was overdue. Anybody that works in that environment should be made aware of the hazards and risks involved, said Chris O'Neal, who roasted coffee at what is now Colectivo on N. Humboldt Blvd. for several years ending in 2012. Sure, someone might say there's inherent risk in anything you do, but not necessarily being exposed to compounds that destroy your lungs. O'Neal, a 35-year-old elite runner who has never smoked, wonders if the severe asthma he has recently been diagnosed with could be tied to his years roasting coffee. Or if the diagnosis of asthma is wrong altogether. Diacetyl has been linked with a rare, sometimes deadly, lung disease called bronchiolitis obliterans. Sometimes workers with obliterative bronchiolitis are initially misdiagnosed with asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema or pneumonia; or their symptoms are attributed to smoking, the CDC notice states. It also notes the importance of doctors considering the possibility of disease related to chemical exposure and says the symptoms often have a gradual onset but can occur suddenly. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, the CDC's research arm, published the notice Tuesday. The agency has centered much of its previous work on synthetic diacetyl commonly used in the food industry to add a buttery flavor to everything from popcorn and chips to candy and ice cream. The chemical has been deemed safe to eat in trace amounts but has been shown to damage lungs when inhaled. The chemical drew
attention in the early 2000s as clusters of workers in microwave popcorn plants and flavoring factories fell ill. At least five people died, and hundreds of workers were injured. In 2009, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, tasked with overseeing the safety of the nation’s workforce, grappled with developing exposure guidelines and adopting a regulation but failed. The chemical remains unregulated. Testing in Wisconsin The Journal Sentinel investigation examined the case of five Texas coffee workers who contracted bronchiolitis obliterans. One of the five was placed on the waiting list for a lung transplant. The cases were identified when a local pulmonologist familiar with diacetyl connected their symptoms to their workplace. The workers blamed their illnesses on diacetyl in the flavoring used to make hazelnut coffee. They settled a lawsuit with the flavor manufacturer last year. Little attention was paid at the time to the naturally occurring levels of the chemicals that waft into the air when unflavored coffee is roasted and ground. Few, if any, studies had been published quantifying the levels. The Journal Sentinel's testing was among the first of its kind. The news organization hired an industrial hygienist to sample the air at two Wisconsin roasteries that agreed to the testing - Madison-based Just Coffee Cooperative and Valentine Coffee on Milwaukee's west side - and found levels above NIOSH's proposed recommendations. Workers grinding coffee had the highest levels of exposure, topping suggested safety limits by nearly four times, according to some measurements. Surprised by the findings, the co-founders of Just Coffee requested a full health hazard evaluation from NIOSH. A team from the agency spent nearly a week in July gathering data from the processing facility. NIOSH plans to release results this month. We encourage all roasting companies to take this seriously, said Just Coffee cofounder Mike Moon. We've received inquiries from roasters all over the country about our experience with NIOSH and our approach to this issue. We support and trust the work of NIOSH regarding coffee roasting and will do our best to comply, because we feel it is in the best interest of our employees. Four other roasting companies around southeastern Wisconsin - Anodyne, Colectivo, Stone Creek and Sheboygan-based Torke - declined to allow the Journal Sentinel to sample the air around their workers. Colectivo sent a memo to workers after the Journal Sentinel's initial inquiries that downplayed the issue and said the company would re-examine all of its safety protocols. Officials would not say whether they would test for diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione or if so, whether they would share the results. Representatives from Colectivo and the three other roasteries did not return phone calls and emails seeking comment for this story. Two months ago, NIOSH called concerns about diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione in coffee an emerging issue and said the agency didn't have anything related to best practices in that industry yet. The agency's new coffee processing notice underscores the concerns and calls for employers to take precautions. Concerns underscored An official with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which represents about 3,000 coffee workers nationwide and in Canada, said the posting will serve as a wake-up call to employers who might deny that diacetyl is a problem in their industry. It's a good step for the public, said Azita Mashayekhi, an industrial hygienist for the union. We need all sides to get involved. Mashayekhi said she is alerting local union representatives so they can inform their members about the safety issues. The coffee processing industry employs more than 600,000 people nationwide, according to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Coffee industry representatives have been reluctant to acknowledge the dangers the chemicals pose to their workers. Joseph DeRupo, spokesman for the National Coffee Association trade group, said he will inform members about the new notice and the offer by NIOSH to conduct free health hazard evaluations in those coffee facilities that request it. The agency already has a handful of such evaluations underway. It should be standard protocol in every workplace that you test the air for all the potential hazardous chemicals, DeRupo said. In addition to NIOSH, OSHA has a consultation program that allows businesses
to have the agency come in and assess the hazards for free. The identity of the company can remain confidential, but the company must agree to fix any problems discovered by inspectors. Each state runs its own program. Steve Strebel, director of the Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory, said his lab has already analyzed a few samples from coffee roasting companies around the country who have taken advantage of OSHA’s program in recent weeks. Wisconsin’s operation handles OSHA’s consultation tests for 45 states. The results: levels that exceeded NIOSH’s safety recommendations, in at least one case, by 14 times. We got some positive hits, Strebel said. INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR COFFEE ROASTERS

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health offers free health hazard evaluations. Phone: (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) Email: HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov Online: cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/. The national Occupational Safety and Health Administration also provides free consultation through state programs. Phone: Wisconsin businesses can call (800) 947-0553 (safetyrelated requests) or (608) 226-5240 (healthrelated requests) Online: Wisconsin businesses can find more information at slh.wisc.edu/occupational/wiscon/making-a-request/. Companies outside Wisconsin can find more information about programs in their state at https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html.

Copyright 2015, Journal Sentinel Inc. All rights reserved. (Note: This notice does not apply to those news items already copyrighted and received through wire services or other media.) Read the investigation To read past stories in the Gasping for Action investigation into the dangers of the chemical diacetyl in coffee production and in e-cigarettes, go to jsonline.com/gaspingforaction © 2015 Journal Media Group

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Article Title: Meet Cannabrand: The first ever Marijuana marketing brand | The Independent

Date: 2/21/2017

Article Content: Cannabis has long been associated with hippies and students. But as marijuana is gradually legalised across the US and other parts of the world, growers and sellers are looking to change its image and attract new clients. Enter Olivia Mannix, the founder and CEO of Cannabrand: what is believed to be the first marketing agency dedicated to cannabis. The firm launched in 2014, just as Colorado legalised marijuana not only for medical use but for recreation. Since then, the drug has been legalised in Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Nevada, Colorado, Maine and Massachusetts. As a result, hundreds of new firms have popped up, with celebrities Snoop Lion and Willie Nelson among those getting on the bandwagon. But for those without marketable names and millions of dollars, a little bit of clever marketing can be hugely important. “I’ve been living in Colorado for ten years and I went to college in Boulder, Colorado, which is a quintessential cannabis town,” she tells The Independent. And her stance on the drug is clear: “Cannabis is not just a drug; it’s a medicine. I think it’s something that needs to really be communicated.” World’s 10 most deadly street drugs Judging by Mannix’s career history, her attitude is understandable. She has worked at dispensaries in Colorado, and used medical marijuana after she underwent knee surgery following skiing accidents. “Cannabis really helped me with my injuries, for surgeries, with just the overall pain management, and then also just the recovery. I really
started to learn about medicinal marijuana and marijuana medicine, which I think is something that people don't understand.” Since 2014, Cannabrand has worked with over 100 companies in the US as well as Africa and Canada, and currently have ten clients, including dispensaries, cultivators, edibles, and vape pen makers. “We started Cannabrand, to quote-unquote ‘rebrand cannabis,’” she says. Recent research published in The Lancet Psychiatry showed that more US adults are using marijuana, and less people see it as harmful. But it's still far from easy. “Banking is definitely an issue,” says Mannix. “A lot of companies have their cannabis company under a holding company. For instance, I don’t have a bank account with Cannabrand,” she explains, adding she once had her holding firm account closed down. However, as the legality of marijuana becomes less of a novelty, institutions are changing their attitudes. “In Colorado specifically things are getting a little bit more open with cannabis, and actually being here cannabis is very, very normalised,” she explains. Mannix’s aim is to educate people about the plant, and separate fact from propaganda that she says was sewn during Ronald Reagan’s presidency in the 1980s with his War on Drugs. “People really just need to be educated about cannabis and learn that it is a versatile plant with a lot of medicinal properties that can aid a lot of different ailments, such as cancer, MS, cerebral palsy, epilepsy. “There's so much more to it. It's not just smoking flower - you can take the actual plants, and you can extract the medicine from it, so the THC or the CBD cannabinoids, which can help you with muscle aches, back aches. “There's lotions and topicals and bath salves, and all sorts of different cosmetic items as well as patches, transdermal patches, there's vape pens, there's edibles, there’s just so many different forms of it, and I think people just really need to do their research and look into what cannabis is before they go to judge it.” Mannix predicts that cannabis will be widely accepted in the US in between five to ten years. In that time brands will eventually emerge as synonymous with the drug and take the biggest slice of sales. So, who will be the Starbucks, McDonald’s and Coke of cannabis? “Caliva in California is one,” she says of one of her former clients. “They have a beautiful brand, and they're comparable with Starbucks. And just having a marketing and advertising plan that's really cohesive and thought-through, and has a good stand. Great branding is so important, and having a marketing and strategy is so important, just like any other industry, and that's really how we're treating it. So it’s really wild to see how far we’ve come.” Mannix says her three years in the industry have been a whirlwind. “It’s been amazing to be a pioneer. I just wanna keep educating and informing people on the benefits of cannabis. It’s not just about getting high.”
with alcohol. To read the invective being hurled at him, you’d think he’d accused her of some vile crime. But his comments strike me as candid, but loving: not the words of someone passing judgment. Roache wasn’t criticising or condemning his co-star. Quite the opposite. Just read what he said. Not heartless: Bill Roache with his on-screen wife, Anne Kirkbridge ‘What happened to Anne was she was alcoholic. She was on drugs for depression. She was a beautiful person.’ Yes, that’s a pretty stark statement. But the message couldn’t be clearer or more balanced. Drink. Depression. And she was a beautiful person. Three facts about one life, which Roache clearly feels don’t cancel each other out. Anne Kirkbridge had these problems, and — in his eyes — it didn’t make a jot of difference to her worth as a human being. So, what are people objecting to? It boils down to the fact that he was open about Anne having a mental illness. Why is that such a big deal? If she’d fallen over and broken a leg, no one would think anything of him talking about it and how it affected her ability to work. In fact, it would be odd if he didn’t mention it, especially if it had the kind of impact on her life that her depression clearly did. But that’s the trouble, isn’t it? There’s the assumption that mental and physical illness aren’t the same. We feel Roache shouldn’t be talking so frankly because there’s something shameful in being mentally ill. Bill Roache with on-screen wife, Anne Kirkbridge We reason that unless Anne had chosen to talk publicly about it before her death, then it should be hushed up and ignored because we are sullying her name by mentioning it. She’s not around to ‘defend herself’ — as if being ill is something that needs defending. This is the true face of the stigma surrounding mental illness. It’s not just about people pointing and sneering in the street (though that happens, too). It’s far more insidious than that. What’s really poisonous is the implicit suggestion that mental illness should be covered up; that it’s something we shouldn’t talk about in polite society. That’s a disastrous attitude. How can we hope to tackle something we can’t even discuss? If Anne Kirkbridge had suffered multiple sclerosis, we’d read Bill Roache’s comments about her struggling to cope on the set of Coronation Street and think how fantastic it was that she carried on, despite being unwell. We’d think how understanding her bosses were to send her away to recuperate and how supportive Bill and her other colleagues were to try to help her through it. Instead, everyone thinks, ugh, she had a mental illness, how insensitive to mention it, because it shows her up in a bad light. Well, to me, that is what needs challenging, not Roache’s honesty. Liberals love to claim they stand up against prejudice around mental health. I remember the rage when a High Street gift shop sold a card that said ‘Don’t get mad, get lithium’ — a feeble joke about a drug to combat depression. An online campaign quickly materialised, with calls to boycott the store. A mental health charity waded in, declaring the card and subsequent attempts to justify it as ‘deeply offensive and insensitive’. It was the same when Asda and Tesco stocked a fancy dress costume that was labelled ‘mental patient’ with fake blood and a fake meat cleaver. The outrage could have been felt in space. So, what happens? An apology, a momentary sense of victory — and then everyone gets bored and moves on to something else. It’s the smug laziness that sticks in my craw. An online campaign quickly materialised, with calls to boycott the store. A mental health charity waded in, declaring the card and subsequent attempts to justify it as ‘deeply offensive and insensitive’. It lets the real stigma — that mental illness is a shameful secret we have to hide — continue untouched. The difficult thing for me is that I see this with my patients. They request that letters aren’t sent to their home in case someone else opens them and realises they’re seeing a psychiatrist. They would rather use annual leave to attend appointments than ask for time off work for fear of having to give details about what’s wrong with them. There’s an eye clinic right next to my clinic and many even tell the taxi drivers that’s where they’re going, rather than admit the truth. I don’t blame them. I understand. And I feel desperately sad because I can see the way the shame stifles and suffocates them. I can see how the
internalised stigma drags them down. The only answer is to insist we talk about mental illness in exactly the same way as physical illness. I encourage my patients to do this. I ask them to imagine they are talking about a physical problem and see how unfair they are being on themselves. Go on, I’ll tell them, say that self-blaming sentence again and instead of ‘anorexia’ say ‘stroke’. Suddenly, it sounds daft. You’d never blame yourself for having a stroke — and anorexia really is no different. Ditto depression. Bill Roache isn’t the one who needs to check out his conscience. It’s the rest of us. Researchers have found that cats can make you fly into a rage if they harbour a certain parasite. Bad temper? You can’t blame the cat. Do you keep flying into a rage? Feel like throttling your children when they misbehave in Waitrose? Turn murderous when you’re held in a queue on the phone? Well, now you know what to blame: your cat. Yes, you read that correctly. Researchers say it’s all down to a parasite cats harbour called Toxoplasma gondii. While it was previously thought harmless to humans, new evidence suggests that people who are infected — a condition known as toxoplasmosis — are twice as likely to lose their temper as those who aren’t. This is important because it’s estimated that as many as one-third of people worldwide carry this parasite. Studies have already suggested it can affect behaviour in animals. Rats who are infected with it appear to become less fearful of cats, while chimpanzees become less afraid of leopards. But before you banish your moggie to the garden, let’s pause to think. First, all that’s been found so far is an association, rather than a causal mechanism. It may be that moody, grumpy people are more likely to own cats in the first place. Perhaps they get cats as company because no human wants to hang around with them because they’re so irritable. More importantly, can our temper tantrums ever be explained away by some microscopic bug? Or is this just another invitation to stop taking responsibility and see ourselves as victims? One of the things we know about being intelligent, sentient beings is that we can modulate and moderate our behaviour. We have control over how we respond to life’s challenges and whether we fly off the handle or not. Blaming your snotty behaviour on a parasite might seem a handy excuse, but it’s the adult equivalent of ‘the dog ate my homework’. This time it’s ‘the cat infected my brain’ — and it still won’t wash. I told you 24-hour drinking was crazy! While many people love being able to say ‘I told you so’, this is rarely the case for doctors. It brings no satisfaction when our warnings go unheeded and the obese person has a heart attack or the smoker gets cancer. Often, we feel frustration and anger — but the overwhelming sense is one of sadness. And that’s how I’ve felt this week after reading a study by economists at Lancaster University into the effect of the Licensing Act 2003, which relaxed the laws governing drinking hours. Countless doctors, myself included, voiced their concern at the time that this would simply cause a surge in alcohol-related health problems. There was plenty of evidence that backed us up, but we were ignored and pooh-poohed as reactionary killjoys. And what’s happened? This week’s research has shown categorically that longer licensing hours have led to more binge-drinking — and more mental health problems as a result. All that guff we were told about ushering in a moderate ‘Continental-style’ drinking culture has proved totally illusory. Countless doctors, myself included, voiced their concern at the time that this would simply cause a surge in alcohol-related health problems. Other research has indicated the dramatic effect that 24-hour drinking has had on the NHS. In 2014, there were more than one million hospital admissions attributed to an alcohol-related problem, compared with 493,760 in 2003-04. So that means the numbers have more than doubled since the legislation was passed. Yes, I do want to scream ‘I told you so’ at the ministers and MPs who brushed aside our concerns, but what’s the point? It’s a hollow victory because it’s the likes of me who have had to spend the past decade mopping up the fall-out. It’s the doctors, nurses, police and paramedics who have to deal with the drunks in A&E, the suicide cases, the men and women with liver failure. We are the ones who are left to pick up the pieces — not the
politicians who chose to ignore our warnings. How bananas that governments repeatedly try to ban things without any sound evidence — the latest target is e-cigarettes — yet alcohol, one of the poisons we absolutely know is harmful and is associated with everything from murder and domestic violence to depression, is encouraged in such a reckless way. I can’t help but think that the legislation was introduced simply to appease the drinks lobby and raise more revenue from taxes on alcohol. Shame on everyone who supported it.”

Source Title: Web

Health – Ecig – PM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 175887

Article Title: How To Maximize Your Capacity For Waste | Thought Catalog

Date: 8/21/2014

Article Content: image – Kelley Bozarth

Remember: this is wetter than proverbs. I pinch the bit of fat starting to form around my belly button, pulling it away from my body and letting it go. I wonder what she does when I’m gone. We don’t get intimate as often as I’d like and I think about this nearly constantly—although I shouldn’t. Although, I’m not sure why I shouldn’t. When I think of sex, I think of her already backing out of a kiss that hasn’t started yet every day for weeks until—once a month—she slinks across the hall from bedroom to bathroom, dropping her towel along the way, calling for me to come fuck her—quickly—standing up in the shower, which is never enough to fulfill either of our needs. These nights I end up on the couch with my pants around my ankles, looking at strange and violent pornography because I’m more angry and dejected than I am horny. Or maybe I think of her in terms of her ability to make me appreciate the emptiness around her, the way I sometimes wish I could wake up in bed with her and use my fingers to color-by-numbers the blank spaces in her tattoos, specifically the collection of black-lined geometric shapes that gather to form a diamond on the back of her neck—this desire only highlighting the least common denominator of Girl: the lack of her physical presence in my life, even if we spend most of our time sitting together on the couch. These nights, I drink enough and measured reality becomes immeasurable. I end up scraping fruit flies out of a fifty cent glass of wine, sitting on the crusted carpet of our walk-up because most of the furniture is gone—sold to pay the rent—cleanliness, at this point, an overrated myth, my list of things to worry about becoming minimal, allowing me a night to stare at the television on mute and listen to fifty’s soul crooning out of a stereo with only the left speaker working, sipping wine, realizing that this is maybe how one gets to the point where thinking, true reflection becomes possible, where I can control the noises that I’m hearing and I don’t have to listen to any sounds I don’t want to and this is a revelation—I understand everything because there is no longer anything to understand except the floor vibrating and the slight pressure on my temples from the alcohol and because this is all I am aware of, my mind is free to go anywhere, so I wander Saharan sands all the way to the North Shore or I go to Japan on a book tour, riding in rehabbed 1978 Lincoln Stretch Continentals, until I’m about to pass out on the living room floor, choosing this exact moment to think—to really think—and for a minute I understand the world before the world is lost to sleep. “There is a creek down a green swath from us that exhaled a balmy breeze towards the
wedding party, occasionally brushing orange and purple napkins screen-printed ‘Emily & Joe’ off green rod-iron tables. The hopefully-auspicious couple is dancing happy with a group of like-minded people.” I am so me that I often hear my name called out when I’m alone, driving kind of drunk on a Wednesday afternoon, scaring up Appalachia in a grey corolla, chasing airplane trails over mountains blanketed and resting like the lumped backs of sleeping children—dodging deer, a thin, vertical grease burn on my wrist belly-up and sunbathing on a cool steering wheel. I feel like the air around me is bruised and often I’m the one doing the swinging—like fuck me right? Let’s make breathing as hard as possible. I’ve given up skin for grace on more than one occasion, slipped through the water’s membrane, chafed and bled and throbbed. There are days I fight the space around me in an effort to give it color. Say something back. But you can’t strangle an empty passenger seat and the feeling often leaves the way a bubble pops—smack then splash—more whiskey from the cup holder. At a vineyard under a lofted barn ceiling I am drinking more—white wine [I don’t know what kind]—but the weather is warm enough for me to need ice cubes in my glass. There is a creek down a green swath from us that exhales a balmy breeze towards the wedding party, occasionally brushing orange and purple napkins screen-printed ‘Emily & Joe’ off green rod-iron tables. The hopefully-auspicious couple is dancing happy with a group of like-minded people. Those of us disinclined or too far into drink to join sit like lizards on the cement deck slab. I have nothing but a tertiary relationship tying me to any of these people: the bride was her roommate freshman year of college. They have since kept up a cordial relationship without much contact. I’m here as an in-the-neighborhood stand-in. I am neither the happiest nor most miserable person in attendance. There’s a woman who’s over-dressed [even for a wedding reception!] and she’s proud of it. The food is being provided by a Mexican guy a few years older than me who’s parked his smoker and truck just out of sight around a mock log cabin. While the food cooks he stands and taps his foot, not impatiently or to any particular cadence. He is covered in sweat and watches the reception with apathy. Like he’s been to too many of these things to be jealous or hungry. There’s a woman a table away from me wearing a paisley, floral-print dress that looks clipped from antique store curtains, who looks like she might be named Fern, or Evelyn, or Pearl, or Edith, or Fay, because she’s far too unshapely to be named anything like Carmen, or Veronica, or Annie, or Emma—meaning—if I shot her with a futuristic weapon that changed the victim into a physical representation of their life-essence [defined as: her soul, her spirit, her drive to outperform life, the way she feels about her diploma, about her reflection in the mirror, the way her back doesn’t arch the way she it wants to, the way she feels when reviewing any 5 minute window of her life since-lived etc.], hers would appear as a busted trash-bag on the curb. She isn’t sure what she is more self-aware of: her hair [dirty straw lying wet in a horse’s stall] or her spare tire. I, myself, can not turn away from her feet and upper-ankles, which appear covered in millions of shallow cuts, pink lines rising just above the outer layer of skin like a colony of ants passed through a puddle of paint and got lost on her legs. She occasionally lifts one sandal to scratch the other’s stump in an absent minded way, before catching herself and placing the offending foot firmly back to the floor. I assume this means she is not proud of her injuries [my first thought had been thorns from gardening!] which makes me feel a slight curiosity towards this woman in front of me—and just as I begin to become aware of these emotions, the woman begins scratching an ankle with her hand [a rarity!], her fingernail catching one of the cuts beginning to form scab, sending forth a half-second dribble of blood. I’m not sure if it’s the bloodstained chunk of middle-fingernail or the way she draws the blood or the wedding constricting this whole event into something that it isn’t—but the woman begins to cry and as she cries she gets up to go and no one follows to make sure she’s ok—and in this series of events I feel—for a brief second—profoundly sad. I look up at the dance floor and I’ve missed the garter toss to this woman and I
realize that this is maybe why I am [in my twenty-third year] much less popular with friends than I used to be. The need to understand my every second has stolen my privilege for hours. The weather is the poetic notion of ideal. I have wine ever-flowing. There are beautiful, happy people here. Yet I’ve spent my time wondering if sneaking the Mexican barbecue guy a bottle of water or a glass of expensive wine [that I’m getting for free] is racist, or classist, or considered an attempt at politics or imperialism and whether he’d even want one or would be offended if I offered one. I worry so much about empathizing with as many people as possible that I miss second-to-second opportunities to actually do so—I don’t know. I think about good and I worry so much about how my actions are being perceived that I sometimes forget the action of doing. This is the shallow end of memory. “Memory” being used loosely here. Traditional chronology at times like these is often replaced by a single, deep exhalation of the whole experience at once, the way the initial photo informs the album that follows, turning each subsequent picture back into the first. Spring, elastic stretched too tight to bounce back, torn cotton t-shirts, the way salt water softened the scabs into pink skin cancer scars stuck like chewed bubble gum on the backs of hands, cigarette smoke and diesel fumes, a desperate midnight chase, volatile and all-consuming, the smack of feet on wet concrete, the knock of familiar knuckles, a letter, flowers wobbling in the garden, bullet wounds and the way a hollow point blooms, the possum near death and lying broken in the pillowcase. I remember L’s taking the e-cigarette out of his mouth and exhaling. The mist catching a draft and blowing over to where I stood. Drinking the water vapor in with my lungs. L’s’s sister was there with us. Melanie. She was only fifteen and her tits hadn’t come all the way in yet, but kids at school couldn’t wait to fuck her and L’s knew it. Nooses went up early in the morning, didn’t take long to catch him. Brought him down to a developers lot by the orchard and let Melanie smack the quivering sack off a plywood wall til the clicking and the screeching stopped and the thing went timid. L’s caught me staring at Melanie and said, “Boy, if I had a real cigarette I’d burn you.” We laughed. Melanie set the pillowcase down on a rotted floorboard. It hit in a soft cloud of dust and crunched like a pile of tinder brought to flame. The white linen started to shimmer pink in spots. Summer billowed in on temporal black rain clouds and set anchor over the gray timber next to our neighborhood. Chilled air ran down along gnarled ridges and hung moisture in the back of our throats. The sky crowed. I told them we should get going before Cheston came along in his white Buick and called us heathens. L’s toked his e-cigarette and said, “Hang on. I wanna see what it looks like. Dump it out.” Melanie said, “No. That’s fucking disgusting. You do it.” L’s took a step toward her and screamed, “Dump it out. Now.” Melanie looked around to see if any neighbors heard the noise then saddled over to the crumbled ball and grabbed a corner. She lifted with two fingers and thumb and shook twice. The thing clunked onto the plywood and steamed in a lank pile of guts and hair. Its right eye oozed out of socket and hung onto brain like a skinned grape on a stem. L’s laughed. I looked at Melanie’s face and—Christ—it was perfect because I knew we’d taught her everything she needed to know about sullen providence. For the life of me I can’t remember what peaches taste like. But I think of her when I think of them—seasonal—as the earth offers them.

Source Title: Web

*Health – Ecig – PM – Web 4*

Predicted Probability: 0.99

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 726927
A new type of synthetic alcohol has been discovered which could allow people to enjoy the sociable effects of a few pints, but skip the hangover that usually follows. The new drink, known as 'alcosynth', is designed to mimic the positive effects of alcohol but doesn’t cause a dry mouth, nausea and a throbbing head, according to its creator Professor David Nutt. The Imperial College Professor and former government drugs advisor told The Independent he has patented around 90 different alcosynth compounds. Two of them are now being rigorously tested for widespread use, he said – and by 2050, he hopes alcosynth could completely replace normal alcohol. “It will be there alongside the scotch and the gin, they’ll dispense the alcosynth into your cocktail and then you’ll have the pleasure without damaging your liver and your heart,” he said. “They go very nicely into mojitos. They even go into something as clear as a Tom Collins. One is pretty tasteless, the other has a bitter taste.” By researching substances that work on the brain in a similar way to alcohol, Professor Nutt and his team have been able to design a drug which they say is non-toxic and replicates the positive effects of alcohol. “We know a lot about the brain science of alcohol; it’s become very well understood in the last 30 years,” said Professor Nutt. “So we know where the good effects of alcohol are mediated in the brain, and can mimic them. And by not touching the bad areas, we don’t have the bad effects.” Advocates of alcosynth believe it could revolutionise public health by relieving the burden of alcohol on the health service. According to Alcohol Concern, drinking is the third biggest risk factor for disease and death in the UK, after smoking and obesity. "People want healthier drinks," said Professor Nutt. “The drinks industry knows that by 2050 alcohol will be gone.” “They know that and have been planning for this for at least 10 years. But they don’t want to rush into it, because they’re making so much money from conventional alcohol.” Early experiments into alcosynth, such as those reported on by BBC’s Horizon in 2011, used a derivative of benzodiazepine – the same class of drugs as Valium. Mr Nutt said his new drinks did not contain benzodiazepine, and their formulas would remain a closely guarded, patented secret. However, the huge cost of funding research into the drug and regulatory concerns mean it could be a long time before people can order an alcosynth cocktail at their local pub. Professor Nutt, who was sacked from his position as the government drugs tsar in 2009 after he claimed taking ecstasy was less dangerous than riding a horse, said he was unsure if the use of synthetic alcohol would be restricted by the new Psychoactive Substances Act, which came into force in May. “It’s an interesting idea, but too much in its infancy at the moment for us to comment on,” a Department of Health spokesperson told The Independent. “I don’t think we’d give money to it until it was a little further along,” said the spokesperson. “If [Professor Nutt] were to apply for funding, it would go through the process of everything else and would be judged on its merits.” “It would be great for reducing workforce efficiency if no one was hungover,” they added. Professor David Nutt (Rex Features) According to Professor Nutt, the effects of alcosynth last around a couple of hours – the same as traditional alcohol. He said he and his team have also managed to limit the effects of drinking a lot of alcosynth, so in theory it would be impossible to ever feel too 'drunk'. “We think the effects round out at about four or five ‘drinks’, then the effect would max out,” he said. “We haven’t tested it to destruction yet, but it’s safer than drinking too much alcohol. With clever pharmacology, you can limit and put a ceiling on the effects, so you can’t ever get as ill or kill yourself, unlike with drinking a lot of vodka.” Researcher Guy Bentley worked with Professor Nutt on a new report into alcosynth regulation, and told The Independent he hoped to
persuade the government to accept the drug as a way of reducing the harm caused by alcohol. Teetotal celebrities on why they don’t drink “[The report] is trying to spark what happened with e-cigarettes and tobacco, but with alcohol,” he said. "Professor Nutt has been experimenting on this for a long time, but I thought to myself - ‘where is it?’ I wanted my hangover-free booze.” However, not everyone was as keen on the new discovery. Neil Williams, from the British Beer and Pub Association, said alcosynth was not necessary, as “there are other ways of avoiding a hangover”. “There are plenty of low-strength drinks, particularly beers,” he told The Independent. “We should all drink in moderation so we shouldn’t need to have a hangover anyway.” “I’d want to know more about it before I tried it myself,” he said.

Source Title: Web

Health – Ecig – PM – Web 5
Predicted Probability: 0.78

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 645058

Article Title: Retiring California lawmakers talk about what's left, and what's next - LA Times

Date: 1/22/2016

Article Content: With less than a year until their replacements are sworn in, California Sen. Barbara Boxer and Reps. Sam Farr and Lois Capps are checking off their to-do lists, trying to wrap up decades of work in Washington. Boxer, 75, announced a year ago that she wouldn’t seek a fifth term in the Senate. In the video announcement, she said her decision was not prompted by her age or by partisan bickering in the nation’s Capitol, where Republicans now control both houses. Boxer, a Democrat who joined the Senate during the so-called “year of the woman” in 1992, is known as an advocate for the environment, organized labor and women’s rights. Leaving the Senate won’t change that, she said. “As long as I’m vertical, I’m going to be working on these issues,” Boxer said. Saying it was time to go home to Santa Barbara, Capps, 78, (D-Santa Barbara) said in April that she wouldn’t pursue an 11th term. Capps was elected to Congress in a 1998 special election to replace her husband, Walter, after his death. “We asked everybody to run after he died in office. Nobody would do it; it was a tough race. People came to me, or bugged me, or harassed me, to say ‘You have to do this,’ ” she said. “It was an unexpected piece [of] my life when it started, but it turns out to be so meaningful to me, makes me a huge believer in democracy.” In November, Farr, 74, a Carmel Democrat, announced he wouldn’t seek a 13th term. He said he wanted to focus on being a “full-time grandpa.” Farr was first elected to Congress in 1993 in a special election to succeed Leon Panetta. Previously, Farr served 12 years in the Assembly and six years as a Monterey County supervisor after getting his start in public service in the Peace Corps. Farr said he likes to think he’ll leave things in Monterey County better than when he started. “I’ve just fixed a lot of things in that district,” he said. Boxer, Farr and Capps aren’t the only members of California’s delegation leaving their positions this year. Rather than seek a fourth term, Rep. Janice Hahn is running for Los Angeles County supervisor, saying she can be more effective in local government. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-Santa Ana) is pursuing the Senate seat held by Boxer. Boxer said she’s been meeting with her California and national staffs to determine priorities for the year. She listed more than two dozen. They include raising the minimum wage, keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and people
with mental health problems, supporting research on cancer and Alzheimer's disease, and limiting e-cigarette advertising aimed at children. She also wants to push for student loan refinancing, create a dedicated fund for bridge infrastructure and require local election officials to reduce the length of time people have to wait in line to vote. She also talked about creating a plan to ease the effects of California's drought; aiding the restoration of the Los Angeles River; protecting military whistle blowers; and blocking Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or cut off money to clinics that provide abortions. Boxer said she isn’t willing to narrow the list. “You’ve got to do a lot of them. You can’t just have one or two on your list,” she said. “You just have to do everything.” Capps’ to-do list includes making the Piedras Blancas Light Station near San Simeon and its 141-year-old lighthouse a national monument. “The lighthouse is still there and it still remains lit,” she said. She also wants to work on pipeline safety, an issue she’s focused on since the 1969 blowout of Union Oil’s Platform A in the Dos Cuadras Offshore Oil Field. “We don’t have enough inspections, not regularly,” she said. Capps, a former nurse, also wants Congress to approve her bill to reauthorize federal funding for nursing programs, and make advanced education grants available to more nurses. “That is on my bucket list to do before I leave,” Capps said. “You need to remind leadership that, ‘Don’t forget, this needs to be done too.’” Farr said he’s always remembered the advice photographer Ansel Adams gave him during Farr’s first campaign. He said Adams told him: “Creating a national park is forever. Nothing else you do in Congress really is.” Farr was behind the creation of Pinnacles National Park and the preservation of Big Sur as national wilderness. He has also worked to preserve California Missions. Before he leaves office next January, Farr wants to pass the Clear Creek National Recreation Act, a bill he has proposed before without success. This year, he’s working with Reps. David Valadao (R-Hanford) and Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) on the legislation, which directs the Bureau of Land Management to open the 75,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito and Fresno counties to recreational use, including off-road vehicles, hikers and hunters. The Environmental Protection Agency closed the area because of high levels of naturally occurring asbestos. The bill also designates 21,000 acres of sandstone outcroppings in Fresno County as the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness. Farr said he’d also like to see changes to routes designed by a state-of-the-art air traffic control system that is being introduced nationwide by the Federal Aviation Administration. Since the Next Generation Air Transportation System was implemented complaints about noise from residents living below the flight paths have increased dramatically. “It’s just created a havoc in Santa Cruz because of the incredible noise, and it is just awful,” Farr said. Farr, who served in the Peace Corps in Colombia in the 1960s, said that before he leaves office, he wants to put the program on a path to have 10,000 volunteers by 2020. It now has about 7,000 volunteers. “It’s not that anybody opposes it. It just costs money,” Farr said. With “the mess the world is in, the best we could do is increase the Peace Corp.” So, what’s next? Capps and Boxer both said they don’t like the word retirement. Boxer plans to continue operating her political action committee, PAC for a Change, saying there is a need for a progressive alternative to prominent conservative donors such casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and Charles and David Koch, who own one of the largest corporations in the country, Koch Industries. “I just don’t see anybody out there on my side. I don’t see any other women,” she said. “It’s critical that we have more women involved.” Boxer said she expects to make speeches based on her forthcoming book, “The Art of Tough,” and to continue to advocate on issues she cares about, such as environmental protection and women’s health. “I am far from slowing down. In some ways, I’m speeding up,” Boxer said. Capps said she’s put off thinking too much about what she’ll do after Congress, but she won’t call it retirement. “I say I’m not running for reelection. Retiring means you’re going to, I don’t know, go somewhere and pull the covers up over your head -- or at least that’s
the image I think of, and I’m kind of resistant to that,” she said. Farr said that after 42 years in public service, he’s looking forward to “being a full time babysitter for my grandchildren.” Beyond that, he said, “we’ll see what else happens, but I have no plans. I think it will be really hard not to be an activist. I’ve been an activist all my life.”

sarah.wire@latimes.com Follow @sarahdwire on Twitter Read more about the 55 members of California’s delegation at latimes.com/politics

MORE: Democrats likely to keep two of California’s three congressional races without incumbents Sen. Barbara Boxer, liberal lion from California, to retire after 2016s

Source Title: Web

Policy

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Policy within the database is “cpolicy8”.

Tobacco (no ecig) texts

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_pol”.

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 729916

Article Title: Arkansas consumers notified about $45M smoking settlement"

Date: 9/9/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: LITTLE ROCK, Ark. LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - A monthlong advertising campaign has begun to notify potential Arkansas claimants in a preliminary $45 million settlement with the manufacturer of Marlboro Lights and Marlboro Ultra Lights cigarettes. Consumers claimed the cigarettes were deceptively advertised as being safer than regular cigarettes. An agreement was reached with manufacturer Phillip Morris USA to settle the class-action lawsuit with no admission of wrongdoing by the company. The company argued that the cigarettes delivered less tar and nicotine, as advertised, if they were smoked correctly. Officials said smokers who used the cigarettes as designed got the advertised benefit. Consumers can receive 10 cents to 25 cents per pack purchased in Arkansas over 32 years from November 1971 to April 18, 2003, The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (http://bit.ly/2cgt1SN) reports. The lawsuit had originally sought a full refund for each pack. A judge will hold a hearing on Nov. 21 to decide whether to grant final approval to the arrangement. Claimants must submit a sworn statement to the court listing their average daily cigarette purchase per year for personal use, along with the name, address and telephone number of a verifying witness. Claims, due by Dec. 1, will be vetted by a court-appointed accountant and attorney who have been given the authority to hold hearings on applications they believe are questionable. People who wish to opt out of the settlement must do so in writing by Nov. 1. If enough people opt out, Phillip Morris can discontinue the agreement. ___ Information from: Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, http://www.arkansasonline.com"

Source Title: AP
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 396370

Article Title: Business Highlights"

Date: 7/7/2015

Article Content: ___ Greece gets until Sunday for proposals to stave off collapse BRUSSELS (AP) - Frustrated and angered eurozone leaders gave Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras a last-minute chance on Tuesday to finally come up with a viable proposal on how to save his country from financial ruin. Overcoming their surprise when Tsipras failed to come up with a detailed plan, the leaders reluctantly agreed to a final summit Sunday, saying that could give both sides an opportunity to stave off collapse of the struggling but defiant member nation. ___ The battle for control of the growing breast milk industry TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - It could trade for 400 times more than the price of crude oil and 2,000 times more than iron ore. If sold off the shelf, it could cost more than 150 times the price of a gallon of cow's milk and 15 times more than coffee. Going for as much as $4 per ounce, breast milk is a hot commodity that is emerging as a surprisingly cutthroat industry, one that states are seeking to regulate amid a battle for control between nonprofit and for-profit banks that supply hospital neonatal units. ___ Carnival aims to launch Miami to Cuba cruises in May The world's largest cruise company could be heading to Cuba. Starting in May, Carnival Corp. plans to offer trips from Miami to the Caribbean island nation, the company announced Tuesday. Carnival says it would become the first American cruise company to visit Cuba since the 1960 trade embargo. The trips will be through its new brand, fathom, which focuses on trips where passengers sail to a destination in order to volunteer there. CEO Arnold Donald called the Cuba plans "an important first step" for his company and for the cruise industry. ___ 'Subway guy' Jared was key in giving chain healthy image NEW YORK (AP) - Subway said Tuesday it mutually agreed with Jared Fogle to suspend their relationship after the home of the chain's longtime pitchman was raided by federal and state investigators. The separation was jarring because the 37-year-old everyman has become a familiar face around the world. To many, he's known simply as "the Subway guy" who shed a massive amount of weight by eating the chain's sandwiches. His story is perhaps the biggest reason for Subway's image over the years as a healthy place to eat. ___ Young Indians embrace dating apps despite social taboos NEW DELHI (AP) - Aditi Mendiratta's biggest worry as she's swiping left and right is hiding the smartphone notifications that read "Congratulations! You have a new match" from her parents. Mendiratta is one of hundreds of thousands of young Indians nervously exploring online dating apps - and breaking with India's centuries-old traditions governing marriage and social conduct. The dating app market has exploded in recent years, with more than a dozen companies operating in India and more than a million smartphone users who have downloaded at least one of them. ___ US job openings stay high, but actual hiring falters in May WASHINGTON (AP) - Job openings stayed close to a 15-year high in May. It's a sign that companies are expecting continued economic growth, but the level of advertised jobs hasn't driven the same kind of increase in actual hiring. The Labor Department said Tuesday that the number of open jobs rose 0.5 percent to 5.36 million in May. April's total was revised down to 5.33 million from 5.38 million, which had been the highest total during the 15 years that the government has tracked the data. ___ US trade deficit widens in May as exports struggle WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. trade deficit widened slightly in May, reflecting declines in sales of American-made aircraft and
machinery as exports continued to suffer from a strong dollar. The deficit increased 2.9 percent to $41.9 billion in May, up from an April imbalance of $40.7 billion, the Commerce Department reported Tuesday. Imports fell 0.1 percent to $230.5 billion. Exports slid at a faster pace of 0.8 percent to $188.6 billion. American producers have been hurt this year by a rising value of the dollar, which makes U.S. goods less competitive in overseas markets. ___ Airlines boost on-time rating but storms create long delays WASHINGTON (AP) - The latest government report shows airlines doing a little better at arriving on time. The Transportation Department said Tuesday that 80.5 percent of flights operated by the leading airlines were on time in May, up from 76.9 percent in May 2014. But the on-time rating was down slightly from April's 81.8 percent, and 16 flights were stuck on the tarmac longer than federal rules allow. Ten of those flights were on the same stormy day at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. ___ PGA Grand Slam to move from Trump Course in Los Angeles PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) - The PGA of America is moving its Grand Slam of Golf from Donald Trump's golf course in Los Angeles, the first significant fallout for golf from the Republican presidential candidate's comments on Mexican immigrants. Trump and the PGA of America met Monday. Both groups said they mutually agreed not to hold the Grand Slam of Golf at Trump National Golf Club in Los Angeles on Oct. 19-21. ___ Automatically organic: Paris self-serve shops a nod to farms PARIS (AP) - Diners in Paris are flashing back - and forward - to the era of the automat, but this time with a nod to organic farming. A precursor to the era of fast food, automat eateries served hundreds of thousands of customers a day throughout the mid-20th century, allowing on-the-go diners to pick hot dishes from coin-operated metal lockers. Today, entrepreneurs in France and Scotland are appropriating the concept that once symbolized modernity to help customers get back to the land. Their automat offer not burgers and fries, but fresh and local produce and other ingredients. ___ General Mills plans major move toward cage-free eggs MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Food maker General Mills announced a major move toward cage-free eggs Tuesday as part of an updated animal welfare policy that now extends throughout its global supply chain. The Golden Valley-based company committed itself to 100 percent cage-free eggs for its U.S. operations, a move several other large companies also have taken recently. The company did not set a deadline but said it will work with its suppliers to determine a “reasonable timeline,” given the disruption that bird flu has caused to the U.S. egg supply. ___ Report: Toyota executive arrested in Japan to be released TOKYO (AP) - The American Toyota executive who was arrested in Japan last month on suspicion of drug law violations is expected to be released Wednesday without being prosecuted, according to Japan's Kyodo News service. Kyodo did not identify the source of its information. Tokyo prosecutors declined to comment Tuesday. Toyota Motor Corp. said it had no information. Julie Hamp, 55, who was the highest-ranking female executive at the Japanese automaker, was arrested June 18 on suspicion of bringing oxycodone, a narcotic pain killer, into Japan. The drug is tightly controlled here. ___ WHO says too few countries taxing tobacco products enough MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Taxing cigarettes up to 75 percent of their retail price is among the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use, but too few governments levy high enough taxes, according to a World Health Organization global report released Tuesday. The WHO’s 2015 report on the global tobacco epidemic said more than half of the world's countries - encompassing about 2.8 billion people - had implemented at least one of six sets of agreed-upon tobacco-control policies. The figure is up from 2.3 billion when the previous report was released in 2013. ___ Report: Troops face hassles with student loans, despite law WASHINGTON (AP) - A government regulator says military personnel are still being hassled over their student loans despite the federal laws and programs put in place to protect them, and officials worry it could signal a broader problem in the $1.2 trillion student debt market. In a report released Tuesday, the Consumer Financial Protection
Bureau said it has received more than 1,300 complaints from military borrowers since 2012. Most of the problems stem from military personnel trying to defer loan payments or cap their interest rates while on active duty or after being disabled, as is allowed under the law. But many military personnel are getting denied or ignored by companies that handle their loans, the CFPB found. ___ By The Associated Press=

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 93.33 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,776.91. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 12.58 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,081.34. The Nasdaq composite inched up 5.52 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,997.46. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 20 cents to close at $52.33 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose 31 cents to close at $56.85 in London. Wholesale gasoline rose 2.5 cents to close at $1.949 a gallon. Heating oil rose 0.2 cent to close at $1.711 a gallon. Natural gas fell 4 cents to close at $2.716 per 1,000 cubic feet."

Source Title: AP

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 389385

Article Title: SHOW: EARLY START 4:00 AM EST Cruise Ship Sinks: Hundreds Missing; Alarming Failure for TSA; Introducing Caitlyn Jenner; Houthis Free U.S. Journalist. Aired 4- 4:30a ET"

Date: 6/2/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: A frantic search is underway on China's Yangtze River, rescuers scrambling to save survivors from a cruise ship that capsized in the storm. The acting head of the TSA losing his job after tests found that airport screeners failed to detect weapons and explosives 95 percent of the time. Introducing Caitlyn Jenner, now sharing her story from transformation from U.S. Olympic hero to America's highest profile transgender person. The White House and Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels are talking, and the negotiations led to the release of an American journalist, but three other U.S. nationals are still being held. [04:00:15] CHRISTINE ROMANS, CNN ANCHOR: Breaking news this morning: a frantic rescue mission. Hundreds of tourists missing after their cruise ship sinks. We are live. JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: Shocking failure at the TSA. Replica bombs, weapons, contrabands smuggled past check points at airports across the country. This morning, the TSA leader ousted. Details on the shakeup, ahead. ROMANS: Introducing Caitlyn Jenner, now sharing her story from transformation from U.S. Olympic hero to America's highest profile transgender person. Photos are simply amazing. Everyone is talking about that this morning. Good morning. Welcome to EARLY START. I'm Christine Romans. BERMAN: I'm John Berman. Great to see you. It is Tuesday, June 2nd, 4:00 a.m. in the East. And we begin with breaking news: frantic search is underway on China's Yangtze River, rescuers scrambling to save survivors from a cruise ship that capsized in the storm. More than 400 people were onboard. Crews report hearing sounds through the hull. They're desperately trying to reach passengers they believe could be trapped inside. Chinese state media reports just 14 survivors have been rescued. Remember, more than 400 people on board. Among the rescued, the captain and chief engineer who are in police custody. Let's get the latest from CNN's Anna Coren. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) ANNA COREN, CNN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: John and Christine, a desperate search is underway for any more survivors onboard the ships that was carrying 450 people when it sank last night on the Yangtze
River in eastern China. So far at least, a dozen people have been rescued, including a 65-year-old grandmother, who reportedly kept thanking the drivers who brought her out of the water. The chartered cruise ship with mainly senior citizens on board was traveling to Nanjing to Chongqing, two of China's largest cities. It was reportedly hit by a cyclone last night and capsized in less than a minute. It took more than two hours for authorities to be alerted after a survivor swam to shore and raise the alarm. The captain and chief engineer who both survived have been taken into police custody. Premier Li Keqiang who was on the scene said every effort must be made to save lives, demanding that rescuers have every resource at their disposal and has ordered an investigation -- John and Christine. (END VIDEO TAPE) ROMANS: All right. We'll keep you up-to-date on that. Thank you, Anna Coren, for those details. Breaking overnight, the acting head of the TSA losing his job after tests found that airport screeners failed to detect weapons and explosives 95 percent of the time. That would be an “A” in missing the dangerous stuff. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announcing overnight that the acting TSA administrator Melvin Carraway is being reassigned. The chairman of the House committee that oversees the TSA, Jason Chaffetz, calling the test results deeply alarming. Aviation and government regulation correspondent Rene Marsh has the latest for us from Reagan National Airport in Washington. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) RENE MARSH, CNN AVIATION AND GOVERNMENT REGULATION CORRESPONDENT: Well, Christine and John, undercover agent with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, they tested the system at airport security check points. They tried to smuggle weapons as well as fake explosives through these checkpoints. They performed 70 tests and they were successful 67 times. This sort of operation has been done for years. The goal is to test the vulnerabilities as well as to strengthen the system. So, by design, this test is very difficult. But as one former TSA official puts it, there's no way, absolutely not, the failure rate should be as high as it was. It was 95 percent. We are hearing from the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Jeh Johnson says that he has called for six actions. The first one, he wants revised screening procedures. He wants the results of the testing to be shared with airports across the country. He wants more training for TSA officers. He also wants TSA screening equipment to be retested and reevaluated. He wants these covert operations to continue, and lastly, Secretary Johnson says he is appointing a team to make sure this happens in a timely fashion -- Christine, John. (END VIDEO TAPE) BERMAN: All right. Rene Marsh, thanks for that. At the start, 95 percent is pretty much almost always. All right. Four minutes after the hour. Expected later today, a vote in the Senate on restoring the NSA surveillance programs that lapsed the other night when legal authority for them expired. On Monday, Republican Senator Rand Paul once again thwarted Mitch McConnell's efforts to get a speedy vote on the USA Freedom Act. Senator Paul wants to tweak the bill adding more restrictions on NSA data collection. But any amendments would send the measure back to the House and extend the time the NSA goes without the bulk collection of America's telephone records or ability, I should say, to access the bulk collection of American telephone records. [04:05:05] CNN's Michelle Kosinski is at the White House with the latest. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) MICHELLE KOSINSKI, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: Hey, John and Christine. Even yesterday, we saw Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell tried to cobble together the unanimous vote to move forward and take a vote on this issue last night. But once again, he was blocked by Rand Paul. Meanwhile, the White House keeps urging the Senate to act in the name of national security, calling this an unnecessary risk. But the White House still won't go so far as to say that the American public is now less safe since these four Patriot Act's programs have expired. They refer us to intelligence officials. They still won't give any concrete examples also of how any of these programs actually helped in the past. They say national security concerns prevent them from giving away that information, calling them important tools that
have generated some info in the past that wasn't generated through other means. What the White House will do freely is criticize the Senate. Here's this. JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: Unfortunately, what we have seen is a whole lot of posturing within the Republican Party. There's a lot of politics being played on this, and unfortunately, it's coming at the expense of the national security and civil liberties of the American people. KOSINSKI: So, you have Rand Paul doing pretty much a victory lap, since these programs have indeed expired for now. But the price he said was a verbal beating from key members of his own party, calling his tactics political posturing and fund raising. The reality is this bipartisan bill that already passed the House that puts the bulk data collection out of the hands of the government and into the hands of the phone companies will likely pass, just maybe with some amendments. Some senators, for example, want to make sure the phone companies are going to do it in a way that is useful to the government. Bottom line is, it's going to take time, but we could see a real vote on this as early as today -- John and Christine. (END VIDEO TAPE) ROMANS: Michelle Kosinski at the White House -- thanks, Michelle. Developing overnight: Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Boston for surgery on his broken leg. Kerry broke his femur Sunday during a biking accident in the French Alps. Nuclear talks with Iran had hit a critical stage, and with less than a month to reach a deal, it is not clear when the 71-year-old secretary will be able to fly again and his staffers are saying he is working the phones, he is firing off emails, he is working. They say the injury will not affect the talks. Meanwhile, international inspectors report that Iran's stockpile of nuclear fuel has increased 20 percent during the last 18 months. The White House has been claiming Iran's nuclear production has been frozen during those talks. BERMAN: Secretary Kerry will miss a critical meeting in Paris today. Senior officials from the U.S.-led coalition will be holding a strategy session. They will discuss ways to defeat ISIS. The meeting comes on the heels of a lot of failure, the fall of Ramadi. The U.S. has delivered 2,000 anti-tank weapons to defend against suicide bombers. The terrorist group is on the move again, this time in Syria, launching a surprise weekend attack in Aleppo, the northern part of that nation. That latest push brings ISIS closer and closer once again to the Turkish border. And according to a new CNN poll, six in 10 Americans believe the military action against ISIS is going badly. President Obama taking a hit in terms of approval ratings on how he's handling it -- 44 percent of Americans blame him for the unfolding crisis in Iraq, 43 percent says it is George W. Bush's fault. For the latest on the talks to defeat ISIS, let's go live to the Middle East and bring in CNN's Ian Lee. Ian, the discussions in Paris today, what are they about? IAN LEE, CNN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Well, John, foreign ministers from 24 different countries are arriving at the meeting right now. They are going to be talking about an array of issues. Before this meeting takes place, we've heard from Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi who gave some scathing remarks about the international coalition, saying that the coalition partners are not providing Iraqi forces with sufficient air intelligence to stem ISIS’ advances while support for ground operations was also lacking. He pointed out that ISIS moves in small groups and they are not getting enough intelligence to track these movements. But what this meeting will take place will be talking about is really twofold. You have the military operation on the ground. How they can provide enough support and coordinate better to defeat ISIS and to stop their advances. On the other side, you also have the political developments. You may remember, this really all begun with the divide between the Sunnis and Shiites. A lot of talk is going to be how to bridge that divide to get them to come together and really build some trust between the two sides. Only that way will they be able to ultimately be able to defeat is and really have a united Iraq if they are able to defeat the organization. [04:10:02] BERMAN: You talked about what Haider al-Abadi wants from the coalition. In particular, what does Iraq want from the United States right now? LEE: Well, what Iraq wants is first more air surveillance to follow the movements of ISIS. They
also want more weaponry. We know the United States is providing 2,000 anti-armor weapons. These are crucial as we've seen one of the deadly tactics by ISIS is to drive these armored vehicles into the frontlines, detonate them, killing dozens of people, creating chaos, and they exploit that. That's one thing they want. They want also training to help get their soldiers get the fighters up to a level where they can push back against ISIS. Also, Sunni fighters are asking for those weapons and training as well to push back and retake their homeland. BERMAN: Ian Lee for us -- thanks so much, Ian. ROMANS: All right. The Pentagon now says live anthrax were sent to three additional labs, three more labs in Canada. That means live anthrax has been mistakenly sent to 12 states, Washington, D.C. and three countries. The samples originated at an Army lab in Utah. Scientists intended to ship inactive strains of those deadly spores for research. Defense officials say, so far, no one has been sickened by the anthrax samples.

BERMAN: Health insurance premiums could increase as much as 30 percent for people who purchase through Obamacare. According to the Obama administration, major U.S. carriers are seeking major rate hikes for 2016. Among the large proposed rate increases, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois looking to raise premiums by 29 percent or more for plans. Last year, premiums for Obama increased an average 5.4 percent. That had something the White House had bragged about. I do not think they will brag about the 30 percent increases. ROMANS: No. All right. Time for an early start on your money. U.S. stock futures barely moving. But June already up to a pretty good start. That was yesterday, the Dow climbed 30 points, thanks to some positive signs for the economy. I think you can expect that to continue today because we get auto sales later this morning. Likely to be strong, auto sales in the United States folks on pace for the best year since 2001. That says a lot about how consumers are feeling. A judge has ordered Canada's three tobacco companies to pay $12 billion in damages. Plaintiffs in the case say the companies didn't do enough to warn of the dangers of smoking. Now, those with cancers who begun smoking before 1976 will get $80,000. And plaintiffs who started smoking later get $70,000. Company will pay tens of thousands of dollars in so-called moral damages to people with emphysema. The tobacco companies said they will appeal. Consumers are well aware of the risk of smoking.

BERMAN: Interesting. ROMANS: Yes, very. BERMAN: All right. Also interesting -- hello Caitlyn Jenner. Caitlyn made her public debut on the cover of “Vanity Fair”. The former Bruce Jenner is talking candidly about gender transition and finally being able to live freely as the person she believes she is inside. The new Caitlyn Jenner Twitter handle drew more than 1 million followers in a matter of hours. That beat the record set by President Obama who responded by tweeting, “It takes courage to share your story.” Caitlyn has sent three tweets so far. But a really interesting rollout in “Vanity Fair”. Beautiful pictures. ROMANS: Yes, the pictures are really, really lovely. It is an interesting thing how her family is coming around and learning -- I guess, and introduced to a new person. BERMAN: The family is complicated to begin with. You add this and this is a difficult transition for any family. It's fascinating. Buzz Bissinger, who wrote the article, too, is a really great article. I encourage you all to read it. Thirteen minutes after the hour. Severe storms pounding the East Coast this morning. I mean, it is raining hard and has been for days now. Flash flood fears up and down the coast. We'll show you the damage and talk about what is coming this morning. [04:17:00] BERMAN: As Texas and Oklahoma finally start drying out, the East Coast is getting its turn for severe weather. ROMANS: Yes. BERMAN: Reports Monday from Florida to Jersey of large hail, high winds and funnel clouds, flash flooding -- with more now in today's forecast. ROMANS: In Atlanta, heavy rain triggered flash floods that just swamped streets and backed up traffic around the city. The sudden cloud burst flooded homes and totaled cars in this apartment complex parking lot. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Everyone on the bottom floor was trying to move their cars, but a few minutes later, there was nothing anybody could do. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: In
Washington, D.C., high winds toppled trees. Look at that tree hitting that bus there. Flash flooding from Monday's thunderstorms flooded Union Station. ROMANS: Whoa! Berman: Wow! Also city streets. The flooding turned the stairs at the Metro Capital South Station -- looks like a waterfall there. ROMANS: There is potentially more dangerous weather in today's forecast. Meteorologist Ivan Cabrera is tracking the weather forecast and has the latest for us. IVAN CABRERA, AMS METEOROLOGIST: Yes, John and Christine, the weather that we have seeing across Texas, the active weather now, is beginning to shift to the east. And so, all of the shower and thunderstorm activity will be there. In fact, we have been talking about significant rainfall. Look at this: 2.5 inches in Baltimore. That was a record yesterday. These are the rains we could see again today. Some parts of New Jersey picking four inches of rainfall. This is radar estimated. You can see it feel right across the Northeast Corridor here. And I think that will continue for today as our frontal boundary is in place. Flood watches remain in effect throughout the remainder of today and into this evening. Forecast radar, you'll be able to see the showers and storms continue to bubble up here. Not expecting severe weather outbreak, but certainly heavy rainfall. So, rivers and streams are high. We could talk about some flash flooding taking place later on this afternoon. As far as the forecast rainfall, what we are expecting, anywhere from 2 to as much 4 additional inches in the next couple of days -- guys. Berman: All right. Thanks so much. Later this morning, a House committee begins investigating last month's deadly Amtrak train derailment in Philadelphia. The president of Amtrak is expected to testify. Lawmakers want to know why the railroad had not yet installed automatic train control technology on the stretch of track where the derailment took place. They will also explore the need for two-man crews and inward facing cameras. Amtrak says those are coming. We could learn more about engineer Brandon Bostian, and the actions he took immediately after the crash. ROMANS: Another House committee will be looking into the Takata airbag mess today. Thirty-four million cars in this country have been recalled because of airbags that could explode with so much force, they spew metal fragments throughout the car. Six deaths have been linked to this defect. Takata's executive vice president, Kevin Kennedy, is expected to testify this afternoon. Berman: The Supreme Court tossing out the conviction of a Pennsylvania man who wrote threatening messages to his estranged wife on Facebook. The case involved a man who adopted a rap persona and posted -- less (ph) what he said he was doing. [04:20:00] He posted long tirades on Facebook in the form he says of rap lyrics. Chief Justice John Roberts called them crude and degrading and violent, but the court said prosecutors failed to prove his intent on posting the threatening material on Facebook, which was directed at his wife. ROMANS: In another case, the justices ruled in favor of a Muslim woman who sued Abercrombie and Fitch after she was rejected for a job when she was 17 years old because she wore a head scarf to the job interview. Samantha Elauf claimed Abercrombie has, quote, “look” policy violated her religious freedom. This ruling seen as potentially carrying landmark significant for workplace discrimination and religious liberty. Berman: New information this morning held against their will in Yemen, torn by civil war. We will discuss the battle to bring these people back to safety. That's next. ROMANS: The White House and Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels are talking. The two sides meeting secretly last week in Oman. The negotiations led to the release of an American journalist, but three other U.S. nationals are still being held. We get more this morning from CNN's Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) BARBARA STARR, CNN PENTAGON CORRESPONDENT: John and Christine, an American man Casey Coombs said to be a U.S. freelance journalist in Yemen was said to be released by the Houthis rebels in charge there. [04:25:00] He was sent to Oman, apparently, a diplomatic initiative by Oman, a close U.S. ally, to get the Americans who are being held by the Houthis out of Yemen. Coombs was met in Oman by U.S. diplomatic personnel. He is said by the State Department to be in stable condition. It is
believed that there are perhaps three or four additional Americans being held by the Houthis. One of them said to be a dual national U.S./Yemeni citizen. But very few details and in all candor, the U.S. may not be entirely clear how many Americans are being held because of the chaos in Yemen at this time. It's believed that the Americans were detained or in some way arrested by the Houthis earlier this year and in the last several weeks when they did not leave Yemen as the U.S. so strongly advised Americans to do earlier this year. Right now, there is a diplomatic effort to get any Americans out of there and out of any Houthi detention. This is not expected to turn into a military situation. This is all about diplomacy to get Americans freed -- John, Christine. (END VIDEOTAPE) ROMANS: All right. Barbara, thank you for that this morning. BERMAN: When you see that destruction, you can see the urgency to get people out. ROMANS: Yes. BERMAN: Breaking news it this morning: a frantic search and rescue mission. Hundreds missing after the cruise ship sank, people believed to be trapped inside. We are live with new developments, next."

Source Title: BTN

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 389441

Article Title: Once Philip Morris Workers, Now They Clamp Down On Uruguay's Smokers ANCHORS: Lourdes Garcia-Navarro"

Date: 5/8/2015

Article Content: DAVID GREENE: The tiny nation of Uruguay has cracked down on cigarettes with some tough anti-smoking regulations. The tobacco giant Philip Morris is fighting to overturn them. And now here's the twist in the story. In going after smokers, Uruguay's government has been getting help from some former Philip Morris workers. NPR's Lourdes Garcia-Navarro reports from the capital, Montevideo.

LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: The day Daniel Gomez was fired from the job he'd had for 27 years started off the same as any other; he arrived at the Philip Morris factory where he did quality control, and he went to work. Just before his shift ended, though, everyone was called into the cafeteria. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: “It was 2011,” he says. “They gathered us all unofficially, and without any previous warning, told us that management had decided to close the factory down,” he says. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: “It was 2011,” he says. “They gathered us all unofficially, and without any previous warning, told us that management had decided to close the factory down,” he says. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: He continues, “all the newspapers were talking about how Philip Morris was closing its operations because of what they said was the excessive regulation of the Uruguayan market,” he says. Uruguay has some of the toughest anti-smoking legislation in the world. You can't advertise tobacco products anywhere, and at least 80 percent of a pack of cigarettes must carry a health warning - often a gruesome picture of someone dying from a smoking-related disease. Also, tobacco companies can't sell different versions of the same brand, so no Marlboro and Marlboro Light, for example. LISTER SENA: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: Lister Sena also worked at Philip Morris for 11 years. He says, after everyone lost their jobs, some of the workers banded together to form the 21 of October Cooperative - named after the date they were fired. At first, he says, it was impossible to find work. They tried for almost two years. LISTER SENA: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: “Finally, we knocked
on the door of the Ministry of Health,” he says, “and it happened that they needed inspectors to enforce the new anti-smoking laws,” he explains. The ministry had only about four to cover the whole country. They had a need, and now there were men to fill it. So now, pretty ironically, Sena works against the company that once employed him. LISTER SENA: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: “It’s a comfort,” Sena says, “that what we are doing helps people’s health, so now I feel better about my job than before,” he says. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Si. LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: And this is their job. Daniel Gomez walks into a popular Irish bar to inspect the premises. What he's looking for is evidence that anyone has been smoking indoors or for any tobacco advertising. Any infraction can carry a hefty fine or risk closure of the establishment. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: Back outside, Gomez says that the new laws wouldn’t have teeth without them. DANIEL GOMEZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: “The tobacco companies never thought that Uruguay would enforce the laws,” he says. “What we do has been key.” Gomez's former employer, Philip Morris, is suing Uruguay. The issue is being litigated right now in Washington, D.C. Essentially Philip Morris argues that Uruguay's laws infringe on free trade and the company's profits. This is Marc Firestone from Philip Morris International speaking to the BBC earlier this year. (SOUNDBITE OF ARCHIVED RECORDING) MARC FIRESTONE: The question in this case, though, is specific to the combination of the rule that says you can only have one brand at a time and the 80 percent warning, which not only further interferes with our competitive position but also raises serious questions about whether there was the proper legal authority. LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: Uruguay argues that it has the right to safeguard public health. RICARDO ALVAREZ: (Speaking Spanish). LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO: Still the saga of Philip Morris in Uruguay has had one clear upside. Inspector Ricardo Alvarez tells me that the day he was fired in 2011 made him quit smoking for good. Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, NPR News, Montevideo.”

Source Title: BTN

*Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 428887

Article Title: Steinberg: Mass shootings not the problem"

Date: 10/20/2015

Article Content: A 6-year-old boy shot his 3-year-old brother to death in Chicago last Saturday. Leading to no public soul-searching, no local, never mind national, catharsis. People hardly noticed. Which is strange, because this kind of tragedy - or, if you prefer, crime, since the child found the gun left atop a refrigerator by his father, Michael Santiago, who is now charged with child endangerment - is symbolic of our nation’s gun crisis. We snap to attention at mass shootings, with round-the-clock coverage, and intense thumb twiddling. But mass shootings are not the problem. Not close, not compared to everyday gun violence. According to the FBI, 486 people were killed in mass shootings in the United States between 2000 and 2013. Or between 30 and 40 a year. Now lets look at the numbers of people who intentionally shoot themselves: about 20,000 a year. An additional 11,000 are murdered by others wielding guns. And 600 more, like the 3-year-old boy, are shot and killed in accidents. So why the sound
and fury after mass shootings? And the cough-into-the-fist at individual shootings? Mass shootings are scary. We can imagine someone bursting in and shooting us. Hard to imagine shooting ourselves, even though the odds are 1,000-to-1 in favor of the latter. The media is run by human beings, and like all human beings we have a tendency to ignore what’s important in favor of obsessing over what’s shiny, or novel, or scary, or dramatic. The common wisdom - and I’ve written this myself - is that nothing will be done toward adopting a sane national approach to guns because gun owners are so passionate in their support of gun rights. Their solution is always more guns, not fewer. The National Rifle Association has Congress in the palm of its hand to such a degree that it stripped funding to the Centers for Disease Control that went to gun violence research (a reminder of how wrong people can be - false patriots claim their guns protect our freedoms, when the exact opposite is true: the gun lobby undermines the basic American freedom to investigate the facts of our lives). Yet there is hope. There is a model for success, the story of a formerly huge national problem, worsened by rich interests and entrenched public delusion, eventually made less huge after decades of hard work: smoking. Fifty years ago, half of the adults in this country smoked. Smoking was cool. Even after the Surgeon General’s report linked cigarettes and cancer, it took decades for attitudes to change. If you had told people that smoking would be banned in offices and bars, aboard airplanes and even on some streets, they’d have laughed at you. Go to a bar and not smoke? Now only a quarter of adults smoke. Millions of lives have been saved. How? Facts are sticky. No matter how much hype and spin gets sprayed at them, the facts remain. Smoking really does kill you. As do guns. Arguments for their value are delusional, like Ben Carson's idiotic imagining that arming Germany's Jewish population would have prevented the Holocaust. (The French army had guns; didn’t help them). Or episodic: Someone, somewhere occasionally uses a gun for a legitimate protective purpose. But that is an extreme rarity, the comfort hiding the peril. cigarettes make you more relaxed, so you ignore the danger. Ditto for guns. They help you feel safe, the illusion of protection masking the hard reality: that you don’t usually shoot the gang-banger coming through the door; what happens, usually, is one of your kids shoots another. With cigarettes, before laws changed, perceptions had to change. Slowly smoking went from something desirable to a personal flaw. Ditto for guns. The NRA is trained to snarl against anyone proposing laws, but it’s too early to push for laws. What we should push is the unvarnished truth, supported by the overwhelming evidence. Buying a gun makes you more imperiled, not safer. It increases the risk you will kill yourself, that you will kill your family members, or they will kill you - or each other. Those are just the facts. The father of those two boys bought his gun for what seems like a valid reason - he had testified against a gang member and was worried that the gang might come for him. But they never did. And now they don’t have to. But let us not focus on this case. Because someone else will be shot tomorrow. And the day after that. And the day after that . . .”

Source Title: News

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 420832

Article Title: More New Yorkers butt out as smoking dips"

Date: 9/17/2015
The Big Apple's adult smoking rate dropped to 13.9 percent last year - the lowest on record since tougher restrictions were enacted 13 years ago, the city Health Department reported Wednesday. The smoking rate has declined 35 percent since 2002, when former Mayor Mike Bloomberg and the City Council approved a ban on smoking in bars, restaurants and other public spaces. The Health Department also launched hard-hitting ads warning of the dangers of smoking. In 2013, 16.1 percent of city residents were smokers. The previous low was in 2010, when 14 percent of New Yorkers were puffing away.

Source Title: News

Article Content: R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. (RAI) -- maker of the Camel, Kool and Pall Mall brands -- still has about 5,130 cases to fight. They're the remnants of a Florida class action lawsuit from the 1990s that was dismantled but allowed to move forward as individual cases. Plaintiff Cynthia Robinson argued that Reynolds failed to warn her husband, Michael Johnson, of the risks of smoking when he began at age 13. He died of lung cancer at age 36 in 1996. Related: The lucrative business of cigarette smuggling Nearly seventy such cases against the company have been tried, according to documents the company filed this spring with federal regulators. Reynolds has been ordered to pay victims $232 million, but most cases are tied up in appeal, so the company has only paid about $83 million so far. The $23.6 billion award due to Robinson consists entirely of punitive damages, which are designed to punish companies for gross misbehavior. The jury also awarded Robinson $16 million in standard damages, which are designed to punish companies for gross misbehavior. The jury also awarded Robinson $16 million in standard damages, such as lost wages and healthcare costs. Reynolds has said it will appeal the multi-billion decision and believes it unconstitutional. At the very least, a judge could sharply reduce the dollar amount of the award. Even if other verdicts against Reynolds aren't quite so humongous, the amounts could start to add up quickly. The company also faces lawsuits unrelated to that Florida class action. Related: States call on pharmacies to stop selling tobacco Juries in the remaining cases will likely continue to award damages for lost wages and similar costs, said Celene Humphries, a partner at Brannock & Humphries who was not involved in the Robinson case but has represented other alleged victims. But she said it's unlikely that any will award such outsized punitive damages. About half of the tobacco cases that have gone to trial have resulted a significant award for the victim. The other half found the tobacco manufacturers were not at fault, ended in a mistrial or an award of less than $50,000. CNNMoney (New York) July 22, 2014: 7:07 AM ET

Source Title: Web

Article Content: $24 billion tobacco verdict is more than all other similar cases combined - Jul. 21, 2014

Date: 7/21/2014

Article Title: $24 billion tobacco verdict is more than all other similar cases combined - Jul. 21, 2014

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Source Title: News

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Source Title: Web
Article Title: MPs expected to back cigarette plain packaging - BBC News

Date: 3/10/2015

Article Content: How the standardised packets may look MPs are expected to approve the introduction of standardised packaging for cigarettes in the UK later. If passed, it will mean from 2016 every packet will look the same except for the make and brand name, with graphic photos accompanying health warnings. The Irish Republic passed a similar law earlier this month and Australia has had plain packaging in place since 2012. Westminster’s move follows a series of public consultations on the issue. The government announced in 2011 it would be considering the issue and ran a consultation in 2012. But then it appeared the government had gone cool on the plan, prompting accusations it had been influenced by the tobacco industry, before another review of the public health benefits was ordered. That review was carried out by by paediatrician Sir Cyril Chantler and concluded last year it was very likely the change would lead to a modest but important reduction in the uptake and prevalence of smoking. More than 600 children aged 11 to 15 start to smoke every day - more than 200,000 a year. The review said if that number could be cut even by 2%, 4,000 fewer would take up the habit. Research has shown standardised packaging makes the packets less appealing and helps reinforce health messages. Meanwhile, darker colours - olive green is proposed - are favoured ahead of white, as this is perceived to signify more harm. Health campaigners have long been pushing for the move, saying it will help save lives. Alison Cox, of Cancer Research UK, said there was a “growing weight of evidence” that it would have an impact. But the Tobacco Manufacturer’s Association has argued there is a “complete lack of evidence that the policy will work.” While most MPs are expected to back the move, there have been concerns raised about how the process is being handled. Powers for standardising packaging were in the Children and Families Act 2014, but the Commons must prove bringing them into force. The regulations were discussed and agreed by a committee earlier this week and will now be subject to a free vote. But as it is not primary legislation, there will be no further debate. Conservative MP Nick De Bois said: “I certainly would never have expected to see this measure before this House this late in the parliament, announced in an adjournment debate without the benefit of a full debate.”

Source Title: Web

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3

Hand-coded: Yes

Article Title: President Obama urged to reignite fight against menthol cigarettes | Daily Mail Online

Date: 9/15/2016

Article Content: Black health activists are calling on President Obama to reignite the federal push against menthol cigarettes. Research in 2013 revealed menthol cigarettes are more commonly related to health issues than normal cigarettes. And they inordinately affect African Americans. More than 45,000 black American smokers die every year. More than two thirds of black smokers in America use menthols. However, despite a small burst of outrage from politicians in 2013, the drive to combat this
staggering health issue has largely died down. Research in 2013 revealed menthol cigarettes are more commonly related to health issues than normal cigarettes. And they inordinately affect African Americans. In July, the NAACP voted to curb the sale of menthol cigarettes. Now, the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council is calling on the president to take a stand and put pressure on the FDA. 'Over 80 per cent of Black smokers use mentholated tobacco products, which is due to decades of geographically racialized targeting of mentholated tobacco products by the tobacco industry,' the Council said in a letter issued on Tuesday. They described menthols as 'an issue of social justice, one which we have been defenseless in adequately addressing to protect our people.' "What we are asking of you, President Obama, can be accomplished rapidly with the stroke of a pen,' the letter continued. 'Your strong and decisive leadership can give our community a fighting chance against the number one killer of Black people, tobacco.' Speaking to NBC, the Council's president Dr Phillip Gardiner explained why menthols are so lethal. The African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council described menthols as a 'social justice, one which we have been defenseless in adequately addressing to protect our people.' "The punchline here about menthol is it allows the poisons in tobacco cigarettes to go down easier,' he said. 'Young African-Americans die disproportionately from tobacco-related disease compared to other people in the population.' Daily Mail Online has reached out to RJ Reynolds, manufacturer of Newports, for a comment.

Source Title: Web

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 87474

Article Title: CVS Earnings Increase 4%, Despite End of Tobacco Sales - NYTimes.com

Date: 2/10/2015

Article Content: CVS Health’s fourth-quarter earnings rose more than 4 percent, matching Wall Street expectations, even though its decision to stop tobacco sales delivered an anticipated blow to its drugstore business. The company said on Tuesday that growing demand for expensive specialty drugs helped increase revenue from its pharmacy benefits management business nearly 22 percent in the quarter, to $23.9 billion. The company, which said last fall that eliminating tobacco sales would cut earnings 7 to 8 cents a share, did not elaborate on that move’s impact on earnings. Over all, CVS Health earned $1.32 billion, or $1.14 a share, in the three months that ended Dec. 31. That compares with $1.27 billion, or $1.05 a share, in the final quarter of 2013. Total revenue climbed 13 percent to $37.06 billion. A version of this brief appears in print on February 11, 2015, on page B2 of the New York edition with the headline: Cvs Earnings Increase 4%, Despite End of Tobacco Sales. Order Reprints| Today's Paper| Subscribe

Source Title: Web
Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“tobnoecig_SOURCE_pol” – “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_pol”).

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 3042
Article Title: Committee hears report on indirect expenditures
Date: 2/11/2015
Article Content: DATELINE: JUNEAU, Alaska JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - The state is spending nearly $450,000 a year on 17 tax credits, discounts and exemptions that should be terminated, according to a legislative report. The office of Rep. Steve Thompson, a co-chair of the House Finance Committee, has taken a lead on delving into the report on so-called indirect expenditures from the Legislative Finance Division. On Tuesday, Thompson aide Brodie Anderson provided an analysis of the report to the committee. The report recommends terminating indirect expenditures including discounts for wholesalers to apply tax stamps to cigarette packs and tax breaks for filing tire fees and motor fuel taxes on time. It also suggests such things as reviewing fee structures, like Fish and Game license fees. The Legislature has created, over decades, exemptions and tax breaks that are not reviewed regularly, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported (http://bit.ly/1CVwwsl ). Some indirect expenditures predate statehood. Department of Revenue Deputy Commissioner Jerry Burnett said his agency would be willing to help evaluate and implement some of the recommendations when asked by the committee. Thompson, R-Fairbanks, said an omnibus bill likely would be crafted to tackle the indirect expenditures that the report recommended for termination. But he said some of the more controversial provisions could be addressed individually. ___ Information from: Fairbanks (Alaska) Daily News-Miner, http://www.newsminer.com
Source Title: AP

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.83
Hand-coded: No
ArticleID: 756145
Article Title: In Cuba, tourists find historic moment and limited options"
Date: 11/27/2016
Article Content: DATELINE: HAVANA HAVANA (AP) - They came for salsa music and mojitos and ended up wandering through a city turned still and silent by nine days of national mourning for Fidel Castro. As Cuba prepares a massive commemoration for the leader of its socialist revolution, tens of thousands of high-season travelers have found themselves accidental witnesses to history - and smack in the middle of a somber city that's little like its usual exuberant self. “Who knows what tomorrow or after nine days
brings in terms of the country and what happens for the future,” said Graham Palmer, a 36-year-old financial director from London. “And I think we will certainly look back at the airport tomorrow and feel quite privileged that we've been here.” “We picked up the (Communist Party) Granma paper from yesterday, so we've got that,” said his companion, 36-year-old marketing worker Emma Taylor. “I think we could quite even think about framing it,” Palmer interjected. “It's quite poignant.” Yet they and other travelers said that in addition to the awe at being present as Cubans honor one of the 20th century's most influential leaders, there's a tinge of regret at seeing such a subdued Havana. Many museums have closed their doors, and a state-sanctioned ban on live music has shuttered concerts and nightspots including the famed Tropicana nightclub. Old Havana these days is eerily devoid of the roving troubadours whose Buena Vista Social Club croonings normally echo through the cobblestone streets. And the 1950s classic cars that function as collective taxis are doing without the usual reggaeton at max volume. Martin Sawicki, a 34-year-old accountant from Warsaw, Poland, said he was unable to visit the University of Havana or the Revolution Plaza, where Castro's ashes are to be on display starting Monday. Workers there have already cordoned off access to the towering monument to independence hero Jose Marti. Meanwhile a citywide ban on most alcohol sales means those savoring Cuban cigars for the first time have to do so without the traditional accompanying snifter of rum. “They tell us, sorry but we are not serving beer,” said Sawicki. “It's a little bit annoying because we would like to have a glass of beer in the evening.” The closures likely affect Cubans even more. Cinemas where it costs just a few cents to take in a flick have been shuttered, along with theaters and dance halls. Lined up outdoors at the Coppelia ice cream parlor in downtown Havana, conversations were more subdued than the animated tones for which Cubans are famed. There's a sense that having a good time right now would be considered disrespectful to the memory of the man who remade Cuba into a socialist state and wholly determined its fortunes from the 1959 revolution until severe illness forced him from power a decade ago. “We are in mourning because the president died,” said Manuel Ruiz, a 57-year-old parking attendant. “He is a man who deserves respect.” Amal Easton, a 46-year-old martial arts instructor from Boulder, Colorado, and his travel partner had planned to try to attend a Placido Domingo concert Saturday night until they heard it was canceled. Instead they trekked across the bay for the nightly cannon-firing ceremony that in colonial times signaled the closing of Havana harbor, only to find that it too had been called off. Easton said he has wanted to come to Cuba his entire life and Castro's passing has sparked fascinating conversations with Cubans about Castro, the country and their future. But at the same time - from a “purely selfish touristic perspective” - it's a bit somber. So they decided to cut their time in Havana a day short and head back to their friend's house in the beach city of Varadero. “We'll never forget having been here at this historic moment,” Easton said. “I'll tell my grandkids I was there in Havana when Fidel died, but then we left early because there's basically no partying.” More than 3 million tourists visited Cuba last year, and the government expects even more this season as interest explodes due to detente between Havana and Washington. On Monday the first commercial flights from the United States to Havana are scheduled to land. But with the national mourning in place through Castro's Dec. 4 funeral, those passengers will still find relatively little to do other than sightsee and eat. Palmer and Taylor, the Londoners, spent Sunday roaming the city and checking out its colonial architecture. They jiggled the door of the National Fine Arts Museum in the afternoon, but it was closed. They figured they would head to Revolution Plaza the next day in hopes of seeing the mass tributes to Fidel. “That could potentially be I guess the profound moment, or kind of one of the highlights of the trip,” Taylor said. “I think if we don't see any of that, we'll just feel a bit sad that we've not seen the real Havana.” ___ Peter Orsi on Twitter: www.twitter.com/Peter_Orsi"
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I would have said this with some credibility right now somehow.

WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, we got Mike Tyson coming up in our next hour. I would have said this with some credibility right now somehow. Yeah, I sat down with Mike Tyson, he’s got a new documentary coming up called Champs, wide ranging conversation from one of the most fascinating people in American pop culture. Here’s a little of what we had to say. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, got Mike Tyson coming up in our next hour. I would have said this with some credibility right now somehow. Yeah, I sat down with Mike Tyson, he’s got a new documentary coming up called Champs, wide ranging conversation from one of the most fascinating people in American pop culture. Here’s a little of what we had to say. (Begin VT) WILLIE GEIST: So if you could go back and talk to twenty-year-old Mike Tyson and say do these things differently to protect yourself? MIKE TYSON: Well, twenty-year-old Mike Tyson wouldn’t listen at that time. I’m the guy that had to feel the flame and know that the fire is hot, but most people are going to survive that. I’m very lucky the way I survive this, it’s just inconceivable. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. MIKE TYSON: From a physical aspect and from a psychological aspect, just inconceivable. (End VT) WILLIE GEIST: So we have much more with Mike Tyson, coming up. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Okay. Are we going to-- WILLIE GEIST: No, I would never do that. (Cross talking) AL ROKER: Oh, my God. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: I am out of here. (Cross talking) CARSON DALY: What in the world! What in the world! What in the world! Oh, you’re not getting that. Happy Pi Day, everybody. Oh, you think you’re going to get out of here unscathed too just because you are at home safe? You’re not so lucky. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: This morning on TODAY’S TAKE, Kathy Griffin quits Fashion Police after just seven episodes. Wait until you hear why. Then we’ll head into the kitchen with Al for a St. Patrick’s Day feast. Plus, Iron Mike Tyson on his rise, fall, and his big comeback. All that and more coming up now. ANNOUNCER: From NBC News, this is TODAY’S TAKE with Al Roker, Natalie Morales, Willie Geist and Tamron Hall, live from Studio 1A in Rockefeller Plaza. AL ROKER: I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything quite like what we have just witnessed at the end of the TODAY Show. It was pie segment, today is National Pi Day, you know. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. Tomorrow 3.14, March 14th. AL ROKER: Tomorrow-- tomorrow, yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: So tomorrow is the National Pi Day. So we had pies out there and we donated money to FIRST, the organization. But then it took-- and we were all clothed in-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: --in rain coats and goggles. WILLIE GEIST: Sure. Most of you were. AL ROKER: Most of us were. Willie was out to do a tease. Take a look at what happened when Tamron Hall does it right before-- WILLIE GEIST: Oh, don’t do it. That’s what I’m saying, don’t you do it, Tamron Hall. Don’t you do it. AL ROKER: Bam. Just like that. Just like that. Willie Geist takes-- takes one in the side of the face. So you know, as Bugs Bunny would say, of course, you know this means war. And so, boom. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: Tamron takes one right in the kiss-- in front of the kiss. WILLIE GEIST: Meanwhile, Tamron nowhere to be found this morning. Yes. AL ROKER: Yeah. Tamron is getting redone. Carson’s suit ruined. CARSON DALY: Ruined. AL ROKER: In fact-- (Cross talking) AL ROKER: Because Meredith Vieira who is the guest pier,
CARSON DALY: Oh, she got out of here quick. AL ROKER: --she turned one you. WILLIE GEIST: Right? AL ROKER: That’s right. CARSON DALY: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. (Cross talking) AL ROKER: Because I have--you know I got to tell you. I’ve never seen anything like this. WILLIE GEIST: Unbelievable. Carson I’m going to borrow one of your jackets downstairs. AL ROKER: Look at that. There is she. WILLIE GEIST: That’s incredible. CARSON DALY: Anything you need-- AL ROKER: I’ve never seen-- (Cross talking) CARSON DALY: --Tamron back up. AL ROKER: And-- and its whipped cream. First of all the producers had no idea. They said we’ve got real key lime pies for you. Are you crazy? WILLIE GEIST: No. AL ROKER: That’s-- those are heavy. They will hurt. CARSON DALY: That can hurt people. WILLIE GEIST: Right. AL ROKER: So originally they wanted to do frozen celery pies which-- CARSON DALY: Not even thawed out. AL ROKER: I know. So they scooped it out and just whipped cream. Which Soupy Sales-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: --God rest his soul, who was the king of pie. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. AL ROKER: Said you don’t the use whipped cream. You use shaving cream-- WILLIE GEIST: Right. AL ROKER: --because whip cream as we now know-- WILLIE GEIST: Right. AL ROKER: --starts to go sour, it leaves-- it’s sticky, it’s hard to clean off. CARSON DALY: Right. WILLIE GEIST: You smell it everywhere. It’s filled my ear for one thing. CARSON DALY: Yeah. AL ROKER: So-- CARSON DALY: It’s good. WILLIE GEIST: So I looked into Tamron’s eye. I looked deep into her soul and I said don’t you do it. AL ROKER: Can you roll that tape again just-- just before. WILLIE GEIST: And she looked at me and did. AL ROKER: Roll the tape with Tamron pies. WILLIE GEIST: It said a lot. Exactly. AL ROKER: I mean look at Willie’s face. I mean this is serious. WILLIE GEIST: Don’t you do it. Don’t-- CARSON DALY: Right. Yeah. AL ROKER: Don’t you do it. Don’t you do it. CARSON DALY: Oh, he saw it coming too. AL ROKER: Boom. WILLIE GEIST: She stared down for a good five seconds she thought and thought. CARSON DALY: She did it during the commercial break. I was so mad at her. I say why couldn’t you wait until you’re on-- AL ROKER: Tamron Hall, ladies and gentlemen. Tamron Hall. CARSON DALY: But then they recorded it. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, you look like you’re all exasperated CARSON DALY: Look at your eyes. Here you go, darling. TAMRON HALL: You had to go for the hair? WILLIE GEIST: That was an ambush. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. I agree, but you went for my hair, man. You know, it’s not cool. WILLIE GEIST: Nobody goes-- you being Ron Burgundy? No one touches my head. TAMRON HALL: Oh. AL ROKER: Oh. It’s your fault. WILLIE GEIST: I pleaded with my friend to spare me in that moment. TAMRON HALL: But you’re like-- AL ROKER: Let’s roll that tape one more time. WILLIE GEIST: I did not. AL ROKER: One more time. Let’s look at. WILLIE GEIST: Now watch, this is the face of a man who knows he’s-- TAMRON HALL: Look he’s-- look, Tamron. WILLIE GEIST: No. Tamron, don’t do it. TAMRON HALL: When I was a kid, my daddy went Tamron. And once you said it, it’s like there-- CARSON DALY: There’s some aggression behind that. Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: This is dad stuff? AL ROKER: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Al Roker. AL ROKER: Yes, dad stuff. TAMRON HALL: Al Roker in a little devil’s costume. CARSON DALY: She wasn’t hitting you. She wasn’t hitting you. it wasn’t you. AL ROKER: Now I’m getting-- TAMRON HALL: So Al Roker in a devil costume Speedo outfit and a fork was on my shoulder and he’s like do it. AL ROKER: In a Speedo outfit? TAMRON HALL: Oh, no, I dream. WILLIE GEIST: Wow. TAMRON HALL: I fantasized. CARSON DALY: It was a good moment there. TAMRON HALL: Thank you. CARSON DALY: You look amazing either way, the way by now. TAMRON HALL: Oh, please. AL ROKER: I mean it’s a great look. TAMRON HALL: My shoes don’t match. WILLIE GEIST: Then she comes back with a beautiful new dress. TAMRON HALL: Look at my hair. And I have to do News Nation-- WILLIE GEIST: Oh, your poor hair. TAMRON HALL: --at MSNBC. My poor hair. WILLIE GEIST: Have a seat, Tamron. TAMRON HALL: Oh, thank you, Willie. WILLIE GEIST: I still love you. AL ROKER: Man. TAMRON HALL: My shoes don’t match
anymore. They match the other outfit. WILLIE GEIST: So I apologize for my outfit. AL ROKER: I got some--
I got some whipped cream on my shoe. WILLIE GEIST: I get it down in my pants. TAMRON HALL: Oh, well
look at you. WILLIE GEIST: I got it all over the place. TAMRON HALL: Well, my theory is listen-- WILLIE
GEIST: What is your theory on this, Tamron? TAMRON HALL: --we’re all in it. Listen, we are a team and I
feel strongly that-- WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: --once one person does it, we all have to do
it. So that’s what we’re doing the polar plunge next year in Chicago. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST:
That’s right. AL ROKER: Yep. TAMRON HALL: And then remember I got dunked-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, you
do. TAMRON HALL: --for breast cancer to raise money. WILLIE GEIST: Sure. AL ROKER: Right. TAMRON
HALL: And do that again. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: And then you guys-- I mean we’ve got--
we’ve got it together. AL ROKER: And look, the good news is it was all for a good cause. TAMRON HALL:
Yes. Creepy. AL ROKER: Maria Shriver’s organization that she started this off. WILLIE GEIST: Yes.
TAMRON HALL: Yes, Maria Shiver. WILLIE GEIST: Absolutely. TAMRON HALL: We’re doing this for you. AL
ROKER: And so we were happy to do that. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: All for a good cause. AL
ROKER: I’m not quite sure this was-- TAMRON HALL: It’s very important. You don’t bring an extra shirt to
work? WILLIE GEIST: I’m going to-- I’m across the street so Carson is right here. I’m going to steal one of
his shirts in a second. TAMRON HALL: You can borrow-- AL ROKER: Yeah. You’re in luck. WILLIE GEIST:
We’re a little different size. AL ROKER: Yeah. He’s getting-- WILLIE GEIST: Different size. AL ROKER:
We’re a little different size. WILLIE GEIST: Slightly different size. AL ROKER: I don’t think he can get one
arm full. TAMRON HALL: Well, it’s a pleasure. WILLIE GEIST: But you know what? There was such a
window into your soul. I looked in your eyes and pleaded for my life. TAMRON HALL: No, you didn’t. AL
ROKER: Just roll up one more time. WILLIE GEIST: And you-- AL ROKER: One more time. TAMRON HALL:
No, that’s not what happened. WILLIE GEIST: And you had no problem pulling that trick around me. AL
ROKER: Just one more. TAMRON HALL: No. Listen, this is Willie. Tamron. WILLIE GEIST: Right. No.
TAMRON HALL: I love my roll-- eye roll. Can we see it one more time? Look at my eye roll. It’s like yield.
Hold on. Okay. Can you-- WILLIE GEIST: You enjoyed it, too. AL ROKER: You’re very proud of this.
TAMRON HALL: I am-- WILLIE GEIST: You really enjoyed it. AL ROKER: You are very-- TAMRON HALL: I’m
after the fact. Okay. Here we go. Rewind. AL ROKER: Let’s go back. (Cross talking) WILLIE GEIST: Oh. AL
ROKER: Oh, oh, oh. TAMRON HALL: There you go. There you go, Tamron. WILLIE GEIST: Tamron, don’t
you do this. TAMRON HALL: Tamron. AL ROKER: Boom. Watch your eye roll. TAMRON HALL: Wait. Watch
my eye roll. Drop the mic. AL ROKER: Back that. I want to see it backwards again. WILLIE GEIST: You
loved it. AL ROKER: It’s great. WILLIE GEIST: You loved it a little too much, Tamron. TAMRON HALL: I
loved it for a good cause. The only regret-- AL ROKER: All right. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. AL ROKER: We’re
moving on. TAMRON HALL: The only regret I have is that we should have said do I throw it for money?
WILLIE GEIST: No. TAMRON HALL: Like you got some for the cause. But next time. AL ROKER: No. But you
were caught up in the moment of-- TAMRON HALL: I was caught up in the moment. AL ROKER: --getting
back to your dad. TAMRON HALL: All right. What else do we have? Tamron. Okay. WILLIE GEIST: All right.
Let’s move along here. So President Obama was on with Jimmy Kimmel last night. TAMRON HALL: Mm-
Hm. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Really good interview. They talked about all kinds of serous
news, light stuff and he also did a bit which is one of the funniest bits going that Kimmel does. AL
ROKER: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Where celebrities read mean tweets about themselves. TAMRON HALL: Yes. I
love that. WILLIE GEIST: Jimmy convinced the President of the United States to read mean tweets about
himself. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ((ABC/ Jimmy Kimmel Live): Is there any way we could fly Obama to
some golf course halfway around the world and just leave him there? How do you make Obama’s eyes
light up? Shine a flashlight in his ears. I’m all right with the President wearing jeans. I’m not all right with
the President wearing those jeans. WILLIE GEIST: And then Jimmy walked up. Oh, man. AL ROKER: That’s great. I love that. TAMRON HALL: I love that. AL ROKER: It’s pretty good stuff. TAMRON HALL: That’s good business. Good. AL ROKER: Oh, President left him hanging. All right. TAMRON HALL: Oh, that was a good stuff. You know what? Last night I get a couple of tweets from all the fashionistas out there. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: Just in an uproar over Kathy Griffin. Surprise, surprise, seven episodes in saying bye-bye to E! Fashion Police because she says she doesn’t fit with the show’s direction. Now, Kathy sent out via Instagram, of quote, “saying there is plenty to make fun of in pop culture without bringing people’s bodies into it. I do not want to use my comedy to contribute to a culture of unattainable perfectionism and intolerance towards difference.” So last month, you know, Kelly Osbourne quit the show. E! has said that it’s grateful for the many laughs Griffin gave. And Fashion Police will return Monday, March 30th with Giuliana Rancic and co-host Brad Goreski. E! is owned by NBC and is our sister network. I’m so curious to hear more from Kathy Griffin because she knew-- listen not kind of, she knew the show-- AL ROKER: Sure. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: Oh, yeah. TAMRON HALL: --before she joined the show. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: Of course. TAMRON HALL: So I don’t know if there was something behind the scenes that we don’t know played out. When she joined, maybe she said listen-- AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: --I don’t want to say this. I don’t have to-- AL ROKER: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Right. TAMRON HALL: But when she was interviewed, she said I’m ready to bring it. AL ROKER: Oh, yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: That everyone, you know, should be ready because I am not holding back. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I don’t understand. AL ROKER: Of course. TAMRON HALL: So I don’t know if there was something behind the scenes that we don’t know played out. When she joined, maybe she said listen-- AL ROKER: Yeah. Willow GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --before it sinks down. AL ROKER: --you know, before it sinks. TAMRON HALL: If it does. Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: I have the same thought you had. I like Kathy Griffin and she’s hilarious. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: But what did you think the show was when you signed up for it? AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I mean this-- this wasn’t Meet The Press. WILLIE GEIST: No. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: No, no. AL ROKER: I mean, she knew. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. AL ROKER: And said this is was, this was. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: And I have to say the person who watches the show regularly, I mean, of course, that Zendaya incident was an awful incident. And she deserved that apology she received from Giuliana Rancic. I mean, they usually keep it to the clothes. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: I think, yes. I mean listen. Who can hold Joan Rivers back? AL ROKER: No. TAMRON HALL: I mean, nobody. AL ROKER: No. TAMRON HALL: But besides Joan and-- and I think the past that everyone gave her-- AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: --because of her comedy legend that she is and was, I didn’t see a lot of, quote, unquote, “fat shaming or body shaming.” Maybe I missed something. Usually it really was about the clothes-- WILLIE GEIST: The clothes. AL ROKER: The clothes. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --and if we look terrible in it or whatever the look and then if there was a biting comment, it came from Joan. But the front-runners, if they are going to continue the show, seem to be NeNe Leakes, Chloe Kardashian-- WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. AL ROKER: Hm. TAMRON HALL: --and those are two people, two big voices-- AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --that could come in and, you know. AL ROKER: I think next week Melissa is-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah, Melissa. Yeah, and she’s great. AL ROKER: Melissa is terrific. TAMRON HALL: She’s-- she’s the producer of the show, so. AL ROKER: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: You watch the show a lot. Did it ever get so ugly between the co-hosts that they would say like, throw a pie at one of the others ones for no reason? TAMRON HALL: Can’t let it go, frozen, huh? WILLIE GEIST: I can’t hear you. I have pie in my ears. TAMRON HALL: Can’t let it go. Oh, many things happened. You know what, Al had an interview-- WILLIE
GEIST: Oh, my gosh. This is so powerful. TAMRON HALL: --last hour on the TODAY Show that I think if there is something that you can go online and see in its entirety,-- AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --or if you DVR the last hour whatever the case may be, you have to see this interview that Al did with the great B. Smith. AL ROKER: Yeah. I have known B and her husband Dan Gasby for a better part of twenty-three years. And this was very difficult. Last year they announced that she was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and spoke to her. And so just take a look because it’s very special. Do you remember sitting in that doctor’s office and getting that-- getting that diagnosis? B. SMITH: Yes. I had tears in my eyes. But at that same time I also said I’m not going to-- I’m not going to give to it. I’m going to fight. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. B. SMITH: I’m going to fight. DAN GASBY: We’ll fight. B. SMITH: Mm-Hm. DAN GASBY: There is only one way, forward. That’s it. Not an option. B. SMITH: And I’m lucky I have a best friend. AL ROKER: You know, such a vibrant exciting, smart, funny woman. And-- and, you know, when I heard the diagnosis, I-- I really couldn’t believe it. And they really are fighting. They are two terrific people and-- and they’re doing-- the great thing is they’re doing this, she went out and did a PSA-- TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. AL ROKER: --for Brain Health Registry for people to get registered. Because African-Americans are more likely to develop Alzheimer’s and dementia than-- than Caucasian.

TAMRON HALL: I did not know that statistic until your piece. AL ROKER: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: I didn’t either until you said it. AL ROKER: And completely under represented when it comes to the studies. And so, you know, she’s done this to try to get more-- all people, but especially people of color to register and try to help so that they have base line. TAMRON HALL: And I know we’re going to move on. But if they told you the story of she went missing one day from their home-- WILLIE GEIST: Last year. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --last year for seventeen hours, was it? AL ROKER: Yeah. Yeah. It was-- she was-- she had gotten on a jitney, she’d come in to see a doctor. TAMRON HALL: A bus. AL ROKER: A bus. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. AL ROKER: From the Hamptons to Manhattan. The bus was not supposed-- and then she was -- she got put on by Dan’s daughter to come back to the Hamptons. The bus was not supposed to make any stops between Manhattan and South Hamptons. And unfortunately it made a stop at 48th and 3rd. She got off, wandered the streets, took the Staten Island ferry, sang and danced with people and ended up at a diner near their home. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. AL ROKER: Luckily somebody-- one of their friends recognized her. WILLIE GEIST: Recognized her. TAMRON HALL: Oh. AL ROKER: And did that. Can we just roll back a second, because I don’t have it here. We want to mention that Maria Shriver has a life-- Alzheimer’s campaign. TAMRON HALL: Okay. AL ROKER: The initiative created and partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association and a non-profit a Woman’s Nation which Maria founded. WILLIE GEIST: Hm. AL ROKER: And so they’re-- they’re working together. TAMRON HALL: Bravo. WILLIE GEIST: Al, such a powerful interview. Do go online and watch it if you get a chance. AL ROKER: Today.com. TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. It’s amazing. AL ROKER: On today.com. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Meanwhile, Al let’s take a look outside weather. TAMRON HALL: Is it raining pies? AL ROKER: It is. Ooh, that sounded like you’re hawking a looky there. WILLIE GEIST: I’m not ready to laugh. TAMRON HALL: That’s the sound that-- AL ROKER: The pie. Yes, I understand. (Cross talking) TAMRON HALL: I win it on Willie. AL ROKER: Wow. WILLIE GEIST: It’s too soon. I’m not ready to laugh. AL ROKER: The weather is-- oh, there it is again. Oh, there is my from Meredith, my friend. TAMRON HALL: All right. Meredith Vieira is such-- WILLIE GEIST: Your friends. AL ROKER: She’s-- she’s a vicious woman. TAMRON HALL: She’s tricky, man. AL ROKER: She’s tricky. WILLIE GEIST: And she disappears. TAMRON HALL: And then she disappears. AL ROKER: And then she left. Just like that. We just start the trouble and then leaves. That’s why you want to watch the Meredith Vieira Show to see who she takes out on her show. That’s what you watch. Anyway, look at this heavy rain making its way from
the Gulf into the Southeast from Indianapolis, all the way down to New Orleans. Heavy rain. Look at Memphis. I mean this is a mess. Heavy rain all day today. It is going to be wet and- - look at over thirteen states, flood watches, flash flood watches as well. And it’s going to continue during the day. Little Rock maybe three inches of rain by this afternoon on into the evening hours. Heavy thunderstorms continue through the Gulf. Flood watches for Cincinnati late tonight into tomorrow. And then Saturday evening secondary storm develops. Bangor, Maine, you could see six to twelve inches of snow by Sunday. And for Boston, you stay with just rain, maybe a little overnight icy mix, but rain for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade coming up on Sunday in Boston. That’s what’s going on around the country. Here’s what’s happening in your neck of the woods. (Weather follows) AL ROKER: That’s your latest weather. WILLIE GEIST: All right. TAMRON HALL: Got to get yourself back again. WILLIE GEIST: We need some reinforcement in here. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Can we see-- WILLIE GEIST: Can we get the clothes, anything like that-- TAMRON HALL: Willie is crying about his show. AL ROKER: Wardrobe. TAMRON HALL: Little wet. WILLIE GEIST: From the Carson Daly collection. WOMAN: Yes, it is. WILLIE GEIST: Fantastic. TAMRON HALL: Makeup coming in. WILLIE GEIST: Thank you, Carson. TAMRON HALL: Up next-- while we get dolled up, Willie also spent some time with Mike Tyson. WILLIE GEIST: I did. I got to talk to him yesterday around the release of his powerful new documentary called Champs. He talked about his life then, his life now and a lot of things in between. TAMRON HALL: I need a pie for Al Roker. You’re too clean. AL ROKER: No, I don’t. TAMRON HALL: Bring in the pie. WILLIE GEIST: No, no. No. Leave this man alone. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) AL ROKER: As we all know, Mike Tyson rose to the pinnacle of the sports world and then later fell from grace. It’s your turn. TAMRON HALL: Sorry. With the new documentary called Champs, we get a better understanding of where he and other boxing greats come from. WILLIE GEIST: I sat down with Mike yesterday, got a candid look at the up and down journey that’s brought the onetime baddest man on the planet where he is today. (Begin VT) WILLIE GEIST: There’s a whole generation of people right now who know you from Hangover, they know your animated series,-- (Excerpt from Mike Tyson Mysteries) WILLIE GEIST: --they know you as the guy with a face tattoo. Was it important for you to make this movie to go back and show the roots of who the real Mike Tyson is? MIKE TYSON: Not necessarily the roots of who I was, Willie, but just what I have become. I went to a high school and when I went in there, it was like a fifteen-by-fifteen movie screen. And he was showing them my fight and say this is what he used to do before he get movie, the television. And now one guy said I think my grandfather told me about you. Your grandfather. And it was very humbling. WILLIE GEIST: Though it seems to me it’s as much about poverty as it is about boxing and the conditions that drove you into boxing. MIKE TYSON: Absolutely. Absolutely. The champion. The most successful one. And only one thing they had in common, poverty. Mostly the fighters they can’t read, write, spell too well and they normally get taken advantage by really shrewd businessman in that particular field. Imagine a guy who is making twenty thousand dollars a fight. And by the time he paid his corner man, and he paid his manager, he won’t have no money. And then again he-- he is in debt because he didn’t pay his taxes yet. And there is no federal regulation for that (unintelligible) human being. WILLIE GEIST: So that I understand. But I think what people who look at your career and understand that you were exploited too, they say, my God, he made something like three hundred million dollars fighting and ended up bankrupt. How does that happen? MIKE TYSON: Well that happened because you’re inexperienced and you don’t know anything about handling money that fast. You put the trust to people who say they are your friend or they say they are loved ones and it doesn’t work out the way they planned for it to work out. I don’t even blame anybody. (Unintelligible) I even I didn’t think, I only blame myself. WILLIE GEIST: And so if you could go back and talk to twenty-year-old Mike Tyson and say do
these things differently to protect yourself, what would you say? MIKE TYSON: Twenty-year-old Mike Tyson wouldn`t listen at that time. I`m the guy that has to feel the flame and know that the fire is hot. Most people don`t survive that. I am just very lucky. WILLIE GEIST: Watching the movie, I`m a huge fan of yours growing up. And I was reminded of the pure intimidation that you could inflict on people and you could see the guy quivering in the ring as he waited for you. What was it like to have that kind of power? MIKE TYSON: To be honest, it`s amazing. It`s almost like they put you-- they put you in a state of God status. MAN #1: And he is down again. MAN #2: He`s not going to make it. It`s all over. MARK WAHLBERG: First big fight I went to was a Tyson fight. And there was nothing more exciting than that. DENZEL WASHINGTON: It was crazy. And he had just great energy. Unbelievable energy. WILLIE GEIST: I can`t believe this. But we just passed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Buster Douglas fight. MIKE TYSON: Twenty-five years? WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. Watching you go down. I felt this might sound strange, kind of emotional, like I was watching the end of something, like watching a guy who was invincible become human. Did that feel like a big moment in your life at the time? MIKE TYSON: You have to look at defeat as the bad day at the office. Defeat is a form of winning if you acknowledge the lesson of defeat. WILLIE GEIST: As I sit across from you, you strike me as a guy who`s at peace right now in his life who seems pretty happy. Do you look back on some of the scenes from the old Mike Tyson`s day, who is that guy? Do you recognize him? MIKE TYSON: Well, I don`t recognize him that much, but I know in order to survive, I have to be that guy. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. But do you feel like you cut that old guy loose? There is no chance he comes back? MIKE TYSON: Without that guy, I would never be here. Without him I`m nobody. (End VT) WILLIE GEIST: That was just a few minutes of a long talk we had. TAMRON HALL: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: He`s such a fascinating guy. TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: I want to thank the Mendez Boxing Gym here in Manhattan for allowing us to shoot there. Really cool place. Tyson`s documentary Champs opens in theaters today and is available on iTunes right now. And we`re back after this. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) TAMRON HALL: Taking a look at the headlines. There is hope that the price for some prescription drugs may be coming down. An executive at CVS says greater competition among drug makers could cut the price of expensive medications by up to fifty percent. That executive credits more bio-tech copycat drugs entering the market. A new government commission study is supporting raising the legal age to buy cigarettes from eighteen to twenty-one. The report says banning tobacco sales for those under twenty-one would reduce the number of teens who smoke and would prevent a quarter million premature deaths among those born since the turn of the century. And a wild scene in Colorado this week when a car crashed through a pizza shop. Security video shows the car jumped the walkway. It hit a woman who was on that walkway, smashed right through the front window. Thankfully, the woman was not seriously injured. Turns out the driver hit the gas instead of the break. The woman is okay. We`re back after your local news. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: Welcome back to TODAY on a bizarre Friday morning. TAMRON HALL: It is. WILLIE GEIST: It`s March 13, 2015. I`m Willie along with-- TAMRON HALL: Oh, freaky Friday. WILLIE GEIST: --Al and Tamron. Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Freaky Friday. WILLIE GEIST: It is freaky Friday. Natalie has the day off today. If you`re wondering what`s going on here, you just join us. I was the victim of a vicious attack from a pie outside by Tamron Hall. TAMRON HALL: Who did that? WILLIE GEIST: But you know what? TAMRON HALL: What? WILLIE GEIST: Tomorrow-- here`s the pie attack as we watch this video, tomorrow is Pi Day. TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Pi Day. You`ll see why. 3.14, March 14, the ratio of a circle`s circumference-- AL ROKER: That`s right. WILLIE GEIST: So we asked you earlier in the week to send us a pie recipe inspired by TODAY`s TAKE. TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: So we have chosen two of them. We`ve got some really good ones. First we have the margarita key lime pie from Kerry Perry-- AL
ROKER: Oh, yeah. TAMRON HALL: HM. WILLIE GEIST: --of Cincinnati, Ohio. AL ROKER: It’s almost like Katy Perry. WILLIE GEIST: It is. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: I’ve been sampling it. It is absolutely delicious. And she said because I mentioned on the show, she made it. AL ROKER: Uh. WILLIE GEIST: So thank you so much. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: It’s perfect. TAMRON HALL: It’s that easy, just say you like something and viewers will make it for us? WILLIE GEIST: I guess so. AL ROKER: That’s right. WILLIE GEIST: It’s delicious. TAMRON HALL: I like Taco Tuesday. AL ROKER: Okay. I like this. This is nice. TAMRON HALL: Next week. WILLIE GEIST: This is cool. This is the-- AL ROKER: But this is kind of Taco Tuesday because it’s a breakfast burrito pie. TAMRON HALL: Jewelry. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: It’s delicious. AL ROKER: From Maria Assay (ph) from Freeport, Pennsylvania. TAMRON HALL: Wait. I know this is not a contest and I’m not going to judge, but-- WILLIE GEIST: Don’t do it. TAMRON HALL: I love key lime pie and I’m addicted to key lime pie. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: Joe’s Stone Crab in Miami. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. AL ROKER: Oh. TAMRON HALL: But this key lime pie, we need to put this on our recipe book. WILLIE GEIST: This is amazing. TAMRON HALL: And this taco-- AL ROKER: The burrito. The burrito pie. TAMRON HALL: --the burrito, I could eat the whole thing right now. AL ROKER: Wow. WILLIE GEIST: This going to be breakfast tomorrow at my house. TAMRON HALL: Oh. WILLIE GEIST: I’m not kidding. The recipe is on today.com. AL ROKER: Man. TAMRON HALL: This is so good. AL ROKER: That’s fantastic. WILLIE GEIST: These are both phenomenal. TAMRON HALL: Oh, you got to download these recipes. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Oh. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. AL ROKER: All right. WILLIE GEIST: Nicely done. Thank you. AL ROKER: All right. I’m gonna have mine after I do the weather. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. TAMRON HALL: If it’s still here. WILLIE GEIST: What? You’re going to throw at him? AL ROKER: Oh, there you go. I knew that was coming. TAMRON HALL: No, I’m going to eat it. AL ROKER: I knew that was coming. TAMRON HALL: Oh, no. These are too good to throw. AL ROKER: By the way, for evil time let’s see what Willie-- can we-- do we have the tape Willie then-- how Willie retaliated which is why Tamron’s dressed the way she is and her hair. WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. AL ROKER: And so- TAMRON HALL: That’s so wrong, man. AL ROKER: Bam. Oh, wow. Look at the crowd behind it. Look-- look at that thing. Oh. TAMRON HALL: The children are in shock. Did you see the faces on the poor people? AL ROKER: That’s what’s going on around the country. Here’s what’s happening in your neck of the woods. (Weather follows) AL ROKER: These pies are the gifts that keep giving. TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: It stays with you. AL ROKER: When you-- when you bring-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Because every time we take a sniff, the pie is in your nose. And you can taste it. WILLIE GEIST: It is. It’s up your nostril. Yes. TAMRON HALL: It’s really nasty, right? No pie fights anymore. All right. So, oh, look. It’s time for-- WILLIE GEIST: Here we go. TAMRON HALL: Hit the club music. It’s Friday. Time to toast the weekend. I hope you have something wonderful and lovely planned. But first, Pop Fix. Kerry Washington is digging into a new scandal. She signed on to play yet another famous woman in DC, Anita Hill. AL ROKER: Wow. TAMRON HALL: Right? Washington is set to executive produce and star in the HBO film Confirmation. The film of course will focus on the 1991 confirmation hearing in the Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas where Hill rocked the nation testifying that Thomas had sexually harassed her when he was her boss. A release date has not been announced yet. By the way, Kerry Washington is making more headlines this morning after an interview with Girl star Lena Dunham for Marie Claire magazine. The thirty- eight-year-old Washington said she did not grow up thinking she was pretty. She tells Dunham she just learned to be smart and try to be funny and developed the inside of me. AL ROKER: Wow. TAMRON HALL: Is that something? WILLIE GEIST: I grew up thinking she was pretty. TAMRON HALL: Yes, you do. WILLIE GEIST: Yes, I did. Awesome woman. TAMRON HALL: Okay. Have you guys been watching Empire? WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: You haven’t? AL ROKER: Well, I’ve
got it on DVR. TAMRON HALL: Okay. Every week this show has increased in the rake. It’s a phenomenon. And now the show is blowing up even more with some amazing guest stars. They’d just signed, wait for it, Oprah and Common. WILLIE GEIST: Come on. AL ROKER: Wow. TAMRON HALL: Yes. Executive producer-- AL ROKER: It makes sense. TAMRON HALL: Yes. It does make sense. I mean we know why. But anyway, executive producer Lee Daniels confirming the news to Access Hollywood the top show queen and the Selma co-star will be on the show. Daniels, who directed Oprah in the Butler, said he has been begging her to join the series. She finally said yes. We’ll see the show, the finale what happens on Wednesday night on Fox. I’m telling you it’s on another network, I get that. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: But it’s a buzz. It’s a cultural phenomenon right there. WILLIE GEIST: Ratings are crazy. TAMRON HALL: Ratings are crazy. AL ROKER: Oh, yeah. Keeps growing. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Okay. This makes my heart just explode with love and happiness. Ironman special delivery from Robert Downey, Jr. himself. The action star took some time out to give a seven-year-old boy whose name is Alex. He was born with a partially developed arm. The thrill of a lifetime, working with Microsoft, The Collective Project, Downey as Tony Stark presented little Alex with a 3-D printed bionic arm just like Ironman’s. Take a look. ROBERT DOWNNEY, JR: Ready? ALEX: Yep. ROBERT DOWNNEY, JR: Great. ALEX: Each one looks the same. ROBERT DOWNNEY, JR: Actually I think yours might be better than mine. What do you say we-- we both try them on and do a progress report? ALEX: Okay. MAN: You know who that is? ALEX: Ironman. MAN: What’s his name? ALEX: Robert. ROBERT DOWNNEY, JR: Great. AL ROKER: That’s great. TAMRON HALL: So the arm was developed by Albert Mooner-- Manero who is the senior director of Limbitless Solutions, an organization that makes limbs and donates them to children in need. Again, I know we said your interview with B. Smith spectacular. If you have another second in your life, go by and watch that video. The little boy with the arm,-- AL ROKER: That’s spectacular. TAMRON HALL: --it’s unbelievable. I watched it over-- WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --clicking on it. Can’t stop. AL ROKER: I always thought Robert Downey, Jr. is cool. TAMRON HALL: Love him. AL ROKER: But then you see him doing stuff like this and you just realize this guy is just terrific TAMRON HALL: Yes. Absolutely. Okay. So it is Friday the 13th. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: So if a black cat crosses your path today-- WILLIE GEIST: Mm-Hm. TAMRON HALL: --don’t worry. We’ve got the real scoop on the so-called bad black animals and two that are good luck. Did you know that there are good luck animals out there? AL ROKER: Okay. I didn’t know that. TAMRON HALL: It’s right after this. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: This morning on a special Friday the 13th edition of TODAY’s Call of The Wild, the date brings up a lot of superstitions about animals, of course, that we associate with bad luck. TAMRON HALL: Yes. Biologist and wildlife expert-- expert Corbin Maxey is here with some of those creatures and a couple that are good luck. Corbin, good morning. Good to see you. WILLIE GEIST: Hi, Corbin. CORBIN MAXEY: Good morning. WILLIE GEIST: Good to see you, man. CORBIN MAXEY: Good to see you again. WILLIE GEIST: Welcome back. CORBIN MAXEY: Tamron, hold this really quick. TAMRON HALL: Yes. Oh. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. TAMRON HALL: Great. CORBIN MAXEY: This-- TAMRON HALL: This is not good. CORBIN MAXEY: This is great. Okay. This is actually animal that brings great luck. TAMRON HALL: Oh. CORBIN MAXEY: This is a white fallow deer. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. Serves you right. TAMRON HALL: She ate my dress. CORBIN MAXEY: And I love how you’re saying good luck and it goes right towards your dress. Anyway they bring great luck. Also-- no, but we do you want to feed, Taffy. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. Come here, Taffy. There you go. What a good girl Taffy is. CORBIN MAXEY: Look at that. Also known as a ghost deer. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, Taffy you’re the best. CORBIN MAXEY: In Native American legend this animal brings good fortune. They believe it’s very, very spiritual. TAMRON HALL: Taffy’s fashion taste too. CORBIN MAXEY: She has very good fashion taste as well. So beautiful animal. Only one
in thirty thousand are actually born out in the wild. WILLIE GEIST: No, no. Don’t eat the paper. Now let’s be smart about this, Taffy. CORBIN MAXEY: Taffy is pretty unique. WILLIE GEIST: That’s a great animal. Thanks, Taffy. CORBIN MAXEY: Absolutely. Bye, Taffy. WILLIE GEIST: Why won’t you hangout over here.

Oh, no. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. So this is an animal for thousands of years-- WILLIE GEIST: Wow. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. Come over here on the table you guys. WILLIE GEIST: Also good luck, right, Corbin? CORBIN MAXEY: Good luck. TAMRON HALL: Oh, good. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: This is a tortoise. For thousands of years-- TAMRON HALL: It’s beautiful. CORBIN MAXEY: --people have believed that tortoises represent longevity, good luck and support. People used to think that the world was held on the back of a giant turtle. TAMRON HALL: Uh-Huh. CORBIN MAXEY: You guys want to touch his shell?

WILLIE GEIST: Yeah, of course. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Absolutely. CORBIN MAXEY: Yes. This is actually a--

oh, he’s going to the bathroom. TAMRON HALL: Oh, he’s (unintelligible). WILLIE GEIST: Oh. What in the world is going on around here? (Cross talking) TAMRON HALL: I’m about to become superstitious. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. Tamron. TAMRON HALL: This is freaky Friday. WILLIE GEIST: Something weird is going on today. CORBIN MAXEY: This is Friday the 13th. I’m happy I’m here for the 13th. And look at, they zoom in. Beautiful tortoise. One of the largest species in the world. They’ll get over a hundred and fifty pounds. This guy is only about sixty pounds. TAMRON HALL: All right. WILLIE GEIST: Wow. TAMRON HALL: He apparently had a lot of water, too. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. CORBIN MAXEY: He had a lot of water.

He feels very, very comfortable. TAMRON HALL: That’s okay. WILLIE GEIST: All right. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. So you guys this is cool. You’re going to-- let’s just leave the tortoise here. We are going to talk about animals-- TAMRON HALL: It’s leaking. CORBIN MAXEY: --that people think bring bad luck.

TAMRON HALL: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: Are you ready? TAMRON HALL: Yeah. CORBIN MAXEY: Bad luck, bad luck. WILLIE GEIST: Can you just grab there real quick, Tamron? TAMRON HALL: No. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. Tamron-- TAMRON HALL: No, it’s freaky Friday. I’m not doing it. CORBIN MAXEY: --take a look at this. TAMRON HALL: I see it. CORBIN MAXEY: It is a snake. I mean-- WILLIE GEIST: A boa? CORBIN MAXEY: Yeah. This is actually a rainbow boa. TAMRON HALL: It’s beautiful. Beautiful. CORBIN MAXEY: Ever since biblical times people have associated snakes being evil, bad luck. TAMRON HALL: Right.

CORBIN MAXEY: And anyway scientists-- Tamron, come on hold. TAMRON HALL: I’ll touch the back. All right. CORBIN MAXEY: Look at that. Willie do you want to hold? TAMRON HALL: That’s beautiful. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, yeah. CORBIN MAXEY: Isn’t that great? Just watch the head because we just-- TAMRON HALL: Oh, it’s stunning. CORBIN MAXEY: --touch the deer. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Now where do we find this boa? CORBIN MAXEY: Actually Central South America. TAMRON HALL: Stunning. CORBIN MAXEY: There will be different types of boa. This guy can be found right in Brazil. TAMRON HALL: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: And like scientists believe that we actually-- our fear of snakes is innate which we’re born with it. TAMRON HALL: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Right. CORBIN MAXEY: So because our ancestors had to avoid venomous snake. TAMRON HALL: Interesting. WILLIE GEIST: Beautiful. CORBIN MAXEY: So-- WILLIE GEIST: All right. What’s our next bad luck animal? CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. Very cool. TAMRON HALL: Right. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. So this is pretty cool. Bad luck. Okay. Come here, Walter. TAMRON HALL: This tortoise is still using a bath-- WILLIE GEIST: Oh, my gosh. CORBIN MAXEY: This is so neat. Guys, look at this. TAMRON HALL: Oh. WILLIE GEIST: Wow. CORBIN MAXEY: This is Walter. The African pied crow. Now watch your nose. I hear he likes noses. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. CORBIN MAXEY: This is such unique animal. Crows for so many years-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah.

CORBIN MAXEY: --people have associated with evil,-- TAMRON HALL: Evil and bad luck. CORBIN MAXEY: --with death. And you guys are several superstitions. So if you see one crow, it’s bad luck. TAMRON HALL: Uh-Huh. CORBIN MAXEY: So it’s pretty bad for us. If you see five, definitely you’re going to get a
disease. TAMRON HALL: Oh. CORBIN MAXEY: And if you see six, you`re going to die. But once again that`s superstitious. TAMRON HALL: Okay. Good thing you didn`t bring five more with you. CORBIN MAXEY: I know. TAMRON HALL: Thanks, Corbin. WILLIE GEIST: All right. That`s great. CORBIN MAXEY: Beautiful animal, very intelligent. The smartest non-human animal. TAMRON HALL: Oh, really? CORBIN MAXEY: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Really? CORBIN MAXEY: He kept doing on queue. He doesn`t want to. TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: But he can talk, they make tools-- TAMRON HALL: He`s actually a beautiful bird. CORBIN MAXEY: Isn`t that cool? TAMRON HALL: It is stunning. CORBIN MAXEY: Tamron, you want to take it? WILLIE GEIST: No. TAMRON HALL: No. CORBIN MAXEY: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: It wouldn`t be Friday the 13th-- CORBIN MAXEY: Here we go, Friday the 13th. TAMRON HALL: It`s freaky Friday. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Freaky Friday. CORBIN MAXEY: Friday the 13th. Come here, baby. Oh, look at this. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. CORBIN MAXEY: Yes. Are you scared of cats? TAMRON HALL: I`m afraid of adult cats. I`m, yes. CORBIN MAXEY: Oh, this-- but at this it`s a baby Munchkin cat. Well, not a baby. It won`t get any bigger. Isn`t that neat? TAMRON HALL: Yeah. It`s beautiful. WILLIE GEIST: Now, this is like a domestic cat we`re talking about here? CORBIN MAXEY: This is a domestic cat. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. TAMRON HALL: Oh, it`s the domestic cat. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. CORBIN MAXEY: Of course. TAMRON HALL: Okay. CORBIN MAXEY: What do you think it`s a leopard? TAMRON HALL: I didn`t know. CORBIN MAXEY: This is a domestic Munchkin cat. Ever since-- TAMRON HALL: Why is it a Munchkin cat? CORBIN MAXEY: Because look at the little legs. See the little legs. WILLIE GEIST: Oh. TAMRON HALL: Oh. CORBIN MAXEY: It`s a genetic form. No, it`s fine. It`s just a normal-- it`s a normal occurrence in the genes and stuff like that. But it`s a beautiful cat. Ever since the Medieval Ages, five hundred years ago people have been scared of black cats-- TAMRON HALL: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. CORBIN MAXEY: --crossing your path. TAMRON HALL: It`s a beautiful cat. Yeah. No, I love kittens. CORBIN MAXEY: Here you go. You want to hold it? WILLIE GEIST: But not this one. TAMRON HALL: But adult cats-- WILLIE GEIST: Not on-- TAMRON HALL: I have to work out, you know, my fears of it. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. TAMRON HALL: But it`s nice. WILLIE GEIST: Corbin, thanks so much, man. TAMRON HALL: Thank you, Corbin. WILLIE GEIST: Always great to see you. CORBIN MAXEY: Oh, you guys were awesome. TAMRON HALL: So cute. WILLIE GEIST: Tamron you want to grab the tortoise real quick? TAMRON HALL: Tamron, please. WILLIE GEIST: Just put him back there. TAMRON HALL: Clean up on aisle turtle. Clean up on aisle turtle. WILLIE GEIST: Thanks, Corbin. TAMRON HALL: Thank you, Corbin. CORBIN MAXEY: Thank you so much you guys TAMRON HALL: Best of luck. Oh, yeah. Up next, you don`t need the luck of the Irish to make this simple St. Paddy`s Day dish. Al, what do you have there? AL ROKER: Oh, I`m telling you, corned beef and cabbage. Our good friend from Dublin here. Mister Matt Murphy is going to show us how to make this dish. Oh, yeah. MATT MURPHY: (Unintelligible) right there. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) AL ROKER: St. Patrick`s Day is on Tuesday and, of course, the one dish we all associate with it is corned beef and cabbage. Although it`s actually an Irish-American dish, but Dubliner, Matt Murphy who is the chef and provider of the Irish House in New Orleans has a delicious and easy recipe. You want something a little more authentic. Matt, good to see you, buddy. MATT MURPHY: This is an easy dish to do. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: It`s a, you know, brisket, corned beef-- AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT MURPHY: --brisket, it`s a very tough piece of meat. But you got to cook it about like for every pounds it`s about an hour`s cooking. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: And then it starts to get really tender. Very simple dish. Take this. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: Take your brisket. AL ROKER: Right. MATT MURPHY: We`ll put it right-- we put it right into the pot and you have it cooking. AL ROKER: What kinds of spices you put in with it? MATT MURPHY: The spices they have to have some mustard seeds-- AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT
MURPHY: --some like different-- different salt, pepper and black pepper corn. AL ROKER: Right. MATT MURPHY: That goes in and then we usually put in some thyme, some bay leaves. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT MURPHY: And that just gives it-- gives it flavor. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: So that cooks out. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: And then we take it. Once that`s cooked, it`-- it`s almost tender right now. We`re going to take it out. I`m going to put it right there. You let it relax. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: And then your vegetables. AL ROKER: Let it relax. MATT MURPHY: Let is relax. Let is just chill right there. Take it easy. And we`ve got rutabaga-- AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: --with slices, we`ve got our potatoes, carrots. AL ROKER: Right. MATT MURPHY: Simple dish. This is anybody can do this at home. So we put that back in. AL ROKER: Right. MATT MURPHY: We allow that cook. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: Once that cooks out your veggies becomes tender about, you know, whatever, forty minutes. AL ROKER: And when do you throw the-- you`ve got some cabbage in there, too. MATT MURPHY: We`ve got cabbage in. Yes. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: Here we go. AL ROKER: Okay. MATT MURPHY: And we have cabbages in here, we take it out, you corn beef goes on top. It`it like a family style, everybody around the table. AL ROKER: Nice. TAMRON HALL: So good. MATT MURPHY: Slice it. A little bit of butter in there and then we just-- some parsley right on top. AL ROKER: I love this next dessert. MATT MURPHY: Now this is-- is really-- this is a Dublin dish. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT MURPHY: There`s a lot in the bakeries. And it`s called a gur cake. Which is the shorten version of gurrier which is a little kid that doesn`t go to school. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: (Unintelligible) you know, it never goes there. But each bakery would have their gur cake which was -- they would use up some of the pastries-- AL ROKER: Leftover cake? MATT MURPHY: --leftover pastries from the day before. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Wow. AL ROKER: You got dates, raisins, figs. MATT MURPHY: Dates. Exactly. And then a little bit of milk. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. And then spices, you`ve got-- MATT MURPHY: Spices, cinnamon, nutmeg and mace. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT MURPHY: And then we put an egg in. And they would take that and they would just mix it all up into paste. AL ROKER: Right. You end up with this. And what-- is this like just pastry dough? MATT MURPHY: It`s kind of like a pastry dough. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: Put pastry dough. And what we do is in the bottom it is you`ll just dock it. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. MATT MURPHY: Which means you put it some holes in so it doesn`t rise that much. AL ROKER: And then you would put and you`d basically layer this in? MATT MURPHY: And then you layer that right in into it. TAMRON HALL: Wow. AL ROKER: And then you put another one on top. MATT MURPHY: Another one on top. AL ROKER: It ends up like this. MATT MURPHY: And a sheet pan on top. And it stops it from rising. AL ROKER: Oh, cool. Very neat. MATT MURPHY: Spray a little bit sugar. AL ROKER: Uh-Huh. MATT MURPHY: And we end up with this. And, you know, they kind of got that name because the kids would be hungry in the afternoon not going to school. AL ROKER: Right. MATT MURPHY: You know, and had all their lunch. AL ROKER: Actually gur cake-- gur is the sound your stomachs make. MATT MURPHY: Sometimes. Yeah. AL ROKER: All right. Matt Murphy, thank you so much. WILLIE GEIST: Delicious. AL ROKER: The recipes-- TAMRON HALL: This is delicious, Matt. WILLIE GEIST: Thank you, Matt. AL ROKER: You guys are digging it? All right. WILLIE GEIST: It`s great. Yeah. TAMRON HALL: The beef is amazing. AL ROKER: And then we`ve got some Irish pie for, you know. We`re-- the recipes are in today.com. We`re back in a moment. But first, this is TODAY on our freaky Friday on NBC. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) WILLIE GEIST: Irish suppers. Delicious, man. TAMRON HALL: Good stuff. WILLIE GEIST: Erica Hill is here, our good friend, with a preview of what`s coming tomorrow on weekend TODAY. ERICA HILL: Hi. Nice to see you. It`s more pie. TAMRON HALL: Oh. ERICA HILL: So it`s the official Pi Day tomorrow. Just kidding. AL ROKER: That`s right. WILLIE GEIST: Don`t say pie. ERICA HILL: Just kidding. Bash-- flashbacks already? TAMRON HALL: Yeah.
WILLIE GEIST: Too soon. AL ROKER: Yeah. ERICA HILL: Too soon. Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Too soon. ERICA HILL: Too soon. So instead of that, we’re going to talk convenience this morning. You may have noticed there are more and more mail order subscriptions services. It’s not just for bacon of the month which is a great thing. But meal planning, you can get all the ingredients delivered, fashion, a personal shopper will actually send you a trunk full of outfits to try on. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. ERICA HILL: So we’re going to take a look at some of these different subscription services. TAMRON HALL: Oh, cool. ERICA HILL: And which ones may be a good fit for you. WILLIE GEIST: All right. TAMRON HALL: Hey, Al. (Cross talking) AL ROKER: Oh, no. Oh, no, you’re not. Oh, no, you’re not. TAMRON HALL: Willie. ERICA HILL: Oh. AL ROKER: Oh, no, you’re not. Oh, no, you’re not. TAMRON HALL: Willie. WILLIE GEIST: I can’t do it. He’s my man. AL ROKER: Oh, no, no, no. WILLIE GEIST: No. AL ROKER: No, no, no. No, no. No. It’s okay. TAMRON HALL: Al Roker, all he wanted to do is get a pie. AL ROKER: That’s all right. ERICA HILL: Wow. AL ROKER: That’s okay. ERICA HILL: Wow. AL ROKER: Hey, coming up-- ERICA HILL: Wow. TAMRON HALL: Erica? ERICA HILL: I’m not getting in the middle of you people. AL ROKER: No, no, no. ERICA HILL: I’m not going to-- AL ROKER: That’s it. TAMRON HALL: Can I lick the pie off my fingers? AL ROKER: Sure. Go right ahead. And we’ll watch that. TAMRON HALL: We have planned to pie Al Roker for pie but now my hands are tight. WILLIE GEIST: We’re going to go shower. Have a great weekend. Stick around for Kathie Lee and Hoda. AL ROKER: I can’t wait for that. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) ANNOUNCER: From NBC News, this is TODAY with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb from Studio 1A in Rockefeller Plaza. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s Try-Day, give it away Friday-- HODA KOTB: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --the thirteenth of March. Don’t let that worry us. HODA KOTB: No, not at all. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No. Who cares about that stuff? We’ve got an awesome day planned for you here. HODA KOTB: All right. The new “Cinderella” movie hits theaters today. So let us thinking about the idea of happily ever after that you always see in these kind of fairy tales. Well, our relationship experts Matthew Hussey and Francesca Hogi are going to weigh in on that and whether the fairy tale concept should be left to storybooks. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s what I think. Plus, Lou Manfredini, he has got a name that rhymes with-- HODA KOTB: Lou Manfredini, he has got a name that rhymes with-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --you are going to have to wait. HODA KOTB: Oh, boy, is it worth it? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: He’s going to-- we got to pick something pretty soon. He is going to help you fix those pesky problems around the house like how to replace a worn-out lamp socket. I can’t wait for that. HODA KOTB: And-- and our girl, Sissy Biggers, is back from the Home + Housewares show. She has got the newest-- gadgets. The ones you’re going to want. They are going to be coming soon to a store near you, but-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Which you are going to see them here first. HODA KOTB: That’s the good thing about Sissy. Hey, Sis. HODA KOTB: She shows us all the goodies. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Fiffy, we love our Fiffy Sissy. HODA KOTB: All right. So, do you like Rice Krispies treats? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I like Rice Krispies as a cereal-- HODA KOTB: Ow. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --but I’m not crazy about the treat. Only because they are sweet, they are too-- they are-- yeah. HODA KOTB: That’s-- yeah, they are for me. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Uh-Huh. They are for you. But I love the artwork she does with them. HODA KOTB: A woman named Jessica Siskin took them to a new level. All right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. HODA KOTB: You can see we have got a TODAY Show thing here. She creates all kinds of design. She posts them under her-- under the name Mister Krisp. So just to show she made us a wine bottle-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Imagine that it’s a stuff bottle. HODA KOTB: --of your stuff. And a glass of your stuff. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Stuff. HODA KOTB: And it’s all over. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And we are grateful. Now, look at this. She did Olaf from Frozen. Look. HODA KOTB: She has done Mount Rushmore. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Look at that. HODA KOTB: Okay. That’s crazy. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, she only
has about ten minutes to mold them before they get too hard to work with. HODA KOTB: So she does take requests as she did for us and she makes them on the sheet cake. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. So good for her. HODA KOTB: I like-- oops. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Hoda is going to eat, yeah.. HODA KOTB: What-- what’s wrong with it? When did she make it? Last week? How long ago did she make it? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: If it hardens within ten minutes, imagine what it does after a week. HODA KOTB: In your stomach. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. Oh, it’s still soft. HODA KOTB: Hmm. God, I love these. They remind me of being a kid. Hmm. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: All right. Thank you very much for-- HODA KOTB: Thank you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --going to so much work. Now, your pet versus your partner. HODA KOTB: That’s a good question. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Isn’t that just sort of a, what day is it kind of thing? Who do you think you show more affection to, your partner or your pet? HODA KOTB: Let’s ask you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Well, my pet. Today I’m going to show him a whole bunch of affection because he had a little growth removed from his leg. And I’m-- but-- but there’s the love of my life. I got to be honest.

HODA KOTB: You carry Bambino like a purse. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Frank is getting a little gnarly. All right. Bambino is only five, so-- HODA KOTB: By the way, Dear Abby did have this column featured and a woman writes-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You want me to take that while you eat? Mm-Hm. You want to eat, finish it, so I can-- HODA KOTB: No, I’m good. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA KOTB: Okay, so anyway, is that what I do? You know what, I’m a terrible eater. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No, you are not. HODA KOTB: I really am. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You’re a very polite eater. HODA KOTB: I’m a terrible gum chewer. I chew like I’m going to town. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: (Unintelligible). HODA KOTB: No, like it’s going to go away. Like I go in and get it. All right. Anyway. So this woman wrote a letter to Dear Abby. And she says her fianc, gives more attention to their two dogs and a cat than to her. She complains like he comes home from work-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Exhausted. HODA KOTB: --he’s too busy, he can’t talk but somehow he manages to snuggle and play with the pets. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. HODA KOTB: And she’s wondering if she’s being petty or if she-- her complaint has some validity to it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Well, the thing that jumps out to me there-- HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --is that they are engaged. HODA KOTB: I know. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You are supposed to be-- I mean, come on, if you-- if you, yeah. HODA KOTB: Making out all the time. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I mean, come if you-- yeah, if you’re going to cuddle, cuddle with somebody that, you know, you are mad about. So Dear Abby says no. She is not overreacting. HODA KOTB: Wow. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: She says he appears to be very insensitive and needs to reconsider the engagement. HODA KOTB: She is telling her to think about it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I think she should. HODA KOTB: Well, I mean, you do have to think about. If you come out from a stressful day, sometimes you don’t want to talk. You just want to hang out with your dog because they do all those studies about how it lowers stress, you know, patting your pet and all that kind of stuff. So, maybe it’s the unconditional, I don’t have to explain and I don’t want to speak about my day, I just want to-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Well, we have mentioned it but forbided. It’s-- HODA KOTB: What? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --it’s a clich, because it’s true. HODA KOTB: What’s that? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Lock your-- your lover, right? Lock your-- your wife and your dog in the trunk? HODA KOTB: In the trunk of a car. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And four hours later, open up the trunk and see which one is happy to see you. You know, who’s happy to see you? HODA KOTB: That-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s going to be the dog every time. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, yeah. HODA KOTB: I get it. I get it, too. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But I think it’s an important point. You know, we tend to start taking people for granted. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And it’s a-- it’s a good reminder. Oh, speaking of that, you know the way to get their attention is lingerie. HODA KOTB: Whose attention? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And so apparently lingerie is-- the most popular is different in
every region of the country. Did you know that, Hoda Woman? HODA KOTB: BuzzFeed did this thing. BuzzFeed, by the way, is awesome. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. HODA KOTB: They come out with the craziest things. So they did this thing with True & Company to find out which lingerie is-- is most popular in each region. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You can tell from sales, obviously. HODA KOTB: From the sales. All right. So here they go. In the Northeast, you know, what your most popular lingerie is black nylon bras. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Black nylon bras. HODA KOTB: Vermont. The ladies in Vermont, they like themselves some red lace body suits, the onesie. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Really? HODA KOTB: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: In the Midwest-- HODA KOTB: The home of the bachelor, Iowa. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Iowa. HODA KOTB: Purple silk bras are on fire. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And in Kansas, blue rayon pajamas. Good old Kansas. HODA KOTB: All right. Let’s go South. I want to know what’s happen in down south, my neck of the woods. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Arkansas. HODA KOTB: Arkansas. Yellow, nylon bras are hot in Arkansas. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I’ve never seen a yellow one. HODA KOTB: I know. Where do they get those? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I don’t know. HODA KOTB: Sound-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: What Jerry? Oh, that’s when it’s old and hasn’t been washed, Jerry said. HODA KOTB: Those are-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Or it has been washed so much it does tend to-- yes. Jerry, I’m with you because I have never seen a yellow bra. HODA KOTB: In North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, all have the same underwear in common, they like nude and white cotton underwear. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And Hoda likes a thong. HODA KOTB: I do. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And in the West? HODA KOTB: Where’s-- wait, where are the thongs? New Mexico. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Nobody. HODA KOTB: No, New Mexico. Look I can see it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, oh, really. HODA KOTB: Those are the-- the Hanky Panky’s. They are the best underwear-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I don’t like-- I don’t think butt should be flossed. HODA KOTB: Anybody is behind. But-- by the way-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s about you’re flossing your butt. HODA KOTB: Here’s the thing, no. They’re not uncomfortable and I do get uncomfortable-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes, they are. HODA KOTB: --with a thong. Did you tried on? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. Sorry, I know you love yours Hanky Pankys. HODA KOTB: All right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: All right. Blue bras are in California. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. And Colorado, red Flannel pajamas because it’s cold. All right. HODA KOTB: All right. So have you-- have you ever wondered what your lipstick says about you? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No. HODA KOTB: So as you were going out, you were nude a lot. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Always. Because I think the darker colors, as you age, make you look older. HODA KOTB: Okay. So I usually wear-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Like a plum. HODA KOTB: I wear a plum usually. Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. HODA KOTB: So we’re going to let you know if the color of your lipstick influences you. So Cover Girl teamed up with-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: With a Harvard psychologist. HODA KOTB: Well, because we need some brain power here to find out if it in fact-- okay, so there are. If you wear red lipstick, you are believed to be more creative and more daring. If you wear pink lipstick, you are supposed to be more sociable and fun loving. If you wear plum, me, you are supposed to be more independent. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And if you wear nude, you are warm and caring. HODA KOTB: Oh, that’s you and it’s a great-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But I’m also independent. (Cross talking) KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You know, I mean, everybody is a combination of all kinds of things. HODA KOTB: What did you wear when you were younger? What color of lips did you wear? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I never wore dark. HODA KOTB: Really? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: A-- a pink when I was younger. Just pinkish more. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Mm-Hm. HODA KOTB: All right. They also said that people who wear red lipstick take a lot of selfies. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And that-- yeah you know what, the trouble with red is as you get older? HODA KOTB: What, what? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It gets in all the crevasses. And it just points out all the little lines all around your mouth. It really does.
HODA KOTB: Oh. Oh. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Be careful with that. HODA KOTB: Okay. So we are having a little fun. This is makeup artist who can transform. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: His name is-- he is thirty-two, Paolo Balesteros (ph). HODA KOTB: Yeah. He`s and Instagram star, and he`s an actor and a model. So he makes up himself to look like female celebs.

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA KOTB: So which one-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, that`s what he looks in-- in real life. And then-- HODA KOTB: Right. And which one of those is in the top right? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: The top left. HODA KOTB: No, but which one is him and the other ones? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: They are all him. HODA KOTB: What? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: They are all him. HODA KOTB: Why are we guessing? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA KOTB: This is a game. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We wanted to like-- HODA KOTB: What`s the answer-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Who`s the guy. That`s Paolo. Okay, can we go to the next one? HODA KOTB: Are we guessing the celebrity? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, we get that. That`s pretty-- HODA KOTB: I can`t believe that. Oh, my gosh. Are you kidding me? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Dakota Johnson. I knew it by the bangs. Yeah. HODA KOTB: By the way, the way he drew the lip across.

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That`s pretty amazing, though. HODA KOTB: Oh, what`s-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That`s Jennifer Lawrence. HODA KOTB: Jennifer Lawrence. Jennifer Lawrence. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I think. Yeah, that`s amazing. Is that-- that one I don`t know. Is that Kerry Washington, is it? JLo? HODA KOTB: That`s the only one that doesn`t look spot-on. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No. HODA KOTB: Okay.

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No, there`s nobody`s that gorgeous in the whole world. HODA KOTB: Yeah, she can`t-- you can`t-- you can`t even beat JLo. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: All right. You know, what time is it, Hoda? HODA KOTB: Wait I wasn`t ready. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Go ahead, baby. HODA KOTB: Okay.

KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No, we can-- HODA KOTB: I`m ready. What time is it? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It`s time for Friday Funny. Look at-- no, no, no need for it again. HODA KOTB: Okay. Let`s do it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: So man is at work one day. HODA KOTB: Uh-Huh. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: When he notices that one of his male co-workers is wearing an earring. Now he knows his co-worker is a pretty conservative guy so he`s, sort of, surprised by this new fashion statement. The man walked up to the co-worker and said I didn`t know you were into earrings. What brought that on? The co-worker quickly responded, look, dude, don`t make a big deal out of this. It`s only an earring. The man was surprised by his friend`s reaction. So he says, well, come on, man, when did you get it? Co-worker replies ever since my wife found it in my truck. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That one you got to think through. HODA KOTB: That`s a good one. That`s a good one. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Hoda. HODA KOTB: All right. Is it Ok or Not Ok from OK Magazine. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, to lavish-- HODA KOTB: And the hot one now says Kylie. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Kylie. Yeah. HODA KOTB: All right. To get lavish gifts for kids? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. So let`s see what we have to say about it, Hoda Woman. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Hoda, you know, I try not to judge how other people parent, but personally I don`t think it helps to build character. How about making them nice, donation to a children`s charity in their name? That`s how you build a legacy, baby. HODA KOTB: Wow. That was really thought out his mind. I guess, it`s okay. But, come on, there`s spoiling, and then there is spoiling. Do you know what I mean? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No. HODA KOTB: Well, that`s what I said. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: There`s spoiling and then there`s spoiling rotten is what you mean. HODA KOTB: No, I didn`t mean that. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I meant something else. Once in a while it`s a winner. HODA KOTB: All right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And, you know, William does such an amazing job on this. HODA KOTB: He really does. Hats off. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We appreciate you, William. Okey-dokey. HODA KOTB: All right. Are you still waiting for a handsome prince charming to sweep you off your feet? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Find out what our dynamic duo thinks about fairy tale endings. HODA KOTB: Plus, could you be the lucky winner when we Give It Away, whatever it
is? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Five of you are going to be. HODA KOTB: Oh, it’s worth it. After this. Go Donna, go. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) HODA KOTB: It is time to get The Other View. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s time to get The Other View on relationships and dating. And today the new live action movie Cinderella hit theaters, so it got us thinking about the concept of fairy tale romances, Prince Charming and all that happily ever after stuff. HODA KOTB: But is that whole Cinderella complex realistic? Here with some advice on what you should expect in real life is relationship expert and host of iHeartRadio’s Love Life with Matthew Hussey. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Matthew Hussey. HODA KOTB: Hussey. And-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Who? The founder of madetomeasurematching.com, Francesca Hogi. HODA KOTB: Francesca Hogi. Hi, kiddos. MATTHEW HUSSEY (Relationship Expert): Hello. FRANCESCA HOGI (Founder, Madetomeasurematching.com): Hi. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And that necklace is out of control gorgeous. You look so good. HODA KOTB: Hot. Cute. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You`re are all right, Matthew. HODA KOTB: Everything is happening there. FRANCESCA HOGI: Thank you. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Since Francesca came along. I’m all right these days. She`s very beautiful. I don’t blame you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes, she is. HODA KOTB: She is. Okay. So we have our magic wands and we are making a point about Cinderella. A lot of young girls do grow up from when they`re little waiting for the Prince Charming to come rescue them from the tower. Is that harmful you think to -- to little girls? MATTHEW HUSSEY: Yes. HODA KOTB: It is? MATTHEW HUSSEY: Yeah. Well, firstly the idea that you can`t be rescued and you can`t rescue someone. So the whole idea of the rescuing is wrong from the start. No one wants to rescue someone, either by the way. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Well, if you`re in a burning house you like it. FRANCESCA HOGI: Right. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Not in love. Not in love. You can`t rescue someone from their problems, from their own personal problems. HODA KOTB: Yes. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. And if you -- if you set up a - I mean if someone is attracted to you because-- because of that need to rescue you, then you`re- - you`re going to always have to be in distress for that dynamic to work. HODA KOTB: That`s a good point. MATTHEW HUSSEY: I mean- men don`t what to rescue-- men want to be the hero. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: But they don’t want to rescue. It is nice to be the hero, it is nice to be able to provide and protect in some way but rescuing implies that you wouldn’t be okay without me. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And that`s too much responsibility. No one wants that. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And the whole concept of happily ever after is ridiculous unless you live for three more days on your honeymoon. And then it is over. Because life happens and you`re not always going to be happy. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Let`s not pretend any of these films actually show happily ever after. FRANCESCA HOGI: Exactly. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And they always take an easy road. FRANCESCA HOGI: Exactly. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And there`s text on the screen that says, “and then they lived happily ever after.” KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. (Cross talking) MATTHEW HUSSEY: But it doesn`t tell you how. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. Exactly. MATTHEW HUSSEY: I love - I love -- even in like The Little Mermaid, I love --she can`t speak for three-quarters of the film. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And then at the end she can finally speaks. How does he even know if he`s going to like what she has to say? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No. But so many of those movies are so selfish, somebody wants one thing so badly that everybody else suffers because you want something. MATTHEW HUSSEY: But this is - well, yes. That`s true. That is so true. Every-- every type of film that even-- even films that we-- we don`t typically think of it as a fairy tale but are really, like Breakfast at Tiffany’s. This is a film about a neurotic woman who is every person`s worst nightmare. At the end-- the end of the movie-- think about it is her throwing her cat out of the car-- HODA KOTB: Oh, yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: --and then going out into the rain to get it. And he follows her and it`s like, oh, they kiss and Moon River plays and everything is great. No, she`s-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I like that song.
(Cross talking) HODA KOTB: And I love that movie. MATTHEW HUSSEY: --can’t be as neurotic tomorrow when they wake up. HODA KOTB: Stop wrecking the movie. FRANCESCA HOGI: Most romantic-- most romantic comedies are really, you know, falling into that pattern. And I think that’s what dangerous. It’s like women get this idea of like, Oh, I can be this really obnoxious-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Right. FRANCESCA HOGI: --you know, selfish person but some man is going to see that jewel inside of me. HODA KOTB: Some guys do. FRANCESCA HOGI: And - and he’s going to-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: They’re as neurotic as she is. FRANCESCA HOGI: --in spite of the fact that I - that I’m a terrible person. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Twilight-- Twilight is an example of that. Let me be the moodiest girl in town. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Who never smiles. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Never smiles. FRANCESCA HOGI: Never smiles. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And the two hottest guys around are going to chase me relentlessly. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. HODA KOTB: By the way, some guys do chase those brooding, weird girls. They do. MATTHEW HUSSEY: Not all good guys don’t. Not -- not the right guys, they don’t. FRANCESCA HOGI: Yeah. HODA KOTB: But is it-- what’s so harmful? You’re a little kid, you’re six years old. You don’t need to know all the terrible things life has ahead for you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s not real. HODA KOTB: Why you just live in fantasy land? MATTHEW HUSSEY: Here’s the difference. Here’s the difference. There’s - there’s a reason I really loved Frozen. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And the reason I loved Frozen is because Disney actually broke the mold with that. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yep. MATTHEW HUSSEY: They - they didn’t -- in the end she didn’t need to be saved by a guy. At first it was her sister-- HODA KOTB: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: --who had her back and helped her. HODA KOTB: Yeah. MATTHEW HUSSEY: And it didn’t need to be a marriage at the end of the film for it to be a great ending. FRANCESCA HOGI: No. MATTHEW HUSSEY: We didn’t need a marriage and we don’t need a marriage at the end of a movie for it to be happy. HODA KOTB: All right. Let’s go to a Sex and The City clip. Carrie Bradshaw makes a point when comforting Charlotte that maybe we need to save ourselves. Let’s watch. (Excerpt from Sex and The City) HODA KOTB: I love that show. FRANCESCA HOGI: That’s a good show. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Years ago I wrote a book for Cassidy it was called The -- The Feminist Fairy Tale. And at the very end when a great guy comes and it’s all - and she looks at him and he goes- he says, eh, you’re not my type. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And, you know, just because I did think this was a problem. So thanks, you guys. I’m not sure you solved anything today but thank you so much. HODA KOTB: For all you do. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Do. All right. Love you guys. Want the convenience of a crock pot without all the leftovers? Sissy Biggers has the answer. Plus, more must-have kitchen finds. HODA KOTB: And Bobbie is buzzing with the newest clever concept to help you on the go. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You mean the mother of a little boy? HODA KOTB: It’s a boy. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s a boy. HODA KOTB: Sweet. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) HODA KOTB: It is time for Bobbie`s Buzz. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Bobbie`s Buzz. And this week, TODAY’S style editor and bobbie.com, Bobbie Thomas has some convenient concept to help make our busy routines a little easier. HODA KOTB: Hello, dear. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Hello. BOBBIE THOMAS: Hi. Hello. I’m so excited. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. BOBBIE THOMAS: It’s three of my favorite finds this week. The Gussy, essentially a raincoat for your purse. HODA KOTB: Oh. BOBBIE THOMAS: You can have this folded very small inside and Donna is showing off that it can be a top handle bag like we see on the table, or a long handle. And it is just Velcro. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Looks like you have a dog in there. BOBBIE THOMAS: So it has two pockets. HODA KOTB: By the way, when it’s pouring rain-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. BOBBIE THOMAS: Then it’s pouring heavy. Exactly. HODA KOTB: --and you get water in your bag? BOBBIE THOMAS: Right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s cute. HODA KOTB: Which has happened. BOBBIE THOMAS: Next clever, twelve ninety-nine at Target. So genius. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: What? BOBBIE THOMAS: These are
suction cup smart phone cases. HODA KOTB: What? BOBBIE THOMAS: And you can take the wristlet off. But any size phone. So great. HODA KOTB: Show the suction again. BOBBIE THOMAS: So great. HODA KOTB: Quit it. BOBBIE THOMAS: You can put place and then also get your phone out quick and not be trying to get it if you need to. HODA KOTB: That’s a genius idea. BOBBIE THOMAS: And-- HODA KOTB: It’s got a little handle so you can carry it like a purse. BOBBIE THOMAS: So great. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Very cute. BOBBIE THOMAS: Last, but not least, hellobond.com. So fantastic. You can go on for two ninety-nine. Pick your handwriting, write a note, it’s effortless as an e-mail, and they will send an actual piece of stationary wax sealed. And you can save your handwriting, you can do so much. Go to hellobond.com. I love this concept. HODA KOTB: So you type it out on your computer and keep send in a-- BOBBIE THOMAS: Yes. It’s cyber snail mail. HODA KOTB: I can’t handle it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Where was that thirty years ago-- BOBBIE THOMAS: This is so genius. I love all. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: -- when I started writing notes? HODA KOTB: Don’t forget, it is Give It Away Friday. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And Lou Manfredini. HODA KOTB: Lou Manfredini. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You know the drill. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We’re back with more of TODAY on this Try-Day Friday, and it’s time to Ask Lou-- HODA KOTB: Ask Lou. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --about all those pesky problems around the house you wish you could fix yourself if you only knew how. HODA KOTB: From mending a broken lamp to choosing a water heater, all you need are a few smart tips from TODAY contributor and the host of House Smarts, Lou Manfredini. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Lou Manfredini. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD AND HODA KOTB (In unison): He’s got a name that rhymes with porcini. LOU MANFREDINI: Oh, I love-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We picked out a different one, but apparently-- LOU MANFREDINI: Very nice. I love-- HODA KOTB: We had one up our sleeves, but-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. HODA KOTB: --Andrew trumped us. LOU MANFREDINI: I like that. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Thank you. HODA KOTB: All right. LOU MANFREDINI: I like that. Thank you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA KOTB: We shall begin. All right. So the first, Carolyn Lynn Steiner (ph) from New York City wants to know how she can replace a worn-out socket on a lamp without getting electrocuted. LOU MANFREDINI: Do you know that this is one of the easiest things to do is rewire a lamp and people get so kind of worked up about it all. HODA KOTB: Freaked out. (Cross talking) LOU MANFREDINI: Well, you don’t get electrocuted. Obviously, you unplug the whole thing. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: There’s an idea. LOU MANFREDINI: But it’s very simple, right? This wire heads up through the bottom and comes all the way through this lamp up to this socket area here. This socket separates. I’ve got one right here so you can see. You can buy these at the hardware store for three dollars. HODA KOTB: Okay. LOU MANFREDINI: This is the base just like you see here that screws on there. Then this separates. And you can put your finger inside of here. This little cover comes off. And there’s two little terminals right here that you put the wires on. HODA KOTB: Mm-Hm. LOU MANFREDINI: Now you see how there is a gold and a silver screws. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. HODA KOTB: Yeah. LOU MANFREDINI: When you buy a lamp cord, which you can buy at the hardware store for thirty-nine cents a foot, you’re going to take-- one of these is going to have a little ribbing to it, which is the gold side. HODA KOTB: How would you know that? LOU MANFREDINI: You just feel it. It’s on the cord. HODA KOTB: Oh. You’re telling us-- LOU MANFREDINI: And so-- I’m telling you. So then one goes here, one goes here. You wrap it around, screw it together. Put this back on. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: See, I would have thrown that away by now. LOU MANFREDINI: Oh, no, no. I’m telling you. This is, you can rewire a lamp for less than fifteen dollars. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: If you remember that the gold thing goes in the-- HODA KOTB: Gold, come on, with the ridges. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah. LOU MANFREDINI: Gold and the silver. HODA KOTB: Michelle Harding (ph) from Verona, Wisconsin asks, during the winter my dryer and microwave are freezing. You could feel a cold breeze
coming from both when you open the doors. How can I fix this? LOU MANFREDINI: This is the greatest little thing that nobody’s ever seen on TV. It’s from a company called Tamarac. And it is a, what’s called a Backdraft damper. The idea is when you have an exhaust fan, this metal-- HODA KOTB: Mm-Hm. LOU MANFREDINI: --the wind comes through and the metal actually conducts it, the warm air draws it in. They’ve created this little sock in here that collapses, where am I? HODA KOTB: Mm-Hm. LOU MANFREDINI: And so when it’s off, the fan is off, this is collapsed. And the air can’t come back in. Imagine that this is the cover on the outside. But then when you turn the fan on with your hair dryer, it blows. And then you shut it off and it collapses over time. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Why has it never been seen before? Is it brand new? HODA KOTB: Yes, it’s secretive. LOU MANFREDINI: It’s-- it’s one of these things that nobody knows about. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh. They do now. LOU MANFREDINI: So this is-- this is twenty bucks. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Wow. LOU MANFREDINI: It’s really something that can add right on the end and it will solve that problem of exhaust heat. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s great. LOU MANFREDINI: Yeah. That what we do. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Thank you, Lou. HODA KOTB: Okay. Linda Spear (ph) from Wexford, Pennsylvania just replaced her eight-year-old hot water tank after it started producing rusty water. And she’d like to know if there is an economic advantage to installing an on-demand heater instead. LOU MANFREDINI: Every tank water heater like this, average life in the U.S. is seven years. Sometimes when you get rusty water, it’s due to something, called the anode rod. This is a rod that collects minerals. This, when it becomes decayed and falls apart, can actually-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Can get in to-- LOU MANFREDINI: --dip that-- this can be replaced if you don’t want to replace your heater. However, I love on-demand water heaters. This is by a company called Navien. This unit can do up to three fixtures at a time, three continuous showers. It is-- when it’s off, it’s off. And when it’s on, everybody in this studio can take a shower one after another after another and never run out of hot water. HODA KOTB: Oh. LOU MANFREDINI: Twenty percent of your energy costs goes to standby water, meaning that this thing is full of hot water, waiting for you to come home. HODA KOTB: Right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: So that’s-- LOU MANFREDINI: This is off and it’s off. HODA KOTB: How long does it take for that to warm up? LOU MANFREDINI: Like that. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Wow. HODA KOTB: Why isn’t everyone using that? LOU MANFREDINI: Because it costs more. This installed by a plumber is fifteen hundred bucks. This installed is thirty-five hundred to four thousand. However-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But will it last longer? LOU MANFREDINI: Twenty years. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You do the math. LOU MANFREDINI: You do the math. HODA KOTB: Okay. LOU MANFREDINI: You said there’d be no math. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Thank you Lou Manfredini. LOU MANFREDINI: You’re welcome. HODA KOTB: You-- you do it. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Alrighty. Hoda-- HODA KOTB: Go-- go to klgandhoda.com and click the connect button for a chance to have Lou answer your questions next time. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, my gosh. You’re funny, Hodi. All right. Prince William gets ready to take over the monarchy. HODA KOTB: No, no, no, that Prince William, we’re talking about the fake one on E!’s news juicy series The Royals. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And wait until you see the kitchen essentials we have on tap courtesy of Sissy Biggers. We love her. HODA KOTB: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But first, these messages. HODA KOTB: Uh-Huh. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) HODA KOTB: Earlier this week, tens of thousands of buyers flocked to Chicago to check out the International Home and Housewares Show. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: More than two thousand exhibitors debut the hottest new products and trend for every area of the home. And lifestyle expert Sissy Biggers was there to see it all as usual. SISSY BIGGERS (Lifestyle Expert): Hello. HODA KOTB: Sissy scoured thirteen miles of aisles just for us to find the most innovative item-- items for the kitchen. Wow. You are busy. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You are getting your exercise, because there’s a lot of food served at those places. SISSY BIGGERS: Well, you know, it’s great. You get
your exercise, you see a lot of great professionals who are passionate about their housewares from, you
know, the Big Daddies like Hamilton Beach, you know? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. SISSY BIGGERS: Very
well established brand. They give the consumer new entertaining ideas all the time. KATHIE LEE
GIFFORD: Oh, it’s good. A little fondue pot? SISSY BIGGERS: It’s-- it’s-- it’s a fondue. It’s a party crock.
KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh. SISSY BIGGERS: So you can start it on a-- using electricity on a little cook base.
HODA KOTB: Yeah. SISSY BIGGERS: It’s got three different settings so it can be like a little crock pot for
one. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: How sad. SISSY BIGGERS: Or you take it to the party and
you put it on the buffet so you can have your dipping right out there. HODA KOTB: Yeah. And they’re
pretty colors. SISSY BIGGERS: Just on the little, you know, little candle heating implement. So it can go
tailgating, it can go to anywhere. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That’s adorable. HODA KOTB: I love the color.
SISSY BIGGERS: Three colors. Isn’t that? HODA KOTB: Beautiful. SISSY BIGGERS: It’s 59.99. KATHIE LEE
GIFFORD: Darling. SISSY BIGGERS: Their price points are excellent. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA
KOTB: What? SISSY BIGGERS: This is the watermelon tap. I had to show you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD:
What? SISSY BIGGERS: What you’re going to see, you’re going to scoop it out, you’ll puree your
watermelon. HODA KOTB: Yeah. SISSY BIGGERS: And then you’re going to spike it. HODA KOTB: That’s a
lot of spikes. SISSY BIGGERS: Then you’re going to tap it. And then-- can you push that for me? HODA
KOTB: What am I pushing? Which thing? SISSY BIGGERS: There you go. On top. HODA KOTB: Oh. Oh my,
God. SISSY BIGGERS: Now so it’s a wonderful party vessel. It’s 12.99. And, you know, you can also tap a
pumpkin in the fall and do cider, as a little spike cider. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: That is adorable. HODA
KOTB: Cute. SISSY BIGGERS: And it’s got a little feet to keep it stable. It’s just kind of a cute little idea.
HODA KOTB: Oh-oh. SISSY BIGGERS: All right. It’s the Vinnebago. So now you can keep your-- KATHIE LEE
GIFFORD: Vinnebago. SISSY BIGGERS: You can keep your wine cold in the Winnebago for up to twenty-
five hours. HODA KOTB: Really? SISSY BIGGERS: It’s the modern canteen. It’s triple insulation that will
keep things hot for twelve hours and cold for twenty-five. HODA KOTB: Wow. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD:
Wow. Who makes that? HODA KOTB: Great. SISSY BIGGERS: The same people that brought you the
Corkcicle. Remember the corkcicle? HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. SISSY BIGGERS: So you
put-- so the same innovation. HODA KOTB: Is that expensive or? SISSY BIGGERS: It’s about twenty-- it’s
about thirty-nine dollars. HODA KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: Okay. This is the new generation of home
carbonization. This is a smaller footprint. It’s a quieter machine. And the iSODA allows you to bring flat
champagne back to life. HODA KOTB: You’re kidding. SISSY BIGGERS: Soda’s beers. This is-- KATHIE LEE
GIFFORD: Hoda’s going to save a lot of money. SISSY BIGGERS: Exactly. And then this is the mini so you
can have it to go as well. HODA KOTB: That’s so-- quit it. SISSY BIGGERS: Yep. HODA KOTB: How cute.
SISSY BIGGERS: And then you can send it, take it with you wherever you go. And then with the different
flavors, you’ve got a little blood orange soda. HODA KOTB: Sweet. SISSY BIGGERS: Okay. Next up, Joseph
and Joseph. Pick up one of these, would you, Hoda? HODA KOTB: Mm-Mm. SISSY BIGGERS: You fill your
ice tray, then you crack it. HODA KOTB: Right. Mm-Mm. SISSY BIGGERS: Take your top off. And this is
going to be our quick release. HODA KOTB: Take your top off. SISSY BIGGERS: Our quick release, turn it
over. Now watch. It’s got little-- HODA KOTB: What? SISSY BIGGERS: --less little levers-- HODA KOTB:
Oh, my God. SISSY BIGGERS: --that individual, one at a time. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh. HODA KOTB: One
at a time. SISSY BIGGERS: Because there is a trend, you know, when you’re having parties at home, you
want to-- HODA KOTB: Yeah. Go this way. SISSY BIGGERS: You want to have a little activity to impress
people. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s out. SISSY BIGGERS: There you go. HODA KOTB: It’s out. SISSY
BIGGERS: There you go. Perfect. HODA KOTB: Nice. SISSY BIGGERS: But it works-- it-- it’s-- it’s super
easy-- HODA KOTB: Works most of the time. SISSY BIGGERS: --but it’s hard to get ice out of a tray. HODA
KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: All right. Let’s just all have a moment over the egg roller. Can we right here? HODA KOTB: Mm-Mm. What is this? SISSY BIGGERS: It’s the egg roller. HODA KOTB: Mm. SISSY BIGGERS: Ready? HODA KOTB: Yeah. SISSY BIGGERS: By jam. It keeps your eggs fresher. HODA KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: All right. I think it’s Zen. There’s something about it I just love. Okay. Feel this. Feel this. HODA KOTB: Oh, cold. SISSY BIGGERS: It’s a cold-- HODA KOTB: Rolling pin? SISSY BIGGERS: --rolling pin. So now you’ll keep your-- your butter and your-- everything will stay cooler. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, it will rip apart but it will be good. SISSY BIGGERS: And it will be easier to stamp out your cookies with a Lekue-- HODA KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: --which is-- it’s a giant cookie cutter, fifteen cookies in one cookie cutter. HODA KOTB: Instead of going ah, ah, ah, ah, ah. SISSY BIGGERS: Exactly. And it’s also becomes a puzzle. The kids can put it back together. HODA KOTB: Oh, that’s cute. SISSY BIGGERS: It’s a-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Not that they’re eating the cookie. SISSY BIGGERS: It’s a Spanish company. And next up here, this is my favorite mompreneur is this girl right there. She’s from Michigan, Sherri French. It’s the reusable Spbang little-- different ways to carry your-- your snacks and you write your notes on the top. HODA KOTB: Sandwiches and stuff. SISSY BIGGERS: Dishwasher safe, food safe. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And dishwasher. HODA KOTB: Great. SISSY BIGGERS: And she’s just so excited about this product for families. HODA KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: And finally, the see-through toaster. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: So you can see if it’s ready. HODA KOTB: Oh, finally. SISSY BIGGERS: You can see it. It’s got the elevator. It’s got the-- the double up and down with elevator so it will toast on the way down and the way up. It’s automatic because, you know, toasts are in. Are you aware of that? HODA KOTB: Toasts are in? SISSY BIGGERS: Toasts are a trend. The young people are having toast brunches. HODA KOTB: Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: So there’s a little avocado toast in there. Everybody can gather around-- HODA KOTB: All right. Okay. SISSY BIGGERS: --and see how it works. HODA KOTB: All right. Sissy, we love you. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Thank you, Sissy. HODA KOTB: You can call them “The Royals.” Alexander Park and William Moseley are here. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And we’re on a roll. Three great giveaways so far and another one today. Find out if you’re a lucky winner, right after this. Go Donna, go Donna. HODA KOTB: Go Donna. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It’s the new series everybody’s buzzing about. And why wouldn’t they? It’s full of juicy scandals, royal rendezvouses and a slew of gorgeous stars. HODA KOTB: We are talking about E’s very first scripted series called The Royals. Alexandra Park plays the hard-partying Princess Eleanor. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: The slut. HODA KOTB: Yes, she is. While William Moseley plays her-- WILLIAM MOSELEY: That’s a little mean. HODA KOTB: --playboy brother, Prince William. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, so he’s just called a playboy but she-- HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yeah, okay. HODA KOTB: No. He’s a slut, too. ALEXANDRA PARK: Was that on the thing? HODA KOTB: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: No, it wasn’t on the thing. It was in my brain and I said it, okay? HODA KOTB: We made it up. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: The two have it out with their mom, the queen, after some bad behavior at their brother’s funeral. Take a look. (Excerpt from The Royals) HODA KOTB: What! KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You ungrateful kids. WILLIAM MOSELEY: Brats. ALEXANDRA PARK: That was the next line, yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Is that really what she said? WILLIAM MOSELEY: You ungrateful brats. ALEXANDRA PARK: Brats. Yes, that’s the next line. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, this is juicy, this is fun. HODA KOTB: How fun is it to play royals for you two? ALEXANDRA PARK: It’s as fun as it looks. WILLIAM MOSELEY: Being a trip. ALEXANDRA PARK: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But you’ve already done ten episodes-- ALEXANDRA PARK: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --and you’re already picked up for the second season, ten episodes. ALEXANDRA PARK: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You’ve worked, both of you, quite a bit but this is going to make you household names. Your life is about to change. HODA KOTB: This is a big deal. ALEXANDRA PARK: I don’t know. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh, yeah. HODA KOTB:
Now, are you-- are you the one that`s on the front cover of the tabloid flashing the junk. ALEXANDRA PARK: That may have been me. Yes. It was my character. Yeah. WILLIAM MOSELEY: Flashing your junk.

ALEXANDRA PARK: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Yes. HODA KOTB: So when you read the scripts and you see all the antics that go on, are you-- is it fun to play these characters? ALEXANDRA PARK: Oh, yeah. It`s a-- it`s a blast. I mean falling off tables, wearing shoes this high and legs, you know-- with a hundred extras and a crew of fifty, it`s good. You`re like, I-- I like it. It`s good. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You`re a crazy Aussie. What about you? WILLIAM MOSELEY: Yeah. You know, I think we`re-- we`re fortunate that we can play royals on screen and then go home to normal lives. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: It`s a long way from Narnia. WILLIAM MOSELEY: It`s a long way from Narnia. It`s definitely not-- it`s definitely not, you know, what-- what-- what you expect, not something that we want to do. We didn`t want to make this the royal family from, you know, like the current British royal family. HODA KOTB: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Although you are a little bit of Harry. HODA KOTB: Harry, Harry. WILLIAM MOSELEY: I`m a little bit of Harry-- HODA KOTB: Yeah, definitely. WILLIAM MOSELEY: --but it`s-- we`ve taken a lot of liberties and there`s nothing that`s in-- in relation to them at all so-- HODA KOTB: Oh, really? WILLIAM MOSELEY: --we can have a lot of-- a lot of fun. HODA KOTB: Yeah, we know that. What about Elizabeth Hurley? What about her? ALEXANDRA PARK: What about her? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: What about her? ALEXANDRA PARK: What about her? KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We had her here last week-- this week, this past week. HODA KOTB: We loved her. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We loved her. WILLIAM MOSELEY: She is so cool. ALEXANDRA PARK: She is-- like she`s literally the coolest person on planet. WILLIAM MOSELEY: She is a badass. ALEXANDRA PARK: Every time I see her, it`s like, we have to take a minute just like oh she-- HODA KOTB: Just soak it all in? ALEXANDRA PARK: Because she`s just so like electric to look at and she`s just really funny. Like she`s-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And Joan Collins plays her mother, right? ALEXANDRA PARK: Yeah. WILLIAM MOSELEY: That`s right. ALEXANDRA PARK: Yeah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Oh my Gosh. I hope they get down and dirty at some point. HODA KOTB: Is this going to be-- WILLIAM MOSELEY: Get down and dirty? HODA KOTB: Yes. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Well, like-- like the old fights that Joan used to have-- WILLIAM MOSELEY: Oh, right, right, right, right. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: --on that show. (Cross talking) ALEXANDRA PARK: They might. Stay tuned. HODA KOTB: They might? Now is it going to be as big in England, do you think, as it is going to be here? WILLIAM MOSELEY: You know, that`s a very good question. We-- we in England-- we in England are going to be very careful about where this, where this goes. You know, I mean, obviously we`re-- we`re airing on E! in the U.K. So it`s a similar-- similar market, similar demographic. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And they get the Kard-- Kardashians lead-in. WILLIAM MOSELEY: We`ve the Kardashians, but we have to be-- we have to-- we have to just wait for the English response. HODA KOTB: All right, well, we look forward to this, you guys. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: You guys are adorable. HODA KOTB: So sweet. A lot of fun, you guys. WILLIAM MOSELEY: Thank you so much. ALEXANDRA PARK: Thank you. HODA KOTB: Good luck on Sunday night. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: When does it premier, Hod? HODA KOTB: It premiers, you guys, set your DVRs and things. Sunday night, ten o`clock, nine Central on our sister network, E! KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: All right, here`s something that might be music to your ears. HODA KOTB: We are going to give it away. Five lucky fans are about to win a special prize. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: But first, this is TODAY on NBC. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) HODA KOTB: Okay. It is time for us to give it away. Every Friday five lucky viewers are going to win a special prize. Nearly eleven thousand people entered and this week`s prize is incredible. It is a McCarthy illuminating piano. It is available exclusively at McCarthy piano.com for four hundred and ninety-nine dollars. You guys, it is crazy. You can learn how to play the piano because it lights up. All right, you just load in the free software onto your iPad or Windows device like we`ve done here. And you`ll see how the music should be played and how it should
sound. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And turned it off. HODA KOTB: So, okay. See, but it’s very cool. All right, so now we’re coming, okay now we’re going to pick the people. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: I always thought cheerleading was more important than learning how to play the piano. HODA KOTB: By the way-- KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Stupid. HODA KOTB: --it is awesome. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Come on, Hoda, we’re going out of time. HODA KOTB: Okay. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay. HODA KOTB: Okay, I want that piano thing. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Okay, I do too. HODA KOTB: Go. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Betty Harvey (ph), Albuquerque, New Mexico. HODA KOTB: And Felicia Chan (ph) from Salt Lake City, Utah. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And Glen Waleska (ph) from Warrington, Virginia. HODA KOTB: And Brenda Gore (ph), congrats, from Centreville, Virginia. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: And our last one, Sue Davenport (ph) from Harden, Kentucky. Congratulations. HODA KOTB: You guys, you got a great, great, great prize. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: This is fantastic. And if you didn’t get lucky today, make sure you enter again for next week’s prize. HODA KOTB: For complete rules on how to enter, go to klgandhoda.com and hit the connect button. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Why are we rushing? HODA KOTB: I don’t know. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Next week, Cybill Shepherd-- HODA KOTB: Namaste. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Rita Wilson, Frankie Valli and Eugene Levy. HODA KOTB: Frankie Valli and Eugene Levy. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We love him. HODA KOTB: We’re also going to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with a chef straight from Dublin. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: Have a great weekend, everybody. HODA KOTB: Excuse me. I have to go over here. KATHIE LEE GIFFORD: We got to practice."

Source Title: BTN

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.86
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 785037
Article Title: SHOW: All Things Considered 08:00 PM EST Supreme Court Considers Trademark Battle Over Band Name ANCHORS: Nina Totenberg"

Date: 1/18/2017

Article Content: ROBERT SIEGEL: The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments today in a case brought by an Asian-American rock group that calls itself The Slants. The group is challenging the 1946 trademark law which bars the government from registering trademarks that disparage individuals or groups. NPR legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg reports. NINA TOTENBERG: The band members acknowledge that the name they picked for their group is viewed as offensive and racist by many Asian-Americans. But they say they’re seeking to reclaim the term and make it something positive. Simon Tam is the group’s bass player. SIMON TAM: We fought this case for nearly eight years now because we want to prevent the government from discrimination based on viewpoint. NINA TOTENBERG: The band members acknowledge that the name they picked for their group is viewed as offensive and racist by many Asian-Americans. But they say they’re seeking to reclaim the term and make it something positive. 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But they say they’re seeking to reclaim the term and make it something positive. Simon Tam is the group’s bass pla
give its imprimatur to with a trademark registration that's published throughout the world. Justice Kennedy - but to ignore the fact that we have a culture in which we have T-shirts and logos and rock bands and so forth that are expressing a point of view - Justice Breyer - the government is saying, you can say something nice about a minority group, but you can't say something bad about them. The government's Stewart replied that the function of a trademark is to tell the public the source of the goods or services. It's not expressive in its own right, he said. And while most trademarks seek in some way to advertise or promote, Congress justifiably barred disparaging marks. Justice Kagan - I can say all politicians are virtuous, but I can't say all politicians are corrupt? Why is that not viewpoint discrimination? It's not that simple, replied Stewart. Here, Congress reasonably barred registering disparaging trademarks in the same way that a public university might set aside a room for students to post messages as long as those messages contain no racial epithets or personal attacks. Justice Kennedy, caustically - so the government is the omnipresent schoolteacher. Is that what you're saying? Moments later, The Slants lawyer, John Connell, also found himself facing a barrage of hostile questions. Justice Kennedy - what if this band were non-Asians, wore makeup to exaggerate slanted eyes and made fun of Asians? Could the government decline to register that as a trademark in your view? Answer - they could not. Justice Sotomayor - but you're asking the government to endorse these names with a trademark registration. Justice Breyer - do you believe the government can stop trademarks from saying Joe Jones is a jerk? Answer - they could not stop that. Justice Breyer, incredulous - so they could not stop a trademark that says Smith's beer is poison? They could not. Justice Breyer - my goodness, there are laws all over the place that stop you from saying that. Justice Ginsburg - could the government refused to register a trademark using one of George Carlin's seven dirty words? No, replied lawyer Connell. That would be a burden on speech. Ginsburg - even though this court said it was OK to ban those words from the airwaves? Justice Alito - you say the expressive and commercial aspects of the trademark are intertwined. If that's true, could the government ban cigarette manufacturers from putting a message on the packages saying great for your health; don't believe the surgeon general? Lawyer Connell seemed to suggest such a message ban would be unconstitutional. At the end of the day, viewing the argument as a whole, one could only say it was schizophrenic. Nina Totenberg, NPR News, Washington."

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Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.82

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ArticleID: 20153

Article Title: Big district has sprawl of hopefuls"

Date: 5/25/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Six candidates from a wide range of backgrounds seek to represent the new 28th state Senate District. They are perhaps as diverse as the huge territory they hope to represent. One candidate for Riverside County's sprawling 28th Senate District is a former Sacramento lawmaker. Another candidate is a sitting Riverside County supervisor and pharmacy owner. Still another is an Indio councilman. Then there's the social activist from the former country of Yugoslavia who works as a registered nurse, a businessman who believes California has too many laws and a lawyer who wants to
save the Salton Sea. In a campaign without an incumbent that has been marked by acrimonious rhetoric, they are contending to become the first senator from a redrawn district that spreads from one end of Riverside County to the other - from the Orange County line to the Colorado River. The top two vote-getters in the June 3 primary election, regardless of party affiliation, will move on to the November general election. Within the district's boundaries lie the I-15 corridor cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar and Lake Elsinore, as well as the Temescal Valley area. It includes Winchester, Diamond Valley Lake and Idyllwild, then stretches to the Coachella Valley cities of Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage and Indio. It is a place of forested mountains, sandy deserts, world-class golf courses, highly productive farm fields and the verdant Temecula Valley Wine Country. And it is the home of the Salton Sea, the salty body of water that has been deteriorating in recent years. It is precisely because of the huge inland lake's plight that La Quinta lawyer Philip Drucker decided to enter the fray. Drucker moved to the Coachella Valley in late 2011. “I wanted to see the Salton Sea,” he said. “And people were telling me, 'You might be disappointed.'” He was. Drucker won't get an argument from opponents on that issue. For example, businessman Bill Carns of Palm Desert said he believes restoration is long overdue. Carns said he knows people who used to ski on the lake. But in the wake of its decline, that was many years ago. “I've probably flown over the Salton Sea 500 times,” said Carns, who has been flying small planes since 1997. “And I've never seen a boat on it.” Carns is one of four Republicans in the race. The others are former Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia of Palm Desert, Indio Councilman Glenn Miller and Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone of Temecula. There are two Democrats - Drucker and activist Anna Nevenic of Palm Springs. The GOP enjoys a 10 percentage-point voter registration advantage. Nearly 43 percent of registered voters are Republicans, while 33 percent are Democrats. Half of the candidates have government experience. Garcia cites her six years in the state Assembly and four years as housing director for the city of Coachella. Stone touts his dozen years on the Temecula City Council and nine-plus years on the county board, which recently adopted his vision to expand Wine Country. Miller notes his nearly six years on the Indio council. Garcia is a consultant, Stone is a pharmacist and Miller is executive director for The First Tee of the Coachella Valley, a youth development program. Nevenic is a registered nurse, author and founder of an advocacy group called United Children's Network. In 2004, she published a 231-page paperback titled, “Out of the Shadows: American Women Who Changed the World.” “I believe I could make a difference as an elected official because I'm not interested in jumping from one office to another,” Nevenic said. Carns said lawmakers often are distracted by their preoccupation with keeping political jobs. The owner of a business called Moonlighting Appliance Repair said he would not be. “My concern would be to fix problems,” he said. Carns said he does not have a long list of prospective bills. “I'm thinking more about getting rid of legislation. I tried to download California laws on my computer the other day and it just crashed the computer,” he said. Still, some say government experience is important - especially for Republicans who would encounter a political environment dominated by Democrats. Miller, for example, said his service on the SunLine Transit Agency bus board, which he chairs, would help. “I've worked across the aisle in the local setting to make things happen,” he said. Garcia would lean on her experience in the Assembly. “I got many things accomplished when I was in the Legislature because I understand it's not about getting credit, it's about advancing good public policy,” she said. Candidates agree on the need to stimulate the still-slowly recovering regional economy. Stone said he intends to introduce legislation to reduce corporate and income taxes, with the goal of halting what he terms the mass exodus of jobs-rich companies to low-tax states such as Texas. “Pretty soon you're not going to have anybody left (in California) except people who are on welfare,” Stone said. He added he would set strict time limits for
receiving welfare assistance and require that recipients prove that they are searching for work and not just living off of the state. “I'm going to reform welfare,” Stone said. Miller would help entrepreneurs. “You're going to have to give them some tax incentives because most businesses fail at the very start,” Miller said. “We've got to get them over that hump.” Miller would build on the district's diverse economy, highlighted by agriculture, golfing, health care, Wine Country and renewable energy. “You've got all kinds of opportunities to create jobs,” he said. Garcia advocates hiring credits for startup companies, with an extra reward for those that hire veterans. And she said she would ease the burden on college students who take out loans, “so that our kids don't become indentured servants.” She said she would eliminate a rule that requires a student to pay back a loan in full when a parent dies. Nevenic said she would propose a tax increase on alcohol sales. She said she would earmark proceeds for health and education. But said she would draw the line against increases in tobacco taxes, which she says unfairly burden less-affluent Californians. Nevenic also would draw the line against more state penitentiaries. “We are going to have to stop the madness and not build any more prisons, and use the money for the things that we need,” she said, emphasizing the importance of rehabilitation. Miller agreed rehabilitation is important, but said the state must reimburse local law enforcement, jails and courts for realignment impacts. Realignment is a controversial program that shifted state inmates to county lockups in response to a court order to thin out the prison population. It has overwhelmed jails and triggered early releases. “What's happening is we're letting dangerous criminals out in our neighborhoods,” Stone said. “And sooner or later there is going to be a terrible tragedy.” Some candidates oppose Gov. Jerry Brown's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta canal. “I just don't think it works at all,” said Drucker. “The problem is you're draining the estuary.” Drucker said California instead should boost water supplies through continued conservation, ramped-up use of recycled water and a shift to less-thirsty crops. Garcia said reservoirs are needed. “We need to conserve. We need to reclaim and recycle. And we need to store,” she said. Drucker would tax California oil production and ban fracking, the practice of extracting oil and gas by injecting water and chemicals into the ground. “Fracking is going to do great harm to the environment,” he said. 951-368-9699 or ddowney@pe.com

Source Title: News

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 428393

Article Title: Aiming for “consumer friendly” state stores in face of privatization battle"

Date: 10/25/2015

Article Content: Charlie Mooney had his white notebook binder with him, complete with a revenue analysis chart. Mooney is not a high-flying CEO, or a bean counter from Wall Street. He is director of retail operations at the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, which runs the 604 Fine Wine and Good Spirits stores in the state. State stores have long been despised for limited selection, high prices, and poor service. But Mooney uses such terms as “rebranding” and “consumer-friendly” in describing the state's effort since 2010 to revamp the stores to boost sales and fend off privatization, which continues to be a goal of the GOP-run legislature. As he spoke, he gave a tour of the redesigned store at the
Ardmore Plaza Shopping Center on the Main Line. The store was clean, bright and airy. Selling alcohol has become big business for the state. Sales for fiscal year 2014-15 (ending June 30) were $2.34 billion, up from $2.24 billion in 2013-14. Of the 604 stores, 102 have been renovated, or moved and reopened with a new design that includes a central table for tasting, wider aisles, new tile flooring, and better lighting. Mooney said the idea was to move more isolated stores to high-traffic areas, such as supermarkets and shopping centers. The store in New Hope was the first to undergo a redesign in 2010. The one in Ardmore is among the biggest at 14,716 square feet, carrying 7,500 bottles. It reopened June 1 after a redesign. “The feedback has been tremendous,” Mooney said. The stores still offer the Chairman’s Selection - premium wines that sell well because they offer deep discounts. “We can do that since we buy in mass volume and can pass the savings on” to customers, said Rob Peters, one of two full-time retail wine specialists at the Ardmore store. For example, last week a bottle of 2011 Cascina Chicco Rocche di Castelletto, Barolo from Piedmont, Italy, was selling for $29.99, down from the $60 retail price. Pennsylvania is one of 17 states, along with two Maryland counties, that oversee the sale of alcohol. But Pennsylvania and Utah are the only two that exert full control over all alcohol sales. Why? “To make revenue,” Mooney said. “We offer convenience and an inviting retail atmosphere. It’s easier to shop.” Outside observers say privatization would likely mean more stores and more convenience. Stephen Miskin, spokesman for the House Republican Caucus, also noted that the legislature passed a privatization bill this year that Gov. Wolf vetoed over the summer. “They rebranded?” Miskin asked. “If that’s the case, they spent public dollars that I don’t think people have even noticed. It’s still the gulag-state store system, and there’s nothing anybody can do to change that. Some PLCB state store prices are better than in neighboring states, but most [prices] are still higher, and the selection is not as extensive, which is another reason for the state to get out of the business.” Rebranding makes alcohol more appealing and leads to more consumption and more public health problems, said Lucy Dadayan, senior policy analyst at the Rockefeller Institute of Government in Albany, N.Y., which analyzes state spending. “In general, sin taxes are regressive taxes and reliance on any kind - be it gambling, alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana - is not a good public policy choice, no matter how much tax revenues those industries generate,” she said. “Sin taxes are not a long-term solution to budgetary problems.” Mooney responded by stressing what the liquor sales revenue pays for. Since it was created in 1933 at the end of Prohibition, the PLCB has contributed nearly $14 billion to the state treasury, according to his chart. For fiscal year 2013-2014, it returned $525.8 million to the state treasury. It provided nearly $25 million for enforcing liquor laws, and $2.5 million to prevent alcohol abuse. The PLCB also returned $8.3 million in local sales tax to Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties. The state liquor stores are leased from private landlords. The PLCB has worked with them in the redesign effort. Besides stocking the shelves, the board supplies staff for the stores. It regulates more than 15,000 retail licensees, including restaurants, taverns and hotels, and more than 1,200 wholesale licensees. Four new stores will open in the next six months: in King of Prussia, Chestnut Street in Center City, Glen Mills, and Doylestown. The store in Center City is moving from its current site at 11th and Chestnut Streets to a larger space at 12th and Chestnut. Franco Stefanatto, is a regular at the Ardmore store, where he stops weekly to stock up for La Locanda, an Italian restaurant in Newtown Square that he co-owns. “The staff is very knowledgeable here,” he said during a big buy last week. That same afternoon, customer Matthew Floyd, 48, of Havertown, who works for a software company, participated in a wine tasting session held every Friday from 4 to 6 p.m., behind the new table. “It certainly feels nice in here,” Floyd said, as he grabbed a small plastic cup filled with Cune 2009, Rioja Vina Real Crianza, made in Spain. Store price for the bottle was $16.99. sparmley@phillynews.com 215-854-4184"
Ed Miliband will today set out his plans to end the scandal of haphazard home care for the elderly which robs hundreds of thousands of help, support and dignity. Speaking in Trafford – where the first NHS hospital was opened in 1948 – the Labour Leader will announce a 10-year plan to rescue the health service. And, warning that the NHS faces its “most perilous moment” if the Tories win power in May, he will say: “When you look at his record for the last five years and his plan for the next five years, you know David Cameron can’t be trusted with our NHS.” At the heart of plans he announces today will be help to ensure the elderly are not alone or living in cold homes, the recruitment of 5,000 more NHS home care workers and an end to penny-pinching 15-minute home care slots. The promises come after a recent report by Age UK found half of the one million elderly people who struggle to wash or bathe get no help at all. PA Prime Minister David Cameron meets apprentices during a visit to Martin’s Rubber in Southampton And many who do get support only receive 15 minutes of home care a day in three-quarters of councils in England. Mr Miliband would introduce a “year of care” budgets for health and social care. This will encourage councils to provide decent home care – as budgets will be cut if they keep an elderly person in hospital who could be discharged. Labour will also create “a new arm of the NHS” by hiring an additional 5,000 home care workers to offer help to those leaving hospital and to allow the terminally ill to spend their last days with their families. And all vulnerable older people will be offered a “safety check” to see if they are at risk of loneliness or cold homes. Other elements of the plan include the recruitment of 20,000 more nurses, 8,000 GPs and 3,000 midwives – paid for by a mansion tax and levy on tobacco firms. He will also promise more investment in mental health, a public health drive to tackle Britain’s addiction to junk food and drink and a guarantee of a GP appointment in 48 hours. Labour will restore the values of the NHS by repealing the Health and Social Care Act that has allowed the creeping privatisation of health services. PA Hospital visit: Labour leader Ed Miliband (centre) and shadow health secretary Andy Burnham (second left) Mr Miliband will say: “David Cameron puts the wrong values at the heart of our NHS and he just won’t put the right resources into our NHS.” “That means you will wait longer and longer for care, or be forced to go private if you want timely treatment, as more services are hived off to private firms. “One of our country’s most precious institutions faces its most perilous moment in a generation. The future of our NHS is at stake in this general election. “When people can’t get to see their GP, they end up in A&E. When problems with mental health aren’t spotted early, they build up and people end up in hospital. “When elderly people can’t get the care they need at home, they are more likely to grow ill or have a fall and end up in hospital. “In every case, it is worse for the person involved and it costs the NHS more too.” In a boost for the Daily Mirror’s Respect Our Elderly campaign, Mr Miliband also pledged to end zero hours contracts for care workers. He said such contracts exploit staff, who are often not paid between visits, and drive down standards of care. The Mirror is demanding proper training and fairer pay for Britain’s 1.2 million
carers and care workers as well as an end to abuse and neglect in care homes. Recent polls show the issue is on the list of people’s main concerns when it comes to voting at the general election. Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham said the plans would “re-set” the NHS for the 21st century. He said he wanted a service that supported people with dementia, autism and mental ill health as well as it treated cancer patients. He said: “I have long warned, if social care is allowed to collapse, it will drag down the rest of the NHS.” But a Tory spokesman said: “We know Ed Miliband says in private he needs to ‘weaponise’ the NHS for political gain. But he has no economic plan. Only by sticking to our long-term plan will we build a stronger economy, meaning a stronger NHS.” Tories use loophole to fund election campaign The Tories are exploiting a loophole so taxpayers foot the bill for their election campaigning, it was revealed yesterday. David Cameron yesterday made a nakedly political speech to party activists in Bursledon, Hants, but made a brief stop at a nearby rubber factory on “government business”. That meant the public paid for the trip to the south coast – saving Tory cash for the tense run-in to polling day on May 7. A Downing Street spokeswoman confirmed last night: “On days where there is Government business as part of the PM’s programme, the costs are met by the Government.” Last week the Tory leader made a campaign speech in Ipswich about full employment, followed by a visit to a jewellery factory in Norwich. It is thought the factory trip was deemed government business – so taxpayers paid for the journey to East Anglia. At the same time, Mr Cameron is refusing to commit to live TV debates where he could address a wider audience without cost to the taxpayer. His latest ploy is to suggest Northern Ireland party chiefs should take part too. This was highlighted by the Mirror Chicken, who swooped on Mr Cameron’s campaign visit to Bursledon, Hants. But Mr Cameron slipped out of the back door to avoid our bird. One pin-striped flunky sniped sarcastically: “Shame you missed him.” Mirror Chicken talks to one hard up Mum from Southampton "

Source Title: Web

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 670667

Article Title: Debt-Ridden Greece Passes Bill Reforming Pensions and Taxes"

Date: 5/9/2016

Article Content: (ATHENS) — Greece’s Parliament in a narrow vote has approved a bill reforming the debt-ridden country’s pension and tax systems. The bill, introduced as part of the requirements the country must meet under its third international bailout, is set to increase social security and pension contributions, and raise taxes for most people. The bill was approved by the 153 lawmakers of the ruling Syriza/Independent Greeks government coalition in an early Monday vote. All opposition parties in the 300-member Parliament voted against it. The vote took place amid a crippling general strike and protests that briefly turned violent Sunday. The government now expects that its creditors, which include the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the European Stability Mechanism and the International Monetary Fund, will move to lighten its debt burden, and that this will dominate the agenda of a meeting of the EU finance ministers in Monday’s Eurogroup. But the creditors themselves, with the notable exception of the IMF, are against forgiving part of Greece’s massive debt. At most, they
appear willing to discuss cutting the higher interest rates that will prevail after 2022 and lengthening the repayment period. All of the creditors have put pressure on Greece for further austerity measures costing billions of dollars, including ones that would kick in automatically should Greece fail to achieve agreed levels of a primary budget surplus in 2018. For the government, which had hoped to divide the creditors to achieve more favorable terms and be excused from further austerity measures, the latest vote will not be the last. Already, a new bill is being prepared, calling for higher taxes on a range of products, from tobacco to beer to broadband Internet connections. This bill is expected to pass later in the month. Talks on further reforms as part of the country’s third bailout have been dragging on for more than six months, delaying payouts of vital bailout loans. The opposition unanimously blasted the added taxes and the government’s record in failing to revive the economy, now in its eighth year of recession and its seventh under creditor-mandated austerity. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and his ministers defended their plans, saying things were worse when the opposition was ruling the country, and that taxes were better than spending cuts, and that they were trying to root out corruption and entanglements with powerful business interests. “You say you want spending cuts, but you don’t dare name them,” Tsipras told the opposition. Tsipras and Labor Minister George Katrougalos, who introduced the bill, said that social security contributions would decline for many self-employed professionals, with Katrougalos adding the bill’s provisions showed the way forward for social policy in a Europe dominated by pro-market “neoliberals.” The bill was condemned by all major unions and professional associations. The latter, including engineers and doctors, warned that lawmakers who are also members of those associations will face disciplinary action and possible expulsion if they voted for the bill. Tsipras is a member of an engineers’ association. A peaceful protest rally outside Parliament, in which over 10,000 people, mostly pro-communist unionists, attended, was disrupted Sunday evening by a handful of anarchists. The anarchists attacked riot police with firebombs and other projectiles. The police responded with stun grenades and blasts of tear gas that drove away everyone assembled outside Parliament. Police detained nine people in connection with the clashes. In the northern city of Thessaloniki, Greece’s second largest, anarchists hurled firebombs at police guarding the local offices of the ruling Syriza party. Police used tear gas and chased the rioters through the streets in central Thessaloniki but made no arrests. ___ Theodora Tongas, in Athens, and Costas Kantouris, in Thessaloniki, contributed to this report. "

Source Title: Web

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 715377

Article Title: More Small, Midsized Firms Opt to Pay Workers' Medical Costs Directly | US News"

Date: 8/12/2016

Article Content: Instead of buying a health insurance policy to cover their workers, a growing number of small and midsized companies are opting to pay their employees’ medical claims directly, a potentially riskier practice financially called self-insuring, a recent study found. Between 2013 and 2015, the proportion of midsized companies with 100 to 499 employees that were self-insured increased 19
percent, to 30.1 percent, according to the analysis published in July by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. The percentage of small firms with fewer than 100 employees that self-funded their health plans grew 7 percent, to 14.2 percent, the study found. Meanwhile, self-funding by large companies declined slightly, to 80.4 percent. For the study, researchers analyzed survey data from nearly 40,000 employers that participated in the U.S. Census Bureau’s Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Insurance/Employer Component. “The expectation was the Affordable Care Act would drive more midsized and smaller employers in this direction,” said Paul Fronstin, director of EBRI’s health research and education program. “I think it’s interesting that what we expected to see is finally showing up.”

Starting in 2014, the health law imposed new coverage and cost requirements on health plans. But some of the changes don’t apply to companies that self-fund. For example, policies sold to companies in the small group market — in most states, defined as companies with fewer than 50 workers — are required to cover 10 so-called essential health benefits and are restricted in how much they can raise premiums based on age or tobacco use. Self-funded plans don’t have to comply with those requirements. They also avoid most federal and state taxes on health plan premiums to health insurers. Most large companies self-fund their health plans rather than buy policies from insurers. Doing so gives them more flexibility to tailor their benefits for their workforce, and to reduce their total outlay because they don’t have to absorb marketing and other costs that are built into health insurers’ products. (For workers, the coverage generally appears no different whether a company self-insures or buys insurance.) But any savings a company might achieve come with financial risks. Employers that self-fund typically buy stop-loss insurance to protect them if employees have higher-than-expected health care claims. But such coverage isn’t guaranteed and may only be available to firms with healthier employees, said John Arensmeyer, CEO of the Small Business Majority, an advocacy group that focuses on companies with fewer than 100 workers. “Our concern is, is it really appropriate for a business of that size to be taking the risk?” Arensmeyer said. “They’re simply taking themselves out of the rules of the ACA, creating an imbalance in the market.” Michelle Andrews wrote this article for Kaiser Health News (KHN), a nonprofit national health policy news service. It has been reprinted with permission.

Source Title: Web

Policy – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 73004

Article Title: Greece seeks 'happy ending' as creditors mull loan deal - Business Insider'

Date: 3/29/2015

Article Content: © AFP/File Louisa GouliamakiGreek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras hopes EU talks on Greek debt will yield a “happy ending”Athens (AFP) - Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said in remarks published Sunday he hoped key talks with international creditors would yield a “happy ending” in the standoff over the country’s crippling debt crisis. Athens is set to present a list of economic reform proposals to international creditors this week in a bid to unblock a new 7.2 billion euro ($7.8 billion) tranche of EU-IMF loans and avoid a debt default. “I am confident there will be a happy ending soon to this first phase of the negotiations, and to normalising the situation,” said Tsipras, whose anti-austerity
Syriza party took power two months ago. Tsipras' remarks came after Germany’s Bundesbank chief Jens Weidmann said Friday he opposed giving Greece any more emergency loans, accusing it of frittering away trust. European paymaster Germany has been leading the push for austerity in Europe, with Greece complaining that the punishing budget cuts demanded were damaging its economy and threatening to force it out of the eurozone. - Seeking 'sincere compromise' - “There are powers (in Europe) which have specific interests and which want a rupture,” Tsipras said in the interview published by weekly newspaper Realnews. “But there are also powers -- which will prevail -- seeking a sincere and honest compromise,” he added, appealing for a decision not to be made “by economists and technocrats alone”. “I can't believe democratic Europe would choose the path (of a Greek eurozone exit),” said Tsipras, who met German Chancellor Angela Merkel last week. Ratings agency Fitch cut Greece's credit rating Friday to “CCC” -- meaning debt default was a “real possibility” -- but said nevertheless it expected Athens would survive its cash squeeze. Experts from Greece, the IMF and several EU bodies on Saturday began scrutinising a list of proposed reforms that Athens says would raise an extra three billion euros for government coffers without resorting to wage and pension cuts. Tsipras' government has proposed higher taxes for the rich, as well as measures to tackle tax evasion and illegal fuel and cigarette smuggling. “The discussions continued on Sunday in a good atmosphere,” a Greek government statement said, adding that “an agreement has been reached about policies targeting the high-income bracket”. A government document said the planned measures would also see the Greek economy grow 1.4 percent this year. The Greek cabinet is set to meet later on Sunday to discuss progress at the talks. - 'On edge of chaos' - Reducing Greece’s debt -- which in 2014 reached 176 percent of national output -- is among Syriza's main priorities. Since 2010, Athens has received two successive loans from the EU and the IMF totalling 240 billion euros ($260 billion) in exchange for draconian austerity measures. Greece is also looking to China to boost its finances. Beijing is set to buy 67 percent of the Greek state's shares in Piraeus Port, one of Europe's biggest container ports. “Greece is now teetering on the edge of chaos with the population withholding tax payments and withdrawing money from the banks --- and the possibility of Greece leaving the eurozone, which... would be an utter economic disaster for Greece,” chief UniCredit economist Erik F. Nielsen warned. But he said Germany may not ultimately block the new loan, citing its “inherent commitment to Europe”. 

Source Title: Web

E-cigarette texts

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_pol”.

Policy – Ecig – MPM – AP 1

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 637036

Article Title: Health officials say Oklahoma smoking rate keeps dropping

Date: 11/3/2015
Article Content: DATELINE: OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - State health officials say Oklahoma's adult smoking rate is continuing to decline, dropping nearly 20 percent over the past four years to a new all-time low. Survey results released Tuesday by the Oklahoma State Department of Health show the number of Oklahomans who smoke dropped to 21 percent in 2014, the state's lowest rate ever. The decline moved Oklahoma's ranking from 46th out of 50 states in 2013 to 40th last year. The department's Commissioner Terry Cline says he's pleased with the news but troubled that more than 600,000 Oklahoma adults are addicted to cigarettes. He also expressed concern over survey results that show more than 7 percent of Oklahoma residents are using electronic cigarettes, which use a heating element to convert nicotine into an inhalable water vapor."

Source Title: AP

Policy – Ecig – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 635298

Article Title: Gov't bans e-cigarettes in airline passengers' checked bags"

Date: 10/26/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: WASHINGTON WASHINGTON (AP) - A new federal rule forbids airline passengers from packing electronic cigarettes or other battery-operated electronic smoking devices in their checked bags to protect against in-flight fires. The rule still allows e-cigarettes in carry-on bags, but passengers cannot recharge the devices while on the plane. The Department of Transportation said there have been at least 26 incidents since 2009 in which e-cigarettes that have caused explosions or fires, including several in which the devices were packed in luggage. Usually, they have been accidentally left on or the battery short-circuits. At Los Angeles International Airport in January, a checked bag that arrived late and missed its connecting flight caught fire in the luggage area due to an overheated e-cigarette packed inside. The rule goes into effect within the next two weeks."

Source Title: AP

Policy – Ecig – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 31601

Article Title: SHOW: TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST Angie Harmon has spent most of her life in front of the camera"

Date: 6/17/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: She began modeling as a child and then she went on to acting, eventually landing a leading role as assistant district attorney Abbie Carmichael on Law & Order. NATALIE MORALES: Angie Harmon has spent most of her life in front of the camera. She began modeling as a child and then she went on to acting, eventually landing a leading role as assistant district attorney
Abbie Carmichael on Law & Order. TAMRON HALL: Now, Angie’s returning for a fifth season of her popular TV show Rizzoli & Isles where she plays Jane Rizzoli, a Boston police detective who’s now expecting a baby. (Excerpt from Rizzoli & Isles) TAMRON HALL: And Angie is with us. Good morning. Good to see you. ANGIE HARMON (Rizzoli & Isles): Good morning. Thank you for having me. TAMRON HALL: Okay. Your character is expecting a baby. You have three daughters. ANGIE HARMON: I do. TAMRON HALL: So we have to out you as a little mix fan. ANGIE HARMON: It was embarrassing.

TAMRON HALL: Okay. When they were performing, tell us what happened. ANGIE HARMON: Okay, so we walked in and they were standing there and they hadn’t started performing yet. And we thought, oh, are those girls lovely and we walked into the dressing room, which is quite away, there’s a couple of flight of stairs and revolving door. NATALIE MORALES: Hm. ANGIE HARMON: And I got all the way into the dressing room. And they started singing Wings and I went, oh, my God and grabbed my phone and to ok off running. And look, oh, my God. There it is. Look. TAMRON HALL: We’ve got a picture. NATALIE MORALES: And you’ve got your picture. ANGIE HARMON: And my entire team, they’re like following me with like, bags, and my purse. Why are we running? Where are we going? What’s happening? She’s running again. What? I mean, like I literally got up on stage with them. It’s-- it’s embarrassing. NATALIE MORALES: Are you a fan because of your daughters then? ANGIE HARMON: I apologized. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. ANGIE HARMON: Yes. Absolutely. I mean, I’ve already sent the video to them. They’re in L.A., they’re not even awake yet. So they’re going to wake up to Wings and mommy on stage. TAMRON HALL: And say we have the coolest mom. ANGIE HARMON: I hope so. I hope so. TAMRON HALL: Coolest mom. NATALIE MORALES: Mom points there on that one. ANGIE HARMON: Yes. I really hope so. NATALIE MORALES: So this is the fifth season of Rizzoli & Isles. ANGIE HARMON: Fifth season. NATALIE MORALES: And the show just seems to be catching on even more and more. ANGIE HARMON: Oh, thank you. NATALIE MORALES: And why do you think it struck such a chord? ANGIE HARMON: Well, you know what? I mean, I think it’s a lot to do like for example with, you know, this lovely group of girls, this band here. NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. ANGIE HARMON: I mean it’s-- it’s all about, you know, friendship and girl power. And, you know, yes it’s a crime drama, but we also get to see into the background of all these characters. I mean, we have amazing actors. You know, this season, season five isn’t, you know, just about Jane and Maura anymore. I mean, we have Lorraine Bracco. We’ve got Bruce McGill. NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. ANGIE HARMON: You know, Jordan Bridges. I mean that’s third generation Bridges, right? TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Amazing. ANGIE HARMON: I mean this is-- this is just a talented, talented cast. And this season we really do sort of explore their backgrounds and their stories and things like that. I mean, yes, obviously, Jane is pregnant. I guess cat’s out of the bag on that one now. TAMRON HALL: Oh-Oh. ANGIE HARMON: Tune in. NATALIE MORALES: Well, I supposed the hormones are flaring. ANGIE HARMON: Yeah. No, no. What do you mean? But-- and I’m the worst because I never like to tell anything. Like literally we’ll do interviews, and can you tell us what’s coming up for season five? I’m like, no. TAMRON HALL: No. You need to watch. ANGIE HARMON: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: You’re going to watch the show. ANGIE HARMON: It’s like a roller roaster. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. I love that. ANGIE HARMON: If I tell you that there’s a hair pin turn coming then it’s on its spot. NATALIE MORALES: When you shoot them in advance, I imagine too. So it’s hard to, you know, know how much-- ANGIE HARMON: We’ve been-- NATALIE MORALES: --the viewers have seen and not giving away too much. ANGIE HARMON: We’ve been shooting since-- since February, yes. So, you know, I know what’s coming-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. ANGIE HARMON: --and I think it’s an amazing season. And it’s-- it’s-- it’s by far my favorite season. It’s-- TAMRON HALL: Well, fans love the show so much. ANGIE HARMON: Thank you. TAMRON HALL: And in addition to being obviously an
amazing actress, fantastic mom,-- ANGIE HARMON: Oh, thank you. TAMRON HALL: --you are consistently rated one of the most beautiful women. NATALIE MORALES: You are. TAMRON HALL: You are. ANGIE HARMON: Oh, thank you. TAMRON HALL: You’re a knockout. Your voice-- ANGIE HARMON: Thank you very much. TAMRON HALL: --the total package. ANGIE HARMON: Thank you. TAMRON HALL: So recently back in February,-- ANGIE HARMON: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Meatloaf was on the show. ANGIE HARMON: Yes. TAMRON HALL: And brace yourself for what happened when he was asked about his crush. NATALIE MORALES: I love this. ANGIE HARMON: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Take a look. Take a look. MEATLOAF: Well, I have a crush on an actress named Angie Harmon. And I have since she was on Law & Order. And the main reason is because she’s married to Jason Sehorn, ex defensive back for the New York Giants. So you see, I love football. TAMRON HALL: So it’s Jason that got Meatloaf to fall in love-- ANGIE HARMON: All right. NATALIE MORALES: He likes you too by the way. ANGIE HARMON: I’ll take it however I can get it. Not a problem. NATALIE MORALES: So what was your response to that? ANGIE HARMON: Oh, I mean, I actually-- I actually told him about a story that we-- we went to a charity event that he had and-- and it was so funny because he was pitching and-- and he literally like, said, all right, I’m bringing the heat. And I can’t remember the actor that was, was batting. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. ANGIE HARMON: And he-- he just came right out with, bring it, Meat. And then the whole place just erupted because it was so effortless and just right on the spot. And, you know, it was a very, very good nature and hilarious. So he’s a very, very lovely man, Mister Loaf. TAMRON HALL: Mister Loaf, yes. NATALIE MORALES: I know. They call him Mister Loaf. ANGIE HARMON: We call him NATALIE MORALES: Yes, ANGIE HARMON: Mister Meat. NATALIE MORALES: Meat or Loaf. ANGIE HARMON: Mister Loaf. Okay. TAMRON HALL: Okay NATALIE MORALES: Angie Harmon, great to catch up with you. ANGIE HARMON: Thank you so much for having me. NATALIE MORALES: And great-- best of luck with the show as well. ANGIE HARMON: Thank you. TAMRON HALL: And with the girls. NATALIE MORALES: Exactly. TAMRON HALL: We can’t wait to hear their reaction to your picture. ANGIE HARMON: I can’t wait. TAMRON HALL: It’s fabulous. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Fabulous. NATALIE MORALES: Rizzoli & Isles, by the way premieres tonight on TNT. And coming up next, I’m going to get you caught up on all the news you need before you walk out the door this morning. TAMRON HALL: And later why personal training is helping some become physically fit and financially fit, and how you can get started too, after this. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NATALIE MORALES: Taking a look at the headlines. Even more problems this morning for General Motors. The automaker is recalling yet another 3.1 million cars in the U.S. for faulty ignition switches. GM will replace keys that could move the switch out of the run position if they’re too heavy causing the engine to shut off. GM has now recalled more than twenty million cars just this year. The electronic cigarette market is booming according to a new study. There are over four hundred and fifty brands of e-cigarettes online in thousands of flavors, like gummy bear, even marshmallow. The FDA recently announced plans to regulate e-cigarettes. They don’t contain tobacco but many of them do contain nicotine. The FDA wants to ban sales to minors and require health warnings. And the FDA is preparing to release new voluntary guidelines to reduce the amount of salt in our diets. The agency hopes to work with the food industry gradually reducing the salt in processed foods so our taste buds have time to adjust. Americans currently eat an average of one and a half teaspoons of salt a day. Americans are donating to charities more than ever before. A new report shows charitable giving hit an all time record of three hundred and thirty-five billion dollars last year with most of that by individuals. But growth and giving still lags the gains in the stock market and overall income for the wealthy. When we say an Atlanta teenager caught a really big fish. Paul Jarvis and his dad were on Father’s-- the Father’s Day fishing trip in western Canada when, take a look, Paul hooked a monster
sturgeon and he fought it for an hour before then reeling it in. Weighed eight hundred pounds. It’s
twelve feet long. But Paul eventually had to let it go. We’re back after your local news and weather.

(ANNOUNCEMENTS) NATALIE MORALES: And welcome back to TODAY on this Tuesday morning, June
17, 2014. I’m Natalie Morales along with Tamron Hall. Al left a little bit early today— TAMRON HALL:
Mm-Hm. NATALIE MORALES: --and Willie is already headed to Orlando just setting all the ground work,
getting prepared for us. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. They’re warming up the spot. NATALIE MORALES: Yes.
TAMRON HALL: Hopefully, they’ve got lunch for us too. NATALIE MORALES: We’ll be broadcasting live
from there tomorrow. TAMRON HALL: It’s going to fun. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: And
we’re going to be giving our viewers a glimpse of Diagon Alley at Universal Orlando. We’ll talk to some
of the stars, may be even go on some adventures. NATALIE MORALES: Ready? TAMRON HALL: Why do I
say maybe? I know we’re going. NATALIE MORALES: It’s going to great. TAMRON HALL: We won’t tell
you what adventures. But we’re definitely going on a couple of adventures. One’s pretty scary. NATALIE
MORALES: There may be some alligators involved. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: That’s all
I’m saying. TAMRON HALL: Real ones. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. All right. So take a look at this Long
Island mansion. Tell me if this looks familiar to you. TAMRON HALL: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Gorgeous
house. Absolutely stunning, right? TAMRON HALL: It’s awfully nice. NATALIE MORALES: Do you
remember where you saw this? Think way back ’80s film, The Money Pit. Remember this is the home
that was used, Tom Hanks and Shelley Long then. TAMRON HALL: They’ve trimmed the trees now. The
trees are gone. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. They’ve trimmed the tress. Well, it is now on the market.
TAMRON HALL: Oh. NATALIE MORALES: For a cool twelve and a half million dollars. No longer a money
pit, apparently. TAMRON HALL: Somebody fixed it up really nice. NATALIE MORALES: It’s like everything
that went wrong. Take a look at this classic scene. (Excerpt from The Money Pit) NATALIE MORALES:
Well, that was just the beginning of the many, many, many problems that they have in that house.
TAMRON HALL: That’s a meltdown. NATALIE MORALES: Don’t worry. The ceiling’s been fixed. The
bathtub’s been replaced. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: It’s all brand spanking new inside.
TAMRON HALL: 12.5 million. NATALIE MORALES: Got us thinking about some of our favorite movie
homes. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Do you have one? TAMRON HALL: South Fork. I
mean, come on, I grew up in Texas. NATALIE MORALES: Oh. TAMRON HALL: The opening of Dallas.
NATALIE MORALES: Yes. TAMRON HALL: And then when I finally-- it looks-- you know, it looks enormous
here. NATALIE MORALES: I like the ranch. TAMRON HALL: It’s like the biggest house I had ever seen.
NATALIE MORALES: Show us the property. TAMRON HALL: It’s actually a very small house which was a
disappointment when I finally saw it. But yes, that was the spread I envisioned my horses and-- NATALIE
MORALES: Yes. TAMRON HALL: --my cows and me riding out. NATALIE MORALES: In the sunset.
TAMRON HALL: Yeah, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: With the cowboys. TAMRON HALL: Yeah, with the
cowboy. And the cowboy in a cowboy hat. What about you? NATALIE MORALES: I have to say probably
the Griswold’s home, The National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation. Especially when all the lights finally
worked in the end-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --when he got it all attached--
TAMRON HALL: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: --and the whole neighborhood could see the house. In fact, I
think that home, I don’t know if it’s a real home or not, but it seems to be the same home and
neighborhood in so many other movies like Home Alone. TAMRON HALL: It does. NATALIE MORALES: It
looks like the same. TAMRON HALL: It’s like the generic family home to suburban-- NATALIE MORALES: It
must be-- it’s probably a Universal set or something. TAMRON HALL: Right, right. I like that. NATALIE
MORALES: Anyway, Dylan, what about you? Do you have a favorite? DYLAN DREYER: I love the house in
Ferris Bueller’s Day Off-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. DYLAN DREYER: --with the semi-circle driveway.
NATALIE MORALES: Oh, yeah. The futuristic sort of modern glass home, I think. DYLAN DREYER: Oh, that. Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: That one, too. DYLAN DREYER: Cameron`s home too. That was awesome. NATALIE MORALES: Cameron`s home. DYLAN DREYER: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Cameron`s home is great. DYLAN DREYER: I just-- I love anything, Ferris Bueller`s Day Off. I can probably quote every line in the movie. But anyway, about the weather, we are looking to some pretty strong storms likely from Montana and Wyoming, all the way into western New York and western Pennsylvania. It`s in this area where we could see some of our strongest storms today. Now it doesn`t look like we`re going to see the tornado outbreak we saw in Nebraska yesterday. But we could still see some very large hail, damaging straight line wind gusts and even still an isolated tornado. So we will have to keep a close eye on that today. And look what happens tomorrow. Still across the Dakotas, stretching all the way down into Texas, and again through the Great Lakes. And now will include Eastern Pennsylvania and parts of New Jersey for your Wednesday. Down into the southeast, though, it is going to be exceptionally hot. Temperatures will be in the nineties. Humidity is high. It will feel like we are well above one hundred degrees. That`s a look at the weather across the country. Now here`s a peek out your window. (Weather follows) DYLAN DREYER: And that`s your latest forecast. Back over to the ladies. NATALIE MORALES: Thank you.

Source Title: BTN

Policy – Ecig – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 30767

Article Title: Pot Vape Pens, The Crack Cocaine Of Marijuana ANCHORS: Miles Bryan

Date: 5/24/2014

Article Content: SCOT SIMON: Vape pens look just like e-cigarettes, but they're for vaporizing marijuana. They're smoke-free and very popular among marijuana users. But it can be hard to know just how strong a dose they're getting. Reporter Miles Bryan explains. MILES BRYAN: It`s a hot, windy afternoon outside the 420 Treehouse Medical Marijuana Lounge in Los Angeles. And Aggie Karmelita and Cesar Perez are getting stoned. The vape pen that Karmelita and Perez are sharing doesn't seem like something you would use to get high. It's sleek and black, and looks more at home in an Apple Store than a head shop. Karmelita says that's kind of the point. AGGIE KARMELITA: You know, it's convenient for something to take to, like, a movie theater, or a concert - where you're not necessarily supposed to be smoking a joint or having a pipe. MILES BRYAN: On the website Leafly, the Yelp of the pot world, one out of three reviews are about vaping marijuana. And while vape pens are discreet, they can also be strong, like, really strong. Here's Perez. CESAR PEREZ: I tried it about four years ago, and it was life-changing. MILES BRYAN: Vape pens are usually loaded with hash oil, which can have many times more of the psychoactive chemical THC than the average joint. A battery-powered heating element vaporizes the oil, which is then inhaled. Perez says he first tried hash oil with a friend who worked at a pot dispensary. CESAR PEREZ: She was like, hey, come here. You want to try some concentrates? I'm like, yeah. After taking the hit, I felt like I smoked 20 joints. JOHN LOVELL: Hash oil is correctly referred to as the crack cocaine of marijuana. MILES BRYAN: That's John Lovell. He's the spokesperson for the California Narcotic
Officers Association, which is supporting a bill here in the Golden State that would ban medical hash oil. Lovell says that the stealthiness of vape pens can be dangerous. JOHN LOVELL: All you see is someone smoking on an e-cigarette. You can put yourself at risk. MILES BRYAN: But not everyone is convinced that a future of vaping marijuana is such a bad thing. MARK KLEIMAN: If we're going to deliver cannabis by lung, it's going to be vaporization, not smoking. MILES BRYAN: Mark Kleiman teaches marijuana policy and law at UCLA. He says that vaping will probably replace smoking marijuana in the long run. But Kleiman says that right now, there's a problem. MARK KLEIMAN: A puff of cannabis is not standard the way a drink is standard, right? If you've had three beers, you know how much beer - alcohol you've had. If you've had three hits, you don't know anything about how much cannabis you've had. MILES BRYAN: Which means, Kleiman says, you might get more stoned than you want to be. Back outside the 420 Treehouse Lounge, Perez and Karmelita say that whether it's alcohol or marijuana, it's really just about knowing your tolerance. CESAR PEREZ: Some people just go all out and take 50 shots, you know. AGGIE KARMELITA: Yeah. CESAR PEREZ: And then, some people take one or two shots, and then that's how they learn. Some people take one or two hits, and some people just smoke the whole pen, you know. MILES BRYAN: But vaping might not always require such trial and error. Colorado and Washington will both soon require the testing and labeling for potency of all marijuana products. For NPR News, I'm Miles Bryan."

Source Title: BTN

Policy – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 4696

Article Title: PUBLIC FORUM"

Date: 9/18/2014

Article Content: E-cig rejection based on bias To the editor: As a west side Tosa resident, non-smoker and long-time ecigarette supporter, it was disappointing to read that our city government rejected the chance to permit a legal and legitimate business to open when the Plan Commission voted against Cuong Tran's proposed Vape Haven store at 7028 W. North Ave. Having closely watched the ecig and vaping industry over the last five years on my E cig Werks blog, I have seen how ecig companies and stores have created a legal product that is now being reviewed by the FDA to help consumers avoid tobacco, odor and reduce nicotine. Yes, some ecigs contain minimal amounts of nicotine or even none. Those against ecigs in general and here in Tosa base their opposition on misinformation, fear of the unknown and past biases against tobacco use, which ecigs are designed to reduce. Even the city health officer admitted vaping "might be less risk than tobacco." Other potentially risky products like tobacco, alcohol and energy drinks are sold at convenience stores, gas stations and grocery stores all over Tosa and the country. The city should let the free market decide here. I hope that Mr. Tran can find a way to get his business open here to create much needed jobs and improve the Tosa tax base. Mike Morgan Wauwatosa Copyright 2014 Journal Sentinel, All Rights Reserved."
Article Title: E-CIGARETTES BANNED ON MT. LEBANON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Date: 10/21/2016

Article Content: Electronic cigarettes will now be prohibited on any property owned by the Mt. Lebanon School District. The school board Monday approved an update to the district's tobacco-free schools policy that applies to students, visitors and employees, according to William Moorhead, chair of the board policy committee. It covers all district-owned property, including schools, parking lots and stadiums. The existing policy prohibited traditional cigarettes, chewing tobacco and other forms of tobacco. E-cigarettes, also known as vapes, don't contain tobacco. They vaporize liquids with nicotine and other chemical flavors so that they can be inhaled. Also during the meeting, the board recognized longtime administrative assistant Jeanine Szalinski with the “Extra Mile” award, for her exceptional service to the district. “She is someone who simply gets it done and does it well,” said board president Lawrence Lebowitz about Ms. Szalinski, who he described as a “consummate professional.” Ms. Szalinski, who has worked as an assistant to five superintendents, also serves as board secretary and as the district's right-to-know officer. She has worked in the district for nearly 25 years and was recognized with a certificate and lapel pin. Also Monday, the board approved a $67,302 change order to Nello Construction to install pervious brick pavers in the North Parking Lot on Lebanon Avenue. The district originally planned to use pervious concrete on the lot, but a previous application of the concrete in another lot proved unreliable, lasting just one season. The municipality requires at least 50 percent pervious surface on parking lots to reduce stormwater runoff.

Source Title: News

Article Title: School pupils 'exposed to e-cigarettes' - BBC News

Date: 9/26/2015

Article Content: Image copyright PA More than half of secondary school pupils questioned in a study said they had been exposed to e-cigarette marketing. The Scottish government-commissioned survey found 60% of pupils questioned had seen e-cigarettes for sale in shops, shopping centres or stalls. About a quarter (26%) had seen outdoor poster adverts. And 23% of the 2,016 11 to 18-year-olds questioned had seen or heard adverts on TV or radio in the past week. Although 16% had used an e-cigarette, most had only tried them “once or twice”, the survey found. Only 5% of pupils who had never smoked tobacco had tried e-cigarettes. Curiosity was the main driver for use, sometimes motivated by seeing a friend or family member trying them, the report found. "Less harmful" The forthcoming Health Bill...
proposes a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to under-18s, “proxy purchase” by adults for minors and restrictions on the marketing of the products. Public health minister Maureen Watt said: “This is an extremely useful survey, that gives us one of the first good indications of young people's awareness and experience of e-cigarettes. “Of particular interest is the large number of children who are being exposed to marketing of these products.”While more research is needed, e-cigarettes are almost certainly less harmful than tobacco and if people are using them as an aid to quit smoking that is a good thing.” However, the Scottish Government does not believe that children should have access to them. This is the balance we are aiming for in our forthcoming Health Bill. “We would consult with stakeholders to consider where exemptions might apply, such as at point of sale where adult smokers who might benefit from e-cigarettes and can find out more about the products.”

Source Title: Web

Policy – Ecig – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 701398

Article Title: GAO’s LDA review - POLITICO

Date: 3/25/2016

Article Content: With help from Cogan Schneier and Brianna Gurciullo COMPLIANCE: Out of a sample 80 lobbying disclosure reports reviewed by the Government Accountability Office, 8 percent failed to provide documentation of income and expenses, 24 percent failed to document lobbying the House and 17 failed to show evidence of lobbying the Senate, according to the latest report just released. Also, 16 out of 37 reports that disclosed lobbying federal agencies failed to show documentation. Story Continued Below Twelve percent of lobbyists incorrectly filed their disclosure reports and 15 percent messed up their contribution reports last year, the GAO found. Both figures are on the high end of the range in previous years. The House clerk and Senate secretary have not yet referred any cases to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia for last year; in 2014 they referred 140, and 14 were brought into compliance. Since 2009 there are more than 1,000 referrals pending further action. Last August the USAO finalized the largest-ever civil penalty for violating the Lobbying Disclosure Act: a $125,000 settlement with the Carmen Group. MOOLA MOOLA: Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) has eyed universities' being stingy with their endowments for years, but the rumblings are getting louder again, with Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) floating a proposal requiring universities to devote 25 percent of their annual endowment income to financial aid or lose tax-exempt status. Now it’s not just Congress: Connecticut, facing a $266 million budget shortfall, has a bill moving through the Legislature that would tax endowment incomes of schools with endowments greater than $10 billion. In other words, Yale. Bloomberg reports that both the university and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce have urged the state to drop the bill. The proposals will likely face fierce pushback from higher education groups and the institutions themselves, said Steven Bloom, director of federal relations at the American Council on Education. “It is not the role of state and federal governments to demand payouts or to tax charitable gifts made by private citizens to nonprofits,” David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, told PI. HAPPY FRIDAY! Tips to
iarnsdorf@politicocom. DOUBLE PLAY: About that baseball game in Cuba on Tuesday, MLB lobbyist Lucy Calautti said it will go down as one of those moments where sports help make history, noting the presence in the stadium of Rachel Robinson, Jackie's widow. The game came together after a long period of close work between the baseball commissioner, the White House and the National Security Council, she said. The Tampa Bay Rays' selection to play the Cuban national team was randomly determined by lottery, she said, but turned out to have extra significance because Cuban-born outfielder Dayron Varona was able to see his family for the first time in three years. APOLLO VIII: The affiliate of private-equity giant Apollo Global Management that's planning to buy University of Phoenix owner Apollo Education Group hired Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, reports Pro Education’s Maggie Severns. Brownstein also lobbies for Apollo Global in the main. Apollo Education also previously employed lobbyists at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck but terminated the firm in October 2015. The move comes as Apollo Education, which owns University of Phoenix, prepares to be sold to owners who have promised a new direction for the company, which has come under scrutiny in Washington along with other for-profit colleges. Apollo Education Group employs lobbyists at three lobbying firms, and spent close to $1.4 million on lobbying in 2015, according to filings. http://politico.pro/1RD2Okm CAREER CENTER: — John Horstman, legislative aide for Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) on energy, environment and transportation policy, is leaving to become regional manager for the Republican National Committee in central Pennsylvania. — Jill Shatzen Kerr, communications director for the House Rules Committee, will become the PR manager for public policy at Amazon. She worked for former Reps. Mary Bono (R-Calif.) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.), and Reps. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) and Pete Sessions (R-Texas). — SEIU promoted John Gray to director of legislation. He previously worked for NOAA. — Capital Alpha Partners hired Ian Katz from Bloomberg, focusing on banks, asset managers, insurers and Dodd-Frank. http://bit.ly/1RAGMZ2 — CRAFT Media/Digital hired Rob Melick, who most recently was directing MSNBC's primetime shows and “Meet The Press.” He'll lead CRAFT’s client media strategy and talent booking. — The American Council On Renewable Energy named new board members: Frank Armijo, vice president, Lockheed Martin Energy; Skip Grow, managing director, Morgan Stanley; and Shannon Kellogg, director of public policy, Amazon. http://bit.ly/1UfzT64 SMOKE SCREEN: Big Tobacco's lobbying efforts are turning to smokeless e-cigarettes. The Center for Public Integrity reports that 21 entities, including Altria Group, the parent company of Philip Morris, and Reynolds American, had registered lobbyists in every state at one point from 2010 to 2014, and donated $63 million in their efforts over the past five years. In California, state Rep. Adam Gray, the chairman of the state’s committee that oversees tobacco legislation, has received $88,100 in contributions from Altria and Reynolds since 2011. Though tobacco companies face pushback from groups like the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association, they have spent about double what opponents have in California since 2011. http://bit.ly/1MGdGX4 CHEERS: Capitol Strategies co-hosted a reception at their offices with Heritage Distilling of Washington state, founded by former Senate staffer Justin and Jennifer Stiefel. The party featured custom cocktails using naturally flavored vodkas, Seahawks-themed Batch No. 12, Elk Rider Bourbon and their newest release, BSB Brown Sugar Bourbon. SPOTTED at the event were representatives from Washington, Oregon and Alaska House and Senate offices, the Washington and Virginia governor's office, the Artisan Craft Spirits Association, D.C. and Republican State Leadership Committee and Northrop Grumman. — Nicole L. Weingartner, John Catsimatidis Jr., Nick Iacono, Mike Swanner, Ozzie Palomo, Mike Tracey and Bill Cortese hosted a “Young Professional Reception” fundraiser for Rep. Dan Donovan (R-N.Y.) last night at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron. NEW PAC REGISTRATIONS: Citizens Unite For America (Independent Expenditure-Only Committee,
E-cigarette Use May Be Rising Among Teens

Nearly one-third of those surveyed in Hawaii have tried the devices WebMD News from HealthDay By Maureen Salamon HealthDay Reporter MONDAY, Dec. 15, 2014 (HealthDay News) -- Nearly a third of Hawaiian high school students have tried e-cigarettes, new research suggests. This finding reflects a growing trend of American teens flocking to the nicotine inhalation devices, according to public health experts. The overall rate of e-cigarette use in the new study is higher than found in mainland U.S. studies over the past several years. But e-cigarette use is “accelerating very rapidly” across the nation, according to Dr. Norman Edelman, senior consultant for scientific affairs at the American Lung Association. An e-cigarette is a device that turns nicotine, flavorings and other chemicals into an inhalable vapor. Many e-cigarettes are designed to resemble tobacco cigarettes, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The FDA is still reviewing evidence about the safety of e-cigarettes, but the agency has proposed banning sales of the devices to minors. According to the FDA's website, the devices still haven't been fully studied and it's impossible to know their potential risks or even how much nicotine is being inhaled during use. The new study surveyed more than 1,900 teens in Hawaii. The average age was between 14 and 15 years old. The teens were in ninth and 10th grades, and from both public and private schools, according to the study. The survey assessed e-cigarette and cigarette use, alcohol and marijuana use, and psychosocial risk factors for substance use. The researchers also found that 12 percent reported using both e-cigarettes and tobacco cigarettes, while 17 percent had used e-cigarettes only and 3 percent used cigarettes only. Study author Thomas Wills, interim director of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program at University of Hawaii Cancer Center, said his team was surprised by the research results in several ways. “We had thought that persons who used e-cigarettes would look pretty much like smokers on the psychosocial variables we measured, like sensation seeking, impulsivity and peer smoking,” he said. “It turned out
that the students who only used e-cigarettes had a lower risk profile than smokers and dual users -- persons who use both cigarettes and e-cigarettes.”

Source Title: Web

*Policy – Ecig – MPM – Web 4*

Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 85236

Article Title: Trend for trying e-cigarettes may be leveling off | Fox News

Date: 9/25/2014

Article Content: An e-cigarette sits in a tray on the bar at the Henley Vapourium in New York City December 18, 2013. (REUTERS/Mike Segar) NEW YORK – A new government study suggests the number of U.S. adults who have tried electronic cigarettes may be leveling off. The proportion of adults who have ever used e-cigarettes rose from about 3 percent to 8 percent from 2010 to 2012. But there was no significant change last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The study's conclusions seem to parallel a modest decline in e-cigarette sales during the same period that have been noted in analyst reports. The findings come from an annual survey of thousands of adults. It has been the CDC's only source on e-cigarette trends since the devices started selling in the U.S. in late 2006. E-cigarettes are battery-powered devices that produce an odorless vapor that typically contains nicotine, and sometimes flavorings. They are often described as a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes, one that may help smokers quit. But e-cigarettes are not yet regulated by the federal government, and there hasn't been much research on them completed yet. “The long-term public health impact of these products is uncertain,” study's lead author, Brian King said Wednesday. But he called the leveling off in adults who have ever tried e-cigarettes “a positive note.” The study also found the percentage of adults who are described as current e-cigarette smokers — that is, they said they'd used one at least one in the previous 30 days — has been hovering at around 2 percent. Roughly 75 percent of current e-cigarette users said they also smoked regular cigarettes — and that figure hasn't changed much in the four years of the survey. That finding “raises serious questions about whether this product is really helping people quit,” said Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. E-cigarettes come in a range of shapes and sizes, and Myers said it's not clear the study's participants would have counted things like “vape pens,” ”e-hookahs” and “tanks” as e-cigarettes. But other research suggests most users would include them, King said. The study was released last week by the medical journal, Nicotine & Tobacco Research.

Source Title: Web

*Passing Mentions*

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“ecig_SOURCE_pol” – “ecigmpm_SOURCE_pol”).

*Policy – Ecig – PM – AP 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.81
DATELINE: CHICAGO (AP) - Mayor Rahm Emanuel pitched a massive property tax hike Tuesday as a “last resort” to correct Chicago's financial footing, suggesting the only alternative for the nation's third-largest city would include severe cuts to police and fire services, recycling programs, pothole repair and even rodent control. Emanuel, who needs approval from state lawmakers and the governor for at least part of his sweeping plan, outlined a $543 million property tax over four years, a $45 million tax to modernize schools, and other new fees for residential garbage pickup, e-cigarettes and ride-sharing services. The property tax revenue would go toward paying police and firefighter pensions, with other fees aimed at closing a budget gap and improving overall financial health. The Democrat, who won a second term after a tough campaign earlier this year, said Chicago's underfunded pensions were “a big dark cloud” standing in the way of further progress. Before delivering the news, he ticked off other cost-cutting reforms the city already had tried. “Now it's time to finish the job,” Emanuel said during the roughly 30-minute speech peppered by applause. “Raising city property taxes is a last resort. It is why we have never increased them in my last four years. But we must solve our pension challenge we inherited.” To soften the blow, he pitched an exemption for those whose homes are worth $250,000 or less. The exemption needs lawmakers to sign off, but not all state leaders have been receptive. Leaders of the Democrat-controlled state House and Senate say they're on board and there’s a hearing later this week. However, Gov. Bruce Rauner has been cool to the idea. The first-term Republican governor, locked in a state budget battle with legislative Democrats, says raising taxes won't fix all problems and has pushed to freeze property taxes. Rauner spokeswoman Catherine Kelly declined comment Tuesday. Chicago has the worst-funded pension system of any major U.S. city, a budget hole of at least $750 million and school system credit rating agencies have rated at “junk” status. The problems intensified over years because leaders didn’t contribute enough to pension funds and continued questionable borrowing tactics. Leading up to the budget speech, Emanuel, a former White House chief of staff, trumpeted his efforts, including testifying in Springfield and making cuts. He said spending levels for the $7.8 billion 2016 budget were the lowest since 2008. He vowed to eliminate structural debt by 2019 - the year of the next mayoral election - and install air conditioning in all city schools. He also proposed privatizing Chicago's 311 service, which is used as an information and service request line, to save $1 million annually. Emanuel called on aldermen to step up. “I know this budget is tough and therefore I know it carries political risk. I get it,” he said. “But there's a choice to be made. Make no mistake about it. Either we muster the political courage to deal with the mounting challenges we inherited or we repeat the same practices and allow the financial challenges to grow.” Among aldermen, who have largely been seen a rubber stamp for the mayor over the years, reviews were mixed. Some said the property tax was inevitable, but others were angry about the collective increase, namely the proposed $9.50 per household monthly garbage fee. “I don't know what the other options are,” said Alderman Will Burns. “We've got to do what we have to do to save our city and that's the bottom line.” Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa questioned Emanuel's proposals, saying big corporations should pay more over everyday people. “It's more of the same,” he said. ___ Follow Sophia Tareen at http://twitter.com/sophiatareen."
Article Content: Your daily look at late-breaking California news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today: 1. PORT LABOR Stores gearing up for warmer weather are fretting that they won’t have some products to sell due to a labor crisis at West Coast seaports. 2. HIGH-SPEED RAIL California’s high-speed rail project is up to a year behind schedule in buying land needed to start construction on the first 29-mile stretch. 3. E-CIGARETTES Bay Area Rapid Transit board votes to ban electronic cigarettes on its trains and at stations. 4. NFL-LOS ANGELES Election officials verify enough petition signatures to allow Inglewood stadium plan to go before voters. 5. POLICE DOG ATTACK Officer’s son, 4, has leg amputated after attack by police dog.

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Rocket fire and airstrikes in Gaza grind to a standstill, as Israel and Hamas agree to an open-ended cease-fire. Burger King’s purchase of a Canadian restaurant chain and the relocation of its headquarters to Ontario stir controversy. How much of a negative impact on education is the trillion-dollar student debt burden having? Margaret Warner reports on the prospects for political reconciliation among Iraq’s Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds. An Arizona rancher offers his take on the border crisis. GWEN IFILL: Rocket fire and airstrikes in Gaza grind to a standstill, as Israel and Hamas agree to an open-ended cease-fire. Good evening. I’m Gwen Ifill. Judy Woodruff is away. Also ahead this Tuesday: Burger King’s mega-purchase of a Canadian restaurant chain and the relocation of its headquarters to Ontario, where the corporate tax rate is lower. Plus, our series on Rethinking College zeros in on the trillion-dollar student debt burden. SCOT ROSS, Executive Director, One Wisconsin Now: We have traveled around Wisconsin, and we have talked to people of all ages about their student loan debt. And it’s soul-crushing for them. They’re saying, all I want to do is go to college, and now I have got a 25-year obligation. GWEN IFILL: Those are just some of the stories we’re covering on tonight’s "PBS NewsHour." (BREAK) GWEN IFILL: The leaders of Russia and Ukraine came face to face today. They agreed to have their border guards consult, but, otherwise, there was little sign of progress. The meeting unfolded as
Kiev claimed new proof that Russian troops are inside Ukraine. It was the first encounter between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko since June. They joined other European leaders at a summit in Belarus. PETRO POROSHENKO, Ukrainian President (through translator): Today in Minsk, without any doubt, the fate of Europe and the fate of the world is being decided. We should together find the only correct solution upon which nothing less than peace on the continent depends. GWEN IFILL: Poroshenko called for imposing stronger controls on the border with Russia and for cutting off arms supplies to pro-Russian rebels. On the Russian side, President Putin said the crisis cannot be resolved without -- quote -- "peaceful dialogue." VLADIMIR PUTIN, Russian President (through translator): I would like to stress that we are ready to discuss any variants of our cooperation, based on consideration for each other’s interests. We are ready to exchange opinions on the current acute crisis in Ukraine, which I’m sure cannot be solved by further escalation of military actions. GWEN IFILL: The one-on-one meeting between Putin and Poroshenko finally took place late at night. It was hosted by the president of Belarus. ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO, President of Belarus (through translator): Talks were not easy, but the dialogue was substantive and extremely frank. It is already valuable and important that this dialogue took place. GWEN IFILL: But military action only intensified in southeastern Ukraine. It was the second day of fighting around Novoazovsk, which lies close to the major port of Mariupol, and on the same road that leads to the Russian-annexed Crimea Peninsula. Ukraine also charged that a Russian helicopter attacked a border post yesterday, killing four guards. And Kiev released sound and video of what it said were 10 captured Russian soldiers. Several complained about their government’s actions. ALEXEI GENERALOV, Captured Russian Soldier (through translator): Stop sending the men here. Stop it. It shouldn’t be happening. Why is this being done. It’s not our war. It’s not our war, and if we weren’t here, then none of this would be happening. They would have sorted out their state and their own problems by themselves. GWEN IFILL: Moscow said the soldiers accidentally strayed across the border. The Russians have repeatedly denied they are aiding the rebels in Ukraine. The Obama administration wouldn’t confirm reports today that U.S. planes are conducting surveillance flights over Syria. They could set the stage for airstrikes on Islamic State militants there. The Pentagon’s main spokesman, Rear Admiral John Kirby, declined to say directly if the flights are under way. He did acknowledge there’s a lot to learn about the group. REAR ADM. JOHN KIRBY, Pentagon Press Secretary: We recognize that their development, their growth, the increase in their capabilities, it hasn’t happened overnight, and it has happened regionally, that they operate pretty much freely between Iraq and Syria. Do we have perfect information about them and their capabilities, whether it’s on the Syrian side or the Iraqi side? No, we don’t. GWEN IFILL: President Obama made no mention of surveillance flights in his speech today, but he cautioned that rooting out the Islamic State group will not be easy. He also vowed the killers of journalist James Foley will be brought to justice. He said, America doesn’t forget. There’s also word the Persian Gulf state of Qatar is working to secure the release of four more American hostages in Syria. The Reuters news service reported that development today, citing an unnamed source in the Gulf. Qatar helped free American journalist Peter Theo Curtis on Sunday. He’d been a hostage in Syria for two years. In Afghanistan, presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah threatened to pull out of a U.N.-supervised audit of the disputed runoff election. His camp said none of the fraudulent votes are being thrown out. Abdullah led in the initial voting, but former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani finished first in the runoff. The scandal at the Department of Veterans Affairs brought a new presidential pledge today. The agency has faced disclosures of lengthy wait times for health care and of falsified records. President Obama defended his response to the scandal. But, at the American Legion Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, today, he said there’s much more to do. BARACK OBAMA, President of the
United States: We are very clear-eyed about the problems that are still there, and those problems require us to regain the trust of our veterans and live up to our vision of a VA that is more effective and more efficient and that truly puts veterans first. And I will not be satisfied until that happens. GWEN IFILL: The president also announced steps to improve access to mental health care for active-duty troops and veterans. Separately, VA officials said an investigation found no proof that delays in care at its Phoenix hospital caused any deaths. The World Health Organization is now officially targeting electronic cigarettes. The U.N. agency today proposed an array of regulations, including banning the indoor use of e-cigarettes and restricting advertising and sales to minors. Use of the devices has soared in recent years and created an industry worth $3 billion. On Wall Street today, the Dow Jones industrial average gained nearly 30 points to close at 17106. The Nasdaq rose 13 points to close at 4570. And the S&P 500 added two points to finish above 2000 for the first time. Still to come on the "NewsHour": Hamas and Israel reach a cease-fire deal; why Burger King and other companies are relocating outside the U.S.; the high cost of college means more students with substantial debt; Margaret Warner reports on the prospects for political reconciliation among Iraq’s Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds; and an Arizona rancher’s take on the border crisis. In the Middle East, the bloody battle between Israel and Hamas which took thousands of lives this summer appears to be ending. A new cease-fire was announced this afternoon. Celebratory gunfire rang out in Gaza City, where people poured into the streets on news that seven weeks of war might finally be over. The formal announcement came from Egypt, which mediated talks, on and off, for weeks. In its essentials, the statement said, Israel and Hamas accepted what they called an open-ended truce. And Israel agreed to open more border crossings, allowing humanitarian aid and construction materials into Gaza. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who lost control of Gaza to Hamas in 2007, is expected to take over administration of Gaza’s borders. MAHMOUD ABBAS, Palestinian Authority President (through translator): We hope that this will fulfill the demands and needs of our people in Gaza and provide all their food and medical requirements and to begin the rebuilding of all that had been destroyed. GWEN IFILL: If the cease-fire holds, new talks on other issues would begin in a month. Those issues could range from Hamas demands to rebuild Gaza’s bombed-out airport and construct a seaport, to Israel’s demand that Hamas disarm. The terms of the cease-fire deal contained no major concession by the Israelis. But Hamas says there’s no doubt who won this latest war. SAMI ABU ZUHRI, Hamas Spokesperson (through translator): We are here today, after achieving an agreement between the two sides, to announce the victory of resistance. We are here today to announce the victory of Gaza. GWEN IFILL: On the Israeli side, a spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu painted the outcome differently. MARK REGEV, Israeli Government Spokesperson: Israel has accepted the Egyptian cease-fire proposal. We hope that this time, the cease-fire will stick, and I think now that, as the dust will begin to clear, many people will be asking, why is it that, today, Hamas accepted the very same Egyptian framework that it rejected a month ago? Ultimately, so much bloodshed could have been avoided. GWEN IFILL: The cease-fire followed another night of Israeli airstrikes on high-rise buildings in Gaza. They leveled a 15-story apartment and office complex and severely damaged another. By day, Palestinians viewed the destruction that left 25 people wounded. The buildings had largely been evacuated before the bombings, after Israeli warnings. The final hours of fighting also saw more rockets hit Southern Israel. One struck a home in Ashkelon, injuring a dozen people. And a mortar strike killed one Israeli. In Washington, the State Department cautiously welcomed the prospect of an end to the killing. Spokeswoman Jen Psaki: JEN PSAKI, State Department Spokeswoman: We view this as an opportunity, not a certainty. Today’s agreement comes after many hours and days of negotiations and discussions, but, certainly, there’s a long road ahead.
aware of that, and we’re going into this eyes wide open. GWEN IFILL: Gazan officials say more than 2,100 Palestinians died during the conflict, with half-a-million displaced. On the Israeli side, 69 were killed, all but five of them soldiers. For more on where things go from here, I’m joined by Dennis Ross, a longtime U.S. diplomat and Middle East envoy who served in the George H.W. Bush, Clinton and Obama administrations. He’s now a counselor at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. And Shibley Telhami, the Anwar Sadat of peace and development at the University of Maryland, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and author of the book "The World Through Arab Eyes." Gentlemen, welcome back to the "NewsHour." SHIBLEY TELHAMI, Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development, University of Maryland: Pleasure. GWEN IFILL: So we have talked about this before. Dennis Ross, you have certainly been on the other side of the negotiating table before. Does this cease-fire seem real to you? DENNIS ROSS, Former U.S. Envoy to Middle East: It does seem real to me because I think both sides really want this to be over. Neither side knew, at this point that there was much more that could be gained and they each saw that the price they were paying was one that was going to continue to go up. And we can look at it as the price not being equal to the two sides, but how does each side evaluate those costs? I think, for the Israelis, they had destroyed the tunnels. If they wanted to go in and stop the mortars, they had to go on the ground again and basically try to take over Gaza, which was just too high a price to pay. So, they had achieved basically what they were going to achieve militarily. For Hamas, they’re in a situation as well where, if you look at the rockets they have left, if they kept firing, they would begin to deplete the arsenals they have. The price that was being paid within Gaza was also going up. So I think each was looking for a way out, and right now this way out gives them a chance to sustain something. GWEN IFILL: Shibley Telhami, we heard Mark Regev, the Israeli spokesman, say in that piece he didn’t understand why Hamas didn’t take the same deal a month ago. Is he correct in that? SHIBLEY TELHAMI: No, I think it was actually the same deal for either side. The Israelis got some more out of it in some ways, but obviously the immediate opening of the passages, the crossings and providing relief is something to get out of it, but they didn’t get everything they were asking for, especially not the ports. But I just want to go back to the question that you asked about, will the cease-fire hold? I agree with Dennis, first of all, that I think the incentives for both of them to keep it and respect it is very high. They don’t have much incentive to break it. They have very little to achieve in the short-term. But here’s the thing. I believe, from the outset, neither side wanted the escalation, and they ended up with an escalation. It remains very volatile. There is a lot of negotiations at stake coming up. Politically, there are some gains and some losses. The prime minister of Israel started of the 82 percent approval rating. Yesterday, the latest poll was 38 percent approval rating. There’s a political problem for each one and there’s much to go. So I don’t think it’s over, even though I think it’s a different kind of strategic decision right now. Both sides don’t want to reengage again in conflict. GWEN IFILL: Is the Palestinian Authority strengthened in this? Is Netanyahu, as Shibley Telhami says, weakened? DENNIS ROSS: I don’t believe that Netanyahu has really been weakened. This is not like 2006 with Prime Minister Olmert. Netanyahu was much more careful in terms of how he framed the objectives. His objectives were to destroy the tunnels and to restore quiet. Now, it’s true the threat of Hamas is still there. They have been militarily weakened, but the threat is still there. And for those on the right, he will be challenged. He -- the numbers of support he had at 82 percent were unrealistic and weren’t going to be sustainable anyway, so he will have to contend with explaining where you go from here. And I think simply having the pre -- the status quo ante is not something that will necessarily be acceptable. I think Hamas though is also, in the near term, you know, the sense that they have stood up is one thing, but, as the dust settles, I think that there will be a lot of questions about where do you go from here,
and in terms of the Palestinian Authority, they want to show that they’re back in Gaza now. Hamas will look for ways to demonstrate who’s still in control and that’s I think an issue for us to be watching.

GWEN IFILL: How different is the role that Egypt played this time around for this deal, and how different was the role the U.S. played? SHIBLEY TELHAMI: Oh, this is very different, because I think, obviously, in some ways, Egypt is essential, partly because, of course, Egypt has a stake in Gaza. It’s right there and it cares about what happens in Gaza for multiple reasons, A, for the Palestinian cause, but, B, because they see Hamas as the threat and an ally of the Muslim Brotherhood. But what made them more valuable this time for the Israelis is that they were closer to Israel on Hamas in many ways. That’s why -- one reason why the Israelis in some ways preferred Egyptian mediation to American mediation, whereas, oddly enough, the Palestinians actually preferred American mediation to Egyptian mediation. This is the oddity of all of this. (CROSSTALK) GWEN IFILL: Let me ask Dennis Ross about the U.S. role in this. Was it -- did it help to step back from the table a little bit? DENNIS ROSS: Yes, I think it did, because, at the end of the day, the Egyptians did have the leverage. And Shibley is right. You had a conversion of interests between Egypt and Israel. If anything, in some ways, Egypt was even harder on Hamas than the Israelis were. For Egypt, Hamas is part of the Muslim Brotherhood and this is an existential struggle. They’re the ones -- and part of the deal here is probably the reopening of Rafah. Only they could do that. From an American standpoint...

GWEN IFILL: Right, the checkpoint in Egypt, yes. DENNIS ROSS: Yes. From an American standpoint, we looked I think at Egypt and wondered, well, are they active enough to try to make something happen? And that probably had us look at Turkey and had us look at Qatar, but in a way that in a sense was unlikely to produce the Egyptians. So, our taking a step back at a certain point helped, number one. And, number two, I think there was -- one of the things that was different from last time, this time, the Egyptians didn’t want it to appear as if they needed the U.S. to come in to do this. And because of that, I think we were still active, but I think we were active in a much more low-visibility fashion. GWEN IFILL: What is the carrot at the end of the stick in another month? Right now, this whole deal is for a month. And, if so, others things happen. What is it likely those things will happen? SHIBLEY TELHAMI: And this is really a central question, because the reality of it is, we can say that both lost and political stalemate or whatever, but here’s the reality on the ground. Gaza was in horrible shape before the war started, needed relief before the war. So, guess what? Not only do we have 0.8 percent of its population dead or wounded and about a quarter homeless, but we have -- the damage to property is many times its GDP. And no one can do that from the inside. So even to get back to where they were, which was horrible, it is going to take an enormous amount, billions of dollars that’s not going to come. And, two, I think when you look at it, nobody really can do this over and over again. There was a war in 2008-2009 that was devastating. There was a war in 2012, just two, three years later. There’s a war now, and some Israelis are saying, well, this is not -- unfinished business. We need to do this again. GWEN IFILL: Had this devolved into a war of attrition, that this was only way out? DENNIS ROSS: Yes, I think that is one of the things that helps to explain why we’re seeing this end right now. The price did become too high. And the gains grew increasingly suspect. So that produced a reality where we are right now. And I think it is going to create an incentive on each side not to see it end. But I would build on one point that Shibley made. The more you do the reconstruction -- it has two elements to it. One element is the P.A. is at the border crossing. GWEN IFILL: The Palestinian Authority. DENNIS ROSS: Yes, the Palestinian Authority, so that they can be in a position where they can take some credit for this, but also the more you begin to have reconstruction, assuming there are safeguards for its end use, so that Hamas can’t misuse this material to rebuild the tunnels and the rockets, the more it is going to be hard to go back to conflict, because to begin to restore life again in Gaza is going to create a very strong
incentive not to put that at risk. SHIBLEY TELHAMI: If I may just say, the Gaza war itself was a symptom, not the source of the problem. Just before, we were talking about the possibility of a third intifada, that the two-state solution was just coming to an end, collapse of hope. And so even if you fix Gaza, meaning what has happened, all of the tragedy that has happened, that’s not going to fix it. And I think one things that war do, historically, is they create new opportunities, because you reshuffle the deck. And I think it can cut both ways, obviously. People can say I’m going to fight again or people can say this is not tenable. And I think the diplomatic effort right now should focus on turning this into, we need to do something much more comprehensive. GWEN IFILL: That’s what we will be watching for. Shibley Telhami from the University of Maryland, Dennis Ross of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, thank you both very much. DENNIS ROSS: Thank you. SHIBLEY TELHAMI: Pleasure. GWEN IFILL: Now, when is an American company not an American company? Jeffrey Brown has our look at a growing controversy over corporate taxes. JEFFREY BROWN: In recent years, a number of American companies, as many as 22 since 2011, have relocated outside U.S. borders, usually through mergers with or purchases of a foreign company. One impact of changing their business addresses: They’re no longer subject to U.S. corporate taxes. It’s a process commonly known as a tax inversion. And Burger King appears to be the latest example. Today, it announced plans to pay some $11 billion for the Canadian restaurant chain Tim Hortons. Burger King will effectively become a Canadian company for tax purposes, though the company denies that was the motive for the move. Here to tell us about all this is economist Roberton Williams, senior fellow at the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, a joint venture of the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution. And welcome to you. A tax inversion, it’s a phrase that maybe only an economist could like, right, or love. What exactly is it and are we actually seeing more of them? ROBERTON WILLIAMS, Tax Policy Center: An inversion occurs when an American company merges with a foreign company and becomes the foreign company. That’s the important part. You have to become a foreign entity to avoid U.S. corporate taxes. JEFFREY BROWN: And are we seeing more of them, in fact? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: We are seeing more of them, for a couple of reasons. One, people are seeing very high corporate tax rates and trying to avoid that. And, secondly, it appears that Congress is thinking about ways of stopping inversions. People are trying to get in ahead of that kind of change, make the inversion now, so you can take advantage of it before the door closes. JEFFREY BROWN: I see, so they’re taking preemptive action in some cases. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: Exactly. JEFFREY BROWN: Now, as I said, Burger King says this is not why they did it. What do companies say about the tax structure, about why they might want to look -- become foreign companies for tax purposes? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: They’re not going to use taxes as the excuse for merging. That doesn’t sell well to the American public. It doesn’t sell well to their stockholders. What they sell it as is an advantageous melding of two different kinds of activities. In the case of Burger King, they’re saying, we’re getting the breakfast activities of the Tim Hortons plant. So we’re bringing things together and making a more efficient, larger company that will bring benefits to the stockholders. JEFFREY BROWN: And -- yes, go ahead. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: The tax savings are just an added benefit, they say. JEFFREY BROWN: They say. But what -- how does the U.S. corporate tax structure compare to others? I mean, what is the argument for that kind of move? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: The United States taxes corporations differently than most other developed countries. We tax corporations based on all the profits they make worldwide, as opposed to the profits they make at home. Most companies -- most countries used a territorial system. You tax on the business that goes on in your own country. That’s a very different thing. For us, we also have the very highest tax rate. Our tax rate is in excess of 35 percent, higher than any other developed country in the world. Now, we have a lot of tax breaks that bring the rates down, so the effective tax rates companies pay can be
very low, depending on whether you can take advantage of those tax preferences, the tax loopholes, if you will. The other big issue facing corporations is, if you earn money overseas, you don’t pay U.S. corporation -- corporate taxes on that until you bring those moneys home, until you repatriate those moneys. Estimates are, there’s about $2 trillion of American companies’ profits sitting overseas because companies don’t want to bring them home and pay Americans taxes on them. JEFFREY BROWN: Really? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: They’re hoping for a tax holiday, a lower rate or a zero rate to bring those moneys home. And while they’re waiting for that to happen, they’re doing what would look otherwise like very silly things. JEFFREY BROWN: Yes. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: For example, Apple has billions of dollars of profit sitting overseas, yet they borrowed $30 billion earlier this year at home. Why borrow money at home when you have got the money sitting overseas? JEFFREY BROWN: You pay taxes. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: Exactly. You don’t want to pay money on the taxes. And you can deduct the interest you pay at home, so you’re doing OK on the home tax side. JEFFREY BROWN: Well, so for the critics of the companies and for many people looking at this just -- there as an example, where it looks inefficient, it looks unpatriotic. These are unpatriotic corporate citizens. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: Well, the president certainly looked at that way, and a number of congressmen have claimed, this is not a fair way to do it. On the other hand, as Judge Learned Hand said in the Supreme Court years ago, there’s nothing wrong with trying to minimize your tax bill. You and I do it, I hope. (CROSSTALK) JEFFREY BROWN: But you mentioned the president. He said -- he sort of called out the companies. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: He also, though, said he didn’t know how much authority -- he didn’t think he would have that much authority to take action. Where does that stand in terms of what the president or Congress might do? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: Treasury is looking to see if there are ways they can close down some of the benefits for inverting. One of the things companies that invert do is loan money from the foreign company to the American part of the company. The Americans pay interest to the foreign part of the company. That interest is deductible against the American profits and reduces the taxes paid by the corporation in the United States, and the interest is not taxable in other countries. So it’s a win-win situation on the tax side. This is a way of not only getting out from under the corporate tax for your moneys earned outside the United States, but minimizing the tax you pay on profits made inside the United States. JEFFREY BROWN: I know you’re not a political scientist. I don’t want to make you be, but you watch this. I mean, where do you see the kind of sentiment and politics of calls for change? I mean, even today with Burger King, this is a very prominent company, right, with a name brand. I see calls for boycotts. So I wonder, how much public sentiment do you see out there that might be pushing the president and Congress to take some action that would stop these kinds of moves? ROBERTON WILLIAMS: I don’t really know how far that is going to go. People will call for the boycotts, but whether they will actually give up their Burger King hamburgers or their Tim Hortons donuts in the morning, I don’t know. What I do know is, we need the revenues. We’re running large deficits still. And whatever things that are using up those revenues are things not good for the U.S. Treasury. The Treasury will look for as many ways as they can to stop this. Whether it will be successful or whether Congress will step in a good question. JEFFREY BROWN: All right, Roberton Williams of the Tax Policy Center, thanks so much. ROBERTON WILLIAMS: You’re quite welcome. GWEN IFILL: Now we continue this week’s series Rethinking College. As states cut funding for public institutions, students are taking on bigger debt burdens to pay for their education. More than 70 percent of last year’s college graduates had student loans, averaging almost $30,000 each. Hari Sreenivasan has our report. HARI SREENIVASAN: It was a great day for Ann DeGarmo, who joined 6,400 students for graduation at the University of Wisconsin in Madison last May. The milestone marked the beginning of her life after college.
DEGARMO, College Graduate: Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. It’s happening. HARI SREENIVASAN: It also marked the beginning of payments on $58,000 of student loans. The heavy debt load carried by students like Ann has sparked a national dialogue among policy-makers. And it’s easy to see why. Seven of 10 graduating students left college last year in debt. The average debt load is $26,000. One in 10 owes more than $40,000. Behind home mortgages, student loans are the second largest source of personal debt, more than credit cards, more than auto loans. The total bill due for students in America tops $1 trillion. Throughout college, Ann DeGarmo held a job. Even so, she took on private and federal loans to make ends meet. ANN DEGARMO: I couldn’t work enough hours with going to school full-time and be able to afford to pay my rent in full. HARI SREENIVASAN: Now the reality of paying down debt for years has her worried. ANN DEGARMO: It’s hard. It’s really hard, and it’s really scary. HARI SREENIVASAN: Why are you scared? ANN DEGARMO: This education is going to cost me, you know, a car, a house, potentially. This education is going to cost me, you know, a car, a house potentially. It’s like, $58,000 isn’t change. It’s definitely not pocket change. It’s going to cost me the ability to start a family when I want to, potentially, depending on how fast I can pay it back. HARI SREENIVASAN: DeGarmo brought her concerns to a town hall meeting in Madison. ANN DEGARMO: About half of my debt is federal debt, and about the other half is private debt. HARI SREENIVASAN: The gathering was organized by an advocacy group called One Wisconsin Now. Scot Ross is the group’s executive director. SCOT ROSS, Executive Director, One Wisconsin Now: We have traveled around Wisconsin, and we have talked to people of all ages about their student loan debt. And it’s soul-crushing for them. They’re saying, all I want to do is go to college, and now I have got a 25-year obligation. HARI SREENIVASAN: Student Saul Newton from Northern Wisconsin described the difficult time he had affording college. SAUL NEWTON, Enlisted in U.S. Army: Over the course of two years, I saw my tuition skyrocket. I was working multiple jobs trying to keep my head above water, but I was drowning. HARI SREENIVASAN: Newton says he joined the Army to avoid serious debt, and was quickly deployed to Afghanistan during the military surge in 2007. SAUL NEWTON: I’m grateful that now I qualify for the G.I. Bill and I can go to college, and I have that opportunity, but I think it’s very indicative of the types of choices that students have to make now, that I had to make the choice to go to war in order to afford a college education. HARI SREENIVASAN: Congressman Mark Pocan, a Democrat who represents Wisconsin’s Second District, believes student debt is creating a drag on the country’s economic recovery. REP. MARK POCAN (D), Wisconsin: Coming out of school, you’re paying a lot of loans. If you’re not buying a new car, you’re not stimulating the economy. Instead of buying a home, you might continue to rent. So some of the things that really help us at the most base level of trying to bring the economy up and get it going while we’re still recovering from the recession is held back even further by people having high levels of debt. HARI SREENIVASAN: So what’s causing this situation? REP. MARK POCAN: With the crash of the entire economy just a few years ago, we really haven’t seen states put money back into their public institutions. So while you still have the cost of education, if it’s not being covered as it traditionally was, often by the states, it’s gone and got passed on to students over and over. HARI SREENIVASAN: In fact, tuition at public institutions has risen more than 50 percent over the last decade. It’s a significant number, given that 70 percent of undergraduates in the United States attend public institutions. Recently, Wisconsin’s Governor Scott Walker weighed in on the rising costs of higher education. In announcing his reelection campaign, Walker promised to extend a two-year tuition freeze at the University of Wisconsin. GOV. SCOTT WALKER (R), Wisconsin: More students and more working families can afford to send their sons and daughters to get a great education at one of our many U.W. campuses all across the state. How about that? (CHEERING AND APPLAUSE) HARI SREENIVASAN: Ross welcomes
any attention to high college costs and heavy debt as an election-year issue. SCOT ROSS: There are forty million student loan debtors out there. They need to get organized. If you think about the amount of time and discussion and debate and fear that elected officials have to, say, doing something with Social Security, well, there’s 65 million people who get Social Security. Now we have got 40 million people with student loan debt. That’s forty million people who, if they get involved in the public policy debate, if they get organized, they’re going to be a voting bloc that people will fear to not act. HARI SREENIVASAN: This spring, a flurry of bills were introduced by Democrats in Wisconsin and Washington to lower the existing debt burden, so far with little success. One bill proposed by Congressman Mark Pocan would allow for refinancing of student loans at lower interest rates. REP. MARK POCAN: In anything else in the world, if you’re a small business, if you own a home, you have a car, you’re a state or local unit of government, everyone’s refinancing loans because we’re at historic lows, and yet, with student loans, it’s really not allowed. HARI SREENIVASAN: What about the folks that say, well, where’s personal responsibility, this was the cost of going to school? REP. MARK POCAN: I think the difference is, you know, like I said, I also took loans, in addition to getting some grants, when I went to school. I could pay it off in five years. Now these are people leaving with $26,000, $58,000, and not doing it in five years, but doing it in 10, 20 years. ANN DEGARMO: It’s difficult to kind of understand as an 18 or-19-year-old that, you know, this education that you want, and you’re expected to get at this point in order to get a good job, is going to cost so much money. HARI SREENIVASAN: It is still true that, to get the good job, a college degree is worth the money. According to the Federal Reserve, a bachelor’s degree provides a 75 percent wage advantage over a high school diploma. Despite the high cost, some studies say the rate of borrowing has remained steady, and the vast majority of graduates are pleased with their education. ANN DEGARMO: The college experience is great. I have had a lovely, a wonderful time in college, but it’s challenging, and it’s sometimes very exhausting. But I think in the long run, it’s worth it. It’s worth it. HARI SREENIVASAN: DeGarmo is likely to get some relief on her federal student loans from the president’s executive order this summer, which caps payment to 10 percent of monthly earnings. GWEN IFILL: Tomorrow, Hari looks at the impact that massive open online courses, called MOOCs, are having on traditional teaching at the university level. And, online, you can read about how New Hampshire is experimenting with a tuition freeze at its public colleges to keep its students in-state. Plus, join us all week for "NewsHour" Twitter chats. Tomorrow’s topic: What gives a college degree its value? We return now to Iraq and the prospects for unity in a greatly fractured country. The Obama administration has repeatedly stated that it will provide additional military support against the Islamic State group only when Iraqis form an inclusive government that can deliver national unity. However, as chief foreign affairs correspondent Margaret Warner reports from Northern Iraq, disaffected Sunnis and Kurds are saying they don’t have much hope in the politics emanating from Baghdad. MARGARET WARNER: Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers greeted the governor of the long-contested province of Kirkuk Sunday along a defensive trench built to stop infiltration from the south. And how many of these observation posts are there? MAN: We have, I think, built 32 of these, and we have another 28 we’re building, yes. MARGARET WARNER: The Iraqi military used to share security for Kirkuk city and province, until mid-June, when they hastily retreated before the so-called Islamic State’s advance. The Kurdish regional government’s Peshmergas took over. The trench around the city funnels all who seek to enter it through clogged checkpoints, and many outsiders are turned away. It’s a metaphor for the mutual distrust that afflicts the country among its regions and its sectarian groups, the majority Shiites, the Sunnis and the Kurds. But now that the militants have captured one-third of Iraq, the pressure is on, encouraged by the U.S., for the three fashions to reconcile in the capital. Twelve days ago, Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-
Maliki agreed to step aside after eight years. Another Shiite figure, Haider al-Abadi, faces a September 10 deadline to form a new government with buy-in from disaffected Sunni Arabs and Kurds. MICHAEL STEPHENS, Royal United Services Institute: You have two constituencies in that country who clearly feel alienated from the capital city. MARGARET WARNER: Analyst Michael Stephens, in the Kurdish capital, Irbil, says, before cooperating, both groups have demands, above all, guarantees that Maliki’s heavy-handed Shiite-dominated rule won’t be repeated. MICHAEL STEPHENS: There’s a number of problems here on both sides to do with distribution of resources and almost a show of respect from the state. MARGARET WARNER: Part of that respect bubbles up from beneath here, Iraq’s oil wealth. It’s the world’s seventh largest producer, drawing foreign companies with their technology and management skills to produce here. But the Maliki government has shortchanged the Kurd and Sunni regions in redistributing the revenues. Yet ordinary Iraqis seem less concerned with sharing the oil windfall. Those we met said that what they really want is simply a peaceful country in which to live their lives. Um Ahmed fled Mosul with her family when extremists took over Iraq’s second largest city June. We met her in an Irbil shopping mall. UM AHMED, Iraq (through translator): We hope things get better. We ask only for peace and security. MARGARET WARNER: Baghdad lawyer Aqil Al-Hayali said rampant sectarian violence had forced him and his wife to abandon the capital. AQIL AL-HAYALI, Iraq (through translator): There is a 20 percent possibility I will go back, but things have to get better. I thank God we don’t have children right now. MARGARET WARNER: But can the political system deliver reconciliation, and in the face of the I.S. threat? For answers, we sought out two figures, one from each alienated camp: Kirkuk Governor Karim, a Kurd, and Sunni Arab Ali Hatem Al-Suleiman, leader of Iraq’s largest tribe, whose fighters in 2006 to 2008 helped U.S. forces turn the tide against al-Qa’ida in Iraq. Governor Karim has won huge majorities from all sectarian and ethnic communities, Kurds, Sunni Arabs, Turkmen, Christians and Shiites. On a heavily-guarded tour of city projects under construction, he maintained that the extremists’ advance has brought his city’s often divided groups together. GOV. NAJMALDIN KARIM, Kirkuk, Iraq: Actually, believe it or not, I think it has strengthened the relationship. They feel closer to me. They come to me for their concerns, for their needs and all that more than actually before. MARGARET WARNER: Karim’s seeks buy-in from all his constituents, delivering services inclusively, in contrast to the zero-sum politics in Baghdad. It seems to have worked with Turkoman shop owner Arkan Esam. ARKAN ESAM, Shop Owner: (through translator): We like this governor. Why? Because he is serving the city and doesn’t differentiate between the ethnicities. MARGARET WARNER: But Iraq’s long-running sectarian warfare, newly fueled by the extremist advance, still impinges. The evening before we arrived, three deadly bombings tore through this city. President Obama has been reluctant to get engaged more militarily in Iraq, until its warring factions agree to work together. But the weekend suicide bombings here in Kirkuk and a cluster of other attacks in Baghdad, Diyala province and Irbil suggest that reconciliation remains very difficult to achieve. Karim believes there’s only one pathway to that, to decentralize the government and empower the country’s three regions. If not, he forecasts, there will be a messy breakup anyway. GOV. NAJMALDIN KARIM: The common goal is to have -- to build a country that’s truly democratic, that’s inclusive, and that is decentralized to the maximum extent you can do it. MARGARET WARNER: And if that’s not possible? GOV. NAJMALDIN KARIM: If that’s not possible, I think Iraq is gone as we know it. MARGARET WARNER: And what about the Kurdish region? GOV. NAJMALDIN KARIM: The Kurdish region will have every right, if that doesn’t happen, to go its own way and determine its own future. MARGARET WARNER: And Kirkuk is part of that? GOV. NAJMALDIN KARIM: Kirkuk is always part of Kurdistan. SHEIK ALI HATEM AL-SULEIMAN, Crown Prince, Dulaim Tribe (through translator): We don’t want to split from Iraq, but we want to have our own region, our own
economy, our own security. We never wanted to split from Iraq, but rather strengthen Iraq’s unity. MARGARET WARNER: We spoke with Sheik Ali Hatem in Irbil, far from his ancestral home in the western province of Anbar. He sought refuge here after Baghdad issued an arrest warrant against him for treason amidst the conflict between Maliki’s security forces and Sunni demonstrators in Anbar. Ali Hatem doesn’t claim to speak for all Sunni Arabs, but he shares Governor Karim’s view that the reconciliation talks in Baghdad will go nowhere if the central government doesn’t loosen its grip. How hopeful are you that this kind of inclusive government can be formed? SHEIK ALI HATEM AL-SULEIMAN (through translator): Very difficult. If we want to protect Iraq, if we want to protect the right of the Iraqi people, we should move to three different regions, a democratic, federal Iraq, rather than a united Iraq built on the blood of the Iraqi people. MARGARET WARNER: If that does come to pass, he says, then his Dulaim Tribe and others, far from supporting the militants, as is often charged, are ready to take up arms against the Islamic State forces. SHEIK ALI HATEM AL-SULEIMAN (through translator): ISIS are not Muslims. They are Islamists. They want to take advantage of the Sunni region to create their own country. We have postponed the battle against ISIS only because of the political situation. Otherwise, we are going to face them. MARGARET WARNER: Even if the Baghdad talks produce an inclusive government and Sunni tribes join the fight, would it be enough? MICHAEL STEPHENS: The idea that a political agreement in Baghdad will immediately solve all the problems to do with Sunni disaffection and tribal disaffection, I think, is a bit naive. But it just opens that door. MARGARET WARNER: For a country that sees no exit, even an open door may offer hope. GWEN IFILL: I spoke with Margaret a short time ago. Margaret, thanks for joining us again. We just heard in your piece a Kurdish leader saying that a decentralized Iraq is now possible. Did you have a sense of that? Is Baghdad crazy about that idea? MARGARET WARNER: You know, Gwen, I haven’t been in Baghdad on this trip. But I would say that the Shiites certainly aren’t going to like that idea. After all, they are the majority in this country. They’re bound to keep winning future elections, and that means that for the foreseeable future, they will always get to have a Shiite prime minister. And Maliki’s made that a hugely important post. The only thing that might change their mind and be more willing to compromise is that now they do need the other two groups to fight this new threat from these extremist forces. But that’s only if the Kurds and the Sunnis insist on it as a price for getting into the government. Now, the Kurds, who have this semiautonomous region already up here, are, of course, in favor of it if it means getting a bigger slice of the oil revenues or getting to sell their own. I think the Sunnis -- the Sunni political class is a little less clear, because you do have Sunni politicians in Baghdad who are invested in the idea of a strong central government. They just want a bigger slice of it. Their critics say, like that sheik that we interviewed, that’s because they want to share in the spoils. The question I keep getting asked here, Gwen, is, where is the United States going to come down on this? A lot of people here, and I -- and also farther south into Iraq proper, have said, you know, the Americans’ insistence over the last 10 years under Presidents George W. Bush and Obama on a unified Iraq is really unrealistic, because the politics practiced here are sectarian, winner-take-all, and always alienates the other two groups. GWEN IFILL: Does Iran have a role in this -- in the direction this goes? MARGARET WARNER: Oh, absolutely. They have had a role here all along, even all during the American occupation, as a matter of fact. But the latest sign of that was that, today, surprisingly, the Iranian foreign minister, Javad Zarif, showed up here in Irbil, met with the president and the prime minister. They had a joint press conference. And President Massoud Barzani, the president of this region, announced that in fact Iran has been supplying the Kurds with weapons to fight the I.S. forces. Now, that’s a real turnaround, because the Iranians have their own Kurdish problem, as they see it. They have never been friendly to this semi-sovereign Kurdish entity up here. But I guess it’s the I.S.
threat that is impelling them in that direction. And Barzani said, you know, we asked a lot of countries for help and for weapons, and Iran was the first country to respond. So I think it is evidence, Gwen, that, in this sort of slow-motion dissolution of Iraq that we have been really seeing over the last few years, exacerbated by the I.S. forces now, not only Iran, but perhaps some of Iraq’s other neighbors are going to want to play. GWEN IFILL: Keeping an eye on Iran and the U.S., Margaret Warner for us in Iraq tonight, thank you. MARGARET WARNER: Pleasure, Gwen. GWEN IFILL: We turn now to our occasional series of conversations with those directly affected by the ongoing border crisis. Jeff is back with that. JEFFREY BROWN: Last night, we heard from an attorney offering free legal services to immigrants at a New Mexico detention center. Tonight, rancher and veterinarian Gary Thrasher joins us. He’s lived on the southern U.S. border for more than four decades. He has a ranch near Sierra Vista, Arizona, just eight miles from the Mexican border. And he treats cattle in ranches from Arizona to New Mexico to West Texas, where rugged, remote landscape is a major corridor for illegal immigrants and drug smugglers. Well, welcome to you, Dr. Thrasher. So how does illegal immigration at the border impact your life as a rancher and vet? Give us a glimpse of life at the border as you experience it. DR. GARY THRASHER, Veterinarian/Rancher: Well, where I’m at, at the border, and where I spend most of my time is in the remote regions of the border, rather on the areas where there’s a lot of population. So we’re in pretty remote areas that have a lot of traffic, that are not patrolled very regularly. And it does create a situation where we come in contact with quite a few people coming across the border for all kinds of different reasons. Right now, it’s a lot of drugs, a lot of other-than-Mexican-type smuggling, mostly just smuggling activities, rather than just immigrant activities. In the past, it’s been huge amounts of immigrants. Now it’s drugs and more OTMs, they call it. JEFFREY BROWN: Have you seen a lot of change in recent years either in volume or in types of activities? DR. GARY THRASHER: Oh, yes, there’s change depending on what regions of the border. I travel the whole border of New Mexico and Arizona primarily, and different regions have different types of traffic depending on the gangs that are running those particular routes through there. We are not seeing much in the line of unaccompanied minors coming across in our area, mostly because they have much easier access through the Texas corridor down around the Rio Grande. JEFFREY BROWN: So, for you... DR. GARY THRASHER: But if they ever stop that down there, it will be coming here. So we’re expecting to see it eventually. JEFFREY BROWN: Well, explain that, so -- because there is a lot of talk about border issues in Texas, but you’re worried that when it gets turned off there, it moves up to where you are? DR. GARY THRASHER: Historically, that’s the way it’s always happened. There was a lot of traffic through California. When they shut that corridor, they shut it, sent them into the Arizona corridor, thinking that it would be a lot more rugged and a lot more difficult for them. But it’s just a matter of where the gates are open the most. And we have -- running parallel to the Arizona border and New Mexico border, we have Mexican Route 2 that runs from Mexicali all the way to Juarez. And it’s really excellent access for anything coming to the border. In spots, it’s less than half-a-mile from the U.S.-Mexican border. So the next -- if they don’t go through the Rio Grande Valley, the next most successful place for them is along our border. JEFFREY BROWN: So, sounds like you’re saying... DR. GARY THRASHER: And if they plug... JEFFREY BROWN: Yes, go ahead. I’m sorry. DR. GARY THRASHER: If they plug our border, then the next place will probably be the Texas Big Bend area, but there’s not very good access to that on the Mexican side, so it’s the last one that will be pressured with anything. JEFFREY BROWN: Well, so it sounds like what you’re saying, that, for you, the immigration and particularly the immigration of minors isn’t so much the issue, as security or border security is and drugs. Define that problem and how serious is it, and what do you want to see happen? DR. GARY THRASHER: Well, it becomes more and more serious. The illegal
immigrants is not as serious a problem as the drug trade and trade from other people being smuggled in from other countries. When they’re driven farther and farther out into the sticks to cross the border, it’s becoming much more difficult to them, and they don’t want to be caught out there, and they don’t want their trails to be interrupted. So it becomes a little bit more violent. They stand up to us a lot more. As it is now, we don’t very often come in contact with very many people because we don’t want to be in contact with them. We just want to call it in and see if the Border Patrol can catch them after they have come across, rather than confronting them ourselves like we used to. There’s just been too many people hurt and too much violence going on for us to get involved in that now. JEFFREY BROWN: So I wonder, as you watch and listen to the debate around the country, what is it that you want the rest of the country to know or that perhaps is not being understood or seen clearly from where you sit? DR. GARY THRASHER: Well, the border is not a uniform, consistent situation all the way across the border. Some places, the fence works. Some places, it doesn’t. Some places, you don’t want a fence. Each particular area has its own characteristics and will have to be dealt with differently. You can’t compare the Rio Grande Valley to the Arizona mountains to the Arizona deserts. They’re all completely different. The Yuma desert is completely different. It takes a whole lot different planning and a whole lot different methods and ways they’re trying to slow the immigration. What the -- most of our problem in Arizona is the fact that Border Patrol, historically, has not actually tried to enforce the international boundary in the rural areas. They have waited for them to come across. Then they chase them, try to apprehend them after they have gone through our ranches and caused whatever problems they’re going to cause. At this point, we need them on the international boundary, rather than back. And I don’t mean 100 percent of them. I mean 75 percent to 80 percent of the agents probably should be and the assets should be. As it is now, they’re trying to watch them, but when they watch them, they just watch them cross, and then they chase them to our places, which doesn’t make a whole lot of sense to us. JEFFREY BROWN: Well, let me ask you, just in our last 30 or 40 seconds here, what -- you watch the debate going on in Washington. Is there one thing that you would like to see from the federal government at this point? DR. GARY THRASHER: A change in policy, a change in deployment strategies, dependent upon the particular area it’s in. It’s not a one-size-fits-all thing, where they control it all from Washington, D.C. The agents on the ground, their morale is terrible after all this problem with the unaccompanied minors. You know, illegal crossing of the border the first time, where you just cross the border and you haven’t done anything else, is only a misdemeanor. How much risk and how much effort do you want to go to, to enforce a misdemeanor? There is no way to differentiate whether that’s -- they’re carrying guns, whether they’re carrying somebody that’s a criminal or seeks to do harm in the U.S. So it’s very difficult, and it’s very disheartening for the agents themselves. They are just frustrated in what they’re doing. So, how much confidence can you have in them, when they’re controlled out of D.C. the way they are? JEFFREY BROWN: All right, Gary Thrasher, thank you so much for joining us. DR. GARY THRASHER: You bet. Thank you. GWEN IFILL: We will have more conversations on the border crisis soon. Again, the major developments of the day. Israel and Hamas agreed to an open-ended cease-fire that may finally end seven weeks of warfare. The presidents of Russia and Ukraine met face to face, but their late-night talks made little progress toward ending the crisis in Ukraine. And President Obama and other top officials stopped short of confirming reports of U.S. surveillance flights over Syria. They could lead to airstrikes against the Islamic State group. On the "NewsHour" online right now: Singer-songwriter Valerie June’s anthem for working women was inspired by the heroines in her life: her mother, grandmother and even the small businesswomen she’s worked for. Seattle’s KEXP recorded a recent performance. You can watch that on Art Beat. All that and more is on our Web site, NewsHour.PBS.org.
And that's the "NewsHour" for tonight. On Wednesday, we will have another report from Margaret Warner in Northern Iraq, and we will take a look at what it takes to free captured Americans. I'm Gwen Ifill. We will see you online and again here tomorrow evening. For all of us here at the "PBS NewsHour," thank you, and good night.

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Article Title: SHOW: CNN NEWSROOM 10:30 AM EST 2016 Election in Focus; Black-on-Black Murders; Religious Freedom Laws. Aired 10:30-11a ET

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Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: A look at the 2016 election. Black Lives Matter questioned over black-on-black killings. Examining the recent run of religious freedom laws. (VIDEO CLIP) (MUSIC PLAYING) (END VIDEO CLIP) CAROL COSTELLO, CNN ANCHOR: So this has kind of become a national joke, right? So let's talk about this. I'm joined by TIME magazine reporter, Zeke Miller. Welcome. ZEKE MILLER, POLITICAL REPORTER, TIME: Thank you for having me, Carol. COSTELLO: Thanks for being here. So this week's cover story, it asks the question -- and I believe there we have it -- "which flawed, disliked flag bearer do Republicans want to go to battle against Hillary Clinton?" And of course you -- it has to be Ted Cruz. But you know, some polls say that Ted Cruz can beat Hillary Clinton, who is flawed, herself. MILLER: Exactly. If you're a Republican operative and watching a Republican senator, like we saw (offset a rich) last night, they're sort of in that position where they don't really like Ted Cruz, they don't really like -- they certainly don't like Donald Trump. And they want to have a chance. And Ted Cruz, right now, gives them that chance to defeat Hillary Clinton in the Fall. Donald Trump runs so far behind, has alienated so many voters -- independents that the Republican Party will need to win in the Fall -- that they're willing to get behind the person who is you know, said about every insult in Washington, thrown the kitchen sink at his fellow colleagues in the Senate. Has been -- was behind the government shutdown that many in his own party derided. And they're now running behind him, maybe not running, walking behind him a little bit. And maybe not with their heads held high, but certainly out of a pragmatism that he's the -- their alternative right now to stopping Donald Trump. COSTELLO: But so how is Senator Ted Cruz playing that? Because on one hand he's probably, I guess happy that established Republicans are coming out to support him. But they're not exactly enthusiastically talking about him on national television. So what is Senator Ted Cruz say about that? MILLER: No, and they're actually pretty OK with that. They don't want the label of the establishment falling in behind Ted Cruz. They don't want those news stories. They're really not pushing that. What they're going for are the voters behind them. They're hoping that the donors, the donor class, that Washington lawmakers, that those comments will signal to their supporters that, "hey, if you're a moderate Republican voter, it's time to get behind Ted Cruz. If you are a pragmatic, traditional Republican voter who isn't in that key party strand, now is the time to get behind Ted Cruz." He still needs to be a little bit detached from the Washington establishment, and he certainly is. He's not a member of that establishment, by any stretch. Because he still needs to win over
those Donald Trump supporters who don't like them, who don't like Washington, maybe even more
than the Ted Cruz supporters do. So he needs to sort of straddle a very fine line here, and welcome the
establishment folks into his support, but without embracing them. Because he still needs to get those
Trump voters back in, as well. COSTELLO: So in Wisconsin, where Ted Cruz had that big win, he showed
that he could appeal to different kinds of voters, other than evangelical voters, right? Do you think that
will hold true in other states, moving forward? MILLER: That's the big question for it. New York is not
some place where he's expected to do very well. There are some congressional districts where he could
pick up some delegates. The bigger question for him might be in states like Connecticut, Delaware,
Pennsylvania, that go the week after, on the 26th. That will -- really, if he can consolidate there, that will
be a sign that he can really stop Donald Trump, going forward, when he gets to California, the last big
delegate haul in the cycle. His problem is that he still has giant cases on his flank. And that's helpful to
him in New York, that's helpful to him in certain places. But if he ever really wants to get the party
behind him, he's going to need to find a way to get some of those voters in consistently behind him.
COSTELLO: Consistently behind him because, you know, a lot of polls show that his likeability factor is
quite low. And he's tried to repair that, because he can be very funny, right? And some of his campaign
ads make you laugh out loud. So he's trying to appear warmer, with his relationship with his wife, he
puts his arm around her, in one shot he was feeding her some food at a campaign stop. So he's doing
those kinds of things to show people that he is a warm human being. MILLER: Absolutely. He is, like
every politician, there's a public face and there's a private face. And he's trying to do more to show who
he is behind the scenes on that campaign bus. You'll see him cracking lines about The Princess Bride, and
those movie lines. To some people it may come off a little awkward, but that really is who the man is,
who Senator Cruz is. And he's going to be doing more to show that softer side to maybe sand off some
of those rough edges. Particularly as the map moves from some of those deep conservative states
where he did very well, to some of the more industrial, liberal, moderate states, where he needs to
expand his appeal. COSTELLO: All right, Zeke Miller, I'll leave it there. Thanks for stopping by. -- MILLER:
Thank you. COSTELLO: By the way, Ted Cruz -- you're welcome -- Ted Cruz will sit down with Erin Burnett
tonight, 7:00 p.m. Eastern, right here on CNN. Still to come in the Newsroom, an impassioned Ray Lewis,
speaking from the heart. He says, Black Lives Matter is ignoring black crime. COSTELLO: An emotional,
searing indictment of Black Lives Matter, has now gone viral. It's a Facebook post by NFL great, Ray
Lewis. And it's been viewed by more than 2.7 million people. Lewis questions the group's focus, in light
of the wave of horrible violence in Chicago. Listen. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) RAY LEWIS, FORMER BALTIMORE
RAVENS LINEBACKER: I'm trying to ask the question if -- to the organization of Black Lives, if they really
matter, then why not riot now? There was 141 murders this year, 82 murders last year, at this same
time. I've -- I'm trying to figure out in my mind why no one is paying attention to black men killing black
men. And now, we have this separation, once again, that we're being victimized because of one bad
white cop, two bad white cops, three bad white cops kill a young, black brother. But every day we have
black-on-black crimes, killing each other. I'm trying to figure out how the month of March, there's more
murders in the month of March in Chicago, than there are days in the month. (END VIDEO CLIP)
COSTELLO: Here to talk about this is Aaron Goggans, he's the core organizer of Black Lives Matter, DC.
He joins me from Washington. Welcome. AARON GOGGANS, CORE ORGANIZER, BLACK LIVES MATTER,
DC: Hello, thanks for having me on. COSTELLO: Thanks for being here. You heard what Ray Lewis said,
right? He's saying, in other words, your group is focusing too much on a couple of instances of alleged
police brutality, and you're not focusing enough on black-on-black crime, something that kills more
African American young men, than anything else. GOGGANS: Well it's important to talk about the myth
of black-on-black crime. It's just that, a myth. Any Google search of the term can come up with a lot of different articles -- COSTELLO: So Ray Lewis is wrong? GOGGANS: I think Ray Lewis is talking about a lot of myths and misconceptions about what the movement is. And is talking about an argument that stems out of antiblack, years ago. -- COSTELLO: Well let's go back to black-on-black crime. You're saying that black-on-black crime is not a problem? GOGGANS: No, I'm saying that intercommunity crime happens in all communities across the country. And it is a problem that the movement of Black Lives is focusing on. The movement of Black Lives is also focusing on state-sanctioned violence, which is a different thing. It's not just a few white cops killing a few unarmed black men. In fact, you have the state systematically creating up systems that are killing black people, both black women, black children, black men, black queer, black trans, and black gender non-conforming folks. And that's the issue that I think Ray Lewis didn't talk about in his video. COSTELLO: Well, specifically, Ray Lewis said, yes, those issues are important. But the more important issues is figuring out how to help communities heal. How to stop the killing in communities like in Chicago. Which is seeing this huge increase in violence, and it's mostly black-on-black crime. GOGGANS: There are many folks on the ground, in Chicago, who are doing great work. You can look at the interrupters. But really I think it's important that the media focus on the broader issues, and the systemic conditions that create both, inter-community violence, and state-sanctioned violence. It's important that we talk about how the police are used in black communities. It's important that we talk about, like in Flynt, for instance, you have both the state, and federal government refusing to govern. And refusing to actually take care of the black community there. -- COSTELLO: Oh, no, no. I hear you, I hear you, and the media certainly covers that. But Ray Lewis is specifically talking about Black Lives Matter. And I'm just going to read you another excerpt from his rant on his Facebook page. "We keep screaming black lives matter. If they really matter, then let's do ourselves a favor. Let's stop killing black folks. Let's take it way back to where we understood what slavery was all about. Slavery was about togetherness and understanding that we must overcome, together." -- GOGGANS: Slavery was not about togetherness and understanding. Slavery was about how to get labor from black folks without compensating us for it. Slavery was about creating the conditions for the American settler, colonial society. Slavery was not about togetherness. Because in our resistance to slavery we created unity, that's a different thing, it's a different conversation. COSTELLO: I think that's what he's talking about. He's talking about unity, and fighting injustice together. GOGGANS: I think we need to fight all the forms of injustice that black community faced. And I think you can't use black-on-black crime, or this myth that somehow, white people are not also killing white people, to obfuscate from the fact that the state is killing black people in America. -- COSTELLO: I don't think Ray Lewis is saying that. I don't think Ray -- I think Ray Lewis is concentrating on black-on-black crime. He's not saying that only happens in certain communities. GOGGANS: I, what I'm trying to highlight, is the fact that this is what the media wants to bring the movement of Black Lives, on national television to talk about. When there are all of these systems of injustice that are systematically killing black people in our communities. COSTELLO: So what would you say directly to Ray Lewis for posting this on his Facebook page? GOGGANS: I don't have anything to say to Ray Lewis. I don't know him. I might suggest that he Google the myth on black-on-black crime, and he talk to other athletes, like Carmelo Anthony, who are actually from Baltimore, who have been doing work in the community. COSTELLO: All right, I have to leave it there. Aaron Goggans, thanks for stopping by. Still to come in the Newsroom, Mississippi becomes the latest state to adopt a so-called "religious freedom law." Critics say it's really a veiled attempt to discriminate against the LGBT community. COSTELLO: Despite the backlash, there are controversial, new, North Carolina law that critics say discriminates against gay people. A state senator
in neighboring South Carolina has introduced a nearly identical bill. It would, among other things, prohibit anyone from using a public restroom, other than one of their biological gender. South Carolina's Republican Governor, however, says the bill is not needed, because of a law adopted in 1999. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY, (R) SOUTH CAROLINA: What I will tell you is, in South Carolina we are blessed, because we don't have to mandate respect, or kindness, or responsibility in this state. And so I'll tell you that law has worked perfectly. I don't know of any example that we've had a problem of. And South Carolina's going to continue to focus on ethics, and on roads, and on jobs, and all of those things. Because we think we've got that part covered. (END VIDEO CLIP) COSTELLO: These so-called religious freedom bills, and laws, are becoming more and more common across the country. The ACLU says, some 200 bills that could lead to discrimination, have been introduced in state legislatures this year. And they've even been enacted in Kansas, North Carolina, and now Mississippi. The Mississippi law says people and organizations can use their personal religious beliefs to deny things like wedding services, child adoptions, rental property, medical care, and more. CNN's Polo Sandoval, live in Jackson, Mississippi with more. Good morning. POLO SANDOVAL, CNN NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Hey, Carol. Good morning. You know, that debate really is sweeping across the country. But we are here in Mississippi this morning, because it is the latest state to actually enact some of this controversial legislation. And in speaking to the people here, the folks that are directly affected by this new law, we are definitely finding opposing views. For example, we have Jeremy Jones, a guy who's known around these parts as "The Cake King." Someone who says he is the only openly gay black baker in the state. And he says that this new law, which by the way will be in effect in July, essentially, according to him, reverses any sign of progress that the people here, in Mississippi have seen in the last 50, 60 years. Since the days of the Jim Crow law. So he says that this opens a door to discrimination. Opposite of him, you have a second-generation seamstress, Miss Jackie Buchanan, who we met yesterday, who says that even before this law was signed earlier this week, that she won't knowingly assist same-sex couples prepare for a wedding. She cites her religious beliefs. Now again, she says that this new law protects her right to simply, respectfully deny providing any of these services to same-sex couples. In other words, working with brides to prepare their dresses. But then you hear from other people, Carol, who simply call it discrimination. Again, this debate far from over, especially with other states now considering some of this very controversial legislation. COSTELLO: All right, Polo Sandoval reporting live from Mississippi this morning. Tonight at 9:00 p.m. Eastern, the CNN original series, "The 80s" revisits one of the pivotal moments in modern US history; the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan. It had the rare effect of uniting the country across political lines, and was also an opportunity for The White House to advance the Reagan agenda. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) UNIDENTIFIED MALE (voice-over): The assassination attempt, and the aftermath elevated Ronald Reagan's popularity to a new high. The latest NBC News Associated Press poll shows that his job rating jumped 10 points. H. W. BRANDS, AUTHOR, "REAGAN: THE LIFE": Reagan understood that he was getting this sort of, sympathy reaction. Everybody was rooting for him, all of a sudden. Because they didn't want him to die, they didn't want to lose a president. And so without missing a step, he goes right into what the message is, "we've got to get this tax and spending bill passed, and we've got to do it now." UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This day's speaker, the President of the United States. (APPLAUSE) RICHARD REEVES, AUTHOR, "PRESIDENT REAGAN, THE TRIUMPH OF IMAGINATION": It was just like the movies, Reagan was a true American hero. BERNARD SHAW, FORMER CNN ANCHOR (voice-over): The President looking very jovial, very healthy. JAMES A. BAKER III, FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF: I was sitting in the well of the House there, when he was addressing the Congress. It was magic. Everybody was so grateful that his life had been spared. It was a
stirring moment. (APPLAUSE) SHAW: If he wants them to stop, they're not going to stop for a while. LOU WATERS, FORMER CNN ANCHOR: Today handed President Reagan, and the Republicans, a major victory. For the second time in his drive to cut the Federal budget, President Reagan got what he wanted from a House controlled by the opposition party. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Reagan comes off of the victory in Congress, and the recovery from the assassination attempt, looking very strong, very bold. Like a very determined leader. (END VIDEOTAPE) COSTELLO: An all-new episode of "The 80s" airs tonight, 9:00 p.m. Eastern, only on CNN. I'll be right back. COSTELLO: Checking some top stories for you, 57 minutes past. At least two investigations are underway after this shocking video showing a Texas School Resource Officer slamming a 12-year old onto the ground, went viral. The incident happened last week at a middle school in San Antonio. The young girl in the video says she doesn't remember what happened, she was knocked out. The officer in question is now on leave. A Takata airbag being blamed for the death of a teenager in Houston. The 17-year old was driving a 2002 Honda Civic one week ago, when a minor traffic accident caused the recalled airbag to explode. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) RUDY TORRES: She actually got out of the car, took a step, and fell. Collapsed. She should've walked away from it. She had a deep laceration on the side of her throat. It looked like debris from the airbag. (END VIDEO CLIP) COSTELLO: Honda says owners of the car model involved in the Texas accident have been sent multiple recall notices over several years. More than 20 million cars from 12 automakers with Takata airbags have been recalled so far. A manhunt now underway in Washington state after two men escape from a mental hospital. Police say Anthony Garver (ph), and Mark Adams (ph) were committed to the Lakewood facility for treatment, after being arrested for very violent crimes. They were last seen in the hospital's dining room at 6:00 last night, but were not noticed missing until an hour-and-a-half later. The public is urged not to interact with them, but to alert authorities if they see these two men. New York City's cracking down on 
smokeless tobacco. Mayor Bill De Blasio is signing a ban on the products at sports venues, including Yankee Stadium and Citi Field, as well as other recreational areas that issue tickets. That includes the players on the field. The ban also includes E-cigarettes. New York now joins other cities like, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Boston, in banning the products. Thanks so much for joining me. I'm Carol Costello. At This Hour, with Berman and Bolduan starts now.

Source Title: BTN

Policy – Ecig – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 6957

Article Title: Safety rules proposed for laundry 'pods'

Date: 4/11/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Children attracted to popular detergent packets. For the rest of her life, 21-month-old Zoey Mishler will be monitored for scar tissue on her vocal cords and in her throat that could result from sinking her baby teeth into a laundry detergent packet last summer. The energetic toddler ended up in the hospital with swollen vocal cords, burns to her throat, a fever and blue chemical bubbles coming out of her nose after biting into the colorful packet in a communal laundry room on July 30. "We are going to do our best to see that this laundry pod can be just made a little bit safer, a little bit
harder to get into for kids everywhere,” said Zoey's grandmother, Shelly Olson. Olson and others spoke at a news conference Friday that presented new legislation to set safety standards for liquid detergent packets - commonly referred to as “pods” that have been linked to a surge of child poisonings - and at least one death. “To a little kid, they literally look like candy,” said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., who is co-sponsoring the Detergent Poisoning and Child Safety Act with Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill. Speaking at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Klobuchar said the bill would authorize the Consumer Product Safety Commission to develop rules requiring childproof packaging, warning labels, and changes to packet designs and colors to make them less appealing to kids, and adjustments to their composition that would make the consequences of exposure less severe. Manufacturers - many of whom say they’re already working to implement safeguards on their own - would have 18 months to comply with the new regulations. Nationwide, more than 17,000 children under age 6 were exposed to the contents of laundry detergent pods between March 2012 and April 2013, according to a report from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which found that the products pose a serious and potentially life-threatening poisoning risk to young children. The death of a 7-month-old Florida boy was linked to the pods. The Minnesota Poison Control System reported 49 detergent-packet-related cases in 2012 - when the products began gaining popularity - compared with 352 in 2014. Dr. Jon Cole, medical director of the Poison Control System, said Friday that the packets are one of three major emerging poisoning trends in the state, the other two being *e*-cigarette juice and synthetic drugs. “The change in the numbers is similar for all three,” he said. “A low-level problem that we didn't see very often ... becomes part of our everyday practice.” In fact, the first call of the day to the state's poison control emergency number Friday involved a child biting into a detergent pod, said Klobuchar, who before the news conference stopped by the room where the calls are taken. Though detergents generally are not particularly toxic, Cole said, the pods can cause severe injuries, such as burns inside the mouth and airway and to the skin. “Compared to usual exposures for children of similar age and similar products, these laundry pods are far more likely to land children in the hospital,” he said. In a February news release, the American Cleaning Institute called legislative proposals for addressing the safety of liquid detergent packets unnecessary. The institute, which represents the U.S. cleaning-products industry, wrote that manufacturers of the packets are already committed to reducing the number of accidents involving children that are attributed to the products. Manufacturers have added safety icons and improved warning labels, along with changing to opaque packaging to make the laundry packets not visible from the outside, according to the news release. “ACI will continue working to reach as many parents and caregivers as possible, reminding them of the importance to keep laundry packets away from children,” the institute wrote. On Friday, Klobuchar said that she does not see the bill as heavy-handed and that she thinks companies already know they need to upgrade their products to make them safer. “If the industry starts pursuing their own safety measures, that's a good thing,” she said, adding that government agencies sometimes adopt industry standards when writing regulations. “We all know these detergent packets ... are a big convenience - I use them. They are a time saver,” she said. “The question is: How do we make them less accessible to kids and make our kids less at risk of poisoning?” As Zoey scampered about the conference room with her toy dog, her grandmother, Olson, said she feels generally lucky about how her granddaughter’s case turned out. “We are still very worried about possible scarring tissue that may come on later in life, that may infect her airways, but you know, we're going to count our blessings,” she said. Parker Lemke is a University of Minnesota student on assignment for the Star Tribune.”

Source Title: News
CHICAGO -- Mayor Rahm Emanuel is proposing a historic property tax increase, while expanding fees on trash collection and taxi rides under a plan to confront a growing fiscal crisis in the nation's third largest city. The proposal comes months into the second term of Mr. Emanuel, a former congressman and chief of staff to President Barack Obama, as he runs out of options to address ballooning pension costs that are coming due. During his first term, the mayor focused on trying to gain concessions from city workers and retirees, but was stymied by the courts and organized labor. Mr. Emanuel’s plan would raise an additional $544 million from property taxes alone phased in over four years under what is being described as the largest tax rise in city history. He also proposes raising additional revenue by taxing e-cigarettes, expanding fees on garbage pickup, and adding fees on taxi and ride-sharing services. “As we continue to grow our economy, create jobs and attract families and business to Chicago, our fiscal challenges are blocking our path,” Mr. Emanuel said in a statement.

Details of the proposal were released by the Emanuel administration Monday ahead of his budget address to the city council on Tuesday. Parts of the plan leaked in recent weeks have faced pushback from some aldermen and public rebuke at hearings. Many have voiced concerns about the cost to working families. “We must ask the very wealthy and big corporations to pay their fair share in taxes so we can finally fix our structural deficit and get on track to fiscal sanity,” said Alderman Leslie Hairston, who is among the council members pushing for tax rebates for working families and changes in how commercial buildings are taxed. The Emanuel administration said it would seek changes in state law to protect those who own homes valued at $250,000 or less from the brunt of the tax increase. The proposal comes as Mr. Emanuel looks to keep Chicago from becoming an increasing outlier among U.S. cities. The Midwest hub faces many of the challenges that other aging cities are experiencing, from population declines to crumbling infrastructure. But sharply rising municipal pension costs and mounting state fiscal problems have helped set Chicago apart. Moody's Investors Service dropped the city's credit rating to junk earlier this year. Mr. Emanuel's proposal includes cost savings from eliminating vacant positions to redesigning how streets are swept, but largely relies on new revenue to confront its fiscal problems. The property-tax increase would pay for a $550 million increase in pension costs for police officers and firefighters required by the state to ensure their retirement systems remain solvent. The Emanuel administration is lobbying the state to allow the hike to be phased in over time, matching the property-tax-increase schedule.
Rules aim to clean up 'Jersey Shore' town's beach

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP) - The town where MTV's "Jersey Shore" was based has new rules aimed at curtailing bad behavior. Seaside Heights officials have voted to extend paid beach access hours to 9 p.m. on weekends and holidays and close the beach after that. Previously, people had free access to the beach after 5 p.m. The boardwalk will be closed between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. The new rules also ban any smoking, including e-cigarettes, and limit the size of coolers, umbrellas and canopies. Administrator Christopher Vaz says the beach was often filthy because there was no control over people who arrived at night. He says the new regulations come after complaints from residents. The cast of "Jersey Shore" was known for partying and its "gym, tan, laundry" lifestyle. Share or comment on this article Sorry we are not currently accepting comments on this article.

'Second medical pot shop opens in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The first shop that can legally sell medical marijuana in Florida opened at a strip mall in Tallahassee on Tuesday and Dallas Nagy became its first customer, buying cannabis capsules that he hopes will ease his chronic muscle spasms and seizures. "Where's my stuff?" Nagy joked as he handed over $60 at the shop after travelling about 200 miles from his hometown in Hudson, near Tampa, for the ceremonial opening of the Trulieve dispensary attended by several doctors, patient advocates and members of the press. Trulieve, which gets its pot plants from partner Hackney Nursery, has been licensed to distribute medical marijuana more than two years after the sales were approved by the Florida Legislature in a process beset by several administrative delays. The state government now expects dispensaries in 19 cities in the coming year once all six distributing organizations are up and running. Physicians can prescribe medical marijuana for patients to ease symptoms from cancer, epilepsy, chronic seizures and chronic muscle spasms, as long as both are in a state registry. Patients must have a relationship with their doctor for at least 90 days before getting a prescription. Dennis Deckerhoff, who pushed for
legalization of medical marijuana because of his son who suffers from intractable epilepsy, called it a “Field of Dreams” moment. “Now that it is here, open and has medicine, more doctors are going to come on board now,” he said. So far, finding doctors who can prescribe cannabis in the Sunshine State has been challenging. Only 25 have completed the required course and registration, the Department of Health says. The National Conference of State Legislators lists 25 states and the District of Columbia that have decriminalized medical marijuana under state law. Florida isn’t one of them but is one of 18 that have limited access laws.

Trulieve will have medical marijuana initially available in a concentrated oil, tinctures, gel capsules and vape cartridges. By law, the marijuana must be low in tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which produces the euphoric state for users, but is high in cannabidiol (CBD) which has been effective in preventing seizures. The Trulieve store includes a lounge and consultation area that opens into a large area with products displayed in glass cases. Transactions can be done on a cash-only basis but company chief Jason Purnell said it is hoping to be able to debit card transactions by next week. In March, the legislature approved an extension of the Right to Try law, allowing patients with terminal conditions to receive high-THC cannabis. Trulieve expects to have that available next month. State senator Rob Bradley, one of the driving forces behind getting medical marijuana passed, called the past week’s developments a significant milestone. “It took way too long and there were too many delays but we are finally full speed ahead,” he said. Share or comment on this article Sorry we are not currently accepting comments on this article.

Source Title: Web

Policy – Ecig – PM – Web 3

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 733654

Article Title: Why Cancer Groups and Drugmakers Want to Block Opioid Regulation | Policy Dose | US News"

Date: 10/17/2016

Article Content: It could be that competition in the political arena where regulations are written and revised may be more important to businesses and organized interest groups than competition in the marketplace, where consumers search for lower prices and higher quality goods. And when the struggle brings in higher-ground public interest groups to support profit-making manufacturing – a coalition of “bootleggers and Baptists,” as has been explained here at U.S. News before – unexpected things can happen. Recent struggles over regulatory attempts to lower the explosive flow of opioids is a case in point. It is well known that the opioid addiction epidemic is a killer. Much of the damage is associated with the rampant writing of opioid prescriptions, where a few doctors specialize in writing opioid prescriptions. In 2015, 227 million opioid prescriptions were written, an amount that would provide a bottle of pills for nine out of 10 adults. And that is just one source for the drugs. There are also illegal opioid producers working to supply an addicted population. Some 165,000 Americans have succumbed to the addiction. Until recently, when the Center for Public Integrity released its report on the topic, what may not have been so well known is that the pharmaceutical industry has spent $880 million on nationwide lobbying since 2006 in a fight to stop state regulation that would set limits on prescription-
writing activities, some eight times more than the gun lobby spent in pursuit of its national interests during the same period. Those millions of dollars and the associated 1,350 lobbyists at work across state capitals understandably come from the pharmaceutical producers who hope to see aggressive prescription-writing go unsullied. Their profits depend on it. But the lobbying activity also includes, working on the side of the producers, the American Cancer Society and the Cancer Action Network. The cancer groups are working for their members, hoping to maintain unrestricted access to much-needed painkillers. When the bootleggers and Baptists joined to support laws that shut down liquor stores on Sunday, the lives of sympathetic state lawmakers were made much more comfortable. A vote to close down liquor stores is a vote for the good Baptists – but also for the bootleggers who will happily supply booze on Sunday. In the opioid case, a vote to deny tighter prescription regulation is a vote for the American Cancer Society. From past regulatory experiences, we know that both environmentalists and Eastern coal producers supported legislation that blunted the competitive position of producers of Western state clean coal. We also know that Big Tobacco and health care advocates lobbied the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to limit the marketing efforts of the e-cigarette industry. The bootlegger-Baptist activity list goes on and on. And always, it is the presence of the so-called Baptists that greases the rails for political action that may or may not serve the interests of all Americans taken together. It remains to be seen if state legislators can sharply limit opioid prescription activity while giving cancer victims access to much-needed medication.

Source Title: Web

Policy – Ecig – PM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 670509

Article Title: The Daily 202: Donald Trump’s relentless media tour calls attention to him—and his general-election strategy - The Washington Post"

Date: 5/6/2016

Article Content: Donald Trump, left, speaks with John Dickerson on “Face The Nation” in New York. The businessman has used his unorthodox media strategy to great advantage in the race so far. (John Paul Filo/CBS via AP) THE BIG IDEA by Robert Costa: James Hohmann is on vacation -- we'll have a series of guest writers from the Post political team sharing their analysis with you this week. “Please hold for Mr. Trump.” Following Donald Trump’s commanding sweep of the Indiana primary, those words have been heard across the media landscape this week by countless producers and reporters as the presumptive Republican nominee has made the rounds on television, radio, and print — and then made the rounds again. He has been everywhere, often seen sitting with his eyes narrowed across from a cable host, at other times just a voice. But the saturation has been more than a victory tour for Trump. It is indicative of how he plans to approach the general-election campaign. Instead of relying on traditional methods of communication — paid advertising, carefully-chosen interviews, corporate-crafted Facebook posts — he will be the medium and the message, unpredictable and always around. Trump’s daily routine: hundreds of requests come in through his trusted press aide, Hope Hicks, and they get piled on his desk. (Trump
likes to review actual printed documents.) He rifles through them — confirming this, nixing that. But that isn’t the end. He surveys cable news, he monitors the headlines (which are also printed out). He’ll call into one network while another sets up backstage. And eventually he turns to Twitter, typing himself or dictating to an associate. For Democrats and Republicans, the obvious consequence of Trump’s ubiquity is that regardless of what they want to focus on, they will likely be forced to respond each day to the mogul’s latest whim. He looms each hour as a constant potential disturbance, for better or for worse. And shock he did on Thursday when he generated a torrent of commentary — much of it cringing and harshly critical — with a controversial tweet that showed him smiling widely as he ate a taco bowl and praised Hispanics. Happy #CincoDeMayo! The best taco bowls are made in Trump Tower Grill. I love Hispanics! https://t.co/ufTeQd8yA pic.twitter.com/k01Mc6CuDI — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) May 5, 2016 To get a sense of why Trump is following an unusual playbook all his own, The Washington Post spoke with longtime Trump confidant Roger Stone, a Nixon-loving bon vivant and ruthless strategist who has been at the billionaire’s side for decades (although he is not part of Trump’s campaign). Stone said that Trump’s manner, forged in the Manhattan tabloid and business wars of the 1980s, could weather more blows and brushbacks than the typical national politician and thus made the candidate more willing and able to use his persona as his most prominent campaign tool. “Trump is going to eschew everything the establishment and the press think he should be doing to have a total grassroots communications strategy,” Stone said in the interview. “He’ll be all over the media, doing as many interviews as he can, calling into radio shows, and having wall-to-wall rallies that get broadcast on the cable channels.” “Remember,” he added, “those rallies also get you to dominate the local news. So you’re all over the local channels, all over the national, wall-to-wall and free.” Stone didn’t always agree with Trump’s tactics. “I told him it couldn’t work. I was skeptical. An adviser telling someone that you could win a presidential campaign by not spending much at all on ads? By simply going on TV? It was a historic calculation,” he said. “But he did it. A blunt speaking style, a repetition on three issues, and you combine that with a sour and suffering electorate and it all worked,” Stone said. “He’s not programmable. There was a time 30 years ago I tried to put words in his mouth but it didn’t take. You can tell him concepts. But he doesn’t want to take someone else’s words. He’s not comfortable doing it. He’d rather watch the culture, the news, pick up what he can.” “No one knows what he is going to do. I still don’t know what he’ll do,” Stone said. Neither do most Republicans and Democrats. The only guarantee: he’ll be on TV, and elsewhere, soon. WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING: Penn State coach Joe Paterno is carried off the field after getting his 400th collegiate coaching win after their victory in an NCAA college football game. (ap Photo/Gene J. Puskar, File) A new report offers evidence former football coach Joe Paterno might have heard sex abuse allegations against Jerry Sandusky as early as 1976. From Gabe Hiatt: “Described as ‘a new bombshell’ in the Sandusky saga, the report references a court order on a related insurance coverage case involving the more than $60 million the university has paid out in civil claims filed by victims of Sandusky’s child molesting crimes. According to PennLive, the court order contains claims by one of Penn State’s insurers that ‘in 1976, a child allegedly reported to … [Joe Paterno] that he … was sexually molested by Sandusky.’ The order also cites separate references in 1987 and 1988 in which unnamed assistant coaches witnessed inappropriate contact between Sandusky and unidentified children, and a 1988 case that was supposedly referred to Penn State’s athletic director at the time’ … All of these examples were taken from victims’ depositions used in the still-pending insurance case.” Penn State told NBC News it was aware of the allegations, “but the legal case and confidentiality commitments that govern our settlement agreements preclude us from discussing these matters at all.” GET SMART FAST: The seventh
Worker’s Party Congress began in North Korea behind closed doors, with a requirement that foreign reporters stand 500 yards from the building. Kim Jong Un is expected to outline his view for the country in a Friday speech. (Anna Fifield) SpaceX successfully landed its rocket on a platform in the Atlantic Ocean, making it the company’s second successful sea landing in less than two months. (CNN Money) The Florida Supreme Court heard a challenge to the state’s death penalty law, potentially reducing the convictions of nearly 400 death row inmates. (Mark Berman) President Obama granted clemency to 58 inmates, as part of his ongoing initiative to release federal prisoners serving mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses. (Sari Horwitz) Federal and local officials heard a proposal to double the size of the White House fence, following a series of security breaches. The new structure could reach up to 14 feet and is slated for final review this summer. (Justin Wm. Moyer) A coalition of Syrian rebels and hardline jihadists have seized a “strategic village” from pro-government forces outside Aleppo. A human rights group said at least 43 insurgents and pro-government fighters died in the battle. (AP) Arsenio Hall is suing Sinead O’Connor for defamation after she blamed him for Prince’s death, saying in a Facebook post that Hall supplied him with drugs for “decades.” (Travis M. Andrews) Iraq’s prime minister urged political rivals to prioritize the battle against the Islamic State, calling for unity amid deepening political tensions in the country. (Wall Street Journal) The Obama administration unveiled new legislative proposals to combat international tax evasions, money laundering, and financial crime following last month’s Panama Papers leak. (Ana Swanson) The FDA banned the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under 18, subjecting the product to federal regulation amid rising health concerns. (Laurie McGinley and Brady Dennis) An atheist group is suing the House Chaplain after he rejected a request to deliver a non-religious invocation on the House floor. The complaint reopens a long-standing fight over whether a religious leader should open the daily session in Congress. (Kelsey Snell) The accused “Grim Sleeper” serial killer was convicted of ten counts of murder by an L.A. jury, following a decades-long killing spree that targeted poor young black women. (Elahe Izadi and Lindsey Bever) New Jersey authorities are searching for an escaped prison inmate who previously served time for the death of a 10-month-old baby. (Sarah Larimer) A North Carolina tow truck driver refused to serve a woman after noticing her Bernie Sanders bumper sticker. (Sarah Larimer) The University of Arizona’s law school announced it will begin accepting applicants with only GRE scores, provoking fierce criticism from the Law School Admissions Council. (New York Times) The “active shooter” reported at an Illinois Target turned out to be an unarmed man protesting the store’s transgender bathroom policy. The man, who reportedly yelled out that the store was “going to hell,” was charged with disorderly conduct. (Sarah Larimer) Indiana mothers can now drop off unwanted infants at climate-controlled “drop boxes,” which are being installed in 100 locations across the state. (Ben Guarino) RYAN WON’T BACK TRUMP: Ryan speaks during a town hall with millennials at the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service. (Reuters/Yuri Gripas) The House speaker -- and not incidentally, the chair of the GOP’s convention in Cleveland this summer -- went on CNN yesterday afternoon and said he’s “not ready” to back Trump, who has all but formally wrapped up the nomination. By holding out, Ryan -- the target of pleas to put his own name in presidential contention (no dice, he says) -- gave down-ballot Republicans cover to separate themselves from the business mogul if it benefits them. But it was yet another extraordinary moment in what has been a wildly unpredictable race. Philip Rucker, Paul Kane and Robert Costa have the story: “While acknowledging that Trump has mobilized a powerful grass-roots movement and earned the nomination, Ryan said that Trump has not shown himself to be ‘a standard-bearer who bears our standard’ — and he put the onus on the business mogul to recalibrate his campaign and offer a more inclusive vision.” Asked by CNN’s Jake Tapper whether he backs Trump, Ryan
said “I’m just not ready to do that at this point. I’m not there right now.” (In response, Trump said he is “not ready to support Speaker Ryan’s agenda...”) Ryan’s comments deepened the divide in a party now facing a painful reckoning about Trump: His remarks broke a previous pledge to support the GOP nominee, and put him at odds with both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, who recently backed the real-estate mogul. His remarks offer a new way for like-minded Republicans to address Trump’s pending nomination: “‘There has been growing anxiety among members in purple and blue districts, marginal seats,’ said Rep. Peter T. King ... ‘Paul truly believes what he’s saying...It’s personal and sincere. But there is a political equation to all this. He knows what the feeling is inside of the House as much as anyone.’” — Trump is expected to visit Washington next week to meet with lawmakers. But there are no plans for Trump to address the full House Republican Conference — a departure from tradition for both parties, in which the presumptive nominees trek to Capitol Hill to meet with their respective caucuses in meetings hosted by the congressional leadership.”

Meanwhile, the RNC is working to set up a meeting between Trump and Ryan next week, and Chris Christie said he would try to reach out to Ryan and discuss his concerns. — “The tensions between Trump and Ryan go beyond temperament. They have philosophical differences about the size and scope of government ... Ryan champions free-trade agreements, international military engagement, and sweeping overhauls of Social Security and Medicare, whereas Trump is an avowed opponent of recent trade deals, foreign interventions and proposed changes to entitlement programs.” Kasich aide John Weaver praised the speaker for his stand: Such respect for @SpeakerRyan. Wish more @GOP leaders had his courage.— John Weaver (@JWGOP) May 5, 2016 — “Trump will soon be getting briefings from U.S. spy agencies. It might not go well,” reports Greg Miller: Trump said he is eager to start meeting with U.S. intelligence officials “for classified briefings on the nation's secrets. The feeling may not be mutual ... is not known for discretion or nuanced understanding of global security issues, let alone awareness of the widespread revulsion among U.S. intelligence officials over some of Trump's positions — including his expressed admiration for [Putin] ... and pledge to resume torturing terrorism suspects. Where should the U.S. intelligence community's first PowerPoint presentation for Trump begin? “It beggars the imagination,” said former CIA director Michael V. Hayden, who was among those who briefed President Obama after the 2008 election. 'Given that [Trump's] public persona seems to reflect a lack of understanding or care about global issues, how do you arrange these presentations to learn what are the true depths of his understanding?’” — Trump hired hedge fund CEO and former Goldman Sachs executive Steve Mnuchin as national finance chair, citing his “extensive and very successful financial background.” “The installment of a fundraising guru signals that the campaign will expand its financial targets and no longer rely mostly on Trump's personal fortune to bankroll its operating budget,”Jose A. DelReal writes. “But Mnuchin’s political allegiances may also raise eyebrows among Trump’s critics in the Republican Party, who have remained skeptical of the mogul’s conservative bona fides ...” A review of Mnuchin’s past political donations shows he has donated to Republican and Democratic politicians alike: In addition to donating to Mitt Romney in 2012, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani and the RNC, Mnuchin has also given to many Democrats: then-senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, the presidential campaigns of Al Gore and John Kerry, Sen. Chuck Schumer, and former Senate majority leader Tom Daschle. --Trump told West Virginia Republicans they didn’t have to vote in Tuesday’s primary contest – even with a number of contested local race on the ballot: “What I want you to do is save your vote — you know, you don’t have to vote anymore,” said Trump. “Save your vote for the general election, okay? Forget this one. The primary is gone.” The presumptive Republican nominee told the crowd he debated on whether to even show up at all, but said he “didn’t
have the heart” to stand them up. (Jenna Johnson) -- Trump outlined his idea to cut national debt: Asked on CNBC yesterday whether the U.S. needed to pay its debts in full, or whether he could negotiate a partial repayment, Trump said the U.S. should “renegotiate longer-term debt” and persuade creditors to less than full payment. (New York Times) -- Pro-Trump super PAC strategist Jesse Benton has been found guilty on campaign finance charges while serving on Ron Paul’s presidential campaign. (David Weigel)
IT’S NOT JUST RYAN: Several big name Republicans announced they could not (yet anyway) support their party’s standard-bearer, and even more said they wouldn't go to Cleveland. Those who won’t show up to the Republican convention include both former presidents Bush and the party's two most recent Republican presidential nominees, Mitt Romney and John McCain. If you’re trying to keep up, we compiled a handy list of the convention no-shows, committed and non-committed Republicans below:
The Bushes, from left: H.W., W., and Jeb, in 2001. (Reuters/Kevin Lamarque) NON-COMMITTED REPUBLICANS: Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan reiterated he will not endorse any candidate this cycle, adding he’s “not going to take any more stupid questions about Donald Trump.” (Josh Hicks and Ovetta Wiggins) Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake told CNN “some of Trump’s positions” make it “very difficult for me” to back him. “I hope he backs off some of those,” said Flake, who called Trump’s plan to build a wall with Mexico “nutty.” Nevada Sen. Dean Heller said he “vehemently” opposes Trump’s comments on women and the Hispanic community, noting Nevada’s ballot policy that allows voters to choose “none of these candidates.” (Las Vegas Sun) Mitt Romney reiterated he will not support Trump, and an aide told The Post he has no plans to attend the convention. (Philip Rucker)
COMMITTED REPUBLICANS: Former Texas governor and presidential candidate Rick Perry, who called Trump a “cancer on conservatism” while he was in the race, did a full 360 degree flip-flop yesterday, telling CNN he not only supports Trump but is “open to being his running-mate.” “He is not a perfect man. But what I do believe is that he loves this country and he will surround himself with capable, experienced people ...” Perry told Dana Bash. TFW you forget to do spring cleaning on your campaign website: https://t.co/yi94H8Hh5M pic.twitter.com/Vggdczexr4 — N’Gai Croal (@ncroal) May 5, 2016 But Perry wasn’t the only former detractor to jump on the Trump Train: Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, whose family helped bankroll an anti-Trump super PAC, plans to endorse Trump on Friday at a rally in Omaha. (Philip Rucker, Paul Kane and Robert Costa) Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, who previously endorsed John Kasich, told Youngstown reporters he intends to support Trump but is not interested in the VP slot. “I’ve got a lot of friends frankly who normally don’t vote and they came out and voted for [Trump], and they don’t consider themselves Republicans normally,” Portman said Thursday. “But they strongly support [Trump]. He’ll bring new people to the party, no question about it.” (Youngstown Vindicator) New Hampshire Sen.
Kelly Ayotte said she “supports” Trump but has refrained from a formal endorsement. (New Hampshire Union-Leader) Casino mogul and top Republican donor Sheldon Adelson expressed support for Trump, saying he won the contest “fair and square,” and would “be good for Israel.” (New York Times) Indiana Gov. Mike Pence told Terre Haute reporters he “looks forward to supporting” Trump, despite backing Ted Cruz in his state’s primary just a few days ago. Pence added: “I think Trump will do very well in the Hoosier State.” (WTHI) Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell gave a “tepid” endorsement of Trump, citing his pledge to back the Republican nominee. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin demurred, but “made it clear” he prefers Trump to Clinton or Sanders. Sen. Rand Paul said he would back Trump, saying Hillary Clinton is “terrible” for Kentucky’s coal mining industry. (Kentucky Courier-Journal) Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said he will support Trump, adding backing “the Democratic nominee “is simply not an option.” Sandoval previously endorsed John Kasich and caucused for Marco Rubio. (Las Vegas Sun) Arizona Sen. John McCain supports Trump but remains “sharply critical” of his immigration views, which could imperil his own reelection efforts. (CNN) Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said he will support Trump, adding backing “the Democratic nominee “is simply not an option.” Sandoval previously endorsed John Kasich and caucused for Marco Rubio. (Las Vegas Sun) Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton said he will support Trump, saying the country “can’t afford a third Obama-Clinton term.” (Buzzfeed) Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, who previously endorsed Cruz, said Trump has the responsibility – “and certainly the ability – to unite this Grand Old Party and go on to victory.” (Mississippi Clarion-Ledger) Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee said he was “all in” for Trump and urged others in the party to give up on “the hapless ‘Never Trump’ nonsense.” (CNN) West Virginia gubernatorial candidate Bill Cole appeared at a campaign rally in the state to stump for Trump and praised his approach to politics. (CNN) South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, Rep. Trey Gowdy, and Rep. Jeff Duncan all said they will support “the Republican nominee,” without directly naming Trump. None have plans to attend the party convention in July. (The State) Former Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole will attend the July party convention, though he has yet to publicly back Trump. (NBC) MORE ON THE DEMOCRATIC RACE: Clinton speaks to California voters during a rally at East Los Angeles College in East Los Angeles. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post) -- Prosecutors and FBI agents investigating Clinton’s use of a private email server have found “scant evidence” that she used it with malicious intent, though they said they are still probing the case aggressively. Top Clinton aides have provided interviews to federal investigators in recent weeks, including longtime adviser Huma Abedin, as authorities work to wrap up the case. (Matt Zapotosky) -- Clinton signaled she would oppose a vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord during a lame-duck session in Congress, giving her strongest statement of opposition yet. The Democratic front-runner told an Oregon coalition of labor unions and environmental groups that she opposes the agreement “before and after the election.” (David Nakamura) -- Clinton’s campaign is reaching out to top Bush family donors in an attempt to convince them she represents their values better than Trump. The moves come as Clinton -- and the Democratic Party -- try to capitalize on establishment Republican following Trump’s emergence as presumptive Republican nominee. (Politico) If Sanders ends his presidential bid, he will leave behind an army “unmatched in size, influence and capabilities.” The question is whether -- and how hard -- they would work for Clinton. From NYT’s Jonathan Mahler and Nick Corasaniti: “... Roughly nine million Sanders supporters have organized [online], through hundreds of Facebook pages, Reddit forums and Slack channels.” Sanders’s digital corps is not some loose network of supporters. It is a driving force behind his campaign, soliciting tens of millions of dollars in donations and routinely mobilizing volunteers to perform impressive feats of organizing ... “If Mrs. Clinton can harness even some of the power of this group, it could provide an important lift for her in a bruising general election in which
social media is certain to play a prominent role ... But Mrs. Clinton’s place at the forefront of her party’s establishment could make her a tough sell to an online community whose members often identify themselves as revolutionaries more than as Democrats.” -- “Can Clinton’s focus on experience succeed against Trump where others failed?” By Anne Gearan: “Far ahead in the Democratic race for president, Clinton has embarked on a first round of general-election campaigning against Trump featuring a low-key focus on policy and her own experience … Hoping that the election will be waged on wider ground than her economics-centered primary battle against Sen. Bernie Sanders ... Clinton’s campaign is trying to present a contrast between someone who talks big — ‘a loose cannon,’ as Clinton often labels Trump — and someone who listens and gets things done. The strategy includes wonky appearances to discuss job creation, green energy and combating drug addiction — even in unfriendly states such as West Virginia.” -- Clinton and Sanders scrapped for delegates in Guam: Clinton reserved $22,000 in radio ads before the state’s Saturday caucus, while Sanders made a $12,000 outlay on many of the same stations. (Politico) WAPO HIGHLIGHTS: Obama bin Laden. -- “After presiding over bin Laden raid, CIA chief in Pakistan came home suspecting he was poisoned by ISI,” From Greg Miller: “Two months after Osama bin Laden was killed, the CIA’s top operative in Pakistan was pulled out of the country in an abrupt move vaguely attributed to health concerns and his strained relationship with Islamabad. In reality, the CIA station chief was so violently ill that he was often doubled over in pain ... And the cause of his ailment was so mysterious ... both he and the agency began to suspect that he had been poisoned. The disclosure is a disturbing postscript to the sequence of events surrounding the bin Laden operation five years ago and adds new intrigue to a counterterrorism partnership that has often been consumed by conspiracy theories ...” Officials said the ISI chief at the time ... routinely refused to speak with the CIA chief or even utter his name, referring to him as “the cadaver.” ... Even if the poisoning suspicion is groundless, the idea that the CIA considered the ISI capable of such an act suggests the breakdown in trust was even worse than widely assumed. SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ: The reactions on social media to Trump's blast of him eating a taco bowl on Cinco de Mayo were scathing and hilarious. Jose Andres responded: @realDonaldTrump Mr. Trump if you like Hispanics/Latinos why don't you simply apologize about your negative comments towards us? — José Andrés (@chefjoseandres) May 5, 2016 And Samantha Bee: The best taco bowls are made by immigrants who resent a rich prick calling them rapists. Love inauthentic Mexican! pic.twitter.com/9tEORJxoZp — Full Frontal (@FullFrontalSamB) May 5, 2016 Here's the chaser: Just got off phone with Trump Grill, says they don't serve taco bowls. It's not on the menu online. — andrew kaczynski (@BuzzFeedAndrew) May 5, 2016 The White House had its own Cinco de Mayo celebration: At the White House. Celebrating #CincoDeMayo with @chefjoseandres and @EmilioEstefanJr pic.twitter.com/1RonZOoQqQ — Jorge Guajardo (@jorge_guajardo) May 5, 2016 Celebrities are into this election. Check out these posts from Chloe Moretz: And Olivia Wilde: Lawmakers celebrated the National Day of Prayer: Finally, Twitter learned David Letterman now has a beard: On stage with the Obamas and Bidens, David Letterman says he thought for a second, they were running again. pic.twitter.com/PENERSHWxU — Mark Knoller (@markknoller) May 5, 2016 GOOD READS FROM ELSEWHERE: President Obama walks off after a bilateral meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. At left is Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci) -- The New York Times Magazine, “The Aspiring Novelist Who Became Obama’s Foreign-Policy Guru,” by David Samuels: “Picture him as a young man, standing on the waterfront in North Williamsburg, at a polling site, on Sept. 11, 2001 ... He saw the planes hit the towers, an unforgettable moment of sheer disbelief ... Everything changed that day. But the way it changed Ben Rhodes’s life is still unique, and perhaps not strictly believable, even as fiction.” “I immediately developed this idea that, you know, maybe I want to
try to write about international affairs,” Rhodes said, [who was then in his second year of the MFA program at NYU.] Now, he is the deputy national security adviser for strategic communications ... “Like Obama, Rhodes is a storyteller who uses a writer’s tools to advance an agenda that is packaged as politics but is often quite personal. His lack of conventional real-world experience of the kind that normally precedes responsibility for the fate of nations ... rather than creative writing — is still startling ... [But] on the largest and smallest questions alike, the voice in which America speaks to the world is that of Ben Rhodes.” HOT ON THE LEFT “Progressive Groups Ratchet Up Pressure On Google To Dump The GOP Convention,” from HuffPost: “National progressive organizations are ramping up efforts to get Google to drop its sponsorship of the Republican National Convention’s video live stream, claiming it amounts to an implicit endorsement of Donald Trump’s bigoted rhetoric and views. CREDO Action, the activism arm of the progressive wireless phone company, released a video on Thursday ... ‘It isn’t too late for Google to do the right thing,’ the video concludes in text on the screen. ‘Tell Google: Don’t sponsor hate. #DumpTrump.’” HOT ON THE RIGHT “Libertarian Party membership applications double after Trump becomes GOP nominee,” from The Washington Examiner: “In the hours after the polls closed in Indiana and it was announced that businessman Trump had won the Republican presidential primary ... the Libertarian Party saw a doubling of its new membership applications. Between 7 p.m. Tuesday evening and noon on Wednesday, the Libertarian Party received 99 new memberships. For the same time period a day earlier, the LP received only 46 new memberships. In an email ... LP Executive Director Wes Benedict said he was unaware of any social media efforts by the party to recruit new members, and believed the increase was in response to Trump becoming the clear Republican nominee.” DAYBOOK: On the campaign trail: Here's the rundown: Clinton: Oakland, San Francisco, Calif. Trump: Omaha, Neb.; Eugene, Ore. At the White House: President Obama meets with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. Vice President Biden does a round of local television interviews about the Supreme Court nomination of Merrick Garland. On Capitol Hill: The House meets at 9 a.m. in pro forma session. The Senate is out. QUOTE OF THE DAY: Former Mexican president Vicente Fox apologized to Donald Trump for using vulgar language about the GOP candidate’s plan to get Mexico to pay for his wall. “I apologize. Forgiveness is one of the greatest qualities that human beings have, is the quality of a compassionate leader. You have to be humble. You have to be compassionate. You have to love thy neighbor,” Fox told Breitbart. “I invite him to come to Mexico and to see what Mexico is all about.” NEWS YOU CAN USE IF YOU LIVE IN D.C.: -- Another wet and chilly day before temps warm up for the weekend. The Capital Weather Gang forecasts: “Wetter and generally damp, cool, gray ... broken record. Our friendly upper-level low moves its center over us, increasing our rain intensity and chances to around 90%. It’s possible showers could end up more on the scattered end, but we have to advise a washout is perhaps the most likely option, with more “rain on” than “rain off”. Given overcast conditions, high temperatures struggle to get into the mid-to-upper 50s...” -- Police are investigating the stabbing of a male juvenile that took place at Union Station Thursday afternoon. The boy, whose age was not provided, was reportedly conscious and taken to an area hospital. (Peter Hermann) -- Metro General Manager Paul J. Wiedefeld will announce a “massive overhaul” of Metro’s rail system, potentially impacting the commute for hundreds of thousands of Washington-area residents. (Lori Aratani and Paul Duggan) -- A Maryland man was convicted for hustling more than $600,000 in an “Internet romance scheme,” baiting at least seven men and women with the promise of relationships so they would send him money. (Ann E. Marimow and Dana Hedgpeth) -- D.C. will not launch a controversial plan to pay stipends to violent gun offenders for staying out of trouble, following efforts from Mayor Muriel E. Bowser, who strongly opposed the measure. (Aaron C. Davis) -- A spill at a Prince
George’s County wastewater treatment plant sent 1.5 million gallons of partially treated sewage onto the plant’s grounds Wednesday night. Officials said the spill has been contained. (Katherine Shaver)

VIDEOS OF THE DAY: Imagine if Trump called Obama after his Indiana win: In honor of May the Fourth, the Obamas busted a move with R2-D2 and some stormtroopers: The Post’s Dana Milbank promised to eat his column — literally -- if Trump got the nomination. Watch as he keeps his promise: Take a rare look inside North Korea as Pyongyang prepares for a party gathering: Seth Meyers broke down what it means that Trump is the presumptive nominee: Conan O’Brien honored all the candidates Trump beat: Gilbert Gottfried called Trump “Hitler without the warmth”: Kid President celebrated Mother’s Day: Finally, check out this adorable Vine of a fox: And this fiery explosion on the D.C. metro: Metro don’t lie pic.twitter.com/bGpdgxvADL— Patrick Madden (@Patrick_Madden) May 5, 2016 "

Source Title: Web

Addiction

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Addiction within the database is “caddict8”.

Tobacco (no ecig) texts

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_add”.

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 837

Article Title: Justices let stand $70M in awards to smokers"

Date: 6/9/2014

Article Content: DATeline: WASHINGTON WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court has turned away appeals from cigarette manufacturers of more than $70 million in court judgments to Florida smokers. The justices did not comment Monday in rejecting the companies’ complaints. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Philip Morris USA Inc. and Lorillard Tobacco Co. wanted the court to review cases in which smokers won large damage awards without having to prove that the companies sold a defective and dangerous product or hid the risks of smoking. Those cases all relied on a Florida court ruling that allows individual smokers or their surviving relatives to use jury findings in an earlier large class-action lawsuit, even though the verdict in that earlier case was overturned. Each plaintiff still has to show addiction to cigarettes, and resulting death or illness."

Source Title: AP

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes
DATELINE: LANSING, Mich. LANSING, Mich. (AP) - To rescue Detroit's school district from potential insolvency, Michigan is turning to a familiar playbook. It will shift more than a quarter of the state's $250 million annual payment from tobacco companies to Detroit schools. The move is the latest in a long line of tapping the legal settlement when the governor and lawmakers are in a pinch for money. With the latest Detroit bailout, all but $26 million, or about 10 percent, of the yearly tobacco cash is automatically spoken for - which could curb legislators' options whenever another fiscal emergency hits. It's also another blow for health advocates who say the state is shortchanging smoking prevention and cessation programs despite collecting massive sums from the 1998 settlement and tobacco taxes. Of the $251 million net tobacco payment for the next budget year, $72 million will go to a Detroit Public Schools trust fund as part of a $617 million bailout. Another $17.5 million will repay Michigan's savings account for a $195 million bailout that helped end the Detroit bankruptcy in 2014. About $60 million in debt service will be paid because of 2005 and 2007 deals under which the state received large up-front payments of money in exchange for giving bondholders a portion of future tobacco payments. The "securitizations" helped balance the state budget and launched the 21st Century Jobs Fund, an economic development program. Another $75 million in tobacco cash will go to the economic development fund, too - some of which is used to finance the Pure Michigan tourism campaign. Helping Detroit schools "means we're going to have to spend general fund on things that we were previously spending the tobacco settlement dollars on," said Kyle Jen, deputy director of the nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency. The state will pull more from general spending to ensure that Medicaid and welfare spending is not cut, leaving less for other budget priorities. For cancer and other health advocacy groups, the decision to again tap tobacco dollars for non-health purposes is disappointing but not surprising. "We raised concerns with folks within (Gov. Rick Snyder's) administration and key lawmakers saying, 'Those dollars really belong in health care.' It was not something that folks really were interested in hearing or interested in reacting to," said Peter Ruddell, a Lansing-based lobbyist for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the American Heart Association. Under the 1998 deal, tobacco manufacturers make annual payments to states to compensate for medical costs caused by smoking-related illnesses. The industry's advertising and marketing is restricted. For a decade, Michigan used much of the money for popular college scholarship programs that later were eliminated during the Great Recession. The master agreement does not explicitly state how the payments should be spent, though it has provisions that clearly show the intent for states to spend some money on tobacco prevention, according to advocates. Michigan spent $1.6 million on tobacco prevention this fiscal year, 44th lowest among states and Washington, D.C., according to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. It is a tiny fraction of what is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "What concerns us the most is that we continue to have people who are addicted to tobacco products not being provided an opportunity to quit," Ruddell said. Drawing from the tobacco settlement to save Detroit's school district enabled the GOP-led Legislature to avoid reducing funding for other districts across the state. Legislators "can go tell their school districts, the parents in those school districts that this money is not at the expense of money that would otherwise go to their school district," Snyder, a Republican, said in February. ___ Follow David Eggert on
TERRY GROSS: This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross. John Waters has violated many taboos and created intentionally perverse scenarios in his films, most notably in “Pink Flamingos” about a competition for the title, The Filthiest Person Alive. His movie “Hairspray” was adapted into a family-friendly hit Broadway musical and then into a musical film starring John Travolta. A couple of years ago when Waters was 66, he was looking for an adventure he could write about. The adventure he chose was to hitchhike cross country from his home in Baltimore to his co-op apartment in San Francisco. He chronicles his adventures and frustrations on the road in his new book “Carsick.” The first part of the book is fiction, in which he imagines best-case scenarios, like getting a ride from his favorite porn film star, and worst-case scenarios, like getting a ride from a killer out to get all the cult film directors he hates, including John Waters. Parents, this interview has a couple of moments that are probably not appropriate for young children. John Waters, pleasure to have you back on FRESH AIR. What made you think of hitchhiking cross-country as the idea for your book?

JOHN WATERS: I don't know. I don't do dating sites. I don't do Facebook. I don't do any of that. I just thought I wanted to meet some new people, and I wanted to have a midlife crisis that didn't involve buying a sports car or doing ridiculous things. So I came up with something more ridiculous, an adventure. TERRY GROSS: So I used to hitchhike all the time in college. I used to pick up hitchhikers all the time. I wouldn't dream of picking up a hitchhiker now. What made the...

JOHN WATERS: Well, I would. TERRY GROSS: You would, yeah? JOHN WATERS: Yeah, but the whole time when I hitchhiked across the country, from when I left Baltimore to San Francisco, I saw one hitchhiker. And I was in the car with somebody else, and I said, don't pick him up. I can't believe I did that. (Laughing) You'd think that would be such bad hitchhiking karma. But when you hitchhike alone, you don't want to share your ride with somebody, believe me. I am not a Communist hitchhiker. (LAUGHTER) TERRY GROSS: So you assume people would think you were either an older homeless man or that you were John Waters. So how did it divide up between the people who recognized you and the people who thought you were pathetic, sad, destitute person?

JOHN WATERS: There was a little of both because what happened is people would drive past me and think, was that John Waters? No, why would I be standing there doing that? And they'd come back and pick me up. Other people didn't know and pulled over and tried to give me money or help me and then realize and started laughing and screaming. And many people didn't recognize me, and when I did tell them during a normal conversation in the car, that I was a film director, they just looked at me like I was so deluded as a homeless person that believed he was a cult film director. So
generally I didn't care because it didn't matter to me. I wanted to hear their stories. I was relieved if they really didn't know who I was. But yet I'm a hypocrite because when I get stuck, I would shamelessly use it if I could try to get a ride. TERRY GROSS: You even cared around a fame kit. (Laughing). JOHN WATERS: I did but that helped with the policemen. It was for if the cops stopped me - and the only time I had one sign that I realized did not work at all. It said, I'm writing a hitchhiking book, because then people thought their own personal life - maybe they don't want to be in a book or anything. But it did work whenever I saw cop. I'd whip out that sign, and they'd drive by and they would never stop me. So it worked for police. TERRY GROSS: So what was in your fame kit to prove that you were really a movie director and not a destitute person? JOHN WATERS: You know, fame ID, which is your Directors Guild of America card, Writers Guild of America card and the most ridiculous, my Academy of Arts - you know, the Oscar voting card, which I really wanted to, like, use that one. What do you mean? You can't put me in jail. I vote in the Oscars every year. But it did work the one only time I ever used it - no, I used it twice. Once I used it for the police who stopped me, and he gave me a ride. The second one, I used it when I was stuck in a rest area, hanging outside of bathrooms, begging people to give me a ride which really made me feel like a pervert. TERRY GROSS: So there's three parts of your book. The first part is fictional stories you imagine that are best-case scenarios of what would happen if someone picked you up. And then you have part two, which is fictional stories of what would happen in the worst-case scenarios. And then you have part three, which is what actually happened. So there's an excerpt of a story from part two, the worst-case scenarios (laughing) that I'd like you to read. And the setup of this chapter is that you get picked up by a member of a group that he calls REACT, and he says it's a trucker-citizen, band radio, emergency channel organization made up of volunteers to assist other motorists in times of disaster. But it's actually this guy who really hates cult directors and wants to kill all of them including you. He hates the “Rocky Horror Picture Show,” he hates, Herschell Gordon Lewis, who did “Blood Feast,” he hates “El Topo,” Todd Solondz, David Cronenberg, Quentin Tarantino, Pedro Almodovar. And he's come to give you your last ride. And I'd like you to do a short reading about this ride. JOHN WATERS: All right, I've never read this one out loud. TERRY GROSS: And I'll say we've edited this for radio. JOHN WATERS: (Reading) Hold it, hold it, I yelled hoping to buy time. We're just writer-directors trying to do our job. I'm sorry if my films offended you. You think eating a dog turd is funny? Randy demands with terrifying hostility. No, no, I was just commenting on censorship laws at the time of Deep Throat, I beg. Yeah, yeah, yeah, Randy sneers before whipping out a pocket knife and stabbing me in the leg. That, he roars looking at the blade still stuck in my flesh, is funny. Ha ha ha. Just repeat after me, I plead. It's only a movie. It's only a movie. It's only a movie. But this old catch-line from an exploitation ad campaign doesn't do the trick. And that birth scene in “Female Trouble,” he charges like an obscenity prosecutor, was absolutely disgusting. Before I could even plead my defense, he shoots me in the other leg. I howl in agony. I scream for my life. We pull into the Las Vegas city limits. Time flies when you're being tortured. I see the ridiculous skyline of the town - a place filled with tourists I have spent my lifetime trying to avoid. Look, Randy, I groaned through spasms of pain, just let me out here. I promise I won't make any trash films again. I'll go make mainstream movies. I swear. It's too late for a career change, Randy snarls with murderous rage as he pulls his truck off the road into an abandoned drive-in movie theater. It's been a long time since any movies were shown here. There's not even a screen anymore, and the concession stand has been burned to the ground. The few remaining poles for the speakers have been stripped clean of working parts. Randy slams on his brakes with this sickening banality. Get in the back, Randy orders. No, Randy, please, I argue, let's go see “The Avengers,” let's go see Hollywood tentpole blockbusters. His answer, a bullet into my right foot. I almost passed out when
he grabs me and throws me into the opening he has carved between the truck and the trailer he's pulling. Inside is a cult movie director torture chamber. Josie Cotton's cover version of the theme song from "Who Killed Teddy Bear" is playing on some sort of sound system. Beneath movie posters for "El Topo" is the decaying body of Jodorowsky, whom I thought was still alive until Randy tells me differently and takes credit. I see George Romero's amputated head hanging in a basket surrounded by posters for "Night Of The Living Dead" and all its sequels. Enough, is all Randy offers as an explanation. Before I can scream, I trip over what appears to be a corpse clawed apart by wild animals. Randy kicks it, and I realize this poor human is still alive. I try to look away, but Randy grabs my head in a choke hold and forces me to gaze upon this nauseating face. Oh, my God. It's Herschell Gordon Lewis, and he chuckles when he sees me. He's still got a sense of humor even as he approaches death. Randy pushes me forward into the bloody pit of horror. I can usually talk my way out of anything, but now I am not so sure. I keep flashing back to the Grim Reaper character in that Ingmar Bergman film, but realized sharing this film-buff memory with Randy Packard would be extremely ill-advised. TERRY GROSS: And that is from one of fictional sections of John Waters' new book “Carsick” about hitchhiking across America. That's an example of one of the worst-case scenarios he imagines. (Laughter) so... JOHN WATERS: Hopefully it's not the best, right? TERRY GROSS: That's right. How many of the things that Randy does to you in that fictional scene have you done to other people in your films? JOHN WATERS: Oh, in my films? I thought you meant in real life. I was like, Terry. TERRY GROSS: No. JOHN WATERS: In my films? Well, I have certainly cut off people's heads. I've certainly - yes, I have probably done all of them in my films, but for comedy and in this writing, your death as comedy is sort of fun to do, too. So I've probably done all of them, except the sexual parts that you cut out. (LAUGHING) JOHN WATERS: And I might have done them, too - in my movies not in real life. That's a chart, Terry. You'd have to make me - I'd have to diagram this chapter for you to tell me what is real life, what's fantasy, what I have done and what I've done in my movies. That's a gray area. TERRY GROSS: That's hysterical. So did you think about the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" when you were hitchhiking because you know... JOHN WATERS: Well, I think. TERRY GROSS: ...Young people in their car pick up a guy who turns out to be an insane killer. JOHN WATERS: Well, I think about the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" every day of my life. (Laughing) And to be honest, the hitchhiker in that with the burnt face is my type. I wanted him to be my boyfriend. So I don't think like everybody else all the time. I would've picked up that hitchhiker, yes. I would've definitely - maybe I would've gone with him to their little dinner party with grandpa. TERRY GROSS: So one of the best-case scenarios in your book - one of the imagined best-case scenarios in your book is that you're picked up by your favorite porn star, Johnny Davenport, the star of "Powertool." And he is, or was, a famous porn star in reality who did star in "Powertool," one of the great titles. JOHN WATERS: There's some other good ones, too. But I can't say them, right? TERRY GROSS: Yeah, no, exactly. Why would that be your dream ride? JOHN WATERS: Well, because of what happens to me, you know. I get picked up by a porn star who also is friends with extraterrestrial aliens that take us aboard and has sex with us, and then I meet Connie Francis. So really it's, you know, when you think up the best and the worst, that gives me freedom, you know, I mean, to imagine the best and the worst. Those are extreme words, the best and the worst. And I have read many people that do really believe that they were kidnapped by spacemen and had sex with them. That's what gave me the ideas, and I read a couple of those books just to see. And so I wanted to go to the most pitiful ones that looked like, Zsa Zsa Gabor, you know, “Queen Of Outer Space,” and they ate liver. That's the only thing I added. Like space aliens that before they had sex, would have to eat liver dinners. TERRY GROSS: So I imagine you've actually watched a lot of porn films in your time. So... JOHN WATERS: What? Once I was the judge for the porn Oscars, so they sent me
cases of them. TERRY GROSS: No. JOHN WATERS: And I heard another judge say, I'm raw from this dude. (LAUGHING) JOHN WATERS: And the porno Oscars were held at a Howard Johnsons that spun around. So people were, like, sick. You know, you have a bunch of drinks at the porn Oscars, and the party was at a Howard Johnsons in LA that spins. So you kept finding yourself - you had to be like a ballet dancer and make eye contact with one building every time went around so you wouldn't get the whirlies. TERRY GROSS: So is this the real version of the prize that Dirk Diggler wins in “Boogie Nights”? JOHN WATERS: Well, there is the AVN awards. I get AVN, which is the Adult Video News, which is the trade paper for the porn business, which is great. I mean, they have interviews with people that says, oh, yes, my mother handles all my fan mail. I mean, she does? And she is so happy that I’m in it, and then these titles are so ludicrous you know. So I'm all for that magazine which always gives me ideas and probably did help this chapter. TERRY GROSS: So what are some of the things you've learned to do and learned not to do as a filmmaker from watching porn films? JOHN WATERS: Well, my early films look terrible. But I didn't know what I was doing. I learn when I was doing. I never went to film school. I didn't learn from porn or anything. I just learned how turn on the camera. That was hard enough. But if you like those films, you said they were primitive. If you hated them, you said they were amateurish. And it is the same word and I gave the line to Cecil B. Demented of the film I wrote where the character says, technique is nothing more than failed style. Which I believe - I believe if you come out of a movie and the first thing you say is, the cinematography was beautiful, it was a bad movie. TERRY GROSS: OK. So you mention Connie Francis. Connie Francis is in the backseat of one of your rides. JOHN WATERS: Well, this is fictitious. TERRY GROSS: I'm sorry. This is in one of the fictitious chapters. And you're totally fascinated by her life, and you also own some of her records including “Connie Francis Sings Jewish Favorites.” Does she do “My Yiddishe Momme” on it? JOHN WATERS: You know, I haven't listened to it in a while. TERRY GROSS: What do you mean you haven't listened to it in a while? JOHN WATERS: I've been on tour. I didn't bring it with me. I didn't bring a turntable with me for a different city every day. And when I was writing it, you know, I'm not Jewish so I don't know all the songs and everything. That's why I liked it, and she's not Jewish either. In her career, she was one of the first - Brenda Lee did this, too - when they had a hit and they went to every country and phonetically re-sang the songs in that language and became huge hits there. I don't think anybody does that anymore. TERRY GROSS: I didn't know they did that. JOHN WATERS: Yeah, they did that. TERRY GROSS: My guest is John Waters. His new book is called “Carsick.” We'll talk more after a break. This is FRESH AIR. (MUSIC) JOHN WATERS: I do. My hangovers are on my schedule three months in advance. I carry four pennies, always, in my pocket so I'll never get more change. JOHN WATERS: Simple. That's actually very smart, but very, very planning ahead. (Laughing). JOHN WATERS: Yeah, I do plan ahead. I think I got that from my father. TERRY GROSS: It's certainly nothing I ever would've imagined from your early movies - that you would've been so kind of orderly and precise
in your planning because the movies are just, like, so transgressive. And so, like, if there's a boundary I'm crossing it. I'm defying it. JOHN WATERS: But how could I have made all those movies on no money with my with my friends if I didn't plan? That can't happen magically. It happened because we were kind of obsessed. The same time, everybody said, oh, you must've been on drugs when you made those movies. No, we weren't on drugs when we made them. I was on drugs when I thought them up, and I was on drugs when we showed them. But I was never on drugs when we made them because it was too hard.

TERRY GROSS: So, you know, another question you ask yourself is what is the etiquette of hitchhiking? If a car stops, but there's something you don't trust about the driver, do you politely decline the ride? Will you end up insulting the driver if you do that? Did you have to do that at all during your hitchhiking?

JOHN WATERS: No, here's the thing. I wrote about that in the prologue but when the real life - when you're out there - as I said, I would've gotten in Ted Bundy - in his Volkswagen with his arm in a sling in the front seat. You'll get in any car, believe me. All your rules, all your things that you imagine go out the window when you've been standing there for 10 years, and those Kansas winds are ripping your weather-beaten face. It is the worst beauty regiment ever to hitchhike. I would go in the motels at night and look in the mirror - and I have in my office a little mirror - a hand mirror that I got from a joke shop, where you pick it up and look at yourself and it screams. Well, that's what every mirror - that's what every mirror did when I hitchhiked across America. It let out a shriek of horror when they saw hitchhiking face - a new thing I want to invent a product for. And no - and I thought, no wonder people aren't picking me up. Because I had a hat that said, scum of the earth, which was a dumb fashion choice to take with me. It's in a weird little exploitation movie I like, but I should not have worn that hat, but pecker would've been worse. That was the other one I had. I thought that really would've been a bad one.

TERRY GROSS: (Laughing) Another movie title of yours, yeah. JOHN WATERS: Yeah, yeah. TERRY GROSS: So one of your rides, you got picked up in Myersville, Maryland by a 20-year-old Republican town councilman. And he drove you to Ohio, and it was a great ride. You call him, in your book, the Corvette kid. JOHN WATERS: He was only going to lunch - to get his lunch at the subway shop when he stopped. And it was pouring rain, and gave me a four-hour ride which was very nice. TERRY GROSS: And then you met up with him again, and he gave you an even longer ride. JOHN WATERS: Yes, he came back. He kept texting me. But I thought he was just kidding me - that he wasn't going to come back. And finally I got a really - I got stuck in Ohio - in Bonner Springs, Kansas. So it took a long while, and I was going to - he kept texting me saying, I'm going to come get you again. I thought he was kidding. So I got a great ride with this Kansas couple, who is coming to the signing of Baltimore, by the way. And they took me really a long way - all the way to Denver. And he wrote and said, what do you mean? I've been driving 48 hours at 80 miles an hour to catch up with you, and he finally did. And then took me to Reno, and then I just gave him the keys to my apartment. I said go stay at my place in San Francisco. And he was great. His parents were horrified because if they Google me, it's not good. If you Google my name, from a parent's viewpoint - that your son is missing with - in a car on the other side of the country, it is not comforting. TERRY GROSS: What comes up? JOHN WATERS: Well, you know, probably, like, battles for Manson family member parole. I just want some big gay award. And “Pink Flamingos,” you know, none of it is nice for a parent to say, oh, great. Well, that'll be nice for him for summer. That's a good way to start the summer vacation. TERRY GROSS: So did the young Republican town councilman know your work... JOHN WATERS: He didn't. TERRY GROSS: ...And what was his reaction when you described it? JOHN WATERS: He didn't know my work, and he did Google me on the way and saw at least it was true. I don't know, to this day, if he's ever seen my movies. But we certainly became friends. He stayed longer in San Francisco when we got there, and then he came to my Christmas party this year. I'm still in
touch with him. I think it gave him confidence. He looked great. He looked great before, but he was - we were just an odd couple. I mean, his friends were texting him saying, way to go. You're in Reno with a gay man at a motel, you know. That's great for your campaign, right? (LAUGHTER) JOHN WATERS: And he was - we just laughed about it because it was so ridiculous. The whole thing - it was completely innocent. We, on the way, met some swingers who kept trying to hook up with us by texting him, which really - in another hotel the maitre d' came and knocked on his door in the middle of the night. I thought, hey, what about me? It was kind of funny. We just laughed the whole time. TERRY GROSS: John Waters will be back in the second half of the show. His new book is called “Carsick.” I'm Terry Gross, and this is FRESH AIR. (MUSIC) TERRY GROSS: This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross back with John Waters, the director of the films “Pink Flamingos,” and “Hairspray.” He has toured the country with his one-man show, “This Filthy World,” and has written several books including “Shock Value” and “Role Models.” His new book, “Carsick,” is about his adventures and frustrations hitchhiking across country two years ago, at the age of 66. On the road he learned a lot of things he'd never thought about before. So what makes a good highway exit? You were always searching for good exits. JOHN WATERS: Where they drop you off is - it depends on the time of the day. If it's late in the day, I never wanted to hitchhike at night. So you have to get dropped off at an exit that has a hotel - a motel because there are no hotels. And so halfway through, I realized I had to have a sign at the day that said next motel. But when I did it, I felt like a hooker. So I changed it to next hotel and felt classier, really. But that worked. And then, that's the only time you want a local ride because a local ride's your enemy. I learned that you want a ride past the city, not before it because then you're going to get local rides. You need to - I had the best luck in the middle of the country, in the kind of rest areas that don't have all the fast-food and stuff. They just have vending machines, bathrooms and, like, a park because people walk their dog and everything. It's a slow - when you pull out there it's slow. You're standing right there, they can pull over easily for you. The problem, though, is to be caught there at the end of the day because at night they're scary. I mean, they are pervert hangouts - or people that are robbing the perverts. That's even scarier. I'm not - I'm not afraid of a pervert hangout. I'm afraid of the robbers that come to prey on the perverts. That never happened once. If I would approach anybody, they would give me the most filthy look. It really was not friendly in those places. And in one area, the woman said she was going to call the police if I showed my sign again, which I thought was uncalled for. TERRY GROSS: So were you worried about bedbugs? Do you do all the bedbug precautions when you stay at a hotel or a motel? JOHN WATERS: You know, I am always worried about bedbugs. But I have a friend, a very wealthy person, that told me he got the worst bedbugs ever from, like, the most expensive hotel in London. So I believe it's a losing battle. You can't really worry
about it. TERRY GROSS: Oh, well, you can. Come on. JOHN WATERS: I didn't worry about bedbugs there. Although, you know, some of the sheets were so polyester that you could whistle and they came over to you, really. TERRY GROSS: (Laughing). JOHN WATERS: I mean, you know, and the pillows - you could just go, come here, and they would hop up and walk over because they were so slippery and slide-y. And - but, you know, there was one bar I wanted to go to. It was like a disco. It looked like it was out of “Stayin' Alive” meets “Convoy.” And it was in one trucker place. And there was just a pitiful disco ball and two lonely truckers sitting there. On a good night, I would've been in there making friends. But I thought, I can't. I can't go in there tonight. I have to go to sleep. You're really tired at the end of the day, believe me, when you've been hitchhiking. TERRY GROSS: One of the rides that you were really luckiest to get was a ride from an indie band - a band you'd never heard of called, Here We Go Magic. And apparently they weren't sure if it was really you or not. And they had a big debate about whether it was you. So they had to, like, spin around after passing you up, just to see if it was really you or not. And so they picked you up. So that must've been great, to be recognized and then to have an indie band driving you around. Did you know their music at all? JOHN WATERS: I didn't. And they're really good, by the way, too. So I certainly got their record and it's really great. And, you know, it was just so nice to be with somebody in show business again, somebody that I didn't have to - you know, we compared stories about touring 'cause I tour all the time, too. And they had been on tour for two years in this van. TERRY GROSS: Ugh. JOHN WATERS: I know. And in music today, or in anything, if you - Elton John goes every night and tours if he's not working. Bill Moor, the night he doesn't do a show he's touring somewhere. And they all say, when you stop, it's over. You can't blink. So we were trading stories like that. And they were very helpful - so nice. And it was just - I felt - every time I was in a car I'd feel exhilarated until it got to the time when you had to get out. And then this great reality came back to you. That you were out of your mind, and you were actually doing this. It was no longer a book pitch. It was no longer an abstract idea. It was real. And that sound of the oncoming traffic, which still to this day has never left my system underneath all the soundtrack of my life. TERRY GROSS: So since Here We Go Magic picked you up, I thought we could hear a track of one of their songs. This is really catchy. It's called “How Do I Know.” This is Here We Go Magic. (SOUNDBITE OF SONG, “HOW DO I KNOW”) LUKE TEMPLE: (Singing) How do I know if I love you? When I sure like your bread. The way that you tucker and straighten your bed. But how do I know if I love you? How do I know if I know you? When you come out clean from the shower. You squeak to the touch, and you smell like a flower. How do I know if I know you? TERRY GROSS: So that's Here We Go Magic, the band that picked up John Waters. That sounded pretty good. JOHN WATERS: And wouldn't you like them to pick you up? They sound great. TERRY GROSS: Yeah, yeah, yeah. JOHN WATERS: And wouldn't you like them to pick you up? They sound great. TERRY GROSS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, they could pick me up. (Laughing). The next time I don't hitchhike. JOHN WATERS: So this didn't make you want to hitchhike one day? What's hitchhiking like in Philadelphia? TERRY GROSS: I wouldn't know. I never see anybody hitchhiking. I never - my hitchhiking years ended decades ago. JOHN WATERS: Yeah, I know. Most people did. It's true. In Baltimore, if you're hitchhiking, you're a hooker that doesn't have the Internet. (LAUGHTER) JOHN WATERS: It's for the Internet deprived. TERRY GROSS: So listen. So the members of the band Here We Go Magic tweeted that they picked you up. And their tweets went viral. And The New York Times called. And, you know, one of the Baltimore papers called. And your office was doing this, like, we're not commenting. It's like, why wouldn't they - why wouldn't they confirm... JOHN WATERS: I felt so Henry Kissinger. TERRY GROSS: Yeah, why can't they confirm that you were hitchhiking? JOHN WATERS: Because my rule before I started was that I was not going to ever confirm any of it until I got there. And I never did because then it would have been - I'm giving interviews in people's car. That would be so rude, you know? I never once took out my phone and looked at my e-
mails or anything in the car because that's rude. Your job is to talk. And your job is to make friends with the people that have given you the hospitality of the little moving house they're in that you get to share. The more you talk, the longer they take you, sometimes. So to me, sitting there and giving interviews would have been incredibly rude to the people that picked me up. TERRY GROSS: So I know one of the things you were concerned about when you were hitchhiking was not eating or drinking a lot 'cause you didn't want to have to stop for a restroom. And you didn't want to be in a place where there wasn't a restroom. So was it a relief to be about to eat and drink as much as you wanted without having to worry... JOHN WATERS: Yeah. TERRY GROSS: About the availability of a restroom? JOHN WATERS: The elimination problem was, you know - that's the thing of hitchhiking you don't realize right in the beginning - I did. You can't keep saying, pullover. You know, you've got to pee 20 times. You can't do that to people. They're going to just pull off, you're going come out - and even with the rides that I really trusted, when we would get out of the car and go in to, like, have coffee or something, I always made up some excuse to take my luggage because I always figured I'd go to the bathroom and they'd pull off with it because I used to be a thief when I was young. So I have bad karma that way. So I was always afraid that someone was going to steal my bag - even the Corvette kid, even someone that I really liked and trusted - not at the end of the trip but the very first time we stopped. TERRY GROSS: You used to be a thief when you were a kid? What did you steal and why did you steal it? JOHN WATERS: Oh, sure. Well, but it - when stealing was politically correct. You know, in the (inaudible) days. TERRY GROSS: Oh, when you were liberating things. JOHN WATERS: (Laughing) Yes yes, yes. When we were liberating things. That's the proper word. You're right. (LAUGHTER) JOHN WATERS: Which is so ludicrous when you think back on it. TERRY GROSS: Yes. Agreed. My guest is John Waters, and he directed such films as “Pink Flamingos” and “Hairspray.” And he's written many books and has a one-man show. His new book is called “Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America.” And it's both the fictional and the true version of him hitchhiking across country. Let's take a short break, then we'll talk some more. This FRESH AIR. (MUSIC) TERRY GROSS: This is FRESH AIR. And if you're just joining us, my guest is filmmaker John Waters. His films include “Pink Flamingos” and “Hairspray,” and he also has written several books. His new one is called “Carsick: John Waters Hitchhikes Across America.” And it's both the fictional and the true version of his cross-country trip hitchhiking alone. You know, you write, jokingly, in your hitchhiking book that your idea for your next book might be, I retake every drug I ever took in order - hash, pot, LSD, amphetamine, morning glory seeds, glue, heroine, MDA, opium, mushrooms, cocaine. When it got to the heroine, I thought, what was that chapter of your life like? I mean, that's not... JOHN WATERS: Oh, I just did it a couple times. Now, I hated it 'cause I didn't like sitting around nodding and puking - ain't my idea of a good night, believe me. But the only one of all those ones you just described I would be scared to take again is morning glory seeds. You had to boil them for hours to get the poison off, and then eat like 10 packs of them, then you vomited, and then I hallucinated. I was a canary, which isn't what you want to do when you're high. So it's not something I would do. And nowadays they took it - you can't do it anymore. But for a while, we were hanging out in hardware stores looking for those morning glory seeds - so embarrassing, so low rent - lower than glue. (LAUGHTER) TERRY GROSS: OK. Now, you're not really going to write this book, right? Where you retake every drug. JOHN WATERS: No, I don't think I am. I joked about it. No, I'm not going to read that book. Well, I don't think I am. No. TERRY GROSS: OK. So a nightmare scenario that happens in your hitchhiking book - and this is in the fictional part. You take a cigarette in a moment of stress, and you immediately become a chain smoker. Do you still - I know you gave up smoking years ago. How many years? JOHN WATERS: I'll tell you how many 'cause I carry this card in my wallet - 4,174 days ago. TERRY GROSS: Wow, so you
really do have a card. I thought that might have been a joke. You mention that in the book. JOHN WATERS: No, it's true. TERRY GROSS: In the fictional part... JOHN WATERS: Because I don't want to smoke again. TERRY GROSS: Yeah. JOHN WATERS: I don't want to smoke again. Although, you know, I love the king Kool. When I smoked them, oh - I see that - thank God they've changed the pack now, I realized, because when I used to see that color green anywhere, I would, like, run to light up. But no, I don't think about it anymore. And I don't smoke and I'm - thank God. I'd be arrested if I still smoked 'cause I'm the one who would be changing the battery in the airplane - you know, in the lavatory to take out the smoke detector. I would've been those people they warn you against. So yes, that is the worst thing. Actually, dying is about the same to me as smoking cigarettes again, if I did, because it was so hard to stop. And to do it again, oh, my whole body would rebel. I think - yeah, I really don't want to do that again. TERRY GROSS: Do you have dreams about smoking? JOHN WATERS: Not anymore. I used to. TERRY GROSS: Yeah. So you've become the person when - where when reporters write about you, they write about who you are wearing. (LAUGHTER) TERRY GROSS: Something I never would have imagined would become the case. But you seem to have this thing for plaid - plaid jackets... JOHN WATERS: Well, I like... TERRY GROSS: How did plaid become your thing? JOHN WATERS: Well, I like the plaid - that jacket you might be referring to is a great Comme des Garçons suit that, from the front, it's everything your mother told you not to wear. It's a plaid jacket with plaid pants that, completely, are a different plaid. But if you turn around to the back, it matches in the back. So I like that. It's kind of - it's kind of who cares what I think when I enter the room? I only care what you think about when I leave. TERRY GROSS: (Laughing) That's good. OK. You've certainly created a lot of looks or helped create a lot of looks in your movies, particularly for “Divine.” And there's a documentary about “Divine” that came out just a few months ago that you're interviewed in. JOHN WATERS: Yes. TERRY GROSS: Though it seems like an old interview. It seems like it's from a few years ago. JOHN WATERS: Well, that actually was - you know, the film came out a year ago. It was filmed a year before, so it is a couple years old. TERRY GROSS: Oh, OK. JOHN WATERS: Really, Van Smith, who was the designer of makeup and costumes for all my movies, really, really deserves the credit for all that because he thought - he did every one of my movies. And he thought up Tobias' complete look. I mean, I gave him guidance. I said do something weird with the hairline. We both liked Jayne Mansfield, and we both like that kind of extreme fifties look. So - but Van really did do Divine's complete look. And Divine never walked around dressed like that in real life ever - except when he was working. So people don't realize that. They think that that character was real which it was not at all. And when Divine started getting great reviews for the films was when he did the opposite - against type for that role - and played, like, an alcoholic mother or loving mother or something. And that's when he got his best reviews. TERRY GROSS: So in the documentary about Divine, one of the people interviewed is his high school girlfriend, who, you know, had no idea that he was gay. And, you know, I don't know how much of an idea Divine had at that point that he was gay. But I was wondering, when you and Divine met, you were still in high school? JOHN WATERS: Yes. TERRY GROSS: So did you each know that you were gay and that the other was gay? And was that something you could actually talk to each other about? JOHN WATERS: Yes. By that point when I met Divine - he didn't go out of his house until he was 16. But he had met David Lochary and other gay man and was going downtown and participating. Yes, definitely, we knew then. And that was part of the world we were in. But we also had all our suburban, heterosexual friends who joined us. And that's why it was such a mixed crowd that we hung around with - beatniks. We hung with, you know, drag queens. We hung around with fraternity boys that were on acid. But we all kind of hung around together, and that's what led to the acting troupe that I work with, Dreamland. Just like every kid today makes their first movie on their cell phone
with their friends. Mine were just a little more mixed than usual. TERRY GROSS: Did you say Divine didn't leave the house until he was 16? JOHN WATERS: No. He really was a nerd. He was, like - he was an overweight, feminine kid in school that really - I mean, not to leave his house. He went out with his mother, you know, but he didn't have a social life. He didn't - he was the opposite of wild or anything. You know, he had never taken drugs or gone drinking or anything like that. He basically stayed home until he went out. And once he went out, he went out with a great vengeance. And I think that all that anger he had from being bullied - he was really bullied - beyond you could even imagine. By the teachers as much as the kids - for doing nothing. TERRY GROSS: So in the documentary about Divine, I think you describe a show that you did with him where you dressed as a pimp and Divine would - I'm not sure what Divine was wearing, but you'd come out - you'd both come out and throw dead mackerels into the audience? That just sounds so horrible. JOHN WATERS: Well, this was our - no - and I didn't dress like a pimp. I dressed like that every day. I looked like a hippie pimp, you know? I had, like, hair that looked like bacon. And I wore, like, you know, old thrift shop shirts that had padded guitars on it and purple pointy shoes. So I looked like a pimp. And Divine came out looking scary. And we would throw dead mackerels in the audience. And then I would introduce the most beautiful woman in the world. And we always had somebody in each city that we hired. And I had a stolen police uniform. And the cop would come on stage and pretend to arrest us. And Divine would strangle the cop, the hippie audience would cheer and the movie would start. That was our vaudeville act, and we toured with that. We had a great time doing that. TERRY GROSS: But about the dead mackerels - throwing them into the audience? JOHN WATERS: We just threw them. I think that was probably from Russ Myers “Vixen.” At the time, he had a scene where Erica Gavin caresses a fish. So we just through mackerels. That was our only star demand, our rider on our contract was in the dressing room, two dead mackerel's. And now you couldn't do that. It would wreck people's outfits. But then, the hippies would throw it back. And then Divine would rip a phonebook in half, too, which was, like, a thing musclemen did at the time. And I think that was parodied also in a film I made, “Female Trouble.” It was kind of a version of that act that we did later. But it started from vaudeville because Divine and I used to go to the Gaiety Burlesque in Baltimore and watch - this is at the end of the real vaudeville circuit where they’d have a nudist camp movie and a baggy pants comedian. And that was a huge influence on me which turned into my spoken word show that I do all of the world called “This Filthy World Of The John Waters Christmas Show.” That is exactly a result from going to the Gaiety Burlesque in Baltimore and seeing Irma The Body and Kim De Milo and all those great strippers. TERRY GROSS: You've lost a lot of friends, I’m sure, you know, between drugs and AIDS and various other ways of death - probably some suicide. JOHN WATERS: Yeah. All the things that hit the creative community. Yes. TERRY GROSS: Yeah, right. So how does it feel to you to be hitting, you know - to be nearing 70, to be hitting a new decade in your life thinking of how many people you know who never nearly got that far? JOHN WATERS: Well, I think I say that in the book. At one point, I'm standing there and I think, you know, I'm alive and so many of my friends are not. I'm here. I'm doing this project. I'm alive. I'm - so I am incredibly thankful for my life. I said in this book that all my fantasies of what I wanted to happen in my career came true years ago. This is gravy. This is all better than I ever imagined it would happen. I've always been understood. I'm not, like, somebody that thinks I'm going to die and nobody got my work. I've had ups and downs in my career that have never been extreme. But I've always worked and all my stuff is still out there. All the books I wrote are still in print. You know, the movies are available. They're on TV. Who could have ever imagined that those movies would be on television? So things have been good. So I think - you know, I'm an adult. God knows, my mom died this year. My father died a couple years ago, so - and - but they had great lives. It wasn't a tragedy. They
lived to be 90. They had their mind right up to the very end. So I have had a very, very lucky life. But at the same time, I love my work. And that's a cliché, but it's really true. I jump out of bed every day to go to work. And it's not like I wake up and groan and think, oh, I have to go to the office. No, the office is the room next to me that I have to go in and think up something weird. That's my job. TERRY GROSS: John Waters, it's so great to talk with you again. Thank you so much. JOHN WATERS: Thank you very much, Terry, for having me. TERRY GROSS: John Waters' new book about hitchhiking cross-country is called "Carsick." You can read an excerpt on our website freshair.npr.org. Coming up, Maureen Corrigan reviews a new novel about a bookstore owner by Tom Rachman, who also wrote "The Imperfectionists." This is FRESH AIR."

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Article Title: SHOW: New Day 6:30 AM EST Interview with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio; Obama Says the U.S. Will Not Be Intimidated; A Look at How the U.K. is Handling the Threat of ISIS"

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Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Interview with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur of Ohio regarding recent world affairs. The murders of these Steven Sotloff and James Foley have been done to intimidate, humiliate and discredit U.S. national leadership, but it will only serve to strengthen the resolve of the U.S. Sir Edward Garnier gives his perspective on the new policies that the U.K. wants to implement in response to the hundreds of people that have gone to Syria to join ISIS. KATE BOLDUAN, CNN ANCHOR: They were hurting the Russian economy, but they sure are not slowing Vladimir Putin. So, what can be done to turn his direction? REP. MARCY KAPTUR (D), OHIO: Well, sanctions are long term. We need short-term actions that help the Ukrainian people defend themselves, and against the Russian military, that is a very great hope. But I do believe with a bill that I've introduced, along with Congressman Gurlock of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a bill that would allow military supplies to be provided as well as intelligence capabilities. I think that that's something that we should support. We have equipment coming out of Afghanistan. I think it would be very easy for this to happen. The Ukrainians have to fight their own battle, again, against Russian forces without intelligence. It's very, very difficult, and my goodness, they didn't even have equipment to stop tanks that were coming over their border. So, Europe left them defenseless. The NATO structure was not effective in terms of allowing nations like Ukraine to easily come into a security umbrella. I think we need that new security umbrella. I think it will involve nations like Estonia, obviously nations like Poland and hopefully Ukraine. There was always a division in Ukraine as to whether or not the political parties there wanted to support accession to NATO. There was also a reluctance on Europe's part to take on some of the economic and military and social challenges of Ukraine, but this is one of those moments in history where that kind of decision has to be made. BOLDUAN: This is a moment in history. It sure absolutely feels like it this morning. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, thank you very much for your time. Thank you very much. KAPTUR: Thank you. BOLDUAN: OK. The video of Steven Sotloff's beheading, we're going to continue to talk about
this. It may hold clues to the man who killed him and another American journalist James Foley what. Can be learned from that video? MICHAELA PEREIRA, CNN ANCHOR: And welcome back to NEW DAY. Here’s a look at some of your other headlines. Another American has been infected with the Ebola virus. The missionary group SIM USA announced Tuesday that one of its doctors in Liberia had tested positive for the virus. CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden who is just back from a visit to the region warned Tuesday that this outbreak is gaining momentum and becoming harder to stop every day. Human tests of an experimental Ebola vaccine begin in Maryland. This week, a group of three healthy volunteers are the first to get this vaccine. Apple says the hacking that resulted in celebrity nude photos being leaked online was not due to a breech of its iCloud storage system. The company says it appears that individual accounts were targeted. In the meantime, Home Depot is investigating a possible large-scale data breach following reports by security firm of stolen credit and debit card information being posted for sale online. Beginning today, all of the 7,700 CVS stores nationwide, they will be tobacco -free. This move fulfills a pledge that the company made back in February that includes changing its corporate name to CVS Health. Customers that are looking to buy cigarettes will now find only products designed to help them quit smoking. CVS is the second largest drug store chain in the U.S. behind only Walgreens. All right. Let's talk weather with meteorologist Indra Petersons. She's keeping track of the weather forecast for us. It's too early to look to the weekend. INDRA PETERSONS, AMS METEOROLOGIST: Yes. PEREIRA: We’re approaching autumn. Are we starting to see things change a little bit? PETERSONS: It's getting a little better, but I'm hearing a lot of complainers, especially out of the Northeast. I mean, it was difficult yesterday. A lot of widespread showers were out there. But today, more kind of concentrated, down to the Southeast, jet stream still stays well to the north and severe forms isolated around Minnesota and maybe the Dakotas there. So, here's the pattern on the tail end of the cold front that brought the heavy rain around the Ohio valley yesterday. That's kind of heading down to the Southeast. So, that will bring more widespread showers. High pressure builds into the Northeast. So, a much better day in store for you. Meanwhile, into the Midwest, another storm by the end of the week will bring a return of more of those showers. But today, again, only one to three inches in the southeast. That will be your hot spot other than where the severe weather is. What everyone has really been talking about is, yes, the heat. Look at all these record breaking temperatures. We’re talking triple digits in the Northeast and down to the Southeast and even back in through Texas so everyone is wondering when is this going to get better, right? It should feel like fall, but the temperatures still five to ten degrees above normal. What do we need? We need a cold front to finally cool off. We’re not going to see that until Thursday or so starting off from Minneapolis. We'll see the cooling and then by Friday, yes, maybe we'll start to see more towards the Ohio valley and temperatures knocking that back down. But not until the weekend itself do we see the jet stream still kind of sag back where it should be bringing that heat and retreating back down to the Southeast. So, we'll feel a little bit better, just in time, I may add, towards the weekend -- guys. BOLDUAN: All right. Indra, thank you so much. U.S. intelligence officials are analyzing the ISIS video showing the execution of Steven Sotloff and perhaps trying to match it to the James Foley killing video. What are they hoping to learn? That's next. CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: Plus, a daring rescue operation as England tries saving their citizen from a similar fate. What happened? We're going to tell you. PEREIRA: President Obama lashing out at ISIS this morning over the beheading video that's emerging overnight of American Steven Sotloff, the president.vowing justice saying the United States' objective is to degrade and destroy the terrorist group. This new video shows Sotloff being killed by an ISIS fighter cloaked in black. He appears to be the same person who killed James Foley last month. What can be learned from this video? Joining us this morning to talk about what we might
glean from these horrific videos, Gary Berntsen, former director of operations at the CIA. Ghaffar Hussain, he’s the managing editor of Quilliam, a think tank dedicated to reducing extremism. Gentlemen, I’m glad you could join me today to talk about such a bleak, bleak subject. We’re revisiting this yet again, another journalist beheaded. Horrifying to watch, horrifying to know about. Gary, I want to start with you. Beyond the horror and barbarity of this video, what strikes you the most about this video? What stands out to you? GARY BERNTSEN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR CIA: Well, first off, sort of when you talk about analyzing the video, you’re depending on how it was introduced into the media. There are ways that you can do, some technical forensic to see maybe what type of camera it was done, time and date stamp. There are things like that that may be able to ascertain. Of course, they’re going to do that and then they’re going to add that, you know, what they learned from the video to all the other intel out there, the human -- the humint, the sigint, the overhead, all these things to sort of come up with a picture to sort of, you know, glean what they can from that. PEREIRA: Back up. You drop some lingo on me there. Break it down for me so that I can understand that. They’re going to look at which -- BERNTSEN: Humint, we’re talking human intelligence. PEREIRA: Yes. BERNTSEN: Human intelligence, signals intelligence, overhead, satellites, drones, all of those things. All of these things will be put together with that photo as they attempt to ascertain where this act took place and who the people that were involved. PEREIRA: Ghaffar, I want to ask you. What can we learn about this? You hear about some of this intel and you want to look at the background. There are things you will pay attention to, that the analysts will pay attention to. We know they are on the move. ISIS is not sticking to one spot. They’re on the move. HUSSAIN: Yes. ISIS controls a landmass the size of the United Kingdom. This is a very well-financed organization that controls a lot of land, a lot of territory both in Iraq and in Syria so they can be in any number of places holding these hostages. I think we do need to look at bigger picture. PEREIRA: Okay. HUSSAIN: Obviously as much as we need to focus on we want to help these particular hostages, the key here is to roll back ISIS as an organization. Reduce the influence in the region, support Iraqi and Peshmerga forces that are fighting ISIS directly with air strikes and with weaponry support and intelligence and anything else that can be helpful to them. I think we need to focus more on that. It’s very unlikely in my opinion that we’re going to track down this individual or we’re going to find a building where these hostages are being kept and rescue them in a daring raid. I think that’s highly unlikely to happen. PEREIRA: Last time around we heard officials in the U.K. say we are going to get him, we are going to search him out. I understand what you say, that you have to zoom out and look at the bigger picture and that is obviously what’s going to be done, but in terms of the significance of this, this -- this brutality, this beheading, help us understand the messaging that ISIS is trying , and Gary, I’ll get to you in a second. Help us under, Ghaffar, the messaging, and you’re having to deal with it on your end of what they are trying to terrify the world with. HUSSAIN: I think this is their way of trying to put pressure on Western audiences, to say, look, we are going to behead your citizens in this very brutal almost erratic fashion in order to make you put pressure on your government to not intervene in the region. I think that is from their point of view that’s their plan. And obviously they live in a war zone. These are blood-thirsty jihadists. For them a beheading with a blunt knife is no big deal for them. Obviously its horrific, for them it’s no big deal. So, that’s what they hope to achieve with this video. I think they also hope to show capability, to show that they are a strong organization, they have a plan b, et cetera, and that obviously attracts more recruits and more support from the people that they are targeting. I think, in my opinion that’s going to backfire. I think these videos will actually strengthen the resolve of people both in America and the U.K. to say, look we really need to take these guys on. We can’t afford not to take these guys on. This is our problem. They are
killing our citizens. Before that they were killing innocent women and children from the Yazidi community, from the Shia community, from the Christian community - - PEREIRA: Right. HUSSAIN: - -in northern Iraq and this is a group that is focused on global domination. They will hit western targets eventually anyway. PERIRA: And Gary, to his point, the fact is you are poking, if you will, a sleeping bear. They have got to understand that U.K., the United States, other countries around the world are not going to stand for the senseless and brutal and barbaric killing of journalists or anybody else for that matter and that they are going to strike right at the core of the organization. BERNTSEN: Clearly the murders of these two journalists have been done to intimidate, humiliate and discredit U.S. national leadership. The result though is going to be -- and I agree with the other guest. It's going to strengthen the resolve of the U.S. I mean, the U.S. has a lot of internal divisions, but this one thing we will all agree on is defending our citizens and taking on groups that are killing our people. So, I think that their strategy is going to backfire, and ultimately it will end up in that group’s destruction. PERIRA: Well, we certainly know there are other journalists being held, other hostages being held by ISIS and other rebel groups. Gentlemen, thank you so much for joining me and looking at this tape and sort of analyzing what authorities are going to be looking at. Appreciate it this morning. We're going to take a short break. Another life threatened by ISIS terrorists, this one of a national -- a British national. We're learning the U.K. tried to rescue him but failed. How is Britain going to respond to this newest threat? We'll take a look. BOLDUAN: This morning the life of another hostage is in the hands of ISIS, hangs in the balance. (BEGIN VIDEOCLIP) BOLDUAN (voice-over): In the new video in which American Steven Sotloff is beheaded, a British citizen is also threatened by the executioner in the video, and this morning we’ve learned from British officials that an unsuccessful attempt was previously made to rescue that captive. British Prime Minister David Cameron is set to hold an emergency meeting today on the ISIS situation. A lot going on, clearly. Joining us now to discuss all of this is Sir Edward Garnier, a member of the British Parliament. Sir Edward, thank you so much for your time. SIR EDWARD GARNIER, MEMBER OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT: Of course. BOLDUAN: It’s horrible that we have to be speaking under these circumstances. As I just mentioned in the video, showing the horrible execution of Steven Sotloff a British citizen was also threatened by the executioner in the video, and this morning we’ve learned from British officials that an unsuccessful attempt was previously made to rescue that captive. 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become radicalized, in order to commit acts of terrorism, and we need to make sure that those whom we can keep out of our country, both your own and ours, are not permitted to return. We are -- because we are a civilized nation, just like yours, we have to abide by civilized norms and the rule of law. We cannot render people stateless who have only one nationality. Nonetheless, all of these things will contribute towards inhibiting a radical activity and terrorist activity in our own countries, but more importantly I think we need to make sure that the people of Iraq and the people of Syria defend themselves against these psychopathic tyrants. BOLDUAN: Well, and that also gets to the role of NATO. I want to get to that in just one second, but on this topic one estimate -- I've heard from a couple of experts that there are some 500 British citizens that are over fighting with ISIS at this point. Those numbers obviously squishy because they change all the time. Very simply, how did it get so bad in Britain? GARNIER: Well, it's not that bad in Britain. It's very easy to exaggerate from outside. Britain carries on. The United Kingdom carries on. It is a resilient and buoyant economy. BOLDUAN: Of course. GARNIER: It's a resilient and buoyant social and cohesive country. But, of course, just as in any other country be it in France, or in Germany or in Italy there are the odd lunatic who goes abroad to be seduced by the enthusiasm of the moment. Once these people go abroad, if we can capture them and arrest them and bring them back to this country for trial, assuming they are British citizens, all well and good. These people need to be locked up for a very long time, but if they go abroad and get themselves killed, well I'm afraid, good riddance. We don't need them back here and we certainly have no sympathy for them if they go abroad and get themselves killed. Many of them will be. Many of them are idiots, naive who go across there in hoping to find some great cause to support but they end up, as I said at the outset, associating with a collection of psychopathic tyrants. BOLDUAN: Just a moment ago you talked about the need to help the citizens of Syria and of Iraq to be able to defend themselves, and that also gets to a perfect point, especially this week where David Cameron will be hosting the NATO summit. What is the role of NATO, do you believe, in taking on ISIS? GARNIER: Well, NATO is the West's only and strongest defense organization. Your president is in Estonia right now having discussions over there, and the NATO summit will take place in Wales in the United Kingdom starting tomorrow. They will have to look at the big geopolitical problems that we face, both on the Russian-Ukraine border but also in the Middle East, and I think the Middle Eastern problem is almost more intractable. I'm afraid there will be more deaths, I'm afraid there will be more bad news from the Middle East before we clear this thing up, and it may not be cleared up for many years to come. But essentially what we need to do is to provide the defense support to the Iraqis and the -- the Kurds in order that they can have the military fight in them to defeat ISIL at home. BOLDUAN: It seems like that is going to be a protracted effort to say the very, very least. Sir Edward Garnier, thank you very much for your time. GARNIER: Not at all. BOLDUAN: Of course. Alright. From ISIS, the fight in ISIS in Iraq and Syria to what is going on on the ground in Eastern Ukraine. We're following a lot of news this morning let's get to it. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: We will not be intimidated. Justice will be served. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A second American journalist, Steven Sotloff, brutally behead by ISIS. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The executioner appears to be the same individual who we saw in the Foley video. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think this is a real moment where the president can show that leadership. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The president is either in denial or overwhelmed, I'm not sure which. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Russia must admit that it is a party to the conflict and take genuine steps that will lead to a de-escalation of the conflict. (END VIDEOTAPE) CUOMO: Good morning, welcome back to NEW DAY. We are following major breaking news on two fronts this morning. First, President Obama speaking out after ISIS beheads another American. He is vowing that the terror group will pay. The government
confirmed overnight that the video of Steven Sotloff's murder is authentic. The president says the killers will feel the long reach of the U.S. (BEGIN VIDEOCLIP) OBAMA: Overnight our government determined that tragically Steven was taken from us in a horrific act of violence."

Source Title: BTN

*Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 783001

Article Title: *Smoking Is Bad*

Date: 1/18/2017

Article Content: Some Texas lawmakers want to increase the legal age for buying *tobacco* products from 18 to 21, a move they hope would discourage young people from *smoking*. Make no mistake. The longer they go without using *tobacco*, the less likely they are to pick up this bad habit. But lawmakers should resist the urge to create another law to discourage *smoking* and focus efforts instead on educating youths about *tobacco*'s dangers. State Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, a physician and the initiative's driving force in the House, says bills to hike the legal age will have support from Republicans. In previous sessions, similar bills died partly because many Republican lawmakers worried about the loss of sales tax revenue and intrusion into personal choice. This session, Zerwas says he expects companion bills and other help from Rep. Donna Howard, D-Austin, and state Sens. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, and Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, among others. We understand their motivation. Discouraging *smoking* would lower rates of *tobacco*-related illnesses, such as cancer and emphysema, and result in fewer babies with *tobacco*-linked ailments. The savings could be as much as $406 million over five years, according to an analysis from the Department of State Health Services. The department also estimates that Texas could save about $5.6 billion in health care costs over 25 years, and preterm births would drop about 11.6 percent over 20 years. But we don't agree with their tactic. First, let's note that kids already use *tobacco* before they are legally able to purchase it. Federal statistics show that nearly 90 percent of adult *smokers* began *smoking* before the legal age of 18, and 11 percent of high school seniors reported *smoking* in the last month. Second, according to the Office of Adolescent Health, an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *tobacco* use by adolescents has declined substantially in the last 40 years. About 6 percent of high school seniors in 2015 *smoked* daily, down from 28 percent in the mid-1990s. *Smoking* by even younger minors also has declined. We share the goal of reducing *tobacco* use and recognize that studies show raising the legal *tobacco* age to 21 could further those gains. But with all due respect, so would raising the legal age to 25. Or 30. Or 40. All of those gains come at a cost in the rights of legal adults to make their own decisions, good or bad. Eighteen-year-olds are legally considered adults. They are treated as such in the justice system, in the workforce, in the voting booth, and in the defense of our country. They should be afforded the respect those responsibilities earn. If Texans want to keep more people of every age from *smoking* and other *tobacco* use, let's tackle this problem the right way: not by stripping away the chance to make decisions that may be harmful, but by increasing education and social pressure to make clear the consequences of those decisions."
Article Title: Raising tobacco sales age to 21 is smart public health and fiscal policy"

Date: 7/4/2016

Article Content: ABSTRACT “Developmentally appropriate age restrictions are set to balance freedom and safety.” -- Jason Lewis and Paul McMurtry Contrary to Jeff Jacoby's recent column (“Cigarettes are hazardous, but some lawmakers are worse,” Opinion, June 29), increasing the minimum tobacco sales age to 21 is smart public health and fiscal policy. According to the Institute of Medicine, nine out of 10 smokers start by age 19. Increasing the sale age has proved extremely effective in reducing tobacco use. Needham raised its sales age to 21, and its youth smoking rate dropped from 15 percent in 2006 to 6.7 percent by 2010. More than 100 Massachusetts communities have followed Needham’s example, creating a confusing patchwork of local laws. We need a statewide approach. In Massachusetts we spend $4 billion annually on health care costs directly related to tobacco, including $1.2 billion through the state Medicaid program. In other words, every Massachusetts household pays more than $1,000 annually in taxes spent on smoking-related costs. Whether the activity is smoking, drinking, gambling, or driving, developmentally appropriate age restrictions are set to balance freedom and safety. A report from Philip Morris complained that “raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchase to 21 could gut our key young-adult market.” It is immoral to enable Big Tobacco’s effort to foster lifelong addiction among our youth. Senator Jason Lewis Democrat of Winchester Representative Paul McMurtry Democrat of Dedham"

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from a tumor in its sinus cavity. Sadly, Gemini, a kitten from Rhode Island, had a short life. The odds of seeing these three together are roughly 1 in 900 quintillion -- but a series of timely donations has allowed Connecticut's Maritime Aquarium to put together one of the most unusual lobster displays ever. While the blue lobster is a 1 in a million catch, the orange and calico are even rarer -- with the odds of finding them roughly 1 in 30 million. LEFT: The Stargazer fish which bears an uncanny resemblance to Homer Simpson. (Caters News / Getty Images) At two weeks old, Beyonce, a Dachshund mix born at a Northern California animal shelter, is just under four inches long and is in the running for the title of World's Smallest Dog. Here she is pictured resting on an iPhone. 'Sprinkles' the Koala following her life saving radiation treatment at the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre in Brisbane, Australia, August 9, 2011. Suffering from an extremely rare case of excessive drooling, sprinkles developed a skin infection due to the excessive moisture flowing from her mouth. Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley left $12 million for her dog Trouble when she died in 2007, but a judge reduced the bequest to $2 million. Alexander Lacey, the big cat trainer for Ringling Brothers And Barnum & Bailey Circus, has been working with lions and tigers for 18 years, ever since he followed his dad into the business. He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named? No, it's Charlie -- an unlucky cat who happens to look just like the evil Lord Voldemort from the “Harry Potter” films. Charity workers are trying to find a new home for the British kitty, who lost his nose and ears to skin cancer. Indian army personnel use a bulldozer during a rescue mission to save a wild elephant trapped in a water reservoir tank at Bengdubi army cantonment area some 25 kms from Siliguri on August 30, 2011. A wild elephant fell into the water reservoir tank as a herd crossed the area. Army personnel of 16 Field Ammunition Depot along with wildlife elephant squad of Mahananda wildlife sanctuary joined forces to save the animal. The New Zealand SPCA taught dogs to drive as part of a campaign meant to demonstrate the intelligence of rescue dogs and boost adoption rates. Yes, these dogs are actually driving cars. Read the whole story here. Hania, a 4-year-old Great Dane, feeds her 3-day-old puppies in the Warsaw suburb of Nowa Iwiczna on March 17. Hania gave birth by cesarean section to 17 puppies. Charles the Monarch, a Labradoodle, looks so much like a lion that he has sparked multiple 911 calls from concerned citizens fearing that the king of beasts was on the loose Motala, age 50, rests in the afternoon sun with the new prosthetic made for her at the Friends of the Asian Elephant (FAE) elephant hospital in the Mae Yao National Reserve August 29, 2011 Lampang,Thailand. Motala lost a foot many years back after stepping on a land mine and now is on her third prosthetic, as they need to be changed according to the weight of the elephant. The world's first elephant hospital assists in medical care and helps to promote a better understanding of the elephant's physiology, important in treating them for illness. For generations elephants have been a part of the Thai culture, although today the Thai elephant mostly is domesticated animal, since Thailand now has few working elephants. Many are used in the tourism sector at special elephant parks or zoos, where they perform in shows. In some cases Thailand is still deals with roaming elephants on the city streets, usually after the mahout, an elephant driver, becomes unemployed, which often causes the elephant serious stress. Ambam, a silverback gorilla at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, England, shows off the stance that's turned him into a viral video sensation. Ambam doesn't do the typical ape walk -- he stands and struts like a person. Heidi the cross-eyed opossum is pictured in her enclosure at the zoo in Leipzig, eastern Germany on June 9, 2011. Heidi moved to her new enclosure at the Gondwanaland tropical experience world, which will be inaugurated on July 1, 2011 and where Heidi will be presented to the public for the first time. Cross-eyed Heidi made the headlines in December 2010 and became an internet hit, winning more than 65,000 “friends” on social networking website Facebook. The “Mirai”, which means 'future' in Japanese, measures 17.79 inches from the ground to highest part of the car. It was created by students.
and teachers of The Automobile Engineering Course at Okayama Sanyo High School in Asakuchi, Japan. This photo provided by Sean McAfee from Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, shows a dead raccoon that McAfee saw with the road dividing line painted over it before he stopped his motorcycle to take the picture on Franklin Rd. in Johnstown, Pa. According to PennDOT traffic engineer John Ambrosini, paint crews know to avoid such animals and usually have a foreman on the job to clear any dead animals off the road before the paint-spraying truck equipment passes by. This crew didn't have a foreman that day, and the equipment was too big to turn around in traffic on the curvy, narrow road so the line could be repainted without the carcass in the way. Lisa Marie Bach leads her pet rabbit Marie through an obstacle course in the middle-weight category at the 5th Open Rabbit Sport Tournament (5. offene Kaninchen sport Turnier) on August 28, 2011 in Rommerz near Fulda, Germany. Eighty rabbits competed in light-weight, middle-weight and jumping-for-points categories at today's tournament in Rommerz that is based on Kanin Hop, or Rabbit Hopping. Rabbit Hopping is a growing trend among pet rabbit owners in Central Europe and the first European Championships are scheduled to be held later this year in Switzerland. When a traffic jam kept surgeon Catherine Baucom from driving to work to meet a patient, she borrowed the bike of a 7-year-old and started pedaling. A group of lemurs encounters an unusual roadblock on the way to their feeding den: a turtle. The lemurs clearly don't want to get into a territorial spat with the creature... so they take turns leaping over it in this photo sequence shot at the Indianapolis Zoo. Look at that coat! This little animal got loose in an IKEA parking lot in Toronto. It was apparently scared, but eventually was reclaimed by its owners who were inside the store when the monkey escaped from its cage. Thirteen months ago, Andre the turtle suffered massive injuries from boats that left a massive hole in his shell and the inside of his body exposed to the elements. However, thanks to some innovative treatments, including using orthodontic techniques to repair his shell and a vacuum treatment on open wounds, he is scheduled to be set free on Aug. 3. A new-bora rabbit without ears is held in Namie City, just outside the 30km exclusion zone of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. The owner of the rabbit says it was born without ears on May 7. In this photo taken on Thursday, May 19, 2011, a dog nurses two liger cubs at a zoo in Weihai in east China's Shandong province. Cong Wen of Xixiaikou Wildlife Zoo in eastern China says four cubs were born to a female tiger and a male lion on May 13. The tiger mom fed the ligers for four days then for unknown reasons abandoned them, she says. Chinese zoo workers brought in a dog to nurse them instead, but two died of weakness. (AP) This pet duck, named 'Duckie,' won't hurt himself on the hot sands of San Diego's beaches thanks to a pair of customized booties made especially for him. Previously, the owner, who goes by the name "Miss Love," had been putting duct tape over his feet instead. The "alien" creature discovered in South Africa on July 10, 2013 is actually a baboon, a local veterinarian confirmed this week. The next slide is a close-up of the animal's head. TOKYO - JANUARY 20: A woman strokes a cat at Nekorobi cat cafe on January 20, 2009 in Tokyo, Japan. Changes to Japan's Animal Protection Law threaten the future of these furry bars by imposing a curfew on cats and dogs. (Photo by Junko Kimura/Getty Images) Elephant polo players from the Spice girls team (left) and the British Airways British Army team battle it out for 5th place during the final day at the King's Cup Elephant polo tournament Sept. 11, 2011, in Hua Hin, Thailand. This year marked the 10th edition of the polo tournament with 12 international teams participating for the unusual annual charity sports event. In an Aug. 10, 2012 photo provided by the University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History researchers, from left, Rebecca Reichart, Leroy Nunez, Nicholas Coutu, Claudia Grant and Kenneth Krysko examine the internal anatomy of the largest Burmese python found in Florida to date, on the University of Florida campus. The 17-foot-7-inch snake weighed 164 pounds and carried 87 eggs in its
oviducts, a state record. Following scientific investigation, the snake will be mounted for exhibition at the museum for about five years, and then returned for exhibition at Everglades National Park. (AP Photo/University of Florida, Kristen Grace) Jenny Sue Rhoades sat down on her couch to watch television when something outside caught her eye. It was a large Florida black bear walking through the back yard of her Barry Court home in southwest Seminole County. Giant Malaysian Shield Praying Mantis pictured in Igor's studio in Munich, Germany. Of course she's unhappy. Who likes getting weighed right after the holidays? This is Agathe, a cane toad, and she's sitting on a toy scale during an annual animal inventory at the Hanover Zoo in Germany on Jan. 5. Agathe weighs a slight hop over 4 pounds. This adorable injured baby pig was found roaming a hotel lobby near Honolulu's airport. The Hawaiian Humane Society renamed her Pukalani and says she'll be available for adoption later in March. The flattened and preserved reptile is at the center of possible legal action against three area men charged with its theft and subsequent display on a Ford pickup at a nearby mud-bogging party in Michigan. Meet Tonik, a poodle-shih tzu mix that is up for adoption at Homeward Bound Pet Rescue in Mishawaka, Ind. (Credit: Renny Mills Photography) Roo the Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D) helps a pupil at Graytown Elementary School in Graytown, Ohio. District councils have slapped a collecting ban on one of the West Country's most loveable characters - Star, the bowtie wearing DUCK (pictured) See SWNS story SWDUCK; Star the duck, who has raised more than £6,500 may be forced to quit after he has been told he is no longer allowed to collect for Children's Hospice South West without a permit. District councils believe Star should be fair to all charities and want to limit how often members of the public are asked to donate by various organisations to avoid it becoming “irritating.” His owner, Barrie Hayman, from Bideford, Devon, was left furious at the decision and wants to try and raise the most money possible for the sick children. This stray orange tabby in Houston earned the nickname 'Cupid' after he survived a piercing shoulder to shoulder wound in January 2012. A vet safely removed the arrow and 'Cupid' is expected to make a complete recovery. Six-month-old puppy Princess has such delicate skin she can't go outside. While other dogs run free at Britain's Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, Princess must gaze through the window. But this canine, otherwise known as Britain's Saddest Puppy, has become a minor celebrity in the media. Two fishermen in northeastern Mexico claim they netted a dead great white shark estimated to be near 20-feet-long on April 15, 2012. Swallow, an 11-year-old sheep-sized cow from the West Yorkshire region of England, is one of the stars of the 2011 edition of “Guinness World Records.” This 33-inch-high Dexter is the world's smallest cow. This situation sounds scary, but it's actually quite cute. A lion at the Oregon Zoo tries to get a baby! One-year-old Jack was visiting the zoo with his family while wearing a black and white striped jacket. There were lots of children at the zoo that day, but the lion only came over whenever Jack sat down by the glass. The lion scratched and bit the glass partition separating the two, but the he seemed to be unphased by the commotion. Some think the lion thought Jack looked like a baby zebra. This little seal was nearly strangled to death when it got tangled up in a discarded G-string thong near the Lovers Leap Cliffs of New Zealand. Luckily, a passerby saw the panicked pup, and conservation workers were able to free the animal from the offending garment. After driving about 85 miles to Santa Cruz, Calif., a man discovered that this runaway kitten had been inside his car's engine in March 2012. In this picture taken, Monday, June 4, 2012, Shar Pei dog Cleopatra feeds two baby tigers in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, southern Russia. Two baby tigers whose mother refused to feed them found an unusual wet nurse, a wrinkled, sand-colored Shar Pei dog named Cleopatra. The cubs were born in late May in a zoo at the October health resort in Sochi. The horse, which is boarded on the 4 acres of land next to the O'Brien's home, backed into the swimming pool where it became trapped. Officials with the Brevard Zoo, a veterinarian,
and the Brevard County Fire Department responded along with a hazardous materials team. The horse was not injured. A farmer in China's Shandong province has saved a two-legged lamb after being touched by its struggle to survive. Farmer Cui Jinxiu said the lamb was one of two born in July 2010. “The first one was a very healthy and normal one,” she told Rex USA. “However, the second one surprised me. With a further look I was surprised to find that the lamb only has two legs.” The family thought the lamb wouldn’t survive, but it proved its strong desire to live. “I thought of dumping it after it was born, but the next morning it even stood up by itself.” An orangutan in Malaysia is kicking its smoking habit. Wildlife officials have removed Shirley from a state zoo after the captive primate was regularly spotted smoking cigarettes that zoo visitors had tossed into its enclosure. Fizz Girl, a Munchkin Cat from San Diego, Calif., has grabbed the record title for Shortest Living Cat. Measuring in at just 6 inches tall from floor to shoulder, Fizz Girl weighs 4 pounds, 2.3 ounces. Munchkin cats are a special breed that have little legs caused by a naturally occurring genetic mutation. Kabang, a dog in the Philippines, had her snout and upper jaw sheared off when she jumped in front of a speeding motorcycle, saving her owner's daughter and niece from serious injury or death, according to newspaper reports in the Philippines. After completing six weekly intravenous chemotherapy infusions, Kabang appears to have beaten the cancer she was suffering from. A parrot trained by Italian trainer Anthonie Zattu performs wearing a pair of rollerskates during the International Festival of Cirkus Art on Feb. 20, 2011, in Prague. In this May 5, 2011 image provided by Animals Australia, a riderless horse plunges into a crowd of spectators after jumping a fence at the Warrnambool Grand National Steeple Chase at Warrnambool, Australia. An 80-year-old woman and a two-year-old boy are in stable condition in a hospital while 5 others were also injured. Bee removal expert Gary Schempp removed a 25-pound hive from the attic of a home in Cape May, N.J. The hive had 30,000 bees living in it. Police have released a photo of the culprit in a series of flag thefts from the graves of soldiers at the Cedar Park Cemetery in Hudson, NY. As you can see by the photo, it looks like they caught the thief in the act: This woodchuck right here in the middle of the screen. German media sensation Heidi the cross-eyed opossum is presented to the press at the Leipzig Zoo on June 9, 2011. On July 1st, 2011 Leipzig Zoo will open the 20,000m2 “Gondwanaland Tropical Experience World” to the public - a near-natural home for 300 exotic animals and more than 17,000 tropical plants with Heidi being one of its inhabitants. A man holds a crocodile with tape around its mouth, as workers from the Natuurhulpcentrum, a wildlife rehabilitation center, collect several crocodiles at a villa in Lapscheure, near the Dutch border, on Dec. 22, 2011. Police discovered eleven Nile crocodiles and one alligator (all alive) in a villa rented by a German man, Rolf D., during an investigation into financial fraud. The U.S. attorneys office sued Heritage Auctions of Texas in June to force it to return a Tyrannosaurus bataar skeleton to the Mongolian government. Sylvia Mythen, a 74-year-old woman from Venice, Fla., snapped the photo of this orange alligator sunning itself by a pond near her home. Florida Wildlife Commission experts have analyzed the photo and determined that the reptile’s coloring is not genetic. Officials suspect the animal might be the victim of a prank but won’t know for sure until they can examine it. A young volunteer picks up a dead rat from an open drainage channel in Tehran May 20. Tehran has a plague of rats estimated to number up to 25 million after winter snows melted raising the underground water level and flushing the rats from their nests. Municipal authorities have imported approximately 45 tons of rat poison and set up information tents to help deal with the plague. Veterinary specialist Dr Rod Straw holds 'Sprinkles' the Koala following her life saving radiation treatment at the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre in Brisbane, Australia. Suffering from an extremely rare case of excessive drooling, sprinkles developed a skin infection due to the excessive moisture flowing from her mouth. Brook Collins holds her dog, Fudge, at her home in Juneau, Alaska on
Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2011. Collins punched a black bear in the snout after the bear attacked Fudge on Sunday, Aug. 28. Dr. Doug Luiten drills the tooth of Kunali, a 300-pound, 7-year-old Siberian tiger, during root canal surgery at the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, Alaska, Oct. 20, 2011. This was the first procedure in a recently opened operating room and the first for the zoo's new veterinary table, complete with hydraulic lift and fold-out leafs to accommodate limbs and tails. The Jurassic monster next to a normal oyster. Aquarist Jenna MacFarlane from the Blue Reef Aquarium with a gigantic oyster fossil that was accidentally trawled up by fishermen off Portsmouth is to be MRI scanned to see if it contains the worlds biggest pearl. The prehistoric mollusc is more than 100 million years old and is ten times bigger than a regular oyster shell. After layers of mud were washed off, it was clear the item was a huge fossilised shell that measured seven inches wide and three inches thick. The shell of this size was nearly 200 years old when it died and could be concealing a pearl the size of a golf ball, dwarving the size of an oyster pearl's found today. Sea Life London Aquarium undated handout photo of a giant gourami that aquarium staff have weaned off chocolate. This tiny porker has an excuse for making a pig of himself at mealtimes. He really does have two mouths to feed. The bizarre two-month-old youngster -- part of a litter born on a farm in northern China -- can use both his mouths to eat and appears otherwise normal, say his owners. Natalia Avseenko swims with beluga whales in the White Sea off the coast of northern Russia. A skinny dipping Russian researcher took a ten meter sub-zero plunge in a bid to get up close and personal with two beautiful 15 foot long beluga whales. Scientists believe that the whales could be more friendly with humans if they swim naked but as these pictures show the clever-looking marine mammals called Matrena and Nilma seem happy to swim with the same lady whether bears all or not. Champion free diver, Natalia Avseenko, 36, from Moscow gamely jumped into an ice hole in the White Sea off the coast of northern Russia. She was able to hold her breath and swim underwater for an incredible 11 minutes. The pictures show her swimming in the minus one degree Centigrade waters cold enough to kill a normal person in 15 minutes. Beluga whales generally shy away from conventional scuba divers because they dislike the bubbles they produce. It is thought the synthetic materials used to make wet suits smell bad to them. Roman Akisen carries Cip, a 5-year-old German shepherd who found 18-year-old Imdat Padak alive under the rubble of a collapsed building more than 100 hours after a magnitude 7.2 quake, in Ercis, Turkey, Oct. 28, 2011. A HORRIFIED boy found a dead LIZARD in his Tesco toast as he munched his breakfast. William Evans, 10, screamed in terror after making the gruesome find - bringing his dad Marcus running from upstairs. Outraged Mr Evans, of Hawkchurch, near Axminster, Devon, said: “The poor little lad was absolutely traumatised by it. “He went to take a slice off for some toast, turned the loaf over and found the lizard stuck on the bottom.” He added: “It was one of Axminster Tesco's baked in-store, multi-grain brown loaves. “The lizard had not been cooked so it must have got into the packaging and died there. “You could see the impression of its body in the bread so it must have been warm when he got in.” William, a pupil at Hawkchurch Primary School, said: “I was making some toast and cut off a slice when I saw something that looked like a leaf. “So I took the wrapping off and found the lizard inside. “It certainly put me off my toast! “It was about two to three inches long.” His mum Clare said it would have been even worse if William had sliced through the end with the lizard on it - and eaten it. “That would have been even more distressing,” she said. Mr Evans, a volunteer church worker, said they had alerted Tesco's customer service department. He said they told him it was impossible for a lizard to get in one of their loaves because of their high level of hygiene “I am surprised they didn't tell me 'every little helps',” said angry Marcus. “They have asked me to take it into the manager but I am thinking of contacting environmental health officers. “We are keeping the lizard and loaf in the fridge for evidence.” A Tesco spokesman said: “We have conducted a thorough
inspection of the bakery area as well as the rest of the store. “We are confident that our robust procedures mean that there was no food safety risk to the product whilst it was within the store. “If the customer would like to return the product, packaging and proof of purchase to us, we will be able to investigate further.” Patch, a Jack Russell terrier, got separated from his owner on an Irish Rail train to Dublin, but was reunited by Twitter users who helped locate the pet. This lazy monkey hitches a ride to the top of a tree -- by sitting on the back of a parrot. The squirrel monkey, which lives with a male and female parrot at a hotel in Colombia, was photographed by Alejandro Jaramillo after it hopped onto the macaw. These kinds of bizarre inter-species friendship aren't unheard of, but they aren't common. An angler is celebrating after breaking the record for catching the world's biggest ever cod. The mighty fish weighed in at 103lbs, smashing the previous and long-held world record by nearly 5lbs. And the biggest specimen of Britain's favourite eating fish to be pulled out of the water by rod and line was caught by a German. Michael Eisele was on a fishing trip to Norway - the so-called El Dorado of cod fishing - when he snared the whopper. Jeepers, creepers -- where'd she get those peepers? Heidi the cross-eyed possum has become a media sensation in Germany. A dolphin flips in the air and splashes water over a watching crowd during a summer attraction at an aquarium in Tokyo on August 17, 2011. Theme parks and attractions such as this one are booming in August when many people try to beat the summer heat by visiting indoor attractions. North Carolina Zoo Chief Veterinarian Dr. Mike Loomis recently returned from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, where he helped perform a dental procedure on a 3,000-lb. old friend. Loomis, along with veterinarians and keepers from the Parque de las Sciencias museums in Bayamon, conducted dental surgery on “Tomy,” a 39-year-old male hippopotamus that the N.C. Zoo veterinarian has been treating on a semi-regular basis for two decades. Medusa, a 25-foot, two-inch Reticulated Python owned by Full Moon Productions in Kansas City, Missouri is the Longest Snake Ever in Captivity. One of the photos that the monkey took with Davids camera. These are the chimp-ly marvellous images captured by a cheeky monkey after turning the tables on a photographer who left his camera unmanned. The inquisitive scamp playfully went to investigate the equipment before becoming fascinated with his own reflection in the lens. And it wasnt long before the crested black macaque hijacked the camera and started snapping away sending award-winning photographer David Slater bananas. David, from Coleford, Gloucestershire, was on a trip to a small national park north of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi when he met the incredibly friendly bunch. In this Aug. 18, 2012 photo provided by Jody Bright, Molly Palmer poses with her catch_ a 12-foot marlin that took more than four hours to get on her team Giant Atlas moths have hatched at Berkeley Castle Butterfly House in Gloucestershire, England. These huge moths -- the largest in the world -- are native to the rain forests of Asia and South America. They don't have stomachs and their mouths do not form properly so they don't eat a thing during their two-week life span. This close-up of the head of the animal shown in the previous slide, was, according to a local veterinarian, a baby baboon photographed by park ranger Llewellyn Dixon. The animal was found near the South African resort town of Nature's Valley. This March 8, 2012 photo shows Nicole Andree feeding a hamburger to her dog, Prada, a 4-year-old pit bull mix, at an animal control facility in Nashville, Tenn. Andree is fighting a lengthy legal battle to save her dog's life after the animal was ordered euthanized for attacking other dogs. Winter, a six-year-old dolphin at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida, lost her tail when she was three months and now uses a prosthetic tail made especially for her. John Huntington poses with one of his chickens on a lead in Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 15, 2011. Mr Huntington's 'City Chicks' are chickens for those living in an urban enviroment, complete with small walking leads and harnesses and elasticised nappies. 'City Chicks' will be showcased at Sydney's ABC Gardening Australia Expo. A pet deer at a resort in Weihai,
northern China's Shandong province has become addicted to beer. According to Zhang Xiangxi, who works as a waitress at the resort's restaurant, she discovered the deer's unusual tastes last November when she was cleaning up after some customers. She comments: “I saw a bottle of beer was still half full so I playfully passed it to the deer. Unexpectedly it bit the bottle and raised its head and drank all the beer in one shot.” Charlie Naysmith, 8, found this hunk while walking on a beach in Great Britain. He thought it was a rock, but it turned out to be a piece of whale vomit worth $63,000. Nathan Anderson-Dixon, his wife Charlotte, their 18-month-old son Reuben, Joe the camel and a reindeer. James Geist found two pythons in his West Milford, N.J., backyard within a few days. In art, there's primitivism and there's primate-ism. Meet Jimmy, a 26-year-old chimpanzee who can paint. Pictured while creating a painting on cardboard on Sept. 20 at a zoo in Niteroi, Brazil, the monkey's art works have caught the attention of zoological experts who plan a special exhibit for the chimp. Tillman the skateboarding dog is always learning new tricks. The famed canine skater -- who is also an acclaimed surfer and snowboarder -- made an appearance at Madame Tussauds on the Las Vegas Strip on Sept. 16. Is it Elvis... or Bert from “Sesame Street”? This stink bug photographed in Singapore seems to be a fan of one of them -- but it's not clear which one. Fishermen landed a three-eyed fish in Argentina near a nuclear reactor in October 2011. A moose is seen stuck in an apple tree in Gothenburg, Sweden, September 6, 2011. The police believe the moose was trying to eat apples from the tree and became intoxicated by fermented apples. The moose was freed by police officers and after a dose on the lawn, he sobered up and returned to the woods. Lynda Taylor (left) and Cindy Wilkinson with 'Lucky.' Their friend found it in Wilkinson's backyard. (Kevin Hill, North Shore News) Li Zhiwei, a forestry worker in China, discovered this 19-inch earthworm in a gutter near his house. He plans to raise it as a pet. This is the moment two angry squirrels went head-to-head in a spectacular fight over food. The two red squirrels showed the lengths they will go to in order to protect their precious dinner as they can be seen charging at one another and scrapping in the sand as they viciously fought over a watermelon. One of the squirrels was enjoying his fruity snack in peace when he was approached by a brazen squirrel hoping to steal a bite of his meal. A newborn African elephant lifted his trunk in search of his mother at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. In this rare moment, the calf stood alone after he had wandered off a few steps, but shortly thereafter, his mother, 5-year-old sister Khosi (koh-see), and 2-year-old brother Ingadze (in-Gahd-zee) rushed over to tend to the unnamed calf. The Safari Park is now home to 18 elephants (eight adults and 10 youngsters). Locals in Xinxiang city scratched their heads over this four-legged creature, believing it to be a mutant escaped from a scientific lab. Cops confirmed that it is, in fact, a Chinese Crested Hairless. Robin Henderson stretches her cat, Stewie, outside of her home in Reno, Nev. Stewie, a 5-year-old Maine Coon, has been accepted by Guinness World Records as the world's longest cat at 48.5 inches long. Unfortunately, Stewie passed away in February, 2013. He was 8. “Otis" the pug gets his harness put on him before making his 64th skydive at the Parachute Center in Acampo with his master, veteran skydiver Will DaSilva of Galt. Otis knows that harness means he’s going skydiving and sits patiently while it is put on him. Nova, a 35.5 inch tall Great Dane, was named the world's tallest female dog by Guinness World Records in June 2011. There's Yogi Bear, and there's your yoga bear. Meet Santra, a female brown bear at the Ahtari Zoo in Finland, famous for her morning yoga stretches. After the bear woke up from a nap, amateur photographer Meta Penca took amazing shots of her fitness routine, which reportedly lasted about 15 minutes and included a number of poses. Gil Florini, of Saint-Pierre-d'Arene's church, blesses donkeys with holy water after a mass dedicated to animals on Oct. 9, 2011, in the southeastern French city of Nice. Looking almost like a bronze statue of a person, Guru the hairless chimpanzee eats in his enclosure at India's Mysore Zoo. Guru lost all his hair to alopecia, a condition that can also affect
humans. Some frogs eat flies. This tiny amphibian is not much bigger than one. The Microhyla nepenthicola, a newly discovered species of frog, lives in the jungle on the island of Borneo in Malaysia. It is barely larger than a pea. It's not every day you can say that a camel has shared your breakfast - unless you're Nathan and Charlotte Anderson-Dixon. Each morning they and their 18-month-son Reuben are joined by pet camel Joe, who pokes his head through their conservatory window to help himself to something to eat. The three-year-old happily munches eats bread, fruit and cereal plucked from the table at the family's detached country farmhouse. Joe, who measures 17.5 hands, loves bananas on toast but hates toast with cheese or Marmite. He lives with four other camels but is the only one to share breakfast with his owners. The others have to eat hay, barley, straw and corn mix in their stable in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Nathan, 32, has owned Joe for two years and uses him for camel racing. When Regina Mayer's parents refused to buy her a horse, the 15-year-old German girl trained Luna the cow to be a top-class riding companion. Not only do the two regularly go on long rides together through the picturesque southern German countryside, they even do jumps. The slightly injured moose on its way out in to freedom after his visit to a geriatric care home in Alingsas east of Goteborg, Sweden, Thursday June 9, 2011. The moose jumped through a canteen window into the building in Alingsas in western Sweden Thursday. The residents were evacuated and the moose locked into a small room next to the entrance. Since the moose's injuries were concluded to be minor it was released into freedom. (Adam Ihse, Scanpix/AP) Rick Nadeau has saved up quite a nut by creating taxidermied squirrels that he puts in unusual outfits. He sells his works starting at $65 all the way up to $200. This is a lamb in China that looks just like a dog. Farmers in Fugu County, in western China's Shaanxi Province, were left open-mouthed when they saw the young animal running around their field. The lamb has a mouth, nose, paws and tail which look very similar to a dog's features - but still has a white woolly coat. Two Bay Area dentists made a house call at the San Francisco Zoo on Monday, July 11, to help out a gorilla with a toothache. Dentist Dan Mairani (left) and endodontist Steve Holifield, who usually perform procedures on human patients, worked for three hours on Oscar Jonesy (O.J.), a 30-year-old male western lowland gorilla that developed an abscessed canine tooth. Thanks to this dental team, the abscess was successfully treated and the tooth was saved! Lucy, a mini Yorkshire terrier from Absecon, New Jersey, is now in the Guinness Book of World Records. Weighing just 2 1/2 pounds, Lucy was named the world's smallest working dog last week, bumping out a 6.6-pound police dog in Japan. Skywalker, a rodeo bull in Hawaii, could not eat or drink while a 50-pound tire was stuck around his head. A ranch hand was able to pry it off after Skywalker exhausted himself, allowing the worker to get near the cranky animal. Wildlife experts in Buffalo, N.Y., have been amazed by an unusual springtime friendship between a deer and a nesting goose. It's a relationship that has blossomed inside a cemetery. This May 7, 2013 photo provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department shows a Texas state record 800-pound alligator caught during a public hunt on the James E. Daughtrey Wildlife Management Area. Wildlife officials say the 14-foot-3-inch gator could be 30 to 50 years old. (AP Photo/Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) Afghan festival-goers watch as a “camel fight” starts during the second day of Persian new year, or “Nowruz,” celebrations in Mazar-e-Sharif, in northern Afghanistan. Police Dog Handler B-G Carlson with the sperm-sniffing dog Rapport’s Opus, which collected evidence against a 23-year-old man who was charged with a rape. Credit: Aftonbladet A small water boatman of the species Micronecta scholtzi is seen in this photo from the University of Strathclyde Glasgow. The insect has been found to use its penis to perform a very loud mating call. Scientists say the “singing penis” -- relative to its body size -- is the loudest animal on Earth. This photo shows a bear inside Ben Story's car on July 23, in Larkspur, Colo. Story said the bear got into his empty car, honked the horn and sent it rolling into a thicket with the
bear inside. Sheriff’s deputies released the bear using a rope to open the door. A dog competes during the 6th annual Loews Coronado Bay resort surf dog competition in Imperial Beach, near San Diego on June 4, 2011. A Montana resident says an energy company has identified the cause of a brief power outage as “deer with wings.” Lee Bridges says she was outside with her dogs around the time the power went out when a NorthWestern Energy truck pulled up, giving her a chance to ask the driver what caused the problem. This New Hampshire moose was swimming a little too deep, forcing nine rescue workers to help remove it from the pool. Yep. Read about it and see more photos here. FILE - In this undated file photo provided by Katlyn R. Gerken, a staff member of the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa holds Cashew, an 18-pound African leopard tortoise. The museum said Friday, April 5, 2013, that an employee found the tortoise behind paneling in her enclosure and hid her in an elevator in a misguided attempt to prevent further embarrassment after officials announced Tuesday that they believed Cashew had been stolen. (AP Photo/Katlyn R. Gerken, File) This photo released by the New England Aquarium, in Boston Tuesday, July 24, 2012, shows a 21-pound lobster caught July 14 off Cape Cod, and donated to the aquarium where it will be displayed after a 30-quarantine period. An emperor penguin that arrived on June 21, 2011 at New Zealand’s Peka Peka Beach, more than 2,000 miles from its native Antarctica, will not be transported home. Undated Cats Protection handout photo of 4-month-old polydactyl kittens named Fred (left) and Ned (right), currently in the care of Cats Protection, Gosport Town Branch in the United Kingdom. They will shortly be going to their new home once they’ve been neutered. Ned has an extra eight digits, while his brother Fred has 10 more than the usual 18, making a total of 54 digits between them. Amy Leader with Sunny, a rescued chicken, in his newly-knitted sweater. Kind-hearted animal lovers have come to the rescue of a group of featherless chickens by knitting them their very own woolly sweaters. Sunny and his not-so-feathered friends were rehomed after being rescued from a poultry farm. Many of them are missing their plumage because the conditions they used to live in. Yakini the gorilla received a medical check-up from vets at Melbourne Zoo before being moved to a new multimillion-dollar exhibit at Werribee Open Range Zoo, on Oct. 28, 2011, in Melbourne, Australia. On July 10, 2013, a South African park ranger, Llewellyn Dixon, took several photos of a dead creature near the resort town of Nature’s Valley. Some speculated the animal was an alien. But after a local veterinarian performed an autopsy on the carcass, it was confirmed as a baby baboon. Next slide shows a close-up of its head. An English man named Brian Watson killed a large rat his granddaughter’s boyfriend found while cutting grass on April 21, Sky News reports. The water rat was so large, Watson broke a boat paddle trying to kill the critter. In this undated 1958 photo provided courtesy of Liz Dane, Dane is shown performing her act with Queenie the water skiing elephant. The Valdosta Daily Times reports that 59-year-old Queenie was euthanized Monday, June 2, 2011, after her health deteriorated. It was a shot in the dark, but an Illinois police officer manage to separate two whitetail deer whose antlers were tangled together -- by shooting them apart. A female monkey lip-syncs during a show by the monkey drama troupe Prakit Sitpragaan in Bangkok in September. Prakit Sitpragaan has been performing traditional stories adapted from Asian classical novels and folklore in Thailand for more than 30 years. Miwa, a baby monkey, rides a young boar named Uribo in the Fukuchiyama City Zoo, in Kyoto, Japan, on Oct. 19. Both have been sheltered by the zoo since June after losing their mothers Cookie Smith shows off a normal egg and a “super egg” Wednesday, May 30, 2012, in Abilene, Texas. Cookie Smith went to collect eggs from her three laying hens on Monday afternoon, and discovered one normal egg and one “super egg” in her coop. This image provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department shows an alligator Thursday June 6, 2013 in Lancaster, Calif. Part of the “Zoo to You” program in Paso Robles that introduces kids to animals, the
alligator was being held by two females near a van after the animal urinated inside the van and the females had stopped to clean the van. (AP Photo/ Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department) Thomas Cobb with his son Caiden show off several of his exotic reptiles that he keeps in a special basement room of his home Friday, April 26, 2013 in Cottonwood Heights, Utah. Cobb has been ordered by police to get rid of all but one of his 29 exotic boa constrictor snakes because he doesn't want to risk the animal urinating inside a vehicle. This is a close-up of the previous slide, which turned out to be a baby baboon found in South Africa on July 10, 2013. In this Aug. 18, 2012 photo provided by Jody Bright, Molly Palmer stands with her husband Shawn Palmer near her catch—a 12-foot marlin that took more than four hours to get on her team Lux, a 22-pound Himalayan cat, made national news when he freaked out and trapped his owners in a bedroom. Inside Walter Kidd's North Carolina trailer home were 154 reptiles, including cobras, vipers and Gila monsters. About 100 of the animals were dead and frozen, according to the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Bruschi, a four-year-old black and white Boston Terrier, who lives with his owner, Victoria Reed, in Grapevine, Texas, holds the Guinness World Record for "dog with the largest eyes"—a whopping 1.1 inch in diameter. This May 9, 2012 photo provided by the New England Aquarium in Boston shows a rare calico lobster that could be a 1-in-30 million, according to experts. The lobster, discovered by Jasper White's Summer Shack and caught off Winter Harbor, Maine, is being held at the New England Aquarium for the Biomes Marine Biology Center in Rhode Island. The lobster is dark with bright orange and yellow spots. (AP Photo/New England Aquarium, Tony LaCasse) Charlotte Anderson-Dixon pushes her 18-month-old son Reuben on the swing as Joe the camel watches. This is the jaw-dropping moment a canoeist landed a 6-foot shark after it dragged him through the water for 10 minutes. Brave Rupert Kirkwood, 51, had paddled a mile off the United Kingdom's Devon coast when he suddenly felt a snag on his line. The 70-pound beast nearly pulled him overboard, before pulling his 16-foot canoe through the water as he desperately clung on. After 10 minutes of wrestling with the beast, he eventually hauled the massive fish on board. A rare, mostly white-colored penguin was discovered in Antarctica in early January 2012. The picture was snapped by naturalist David Stephens. Correction: An earlier version of this slide labeled the penguin as albino. It appears to have isabellinism, a genetic mutation that dilutes pigment in penguins' feathers, according to National Geographic. An alligator crosses the 14th fairway during the first round of the PGA Tour Zurich Classic golf tournament at TPC Louisiana in Avondale, La., on Thursday, April 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert) Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's Tutti is a rare Indian star tortoise. Butti, the zoo's missing tortoise, looks similar to Tutti. The two are brothers and live at the zoo in Colorado Springs, Colo. In this March 5, 2013 photo, Nederland resident Mark Merchant, a biochemistry professor at McNeese State University holds many baby alligators in Lake Charles, La. You could say Mark Merchant has alligators in his blood. Before he was a biochemistry professor at McNeese State University studying the antibiotic properties of alligator blood, Merchant was just another Southeast Texas kid fishing with his grandpa on the bayous. (AP Photo/The Beaumont Enterprise, Dave Ryan) A bizarre three-horned cow has proven itself to be a cash cow for a farmer in Baoding, in China's Hebei province. Farmer Jia Kebing said the 2-year-old cow was born with a small bump on its head that has grown to be nearly 8 inches long and now resembles a rhino's horn. "My farm has fame in this region for this cow, and people came in just paying a visit to this cow," said Jia. Tha Sophat, a 20-month-old Cambodian boy, suckles from a cow in Koak Roka village, Siem Reap province, Cambodia, Friday, Sept. 9, 2011. Tha Sophat started suckling the cow in July after he saw a calf do the same since his parents moved to Thailand in search of work, said his grandfather UmOeung. Kitler, a kitten small enough to fit in a cup with a remarkable resemblance to Hitler is looking for a home after being found abandoned at the side of a busy road. An animal charity is struggling to find a loving home for an
abandoned kitten - because it looks like HITLER. The six-week-old moggie was found abandoned on her own by the side of a busy main road by a member of the public. She was handed in to Wood Green animal shelter in Godmanchester, Cambs., where staff nicknamed her 'Kitler' because of her distinctive black moustache. Nobody came forward to say they were Kitler's owner so the centre put her up for rehoming, but she is yet to find a loving family because of her unusual markings. A baby raccoon that got stuck head-first in a sewer grate is free thanks to the quick and slippery work of some city workers in suburban Detroit. A release from Dearborn Heights says the crew took the raccoon to the Public Works yard for a “much-needed shower” before letting it go in the woods. With a-handed gibbon mother Betina, 32, holds her 2-week-old baby at the Safari zoo in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv on March 17. The birth of the gibbon surprised the zoo staff, as it had been 11 years since Betina last gave birth. This dog wanted a drink. Meet Billy the German pointer and the shot glass he swallowed. The pooch underwent emergency surgery after doing a shot of Jagermeister -- and the glass it was served in. The 18-month-old, who lives in Darwin, Australia, downed the glass during a party thrown by house sitters while his owners were away. It wasn't until three days later when Billy began vomiting blood that the house sitters realized something was wrong. This newly released video taken during the summer of 2011 allegedly shows a living woolly mammoth crossing a river in Siberia. There is much speculation and debate as to whether this is, indeed, a living specimen of prehistoric elephant-related animals that were thought to be extinct. Tori, a 15-year-old orangutan, holds a cigarette stub between her fingers inside her cage at Satwa Taru Jurug zoo in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, Friday, July 6, 2012. Zookeepers said they plan to move Tori, who learned to smoke about a decade ago by imitating people, away from visitors who regularly throw lit cigarettes into her cage so they can watch and photograph her puffing away and exhaling smoke. (AP Photo) “Shrek,” New Zealand's most famous sheep, died in June at the age of 16. This merino wether (a castrated male sheep) came to the world's attention in 2004 when he was found in a cave near the city of Otago after being on the lam for six years. He had managed to avoid capture all that time and when he was finally found, he was carrying nearly 60 lbs of untrimmed fleece, nearly six times more than the average merino fleece. Alexander Pylyshenko, 40, will live in a cage with two lions for five weeks to raise awareness about living conditions for animals in captivity. Pet cat Smokey is believed to have the loudest purr in the world -- with piercing purrs as loud as a lawnmower. Most cats purr at around 25 decibels but Smokey's powerful purrs average an amazing 80 decibels. Owners Ruth and Mark Adams, of Northampton, Britain, say Smokey's deafening purrs make it impossible for them to hear the television or radio when she is in the room and they struggle to have telephone conversations. Booie, a chimpanzee that kicked a smoking habit and used sign language to beg for candy, died at the age of 44 at a California animal refuge in mid-December. Beemer the kangaroo has Vegemite on toast with a side salad of fresh-picked wild grasses, accompanied by adoptive “mother” Julianne “Julz” Bradley. A rare spider with a human face, known as a lichen crab spider, has been spotted at a nature reserve in Wareham, Dorset, England. In this Sept. 4, 2011, photo, Mayor Cox Elorde of Bunawan township, Agusan del Sur Province, pretends to measure a huge crocodile, known as Lolong, which was captured by residents and crocodile farm staff along a creek in Bunawan. Lolong died in February, 2012. A two-headed bearded dragon is set to be the latest attraction at the Venice Beach Freakshow. Pancho and Lefty sit in new owner Todd Ray's hand. These hilarious pictures of Westie dogs doing water sports should cheer anyone up, whatever the weather. They are a newly-launched theme for handy iPhone app Weather Puppy, a weather app that comes free but lets you buy themes such as these side-splitting images of West Highland White Terrier. British publishers Maverick Arts are behind the wacky pictures and have used amazing image-manipulation skills to make it seem as if the dogs are...
indulging in adrenalin sports. Maverick MD Steve Bicknell explains: “We are obsessed with the weather here in the UK and I think our pictures of the Westies should cheer people up weather they are at a sunny beach or hiding from the rain.” Late June 2012, this kangaroo disrupted traffic several times along a highway in Washington state. A Washington State Patrol trooper who responded to a report of a deer killed by a truck on Interstate 5 ended up with a 2-month-old fawn in his car. The patrol says when Trooper Scott Brown arrived at the Bellingham scene on Tuesday evening, other deer in the area stayed back but the fawn -- possibly orphaned by the collision -- ran up to him. Trooper Mark Francis says the baby deer nuzzled against Brown and started “mewing.” Brutus, a giant crocodile, was photographed leaping out of the water in Australia by picture-taker Katrina Bridgeford. The 18-foot long croc is a fan favorite among tourists who take cruises along the Adelaide River as he is known for making a big splash while jumping for buffalo meat. This kitty isn't naturally pink. The cat's owner, Natasha Gregory of Britain told The Sun that she wanted her pet “to match my hair.” The 22-year-old also has a shocking dye job. "

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 85322

Article Title: This Worm Is Freaking Us Out"

Date: 5/5/2015

Article Content: This image from television provided by Metro Fire Sacramento shows a horse stuck in an outdoor bathtub prior to being rescued by firefighters Wednesday Feb. 4, 2015. The horse, named Phantom, was stuck in the bathtub for about 25 minutes. Her owner saw the horse fall and called the fire department. Phantom, a Palomino/Appaloosa mix, was not injured. (AP Photo/Metro Fire Sacramento) Elephant puts a ballot in ballot box during campaign to promote the general election in Ayutthaya province on June 21, 2011. The July 3 general election will be the first since Thailand was rocked by its deadliest political violence in decades last year, when more than 90 people died in street clashes between armed police and opposition protesters. (Pornchai Kittiwongsakul, AFP/Getty Images) Elvis, a Savannah cat, who weighed 24.8 pounds and measured 40 inches from tip to tail, recently died from a tumor in its sinus cavity. Sadly, Gemini, a kitten from Rhode Island, had a short life. The odds of seeing these three together are roughly 1 in 900 quintillion -- but a series of timely donations has allowed Connecticut’s Maritime Aquarium to put together one of the most unusual lobster displays ever. While the blue lobster is a 1 in a million catch, the orange and calico are even rarer -- with the odds of finding them roughly 1 in 30 million. LEFT: The Stargazer fish which bears an uncanny resemblance to Homer Simpson. (Caters News / Getty Images) At two weeks old, Beyonce, a Dachund mix born at a Northern California animal shelter, is just under four inches long and is in the running for the title of World's Smallest Dog. Here she is pictured resting on an iPhone. 'Sprinkles' the Koala following her life saving radiation treatment at the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre in Brisbane, Australia, August 9, 2011. Suffering from an extremely rare case of excessive drooling, sprinkles developed a skin infection due to the excessive moisture flowing from her mouth. Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley left $12 million
for her dog Trouble when she died in 2007, but a judge reduced the bequest to $2 million. Alexander Lacey, the big cat trainer for Ringling Brothers And Barnum & Bailey Circus, has been working with lions and tigers for 18 years, ever since he followed his dad into the business. He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named? No, it’s Charlie -- an unlucky cat who happens to look just like the evil Lord Voldemort from the “Harry Potter” films. Charity workers are trying to find a new home for the British kitty, who lost his nose and ears to skin cancer. Indian army personnel use a bulldozer during a rescue mission to save a wild elephant trapped in a water reservoir tank at Bengdubi army cantonment area some 25 kms from Siliguri on August 30, 2011. A wild elephant fell into the water reservoir tank as a herd crossed the area.

Army personnel of 16 Field Ammunition Depot along with wildlife elephant squad of Mahananda wildlife sanctuary joined forces to save the animal. The New Zealand SPCA taught dogs to drive as part of a campaign meant to demonstrate the intelligence or rescue dogs and boost adoption rates. Yes, these dogs are actually driving cars. Read the whole story here. Hania, a 4-year-old Great Dane, feeds her 3-day-old puppies in the Warsaw suburb of Nowa Iwiczna on March 17. Hania gave birth by cesarean section to 17 puppies. Charles the Monarch, a Labradoodle, looks so much like a lion that he has sparked multiple 911 calls from concerned citizens fearing that the king of beasts was on the loose Motala, age 50, rests in the afternoon sun with the new prosthetic made for her at the Friends of the Asian Elephant (FAE) elephant hospital in the Mae Yao National Reserve August 29, 2011 Lampang, Thailand. Motala lost a foot many years back after stepping on a land mine and now is on her third prosthetic, as they need to be changed according to the weight of the elephant. The world's first elephant hospital assists in medical care and helps to promote a better understanding of the elephant's physiology, important in treating them for illness. For generations elephants have been a part of the Thai culture, although today the Thai elephant mostly is domesticated animal, since Thailand now has few working elephants. Many are used in the tourism sector at special elephant parks or zoos, where they perform in shows. In some cases Thailand is still deals with roaming elephants on the city streets, usually after the mahout, an elephant driver, becomes unemployed, which often causes the elephant serious stress. Ambam, a silverback gorilla at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, England, shows off the stance that's turned him into a viral video sensation. Ambam doesn’t do the typical ape walk -- he stands and struts like a person. Heidi the cross-eyed opossum is pictured in her enclosure at the zoo in Leipzig, eastern Germany on June 9, 2011. Heidi moved to her new enclosure at the Gondwanaland tropical experience world, which will be inaugurated on July 1, 2011 and where Heidi will be presented to the public for the first time. Cross-eyed Heidi made the headlines in December 2010 and became an internet hit, winning more than 65,000 “friends” on social networking website Facebook. The “Mirai”, which means 'future' in Japanese, measures 17.79 inches from the ground to highest part of the car. It was created by students and teachers of The Automobile Engineering Course at Okayama Sanyo High School in Asakuchi, Japan. This photo provided by Sean McAfee from Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, shows a dead raccoon that McAfee saw with the road dividing line painted over it before he stopped his motorcycle to take the picture on Franklin Rd. in Johnstown, Pa. According to PennDOT traffic engineer John Ambrosini, paint crews know to avoid such animals and usually have a foreman on the job to clear any dead animals off the road before the paint-spraying truck equipment passes by. This crew didn't have a foreman that day, and the equipment was too big to turn around in traffic on the curvy, narrow road so the line could be repainted without the carcass in the way. Lisa Marie Bach leads her pet rabbit Marie through an obstacle course in the middle-weight category at the 5th Open Rabbit Sport Tournament (5. offene Kaninchensport Turnier) on August 28, 2011 in Rommerz near Fulda, Germany. Eighty rabbits competed in light-weight, middle-weight and jumping-for-points categories at today's tournament in Rommerz that is based on
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charged with its theft and subsequent display on a Ford pickup at a nearby mud-bogging party in Michigan. Meet Tonik, a poodle-shih tzu mix that is up for adoption at Homeward Bound Pet Rescue in Mishawaka, Ind. (Credit: Renny Mills Photography) Roo the Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D) helps a pupil at Graytown Elementary School in Graytown, Ohio. District councils have slapped a collecting ban on one of the West Country's most loveable characters - Star, the bowtie wearing DUCK (pictured) See SWNS story SWDUCK; Star the duck, who has raised more than £6,500 may be forced to quit after he has been told he is no longer allowed to collect for Children's Hospice South West without a permit. District councils believe Star should be fair to all charities and want to limit how often members of the public are asked to donate by various organisations to avoid it becoming “irritating.” His owner, Barrie Hayman, from Bideford, Devon, was left furious at the decision and wants to try and raise the most money possible for the sick children. This stray orange tabby in Houston earned the nickname 'Cupid' after he survived a piercing shoulder to shoulder wound in January 2012. A vet safely removed the arrow and 'Cupid' is expected to make a complete recovery. Six-month-old puppy Princess has such delicate skin she can't go outside. While other dogs run free at Britain's Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, Princess must gaze through the window. But this canine, otherwise known as Britain's Saddest Puppy, has become a minor celebrity in the media. Two fishermen in northeastern Mexico claim they netted a dead great white shark estimated to be near 20-feet-long on April 15, 2012. Swallow, an 11-year-old sheep-sized cow from the West Yorkshire region of England, is one of the stars of the 2011 edition of “Guinness World Records.” This 33-inch-high Dexter is the world's smallest cow. This situation sounds scary, but it's actually quite cute. A lion at the Oregon Zoo tries to get a baby! One-year-old Jack was visiting the zoo with his family while wearing a black and white striped jacket. There were lots of children at the zoo that day, but the lion only came over whenever Jack sat down by the glass. The lion scratched and bit the glass partition separating the two, but the he seemed to be unphased by the commotion. Some think the lion thought Jack looked like a baby zebra. This little seal was nearly strangled to death when it got tangled up in a discarded G-string thong near the Lovers Leap Cliffs of New Zealand. Luckily, a passerby saw the panicked pup, and conservation workers were able to free the animal from the offending garment. After driving about 85 miles to Santa Cruz, Calif., a man discovered that this runaway kitten had been inside his car's engine in March 2012. In this picture taken, Monday, June 4, 2012, Shar Pei dog Cleopatra feeds two baby tigers in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, southern Russia. Two baby tigers whose mother refused to feed them found an unusual wet nurse, a wrinkled, sand-colored Shar Pei dog named Cleopatra. The cubs were born in late May in a zoo at the October health resort in Sochi. The horse, which is boarded on the 4 acres of land next to the O'Brien's home, backed into the swimming pool where it became trapped. Officials with the Brevard Zoo, a veterinarian, and the Brevard County Fire Department responded along with a hazardous materials team. The horse was not injured. A farmer in China’s Shandong province has saved a two-legged lamb after being touched by its struggle to survive. Farmer Cui Jinxu said the lamb was one of two born in July 2010. “The first one was a very healthy and normal one,” she told Rex USA. “However, the second one surprised me. With a further look I was surprised to find that the lamb only has two legs.” The family thought the lamb wouldn't survive, but it proved its strong desire to live. “I thought of dumping it after it was born, but the next morning it even stood up by itself.” An orangutan in Malaysia is kicking its smoking habit. Wildlife officials have removed Shirley from a state zoo after the captive primate was regularly spotted smoking cigarettes that zoo visitors had tossed into its enclosure. Wildlife officials have removed Shirley from a state zoo after the captive primate was regularly spotted smoking cigarettes that zoo visitors had tossed into its enclosure. Her owner saw the horse fall
and called the fire department. Phantom, a Palomino/Appaloosa mix, was not injured. (AP Photo/Metro Fire Sacramento) Elephant puts a ballot in ballot box during campaign to promote the general election in Ayutthaya province on June 21, 2011. The July 3 general election will be the first since Thailand was rocked by its deadliest political violence in decades last year, when more than 90 people died in street clashes between armed police and opposition protesters. (Pornchai Kittiwongsakul, AFP/Getty Images) Elvis, a Savannah cat, who weighed 24.8 pounds and measured 40 inches from tip to tail, recently died from a tumor in its sinus cavity. Sadly, Gemini, a kitten from Rhode Island, had a short life. The odds of seeing these three together are roughly 1 in 900 quintillion -- but a series of timely donations has allowed Connecticut's Maritime Aquarium to put together one of the most unusual lobster displays ever. While the blue lobster is a 1 in a million catch, the orange and calico are even rarer -- with the odds of finding them roughly 1 in 30 million. LEFT: The Stargazer fish which bears an uncanny resemblance to Homer Simpson. (Caters News / Getty Images) At two weeks old, Beyonce, a Dachshund mix born at a Northern California animal shelter, is just under four inches long and is in the running for the title of World's Smallest Dog. Here she is pictured resting on an iPhone. 'Sprinkles' the Koala following her life saving radiation treatment at the Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre in Brisbane, Australia, August 9, 2011. Suffering from an extremely rare case of excessive drooling, sprinkles developed a skin infection due to the excessive moisture flowing from her mouth. Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley left $12 million for her dog Trouble when she died in 2007, but a judge reduced the bequest to $2 million. Alexander Lacey, the big cat trainer for Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus, has been working with lions and tigers for 18 years, ever since he followed his dad into the business. He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named? No, it's Charlie -- an unlucky cat who happens to look just like the evil Lord Voldemort from the “Harry Potter” films. Charity workers are trying to find a new home for the British kitty, who lost his nose and ears to skin cancer. Indian army personnel use a bulldozer during a rescue mission to save a wild elephant trapped in a water reservoir tank at Bengdubi army cantonment area some 25 kms from Siliguri on August 30, 2011. A wild elephant fell into the water reservoir tank as a herd crossed the area. Army personnel of 16 Field Ammunition Depot along with wildlife elephant squad of Mahananda wildlife sanctuary joined forces to save the animal. The New Zealand SPCA taught dogs to drive as part of a campaign meant to demonstrate the intelligence or rescue dogs and boost adoption rates. Yes, these dogs are actually driving cars. Read the whole story here. Hania, a 4-year-old Great Dane, feeds her 3-day-old puppies in the Warsaw suburb of Nowa Iwiczna on March 17. Hania gave birth by cesarean section to 17 puppies. Charles the Monarch, a Labradoodle, looks so much like a lion that he has sparked multiple 911 calls from concerned citizens fearing that the king of beasts was on the loose Potala, age 50, rests in the afternoon sun with the new prosthetic made for her at the Friends of the Asian Elephant (FAE) elephant hospital in the Mae Yao National Reserve August 29, 2011 Lampang, Thailand. Potala lost a foot many years back after stepping on a land mine and now is on her third prosthetic, as they need to be changed according to the weight of the elephant. The world's first elephant hospital assists in medical care and helps to promote a better understanding of the elephant's physiology, important in treating them for illness. For generations elephants have been a part of the Thai culture, although today the Thai elephant mostly is domesticated animal, since Thailand now has few working elephants. Many are used in the tourism sector at special elephant parks or zoos, where they perform in shows. In some cases Thailand is still deals with roaming elephants on the city streets, usually after the mahout, an elephant driver, becomes unemployed, which often causes the elephant serious stress. Ambam, a silverback gorilla at the Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in Kent, England, shows off the stance that's turned him into a viral video sensation. Ambam doesn't do the typical ape walk -- he stands and struts.
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Source Title: Web

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 732214

Article Title: Children who have lost a parent twice as likely to have tried tobacco or alcohol before teens | Daily Mail Online

Date: 10/10/2016

Article Content: Children who grow up without one of their parents are more likely to smoke or drink by the age of 11 (stock photo)Children who grow up without one of their parents are more likely to smoke or drink by the age of 11, a British study found. Researchers following thousands of children in the UK found those who had 'lost' a parent – either through death or separation – were twice as like to smoke and nearly 50 per cent more likely to have tried alcohol before they were in their teens. The University College London study analysed data from thousands of British children born between 2000 and 2002, who were questioned at three, five, seven and 11 years old. At 11, they were asked whether they had ever tried smoking or drinking and whether they had ever had enough alcohol to feel drunk. More than one in four of the 10,940 children who completed the surveys had 'lost' a parent by the age of seven. These children were more than twice as likely to smoke and 46 per cent more likely to have started drinking alcohol by age 11, regardless of whether they were girls or boys. The association was linked to the fact a parent was absent and was not affected by which parent was missing or when they had been 'lost'. Smoking and drinking levels among children missing a parent were the same even when other factors were taken into account, including the parents' level of education, ethnicity, the mother's age at parenthood, whether she smoked during pregnancy, the length of the pregnancy and the child's birthweight. Children whose parent had died were generally less likely to drink alcohol by age 11 than those whose parents were absent for other reasons – but those who did were 12 times as likely to drink
to get drunk. Across all children, including those with both parents, boys were more likely to have smoked or drank alcohol than girls. Across all children, including those with both parents, boys were more likely to have smoked or drank alcohol than girls. Nearly one in seven boys had tried alcohol, compared to just over one in ten girls. While boys were twice as likely to have drunk enough to feel inebriated – 12 per cent compared to 6.6 per cent of girls. Most children had not smoked by 11, but 3.6 per cent of boys had compared to 1.9 per cent of girls. The researchers said: 'Associations between parental absence and early smoking and alcohol consumption may operate through a range of mechanisms, such as reduced parental supervision, self-medication, and adoption of less healthy coping mechanisms. For instance, nicotine in particular demonstrates psychoactive properties and may have benefits for mood regulation.' The study was observational, so no conclusions could be drawn about cause and effect. However, the researchers said their findings echoed those of other studies and emphasised how health behaviours established in early life are known to set patterns for later life."

Source Title: Web

*Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4*

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 712580

Article Title: Smoke Less, Drink Less?"

Date: 7/22/2016

Article Content: Smoke Less, Drink Less? Study found those who tried to quit cigarettes drank less alcohol, but reasons unclear WebMD News from HealthDay By Robert Preidt HealthDay Reporter FRIDAY, July 22, 2016 (HealthDay News) -- Smokers who try to give up tobacco drink less alcohol than other smokers, a new study suggests. Researchers analyzed survey data from nearly 6,300 smokers in England, including 144 who said they had attempted to quit smoking the week before they were surveyed. Those who tried to quit cigarettes drank less alcohol and were less likely to binge drink than those who did not try to quit. "These results go against the commonly held view that people who stop smoking tend to drink more to compensate. It's possible that they are heeding advice to try to avoid alcohol because of its link to relapse,“ said study lead author Jamie Brown, from University College London. The reasons for the findings aren't clear. Smokers may reduce their alcohol consumption when trying to quit smoking to lower the risk of relapse, or people who drink less may be more likely to quit smoking, the researchers suggested. If the latter is true, smokers who are heavier drinkers may need additional help to quit smoking, according to Brown. The findings were published July 21 in the journal BMC Public Health. “We can't yet determine the direction of causality. Further research is needed to disentangle whether attempts to quit smoking precede attempts to restrict alcohol consumption or vice versa. We'd also need to rule out other factors which make both more likely," Brown said in a journal news release."

Source Title: Web
Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“tobnoecig_SOURCE_add” – “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_add”).

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 1

Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 779634

Article Title: Colorado Editorial Roundup"

Date: 1/11/2017

Article Content: The (Colorado Springs) Gazette, Jan. 10, on punishing the innocent: Individuals are assumed innocent in the United States unless proven guilty beyond reasonable doubt in court of law. Americans learn this in third grade, if not sooner. In Colorado, we have a different standard. It is so indefensible, so contrary to American values, members of the Supreme Court of the United States laughed Monday as they tried to make sense of it while hearing arguments in Nelson v. Colorado. At issue is Colorado's Exoneration Act, which the state uses to justify keeping penalties and fines paid by convicts who later have their convictions overturned. It empowers the state to keep fines unless and until someone proves innocence in a civil trial. No other state has a similar law or practice. The public seldom hears about the state keeping fines paid by the innocent, but that changed when two people exonerated of sexual assault convictions demanded return of their money and were willing to fight for it. Shannon Nelson and Louis Alonzo Madden were charged and convicted separately of sexual assault. In addition to a prison sentence, Nelson paid about $700 in penalties. Madden was sentenced to prison and charged $4,000 in penalties. Nelson appealed her conviction. A jury overturned it and acquitted her. By federal law, that means she is innocent and should be treated as if she did nothing wrong. The acquittal means she can never be tried again on the same charges, no matter what, even if new evidence arises and indicates guilt. Madden's conviction was also overturned on appeal, and prosecutors chose not to try him again. Unless they convict him in a future trial, he is innocent by law. The state has no justification to punish Nelson or Madden. Despite that, Colorado will not return their money unless each proves innocence in a civil trial. The notion of proving innocence contradicts the Fifth Amendment, which says no person shall be held to answer for a crime, or “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” Justice Stephen Breyer presented a hypothetical dilemma Monday, highlighting the inanity of Colorado's no-refund practice. He said a corporate defendant could be fined $15 million by the state. If the corporation appealed, he said, state government could say “if you win, we’re not going to give you the money back... Now, there's something wrong with that. I'm trying to put my finger on it.” Chief Justice John Roberts said Colorado might just as well charge $10,000 to each person convicted of a crime, then refuse to return the proceeds to anyone who is later found innocent. Justice Elena Kagan pondered how money charged to convicts, who are later found innocent, could possibly belong to the state. It is hard to imagine how this patently unconstitutional practice made it all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States before evoking courtroom laughter and judicial dismay. Based on their reactions Monday, justices are likely to end this unjust practice that makes mockery of law. We won't be surprised by a unanimous decision. We want a system that is tough on crime. We don't want it tough on those acquitted or otherwise exonerated of charges. Let's hope the
Supreme Court makes Colorado a state in which all are innocent until proven guilty. Editorial: http://bit.ly/2jBsH8z  

The Aurora Sentinel, Jan. 10, on banning teens from tanning beds: If your teen is looking pretty tan this winter and hasn't been outside to account for it, your son or daughter doesn't live in states like Texas, North Carolina and Louisiana. Those states, despite being bastions of places that shun government regulation in general, have sense enough to ban minors from using tanning beds.

Colorado is among the declining number of states that don't have that good sense. Despite years of trying, Colorado has been unable to react to the sound and consistent advice of researchers around the globe and prevent teenagers and even pre-teens from using cancer-causing UV tanning beds. While it's unclear whether a determined House will carry a bill this year that could save untold illness and lives, someone needs to step forward. For years, reasonable Colorado state lawmakers have tried to make it illegal to allow teenagers inside cancer-causing tanning beds. Each year, the measures move along, simply because the facts are daunting and indisputable. Tanning beds cause deadly cancers and lead to preventable American deaths. The World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, organizations focusing on pediatrics, skin cancer and other wellness groups are united in their message to Americans: Do not let teenagers use tanning beds because they cause skin cancer and death. The message has been consistent, unrelenting and in front of the public for more than a decade. So how is it that after all this time, Colorado remains one of the few states without any laws regulating the use of tanning beds by minors? It's primarily because the tanning bed industry is made up mostly of mom-and-pop businesses, which many state lawmakers are sympathetic to no matter what kind of business they're in. More importantly, national tanning associations bend and distort data, presenting information to state lawmakers unable to keep the facts straight. Tanning bed proponents say things like their products are safe when used as directed. Cancer, pediatricians and public health officials are adamant: They are not safe under any conditions, not for anyone - and especially not for minors whose skin is more susceptible to cancer-causing damage by UV rays. Proponents say indoor tanning is beneficial because it stimulates the body's natural ability to produce essential Vitamin D. That's like saying mercury-laden fish is healthful because it provides important omega-3 fatty acids. Both statements are true. Both things can and do kill humans. The closest parallel to any other industry is tobacco. New tanning beds are being marketed as the filtered "light" cigarettes of the past, and they are successful in getting children to indulge in a lethal habit driven only by vanity. In the United States, 2.5 million teenagers use tanning booths, many starting as early as age 13. In Colorado, that's legal even though these children are exposed to booths that emit up to 15 times more UV radiation than the sun. A Yale University School of Public Health study reveals that teenagers who use tanning beds have a 69 percent increased chance of getting early onset basal cell carcinoma, a common form of skin cancer. Melanoma, the most deadly skin cancer, is the leading cause of cancer death in women ages 25 to 29, and it's the second most common cancer among people ages 15 to 29. People who use tanning beds once a month before the age of 35 increase their melanoma risk by 75 percent. Melanoma, according to CDC research, kills an average of one person every minute, and the rate is increasing fast. The threat is real and indisputable. Colorado and other governments have acted consistently in protecting minors from health threats by limiting their access to tobacco, drugs, pornography, cars, machinery and alcohol. Given that there is no reputable evidence showing indoor tanning to be any less dangerous than those hazards, and it is exponentially more dangerous than most of those risks, how can the Colorado Legislature do anything but follow suit and restrict the use of tanning beds for teens? State lawmakers shouldn't let the sun go down on a winning attempt to right this regulatory wrong. Editorial: http://bit.ly/2igZLRt  

The (Grand Junction) Daily Sentinel, Jan. 6, on
Obamacare: Most people agree that Obamacare needs some tweaks. It's not necessarily a partisan issue, either. There are plenty of Democratic lawmakers ready and willing to work with Republicans to improve the law or replace it with something better. But the mood on Capitol Hill seems to be one of bloodthirsty action. With majorities in both chambers of Congress, Republicans seem bent on driving a stake through Obamacare at the outset of the new session just because they can. Since President Obama ramrodded his signature bill through Congress, turnabut, it seems, is fair play. Except for the 30 million Americans whose access to health care hangs in the balance. Here in Colorado, the Colorado Health Policy Coalition is asking members of Colorado's congressional delegation to pump the brakes on repealing the law without a clear and comprehensive alternative in place. The coalition, representing much of the health industry and many other businesses and organizations with a stake in health care reform, is worried that a repeal without a carefully thought-out substitute could be disastrous. We agree. Some form of repeal and delay seems a better course of action for several reasons. If Republicans want to repeal, fine. Just build in a two- or three-year period before the law is extinguished, providing market stability and time for thoughtful - and hopefully, bipartisan - solutions to emerge. But that's not the hand Senate Republicans are showing. To avoid a Democratic filibuster, they're instructing congressional committees to draft a budget reconciliation bill to effectively repeal the tax and spending provisions of the Affordable Care Act, crippling the financial framework of the law. A repeal of the individual mandate to purchase health insurance would eliminate the subsidy mechanism to help people buy policies. State health care exchanges would go into a death spiral, leaving millions uninsured. Is that really what people voted for? Will Americans who voted for Trump and lose their insurance accept that this is part of the bargain to make America great again? Congressional Republicans, on the whole, may be deaf to dire warnings about an immediate repeal. But Colorado lawmakers shouldn't be. The coalition has laid out clear principles on both the process Congress should follow to bring about necessary changes and the policy they should ultimately adopt. Using a budgetary maneuver to change national policy eliminates the opportunity for Republicans and Democrats to work together. Moving forward in piecemeal fashion with no plan in place for the future of the nation's health care system feels more like a political stunt than responsible governance. There's a better way. Even the president-elect himself thinks parts of Obamacare are worth keeping. That should be the launching point for an open debate about how to make health care affordable and accessible for all Americans. If coalition members Progress Now Colorado and the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce can find common on this issue, why can't Congress? Editorial: http://bit.ly/2j3yaUz ___ The Denver Post, Jan. 9, on the 2017 legislative session: Colorado's lawmakers have convened in Denver to try and resolve some of the state's most pressing issues: a better K-12 and higher education system; improved transportation and infrastructure; and increased availability of affordable housing. Such progress will take major compromise, as again this session Republicans hold sway in the Senate, while Democrats hold power in the House. Unfortunately an ideological chasm over government spending threatens to derail the hope of significant long-term progress on these issues. Democrats, led by Gov. John Hickenlooper, have convincingly argued that the state needs additional money. There's very little wiggle room in the discretionary portion of the state budget - the general fund. Further reducing the general fund is the possibility that, without action, lawmakers will be forced to send taxpayers millions of dollars in refunds under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. And while taxpayer refunds are always welcome, they tend to be anemic, and could arguably be better spent toward these needed priorities. House Speaker Crisanta Duran, D-Denver, says all options are on the table to resolve the revenue issue. Senate President Kevin Grantham, R-Canon City, while unwilling to consider removing millions of dollars out from under TABOR
without voter approval, said nearly everything else is on the table. We hope they mean it. Last year we strongly urged Senate Republicans to approve defining the hospital provider fee - essentially a bed tax on hospital visits - as an enterprise fund. The switch would mean no TABOR tax-refunds for the foreseeable future, but more money for things like schools, roads and child welfare services. That strategy was a nonstarter for Republicans, who argued it was beyond the scope of lawmakers without voter approval. However, the governor’s office says a legislative fix would be legal, and Republicans have used legislative changes to enterprise funds in the past. Whether pursuing a legislative fix or voter approval, Colorado needs some kind of rule change moving forward. Lawmakers could also decide this session to ask voters for new ways to fund transportation. Grantham said he would be willing to consider a sales tax increase, or other revenue source, to fund a bond package that would provide around $3.5 billion for needed transportation and infrastructure projects. Duran said she would consider a referred measure asking voters for a dedicated revenue stream. That sounds like fertile ground for a compromise. Duran is reluctant to consider reforms that would make it more difficult for multifamily homebuyers to bring suit against developers for defects in construction, legislation this board has long hoped to see. But Grantham seems optimistic that a compromise exists on this issue. There’s no question that high insurance rates for builders are hurting the market for multifamily housing, particularly condominiums, which are often the gateway purchase for first-time homebuyers. We hope Duran is willing to consider reasonable reforms that would both protect consumers while reducing the frequency of frivolous lawsuits that have hampered the market. Colorado lawmakers balance the budget each year and pass hundreds of bipartisan bills. We also hope they are able to find a middle ground on the more divisive issues this session. Editorial: http://dpo.st/2iegaTt"
to increase the risk of cancer. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network says those who use tanning beds before age 35 increase their lifetime risk of melanoma, the deadliest type of skin cancer, by 59 percent. Congressional experts also projected the tax would raise about $2.7 billion to help expand health coverage for uninsured Americans, but the industry says it actually has raised just a fraction of that. The industry has spent millions lobbying to repeal the tax, which it says destroyed 81,000 tanning jobs. Kim Arnold, a business owner in upstate New York, said she and her husband had to close their third Tropical Tann location last August because of the tax. "Customers would say, 'I'm not paying that,'" she said. "I'd have people walk right out the door."

Source Title: AP
the privacy of my diary, but it's rarely mentioned. To type that word - alcoholic - would have made it real, so I never recounted the talking-tos I got from Hugh and certain helpful people in my family. Similarly, it took me a while in the 1970s to write the word gay. Oh, please, I said out loud to my 20-year-old self while reading my earliest diaries, who do you think you were kidding? This project made evident all the phases I've gone through over the years and how intensely. That's David Sedaris reading from the introduction to his new book “Theft By Finding,” which is a collection of his diaries from 1977 to 2002. David, why did you decide to publish your journals as opposed to stories based on your journals? Well, when I was in college in 19- probably in 1986, I was in a painting critique. And in a painting critique, you'd put up your work and you'd talk about it. And one of the things I noticed pretty early on in art school was that my classmates had no notion of an audience. Right? I mean, growing up with the mother that I did, I learned that when you walk into the dry cleaners, there's an audience waiting for you. You know, maybe it's just the person behind the counter... (Laughter). ...Or maybe there are two other customers. But that is your audience. When you go to the grocery store, your audience is waiting. But the people in my class had no sense of that. And so they would talk the way you might talk to a therapist, and it was really boring. So I thought - well, I don't really have that much to say about my paintings, so I'm just going to read a little something. So I read some things from my diary. And it wasn't higgledy-piggledy. I mean, it was stuff that I thought would be funny. And I took this and I connected it to this and connected, you know. And I read for, like, two minutes. And people laughed. And then the teacher said, do we talk about that in connection to your work? And I said no, I'm done. And then people liked me even more because it meant they could talk about themselves sooner. (Laughter). So I started reading from my diary back then. And when something would work, I would put it into a file that said - that was called diary that works. So really - probably after my second or third book came out, I thought, you know, one day I'll publish that diary that works file. And it just seemed like the time. But then my editor said, why don't you go back - and go back to the very beginning and find things that aren't necessarily funny and put those in as well? And soon, those outweighed the funny ones. And the funny ones seemed almost overproduced, so I got rid of a lot of them. So this wasn't the book that I had in my mind. When you were putting this book together, I'd imagine that there were two competing impulses, the impulse to be authentic and publish what you'd written back in 1988 and the impulse to, you know, to refine it - to edit it, to make it better. So how did that kind of little competition between those two instincts work out? Well, you know, I was saying to somebody a while ago how there are folk artists out there who live in the woods, who've never been to a museum who can create artwork that will move you. All right? But there's no such thing as a folk writer. There's no such thing as somebody who's never read a book before suddenly sitting down one day and writing one. You have to learn how to captivate a reader. Right? And I don't mean you have to go to school for it. But if you're - if you pay attention, you can learn it by reading books. And so I feel like I learned a lot by reading books. So when I was going to some of the earlier entries, I might have, like, four sentences in a row that start with the words she. And that's just not inviting to a reader, you know what I mean? And if you want somebody to turn from Page 17 to Page 18, then you take those four sentences that start with the word she and you turn them into two sentences. So also in the reading that you just did, you mention that you did a lot of your writing on meth. And it made me think about - because there was a period of your life when you were doing a lot of drugs. You had to buy those drugs. And knowing that there's a part of you who is so interested in other people - who sees, like, the world as kind of, like, a stage - do you know what I mean? Not necessarily one for you to perform on but, like, you're in the audience and you're watching people behave. And you seem to find, like, going to a grocery store the night before Thanksgiving and
watching people kind of panic-buying is great entertainment for you. So when you had to buy drugs from dealers - I don't know if you got them from friends or if you had to, like, you know, meet strangers on the street or in the car or in the park or whatever - did it expose you to people who were, like, really a little frightening but also, like, really interesting to you? And were you, yourself, or did you become somebody else around them? Well, often - you know, when you need drugs and you don't have a lot of money, what you'll do is you'll hang out with people who will give you drugs. Right? And there - a lot - quite often, they're not people who you would like under any circumstances. But you drop by their house, and you laugh at all their jokes. And you wait for them to pull the drugs out. And you say things like, God, I haven't gotten high since - I haven't gotten high since this morning. And you drop little hints, and then you hate yourself for dropping the little hints. And you pick up a bong. And you say, what's this? - as if you've never seen a bong. And you sit there, and you just - that was the greatest thing about giving up drugs is that I didn't have to hang out with those people anymore. It wasn't their fault. I was the phony. I was the one who was just hanging out with them for that reason. And often, they're people just with crummy personalities, and they couldn't really have friends any other way. They needed the drugs, or no one would hang out with them. So yeah, I've wasted a lot of time pretending to be interested in people who weren't terribly interesting. Then there were really interesting drug dealers, you know - really adventurous, who seemed like little stars to me, you know, had been arrested and hiding drugs inside their body. So you dropped out of college and then went to the Art Institute of Chicago when you were 27. But why did you drop out of college? I discovered drugs. I... Oh, OK. ...Got high when I was 14. And then I came home and I let my sister smell my fingers. And then I turned anti-drug. And then when I went to college the first time, you know, when I was, like, 18, it was almost like a commercial, like a drug commercial. Like, people in the dorm saying, oh, come on, you can try it once and, like, the peer pressure. And so I got high, and it was like, wow, where have I been all my life? And then my second year of college, it was getting up on exam day and taking acid and, I mean, just - I dropped out of college. I just was in the dorm doing drugs. I didn't even go to class, like, my last semester so I withdrew - right? - so I wouldn't get the bad grades. But I didn't think they would tell my parents. But of course they did. So that was that. On February 13, 1989, you have an entry in your diary about going to hear Tobias Wolff read from his new memoir “This Boy's Life.” And you write, I have to be his biggest fan. That's the book that made me realize that, like, memoir, that's where it's really happening now in American literature. It's about the memoir. This book is amazing. And that book was so inspiring, I think, to a lot of people who ended up writing memoirs. Of course, not all those memoirs were as good (laughter). Right. But what impact did that book have on you? Well, I loved his short stories. And I think the impact of the book was that you saw him as a child and you realized that that person who lived that crummy life went on to write these amazing short stories and that the memoir was written as intricately and as beautifully as any of his stories. And that was really - I feel like that was, like, the first memoir was “This Boy's Life.” It hadn't occurred to me - I don't know, I mean, you know, I'd read biographies. But - and it wasn't the same as an autobiography either. You know what I mean? Like, you never hear the word autobiography anymore. I guess people just put memoir on it. But to me, an autobiography - I don't know, maybe it's just a little bit more formal than a memoir. But, I mean, I would have loved anything that he put out. I really do have to be - I really have to be his biggest fan. I mean, I'd fight anybody else who says that he's his biggest fan. I'd fight him. I think I'd win. Let's take a short break here and then we'll talk some more. If you're just joining us, my guest is David Sedaris. And his new book, “Theft By Finding,” is a collection of his diaries from 1977 to 2002. We'll be right back. This is FRESH AIR. (SOUNDBITE OF THE BEASTIE BOYS' “GROOVE HOLMES”) This is FRESH AIR and if you're just
joining us, my guest is David Sedaris. His new book, “Theft By Finding,” collects his diaries from 1977 to 2002. So there's another entry I want you to read. And I'm asking you to read this with some reservations because I'm mentioned in this. And that's part of the reason why I want you to read it and that's part of the reason why I feel awkward asking you to read it. But I have a really serious question about this that I want to ask you after you're done reading it. So would you read this entry from your journals, David? Sure. (SOUNDBITE OF BOOK, “THEFT BY FINDING”) (Reading) February 16, 1988, Chicago. Reasons to live - one, Christmas; two, the family beach trip; three, writing a published book; four, seeing my name in a magazine; five, watching C. grow bald; six, Ronnie Ruedrich; seven, seeing Amy on TV; eight, other people's books; nine, outliving my enemies; 10, being interviewed by Terry Gross on FRESH AIR. So as I was telling you before we started the interview, reading that made me feel so honored and, like, oh, like I won the David Sedaris award. (Laughter). But it also made me worried because the headline on that entry is reasons to live. And I really didn't know how to interpret that. Was that, like, oh, things to look forward to in life or did it mean reasons not to kill yourself? I wasn't sure how to interpret reasons to live. It was reasons not to kill myself. You know, I mean, there are certain people in my life who didn't care to be in this book. And so I cut them out. And I had broken up with somebody. And I was, you know, really upset and depressed. And so that was, you know, reasons to keep going. Is it something you were just toy - like, how serious were you? I don't - you know, generally I find that when people kill themselves, they have something else going on, you know? Like, you might break up with somebody or you might declare bankruptcy and you might think that you're going to kill yourself. And you might be terribly upset and you might not be able to sleep. But generally speaking, people who kill themselves have something else going on. Do you mean, like, depression or some other... Yeah, yeah. ...Like, mental health issue. Yeah. Yeah. Right. Well, in terms of being interviewed on FRESH AIR, many times (laughter) since then. Well, I used to... Yeah. You know, I was working - at that point in my life, I was mainly doing odd jobs and refinishing wood work in people's houses. And so I would listen to your show. Oh. And I would write - I wrote about it a lot in my diary. I wrote about... Anita... Anita O'Day when you interviewed her. Anita O'Day not having a uvula so she didn't have vibrato (laughter). And also when you interviewed her, she said, the name's O'Day. That's pig Latin for money, honey, and plenty of it. (Laughter). I mean, I don't know if she was drinking during the interview or whatever but it was completely captivating. But, I don't know, I just wanted something so bad, you know? I just wanted to - I really don't think anybody wanted to be somebody more than me. I really don't think anybody could have wanted it more. When you wanted to be somebody, what were you picturing, like what kind of somebody? I was picturing exactly the life that I have today, exactly the life that I have and going to a bookstore like I saw, you know, Richard Ford and Tobias Wolff go to bookstores and having people be there and being in The New Yorker and being on the radio. And, you know, I wasn't asking for the world. I thought I was being reasonable. I mean, it seemed like it was possible to talk to you. (LAUGHER) It wasn't like - oh, I have to be the president. But there were certain things that I wanted. I recently saw that movie “La La Land” on a plane, and it made me think about people who didn't have dreams, who didn't - you know, and there are plenty of people I know in my life who - I don't mean to suggest in any way that they're failures. But I don't know that they ever wanted things, you know, like, were very specific about what it was that they wanted. Maybe they didn't know what they wanted. A lot of people don't know what they want, you know, or they're just kind of vague about it. But I wasn't - I was never vague. I knew exactly what I wanted. That doesn't mean you're going to get it, but - it's scary. Like, in that list, it's scary to put that list together because what if that doesn't happen? If that doesn't happen, then I've announced what I wanted, and then I didn't get what I
wanted. And then I'm a failure. And the way that I grew up, like, that word - I heard that word a lot, you know. I heard it a lot, and it was just always right there waiting for me. Because your parents assumed you'd be one? Well, not my mom so much. But, you know, my father, I mean, yeah. So it was scary to - it's always scary to announce what you want, even to yourself because if you don't get it - the only thing on that list is I see outliving my enemies, and I don't really remember who they were... That's good. ...Which that's good. I think that's good. Yeah. So now that you have the life that you wanted and that you are “somebody,” in that sense, you know, with quotation marks around it, is the life what you expected it to be? It is fantastic, (laughter) I have to tell you. It is everything that I thought it would be. Like, I don't want people to think that then you get it and you get tired of it, or you think, oh, it wasn’t what I wanted. It's exactly what I thought... Yeah (laughter). ...It would be. It's exactly what I wanted. That said, you know, I mean, that's very nice, and I'm on a book tour. And, you know - and I get to stay in nice hotels. But when I go home, I mean, I spend between, depending on the weather, five to nine hours a day picking up trash on the side of the road. And that's what I do. There's not a day off. I do it seven days a week. I've picked up so much trash on the side of the road that I was invited to Buckingham Palace... You were invited to Buckingham... ...(Unintelligible). I knew they named a trash truck after you. You were invited to - like, wow, because you're picking up trash? And just to put this in context, you live in, what is it, West Sussex, England? Yes. And there's hills around you, but people throw stuff out of their car all the time. And so your thing is picking up trash. And you used to clean houses for a living back in “The Santaland Diaries” era, so it kind of continues something you've always done. And you've always wanted to do outdoor work during the day, so it just kind of - or some kind of work during the day. So it fits a pattern in your life, that's for certain. But, wow, Buckingham Palace. Might you become, like, Sir David Sedaris, not for your writing but because you're picking up trash (laughter)? Well, the queen has a day when she invites do-gooders - because I thought it was going to be me and Hugh and the queen. And I got there, and there were 8,000 do-gooders. Oh (laugh). And some of them were cancer research or some of them were - oh, goodness - work preserving buildings. And so I didn't meet the queen. I stood, like, 6 feet away from her. That was enough for me. So it's Buckingham Palace. We're in the gardens behind Buckingham Palace. And they serve these - they had tea and sandwiches. And I think it was served on silver plates. And then somebody came around with a tray and offered ice creams. And the ice creams were in little cardboard containers. Right? And then I saw people finish their ice cream and then think, I'll just put the empty in this planter. I'll just hide it behind this column. And they were littering at the queen's house. That's great (laughter). And you didn't pick it up... I couldn't believe what I was seeing. ...Though, right? You didn't take it on yourself to... And that was my day off. ...Clean up after them? Oh, OK (laugh). My guest is David Sedaris. His new collection of journal entries is called “Theft By Finding.” Coming up, we talk about losing his mother, his sister and a dear friend. I'm Terry Gross, and this is FRESH AIR. (SOUNDBITE OF DON BYRON'S “FRASQUITA SERENADE”) This is FRESH AIR. I'm Terry Gross, back with David Sedaris. His best-selling books have included many stories and personal essays based on his journals. And on This American Life, he's read many stories based on his journals. But his new book is actually a collection of journal entries spanning the years 1977 to 2002. It's called “Theft By Finding.” The entries describe his day-to-day life and the life-changing moments that he didn't necessarily realize were life-changing at the time. March 21, 1991, you write, (reading) this spring, I am, if I'm not mistaken, in love. (Laughter) Had you been in love like that before with somebody who reciprocated? Yes. I was in love once before, but it was a little bit different. It was a little bit different with Hugh because Hugh didn't seem to be - he wasn’t - didn’t have one - his one eye on me and the other eye looking around for someone else. You know? And that made all the difference in the world.
November... He seemed happy with just me. November 1, 1991, you move in with Hugh. Then November 14, two weeks later, your mother dies - two momentous things happening within two weeks of each other, one wonderful and one terrible. I'd like you to read some of your entry from November 14, 1991. Sure. (SOUNDBITE OF BOOK, "THEFT BY FINDING") (Reading) November 14, 1991, Raleigh. Mom died last night, suddenly of pneumonia, brought on by her chemotherapy. Amy called to tell me, and now we're all in Raleigh. Dad gave us the option of seeing her laid out at the funeral home, but I was afraid to go - we all were. How strange to be in her house and see her things - the half worked crossword puzzle, her mail and stockings. She didn't expect to die yesterday, did she? When it happened, Hugh and I were in our kitchen in New York. He was making manicotti and talking about a wooden chicken he'd bought when I was socked by the weirdest feeling. I thought that he was going to die, and I must've said something because he accused me of being dramatic. I can't believe this has happened. I am just so moved when you write - she didn't expect to die yesterday, did she? - that things were still in process in her life - the unfinished crossword puzzle - when, you know... Well, she got pneumonia from the chemotherapy. And so she couldn't breathe, and so she was rushed to the hospital. And so that was how she died. When you were deciding to write about your mother's death, how did you decide what to write or what to finally publish in this book about it? Gosh, well - you know how, like, when people get sick sometimes, you just - you don't want to acknowledge that they're sick because that seems to be - I don't know. Like, with my mother, like, I would have loved to have said, like, oh, you're going to die. And so can I come and spend time with you? Can I come and hang out with you? Can we - let's talk about all these things that we meant to talk about - because that's suggesting that she'll die. And so maybe the best thing to do is when they say, like, I'm going to die, you say, no, you're not. You're going to be fine. You're going to be fine. Like, you think about David Rakoff, you know. The last time I saw David, I mean, he looked awful. And... And he was a close friend of yours who was a wonderful writer. He died five - it was five years ago. He had Hodgkin's lymphoma - and it - years ago, and then he had radiation for it. And then the radiation brought - caused a new kind of cancer. And when I last saw him, I just said, all right, I'll see you later. Like - and I knew I would never see him later. But it just seemed like if I had said more than that, it was just burdening him. It was just - he was so brave and who was I to suggest that he wouldn't get better. My impression is maybe that you were trying to let David Rakoff and your mother let you know if they were ready to talk about impending death as opposed to you telling them... Yeah. ...That it was impending, you were waiting for them to tell you. And if they didn't, you were going to play it their way. Right. That's just what I've always done. You're right. How did your mother's death change your relationship with your father? Well, my mother always really liked me. I feel very fortunate to have been loved by my mother. And - so you know how it can be in a family - right? - and so it really bothered my father. And I would come home, and my mother would make me exactly what I wanted for dinner, and she would serve me first. And my father would just be furious and take it out on me. It was like a game that they, you know - I mean, I wasn't the only one, you know, that this was going on with. But, you know, you grow up with it, and it just becomes normal to you. And after my mother died, then I could have a different relationship with my dad. But, you know, the relationship did change with my dad. But it wasn't like - you know, with my mother, I never - it was just effortless. You know, just what are we - you never thought, oh, what are we going to talk about in the car? You know, you just are talking in the car. You never - it was physical. If Mom's there, you just wrap - you know, you just kind of throw yourself on her, you know, like, hang off of her. Just - I always considered myself very, very lucky to have had her as a mother. If you're just joining us, my guest is David Sedaris, and he has a new collection of his diaries. And it's called "Theft By Finding,"
and it collects his diaries from 1977 to 2002. Let's take a short break, and we'll be back. This is FRESH AIR. (SOUNDBITE OF THE ACORN SONG, “LOW GRAVITY”) This is FRESH AIR. And if you're just joining us, my guest is David Sedaris. His new book, “Theft By Finding,” collects his diaries from 1977 to 2002. I want to talk with you about your sister Tiffany who took her life. Well, actually, I'm not really sure how she died. I'll ask you about that in a moment. But you wrote about her in The New Yorker. But I want - there's a couple of short entries from your book I want you to read. The first is October 3, 1977. But before you read it, tell us, like, where she fit in your family, which had six children in it. My sister Tiffany was child No. 5, so she was the youngest girl and the second to the youngest child. There were six kids in the family. And she - you know, it's interesting. Looking back over her life, my mom never really liked Tiffany a lot - very much, you know. Tiffany was too much like my mother. And just - I remember that as a child almost. My mother, like - I just thought, wouldn't want to be Tiffany. And then she ran away from home when she was 14, which took a lot of guts. I mean, you know, the rest of us had threatened it, but we never did it. And she ran away from home, and then the police brought her back. And then she ran away from home again. And my parents sent her off to this school they'd heard about on the “Donahue” show, which was called Elan, which was in Maine. And now you hear a lot of things about Elan. I mean, it was like a horror factory. I mean, it was a horrible place. And from the time that Tiffany returned two years later until the time - the last conversation I had with her, she brought up Elan in every single conversation. I mean, there was never a time when Tiffany didn't talk about the school that my parents - I don't even know that school's the right word - the place that my parents shipped her off to when she was 14. I mean, in my parents' defense, you know, if you've got six kids and somebody is running away from home, you don't really have the option of kind of dropping everything and then focusing all the attention on this one child. You just get them out of there, you know. So she - I think there were already something going on with Tiffany, even maybe by the time she was sent there. But when she came back, she was like - you could really tell that there was something different about her. Can you read that entry for us from... Sure. ...October 3, 1997. (SOUNDBITE OF BOOK, “THEFT BY FINDING”) (Reading) October 3, 1997, New York. Tiffany called collect this morning, sobbing and saying that she can't leave the house. It happens every so often. Other days, she can leave but still wakes up crying. I feel bad for her but can't understand the problem. Isn't there some kind of medication for this? She talks about Mom, about the school she went to over 20 years ago, all this stuff from the past, over and over. Do you think that she was having a mental health issue? Well, it was funny because when you talked to Tiffany, there was nothing wrong with her. And then you'd think, well, if there's nothing wrong with you, why can't you leave the house? Right? Why can't you hold down a job? And in retrospect, in reading this book over, I would say - well, gosh, of course there was something wrong with her. But at the same time, you wanted to kind of believe her and believe that she was fine. But then when you look over things like this, nobody else calls you crying and saying they can't leave the house. I mean, it's not like - it's not like I had 10 friends that month calling me crying and saying they couldn't leave the house. I mean, that's really - you know, that's really outstanding that somebody has that problem. So there's another short paragraph I want you to read from an entry from November 9, 2000. (SOUNDBITE OF BOOK, “THEFT BY FINDING”) (Reading) On Tuesday afternoon, she cried while telling me a story she'd recounted a year before. She cries a lot. And the episodes generally end with a list of things she's doing for herself. I get out of bed in the mornings. Do you understand? I get up. The accomplishments are tiny, but I guess they're all she's got. You write about how Tiffany tried to push away the family, maybe because she was so angry about being sent away. And you said that for a year, you'd send a letter I think, like, every month. And she wouldn't read them. Oh - she asked you to stop. You write that you sent her monthly...
letters for a year, and then she wrote you and asked you to stop. What did you think your options were in trying to, you know, be there for her when she was kind of pushing you away and also being in such a state of depression and living in a real hellhole, judging from how you've described it? I feel like Tiffany had this story, and the story was that the family was horrible to her. And that had to be the story. That had to be the story that she maintained to her friends. She couldn't change it. Well, you know, I was talking to somebody this weekend. And she wasn't complaining in any way, but I was asking her questions about how she grew up. And the things that I heard just appalled me. And I kept saying, like, that's not OK. And, like, why didn't your siblings do something or say something? And it just made me think about Tiffany. You know, like, the way that my mother never really liked Tiffany - like, the rest of us should have said, Mom, you need to do something about this because that's not OK for you to treat somebody that way. But we never said that. We never called our mother on her behavior towards Tiffany. You know, Tiffany had had a lot of anger at us, and a lot of it was really well-founded. I mean, we were adults. We could have said to our mother - we could have said to our mother, this isn't OK. She was, I think, living in Massachusetts when she died. Yeah, she was living in Somerville, Mass. And you write that she'd been dead at least five days before her door was battered down. That's so disturbing. That's, like, everybody's nightmare, to not only, like, die alone but, like, no one knows that you've died. Well, plus she had two roommates. She had two roommates. And they said, well, I guess our smoking - I guess we didn't notice the smell because we smoke a lot. I mean, you'd have to smoke a lot... Wow... To not notice that in, like, 80-degree weather or 80-plus-degree weather for five days. Do you know if she killed herself or, like, what happened? Yeah. She had saved up a lot of medication, Klonopin, and taken the Klonopin. Oh. And she had done that months before, and it didn't work. So this time, she put a plastic bag over her head to make sure that it would work. I mean, she really wanted out. She really - and she - you know, there was a letter that - my sister Amy went up there afterwards and found a letter. And it was so disjointed and so - I mean, if that was the state of my mind, I'd probably kill myself as well. I mean, if that's what the inside of my head was like. Just one more question about your sister - She had asked in her will that you not attend her memorial or have control over her remains. Did you honor that? Yes. We - nobody went to the memorial service. And her ashes went to somebody that she had worked with once. And my sister Lisa called this woman and said, could we have just, like, a thimbleful to scatter in the ocean behind the beach house? And the woman said no. So - and I understand that. Tiffany didn't want us to have them. So, you know, so we - and the woman was just honoring Tiffany's wishes. But at the same time, you know, I mean, Tiffany sent my father a, you know, wrote my father a little letter. And it was like, you know, I - this doesn't have anything to do with you. And I love you, and - but still, the story had to be that we were uniformly terrible to her. And that was just what the story had to be. And so - I mean, that's a lot of anger to take with you, you know? But again, it wasn't necessarily all misplaced anger. You know, she had her reasons to be angry. It's just - I think she didn't want to be mentally ill. And she didn't want to take her medication. And if somebody's mentally ill and they won't take their medication, there's not a damn thing you can do about it, you know? And she was really hard to deal with, Tiffany, you know? And, you know, she would call my dad every day and just rail at him. And, you know, to his credit, he accepted the calls every day. And he listened to it. And he never gave up hoping that things could improve. My guest is David Sedaris. His new book is called “Theft By Finding: Diaries; 1977 to 2002.” We'll talk more after a break. This is FRESH AIR. (SOUNDBITE OF TERRY SLINGBAUM'S “WATER GAMES-RAVEL RE-IMAGINED”) This is FRESH AIR. And if you're just joining us, my guest is David Sedaris. His new book is a collection of his diaries from 1977 to 2002. It's called “Theft By Finding.” I want to ask you about another turning point in your life and that's when you gave up
drinking, which you write about in your diaries. How did you know that you needed to stop? Like, what was that turning point for you? Well, I was on tour. And it was just - it was one thing to be drinking like that at home. But it's a lot to take that show on the road, you know (laughter)? It was really a lot of work. And I would be, you know, going back to a hotel room after - I would be on a book tour. And so I'm signing books. And then let's say I get back to the room at, like, 1:00 in the morning and then it's time to, like, start drinking. And then - 'cause you didn't want to eat on an empty stomach. And so, you know, you get your drinking in. And then you order room service around four. And then you get high. And, oh, look, it's 5:30 in the morning and it's time for your car to come and take you to the airport. And it was just - I think it was traveling with it that made me realize. Plus I'd been wanting to quit for a long time. I just was afraid, you know, afraid to quit, afraid that I wouldn't be able to write 'cause I started drinking shortly after I started writing. And then I kind of got it in my head that I needed to be drinking while I wrote. And I had it in my head that I needed to be smoking. I couldn't write unless I had a cigarette. So was it hard to stop? I'm pretty good at quitting things. I quit. And the next morning, I went to the airport, and I thought that people could see it in my face. I mean, I always thought that people could see in my face that I was an alcoholic, that they could just look at me and they'd just know it or look at a picture of me and say, oh, my God, look at that picture of an alcoholic. And then when I quit drinking, I went to the airport and I thought, they - I didn't look like that anymore, you know? And, I mean, I'm talking as if I used to resemble W.C. Fields. (LAUGHTER) I didn't. I just had it in my head that it showed on my face. And I quit. And, you know, there were a couple people who said, oh, well, you know, why don't you just have a drink? I mean, it's not going to last. And I do well with things like that, with, like, little challenges like that. And so I just thought, well, I'll show you. So I don't know, I've never had another drink. I don't miss it. It's a little bit different in America, like, if people are drinking and you don't drink, people get the idea pretty quickly. But you get a lot of lip, you know, in Europe. You get a lot of lip in England. You know, I don't trust people who don't... Why? Why is that true? You know, if you don't drink, people say, well, I don't trust people who don't drink. And it's like, well, then you're just going to have to not trust me. I mean, there's something in the book. I was at a wedding in France, and the woman, the bride's mother said, you have to have champagne to toast the bride and groom. And I said, that's OK. I just got some sparkling - I don't really care for champagne. I got some sparkling - you have to have champagne. No, really, I'm OK. You have to have champagne. And then - so I have my sparkling water. And then we raise our glasses. And all of a sudden, she sticks her finger in my mouth. She had stuck her finger in her champagne and she jammed her finger into my mouth, telling me I had to have the taste of champagne. The thing is, she had a long fingernail, so it kind of caught the inside of my mouth. So really, I toasted with the taste of blood in my mouth is how I really toasted the bride and groom. But if she had known what she was doing, then I don't know that she would have - it just didn't occur to her. I guess she just thought I was being obstinate or something. Sometimes I say - people say, do you want a drink? And I say, oh, I'd like to, but I'm a tragic alcoholic. I always say tragic. I'm a tragic alcoholic. Why do you say tragic? To maybe drive it in a little bit deeper. (Laughter) Yeah. So I haven't spoken to you in a few years. So the question I really wanted to ask you was how are you? But I thought, like, well, when people say how are you, the person responding says, I'm fine, how are you? So I didn't expect it would be a question you could really answer, you know what I mean (laughter)? But, really, like, how are you? I am tanned. (LAUGHTER) I just went to the beach house. And I - that was my goal, to get a tan. This is the house you bought for you and your family in a beach off of North Carolina where you used to vacation. Yes. We bought a house on the coast - on an area called Emerald Isle. We bought a house. And the houses there all have names. And so our house is called the Sea Section. That's what we
named it. So... Right, against your father’s wishes (laughter). ...I went to the Sea Section for the long weekend. And I got a tan 'cause I wanted a tan for my book tour. Oh. So I am tanned and I'm - I really, gosh, I - you know, often when I go on tour, I'll get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom and then every anxiety I have just jumps me - get him. (Laughter). And then I just lay there awake for the rest of the night. And so I got up, I don't know, like, at 4:00 in the morning. And they said, get him. And I said, there's nothing to get. I mean, sorry, but I don't - I mean, I could be anxious like, oh, is my alarm going to go off at 8:00? But I don't have that - I was dreading going on television for the book tour. But I already finished that. So, like, I really - I have a tan and I have nothing to be anxious about. So I'm delighted. David, I have so enjoyed talking with you again. Thank you so much for coming back to the show. Congratulations on the book. It’s just absolutely fascinating to read it (laughter). So... Thank you so much, Terry, for having me back on. David Sedaris' new book collecting his journals from 1977 to 2002 is called “Theft By Finding.” We have an extra on our podcast that we didn't have room for in this broadcast in which David talks about meeting Ira Glass."

Source Title: BTN

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 638941

Article Title: SHOW: CNN Tonight 10:00 PM EST Jeb Bush Struggling in Polls as Rivals Surging; Obama's Jab at GOP Candidates; Donald Trump Feeling the Heat; 2016 Campaign Heats Up; Obama Looking for a" Date: 11/2/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Another Bush fighting right now to win the White House and facing an up little climb, but the poll numbers dropping and his rivals surging. Does Jeb Bush still have a shot; Meanwhile, the republican rivals battle over a plan to hold the next debate hostage. As the brand new poll puts Ben Carson ahead of Donald Trump; President Barack Obama is weighing in with a fierce jab at the republican candidates; Donald Trump feeling the heat in the newest national poll, but if you think he'll be a kinder, gentler candidate, well, you just haven't been paying attention. The race for the White House is really heating up and the election is still a year away; President Barack Obama looking to his legacy as he gets closer to the end of his term and speaking out today on some of the toughest issues America faces [22:00:00] DON LEMON, CNN HOST: So, you just watched our CNN special report, Bush v. Gore, the story of the closest presidential race in American history. And there’s more to that story. This is CNN Tonight. I'm Don Lemon. Another Bush fighting right now to win the White House and facing an up little climb, but the poll numbers dropping and his rivals surging. Does Jeb Bush still have a shot? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) Jeb BUSH, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm not sure I'm Captain America. But I'm striving -- I'm striving to be President of the United States. (END VIDEO CLIP) LEMON: Meanwhile, the republican rivals battle over a plan to hold the next debate hostage. As the brand new poll puts Ben Carson ahead of Donald Trump. Lots of moving parts to get to tonight. But first, I want to start with my colleague CNN's Gloria Borger, she's here along with Mac -- Mac Stipanovich, who you just saw in that documentary, and also John Feehery, a columnist for The Hill. Goo to see all of you. Gloria, of course, I'm going to start with you. I saw your documentary is very good, by the way. GLORIA BORGER, CNN
POLITICAL ANALYST: Thank you. LEMON: I was reliving it. BORGER: I know. LEMON: Everybody remember where they were. BORGER: I was reliving it was 15 years ago? LEMON: Standing on the street corner interviewing people, right, saying, hey, what do you think -- what do you think about this election? Is Jeb Bush, though, let’s bring it to the future, is he still feeling the reverberations of his brother George Bush in this election? BORGER: Well, look, I think the Bush name has always been an issue for Jeb, which is why his campaign bumper sticker is Jeb, exclamation point. It’s not Bush exclamation point. But interestingly, you know, George W. Bush does not hurt Jeb Bush in a primary. He’s very popular among republican primary voters right now. What hurts Jeb in the primary is that he’s not as good a politician as his brother was. LEMON: Right. As his brother, right. BORGER: His brother was a great transactional back slapping people... LEMON: Want to have a beer with kind of guy. BORGER: Right. And Jeb is not that way. As you said in the clip you just showed, I’m not Captain America. He’s kind of warming to the campaign trail, but it’s taking him a while, particularly on the debate stage. LEMON: Should he have Bush, do you think, in his -- as part of his sign? BORGER: Well, he is, in the republican primary he’s using it to raise money. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: He’s using it, yes. BORGER: He’s using his father to raise money, that’s fine. In a general election, it’s a bit more problematic for him. LEMON: OK. BORGER: The more in the rock dynastic politics the Bush name much more of it... LEMON: There were a lot of big players in this, Mac, and I’m sure you guys were all watching. You, of course were there advising then former Secretary of State Catherine Harris as we saw in the documentary on how to continue with the election. Do you think that there -- that there is anything that Florida could have done differently to avoid this controversy or have avoided that controversy? MAC STIPANOVICH, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: No, I don’t think so. I think that if you take an election that important and millions of votes cash with a margin that narrow and examine it as closely as what, you know, as Florida was examined, any state would come up short should. Then there would be irregularities of missing ballot box or some equivalent of hanging chads. You know, my position is that we held an election, counted the votes, and then we recounted the votes under the same interpretation of the law and in the same -- about the same methods that we’ve been using since trigger was a colt and George Bush won. Everything after that was a coup attempt... LEMON: Yes. STIPANOVICH: ... which we, all patriots, managed to thwart. LEMON: What do they -- what do they -- it was fascinating to me when they said in the documentary, if there wasn’t for the butterfly ballot that Al Gore would be president. BORGER: Well, that’s what, you know, that’s what bill Daley said and the butterfly ballot was a confused ballot. But as Daley also pointed out it was a ballot that was designed and approved by democrats. So, they had an argument before, but to argue about it after the fact was a real problem. LEMON: It was not a good strategy. So, John, my question is, did democrats learn anything from what happened back in 2000? JOHN FEEHERY, THE HILL COLUMNIST: Yes. Win bigger. BORGER: Right. FEEHERY: I think that’s the -- I mean, and obviously they did that with President Obama twice. Listen, you know, and we have close elections and that pointed that, you’re going to have these controversies. I think George W. Bush won that election and he won it fair and square. But it was a close election. And anytime you have close elections like that anywhere in the country you’re going to have controversies. You’re going to have people saying there’s hidden ballots then you’re going to have accusations of corruption. Just because that’s kind of part of the political system. So, if you want to make sure absent of any corruption or any charges of corruption, win big. LEMON: Yes. It feels like to me we set the clocks back but we also at one hour, since that we went back 15 years. BORGER: Yes. LEMON: ... when we’re talking about it. Because President is here tonight. President Obama is in New York City tonight. He’s at a democratic fund-raising event. I want you to listen to what he had to say about the republicans and about George W. Bush, that era. (BEGIN VIDEO
CLIP) [22:04:58] BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: They occupy a different reality, it seems. According to them, everything was really good in 2008, when we were going through the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes, unemployment and uninsured rates were up and we were hopelessly addicted to foreign oil and Bin Laden was still on the loose. This apparently, was the golden age that I messed up. I messed it up. (END VIDEO CLIP) LEMON: Gloria, what's your reaction to that? BORGER: Well, you can hear him out on the campaign trail, right? LEMON: Right. BORGER: He's already out this. And this is the first time I think we really heard him take on the republican field. He's clearly taking on -- there was another point today, he talked about the debate and if they can't take on CNBC moderators how they are going to possibly take on Putin? So, this is Barack Obama, who I think is going to kind of miss being in the sake of this next election, but I bet he'll be out there and this is the first we've heard.

LEMON: Everyone will tell even the people who didn't -- the people who didn't like him, who weren't on his side, will tell you he's a good -- he's good politician. BORGER: Yes. LEMON: He's good at -- he's good at running. He was a good, you know. BORGER: Right. LEMON: Candidate, I should say. BORGER: Yes. Well, and he's great on some... (CROSSTALK) STIPANOVICH: He's a much better... LEMON: Go ahead. STIPANOVICH: He's a much better campaigner than -- he's a much better campaigner than he is a president, there is no question about that. LEMON: So, John, I want to -- also tonight, there is an NBC poll, Wall Street Journal poll that was taken mostly before this last debate. Let's take a look at it. Here is it, to October 25th through 29th. Carson 29, Trump 23, Rubio 11, Cruz 10, Bush 8. What's your take on these numbers? FEEHERY: Well, surprisingly, Jeb is still in it. If you take away the top two, which I do. I don't think Donald Trump or Ben Carson get the nomination. Then it's really down to the other three. Rubio, Cruz, and Bush. Bush is not out of this by any stretch of the imagination. He still has a very big organization around the country as we saw in his documentary. There's a lot of Bush people out there and they know how to win elections and they know how to win tough elections. So, I just don't really believe that Donald Trump is going to be our nominee and I certainly don't believe that Ben Carson is going to be our nominee. Now, if that's the case, then you have chance -- that Jeb still has a chance. LEMON: Gloria, are some of the supporters right, saying the poll numbers don't matter at this point. And the fact that he still in it bodes well for him? BORGER: For Jeb? LEMON: Yes. BORGER: Yes, I think -- I think it does. I think if I were Marco Rubio's people, though, I would be very happy about this polling. And I'll tell you what about Carson, for the first time, Carson about half of republican voters say Carson is their first or second choice. LEMON: It's not. It's not. FEEHERY: Right. FEEHERY: If you take away the top two, which I do. I don't think Donald Trump or Ben Carson get the nomination. Then it's really down to the other three. Rubio, Cruz, and Bush. Bush is not out of this by any stretch of the imagination. He still has a very big organization around the country as we saw in his documentary. There's a lot of Bush people out there and they know how to win elections and they know how to win tough elections. So, I just don't really believe that Donald Trump is going to be our nominee and I certainly don't believe that Ben Carson is going to be our nominee. Now, if that's the case, then you have chance -- that Jeb still has a chance. LEMON: Gloria, are some of the supporters right, saying the poll numbers don't matter at this point. And the fact that he still in it bodes well for him? BORGER: For Jeb? LEMON: Yes. BORGER: Yes, I think -- I think it does. I think if I were Marco Rubio's people, though, I would be very happy about this polling. And I'll tell you what about Carson, for the first time, Carson about half of republican voters say Carson is their first or second choice. LEMON: Right. BORGER: That's the first time we've seen that and that's an important number for Ben Carson. And I think he's the clear front-runner at this point. I agree with John, anything can change. Bush is not out of it, but this doesn't feel like an establishment vitae to me this year. LEMON: It's not. It's not. BORGER: Watch Ted Cruz in Iowa. Just watch him. LEMON: OK. Mac, let's move on and talk a little bit more about Jeb Bush. Now, the reset to his campaign 'Jeb can fix it.' It's a Jeb can fix tour. This is what he said late today on how he is rebooting his campaign. Take a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BUSH: By campaigning with heart, by telling them my story, by having a hopeful, optimistic message, doing what I have been doing but doing it in a way that convinces people that we can fix these big complex problems in Washington. That talking about things isn't going to solve people's problems. Doing is what matters. And I want to make that point over and over again over the next hundred days. This is the beginning of the campaign. I mean, look at the past. Herman Cain was winning right now. Hillary Clinton was up 25 points this time eight years ago against an unknown guy whose name is now President Barack Obama. So, this is the start of our journey. I'm excited about it. (END VIDEO CLIP) LEMON: Journey. I mean, let's talk about the messaging here, John. Is he trying to fix the country or is he fixing his campaign? FEEHELY: Well, listen, if
you want a plumber, you get someone who can fix it. What you want is a visionary, someone who can fix the country. I don’t think this kind of messaging is be fitting someone like Jeb Bush who is a conservative who has delivered results. So, I think he’s got to kind of pour kind of messaging some more because I don’t think it really fits Jeb Bush. LEMON: Al right. I want to thank everyone and I'm the lucky one because I got to sit next to Gloria Borger tonight. BORGER: I'm the lucky one. LEMON: Thank you. It's good to have you here. It's good to see you. Great documentary. Thank you very much. BORGER: Thank you. LEMON: When we come back, the GOP -- the GOP's debate drama, why the candidates are at odds over the plan to change the rules of the debate and the new national poll is not exactly what Donald Trump wants to hear. How do you think he's going to react to that? [22:10:00] (COMMERCIAL BREAK)

LEMON: Well, you saw a plenty of fireworks on stage during the last GOP debate. And tonight in New York City, President Barack Obama is weighing in with a fierce jab at the republican candidates. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) OBAMA: Have you noticed that every one of these candidates say, you know, Obama is weak, his, you know, people -- Putin is kicking sand in his face. When I talk to Putin, he's straighten out. Just looking at him, I'm going to -- he's going to be -- and then it turns out they can't handle a bunch of CNBC moderators. (APPLAUSE) OBAMA: At the debate. I mean, let me tell you, if you can't handle -- if you can't handle those guys, you know, then I don't think the Chinese and the Russians are going to be too worried about you. (APPLAUSE) LEMON: That sounds like a man who sees the end of the tunnel near. He's free. It's almost over. Joining me now is Dylan Byers, CNN senior media politics reporter -- and politics reporter. He know it. He doesn't really care any more, does he? Because it's almost the end of it. [22:14:57] DYLAN BYERS, CNN SENIOR POLITICS REPORTER: No. Because he's in the fourth quarter. LEMON: Yes. BYERS: He's feeling -- he's feeling very good about things. And, you know, like Gloria Borger said earlier in your program, he's -- you know, he's probably going to miss this. He's probably going to miss being at the center of the limelight. You know, he hasn't always enjoyed everything that comes with being President of the United States, but clearly, he's relishing this opportunity to be out there and hitting republicans. Look, his point isn't necessarily wrong. I mean, for all the bluster coming out of the republican candidates regarding, you know, what they would do with Putin, what you would do with the Chinese, it is certainly interesting to see them all sort of complain about, you know, a handful of moderators. LEMON: OK. Let's talk about this because the GOP campaign came together over the weekend to try to overhaul the debates as, you know, as a united front. But that's not going as planned. What is the latest on that? BYERS: Right. So, the campaign thought, look, we're not happy with what the Republican National Committee is doing in terms of making sure that we have substantive focus debates. So, we're going to take matters into our own hands. So, they plan a Sunday night meeting. They all come together and air their grievances and then long and behold, by Monday, in less than 24 hours later, they can't even agree to all sign a letter to media organizations detailing what their demands for the debate would be. And at this point, Donald Trump has pulled out, John Kasich has pulled put. Chris Christie has pulled put. Carly Fiorina has pulled out. So, you know, whatever united front they had is crumbling... (CROSSTALK) LEMON: So, what's the point then, Dylan, that's -- you know, to the president's point, if you can't answer those questions and now you can't come together, I mean, then what's the point? BYERS: Well, I think what you're seeing reflected is just the nature of the republican primary is somewhat chaotic and different interests and different demands. And look, if you're Donald Trump, you know, you want to blaze your own trail, you want to be your own negotiator. You don't necessarily want to associate yourself with some of these undercard candidates who are outing to get on the main stage, right? LEMON: Yes. BYERS: So, everyone has different goals and different ambitions here. And that's part of the reason why it fell apart. Another key reason why it
fell apart is because at a certain point. Some of these candidates, especially Kasich and Christie realized, hey, we don't want to look like whiners. We don't want to be a punch line for President Obama or any other democrat. We want to show that we're strong and we can take whatever questions come to us. And that was some of the rhetoric we saw coming out of them earlier today and then end with this various media. LEMON: And as you could see, the President made it a punch line tonight. So, somebody at least has some foresight on something, at least some of the candidates. Thank you very much, Dylan. I appreciate that. BYERS: Thanks, Don. LEMON: I want to bring in now Bob Beckel, CNN political commentator and the author of “I Should Be Dead. My Life Survived in Politics, TV, and Addiction.” Also with me is Carl Higbie, author and former NAVY SEAL, he's a Trump supporter, and William Cohan, author of “The Price of Silence,” and a contributing editor to Vanity Fair. I don't have a book here, Bob Beckel, boss' book, where is mine? BOB BECKEL, CNN POLITICAL COMMENTATOR: Yes, I brought for you. LEMON: Bob, this is -- what happens to this united front thing? Because this is their demands? And I'm going to read their demands on you. “No asking candidates who raise hands. No yes/no questions. No lightning round. Pre-approval of poor graphics and biographies. 30- second opening and closing statements. Keep debate hall no warmer than 67 degrees here.” BECKEL: Well, yes. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: Sorry about this. No green M&Ms. BECKEL: I used to sit in debate negotiations exactly like when I had a presidential candidate. And listed about most of those things myself. And you didn't get any of them. LEMON: Right. BECKEL: I mean, you know, these guys are reacting to what happened last week on the -- you know, when their debate with CNBC. It does -- I mean, who is going to get together and try to change a debate? It looks ridiculous. We've been doing6 it for years. LEMON: Yes. But this is not -- but to the point of Chris Christie, isn't that, Carl, the point of the RNC is to make all of this -- that's what the leaders of the RNC should be doing? As a matter of fact, let's listen to Chris Christie and then you can answer the question. Here it is on New Day this morning. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE, (R-NJ) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Do not count me in the group that's doing this moaning and complaining about this. I mean, we went to the meeting yesterday to listen, I support the RNC continuing to make these decisions and I'm not one of these guys, that's going to sit there and moan and complain about it. The presidency is almost never scripted, so we shouldn't have these debates scripted, either. (END VIDEO CLIP) LEMON: Does he have any point, though, to say, you know, I don't want to seem like a whiner and this is what the RNC is supposed to be doing, as a candidate, I should be focusing on winning the office? CARL HIGBIE, AUTHOR & FORMER NAVY SEAL: Absolutely. And just what Bob said also they've been doing it for years. It's been going on non-stop. But the issue here this gave certain candidates the chance like Ted Cruz to jump way out like Donald Trump. It allowed him to unite with the Republican Party and stand up and say, hey, look, you know, I'm going to act presidential tonight instead of fighting each other. He fought the moderators and he brought the team together, I think. LEMON: I want to read this is a new NBC Wall Street Journal national poll it's out tonight. And it shows Ben Carson at 29 percent, Trump is at 23 percent. And we should mention that this poll was conducted before and after this CNBC debate, that the second national poll -- the second national poll where Carson is in the lead. That doesn't bode well for you. He's still -- he's clear front-runner here, isn't he? [22:20:00] WILLIAM COHAN, “THE PRICE OF SILENCE” AUTHOR: Well, and maybe he should be, although I have to agree with Gloria Borger I did not see how either Donald Trump or Ben Carson is going to be the standard bearer for the Republican party. I would think that would be big mistake if you're a Republican Party... (CROSSTALK) LEMON: Why do people keep saying that? COHAN: You know, I think they want it to be true. That's why they keep saying it. They're afraid. And they're afraid because they can't actually believe that Donald Trump and or Ben Carson might actually be the person selected to lead the
Republican Party. HIGBIE: Yes. COHAN: And they don't really see any way to stop them. HIGBIE: Bob is shaking in his boots right now. LEMON: Bob, I mean, you're been for... BECKEL: Listen, I'm all for Ben Carson or Donald Trump. Either one of them, I would away happy guy. Put them on the top of the ticket and let's go at it. It's not going to happen. I mean, look, this is been going on. This is also been on for years. That's the problem. We keep reliving these things. How many populists that we have running for president? It goes back to William Jennings Bryan and the gold standings, for God's sake. I don't get it. HIGBIE: But, look, the one thing that Trump has going for him right now is he is pop culture. He commands pop culture. When you put the conservative message next to pop culture, it's very hard to beat, just like Reagan 45 to 49 state wins. LEMON: You're going to be happy to hear this latest polling, let's see it's out in New Hampshire. Trump, 26 percent, 10-point lead over Ben Carson, but it also shows Marco Rubio is really tripling his support since September coming in at third with 13 percent. And here's what Trump actually tweeted. He said “Marco only won the debate in the minds of desperate people. I won every over line poll even crazy at CNBC. Marco, good looking. Question mark, right?” Who put a question mark in the prompter? But I mean, he may disagree, but clearly the debate can shake -- can change things here. COHAN: Look, I don't understand why Donald Trump has to act so insecure on so man...
misogynistic attacks are sadly representative -- or sadly representative of the GOP's outdated approach to women and the issues that affect them and their families. The same Trump's remark proved that the GOP is not a party for women, they do have a woman running. But it seems like nothing can hurt Trump's campaign so far. COHAN: Well, I think you're beginning to see the cracks in the dem. I know, people have been predicting that for months. But his poll numbers are down. He makes these personal attacks that are totally gratuitous, completely unnecessary. He can make his point without doing this. I don't understand why he polls this. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: He's polling very highly, though. The answer is, is it him? Is he hurting himself? Maybe not or the GOP? COHAN: I think in the end he's going to hurt the GOP. If the GOP nominates Donald Trump, to me, that's a cake walk for Hillary Clinton. And I can't believe they would actually do that. They have to know better than doing that. Bob Beckel should be able to tell them that. I mean, its... (CROSSTALK) BECKEL: Well, yes. But, I mean, look, you're talking -- you're talking about republican voters and a sliver of republican voters activists and they are very, very conservative and they like the message that Trump got, whatever it is, I don't know what it is except build a, you know, a 12-foot wall around Mexico and I'm going to be the first one to invest in 13-foot ladders if that happened. But, you know, somebody is asking the questions, for example, if the Mexicans don't pay for it, like you say they're going to do. What are you going to do? You lead an attack by the military off the table, what are you going to do? Nobody is asking questions. Carson get as walking through this thing and nobody seems to want to ask him some tough questions. LEMON: OK. People do ask those questions and it's not just for Donald Trump. But then they say those are 'gotcha' questions. COHAN: Well, I don't understand. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: It's not a 'gotcha question' COHAN: Yes. I don't understand. Those are legitimate questions that legitimate, respected reporters ask. And if they can't handle those questions, I mean, to President Obama's point, how can they possibly feel they can deal with a Putin? LEMON: I said this the first evening when they said they were going to do that and it was a -- I think it was a Carson representative I think who was on and I said how do you -- if you can't answer questions from a moderator in a debate, then isn't that a gauge of how you're going to handle the press, how you're going to handle world leaders on an international stage? HIGBIE: Yet, But Trump backed out of those negotiations. [22:30:02] LEMON: They're all in the beginning. HIGBIE: They were all in and he said, you know what, like, I want to be me, you guys, do you? COHAN: but he still questions, Carl, those very simple questions that he gets ask. He's offended. He seems offended. If Megyn Kelly asks him a question, or of John Harwood ask him a question, I don't understand that these are basic questions that he could easily anticipate and for him not to handle them and swap out of the park, it doesn't make sense to me. HIGBIE: The bottom line of thing that we're all missing here, is the fact that every American sees it, whether they like it or not, and this is why he's as far in the polls as he is because he built a multi-million dollar business. He is the only person on the stage that has put tens of thousands of people to work. Given jobs all across... (CROSSTALK) LEMON: OK. You said he backed out but he is now saying he's going to have his own negotiations with to try to figure out exactly what to do with the debates. HIGBIE: I’m interested to see what he says. What is he going for? I’m interested and I know.... (CROSSTALK) LEMON: Well, I think he's negotiating not raising your hands, no yes or no questions, no lightning round, pre-approved for graphics and biographies, 30-second opening and closing statements, and keep the debate hall no warmer than 67 degrees. HIGBIE: I think he's saying no raising hands because he wants to put it back in because that was his shining moment in the first debate. BECKEL: Carl, let's remember that Donald Trump inherited 10,000 apartments from his old man. So, that suggests that this guy came up from dirt poor. LEMON: But to his defense, though, he could have run that into the ground, or he could have stayed where it is, or it turned it into a multi-million dollar business which
he did. HIGBIE: Thanks, Don. I appreciate that. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: I mean, come on. HIGNIE: Well, right. BECKEL: What don't you take to that. LEMON: No, I'm telling the truth. I mean... HIGBIE: He's coming over to the Trump train. LEMON: I can hand you money, and as you know from this book, you can take the money and go spend it on booze or something or whatever or you can invest it. BECKEL: That's right. LEMON: So, you must give him credit for something at least. BECKEL: No. I am a large part of the liquor industry myself. LEMON: All right. With that said, thank you, guys. I appreciate you coming in. It's good to have you here. Now we're going to turn to you, Mr. Beckel, because this is your new book right now. It's called “I Should Be Dead, My Life Surviving, Politics, TV, and Addiction” by Bob Beckel. When does it come out? BECKEL: Tomorrow. LEMON: Tomorrow. Are you worried? BECKEL: Am I worried? LEMON: Yes. BECKEL: No. If you've been through what I've been through, man, you don't worry about things like that. I mean, is it going to sell? I think it will. I mean, I'm a publisher. When I first saw it, my publisher said, you want to put this all out on the street? Really? LEMON: Yes. BECKEL: And I said, yes, really, I do. I want to cleanse things out. And when they click it all, it turned out to be true and they couldn't believe it either that I'm still living. LEMON: Here's what you said. You said that I have been, you said you've been shot, stabbed, involved in a couple of car wrecks, you've struggled with drugs and alcohol and despite it all, you're here talking about it with me. BECKEL: Yes. I mean, every day for me is a great day. You know, when I -- that's why not much worries me. I have a -- there was a reason; I used to think I was lucky. And then that night that guy pulled 45 on me in a bar when I was trying to pick his wife up, i hide behind the basement, that's a 45, and he pulled the trigger and he had to chamber the bullet and then somebody shot from behind, the second shot and put a hole in the ceiling. Now, I got thrown in the parking lot, just before I passed out I said, God, if you exist, because I don't believe God existed, I'm never going to drink again. I haven't drank since then. LEMON: Yes. BECKEL: You know, you have to -- I was in the light world by day and the dark world by night. LEMON: You sound like people who grew up with my parents. I mean, they were in the salon, in the bars and jute joints and, you know, picking up others people's women and all that. But I have to ask you this, because you've got some good stuff in here if this is all true. You said that the first time you tried cocaine or did cocaine was in the White House? BECKEL: That's right. On the mess hall of my office. Somebody gave me some. I mean, that didn't make President Carver happy. But, that was, you know, that was I've made four or five cocaine dealers at summer houses I built them for. So, I, you know, I started there and it just -- and the only reason I did it, the cocaine if I could I can drink more. You know, I can drink all night with cocaine. And get in trouble all the time. Now I still go -- you know, I try to figure out why I'm still alive and I think it's to work with alcoholics addicts. And I go in to crack house and ended joins to pick up guys up that I take care of the sponsor. And you know, and I talk to dealers I used to buy from. I say what's going on? How's the business? And they're all selling pain pails which I talk about in this book. There is an epidemic of paint addicts going in this country. LEMON: How, listen, I had, you know, I know people in -- people who are close to me, people in my family who have addiction issues. And I always say that it's all the same, overeating, smoking, every addiction is the same, and it will eventually kill you. Drugs, though, and alcohol probably will kill you fast. BECKEL: I would say so. LEMON: Is this more common, do you think, in this type of in the political setting than we know? BECKEL: Oh, sure. Yes, it's also, you know, you got to remember I came out of a very abusive household. And most people used to say that if you came out of a dysfunctional house, you couldn't survive. Well, quite the contrary, survivors, you learn how to talk fast, you learn how to cut deals. You learn how to lie, perfect training to be a politician. And so, when you get out, most of those people become quite successful. But, eventually, addiction would catch up to them. Go to Capitol Hill and you look at it, and if you don't face the demons it's going to kill
you. LEMON: Where did you wake up in George Bush’s inauguration? [22:35:04] BECKEL: I woke up in the psychiatric world in the George University Hospital in the VIP room. Now only Washington have a VIP room for Mets. And I saw the largest woman I’ve ever seen in my life leaning against the door. She’s about 6’7” and 400 pounds, and I said what are you doing here? And she said, well, I’m a suicide nurse and if your ass goes out that window, I’m going to lose my job. I said who is going to commit suicide? She said you are. And by the time she got out there, she probably is looking for the dimensional world, I can tell you that. LEMON: I got to ask you, you say this is also a story of your faith. BECKEL: Yes, sir. Very much so. And that’s really what the -- the message here is that there’s hope for people out there. If you did what I did and you can come back and if it hadn’t -- I used to think it was luck, but in the end, it was all about faith. And I don’t -- I finally realized that, that nobody can be that lucky. And so, it is a story of faith. And if you don’t have faith, you’re not going to get clean. LEMON: Yes. I’m tired of getting text from people saying, take care of that guy. A lot of people love you. BECKEL: Well, I appreciate. LEMON: We’re so happy to have you here. BECKEL: Well, thank you. LEMON: Again, thanks to all of you. And I thank to Bob Beckel. Bob is with us now and hopefully, he’s going to be here for quite some time. Coming up, the ladies of “The View” are in hot water for some recent remarks about Carly Fiorina and who better to talk about that, she’s waiting in the wings right there. Ms. Star Jones joins us live next. You don’t want to miss this. [22:40:00] (COMMERCIAL BREAK) LEMON: The race for the White House is really heating up and the election is still a year away. That’s a long time and I’m going to have to talk about that. Joining me now is a woman who is not afraid to share her opinions at all on politics and anything else. If you want to talk about it, Star Jones, president of the National Association of Professional Women and Professional Diversity Network. STAR JONES, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN PRESIDENT: Yes. LEMON: So good to have you here. JONES: So it’s good. I mean, we’ve never done this. LEMON: I know. But years ago, I was a little peon in local news, an associate producer or something. And I interviewed you. You were big time. Your show was starting, you had a court show back then. JONES: Oh, yeah. Give me a break. LEMON: Yes. I was 3, you were 2. All right. Let’s talk about the political season. Full effect, the debate, the GOP debate, the democratic debate, all this craziness going on. What -- from what you have seen so far, what are your thoughts? JONES: Well, you know, that I’m a surrogate for Hillary Clinton, so I always say that so that everybody understands that I come from the perspective of making sure that women and girls are on the forefront of the conversation. This is really the way I evaluate policy is how is it going to affect women? How is it going to affect girls? How are minorities going to be treated the next election. And for me, I’ve been watching the debates. I’ve seen them all. All the republican debates and the democratic debate. And I would rather see more time talking policy and less time picking on each other. LEMON: OK. That is a perfect segue. JONES: I survive. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: You know, what I’m about to talk about it, right? JONES: I’m here to serve, that’s what I’m to do. LEMON: Because I want to talk about Carly Fiorina and the comments that were made on The View, right? I think it was on this Friday. Let’s look at this and we’ll -- you’ll find this interesting. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She kicked off her thing saying, you know, people tell me that I didn’t smile enough during the last debate. She looked demented. I mean, she did not -- that curved mouth did not bounce her at one time. She looks like... (CROSSTALK) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: She’s wearing a Halloween masks. I love that. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A smiling Fiorina? Can you imagine? CARLY FIORINA, (R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think there’s a double standard. It’s funny. You know, I was on The View several months ago. They said none of that to my face. There is nothing more threatening to the liberal media, in general, and to Hillary Clinton in particular than a conservative woman. So, of course there’s a double standard. And
conservative women from Sarah Palin to Michelle Bachmann to Carly Fiorina are long used to this. It will not stop me, it will not scare me. And maybe the ladies on The View, if I come back on again, let’s see if they have the guts to say that to my face. WHOOPI GOLDBERG, THE VIEW SHOW HOST: Well, here’s the deal. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I love that. GOLDBERG: Here’s the deal. Carly will be here on Friday. Now, I will not but I do want to point out, Carly, that the last you were here, and you'll see be well running, we welcomed you to our table. We helped raise your... UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Numbers. Profile. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes. GOLDBERG: Your profile so you would be included in the sea of mad. Then we’d know you weren’t worried about, you know, any kind of republican backlash. Nobody was backlashing. We were respectful and gave you your due. So, just so we’re all clear, you have to know the difference between when somebody is coming for you and when somebody is paying you a compliment and when somebody is saying, here’s my observation. If you can get that together, maybe you can be president. [END VIDEO CLIP] LEMON: That was I think that was from Thursday. She’s going to be on The View on Friday. Does Whoopi have a point here? JONES: Well, Whoopi has a point, but I think that Carly took the insult and she ran with it because it worked for her talking points. LEMON: OK. JONES: Let’s move back to what the core of it is. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: I'm so glad you’re honest. Because I watched it live, OK, and I though, I didn’t think they were talking aboutPath to the presidential stage, she brought attention during the debate. And they said it shouldn't turn down like she would no frown. I just thought they were talking about, you know... JONES: Why do we have to talk about the way a woman looks? LEMON: Because we talk -- OK. JONES: On the tape. LEMON: I agree. JONES: Because nothing... LEMON: But we talked about Bernie Sanders' hair, we talked about Donald Trump's hair, we talked about Chris Christie's weight. (CROSSTALK) LEMON: But you don't talk about it in the same way that you talk about the two women who are the national candidates right now. And I'm someone who is supposed to empower professional women. I represent 775,000 professional women. Why do I have to list all votes? Why do you have to go there? Why can't you criticize Carly Fiorina on her policies about women and children, that she doesn't agree with equal pay for equal work? Why don't you go there? Why do you have to go on face up turn or down turn or something like that? (CROSSTALK) LEMON: OK. OK. Devil's advocate, though. As I said, she talked about it herself. As I said we talked about Chris Christie's weight, we talked about Donald Trump's hair. He makes one of his hair. If she's going to be up there with the guys on the stage, shouldn't she get equal treatment? Shouldn't all things be open to talk about? JONES: But what are you going to be discussing about her about? I mean, Donald Trump for all practical purposes called a woman ugly. Who does that? [00:45:07] LEMON: Well, that's not -- Donald Trump is running -- and also we must -- we have to remember, Donald Trump is running for president. Those women on The View are not running for president... (CROSSTALK) JONES: And they're talk show hosts and some of them are comedians. I don't like to attack other women. I think it's inappropriate. LEMON: Right. JONES: I mean, I disagree with Mrs. Fiorina on so many topics, but attacking her personally is just not my style. LEMON: Does he have a point about conservative women? Is it a double standard? JONES: No. I don't think it's a double standard. I think it is women across the board. I think that was her talking point. That worked for Carly to talk about Sarah Palin and Michele Bachmann. It's one thing for Carly to say that she's being treated unfairly. But the attacks on Sarah Palin were more about her lack of qualifications; it was not about her looks. As matter of fact, I recall people talking about how pretty she was. LEMON: Yes. JONES: So, it's not about that. When it comes to women in positions of power, let's talk about what they think, how they act, what they've done. Not what they look like. That is a double standard. LEMON: OK. So, the next time someone they make -- someone
makes a Donald Trump face, are you going to say don't talk about Donald Trump's face... (CROSSTALK)

JONES: Honestly, I think that that is... LEMON: I'm messing with this... JONES: You know what, I'm sensitive about it because I know that that has gone on throughout my entire career, throughout every professional woman's career I've ever encountered. LEMON: Yes. JONES: Let's rise about it. LEMON: I understand. I got you. All right. Stay right there. Stay with me. President Obama speaking out tonight about race, crime, and justice and not everybody will be pleased by what he says. So, we're going to talk about that next. [22:50:00] (COMMERCIAL BREAK) LEMON: President Barack Obama looking to his legacy as he gets closer to the end of his term and speaking out today on some of the toughest issues America faces. Back now with me, Star Jones to talk about this. To start a day President Obama announced a new plan to help address issues at people's fate after they are incarcerated. You know a lot about this. You spoke to Lester Holt on NBC News today about this topic. Here it is. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OBAMA: Pretty much up and down the line of what we see in disparities and how white, black, Hispanic suspects are treated. Higher arrest rates, tougher sentencing, longer sentences. Where it's happening, you can't always isolate within the system. There may be subtle biases that take place. There may be predispositions that end up resulting in these disparities. But we know they're happening. LESTER HOLT, NBC HOST, “NIGHTLY NEWS”: Your own FBI director has raised this idea of the Ferguson effect, that police officers may be laying back a bit, they don't want to end up on somebody's camcorder, and as a result we're seeing a spike in homicides in some cities. Do you fear that could undermine, derail what you're trying to do right now? OBAMA: Well, what is absolutely true is that we have seen some spikes in violent crime in some cities. Overall, the violent crime rate is still near the historic lows. We've seen a spike in some cities this year, but it's still close to historic the lows. HOLT: But is it somebody do you think a chill that police officer feel? OBAMA: You know, we have not seen any evidence of that. And I think the FBI director would be the first to say that he's heard anecdotal suggestions that that may be happening in selected sites, but we don't know. (END VIDEO CLIP) LEMON: So, basically he's saying he doesn't think there's a Ferguson effect here. What do you think about that? JONES: I was listening to the president talk about the disparity. And I have to tell you, you're not a full member of the American society if you cannot vote, if you cannot voice one's opinion by pulling that lever, if you can't get a job, if you cannot contribute taxes, you don't feel a part of it. So, I actually understand what the ban the box movement is about. You know, Americans want to feel safe in their work environment and in their homes, but we have to use realistic ways of evaluating who is still a continuing danger to society.

LEMON: You heard what the -- the current police commissioner of New York City says that there is some concern because people, they may not have -- they may not -- for whatever they're incarcerated for now, it may want be violent, but this can have it in their past. He's concerned about letting people out who could potentially be violent. JONES: Well, we are now talking about people who are already out, people who have paid their debt to society. I was a homicide prosecutor here in New York. So, if, in fact, you went to prison for X amount of years and you came out of prison for whatever I convicted you of or the jury convicted you of, I don't have a right to say you still owe me something, as a society. And I don't we should. And it does proportionately affect men of color when it comes to getting a job. For instance, there's a study that says that 30 percent of white men are discounted based on their past criminal record. But, 60 percent of men of color. That number has doubled and it should happen in America.

LEMON: That was one of the best questions I got when I was out on a Vegas trip asking people questions about what do you want to hear from the candidates. And this couple walked up to me, Star, and they said we are both ex-cons. We both served our time. You know, we went to prison, we're done but we can't vote and we can't barely get a job. We don't really feel like full Americans. And I thought -- I
thought that was a valley point. JONES: It's a very powerful statement to make. You know, at Professional Diversity Network my job is to educate American businesses that diversity and inclusion is good for business. And bringing people into employment is good for the country. And if we don't move towards that, I don't think they're going to be ready for the browning of America which will happen in 2050. LEMON: OK. Let me ask you a second. It was in Politico today I saw this thing about, you know, the president may be concerned about the -- you know, Willie Horton, as you know Willie Horton. JONES: Yes, of course. LEMON: The Massachusetts let him out and he raped and whatever and then became in that, what do you -- is that a concern? JONES: Well, it's always a concern that somebody is going to be a recidivist, somebody is going to reoffend. But we don't punish you for what you might do in the future. [22:55:00] The criminal justice system is designed to -- you have retribution or make you pay for what you have done in the past and that's justice. LEMON: Yes. JONES: The future is not something that we can make... (CROSSTALK) LEMON: I didn't get the question answered, though, and maybe you misunderstood me because I wanted to talk about the Ferguson affect about cops and their jobs. JONES: Oh, OK. LEMON: But that's OK. No worries about that. Because I think -- I want to talk about the National Association of Professional Women, a summit on November 6th, you're hosting it, tell me about it. JONES: It's a networking summit. We have, as I said, over 775,000 members across our country, 200 chapters of virtual networking chapter and this is the concept that when women get together and network, we're doing our own version of the old boys club, but we're doing it for the collective success of other women. And so, Friday, we'll get an opportunity to bring a bunch of women together and network in different ways. We've got some really special guests. Judy Smith is going to be speaking at the conference and if there is ever a time for you to see somebody who is on it, it's Judy Smith. LEMON: Yes. All right. I've got to run. As you say, we've got to take a break. You know this. JONES: I understand. LEMON: Thank you, Star Jones. I appreciate it. We'll be right back. [23:00:00] (COMMERCIAL BREAK)"

Source Title: BTN

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 782273

Article Title: After four decades, Charlie Wilson is still in it to win it"

Date: 2/12/2017

Article Content: Charlie Wilson tells his own story, briefly, in the title track to his new album, “In It to Win It” - from singing in his father's Tulsa church to early confrontations with racism and, eventually, a stint living on the streets. For Wilson, homelessness came after huge success with his brothers in the Gap Band, whose 1980s hits included “Burn Rubber on Me” and “You Dropped a Bomb on Me.” He kicked the addiction that sent him to the streets at a rehab clinic where he met his future wife, a social worker. Determined to return to stardom, Wilson did so with a smooth soul voice, a series of No. 1 singles on the Urban Adult Contemporary chart and a raft of appearances on hip-hop tracks - 10 with Kanye West and a dozen with Snoop Dogg, who dubbed him “Uncle Charlie.” Wilson, 64, headlines a show at Verizon Center on Sunday with Fantasia and Johnny Gill. We spoke with him during a break from rehearsals in Detroit. Q: Not many from your era have a headlining arena tour, a hit on the charts
and a new album. What made all that happen for you? A: I work hard. I work more than most people do. It's almost like a James Brown work ethic. I still have the passion. I've been through a lot. I've had my obstacles, my hurdles, and jumped through all of them. I just busted them up. Stopping for me is not an option. While people was looking at me funny and trying to figure me out, I was working hard in the basement. And when I came out the basement, I was ready to go. Q: You've received a lot of support from younger performers. A: I don't expect anything different. I'm telling you, man, I'm the bridge - the bridge between hip-hop and R&B, R&B and pop. These people I've known for a long time, and some of them have known about me for a very long time, and they've been waiting to get on with me. So, like, if I reach out, nobody's ever told me no. That's a blessing. I'm happy that another generation knows my genre of music and they come when I ask. Q: Did you ever doubt, living in the streets, you'd ever return to have hits, BET salutes and Grammy nominations? A: No. It's like, in spite of what I gone through, I never stopped believing in God. And as I was hurting mentally inside and somewhat physical on the streets, I just prayed a lot. Yes, I was an addict, and a pretty bad one at that. A lot of people don't know that I was a crackhead. I started sleeping in some pretty crazy places. I just never gave up on God. I just asked God if he'd give me one more chance at life, and at music. Just one more chance. I promise, I told him, I'll shout him out, I'll give him praise every night when I got on the stage. It took a minute, but hey, I got up and I started in. Then, of course, some people in the industry were looking at me like I was crazy. Like, “Dude, we love you, but you need to retire.” And I was like, “That is the farthest thing from my mind.” I said, “You’ll see. You just watch me.” It was hard for me, and people were sort of sniggling and laughing at me, especially when the first record came out. They were like, “That's kind of cute. That's cool.” Then the second one comes out, and they're still squirming. And the third one came out, and they kind of shut up. I started late in the game, way late. That's why people were laughing at me. They’re not laughing now, though. No, they're not laughing now. Q: You've got a track titled “New Addiction” on your album. Are you far enough away from your own experience that you can use that in a song? A: Yes. It's like, there are still so many people who smoke cigarettes, or are still addicted to something. And so that song is definitely me. I used to be up all night and singing the same old song, you know, older than the stones. I was watching daylight coming up all the time. I just needed love. I needed more, more love. And God granted me that. He sent me my beautiful wife and sent me to the place where my wife was and everything. So that addiction song is for people who are still struggling with it. I hope it's a message of hope for some people. Q: Your new album starts and ends with gospel, but there's some partying in between. A: Oh, for sure. Let me tell you something. It took God to get me off the streets and out from under the bridges and sleeping under cars and trucks, so I'm always talking about how good God has been to me. In my show, I play all of the hits, I play all of the Gap Band hits, I play all of the Charlie Wilson hits. I do testify in there, now, don't get me wrong. But we're not doing a gospel show up in there, no. We're funkin'. Q: I understand your first big break came from a fellow Oklahoman, Leon Russell, who died last year. A: It was Leon Russell, who came into a small club one night and was looking at us play. We met Leon, he was a very, very nice dude, we had so much fun, and ended up being his backup band. At the time, we were in clubs playing to anywhere from 50 to 75 people. When we got in his band, we were playing 30,000 to 50,000 people. It just devastated me, the first time I walked out there, seeing all those people. I would have liked to faint. We had a few years with him. I learned a lot - the way I approached records. All the earlier Gap Band hits were from the way he showed us how to approach records. We used those things and been working all these years, man. I hate that he passed on, but we all got to go sooner or later. But I had a lot of fun with him, man. He will be missed. He taught us a lot. style@washpost.com Charlie Wilson With Fantasia and Johnny Gill at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at
HIGHLIGHT: Data suggest overparenting can lead to narcissistic and depressed kids. My daughter was at the district science fair when a hubbub erupted at a neighboring student’s project. A dad was arguing with one of the judges about her critique of the entry. It became pretty clear that Dad was the one who'd done the project - especially when in his outrage he started mixing pronouns, shouting, “When I attached these wires ... ,” instead of, “When he attached ... .” This, my friends, is overparenting. Overparenting, aka helicopter parenting or black hawk parenting, first came into the public consciousness in the late ’80s/early ’90s and is, basically, getting way too involved in your child's life. Overparenting is marching into a high school counselor’s office to demand a switch to Spanish class (“more practical”) instead of French, for which the child actually showed passion. Overparenting is forcing parent-child sit-down meetings with another family to hash out the kids’ friendship problems - when said “kids” are in high school. Overparenting is driving to school twice in one day because your eighth-grader forgot her absence note, then later because she wanted water - even though water is amply available at school. (That last one was me, if you must know.) I bring it up not so we can judge other people’s parenting - we can do that on our own time - but so we recognize it in ourselves. Because, as the evidence rolls in, it's becoming clear that overparenting isn't the way to go. The helicopter must land “The detrimental effects of overparenting include narcissism, entitlement, low self-efficacy and poor coping skills in young adults because they’re used to other people doing things for them,” said University of Arizona's Dr. Chris Segrin, who studies the phenomenon. It’s also associated with lower family satisfaction and lower-quality parent-child communication. And the effects of overparenting, he said, continue to show up later in life in the form of higher levels of anxiety, depression and substance abuse. And as for the benefits? “We’re not seeing a whole lot,” he said. The best-case scenario are studies showing no difference between overparenting and not, but those findings are pretty rare.” How does a basically kind and good impulse turn into something so detrimental? “Often, a parent is overinvolved, overserves the child as an act of love: 'Let me take care of you,' ” said Leah Macpherson, a certified Positive Discipline Parent Educator in Long Beach. “But sometimes the unwritten message the child receives is, 'You're not good enough, you're going to blow it, so let me handle it,' which can be profoundly discouraging. We output kids who are unable to manage relationships, processes, workloads independently, and are terrified of making mistakes. They're literally stuck, lacking in confidence and tethered to their parents at a time of life they should be becoming their own person.” Resist the urge to hover So how do you know when you're crossing the line? “The hallmark of overparenting is not being able to resist the urge to step in and solve problems for your child
as they come up, particularly problems that your child is able to solve on their own,” said Dr. Aaron Montgomery, psychologist at the Child Guidance Center in Santa Ana. Segrin sees this happening in his classroom when parents contact him to haggle over a student's grades. “Sometimes I get calls from students later apologizing and saying, 'I never dreamed they were going to call you,'” he said. Practice loving neglect The ideal, I suppose, is knowing when to step in and when to practice some benign neglect. If your kid can do it or can learn to do it (and remember as they get older, this encompasses practically everything), let them. “The No. 1 tip is: Back off,” Segrin said. “A lot overparenting is a failure to adjust to the level of parenting as the child grows. Start letting them take on more and step back as children get older. “The second tip is: Do a very careful self-examination and delve deep into why you might be doing this. Many people are chasing after their own demons. They are living their dreams through their children and don't want their kids to experience the same disappointments they did.” In my case, I don't think I am forcing my kids to live my dreams, mainly because I was kind of a lazy child and had few dreams beyond scoring a few extra Oreos, but I still have plenty of work to do on the “back off” tip. Rising from the flames I realized how remiss I was on this count when I discovered that my daughters didn't know how to light a match. At ages 13 and 15! So the other day, I let the 13-year-old try lighting a candle and they both cringed in fear as the match flamed. It was kind of pitiful. When I was a kid, lighting the dinner candles was a rotating chore (the coveted one, being clearly superior to table setting.) I got burned - a lot - due to various ill-advised experiments involving fire, hot candle wax and my skin. But I learned how to work safely with fire and matches, a skill that served me well in my almost-20-year smoking habit. Which is not the point here. The point is, as Segrin puts it, “Children need opportunities to fail; that's how they learn.” So when my 15-year-old wanted to create a fall ambience via her Dollar Store cinnamon candle, I insisted she light it herself. She was so terrified (I know! I blame myself.) that we negotiated down to her just taking the already lit match from me and lighting the wick. Two matches later, the candle was lit, but she looked stricken. “Hey, you didn't burn yourself!” I said cheerfully. “No, but I burned my SOUL,” she answered. She meant it as she said it, but once it actually came out of her mouth so dramatic and dark, we all laughed. I wish I had figured all this out earlier and raised scrappier kids who could light a match without the whole family being on high alert. For now, I'm happy with a little less overparenting, a lighted Dollar Store candle and the shared appreciation of a well-played comeback.”

Source Title: News

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 146455

Article Title: #14Days: Psilocybin, science, and spirituality in treating alcoholism - CBS News

Date: 10/17/2014

Article Content: The future may hold a surprising new approach to treating addiction: using one mind-altering drug to stop the abuse of another. Dr. Stephen Ross, director of the NYU Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship is gearing up to embark on a new research project involving hallucinogenic, psilocybin-induced mystical experiences along with psychotherapy to help treat alcoholism. Psilocybin is a naturally
occurring psychedelic compound found in some species of mushrooms that has been used in indigenous cultures as a spiritual sacrament for hundreds of years. Ross believes this compound, administered in the proper dosage and in a controlled setting, may help resolve the symptoms of spiritual distress involved in a person with alcoholism. "Addiction can be understood as a kind of spiritual disorder," Ross says. "In other words, addicts can lose intention they can lose connection to the community, to God, to their family, within themselves." Because psilocybin is still classified as a Schedule I drug by the U.S. government, meaning it has high potential for abuse, NYU along with the University of New Mexico are two of the few institutions that have gained the necessary approval to conduct these studies. The idea of treating a person's alcoholism with an illegal controlled substance seems contraindicated. Ross says one reason that psilocybin holds promise in this area is that it falls on the low end of the addictive spectrum; only 4.9 percent of the people who try psychedelics become dependent, as compared to a highly-addictive substance like nicotine, which hooks almost a third of the people who try it. Ross believes using psilocybin medically in a controlled setting along with motivational interviewing can induce a spiritual experience that can bring an addict back from the brink of despair and give him hope and motivation to recover. Ross says, "By inducing a spiritual awakening, it may shift the person who's addicted from this path they're on which is very dark and going toward destruction... towards a different path and a connection back into their lives and developmental tracks. This shift we want to feed into psychotherapy to help change their motivation to enter sobriety and recovery." Ross has experience working with psilocybin and stage-four cancer patients. He's been studying the effects of the drug on helping these people alleviate their anxiety about death. He says the research is still being analyzed, but preliminary results show that there was a significant decrease in acute and long-term anxiety and depression, along with increased spiritual states. "The participants in the trials said that these were the singular top five most profound experiences of their lives, up there with having children. That they profoundly changed their relationship with cancer and were able to get away from the devastating burden that cancer was imposing upon them." The idea of using hallucinogens in treatment is hardly new and evokes an image of 1960s-era Timothy Leary, head of the controversial Harvard Psilocybin Project and other experiments with psychedelic drugs. Ross says he and fellow researchers have learned from the mistakes of their predecessors and stresses that they are being very careful to conduct this research in a safe, thoughtful way. "The last thing I want is for people to think they can treat themselves or use this for spiritual growth in an uncontrolled setting outside of a very contained environment," he says. Ross stressed the importance of keeping these powerful, and potentially dangerous substances contained in safe medical settings so that they can be appropriately administered and the patient can be carefully monitored. Share your thoughts in the comments below or on social media using the hashtag #14Days. We are close to the finish of the #14Days on the Wagon challenge. Thanks for staying with us, and keep those healthy habits going! © 2014 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Date: 3/14/2015

Article Content: Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty, London

Although a maestro of traditional tailoring, Alexander McQueen dedicated his life to challenging the fashion norm. The designer’s career survey, Savage Beauty – one of New York’s Metropolitan Museum Of Art’s most-visited shows ever, now getting an eagerly awaited five-month run in London – demonstrates his refusal to sit still. Collections veer from the Widows Of Culloden, with its gown of pheasant feathers and lace-sheathed antler headdress inspired by the 1745 Jacobite risings, to The Girl Who Lived In The Tree, a red silk fantasy influenced by the British empire. To tie it all together, the curators present McQueen as a Romantic artist in the 18th-century mould, in love with natural forms and dark, emotional excess.

V&A, SW7, Sat to 2 Aug SS Superior Goods And Household Gods, Manchester

Staged as part of Manchester’s Wonder Women feminist festival, six artists tempt us with sensuous images into distinctly unsettling encounters. Margaret Harrison sets the scene with a reproduction of her infamous drawing He’s Only A Bunny Boy But He’s Quite Nice Really. The original, depicting Playboy founder Hugh Hefner in a bunny-girl basque, was stolen from Harrison’s 1971 London exhibition before the police promptly closed the show down. Meanwhile, in Suzanne Posthumus’s Butter Wouldn’t Melt, an almost subliminal sequence of retro porn flashes before our eyes as the soundtrack builds to a climax.

Castlefield Gallery, to 19 apr RC Format 15, Derby

This year, evidence is the theme of Derby’s international photography festival, Format, which seems timely considering that the increasingly digitally manipulated medium is beset with truth or fiction issues. There are mugshots, war records and landscapes of unreal beauty. At QUAD (until 7 Jun), Larry Sultan and Mike Mandel’s 1970s series, itself titled Evidence, marks the moment when documentary images, presented out of context, started to accrue an unreal aura. One of the highlights will be Ed Watts’s architectural reconstruction of a photographic classic: William Eggleston’s Greenwood, Mississippi, 1973, a deceptively crude image of a corner of a red room featuring only a light bulb and a sexual positions poster. Visitors will be invited to re-snap the room on their mobiles, capturing a sculptural remake of a photo of next to nothing.

Various venues, to 12 apr RC Carla Zaccagnini/The Parliament Of Things, Colchester

Looking back to when the suffragettes took a violent turn, attacking museum art and artefacts with “choppers”, Carla Zaccagnini has amassed a fascinating archive of news clippings and created sculptures inspired by the weapons these early female freedom fighters used. Complementing this is The Parliament Of Things, a group show exploring our present-day relationship to objects. Highlights include Melvin Moti’s 35mm film The Inner Self In Outer Space and Lucy Skaer’s American Images, raw hunks of stone salvaged from Lithograph City, an Iowan ghost town.

Firstsite, Sat to 31 May SS Idiot Box, London

Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard’s first London exhibition since their Nick Cave documentary 20,000 Days On Earth saw them blossom into award-winning movie directors as a wall of old school TV sets, which show short films by the duo and by kindred spirits in the art world. It includes one of their very first creative forays, Chain Smoker, Tap Dancer (work pictured), created for their BA back in 1995, where Forsyth’s chain-smoking head appears on one monitor and Pollard’s silver shoe-clad tap-dancing feet on another below it, in a deliciously wrong mash-up of rebel cool and end-of-pier entertainment. Other films that are ripe with wry wit and illusion include John Smith’s Gargantuan, a kooky joke on deceptive camera framing that stars a “huge”, “strapping” beast that fills the frame, Godzilla-style, before being revealed to be a teeny lizard. Art’s arch comedian David Shrigley, meanwhile, sends up the male ego in his blackly comic animation The Artist. Kate MacGarry, E2, to 18 apr SS Pre-Pop To Post-Human, Blackpool

Taking Eduardo Paolozzi’s 1952 lecture Bunk as its inspiration, this exhibition of prints by 15 contemporary artists revisits the collage tradition in our age of digital samplings. These days, surreal juxtapositions have become mass-media cliches more commonly
used in advertising than art; what has been lost is the initial frisson of dislocation, the visual affront of irrationally combined disparate images. Many of the artists here attempt to revive the thrill of disorientation through an almost perverse cut-and-paste awkwardness. Gabriele Beveridge, for example, strains to let the psychological fracture show, severing a facial profile with a rectangular void. Grundy Art Gallery, to 11 apr RC Extra(ordinary), Sunderland Jan Williams and Chris Teasdale’s mustard-coloured Caravan Gallery arrives in Sunderland to celebrate the more wayward of backwater goings-on. In the mobile caravan itself, as well as in the Northern Gallery For Contemporary Art, they exhibit their photo-documentary of that which is just below the surface of the ordinary. Here’s a bloke with his head stuck in a bale of hay, here elderly locals sunbathe in the shade of a sewage building. A shop front bears the sign We Buy Rubbish (Crap) We Sell Antiques, while a desert landscape warns the public to “KEEP OFF THE GRASS”. Various venues, to 1 May RC

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 671702

Article Title: 'The Leftovers' Season 2, Ep. 3 recap: Everyone needs a hug - NY Daily News"

Date: 10/19/2015

Article Content: For the third time in as many episodes, the perspective is shifted on “The Leftovers.” But thankfully, more questions continued to be answered than asked. “Off Ramp” focuses on the Garveys who get less screen time than the rest - Kevin's former wife Laurie and her son from a prior marriage, Tom Post-Guilty Remnant Laurie seemingly has one goal, and it is to take down the cult that took her in and led to the dissolving of her family. She is trying to do so in the form of writing a tell-all book and running a support group for freed members. Tom acts as a double agent, pretending to be a member of the cult - which has many more men than it once did - and approaching its weakest members to try and liberate them. Regardless of how much it looks like Laurie and Tom are trying to take the Guilty Remnants down though, plenty of moments show they are torn and that the cult still has some power over Laurie. Tom (Chris Zylka) is the latest Garvey to have a God complex. (HBO) It's not as obvious early on, like when Laurie runs over two cult members who are blocking her SUV as she is fleeing the scene of a petty but important crime to get her manuscript back. But later, after Tom is caught being a mole and kidnapped by the cult, it becomes more clear. In the most gripping scene of the season yet, Tom wakes up in the back of a truck and is forced to have sex with Meg, who enters the show for the first time this season. Afterwards, she threatens Tom by nearly setting him on fire. Tom pleads with Laurie that “They know something,” once he arrives home safe. More evidence comes through the form of Susan, Laurie's newest friend and rescued member of the Guilty Remnants. Tom before his strange encounter with Meg (Liv Tyler) (HBO) Susan is back at home with her husband and son. She seems to be doing better, but when she opens up a note in her purse that a Guilty Remnants member threw at her during a break-in at a support group meeting - which reads “Any day now” - she silently snaps. Laurie gets the news that Susan purposely crashed her car, with her husband and son in it, moments before meeting with the hopeful publisher of her book. What follows is a tense few minutes
of the publisher suggesting that Laurie’s book needs more emotion and meaning. The meeting comes to
an abrupt halt when Laurie can’t take the criticism any more, lunges and chokes the publisher. It may be
that Laurie was prideful, but given the mood of the scene - which included flashbacks of the season one
finale - it’s a fair shot that she, in a way, was defending the cult. Laurie was taking the publisher’s attacks
personally on behalf of the cult. The grandest finale of the season yet features Laurie and Tom both
answering pressing questions. Laurie’s plan to bring down the cult includes Tom pretending to be a
member. (HBO) Laurie reveals that she joined the Guilty Remnants because of the patient she had
before the departure who couldn’t shake the feeling that something ominous was going to happen to
the world. Of course she was correct, and the next time Laurie saw her, she was chain smoking and
acting like a mute. That prompts Tom to open up about what exactly he was doing for the past season. It
turns out that Wayne, the mysterious man whose hugals heal all, passed the ability down to Tom before
he died. Fittingly, Tom asks the group if any needs a hug at the conclusion of his story. The news of
Tom’s ability should be taken with a grain of salt though. Earlier in the episode he seemed convinced
that the Guilty Remnants have the upper hand on all departure “survivors.” Now Tom has a very literal
God complex, just like grandpa. Will either of them help Kevin? Send a Letter to the Editor Tags: tv
recaps the leftovers amy brenneman liv tyler Join the Conversation: facebook twitter "

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 678652

Article Title: Meet Two Clean-Cut Entrepreneurs Making Weed Go Mainstream"

Date: 7/23/2014

Article Content: This week, Christian Groh will visit a 60,000-square-foot marijuana farm in Canada, one
of the biggest such facilities in the world. He’s thinking about taking his kids, ages 3 and 5, along for the
trip. “They’re going to notice the smell, and they’re going to ask me what it is. I’m going to have to tell
them that it’s cannabis,” says Groh, 42. “What do I say? I can tell them it’s medicine, or I can say it’s an
illegal Schedule I narcotic.” Groh pauses. “Or I could say, ‘Hopefully this will send you to college one
day.’” The way things are going for Groh and the private equity firm he helps run, it just might. Privateer
Holdings is the first private equity company openly investing in the legal weed industry. While a small
handful of similar efforts have been publicly announced -- perhaps most notably the High Times Growth
Fund, which is planning to raise up to $300 million to invest in pot -- Privateer says it has raised the most
cash so far. The firm raised $22 million from investors last year and will soon close on another $50
million in funding, according to Groh. Privateer has already invested in about a half-dozen cannabis
industry companies in the U.S. and Canada, Groh says, though it has only announced four of them. One
of those is Tilray, a Canadian marijuana grower that cultivates, packages and mails cannabis to medical
marijuana patients in Canada. Groh, a venture capital professional originally from San Francisco, was in
New York on Thursday with Cy Scott, a founder of one of the companies Privateer is funding. Scott’s
mobile app, Leafly, offers people information about different weed strains and where to buy them. The
men had flown from Seattle, where they now live, to meet with possible investors and to show a
potentially skeptical world they’re legit. “Cannabis gets a lot of press. We saw it last week with the opening of the first recreational shops in Washington. All the media was there to cover it,” says Scott, 34. “So we want to be there for that. We want to be a good representative for the industry.”

Throughout an hour-long interview at The Huffington Post’s Manhattan office, Scott and Groh do their damndest to show how clean, mature and mainstream their companies are. Scott, wearing a gray linen blazer over a pink and white checkered oxford shirt, whips out a sleek pamphlet that Leafly gave to customers who lined up to buy retail weed in Washington when shops there opened earlier this month. The pamphlet, titled “Cannabis 101,” explains the rules and laws a person needs to know in order to be a “responsible and mature cannabis consumer.” There’s not a single pot leaf anywhere on it. It’s not even green. Leafly’s branding shuns pot leaves. Groh, looking every bit the investment banker in a tie and a dark blue Italian suit, pops open his laptop to show photos of Tilray’s grand opening. The first photo features his business partner, Yale-educated financier Brendan Kennedy, cutting a huge ribbon with his wife. The next picture features a former Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer browsing the facility’s newly grown marijuana. The officer, Groh says, got hurt on the job and uses cannabis to treat her pain. The next photo shows packages of Tilray’s super-potent weed. It doesn’t even look like pot at all -- it’s packaged and branded more like an expensive health food. “You can see the packaging is very clean and mature,” Groh says. “It lists the exact THC and CBD content. It’s precise. It’s predictable.”

Legal high-grade weed grown by one of Privateer Holdings’ portfolio companies. The packaging is designed to look clean and sophisticated. The imagery that often surrounds cannabis these days is too crass, too low-brow, Groh and Scott say. There are too many pictures of guys in pot-leaf sunglasses smoking joints, too many sexy nurses holding bongs. “It’s bad optics for the industry,” says Groh, who occasionally smokes marijuana but doesn’t drink because he doesn’t like how it makes him feel. “We think the only way cannabis will be taken seriously is if we take it seriously,” Scott says. Groh and Scott talk up the ways society will benefit from removing the taboo around marijuana, including things like fewer people going to jail for low-level drug offenses. But there’s also a clear financial incentive to taking pot mainstream. The less stigma around the drug, the more people who might smoke it. And the more people who smoke it, the bigger the market will become. This year, the legal marijuana market in the U.S. will be worth over $2.5 billion, according to a 2013 report from Arcview Market Research. ArcView predicts the market could be worth more than $10 billion within five years. The U.S. black market for weed, meanwhile, is likely worth somewhere between $18 billion and $20 billion, says Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron. And as more states legalize pot, that black market will shrink and the legal market will expand. Fourteen states are looking to legalize the drug in the next few years, according to Mason Tvert of DC-based legalization advocacy group Marijuana Policy Project. While it remains unclear whether those efforts will succeed, public opinion is gradually shifting in favor of legalization: For the first time in four decades, a Pew Research Center poll found a majority of Americans want prohibition lifted. All this stands to benefit Privateer and Leafly. Like the men pitching it, Leafly’s app is professional. Its list of marijuana strains looks like the periodic table of elements. In fact, it’s hard to find an actual photo of a marijuana bud at all when casually tapping through the app. “We do have images [of bud], but that’s not what we present upfront,” Scott says. Unlike Groh, Scott admits to being a regular toker, saying he vaporizes pretty much every night after putting his kids to bed. “Just small amounts to help me sleep,” he says. Does Scott worry about his kids using the drug? “I will encourage my children to make smart choices, and to wait until they are old enough to try cannabis,” Scott says, which in Washington state is 21 years old. “Use in moderation as adults will be OK, similar to their dear old dad,” he says. Yet even for adults, the drug is not without its harmful effects. While younger users are more at risk --
studies have suggested marijuana can cause a long-term drop in IQ and lasting depression among people who start using it as adolescents -- the drug can be damaging to the bodies and brains of adults, too. Research has shown that one joint can have similar effects on the lungs as 2.5 to 5 cigarettes. Frequent marijuana use may also impair cognitive processes like memory formation, studies have found, and can increase the risk of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders among people prone to such conditions. Most recently, a study published in the Journal of Neuroscience in April found that even casual pot smoking can affect the areas of the brain responsible for motivation, reward and emotion processing. What's more, marijuana can be addictive, and the potential for dependency may be higher among younger users, according to a handful of studies described in a book by Carnegie Mellon University professor Jonathan Caulkins and a small team of professors and public policy experts. In the book, titled Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs To Know, Caulkins and the book's other authors point out the high numbers of teens and young adults who smoke marijuana. "In recent years 97 percent of new users were 24 or younger," they write, adding that the number of people seeking treatment for cannabis addiction in the U.S. has nearly quintupled since 1992. When asked about all this, Scott admits there needs to be more medical research into the health effects of marijuana. A lack of information about cannabis is part of why Scott says he started Leafly in the first place. Before moving to Seattle with his family last year, Scott lived in California, where he says the people working at the state's medical dispensaries weren't always able to "explain the nuances" of each kind of marijuana. That's where Leafly comes in. Co-founded by Scott and two of his friends, the app helps people understand the subtle differences between different kinds of weed. Mostly, the app describes strains' positive sensations -- "energetic," "relaxed," "creative" -- and only lists a few negative effects, like "dry mouth," "anxious," and "paranoid." The trio launched Leafly in 2010, and Privateer bought it in 2011 for an undisclosed sum. Today, Scott says, between 2,500 and 3,000 people download Leafly every day. Groh says the marijuana issue has been important to him ever since he saw a close friend's father die of cancer. "It reduced his pain for the last couple months of his life," Groh says. Watching his friend's father use marijuana to alleviate his suffering made Groh see the drug in a new light. Around that time, Groh was working at SVB Analytics, an offshoot of a Silicon Valley bank that evaluated startups for venture capital backing. At SVB, Groh and Kennedy, who also worked there, started getting approached by cannabis companies. "That's how the topic came up," Groh says. "We talked it through with our friends and families, and eventually decided to make the leap." Groh and Kennedy launched Privateer with another friend in 2011. Leafly was the firm's first acquisition. Raising money hasn't been a problem. In Privateer's latest fundraising round, the minimum investment was $1 million, according to a Privateer press release. That round even included some institutional investors -- organizations like banks or mutual funds that pool money to invest -- which is a first for the industry, according to Suzette Riley, a Privateer spokeswoman. However, spending that funding has been harder. Privateer is struggling to give away some of the money it has raised, Groh says. "This space is still pretty raw. Entrepreneurs aren't the traditional Silicon Valley types," he says. "So it's pretty difficult to stroke up a million-dollar check to someone we're really not comfortable with." Groh says it's also been tough to predict the kind of investor who will be willing to put money in weed. "We sat down and thought about what the investor profile would be, and we were totally wrong every time," he says. "We have people on the far left and the far right. We have a cattle rancher in Kansas and a French libertarian billionaire, and everything in between. "The only common thread," he says, "is people all kind of agree about ending the war on drugs."
Article Content: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Oct. 25 Missouri’s failure to act on juvenile life terms could have expensive consequences: The Missouri criminal justice system is not prepared to cope with the possible repercussions of a pending U.S. Supreme Court case dealing with whether juvenile killers serving life sentences should be made eligible for parole. The state has known for some time that this decision was looming but, unlike many other states which have done everything from abolishing life-without-parole sentences for juveniles to granting new sentencing hearings, Missouri is still in limbo. This session the court will hear Montgomery v. Louisiana, stemming from Miller v. Alabama, a 2012 ruling in which justices said that life sentences for young killers could no longer be automatic. In the Montgomery case, the court is debating whether that ruling should be made retroactive. The question is whether it should be applied to all prisoners who were given life sentences without parole - no matter how long ago - for crimes they committed as juveniles. Emotions are high on both sides. All of these offenders murdered someone. A lot of the killings were heinous. For many people, that means they deserve no mercy. They’re fine with the lock-them-up-and-throw-away-the-key solution. But science has revealed a lot over the past decade about the development of a young person’s mind and the possibilities for rehabilitation. Faced with the evidence, the court has steadily been moving away from the harshest sentences for youths. In 2005, justices eliminated the death penalty for juveniles, and in 2010, the court abolished life sentences for youths convicted of nonhomicide crimes. The decisions are based on the justices’ finding that the severe penalties are unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. The Post-Dispatch’s Jennifer S. Mann reported Oct. 18 that a study by the Phillips Black Project, a public interest law firm that represents inmates facing severe sentences, shows Missouri and Illinois are among nine states that account for 82 percent of juvenile sentences of life without parole. The study found that with as many as 41 cases, the city of St. Louis accounts for the fifth-highest concentration of juveniles serving life sentences in the country. The study said there are at least 81 cases in Missouri, and estimates put the national number at 1,300 to 2,300 cases. Ms. Mann wrote that there is no official count and disagreement on the numbers among groups that are tracking the issue. Legislative efforts in Missouri to deal with the problem have failed. A Senate bill passed last year would have allowed a killer under 16 to be sentenced to at least 35 years or life without parole, and someone 16 or 17 to be sentenced to 50 years or life without parole. That would not have helped in terms of rehabilitation or job preparedness. The House version of the bill offered alternative sentencing. The bills were not reconciled and died. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch told Ms. Mann that “Life without parole absolutely has to be an option. These are some very, very dangerous people.” Missouri law says the penalty for first-degree murder must be
death or life in prison without parole. The Supreme Court's 2005 Roper decision forbids executing juveniles, and the Miller decision outlaws automatic life sentences for youthful offenders. There's the bind. Six defendants in St. Louis are facing first-degree murder charges for offenses committed as juveniles since the Miller decision three years ago that said life-without-parole couldn't be automatic for juveniles. Four were charged this year after allegedly using hammers to kill a Bosnian immigrant last year in the Bevo Mill neighborhood. St. Louis Circuit Attorney Jennifer Joyce's office is filing charges as usual, despite the uncertainty, but attorneys say they are frustrated by not knowing what the future holds for juvenile sentencing. Mr. McCulloch said the few juvenile first-degree murder cases in the county since the Miller decision have been resolved with second-degree murder pleas or verdicts, so the sentencing problem has been avoided. At the state level, the public defender's office said the uncertainty is causing trial delays. At one time, Missouri was a model for juvenile justice reform. A look at our neighboring states shows Missouri is now being left behind. Iowa has eliminated mandatory minimum sentences for juveniles, Kentucky and Kansas have abolished life without parole for youth offenders. Even Texas, which prides itself on extreme punishments, bars life without parole sentences for the young. A severe sentence is a death sentence for a young person who could possibly be rehabilitated. These are kids and they should be held accountable for their crimes, but in ways that are age appropriate. If Missouri doesn't act, the state could wind up spending money it doesn't have to determine how to comply with the Supreme Court's mandate, or defending the state law in the face of the federal order. As Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis found when she refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, we are a United States. Like the law or not, it doesn't matter, it must be followed.

___ St. Joseph News-Press, Oct. 25 Capitol reforms will help: Proposed reforms at the Missouri Capitol almost certainly will improve the climate for legislative interns by setting clear boundaries and expectations for official conduct. This agenda is offered by new House Speaker Todd Richardson, a 38-year-old lawyer from Poplar Bluff. It appears Rep. Richardson recognizes the institution he now leads must restore credibility with the electorate while at the same time doing the right thing by student interns and others affected by an unhealthy mixture of politics, power and sex. The speaker's proposed changes include: ? Mandatory annual conduct and ethics training for House members and staff that includes training on sexual harassment. ? A prohibition on romantic fraternization between members, staff and interns. ? All sexual harassment complaints against House members or the chief clerk will be referred to an outside attorney for investigation. ? Additional structure will be added to the intern program, including providing an intern ombudsman as an advocate and coordinator. The ombudsman will be required to report all allegations of sexual harassment. This is an aggressive approach from a new GOP speaker who pledged, “We intend to create a better environment in Jefferson City than the one that has been there.” When he says “better environment,” he refers to the sorry record of the past year when former Republican House Speaker John Diehl resigned after it was revealed he had a sexually charged relationship with a 19-year-old intern; Democratic Sen. Paul LeVota resigned following allegations of sexual harassment from two former interns; and a number of women told media outlets sexual harassment had become imbedded in the culture of the Capitol. Rep. Richardson's approach is the right one for the House. It should be adopted before the next session begins and considered a model for his counterparts in the Senate. ___ Joplin Globe, Oct. 23 Joplin taxpayer's deserve: The Joplin city audit came with a big price tag - $156,862.09. Because it was a petition audit, Joplin residents will be paying for it with their taxes. Let's face it - there is no part of government, whether it's local, state or federal, that doesn't affect the taxpayer's pocket. Setting that aside, taxpayers should be diligent in asking questions and making certain that the recommendations of the auditor's office are followed.
Joplin’s “poor” rating was a result of what Auditor Nicole Galloway has described as mismanagement. She also told the Globe that Joplin residents were denied playing an active role in the decision-making of their own town, particularly following the 2011 tornado. We think the public understands full well the chaos in the aftermath of the tornado and that some decisions were made out of expediency. But the obvious attempts to circumvent the public’s right to know by using agencies that don’t have to be accountable to the public, as well as the number of illegal closed meetings and the lack of minutes from some of those closed meetings, had nothing to do with a natural disaster. Rather, it created a trust disaster. Following the public release of the audit on Aug. 18, Galloway said: “This audit focuses on the long-term mismanagement of public dollars in the months and years after the tornado, and the need for increased accountability and transparency in the future.” The state audit requires city officials - particularly those we elect - to stop and acknowledge the problem, then move forward to do so. We’ve heard the words, now we’ll be watching the actions. And we’ll continue to file open record/open meeting requests on behalf of the public. One of the ways you can participate in the forward direction of your city is to attend council meetings, vote in council elections and monitor the city's compliance with the audit on a page the city has posted at www.joplinmo.org. It notes the efforts to make corrections and changes. ___

Raising legal age to 21 is the best way for KC area cities to combat teen smoking: The best way to reduce tobacco use is to target teenagers so they don’t start smoking and become addicted as adults. That's the aim of a new civic smoking -cessation initiative, Tobacco 21KC. The worthy project, announced Thursday, aims to get area cities to raise the minimum legal age for tobacco product purchases from 18 to 21. It already has the support of more than 100 businesses, health care organizations, children's advocacy groups, educators and community groups. That's not surprising. The promoting organization, Healthy KC, is a partnership of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City working to improve the health and well-being of area residents. Its four pillars are nutrition, physical activity, work/life integration and tobacco cessation. Raising the legal age to 21 for tobacco purchases, including e-cigarettes, actually attacks smoking among 14- to 15-year-olds, because the younger teens mostly depend on their older friends to buy cigarettes for them. One study, by the Institute of Medicine on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration, predicts that raising the age limit would lead to fewer long-term smokers and reduce overall smoking rates by about 12 percent. A drop like that and an expected 25 percent decline in youth smoking initiation would be good for the health of Kansas Citians. Right now 23.1 percent of Missouri’s high school students and 24.1 percent of students in Kansas high schools are tobacco users compared with 22.4 percent nationwide. About 90 percent of adult smokers start before age 18. Tobacco 21 was started in 1996 as a national effort. Needham, Mass., became the first city to act, in 2005, and has reported that teen smoking declined 46 percent between 2006 and 2010. Hawaii, New York City and more than 90 other cities in the U.S. have passed Tobacco 21 measures. “We're excited about it,” Jim Heeter, president and chief executive with the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, told the editorial board of The Star. “We feel it will have an enormous impact.” Raising the age for tobacco purchases is supported by 75 percent of adults in the United States and even 70 percent of smokers. Smokers are at a greater risk of stroke, heart disease and cancer. Smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths annually in the U.S. Most people who smoke say they wish someone had prevented them from starting when they were young. Officials in several area cities have expressed an interest in passing Tobacco21KC ordinances. Once the first goes on the books, chamber officials said, other cities would follow. The initiative would dovetail with smoking bans approved in recent years by area cities and the state of Kansas, which have created healthier workplaces for employees and customers of
restaurants, bars and other companies. If what has occurred elsewhere happens in the Kansas City area, Tobacco 21KC is expected to decrease annual tobacco sales only by 2 percent but result in millions of dollars saved in health care expenses from people not smoking. The initiative is the right thing to do to ensure Kansas City area residents live longer, healthier lives."

Source Title: AP

_Addiction – Ecig – MPM – AP 2_
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1186

Article Title: AMA policy backs strict e-cigarette restrictions"

Date: 6/10/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: CHICAGO CHICAGO (AP) - The American Medical Association is pledging to use its lobbying power to seek strict limits on electronic cigarettes. The nation's largest doctors' group agreed on Tuesday to support the Food and Drug Administration's proposed restrictions on buying, packaging and advertising e-cigarettes. Those include a ban on selling to minors and warning labels. But the AMA also is urging restrictions on e-cigarette flavors like bubble gum and cotton candy that could appeal to kids, along with childproof packaging. The FDA wants more evidence on e-cigarettes but hasn't ruled out regulations on sweet flavors in addition to its proposals announced in April. Research on health effects of e-cigarettes is scarce but they use vapor infused with nicotine, which can be addictive. ___ Online: AMA: http://www.ama-assn.org FDA: http://www.fda.gov"

Source Title: AP

_Addiction – Ecig – MPM – BTN 1_
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 32348

Article Title: SHOW: NBC NIGHTLY NEWS 7:00 PM EST There`s an alarming new warning tonight from the CDC about a dramatic jump in teens who use e-cigarettes."

Date: 4/16/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Among high schoolers, the number of students smoking or vaping e-cigarettes tripled in just one year. And doctors warn that little is known about the potential health risks. There's an alarming new warning tonight from the CDC about a dramatic jump in teens who use e-cigarettes. Among high schoolers, the number of students smoking or vaping e-cigarettes tripled in just one year. And doctors warn that little is known about the potential health risks. Here's NBC's Tom Costello. (Begin VT) TOM COSTELLO: The splashy marketing is designed to lure a younger generation away from traditional cigarettes, but tonight the warning from the CDC is that e-cigarettes contain potentially dangerous chemicals and nicotine that carried their own health risks. BRIAN KING (Centers for Disease Control): We don't want to be playing a game of tobacco and nicotine whack-a-mole, where
we’re addressing one type of tobacco product and allowing others to skyrocket. TOM COSTELLO: But that’s what’s happening, traditional cigarette use has drop to a record low, just nine percent among teens while e-cigarette use has tripled to more than thirteen percent of all teens. Two and a half million people, another one and a half million smoke hookah pipes. IEYAN KING (High School Student): I enjoy it a lot more. I think it tastes a lot better. I think the smell is a lot better. TOM COSTELLO: Ieyan King used to smoke a pack a day. Now he carries bottles of e-cigarette flavors with him. So this is better, you think? IEYAN KING: Yeah. I mean-- you know, it’s not like with cigarettes where you get tars in your lungs because it’s a vape. It’s like a vapor. TOM COSTELLO: The FDA hasn’t decided whether to regulate e-cigarette sales to minors but researchers worry teens may be especially vulnerable. DR. AMY LUKOWSKI (National Jewish Health Denver): The biggest concern is nicotine. Nicotine exposure to a developing brain, we don’t know the impact of that yet. It hasn’t been studied long enough. TOM COSTELLO: The CDC is concerned the nicotine could lure kids into regular tobacco use. But the e-cigarette industry tells NBC News, “The CDC’s attack defies logic. E-cigarettes do not have any tar or any of the chemicals that are in tobacco.” Researchers admit they don’t yet know all the risks and that is the danger. Tom Costello, NBC News, Washington. (End VT) LESTER HOLT: Turning overseas to Iraq where a major city is in danger of falling to ISIS. Thousands have reportedly fled Ramadi, which lies just seventy miles west of Baghdad. The U.S.-led coalition is carrying out airstrikes in three villages, which ISIS militants overtook yesterday on the edge of Ramadi. An update tonight on the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. Still ongoing in the southern Indian Ocean. Today Malaysian officials said the search area will be expanded by another twenty-three thousand square miles if the plane isn’t found in the current search area by the end of May. Malaysia, Australia, And China are leading the search to find the plane, which vanished in March of last year. Back in this country tonight, the NFL has reinstated the Minnesota Vikings Adrian Peterson. The star running back who missed most of last season while facing child abuse charges, the move clears the way for Peterson to return to the league pending he fulfill all of the obligations of his plea deal with authorities."
campaigning in that first in the nation caucus date, that’s a place with some painful memories for her. More on that in just a minute. Also on the show today, former New Hampshire governor and White House chief of staff John Sununu. He is going to be along to talk 2016 and about the president he served, someone he calls the quiet man. Also coming up, there are new details this morning about how those two men escaped the maximum security prison in upstate New York, allegedly with help. And we are learning more about what drove a man in Dallas to open fire on police headquarters there yesterday. More on both of those stories ahead. But we begin this morning with Hillary’s launch. This morning, she is back on the ground in the Hawkeye state, in Iowa. That’s where she finished in third place the last time she ran for president. This after yesterday’s big rally in New York City, where she sought to answer that one simple, but important question that every candidate has to answer. Why are you running? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: Prosperity can’t be just for CEOs and hedge fund managers. Democracy can’t be just for billionaires and corporations. (CHEERS) HILLARY CLINTON: Prosperity and democracy are part of your basic bargain, too. You brought our country back. Now it’s time, your time, to secure the gains and move ahead. And you know what? America can’t succeed unless you succeed. [applause] HILLARY CLINTON: That is why I am running for president of the United States. [cheers and applause] KORNACKI: And Clinton also shared parts of her personal history, something else she didn’t talk that much about the last time she ran for president back in 2008. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: My mother taught me that everybody needs a chance and a champion. She knew what it was like not to have either one. Her own parents abandoned her and by 14, she was out on her own, working as a house maid. Years later, when I was old enough to understand, I asked what kept her going. You know what her answer was? Something very simple. Kindness from someone who believed she mattered. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: And it was her mother who she invoked again in the closing lines of what was a 45-minute speech. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: I wish she could have seen the America we’re going to build together. [applause] HILLARY CLINTON: An America where if you do your part, you reap the rewards. Where we don’t leave anyone out or anyone behind. An America where a father can tell his daughter, yes, you can be anything you want to be, even president of the United States. (CHEERS AND APPLAUSE) HILLARY CLINTON: Thank you all! God bless you and may God bless America! (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: All right. And for the latest from the trail in Iowa with Hillary Clinton, we are joined now by MSNBC’s Alex Seitz-Wald, he’s live on the ground with the Clinton campaign. Alex, thanks for taking a few minutes this morning. So, the Clinton campaign has it - we had the soft rollout a while back, we’ve had some events since then, but yesterday, this is - this big statement of purpose event. What do they think they accomplished yesterday? ALEX SEITZ-WALD, MSNBC CORRESPONDENT: Yeah, morning, Steve. Well, I think what they wanted to lay out yesterday was sort of a roadmap for where the campaign is going from here. It was a really policy-heavy speech, ticked off a long list of items on everything from transgender rights to climate change to paid family leave and that’s going to be their rubric going forward for the policy she is laying out. I think today is going to be really interesting. This is a first chance in Iowa where Iowans get a chance to see her without a public invitation. So far, she’s only done these round tables where you have to be invited by the campaign, and it’s going to be really interesting to see the enthusiasm, the intensity here. Bernie Sanders has been in town firing up huge crowds. He was here Friday at Drake University just across town, 700 people there, reportedly, get this, got 100 rounds of applause during his town hall. You were - - Steve, you were at his announcement in Burlington, big crowds there. Definitely, a big fired up crowd in Roosevelt Island yesterday, but we’ll have to see what happens in Iowa, of course a state that was not too kind to her in 2008. KORNACKI: Yeah, that’s right in Burlington, I was there yesterday on Roosevelt
Island, trying to compare those two crowds. I’d say Hillary as big as Sanders, but the Sanders crowd certainly has been notable. Alex Seitz-Wald on the ground in Iowa. Thanks for taking a few minutes this morning. Appreciate that. Now we’re going to bring in today’s panel. For that, I am joined by April Ryan, White House correspondent, Washington bureau chief for American Urban Radio Networks. Phillip Stutts, former campaign manager for Bobby Jindal, get out the vote director for the Bush-Cheney 2014, now the CEO of GoBigMedia, and former Democratic communications staffer for Hillary Clinton, Blake Zeff, now the editor-in-chief for the soon-to-launch cafe.com. They join us now. So, well, Blake, I’ll start with you. In a former life, you worked for a former Clinton campaign eight years ago. Watching this rollout yesterday, this launch, this statement from her, when you look at the Hillary of 2008 and you look at the Hillary who is going to present herself in 2016, are you seeing big differences? BLAKE ZEFF, CAFE.COM: I have seen tactical differences, right? I think people who are supporters of the Clintons, people who are detractors of the Clintons, I think everyone would agree that Hillary Clinton is a smart person. So I think there was a big lesson from 2008, which was there was an opening in the primary for her to be defeated as we obviously saw, they are not going to let that happen again, they will try really hard to not let that happen again, right? She didn’t go dramatically to the left, but I thin she was really trying very hard to make sure that she was taking nothing for granted with that primary electorate. You saw her talk about a range of issues. Again, not all the way to the left where Bernie Sanders is. We didn’t hear her talk about TVP, we didn’t hear her talk about Bill de Blasio’s call for $15 minimum became, not all the way over there but rhetorically hitting a lot of those points, very clear to me that they don’t want to make the same mistake twice. KORNACKI: April, what did you think of it? APRIL RYAN: Yesterday I thought she looked very presidential in her presidential Democratic blue. She looked very much like a Democratic convention as well. I think that she, again, she -- she went a little bit further to the left that she had been, but I think that Hillary Clinton is strategic in how her imagery is. The first person who came up on the stage yesterday after she made her announcement was Chelsea Clinton, not Bill Clinton. They are keeping him in the fold but keeping him at a distance. That is her biggest asset, biggest liability, but also, I’m talking visuals, and we were talking about this a minute ago, I think she might have made a mistake with the people behind her, the crowd, the sea of America. We didn’t see all America like we normally see in the Democratic Party. I think her visuals might have been off a little bit, but her message was right on point, and I think the issue of trade will be coming up because TAA will be another issue, because that failed this week and that is a big issue with trade. Trying to help those who fall through the cracks, the 100,000 people who potentially may not have any assistance for job training. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: That’s what we had yesterday, we were out there for the event, we had Lincoln Chafee, who is running against her, on the show, saying hey, I’m for TPP, Transpacific partnership, she should say where she stands. Bernie Sanders says I’m against it, but she should say where she stands. We had her communications director on, he wouldn’t say where she stands. RYAN: I have heard about increased wages, what they are talking about increased wages, not too far into it but they want to make sure people are securing increased wages. KORNACKI: So we’ll see what happens now. Phillip, I want to bring you in, but first, I want to show this “New York Post”, this is a conservative paper, but this was their take, I can put it up here, this was their take yesterday, they call her Rodhamhood, they say Hillary reboots her campaign with an attack on the rich. As Blake was saying, she did rhetorically go to the left a little bit. There was a line there we just played it, basically the country can’t just be run by billionaires and corporations, and I’m sitting there saying I could see Bernie Sanders saying this, maybe Bernie Sanders has said this. You are looking at this as Republican. What did you hear today? PHILLIP STUTTS, GO BIG MEDIA: I’m looking at this also as a political consultant, and I would tell you that speech was for
KORNACKI: It was interesting to me. I wasn’t ready for -- we have been told she will make the grand statement of purpose and she will talk personally about her mother, she has not been very comfortable talking personally in the past. But it did seem like there was almost a checklist she was going through at one point. Something else that jumped out at me, I want to play this, though, there’s been a lot of talk about the generational issues, the intergenerational theme, she will be 69 years old if she wins, if she runs against Marco Rubio, he is a full 25 years younger. How she addressed that issue, I thought a creative way, let’s play that (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE: Well, I may not be the youngest candidate in this race, but I will be the youngest woman president in the history of the United States. [ cheers and applause ] And the first grandmother as well. And one additional advantage, you won’t see my hair turn white in the White House. I’ve been coloring it for years. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: So I thought that -- I thought that was - obviously a great applause line there, but it’s also -- you think of it, saying, look, if my opponents, on the Republican side or even the Democratic side want to say I’m yesterday’s news or something, there’s a chance to make history with me here, there is something very fresh, very exciting about the idea of this candidacy. RYAN: I think the South Carolina piece, when she talked about dying her hair, was better. This she kind of rehashed it again yesterday talking about her hair won’t go white, she will always color it. KORNACKI: You saw the line coming? RYAN: I saw the -- I definitely saw the line coming, it was the South Carolinanesque thing she was talking about, when she was in South Carolina a couple weeks ago. But I will say this, we as a nation are very visual people. The unfortunate thing is she is a woman, and she is a woman who is older, and people will be looking at her visuals versus a Marco Rubio or a younger candidate. But at the same time, we are also a nation who likes wisdom and who wants someone who’s been there, done that, got a t-shirt and washed it, and she has been there, when she was secretary of state. One of the things that really stood out for me yesterday, was when she said, I was in the Situation Room when we killed Osama bin Laden. So, that was one of the thing she is gravitated to, the Obama administration and brought him in and said, you’re laughing, but -- (CROSSTALK) STUTTS: She sat in a room? RYAN : No, she helped strategically, she was there, that’s not just sitting in a room, they want -- okay. KORNACKI: But here’s the thing. What April is saying, I’m curious what you think of this, it was notable the way she sort of attached herself to the Obama administration. This is what Scott Walker, who would like to run against her potentially as a Republican nominee, he said this as he tweeted this out after the speech, he said Hillary Clinton would be a third term of Barack Obama’s failed policies; instead, we need new, fresh solutions. So here’s -- a lot of talking in advance of this speech, how close will she be to Obama. I think she made it clear in that speech, she is going to be close to him. STUTTS: She didn’t runaway from it. Absolutely. Listen, April made a great point. She is running right now, and she has poll tested that she is the older candidate, but running as a grandmother, running as a woman, is a big, big plus for her. And she did a great job. We were talking about -- she talked about her mom. That was the best part of her speech yesterday. I don’t know why they only spent two lines on it, they should have spent of the 45 minutes, 15 minutes on it. I think that was the only strategic mistake I saw. ZEFF: If I could speak to that, in 2008, there was a big internal divide within the campaign, I think it’s well documented now, where some people, sort of the Mark Penn-type of wing of adviser, saying got to be tough, tough, tough, commander in chief, don’t play up the humanity, don’t play up the fact you are a woman, that kind of
stuff. And you had other people, who had been with her a long time, who were sort of saying, no, Hillary Clinton is someone who is the, I hate this, but relatable, softer side, human side, woman, all this kind of stuff, right, and so there was a big divide. Ultimately, I think Penn kind of won that argument. To me, it was very different, 2008 versus even this, and I think there were only a couple of lines this time, so it’s not that they went full bore on this, but I do think that side, those people who were saying we got to show her personality are starting to win a little bit more. This time around, I think is a little bit different than last time. RYAN: And understanding she will win with that, because you have more people in this country who are struggling to survive and make sure their children have better that they had, and that relates to more Americans than hearing all this other Washington, inside Washington stuff. So hearing about the mother, I’m a mother of two kids, single mother of two kids, I’m not saying I’m voting for her, but that touched me, that perked my ear as a person, taking the reporter hat off. KORNACKI: Blake, you’re right, it always struck me from the outside, there was this thinking that Hillary Clinton has to be Margaret Thatcher, you have to be the iron lady, you have to be the toughest one if you want to be a female candidate, and maybe that’s not where they are anymore. Anyway, still ahead in the show, wealthy Californians feeling parched by the state’s new water restrictions. What they are saying this morning. But first, mythbusters, politics edition, we’re going to dispel some of the biggest fictions about 2016. That’s next. Stay with us. KORNACKI: It’s almost become a joke this election cycle, how many Republicans are actually going to run for president? Right now, there are ten declared candidates on the GOP side. That will likely become 11 tomorrow when Jeb Bush officially enters the race, and at least four other potential and likely candidates are going to jump in over the next few months. But if you think this is pretty much anyone’s race to win? Well, think again. At least according to the University of Virginia’s Larry Sabato, who calls that one of the myths of 2016. Writing, quote, “Republicans are hungry to reoccupy the White House, and the realistic among them understand the party won’t win without pitching a bigger tent. There may be no single GOP front-runner, but there are just a few politicians who have the resources, positioning and potential to expand the base.” Larry Sabato joins us now to discuss this and some of the other myths of 2016 he would like to dispel. Larry, thanks for taking a few minutes. I love -- let’s start on the first one, the idea that the giant Republican field is that wide open. I have been saying in my mind, Bush, Rubio, Walker and maybe Kasich are the four truly viable ones, are there more than that? Less than that? What do you think? LARRY SABATO, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA: No, I guess I stole that from you, Steve, because that’s exactly what my piece in Politico says. Look, you can make a case for any candidate. You talked to the staffers as I do. You spend a half hour with them and you come out thinking, my god, this candidate’s going to win. Of course, that’s not true. They are very good at spinning a scenario that produces their candidate as a nominee. But when you really go right through the nominees, you have potential nominees and look at their pluses and minuses, and whether they honestly have a chance of getting the nomination or wining the general election, it does come down to Bush, Rubio, Walker and, you know, maybe a chance for Kasich. I tend to think not, but you could throw him in there. KORNACKI: Some bad news there for Jim Gilmore. Let’s get to myth number two. Hillary Clinton’s favorability is in free fall. So all that attention to the emails and the Clinton Foundation, and you’re saying this is overblown? SABATO: Ridiculously overblown. This is not to criticize the press, but let me criticize the press. Everything’s a game changer. Everything’s a game changer. No. Almost nothing is a game changer in this age of highly polarized partisan politics. Steve, more than 90 percent of the votes are already locked in for 2016. Nobody believes it, but it’s true, assuming both parties pick mainstream candidates, and I think they will because they want to win. You know that if you look at the polling averages, all this negative news for Hillary Clinton has driven down her favorabilities on average,
get ready for this, 2 percentage points. KORNACKI: Let’s try number three here. You say myth number three of 2016 is that billionaires are buying the 2016 election. This is one, listen to a Bernie Sanders speech, he’s going to tell you billionaires own the entire process. You say no. SABATO: I say no because, look, billionaires are trying to buy the process, but you know, it’s a chicken in every pot and a billionaire for every candidate. I didn’t know we had so many billionaires in the United States. I guess it’s a good thing. I don’t know. But there seems to be a billionaire for everybody, at least one. Some of the candidates may have more than one. When it comes right down to it, the major candidates for the nomination will have enough money to get their message across, and then in the general election, I guarantee you, both major party nominees will have far more money than they need to get their basic message across, and both will reach a point of diminishing returns because they are spending so much. KORNACKI: I completely agree with you, diminishing returns in a general election, absolutely. Number four, this is the last one you have here, but the number four myth, you say that candidates are all important. SABATO: No, the candidates like to think they are all important, and their staffs like to think they, the staffs, are all important. But in fact, in this polarized era, it is actually the two most important letters in the English alphabet, r and d. That’s what’s really important. That’s what sorts out voters, and that includes this gigantic group called independents, which actually is about 5 or 6 percent hard core. The rest of them are hidden partisans, and they vote for their partisan candidate at the same rate as people who openly say they are Democrats or Republicans. KORNACKI: Larry Sabato, sucking all the fun out of the 2016 election, but I think a lot of good points there, thank you for joining us this morning. I appreciate it. SABATO: Thanks a lot. KORNACKI: All right, still ahead on the show, how authorities believe a prison worker helped the two convicted killers who have been on the run for days. And next, Jill Biden makes her first appearance since her son’s death for a very special occasion. Stay with us.

KORNACKI: All right. There’s a lot going on this morning. Let’s get caught up on some of the other headlines making news with today’s panel, our catching up segment, I got the trusty index cards, let’s see what this one says. It’s from Politico, the Iowa straw poll pronounced dead at 36, the Iowa Republican Party’s Central Committee voting unanimously on Friday to end the straw poll. This had been held six times since 1979. Several top Republican candidates had indicated they would not participate in the costly event. Michele Bachmann killed this thing, huh? STUTTS: I’ll tell you a quick story. In 1999, I was working for Dan Quayle’s presidential campaign. We never got to 2000, that’s why I say it was ’99, but because he furnished eighth behind Alan Keys in the Iowa stroll poll, this was a ridiculous fundraiser for the Iowa Republican Party. It’s probably best. KORNACKI: What you’re saying, though, it did have a real impact. Tim Pawlenty in 2011 dropped out because he lost to Michele Bachmann. This is one of those -- now we have - we will get to it later in the show, I guess now it’s that 10 candidates cap in the debates, that’s going to do the same thing that the Iowa straw poll is doing. So (inaudible), a picture. This is Jill Biden just yesterday, Vice President Joe Biden’s wife making her first public appearance since the death of their sop. She was helping to christen the USS Gabrielle Giffords, named after the former congresswoman from Arizona. As part of the ceremony, you can see her smashing a champagne bottle over the boat’s bow. You can see that there. Giffords and her husband, retired Navy Captain Mark Kelly, on hand. Also, this was held in Alabama yesterday. So obviously, nice to see Jill Biden back out in public. Let’s see what else we have here. This is from the Washington Post. Headline, rich Californians balk at water restrictions. We are not all equal when it comes to water. The ultrawealthy Southern California enclave of Rancho Santa Fe uses five times more water per capita than the state average. Starting in July, the community is going to have its water rationed for the first time in its 92-year history. One Orange County resident fondly referring to his watering hose with Charlton Heston’s famous quote
about guns, “they’ll have to pry it from my cold, dead hands.” What a time in California. ZEFF: One of the quotes in that story that really stood out for me is one of the guys who lives in one of these gated communities, says we have a right to have golf courses that don’t have a little bit of brown in them. That really spelled it out for them, because some people who are trying to make sure they have drinking water, and the other guys worry that his golf courses won’t look totally pristine. But to be totally honest about this, we had a little bit of a tiered class system when it comes to water for a little while as it is. I remember growing up when you just drank water from the tap, that was the thing, and then - it was before bottled water became this zillion dollar industry now. So paying for water is something that’s been going on for a little while, and it’s just been outrageous for a long time anyway. RYAN: Basically we can afford it so let’s have it. Poor people not. That’s basically what it is. KORNACKI: Let’s see what else we have here. This is from Voxx. I like this one, headline. Salads poison more Americans than hamburgers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that fruits and vegetables cause nearly half of all food-borne illnesses, while meat and poultry cause just 22 percent. Part of the reason, we often eat vegetables raw so that the bacteria are not killed off. I just want to go back to my childhood right now and show this to my grandfather. (CROSSTALK) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: All those smoothies I drank, now I don’t have to do it anymore. KORNACKI: This is -- RYAN: Some of the salads are organic, too, and you know what we use to help promote the growth -- (CROSSTALK) RYAN: The water. And the other stuff. The manure. KORNACKI: Now I’m happier than ever to stick to a hamburger diet. Still ahead, the Supreme Court’s decision on the Affordable Care Act due any day now. Why Republicans are worried the ruling will leave them in a catch-22. And next, MSNBC’s Kasie Hunt sits down with some of the 2016 hopefuls at the Mitt Romney-hosted summit this weekend. Stay with us. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) KASIE HUNT, MSNBC: If you were elected president, where would you take someone on a date as president? SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM, R-S.C.: You know, I hadn’t really thought about that. Let’s rule out Syria and Iraq. KORNACKI: Mitt Romney saying he doesn’t expect to make an endorsement in the Republican presidential primaries. He also doesn’t regret his decision not to run. Romney has been busy enough this weekend, holding a three-day summit in Utah for donors and the other candidates, making him at least a potential kingmaker this cycle, if he wants to play that role. MSNBC’s Kasie Hunt was there this weekend. She got to sit down with some of those 2016 hopefuls. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) HUNT: What did you learn from running against George W. Bush in 2000? GOV. JOHN KASICH, R-OH: Well, I was too young. I didn’t have any money. And I hadn’t accomplished much. I mean, I did. I thought balancing the federal budget and reforming the Pentagon were big items, but it wasn’t enough. So, I went to Iowa, I went to New Hampshire, and in New Hampshire, they said, we like you. But could you just come back? This is not your time. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Let’s talk about this with the panel here. This event now, we were talking about the decline in the last block of the Iowa straw poll, but an event like this, this is sort of a new thing Mitt Romney has created in the last couple of years, these Republican candidates will all come out -- Jeb Bush wasn’t there, he was in Europe, but a lot of the other ones come out there. Mitt Romney now looms as this -- as this sort of potential kingmaker figure, but also he is bringing to this event a lot of the sort of top, elite donors in the Republican Party. So this is a hugely important audience for them. We can put this up on the screen, Spencer Wick, who was one of Romney’s top aides when he ran for president, he was asked who performed well this retreat, he said
that quote, “people were very impressed yesterday with Chris Christie. They were impressed with Lindsey Graham.” Those were examples of two candidates they hadn’t seen much of. I think it gets to the potential, you can go to an event like this, it’s very much behind closed doors, but you can impress the right people, you can raise a lot of money. RYAN: Impress the right people how? Playing flag football, skeet shooting, and pilates and stuff? There is a problem with this. It’s very elitist. And as you said, Romney could be the kingmaker now in his case. The only way you can be a kingmaker, you would have to be a king first. So once again, this is going back to his elitism, and he was very polarizing when he ran. I’m going to tell you, I met with Mitt Romney in Frankenruth (ph), Michigan, when he was running for president. And one of the things, one of the reasons why I say this is elitism and isolating, I asked him something about the issue of jobs, we were having bad job numbers, particularly for African-Americans. And I said, you know, he asked me what would you do, you know, to change, I said have you heard of tax incentives? He said, I don’t know what you mean. And I was not speaking a foreign language. So I believe that all of this is all for naught. It is about getting the donors together to understand these people so they can make this networking, this connection, and I just think it is too elitist and too arrogant and too -- (CROSSTALK) STUTTS: You got to raise $1 billion. RYAN: Playing skeet ball, flag football. (CROSSTALK) STUTTS: You got to raise $1 billion. The Democrats have to raise $1 billion. George Soros is out there helping candidates. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: What is Mitt Romney’s role in the Republican Party right now? STUTTS: I think he wants to be secretary of state. And I think if you saw his foreign policy -- no one saw his foreign policy speech, but the points that were reported on were a takedown of the Obama foreign policy. And so I think that’s what he is going for. I think he is bringing donors in to meet with the candidates and to see what they respond to, and, yeah, Christie really performed well. I know Walker was there, Rubio was there, Kasich was there. KORNACKI: How is Romney viewed in the Republican Party these days? I wonder is he viewed as somebody who is the narrative, oh, wow, we should have won in 2012 and he was a bad candidate and he botched the election, or is the narrative more, he got a raw deal, he represented us well, he should have -- how do they view him? STUTTS: I’m 41 and I remember 1992, the bumper sticker that said I don’t blame me, I voted for Bush, and in a way, I think that’s what the Republican primary voters are pretty much saying right now, and probably some of the donors, they really do wish he would have won. They think the country would have been in a much stronger position than where it is right now. RYAN: It’s not about perception, it’s about the fact that he lost, you have a loss, period. He lost, he lost, history shows it. ZEFF: I think it is the third thing in terms of how he is viewed in the party, which is he’s viewed as somebody who has access to a lot of people with big pockets, right? So you got to kiss the ring a little bit, because he’s going to be able to compile all these donors at this event. So whether you think he got a raw deal, whether you think he was pathetic, these Republicans are going out there because he is around people with money, and they feel they have to do it. One other point on this with Romney, I think it’s clear he sees an opportunity to remain relevant in the party. It’s a big deal, everybody comes over and sort of kisses his ring a little bit, that’s got to feel good for him. I think it’s very interesting to watch, him to watch Jeb Bush have some problems as this has been going on, because I think one of the reasons why he probably didn’t go forward, it seems, when Romney was thinking about running, because Bush had locked up a lot of these people in the early going, interesting for him now, watch Bush. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: I wonder what he thinks about that. I want to get to something else, another big issue we’ve been talking about in this Republican race, and Lindsey Graham, who was out there, apparently made a good impression, but Lindsey Graham right now, if this first Republican debate were held, would not be on the stage, he is not in that top ten. So he was asked by Kasie Hunt about
those debate rules and Republicans, and -- that could keep him out. This is what he had to say. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GRAHAM: I think the national standards for the debates are bad. I think what they are trying to do is bad for the primary process. If Brad Pitt were running, he would be in the debates. So you reward people from big states, you reward people who have run before, people with celebrity status. I like the traditional approach of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and I think this national polling is a bad idea. The difference between fifth and last is probably less than two points, and polling is not that accurate. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Brad Pitt, a Republican, I didn’t know that. Look, it’s got to be frustrating, we’re going to get into the numbers of this later in the show, but I can imagine, it has got to be maddening for somebody like Lindsey Graham, for somebody like Rick Santorum, to be sitting there and looking at these polls and seeing Donald Trump, Donald Trump being in the top ten, and saying I’m going to miss this chance because Donald Trump is out there? STUTTS: Let me make this point, Bobby Jindal is an Indian-American, Ben Carson maybe gets in, Carly Fiorina, a woman candidate, they maybe kept out of a Republican primary debate, and I think that’s really, really bad. RYAN: And this goes to something I was saying during the break, is it about ego? Should the party have pulled everyone together, because you have got too many people and it breaks the vote down. Everyone is in single digits, what is that about? You have so many people who have good ideas. You have some people who are very far to the right, you have people who are on the religious tip, you have people who are moving a little bit more to the center, talking about immigration, but should the party have pulled everyone together and said, look, let’s figure this out because we are going to have a problem? KORNACKI: This is where I’m a little -- I’m sympathetic to Fox News and the rules they set here, and CNN, for that matter, because you got 19 candidates, and you say, hey, everybody, here is two minutes for your opening statement. That’s 38 minutes. STUTTS: Make it random. Let everybody have that -- look, listen, we fight these -- these battles from past elections. We have a robust and a good bench of candidates right now who are going to be shut out, and that’s bad for the party, bad for our ideas. I say bring us all together, do two debates, make them random, and let the people (inaudible) have the chance to come up. KORNACKI: And then of course you get into the question of matchups, right? If Chris Christie is a stronger debater and Scott Walker is a weaker -- who gets the easy draw and who gets the hard draw? I don’t know. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: I have heard the comparison to bracket, I keep looking at it, I keep saying, look, what they have decided on is the worst possible way of doing this, except for all the others. I can’t -- I don’t know how you make sense out of a 19-candidate field. Debates are not designed to be that big. ZEFF: I agree with Phillip. I don’t like the idea at all of people not getting a chance to appear in the debate. I don’t think that makes sense. I don’t think we should be in the position of deciding who is a viable candidate and who isn’t. And it’s so far out right now, people don’t have big name recognition. I kind of agree with Lindsey Graham on that, there is no easy way to do it, but if you have to do it on separate nights, or something like that, have it drawn at random, I think that’s fine. KORNACKI: Still ahead, Jeb Bush marking his father’s 91st birthday this week on Twitter. We will ask one of the people who knows George H.W. Bush the best, how the former president is feeling about his sons -- his other son’s campaign for the White House. That is coming up. But first, the amazing new details about how this prison worker is alleged to have helped two convicted killers escape. That’s next. Stay with us. KORNACKI: An update right now on a story that was getting an awful lot of attention this time yesterday morning. Dallas police confirming that the suspect who sprayed gunfire at Dallas police headquarters early yesterday was killed when a police sniper fired at his armed vehicle during a standoff. Police also detonated the pipe bombs found inside that vehicle. The man’s father says he was angry over a custody case. We are going to have more details from Dallas later in the show. And meanwhile, in upstate New
York, as that search continues for two convicted killers who broke out of a maximum security prison more than a week ago, we are now learning about how authorities believe a prison worker helped those men to escape. MSNBC’s Adam Reiss is live this morning in Morrisonville, New York. He joins us now. So, Adam, they are starting to piece together exactly how these guys got out. What are we learning? ADAM REISS, MSNBC: Steve, good morning to you. The district attorney saying she had a very unusual relationship with these convicted killers. Not only would she be the getaway driver, but she was going to actually run off with them as well. The plan was they would meet at midnight at the power station when they made their way out of the manhole cover on the night of the escape. They would then drive seven hours, we don’t know where, they could have gone as far west as Ohio, as far north as places in Maine and Canada. If they went south, they could have made it all the way to Philadelphia. But she got cold feet. She says she loved her husband too much and she just didn’t want to hurt him. Today, she is in a Rensselaer County jail, that’s about 160 miles south of here near Albany, and she will be back in court tomorrow morning at 8:30.

KORNACKI: Adam Reiss in Morrisonville, New York, thank you, appreciate it.

Still ahead in the show, who is in, who is out of the GOP debates? We’re going to tell you who makes that top ten cut. We’re going to show you the numbers just ahead in the show. But first, one of George H.W. Bush’s senior White House aides weighs in on the GOP debates and discusses why he believes history will treat his former president well. KORNACKI: All right. So it’s been one of the biggest conundrums of the 2016 campaign for the Republican nomination. We were just talking about it a second ago, how do you fit so many candidates on one debate stage? Of course the short answer is you can’t. Multiple news agencies announcing plans to limit the debate field to only ten candidates, which means some presidential hopefuls are going to be left out. More on that ahead in the show. But earlier this week, I had a chance to ask former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu about a letter of protest from Republicans in his home state, even from some of his own family members, to the organizers of the first debate, which is going to be held later this summer on August 6th. New Hampshire Republicans, who are looking for a way to make sure more candidates make it on to the debate stage. Also talked with Governor Sununu about his impressions of the president he once severed as chief of staff, George H.W. Bush, the leader he calls in a new book, the quiet man. (BEGIN VIDEO TAPE) KORNACKI: All right, Governor Sununu, thanks for joining us. There is a lot I want to get to you with about the book you have written, but I want to start with some news that’s been made out of your home state in the last 24 hours. You probably know what I’m talking about here, a letter signed by 56 New Hampshire Republicans. I think there are some Sununus on that list, although I don’t see your name there. They are protesting the conditions that have been set for this first Republican debate, this Fox News debate in August, that’s capped the number of candidates at 10. They are saying that is unfair, all the other candidates should be allowed to get in. Wondering what your opinion on that is? FORMER GOV. JOHN SUNUNU, R-N.H.: The old debate debate, is that it? No, I’m not on that letter. Look, New Hampshire likes to have lots of candidates come up and visit, and I suspect that Governor Merrill and Governor Benson, whose signatures were on the top of that letter, former governors, are trying to encourage as many candidates to participate in the whole process, and I guess that’s what they were expressing. I really haven’t had a chance to talk to anybody beyond that. KORNACKI: The case I guess that’s made, I hear this from Iowa Republicans too is, with these debate rules, the traditional role of Iowa and the traditional role of New Hampshire, in winnowing the field, the sort of picking out the losers, that is now being taken over by the people who write the rules of the debate. Is that a concern as a New Hampshire Republican that you have? SUNUNU: Look, just remember, Iowa picks corn, New Hampshire picks presidents. KORNACKI: I’ve been hearing that line for a long time. But Barack Obama might disagree
with that. Let me switch gears, then. I want to talk to you about this book you have written. You were chief of staff to President George H.W. Bush, there were very tumultuous years in this country, tumultuous years in this world, and I just want to talk about those with you for a second. And I’ll start with this. I remember when Bush was leaving office, in speeches he would give the first couple of years he was out of office, I noticed he seemed to end every speech by saying I believe history will be kind to us. And I know that is something every former president thinks about, they think about their legacy, they think about what they are going to be remembered for, but it’s a particularly tough situation for Bush because he is a one-term president, and that is sort of historically a bit of a black mark. How do you think history will -- now we have had 25 years almost, how do you think history will remember the Bush 41 presidency? SUNUNU: Well, I think he was right. I think the latest poll I saw has him tied with Bill Clinton as the most popular former president. I think history is beginning to understand how significant what George Bush did, not only in the foreign policy, we all know that he really nurtured the collapse of the Soviet Union, he dealt with it in a way that was absolutely amazing, bringing about the unification and making Europe whole and free in such a short period of time. And certainly, how he handled the Gulf War and the fact that he was smart enough not to chase Saddam Hussein into Baghdad and get the U.S. bogged down in the quicksand of an occupation. But people are beginning to realize how prolific he was on domestic policy. He passed more significant domestic legislation than any president except Lyndon Johnson and Franklin Roosevelt. History is beginning to put all that in context, and that’s one of the reasons I wrote the book. I wanted to put all of it in one place between two covers so that people would really understand that this president -- and I call him the quiet man -- really didn’t brag about himself, but really had a tremendous impact on America and the world. KORNACKI: You mentioned the decision in 1991, toward the end of the Gulf War, no to continue into Baghdad, to get Hussein out of Kuwait, to end it there, bring the troops home, and of course after that, his popularity jumped to 90 percent, something like that. We all know domestic economy sort of took over. But I’ve heard the argument made that that decision at the time, back in the 1990s, wasn’t necessarily a popular one. A lot of people looked at it and said why didn’t we finish the job? But then seeing what happened in the last decade, well, this is what happens when you go into Iraq. This is what happens when you get bogged down in an occupation. The case is basically made that the decision that the second Bush president sort of validated the decision of the first Bush president. SUNUNU: Well, history is validating the decision of the first Bush president. He did take a lot of heat for not having chased Saddam up into Baghdad, but as we said at the beginning, when people have the perspective of looking back, they can make a better judgment. And I think it’s pretty clear that that was the right decision. The actions of George W. Bush really, people have to put in perspective, that was following 9/11, and after 9/11, any president of the United States would have to make sure that he left nothing unturned in terms of trying to deal with this issue to prevent a second attack from happening. And I think each one of those decisions in their own context was correct. KORNACKI: I always think of George H.W. Bush as sort of a throwback in a way, a different kind of Republican, a throwback to a different era of Republicanism. His father, Prescott Bush, in many way, the senator from Connecticut, embodies this same -- I don’t want to say liberal Republican but sort of more middle of the road Republicanism. You mention a domestic record included the Clean Air Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, that budget accord in 1990. Doing a lot of things, I look at him and I say, are there Republicans like George H.W. Bush left anymore? SUNUNU: You know, Steve, he actually was conservative. I think he was as conservative as Ronald Reagan. All that legislation you talk about was written either from a free enterprise point of view or from making sure there is equality, but doing it as a conservative Republican would do it. His son used
the phrase compassionate conservative. He had the guts to veto a badly written civil rights bill and send it back, and then get it written correctly so that it would not end up being a quota bill. The Clean Air Act, he changed the approach at emissions controls, he made it a market-oriented, incentive-oriented, and it ended up costing about one fifth as much to - or even as low as one tenth as much as people expected that kind of reduction of emissions would cost. So I think George Bush may have been more mild spoken, but I don’t think he was not a conservative. I think the results that he produced were a record that any conservative today would be very proud of having. KORNACKI: How much does he want Jeb Bush to become president? SUNUNU: Well, of course, every father wants his son to succeed, and I did have lunch with the president a couple of weeks ago, went up to Kennebunk. I think he actually looked a lot better that he looked last October. He was more energized. I think Jeb’s campaign is part of the reason he is more energized. Look, I have a son that was a senator. I have another son in politics. You always want to bask, if you will, in the success of the next generation. KORNACKI: Former New Hampshire governor, former White House chief of staff, John Sununu, appreciate you taking a few minutes today. Thank you very much. SUNUNU: Thank you very much. (END VIDEO TAPE) KORNACKI: Thanks again to former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu, author of the new book, “The Quiet Man.” Another full hour of news and politics straight ahead. Stay with us. KORNACKI: That was then, this is now. Thanks for staying with us. Lots more ahead as we continue on this Sunday morning. It is Flag Day in America, fly those colors with pride today. With Hillary Clinton out on the trail and ramping up her campaign, the political landscape looks very different than it did when her husband was running for president. More on that in just a moment. Meanwhile, Jeb Bush’s plan to annihilate his competition for the Republican nomination hasn’t been quite as dominant as he perhaps been hoping for. So, what does the landscape look like for him as he gets ready to officially announce his candidacy tomorrow? Also, Republicans may soon get their wish to dismantle a key part of Obamacare, so why are some of them now scared to be getting exactly what they wanted? Plus, we’re learning more about what drove a man in Dallas to open fire on police headquarters. More on that story ahead. But we begin this hour with Hillary Clinton’s big launch. A lot of talk about how her speech yesterday positions her against all of her potential Republican opponents. But there is another key question here. How much room did she leave for challengers that she faces in her own party? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) CLINTON: Top 25 hedge fund managers making more than all of America’s kindergarten teachers combined and often paying a lower tax rate. When does my hard work pay off? When does my family get ahead? When? I say now. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: That speech yesterday notably heavy on populist economic themes, heavy on cultural liberalism, notably heavy on the kind of rhetoric you might expect to hear from Elizabeth Warren or from Clinton’s primary rival, Senator Bernie Sanders. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) CLINTON: We have to stop the endless flow of secret, unaccountable money that is distorting our elections, corrupting our political process, and drowning out the voices of our people. We need justices on the Supreme Court who will protect every citizen’s right to vote rather than every corporation’s right to buy elections. If necessary, I will support a constitutional amendment to undo the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Clinton also listed off what she says will be her top priorities as president, it is a veritable checklist of the priorities of liberal activists. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) CLINTON: I will propose that we make preschool and quality child care available to every child in America. Lift the crushing burden of student debt. I believe you should have the right to earn paid sick days. That you should have the peace of mind that your health care will be there when you need it without breaking the bank. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: In a way, the tone and message of yesterday’s Clinton launch was jarring, at least if you’ll remember the tone and message that defined the first Clinton presidency
back in the 1990s. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BILL CLINTON: The era of big government is over. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Triangulation, they called it, a Democratic president sounding like, well, not a Democrat. It was key to the strategy that helped Bill Clinton win the White House twice in the 1990s, and it was a numbers game back then. When it came to winning national elections, the Democratic coalition just wasn’t big enough. Before Bill Clinton, there was Walter Mondale. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) WALTER MONDALE: The American people will have to pay Mr. Reagan’s bills. The budget will be squeezed. Taxes will go up. And anyone who says they won’t is not telling the truth to the American people. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: He ran as a traditional liberal. He won just one state against Ronald Reagan. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MICHAEL DUKAKIS: I accept your nomination for the presidency of the United States. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Michael Dukakis didn’t do much better. He lost 40 states in 1988. So, Bill Clinton tried something different. He pitched his message away from the Democratic base, to non-liberals, to swing voters. He was for the death penalty. He was for free trade. He signed the Defense of Marriage Act. He said he wanted to end welfare as we know it, and it worked. Clinton turned huge swaths of the country blue in 1992, and he kept them that way in 1996, back-to-back national victories, the first for any Democrat since FDR. But now, think about that strategy. Think about how Hillary Clinton has been talking lately on immigration. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: Make no mistake, today, not a single Republican candidate, announced or potential, is clearly and consistently supporting a path to citizenship. Not one. If Congress continues to refuse to act, as president, I would do everything possible under the law to go even further. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: On criminal justice. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: It is time to end the era of mass incarceration. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: On voting rights. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY CLINTON: I’m calling for universal, automatic voter registration. Every citizen in every state in the union. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Notice a pattern? It’s the opposite of triangulation. She is aiming straight at the Democratic base. And why? Because her campaign thinks the math has changed, that the Democratic coalition has grown so much in the last 20 years that all Hillary needs to do now is turn them out. Not everyone’s on board with this, though. Democrats from red states see danger in a full-on embrace of the left. That’s not good for the country, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin told the New York Times this week, but the Clinton strategy gets a strong endorsement from the architect of Barack Obama’s 2012 campaign. If you run a campaign trying to appeal to 60 to 70 percent of the electorate, you’re not going to run a very compelling campaign for the voters you need, says David Plouffe. And actually, Plouffe relied on the same strategy in 2012. It worked then. It may work for Hillary, too. But as we have seen these last few years, winning an election with one thing, being able to govern effectively after an election is another. All right. Back with me now, our panel, April Ryan, White House correspondent with American Urban Radio Networks, Phillip Stutts, former campaign manager for Bobby Jindal, and Democratic political analyst Blake Zeff, editor in chief of the soon to launch cafe.com. I want to get into these questions from two angles. One, I want to look at Hillary sort of embracing the left, the angle within the Democratic Party, and then also what that means for the general election. Let’s start with the Democratic Party, though, and think about that speech yesterday in terms of she still has to get through the primaries. I know we talk about what an overwhelming favorite she is, and she is, but she is facing particularly a challenge I think from Bernie Sanders. Bernie Sanders was asked about the speech yesterday. Let’s play what he had to say. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. BERNARD SANDERS, I-VERMONT: I thought she touched on some of the important issues facing this country. But I think the devil, is of course is in details. The question is who has the leadership capabilities to take on a billionaire class style (ph), whose greed has no end, at the time when the 99 percent of all income is going to the top 1
percent. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: And when Bernie Sanders talks about this, he says the devil is in the details. She sounds very progressive, he’s saying. Some of the details he is talking about, I think, are he said she should have a position on the Transpacific Partnership, she doesn’t. Minimum wage, she says she is for raising it, but will she go to $15 an hour? That’s what he is calling for. Social Security, he says he wants to expand it. She hasn’t made that commitment yet. Debt free college, this idea of debt free college, she seemed to endorse it yesterday, but what does that mean? How would she go about doing it? So how much room is there, Blake? You listened to that speech yesterday. How much room is there for somebody like Sanders to get to Clinton’s left the way Obama did in 2008? ZEFF: I think they are doing, they being the Clinton campaign, are doing everything they can to really try to forswear that possibility. They really learned their lesson from last time, they are not looking 15 steps ahead like they did frankly last time, which was absolutely detrimental. I think they were a bit dismissive of Obama initially, really took it for granted, and didn’t clamp down the way they needed to. They are really determined not to do that. But I was struck by watching the video package you just did, which is so much of what the Democratic Party is doing today is not just the opposite of what they were doing in the ’90s, but is almost a repudiation of what Bill Clinton did in the ’90s, where you’re talking about on LGBT issues, for example, don’t ask, don’t tell, or DOMA, Defense of Marriage Act, NAFTA is part -- precursor of what we are seeing now, the TPP. Crime, Hillary Clinton gave this big speech on mass incarceration. That’s a big legacy of the Clinton era in that crime bill. So very interesting to see this is very much, as I was saying, a repudiation of that era, and Hillary Clinton is in touch with where the party is today, not where it was in the ’90s. KORNACKI: So somebody like Bernie Sanders, I say Bernie Sanders, you also got Chafee out there, you got O’Malley out there, but the one who seems to have at least some energy behind him, he’s getting these big rallies, is Bernie Sanders. Is there room for him, April Ryan, after what you heard from Hillary? RYAN: Almost definitely there is room, because I think yesterday was somewhat of a reaction to Bernie Sanders and his message to the left, and also Elizabeth Warren. People are listening and she’s realizing people are hearing what they are saying. It makes sense. So I think what we are seeing is reaction. But one thing I also want to find out from Hillary Clinton’s camp is health care, as we are dealing with this health care issue and this possibility of what could happen from the U.S. Supreme Court. I would love to hear where she stands on that. We didn’t hear about trade yesterday, we did not hear about health care, so that is something we need to hear as well. KORNACKI: Phillip, let me ask you in terms of the general election implications. There is a lot of conversation this week about this idea that the Clinton campaign is embracing more of a sort of mobilize the base strategy, but when Bill Clinton was running a generation ago, it was hey, we got to find these swing voters and pick them off. And there’s been some criticism of that, but the confidence you hear when you talk to people on the Democratic side, talk to people around Clinton, is they say, look, the numbers are there. The numbers were there for Barack Obama in 2012, if we can get those voters out. The numbers were there in 2008, if we do it again in 2016, the numbers are there for us. Have the Democrats reached a point where if they turn their people out, they are the majority party in this country? STUTTS: No. But what I tell you, your piece was very informative and very good. KORNACKI: Thank you. (LAUGHTER) STUTTS: I thought it was very well done. But here is one thing I would add in there, you are not talking about the messenger, you are talking about the message, and Bill Clinton and Barack Obama were incredible messengers. And I don’t know if Hillary is a great messenger. She talks about her family, I thought she was a great messenger, like I saw yesterday, but 43 of the minutes she spoke, she didn’t, she talked tactics, she talked issues, and she was very stilted, and that has to resonate in those key target states. Are the electoral college is in the Democrats’ favor, there is no doubt.
Republicans have to grow the women vote, they have to grow the minority vote. We know this. This is what we are working on inside our party. But their messenger better be dang good, or they are going to be in trouble. RYAN: I think the messenger yesterday hit on a key point that Americans talking about the economy, she was talking about the tax code, she was talking about this infrastructure bank to help with what is it building -- building roads, railroads, bridges, you know, the infrastructure, she talked about FDR. That’s what happened with FDR, the interstate system, and many of the federal buildings. You’re laughing. STUTTS: No, I’m not. She’s talking about yesterday. FDR. RYAN: That’s what she said, yesterday, the song “Yesterday,” but she is talking about now, we are trying to come out, stay out of a depression or a recession or what have you, and this is what she is trying to look forward, and building and building an infrastructure bank and things of that nature. I think she was -- the messenger delivered a message of hope, I believe, it remains to be seen. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: Let me ask you, Blake, that question of personality though, we’re always asking how important is it to voters that they like or can relate to the candidates, or whatever, and you look at what happened in 2008, in the Democratic primaries. I do think that the personality might have been a part of that. There was more -- it seems a lot of people might have been more of a draw to Barack Obama’s personality that Hillary Clinton’s. You talk to Republicans, that’s one of the reasons a lot of them seem optimistic about Marco Rubio. They say the same thing that happened to her in 2008 with Barack Obama and the primaries could happen in the general election with Marco Rubio, with a sort of exciting background, a chance to make history, all those sorts of things. ZEFF: I think in primaries, it’s a little different than general elections. Right? In the primary, Obama and Clinton, there was a big difference on the Iraq war, obviously that was a crucial part of that primary, but I think the bigger part of it was Obama really captured people’s hopes, yes, we can, hope and change and that kind of stuff. A lot of that was personality driven, and I think that ultimately did help him a great deal. In the general election, just to go back maybe 30 minutes ago, you had Larry Sabato on saying the candidates are a little bit overrated in the general election, and I think Phillip sort of taking issue with that, but I think what he meant by that is that you do have certain basic facts about demographics, voters, electoral college. And one of the things I’d say that I think, Phillip, with all due respect, was glossing over a little bit, which is if you look at the issues that Hillary Clinton and frankly Bernie Sanders in the Democratic primary are pushing, these are issues this are actually popular widely in a general election. Immigration reform, right, minimum wage, crime reform, in terms of mass incarceration, all that kind of stuff. So Mitt Romney had a problem in 2012 when he was seen as going too far to the right in the primary to win the primary, because then he had to figure his way out to the center. I don’t think Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders or whoever emerges from the Democratic primary is going to have that problem this time, because the issues that Democrats are talking about are widely popular throughout the entire country. KORNACKI: All right. Hillary Clinton not the only big launch on the campaign calendar this week. Another political dynasty getting ready for their own kickoff tomorrow. That candidate just released his own logo minutes ago, we’re going to unveil it for you and dissect it. That is next. Stay with us. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JEB BUSH: Mrs. Clinton was the secretary of state for four years under President Obama. And she has a record. And it’s a record that she will have to defend. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: As one political dynasty reignites its presidential ambitions, another appears ready to do the same thing tomorrow. Jeb Bush is ready to unveil his logo. Actually, he unveiled his logo on Twitter just a couple of minutes ago. Now, it does not include his last name. It is also similar to the logo that Jeb has used before, back in 1998 and 2002 in his campaigns for governor of Florida. You see the first name with the exclamation point. This comes only 24 hours before Jeb is scheduled to give a speech in Miami, where it’s expected he will announce his candidacy for president.
of the United States. But the headline in the “New York Times” this morning tells the story of his campaign so far. Headline there, Jeb bush working to recover from a shaky start, from that article, quote, “Bush finds himself in a position he could not have imagined, part of a pack of candidates and the target of his questions about his own competence and conservatism.” Jeb Bush wrapping up a five-day trip to Europe this weekend in which he had hoped to bolster his foreign policy credentials before the general campaign begins. His strategists working to separate him from the field, and one of his primary opponents who they think could be hurt most by a lack of foreign policy experience, that is Scott Walker, the governor of Wisconsin. Bush aides telling Buzzfeed news, quote, Walker was the 2016 contender who best illustrated the disparity they are hoping to highlight with Jeb’s trip overseas. Jeb Bush holding a press conference at nearly every stop of his tour, in contrast with the no-media trip to Israel that Scott Walker took last month. Bush had once hoped that a shock-and-awe style campaign rollout would catapult him to the 2016 Republican nomination and clear the field, but that hasn’t happened, at least not so far. So in a crowded Republican field, can Jeb Bush pick up momentum once again? Let’s talk that over with the field. But let’s start on this logo. This is the breaking news this morning, we got the Jeb Bush official logo, we put it up on the screen, what I noticed is, I have seen this construction before, this first name and the exclamation point or name and exclamation point. Jeb! in 2016. Looks like that is going to be the logo. But can also look back and see Paul Wellstone, do we have this? I thought we had it. Well, we had Paul Wellstone, there it is. Paul Wellstone, the late senator from Minneapolis, had briefly explored running for president. He would use that in all his campaign, his last name with the exclamation mark. Lamar Alexander running in 1996, on the Republican side, he had that, we couldn’t find it. I’m almost sure, prove me wrong, but Hillary Clinton in 2000, running for the Senate, had Hillary, exclamation point. So seen this one before. But anyway, Jeb’s done it before, too, as well. The Jeb Bush candidacy. I know obviously, you have some loyalties here to another potential Republican candidate. But John Kasich had been out there saying this, other Republicans had been out there saying this, what Jeb Bush was supposed to do, expected to do, he hasn’t done. STUTTS: I think it is ironic that Kasich says that because Kasich ran against his brother in 2000 and got sucked out of -- all the oxygen got sucked out of that campaign. The real critical factor is how much money Jeb raises in the first quarter, because that will tell you how viable his super PAC is and his candidacy is. They are downplaying it right now. I remember this from 2000, because like I said, I was on Dan Quayle’s campaign. We thought they were going to raise $15 million, and they were downplaying it, they were going to raise less than $20 million in that first critical quarter, and they came in at $37 million. KORNACKI: That’s when that meant something. STUTTS: Right. Then it did mean something, and we went, oh, my God, it’s over. That’s not going to happen here, but the viability of staying in the top two or three candidates will, and I think they are going to have a shock and awe number. KORNACKI: So April, when you look at this rollout, Phillip says the number is still going to be there for Bush in terms of - - the money is still going to be there, but that intimidation factor he is talking about. RYAN: $100 million? KORNACKI: Not there. We’re talking about a field of 19 candidates. Nobody’s intimidated by this guy. RYAN: You know why they are not intimidated, because we have been there, done that, we had daddy and we had brother. So I hate to say that, but they feel that some of the same. I will say that that new logo is very attractive. I’m sure that -- it’s hot. It’s hot. KORNACKI: You like it? RYAN: They took a lot of time. You’re not just going to put out a logo, it’s short, simple, and sweet, that big red exclamation point. So I think they are calculated in how they try to embrace but yet distance themselves from foreign policy of brother, brother W, who many -- many of the Republicans want to still run away from, but it’s still -- he is still there. He was a president. And his dad was president. So I think what’s going to happen
is, I think the intimidation factor will be tomorrow, when he comes out, because I know it is going to be very big, and it’s going to be - we’ve seen all of these presidential candidates come out and make this big grandiose statement, when they come out, like Obama started it, when he was running and we saw the first one. Ted Cruz come out at Liberty University, making everyone come. But this one, I believe people will be coming on their own, but he is going to make a statement tomorrow, and I can’t wait to see, I think the intimidation factor will be there. KORNACKI: Here’s what John McCain said about Jeb Bush, in today’s “New York Times,” says he just hasn’t met the expectation level of what we expected of a Bush. That’s John McCain, of course John McCain ran against George W. Bush back in 2000. But Blake, the case you hear from people, from Bush people now, it’s not we are going to intimidate everybody out of the race, it’s more this field is going to be exposed in a lot of ways. A guy like Scott Walker’s lack of foreign policy experience will be exposed. Marco Rubio, there was this story about his finances, they think maybe there are going to be questions raised about Marco Rubio. And basically months from now, people are going to look up, Republicans will look up, they will look at Jeb Bush and they are going to say, this is really the only responsible, mature choice we can make. ZEFF: I feel like so much of the Jeb Bush rationale and candidacy is not about voters, it’s not about these issues he can connect with the voters about, it’s this idea that’s going to have a ton of money, and that is something that is not entirely relevant to reaching out to voters, and it is also something that hasn’t even been demonstrably proven yet. So I think that’s a shaky ground on which to have your candidacy. And I think this idea he’s going to have a huge number, he may, but they had a big shakeup, and you don’t normally have a shakeup with your campaign staff. If things are going great, usually it means there is something quietly behind-the-scenes that has been sort of disastrous. I’ve been on these campaigns before, I know. Usually the public doesn’t quite know what is going on, quietly, things are in disarray. It’s a bad sign. Something else I will say, if you are going to look at Jeb Bush and what’s gone wrong, I think there are two people to point to that are big parts of this story, George W. Bush and Marco Rubio. George W. Bush, I think that name, as my panelists, co-panelists are saying, is really shadowing him all over the place, Jeb. I think that’s why he went to Eastern Europe, to show he could be a commander in chief with a different foreign policy. You noticed when he went there by the way, it was much more about his father than his brother. He was kind of talking about the Cold War and remember my father. The Marco Rubio thing I think is significant, because a lot of us didn’t think they would both get in the race, Jeb Bush from Florida, Marco Rubio from Florida. Rubio is not just in, but he had a big shakeup, and you don’t normally have a shakeup with your campaign staff. If things are going great, usually it means there is something quietly behind-the-scenes that has been sort of disastrous. I’ve been on these campaigns before, I know. Usually the public doesn’t quite know what is going on, quietly, things are in disarray. It’s a bad sign. Something else I will say, if you are going to look at Jeb Bush and what’s gone wrong, I think there are two people to point to that are big parts of this story, George W. Bush and Marco Rubio. George W. Bush, I think that name, as my panelists, co-panelists are saying, is really shadowing him all over the place, Jeb. I think that’s why he went to Eastern Europe, to show he could be a commander in chief with a different foreign policy. You noticed when he went there by the way, it was much more about his father than his brother. He was kind of talking about the Cold War and remember my father. The Marco Rubio thing I think is significant, because a lot of us didn’t think they would both get in the race, Jeb Bush from Florida, Marco Rubio from Florida. Rubio is not just in, but he’s doing quite well. That I think spells a bit of a problem.

KORNACKI: And by the way, the other thing, you look at these polls now, matching up the Republicans against Hillary Clinton, and Jeb Bush is running behind Hillary Clinton. He’s not doing better than the other Republicans out there. In fact, he is doing worse than Rand Paul, Marco Rubio. In a lot of these polls, they actually run better against Hillary right now than he does. So it’s tough to sit there and make that electability argument, at least with those numbers. Anyway, still ahead, what to expect when you are expecting a Supreme Court decision. A major ruling on the Affordable Care Act due any day now. But next, as it stands right now, who will be in that first Republican debate and who will not? New numbers. We will show you that cut line, where it is right now. Stay with us. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JOSEPH MCQUAID, PUBLISHER, NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER: I’m not sure what the Republican national rules are regarding a forum. I would like to see them. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: That is the publisher of the New Hampshire Union Leader, Joe McQuaid, on the Rachel Maddow show Thursday night, after announcing that his newspaper would be hosting its own Republican forum, one outside of the sanctioned debate system set up by the Republican National Committee. McQuaid, along with other prominent New Hampshire Republicans, arguing this week that the winnowing of candidates should be
left up to the voters and not to television networks, because as rules stand right now, for that first Republican primary debate on August 6th, only the candidates polling in the top ten are going to be allowed on the debate stage. The rest of them relegated to an alternative forum with unclear parameters on what that would look like and whether it would mean participating in that alternate forum would bar them from participating in any of the future sanctioned debates. A dilemma there potentially. Detractors arguing such a plan would create a second tier of candidates through arbitrary means. So, who is in that first big official debit on August 6th? Who is ousted as something that’s likely to be changing week by week, if not day by day, if it’s worth checking in on, we thought, on a regular basis, so we will start doing that this week, right here at the big board, and as you can see, right now, the rules Fox has announced for this debate, they say it’s an average of the five most recent national polls that they recognize in advance of that debate. So, we took the five most recent national polls, we averaged them to see who makes the cut and who doesn’t. Where is the cut line right now? Top ten candidates, you can see it right here, that is the list that would be in. These are the candidates or potential candidates who would not be on that stage. So let’s take a look at what that means, actually. What will that stage look like? Here you go. This is what the debate stage would look like right now on Fox News on August 6th, with these ten candidates in, and who would be at the what they are calling the kids table, these are the ones that are left out, they would not have a place at that table, and you could see, you have got nine names there. So let’s take a closer look at those numbers now, and break them down, because a couple of things jump out at you. First of all is this, Rick Perry is the last candidate right now who would be in that top ten. John Kasich, the governor of Ohio and Rick Santorum the first two candidates who would be out, they are tied at 2 percent. Rick Perry, 2.8 percent, so that is the difference we are talking about here, 0.8 percent, less than 1 percent right now is the difference between making that huge nationally televised event and being forced to sit on the sidelines. Another thing to look at here is this name, Donald Trump. Now, Donald Trump has promised what he is calling a major announcement this week. Now, everything that Donald Trump says he is going to do is major, so we’re not sure exactly what that means. But a lot of people say, have been saying for a long time, Donald Trump is really kind of pulling a fast one on us here, he’s not actually going to run when all is said and done, he’s not going to be a serious candidate for president. So if Donald Trump ends up removing himself, or if he gets removed from polling by the pollsters, then it creates an opportunity for some of these other candidates to get in. Also keep in mind that John Kasich right now would be out, but John Kasich has not announced his candidacy yet. What we have been seeing is when these candidates have these big events when they get in, big rallies, a lot of press coverage, they get a polling bump. So Kasich a chance to move up in a way that like Santorum maybe can’t, because Santorum already had his big campaign launch. Kasich though still has to do that, so there is a chance for him to move up. So a lot of fluidity here, as we say. This is a big, momentous thing, who makes that top ten, who doesn’t? We are going to be checking in on it weekly between now and that first debate. Still ahead on the show, we’re learning more about yesterday’s police standoff in Dallas with a man who opened fire on police headquarters from an armored van. And next, the Supreme Court has some Republicans worried, and not for the reasons you might think. Stay with us. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) OBAMA: Once you see millions of people having health care, once you see that all the bad things that were predicted didn’t happen, you’d think that it may be time to move on. Let’s figure out how to make it better. It seems so cynical to want to take coverage away from millions of people, to take care away from the people who need it the most, to punish millions with higher costs of care and unravel what’s now been woven into the fabric of America. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: That was President Obama talking this week about continued
attacks on his health care law, now five years after its enactment. Under the very real threat right now that a key piece of that law could be gutted by the Supreme Court any day now. The conservative-tilting court could side with the Republican-backed lawsuit that would eliminate the subsidies that make it possible for millions of low-income Americans to purchase insurance under Obamacare in states that haven’t set up their own exchanges. Obama mincing no words when asked about the case on Monday. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) OBAMA: This should be an easy case. Frankly, it probably shouldn’t even have been taken up. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: If the Supreme Court decides in their favor, Republican leaders will be in a tough spot, though. They will be seen as the people potentially who took away health insurance from more than 6 million people in 34 states. At the same time, they would risk upsetting their own conservative base, which wants nothing to do with Obamacare, and could prevent them from restoring those insurance subsidies through some sort of legislative fix. While the health care law still divides many in the country, a new “Washington Post”/ABC poll shows a majority of Americans want the Supreme Court to keep the subsidies. The Hill newspaper reporting that this reality has Republicans in Congress worrying that they might win the very lawsuit that they backed, a classic case of be careful what you wish for. Alexander Bolton writes that Mitch McConnell and John Boehner are quote, under pressure from colleagues up for re-election in swing states and districts to extend the subsidies at least temporarily, if the court strikes them down. But doing so would risk a backlash from the conservative base. Joining us is The Hill’s Alex Bolton. He joins the panel as well. Alex, this dilemma for Republicans, potentially. First of all, the court could say no, we’re rejecting this case and that is the end of it. Let’s say the court does take out - does side with the plaintiffs here and essentially guts Obamacare. It could be easily fixed legislatively, if Congress were to pass and Obama were to sign something that says, hey, these subsidies now apply to all states, it doesn’t really matter what the status of their exchange is. What are the odds in that case of Republicans passing something like that? ALEX BOLTON, THE HILL NEWSPAPER: I think pretty good. Because they know that they need to show they can govern, and as Silvia Burwell, secretary of health and human services, made the point recently that if the court strikes these subsidies down, it will be up to Congress to fix it. The administration isn’t going to do anything. It is up to Congress to show that they can govern, and that is something that Mitch McConnell and John Boehner have been talking about since they took over the majorities. And the Senate Republicans who are facing tough re-elections this year, they are in states like Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, where hundreds of thousands of people are going to lose their subsidies, they are going to see their premiums increase by as much as 200 percent. So it’s a political disaster for them. And coming up with a solution is going to just split their party. KORNACKI: So, here’s the part where I start to wonder, though, it’s been such a priority for the Republican base to end Obamacare. We are still hearing this five years after the law came out. If you poll it, there is not a Republican that wants to touch this thing. So if they were to win this and get this big victory they have been seeking for five years, and they were just to do a quick legislative fix that restores everything, they have gone to war with their own base in a way. So what I’ve been hearing is this idea that they would do, and I think this was in your reporting, the idea that Republicans would do some kind of a temporary extension. But if they do a temporary extension, then the White House is in position to say, no, we are going to veto that, because we want a full, permanent solution for Americans. So there would be tension on that front, and how long this fix would be getting (ph). BOLTON: And there are a couple of plans out there. Mitch McConnell signed on to a plan sponsored by Ron Johnson, who is facing re-election in Wisconsin, against Russ Feingold. He proposes extending the subsidies through the middle of 2017, but that’s making conservatives angry. The Heritage Action for America, a conservative advocacy group, is saying that is an overreaction. And so
what’s going to happen is, the Republicans are going to rally around this plan and pass it. It’s not going to get done, because Obama is going to veto it. They are going to make the conservative base angry, and then we are going to be in this almost government shutdown standoff, where you have two sides blaming each other for why people got their subsidies stripped. The Republicans will say, well, we passed legislation to extend these another 18 months, two years, but the president vetoed them. I think as we saw in the government shutdown battle, Obama has more credibility on the Obamacare, on what’s -- on Obamacare subsidies since it is his law, than the Republicans will. So Democrats are feeling pretty confident the Republicans will get the blame for this, just like they did in the government shutdown, and that’s why they are not making any effort to fix what could be a public policy disaster.

KORNACKI: Phillip, curious what your take is on that dilemma the Republican Party could be facing. How far would the Republican base allow the Republican Congress to fix something if the Supreme Court takes this down? STUTTS: I think they wouldn’t be OK with it, but everything is about the presidential campaign. If Congress falls on their swords, so it doesn’t affect the presidential candidates, I think they would be willing to do this and make it sort of - put it up for election again and make it 2016, another mandate on a presidential campaign. I think that’s what the strategy is. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: They go along with it, temporary, like basically saying -- (CROSSTALK) STUTTS: No, no, they would be mad, but they would be mad at Congress, not the presidential candidates who are saying scrap it, and then becomes an issue for 2016 on the presidential campaign. ZEFF: Look, I defer to Phillip’s expertise about Republicans, I defer to Alex in terms of his expertise in terms of sources in Washington and that sort of stuff. It just seems to me though from watching this House GOP over the last several years, that, you know, this is not a caucus that John Boehner has a lot of control over. These are not people who are thinking about long-term strategy. They have very conservative districts that they are reporting to. These are not people, when I say these people, I mean actual members of Congress on the Republican side who are doing things that will make their base upset. And I think that if Obamacare, any aspect of it gets struck down, it seems very hard to imagine that these people would then vote to restore parts of Obamacare, like you are saying, and upset their base. They are worried about primaries, it just seems unlikely. KORNACKI: You’re getting into that divide, and we’ve talked about it so much, the House divide, too where you got candidates running for the Senate or incumbent senators, in the swing states, they have to worry more about the general election. ZEFF: But in the House, these guys are worried about being the next Eric Cantor, where you could lose to someone on your right. (CROSSTALK) KORNACKI: We got to run out of this one. We’re going to get more from you in the next block, and April, I promise my thanks now to Alex Bolton from The Hill, appreciate you joining us. And still ahead, we are learning more about what drove a man in Dallas to open fire on police headquarters there. More on that story ahead. And next, was it a pack of cigarettes or not? The reporter who asked that question is sitting right here. That is next. Stay with us. KORNACKI: Police in Dallas are learning more this morning about what led to yesterday’s bizarre shootout and standoff with the man who opened fire on police headquarters from his armored van. We get those details from NBC’s Charles Hadlock in Dallas. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) CHARLES HADLOCK, NBC NEWS: Dallas police say they have never seen anything like it. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Oh, my God. HADLOCK: A brazen attack on police headquarters overnight Saturday. By a man driving an armored vehicle loaded with automatic weapons and pipe bombs. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We’re being shot at, at headquarters. HADLOCK: The bullets whizzing by bystanders running for their lives. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Shots fired. HADLOCK: Across the street, Josh Guilbaud recorded the chilling sounds on his cell phone. JOSH GUILBAUD, WITNESS: It was going on for maybe 10, 15 minutes of non-stop gunfire. HADLOCK: The armored vehicle rammed several patrol cars
before speeding away, with police in pursuit. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He’s got the van rigged with explosives. HADLOCK: The chase ended at a Jack in the Box parking lot, but it was followed by a tense standoff. The gunman, 35-year-old James Boulware of Dallas, told police he had explosives and was upset over a child custody case. Boulware was arrested three years ago for family violence. Back at headquarters, police found several bags they suspected contained pipe bombs. One exploded when a robot tried to pick it up. Fearing Boulware may try to drive away again, a police sniper shot the engine, disabling the vehicle. And later, after police say negotiations had failed, they fired through the windshield, killing him. Boulware’s father said his son had a history of mental illness and blamed police for losing custody of his son. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Every one of us has a breaking point. Some at one point, some at another. But we all have one. HADLOCK: Jim Boulware says his son bought the armored van last week, planning to live in it. Instead, it’s where he died, surrounded by more pipe bombs police believe he intended to use on them. Charles Hadlock, NBC News, Dallas. (END VIDEOTAPE) KORNACKI: All right, Charles Hadlock in Dallas. Appreciate that report. A lot more to come on the show, but first, if you’ve been wondering why we have had a flag on our desk all morning, well, it is our way of celebrating June 14th, otherwise known as Flag Day, the holiday Woodrow Wilson first established 99 years ago to commemorate the adoption of the American flag. It is a big day in places like Quincy, Massachusetts, not far from where I grew up, which has the longest running Flag Day parade in the nation, or how about Three Oaks, Michigan, Fairfield, Washington. Both of them claim to have the oldest continuing Flag Day parades. And the largest Flag Day parade, well, that can be found in Troy, New York. So happy Flag Day, everyone. If you are near one of those places, go see a parade today. Today is a special day to let those flags fly, even if it’s in a mug. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) RYAN: Can you tell us, does the president have a pack of cigarettes in his hand? JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: He does not. RYAN: What was it? EARNEST: I don’t know. April, I wasn’t there. RYAN: I understand, but did he tell you what it was? EARNEST: You may not be surprised to hear that I have not raised this issue with the president today. RYAN: OK, well, the president, as you acknowledged, he reads media reports everywhere. His picture with him holding -- EARNEST: I’m not sure that’s how I would describe it. RYAN: It is everywhere. Check it out. (LAUGHTER) EARNEST: I have. RYAN: The size (inaudible), but the sizing looks like, I mean, so you’re saying -- EARNEST: I told you it’s not cigarettes. Let’s move on. (END VIDEO CLIP) KORNACKI: Wow, the new Sam Donaldson in the White House press room. An exchange between our guest April Ryan of the American Urban Radio Networks and White House press secretary, Josh Earnest, on Wednesday. What were they discussing? They were discussing this picture that was posted on Instagram by the office of the spokesperson of the Italian prime minister. The question there of what did President Obama have in his hands? Can we take a closer look. Here we go. This is what April is talking about. A lot of chatter out there online, around the country about, well, the president, we know he’s a former smoker, he says he’s a former smoker, is he still maybe a current smoker? April, what did you learn from Josh Earnest there? RYAN: That he didn’t want to talk about it. (LAUGHTER) RYAN: I didn’t learn anything from Josh about that, but I will say this. The picture shows us something, and if the president is indeed smoking again, that’s his prerogative, but he said he was someone who had tried to kick the habit when he came into the White House. So that’s the only reason why I asked, looking at that picture. And I got a lot of Twitter hate from that question, a lot of Twitter hate. So -- I don’t know. KORNACKI: Any chance that could be an e-cigarette? RYAN: My name is Bennett, I’m not in it, I have to go back to the White House tomorrow. (LAUGHTER) KORNACKI: Just asking. (CROSSTALK) RYAN: Have a donut on that one, yes. KORNACKI: You want to bring those to the White House with you tomorrow to mend some fences. RYAN: Yes, yes. KORNACKI: Good for you for asking the question. RYAN: I have to
mend fences. They don’t like that question. KORNACKI: If it’s true -- the other thing, it’s Europe. *Smoking* is a much more recreational thing in Europe, isn’t it still? STUTTS: There’s a war on *cigarettes* unless it’s Obama, but frankly, I don’t care. RYAN: You said the operative thing when you introduced the piece. It was the spokesperson from the Italian prime minister’s office. It was not leaked or printed, published by the White House. KORNACKI: Interesting. There are other things going on. This is our catching up segment, so let’s see what else is going on, squeeze a few more stories in here. This is from The Wrap. The headline is Jeb Bush is set to appear on Jimmy Fallon’s Tonight Show. Bush will be there on Tuesday. That’s a day after his presidential announcement. President Obama has made recent late night appearances on Jimmy Kimmel, David Letterman. This is Jeb Bush going on Fallon. I guess that put him in this building. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is a cross-promotion you’re doing right now. KORNACKI: I guess so, come to think of it. RYAN: I want to see if he does a GOP rap where he drops the mic. KORNACKI: That’s the thing on Fallon. He doesn’t just have him sit on the couch. (CROSSTALK) RYAN: Drop the mic, Jeb Bush. He might get some cool points for that. KORNACKI: He did one with Mitt Romney a few months ago. I remember the people were saying, that’s a different Mitt Romney (inaudible). Let’s see what else we have here, another headline. This is from Ad Age. Crystal Pepsi is poised for a comeback. The clear cola was first introduced in the 1990s. Do you remember when this first came out in 1992? It lasted only a few years. It is, it’s just clear Pepsi. I remember it. I don’t think it tasted very well. We got a Bush running for president again, we got a Clinton running for president again, so bring the Mighty Ducks back. What else can we bring back? (CROSSTALK) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Crystal Pepsi is a Coke. RYAN: No, the South is Mountain Dew. KORNACKI: Is there a crystal Mountain Dew? RYAN: I don’t know, but it’s yellow. KORNACKI: I remember when crystal Pepsi came out, SNL did one of those fake ads -- they did crystal gravy. That was the SNL take on crystal Pepsi. I don’t know, maybe it will taste more like Pepsi this time or something, but anyway, be looking for that on a shelf near you. Thanks to this morning’s panel, Blake Zeff, April Ryan, the tenacious April Ryan. Phillip Stutts, appreciate you all joining us. Thank you for getting up with us today. Up next is Melissa Harris-Perry. Stay tuned. We’ll see you next weekend. Have a great week. THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED."

Source Title: BTN

*Addiction – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 27800

Article Title: *E-cigarettes* can harm or lead to actual *smoking*" 

Date: 9/11/2014

Article Content: As the usage of *e-cigarettes* and *vaping* has increased in recent years, so has the controversy surrounding them. Medical experts have both lauded the product for helping routine *cigarette smokers* break the habit and harangued it for exposing young people to the world of *nicotine*. But is an *e-cigarette* going to give you cancer? Probably not, says Dr. Gary Weinstein, a pulmonologist at Texas Health Presbyterian of Dallas. “It’s when you burn the *tobacco*, like you do when you *smoke* a *cigarette*, that you get the tar and the carcinogens,” he says. *E-cigarettes* contain a *nicotine*-based liquid
that is vaporized and inhaled, unlike cigarettes or hookah where the nicotine is burned, introducing carcinogens to the smoke. This doesn't mean that the e-cigarettes are risk-free. Some powerful e-cigarettes, commonly known as tank systems, do heat nicotine liquid hot enough to produce cancer-causing carcinogens in their vapor, researchers from Georgetown University found. And youths are likely to use e-cigarettes as a gateway to actual cigarettes, Weinstein says. “In people who don't already smoke, it can easily cause a switch to smoking an actual cigarette,” Weinstein says. “Some of these companies sell flavors that no adult is going to use.” The American Heart Association last month supported e-cigarettes as a last resort to help smokers quit. It and the American Cancer Society have urged more regulation of nicotine vapor products, especially to keep them away from youth, The Associated Press reported. The groups also say that proven smoking cessation methods should always be tried first. DMN Number of note 10% of high school students had tried e-cigarettes in 2012, double the number (4.7 percent) in 2011, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."

Source Title: News

Addiction – E cig – MPM – Newspaper 2

Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 409880

Article Title: ON THE SPOT; Vaper e-vades detection"

Date: 8/30/2015

Article Content: Question: Recently, I flew into L.A. on a nonstop flight from Paris. During the flight, a guy at the other end of my center row smoked an e-cigarette very secretively. He would cover the e-cig in his hand, suck it lightly, exhale slowly, then put it back in his pocket. I informed a flight attendant. She walked up and down the aisle to observe him but didn't see anything. I contacted the airline and was told that the attendant had to witness the act in order to do anything. What can legally be done when someone secretly smokes an e-cig on board? I think airline policies need to keep up with changes in technology. Randy Kahn Calabasas Answer: Let's be clear, first of all, that smoking in any form is not allowed on airlines, even if it's the newest innovation in delivering nicotine. The Department of Transportation thinks that the ban on smoking of any sort is covered by the regulations already on the books. But just in case rule-breakers ask where that's written, the DOT will, probably by year's end, add language to its federal registry that spells out that rule for e-cigarette smokers, just in case they don't know how to spell N-O. By the way, you can take an e-cigarette on board in your carry-on luggage, but you cannot put one in your checked bag because its lithium ion battery may pose a fire hazard. Alaska Airlines prohibits use of e-cigs because it doesn't allow what it calls “self-heating equipment” to be used onboard. (Liquid inside the e-cig is heated to create the vapor.) Just as MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) aren't allowed because they have a heating element, neither are e-cigs, an Alaska spokeswoman said. Which raises the issue of flight attendants approaching a miscreant. Some airline reps I spoke with (none from the airline Kahn flew on) concurred that direct observation is key. K.W. Nieh, a spokesman for EVA Air, which was not the airline in question, said in an email: “If a passenger reports that another passenger is smoking, an EVA flight attendant will check to verify. If the flight attendant catches the smoker in the act, the flight attendant will explain the no-smoking rule to that passenger. The flight attendant will also
make an announcement to remind all passengers of the no-smoking rule, inform the captain of the incident and record the incident.” But Alaska (also not the airline in question) said its flight attendants do not “need to personally see any activity to make the request for the person to stop.” The prevailing philosophy, said R.C. Stevens, a flight attendant for a regional airline, is informing, not enforcing. “If we don't see it ourselves, there's not really a whole lot that we are able to do about it, unfortunately,” said Stevens, author of “Thirty Synchronized Woodpeckers,” which explores the world of aviation from a flight attendant's point of view. If you're thinking an e-cigarette is a good way to address nicotine cravings in flight, you might want to reconsider. Dr. Joseph Austin Jr., a pulmonologist on the medical staff at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital, would suggest a nicotine patch or gum because the Food and Drug Administration has approved them; e-cigarettes have not been OK'd as smoking cessation tools. As a pulmonologist, he is understandably not a fan of e-cigarettes, which, he notes, deliver as much nicotine as a cigarette, and produce a byproduct that may be harmful to innocent bystanders. Some users say that the e-cig is safer than regular cigarettes. We probably won't know for several years, he said, because this is a relatively new product. But apparently the process of declaring that something is a problem can be a lengthy one. Tobacco was introduced to Europe in the 1500s; it wasn't until January 1964 that “Smoking and Health: Report of the Advisory Committee to the Surgeon General” dropped the bombshell that smoking would adversely affect health. I'm not sure the world would be worse off if every cigarette or cigarette-like device went up in smoke. But until that happens, keep your e-cigs in your carry-on bag, wear the patch or chew the gum, and think about how much more money for travel you'll have if you quit. -- Have a travel dilemma? Write to travel@latimes.com. We regret we cannot answer every inquiry."

Source Title: News

Addiction – Ecig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 732604

Article Title: Philippines set to roll out tough no-smoking law - Business Insider"

Date: 10/12/2016

Article Content: A smoker places a cigarette stub on a tray filled with stubs beside a road in Las Pinas. Thomson Reuters MANILA (Reuters) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is set to sign a regulation this month banning smoking in public across Southeast Asia’s second-most populous country, rolling out among the toughest anti-tobacco laws in the region. Public health campaigners who have long battled against the country's hefty tobacco lobby welcomed the push to end smoking in public places and said they believed Duterte, with his tough anti-vice record, was the man to do it. Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Rosell-Ubial told Reuters on Tuesday she hoped the president would sign the ban, which expands the definition of public places, into law before the end of October and that it would come into effect next month. She was quoted by newspapers as saying that no smoking would be allowed in public places, whether indoor or outdoor. “Parks, bus stations, and even in vehicles. All these are considered public places,” she said, according to media. She later clarified the law would apply only to public vehicles. Designated smoking areas will be set up, at least 10 meters (33 feet) outside buildings,
according to a draft of the executive order seen by Reuters. Around 17 million people, or nearly a third of the adult population, smoke in the Philippines, according to a 2014 report by Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, — the second highest in the region after Indonesia. Nearly half of all Filipino men and 9% of women smoke and experts say the habit costs the economy nearly $4 billion in healthcare and productivity losses every year. Sandra Mullin of Vital Strategies, a global public health organization, said smoke-free laws reduced smoking prevalence by 4%, if fully comprehensive. Marlboro owner Philip Morris International, estimated to hold more than 70% of the Philippines market through its joint venture with Fortune Tobacco, will be among the international producers most affected by the proposed ban. In 2015, the Philippines accounted for almost 1 in every 13 cigarettes sold by Philip Morris globally, though analysts estimated it was worth a far smaller 2% of profit. A spokeswoman for Philip Morris International referred queries on the proposed ban to the Philippine Tobacco Institute, which represents tobacco interests in the country. A spokesman for the institute said he had no immediate comment on the proposed ban. Scaling up The proposed smoking ban replicates on a national level an existing law in Davao City, where Duterte ruled as mayor for 22 years until his rise to the presidency earlier this year. Penalties for breaking the anti-smoking law in Davao can include a 5,000 Philippine peso ($103) fine or four months in prison. When Duterte was in Davao, he once personally forced a man to stub out his cigarette and eat it after he refused to stop smoking in a restaurant, according to media reports. A government spokesman declined to comment on the incident but said: “Certainly in Davao, the sentiment and business establishments support a smoke-free Davao. The president sees it as something that’s not ideal for health... and this is part of the public well-being,” Ernesto Abella said. Duterte also rolled out a number of other strict rules in the city of 1.5 million during his term as mayor, including banning late-night drinking and karaoke, and a 10 p.m. curfew for school children. He also oversaw a severe crackdown on narcotics and crime in the city, earning him the nickname “The Punisher”. The 71-year old won the presidency on a promise of widening that crackdown throughout the country of 100 million. Over 3,600 people, mostly small-time drug user and dealers, have died in police operations and alleged vigilante killings since he took office in June. Anti-tobacco activists said Duterte's reputation meant the nationwide smoking ban would be implemented. “This is effectively a scaling up of the Davao City plan,” said Ralph Degollacion of Health Justice Philippines, a local NGO. “We know his track record... and given the political will in his government, we’re confident that in terms of implementation he will really push it,” he said. When asked if the ban could extend to alcohol and gambling — both multi-million dollar industries — government spokesman Abella said there were no such plans in the offing and that bars and casinos were continuing to operate normally. Big Tobacco under pressure The nationwide ban is set to be among the strictest no-smoking laws in Southeast Asia. The region is home to nearly 10% of the world’s smokers and while most countries have partial smoking bans in place, enforcement is often lax. The Philippines ban will also cover ‘vaping’ or the use of electronic cigarettes. For tobacco companies, already under pressure from tobacco tax hikes under the previous government, that’s bad news. “A smoking ban could see any further recovery in the sales dynamics in the market stall,” Owen Bennett, equity analyst at Jefferies International, said in a note. Duterte's government has also proposed increasing taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products, Finance Undersecretary Karl Kenneth Chua said. The tax would build on a landmark tax-hike imposed by the previous government, but Chua did not elaborate on how much additional revenue the government was expected to net. (Additional reporting by Clara Ferreira Marques in Singapore and Martine Geller in London; Editing by Raju Gopalakrishnan) Read the original article on Reuters. Copyright 2016. Follow Reuters on Twitter. 
There is a theory that says the tax laws should be used to do one thing — raise revenue to pay for public services. Taxes should not be used to engineer society, promote social agendas, foster economic development, or help anyone in particular. This theory has merit. Adherence would lead to less cronyism, fewer economic distortions, and less regulation through the tax code. State governments, of course, violate these principles all the time. Who are the perpetrators? Those striving for bad tax policy represent an odd coalition of people who want to run your life, and people who simply want your money. The Georgia House of Representatives approved a constitutional amendment to make strip clubs pay for the state’s fight against child sex trafficking. Under the proposed amendment, all adult entertainment businesses would have to pay $5,000 per year or 1 percent of their revenue, whichever is greater, into a state fund for child victims of human trafficking. Forget for a moment the First Amendment issues involved in deciding what is an adult entertainment business. This proposal illustrates all that is wrong with the way states use the tax laws. There are people in Georgia who get all riled up (and not in the good way) over the thought of strip clubs. The thought of naked ladies dancing offends some to the core. They are happy to impose a tax on such venues simply because they find them offensive. There is another group of people who think child sex trafficking is horrible and that the government should do something about it. To police such horrible crimes, the government needs money. That is where those who want to abolish exotic dancing come in. Place a tax on strip clubs to pay for the public effort to curb child sex trafficking. A more mind-numbingly dumb idea is hard to imagine. First, what is the connection between strip clubs and child sex trafficking? None. I am aware of no studies or evidence that suggest strip club patrons engage in child sex trafficking. Second, if combating child sex trafficking is a good thing, why not appropriate general funds and pay for it with broad-based taxes on income and sales? A recent Washington Post Wonkblog article alleged that the relatively low taxes on alcohol are killing Americans. I have rarely read such an irresponsible piece. Its premise is that alcohol consumption is bad because it leads to drunk driving and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. It is an unprincipled call for higher taxes. Politicians who live for the sake of telling others how to live are eyeing booze. They are running out of places to keep people from smoking. It is too early to place restrictions on pot. But there are a lot of folks who would like to tax alcohol more heavily to raise revenue for things like teacher pay and road construction. The abolitionists and those who live off government largesse have much in common. Then, inexplicably, the Tax Policy Center (TPC) published a blog post that essentially calls for higher sugar taxes. The TPC is usually really good on the tax policy stuff, but calling for an excise tax on sugar reflects a political agenda more than it does sound tax policy. The call for taxes on sugar and fat and soda emanates from the belief of some people that they have an inherent right to tell you what to eat. Maybe it’s because they hate fat people (most proponents are
model thin). Maybe it’s because they hate poor people (all the taxes they propose are regressive). I think it’s just because they like telling people what to do. Says the TPC: “Maybe a sin tax is just the thing shoppers need to help them live a life on the light and healthful” side. I am glad the TPC knows what we “need.” I guess us simple folks just ain’t smart enough to figure it out. Of course, politicians who are always on the hunt for more money often applaud attempts to tax narrow consumption. They can use the money to help friends, family, and campaign contributors. Here is the TPC again, on a soda tax proposal in Vermont: Now consider this. Vermont’s proposed soda tax is projected to raise $35 million. Did I mention that Vermont needs to close an expected budget shortfall? I’m sure Vermont lawmakers are concerned about the health of their constituents and their shopping choices, but they’re concerned about Vermont’s fiscal health, too. Finally on this topic, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) submitted her budget recently. Her goal is to combat homelessness in the nation’s capital. Even a libertarian like me thinks that is a laudable goal. She wants to pay for it in part by taxing e-cigarettes like real cigarettes. She also wants to raise the sales tax. We can discuss the irony of using the most regressive taxes to help the poorest people at a later date. E-cigarette taxation best illustrates the confluence of arrogance and avarice. Those who cannot keep themselves from playing nanny have already begun to bar e-cigarettes from public places (to prevent the dreaded secondhand water vapor). And of course we have the obligatory restrictions on their use by kids. But the tobacco abolitionists would like to tax e-cigarettes with the knowledge that if you tax something, you get less of it. Don’t be fooled. These people do not care about your health. They care about lording over you. But there are others (like Bowser) who cast a covetous eye on electronic smokes. Two factors drive that thinking. If people smoke real cigarettes less, the states will lose tens of millions of dollars. E-cigarettes need to be taxed to replace that revenue (because it really isn’t about your health). Since a lot of tobacco tax revenue is earmarked for schools, taxing e-cigarettes is all about the kids. Raising real taxes to pay for public services is hard. Teaming up with the prohibitionists is much easier. This post is part of a longer article that first appeared in State Tax Notes."

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Ecig – MPM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 666444

Article Title: Leonardo DiCaprio puffs on electronic cigarette at Coachella Music Festival | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 4/16/2016

Article Content: Leonardo DiCaprio was recently linked to 19-year-old lingerie model Chelsey Weimar. The 41-year-old actor appeared to prefer the low-key company of his friends as he hit up Coachella Music Festival near Palm Springs, California late on Friday night. Leonardo was spotted puffing on an electronic cigarette as he scoped out the scene from beneath a low-brimmed baseball cap. Low-key VIP: Leonardo DiCaprio smoked on his fave electronic cigarette as he scoped out the crowd at Coachella Music Festival late Friday night if he had not been the Oscar-nominated, Golden Globe-winning star of The Revenant, he might have been another face in the crowd. Leonardo was also wearing
a blue short-sleeved T-shirt and faded blue jeans with slip-on black trainers. A black bandana hung around Leonardo's neck that was trendy and practical as this year it's very windy at the festival. Face in the crowd: The 41-year-old actor wore a low-brimmed baseball cap, blue T-shirt, jeans and loafers along with this year's newest Coachella trend - a bandana. Windy festival: Leonardo was seen walking with his head ducked low as it's been very windy and dusty at the music festival in Indio, CA this year. Lots of concert-goers are wearing bandanas this year to cover their faces from the dusty winds and flying dirt sweeping the desert grounds. Leonardo had a green wristband on that signalled his status among the celebrity elite and entry to the super cool parties going on that night. The What's Eating Gilbert Grape star has long been a fan of the festival and a VIP at some of the best backstage parties. He's also a fan of those battery-operated e-cigarettes. What, no date? The Hollywood hunk appeared to be without a girl on his arm. Leonardo has been spotted lighting up at some of the industry's most glamorous events including this year's Screen Actors Guild Awards, which the Lung Association called 'deeply troubling,' according to TMZ. While Leonardo has yet to kick his nicotine habit, he appeared to be dateless while roaming the grounds at Coachella with his party pals. The actor was last rumoured to be romancing Dutch beauty Chelsey Weimar, a Victoria's Secret Pink model, as Page Six reported. Latest squeeze? Leonardo was said to be seeing 19-year-old Victoria's Secret Pink model Chelsey Weimar. The two were seen leaving the posh Malibu eatery Nobu together in late March. Chelsey, who has posted pictures to her Instagram page supposedly taken inside his Los Angeles home, is the latest in a long line of models Leonardo has dated. Meanwhile, Leonardo has been devoting time to his passion of conserving the environment. Other things on his mind: The actor - pictured in Tokyo for a press conference on The Revenent on March 23 - has thrown himself into preserving the environment. In October, it was announced that Leo and the CEO of Formula E Holdings Alejandro Agag will begin working together. DiCaprio will oversee the organization's newly-created Formula E Sustainability Committee. The committee will focus on such environmental issues as the long-term imprint Formula E has on the cities in which it races. Gnarly: In The Revenent, Leonardo played mountain man Hugh Glass who was attacked by a bear and left to die alone in the wilderness.

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 737194

Article Title: Vaping health risk warning 'alarmist nonsense' - BBC News"
1957 to help pregnant women combat morning sickness. But it was withdrawn from the UK in 1961, with 468 people classified as having been damaged by it and an estimated 20,000 babies worldwide born with deformities. Dr Banfield said expectant mothers in the US did not use it as there were safety concerns and with 2.8 million people using e-cigarettes in the UK, he feels the same caution should now be exercised. Dr Banfield told BBC Radio Wales' Eye on Wales programme: “I’m a bit loath to make a direct comparison but the most obvious one, because I’m in my fifties, is with Thalidomide. “The reason why America did not get an issue with Thalidomide was because the person in charge of reviewing the drug there had safety concerns.” He said there were lots of drugs and treatments, such as morphine, that are used to combat issues in a supervised environment that we “don’t take on to the streets”.

Using e-cigarettes to help you quit is very different to swapping them to use them as a social habit in the long-term,” he added. But Tom Pruen, of the Electronic cigarette Industry Trade Association, dismissed the comments as “alarmist nonsense”. He said: “I think it's an entirely fallacious argument.” Thalidomide was a drug that was intended for use in pregnancy that had never been investigated for its effects on developing foetuses which is a little different from saying 'here is a product that while not risk free, is definitely safer than continuing to smoke'. “Caution! He said he believes Dr Banfield chose Thalidomide to “elicit an emotional response that’s quite simply not justified by the evidence”. While some organisations such as the Royal College of Physicians and Public Health England have endorsed the benefits of using e-cigarettes to quit smoking, others including the World Health Organisation and the BMA have taken a more cautious approach. BMA Wales said Dr Banfield's comments “were not intended to make a direct comparison to e-cigarettes”, stressing it was his “personal view”. A spokesman said: “The BMA’s position is clear; we recognise the potential for e-cigarettes to reduce the harm associated with tobacco use, but while evidence on the long-term effects of e-cigarettes is still emerging we continue to advocate a cautionary approach to normalising e-cigarette use in front of children and young adults.”

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“ecig_SOURCE_add” - “ecigmpm_SOURCE_add”).

Addiction – Ecig – PM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.79

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 803514

Article Title: The Latest: Senate confirms Gottlieb as FDA commissioner

Date: 5/9/2017

Article Content: DATELINE: WASHINGTON WASHINGTON (AP) - The Latest on confirmation of Dr. Scott Gottlieb as FDA commissioner (all times local): 5:20 p.m. The Senate has confirmed Dr. Scott Gottlieb as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. The vote was 57-42 on Tuesday. Gottlieb is a
physician-turned-health consultant who has criticized many FDA regulations as unnecessary and has faced criticism from Democrats over his financial entanglements. Democratic senators point to the hundreds of thousands of dollars in consulting or other fees that Gottlieb received from several FDA-regulated companies. He said he would recuse himself for a year from some decisions and resign from several positions. The FDA regulates products that affect about a quarter of all consumer spending - everything from new drugs and medical devices to food safety, tobacco and e-cigarettes. Gottlieb has said opioid addiction is the biggest crisis facing the agency and the issue will "require dramatic action."

Source Title: AP

Addiction – Ecig – PM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.61

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 396388

Article Title: More than 100 new state laws take effect in Wyoming

Date: 7/1/2015

Article Content: CHEYENNE, Wyo. CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - More than 100 new state laws took effect Wednesday in Wyoming that change speeding fines in 80 mph zones, make roads safer for bicyclists, and authorize the governor to start negotiations on the state taking over regulation of uranium mining. In the past, speeding on a stretch of state highway with an 80 mph limit carried a steeper fine than getting caught on a highway with a 75 mph limit. Now, in both cases, traveling 1 to 5 mph over the limit results in a fine of $5 for every mile per hour over the limit, with a maximum fine of $25. It increases to a $35 minimum fine, plus court costs, for going 6 mph or more above the limit. Another new law allows Gov. Matt Mead to start negotiating with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the state assuming regulation of uranium mining. The legislation could speed the process and help industry, said State Rep. David Miller, R-Riverton. State officials and industry representatives said they anticipate it will take four to six years for Wyoming to establish a program and receive NRC approval. In addition, drivers of cars and trucks must provide at least three feet of separation between their vehicle, including mirrors and other projections, when passing a bicyclist if space allows and if the bicyclist is riding lawfully. Under other new laws: - Tow companies will have to justify their fees if a nonconsensual tow is disputed. Nonconsensual tows occur when a vehicle is abandoned or must be taken off a highway following a wreck, drunken-driving arrest or any other situation in which a motorist is not present or is unable to call a towing company. - The amount of wine that can be shipped to Wyoming residents has been increased to 36 liters a year from the previous 18 liters. - Sexual assault victims can now obtain a protection order for the first time. Previously, only domestic violence and stalking victims could secure the court orders. - To prevent minors from using electronic cigarettes and other vaping products, retailers now face a misdemeanor penalty if they sell liquid-nicotine containers that are not in child-resistant packaging. - Motorcycles, trailers and antique vehicles no longer need front license plates. - Seizure patients can use oil from the cannabis plant, although the Wyoming Department of Health is still establishing rules and administrative procedures.

Source Title: AP
SHOW: TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST The calendar still says fall for another thirteen days but that is not stopping old man winter from simply barging right on in.

Date: 12/8/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: The first major blast of super frosty air this season has crossed the border from Canada, revealing a sudden new reality this morning. Winter`s come knocking early and it`s packing a punch especially in North Dakota, already over a foot of snow. And still a mountain of problems. RON MOTT: Hey, Tamron. Good morning to you. The calendar still says fall for another thirteen days but that is not stopping old man winter from simply barging right on in. (Begin VT) RON MOTT: The first major blast of super frosty air this season has crossed the border from Canada, revealing a sudden new reality this morning. Winter`s come knocking early and it`s packing a punch especially in North Dakota, already over a foot of snow. And still a mountain of problems. MAN #1: Some of the main through-fairs we`ve got cars stuck on them. So we`re trying to get that cleared off too. RON MOTT: In Denver, near whiteout conditions slowing travel to a trickle. In Kansas City, slick roads and sidewalks made for uneasy commutes. And in the Pacific Northwest, ice in Oregon sending a pickup into a building in Portland, no one hurt. MAN #2: It spun out and hit ice and just turned one eighty. RON MOTT: Elsewhere, bitter cold and even more snow in the forecast especially in the Northern Great Lakes region from Cleveland into Upstate New York. Here in Chicago, single-digit wind chills overnight out of nowhere. MAN #3: Another like-- it`s like another level of cold. WOMAN: No, was not prepared to go Christmas shopping in the weather like this. (End VT) RON MOTT: Now as cold as it is today, even more chilling news in the forecast for mid next week. Here in Chicago next Wednesday and Thursday, the high temperature expected six and seven degrees with the low temperatures well below zero. Tamron, Matt, back to you. TAMRON HALL: Ron, you had us clutching ourselves with that temperature, thank you very much. MATT LAUER: How long is this going to last? TAMRON HALL: Hello, buddy. AL ROKER: Well, you know, we`re getting into winter. This is what we do. MATT LAUER: So you`re saying until April. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. AL ROKER: Well, yeah, I mean-- I believe-- look, July 4th-- MATT LAUER: You promise. AL ROKER: --it`s going to be spectacular. But in the meantime, look at these temperatures. The difference in the last twenty-four hours. We had an eleven-degree temperature drop in Oklahoma City. Albuquerque, fifteen. Seventeen drop in Denver where right now the air temperature is minus two and we`ve got more coming. Now there`s no wind blowing right now in Casper, so the wind chill is the same as the air temperature, same in Denver. But Omaha, it feels like seven below. Seven in Chicago. St. Louis, ten, even as far south as Little Rock, it`s twenty-seven degrees right now. And here comes the cold air. And what looks like in the next twenty-four hours we`re really going to see the bulk of the cold air. Minneapolis, you`re going to bottom out at seventeen on Friday. Today, Kansas City, Friday, Chicago, you`ll only be at twenty-three. And we make our way toward the end of the week and into the Northeast, Chica-- Boston, thirty degrees. Forty in New York. Forty-one in DC. Charleston, thirty-two. But look even as we get down to the South, you can see those temperatures still awfully chilly. Lake-effect snow is going to be firing up, up to a foot through today, but we`re not done yet. It`s going to continue through the day tomorrow. Before it`s all over, we`re talking snowfall amounts one to two feet the
Leeward side of Lake Superior. One to two feet, Lake Erie. Lake Ontario could be the big one where we see over three feet of snow in some spots. Sixteen million people in the Pacific Northwest under some sort winter weather advisory. Portland schools are closed today. Seattle schools, there are some closings and some delays. They could pick up anywhere from four to eight inches of snow. The mountains up to a foot and a half. And as Ron Mott kind of mentioned, we’ve got Siberian express coming middle of next week. MATT LAUER: Dogs and cats living together. AL ROKER: Mass hysteria. Then I haven’t told you about Twinkie yet. MATT LAUER: Yeah, great. TAMRON HALL: Oh, boy. MATT LAUER: All right. Thanks, Al. You ever see him so excited? TAMRON HALL: Never. And we’re in pain. Thank you very much, sir. Well, now to Columbia, South Carolina, where officials are searching for an escaped inmate suspected of attacking a police officer. The officer was stabbed multiple times after she responded to a shoplifting call at a Walmart last night. Officials are looking for Michael Williamson who was caught on surveillance camera before the stabbing. He had escaped earlier in the day from a prison about eighty miles away where he’d been serving a life term. According to police, the officer is recovering from those injuries. MATT LAUER: We have an update now on those devastating wild fires in Tennessee that killed fourteen people. Two juveniles are now in custody and they’re charged with arson. The suspects haven’t been identified because they are minors. The wild fire started late last month. They destroyed or damaged more than twenty-four hundred buildings in the Gatlinburg area. TAMRON HALL: You’re thinking about buying a car, listen up. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has awarded eighty-two new vehicles the top safety picks for 2017. Toyota and it’s luxury brand Lexus led all automakers with nine of its models making the list. Honda had five. The institute toughened its standards for headlight performance this year and only seven of the vehicles in the top category earned a good rating for headlights. You can find the complete list of this year’s winners actually on our website today.com. MATT LAUER: All right. The stars were out at Madison Square Garden last night right here in New York because LeBron James and the world champion Cavaliers were in town to take on the Knicks. It was a rough one for the hometown fans, a total blowout. You’re probably saying why are we doing a typical sports day, right? Well, the Cavs had a twenty-seven point lead at the end of the third quarter so LeBron and his teammates got so bored in the fourth quarter, they had to find ways to entertain themselves and they did it with the bottle flip challenge. That, of course, became very popular on the internet. Apparently LeBron still to master that skill. That’s one of those things where I’m not sure you want to be doing that during the game. TAMRON HALL: No. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Well, you’re the other team-- MATT LAUER: It’s little showy. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. What are you thinking? AL ROKER: It was-- it was a little showy. MATT LAUER: You were there. AL ROKER: Yeah. It was a little depressing. TAMRON HALL: Did you see that? AL ROKER: Actually-- TAMRON HALL: Oh gosh. AL ROKER: --you know, it was sad. MATT LAUER: Yeah. AL ROKER: You know, they’re thinking, well, when they started knitting-- MATT LAUER: Yeah. At the end effort fourth quarter, they had macromate a hammock. AL ROKER: Exactly. So that was a little rough but Nick-- Nick and I enjoyed it. MATT LAUER: Yeah, it’s cool. AL ROKER: So my little New York Knick we went to see-- TAMRON HALL: Oh, that’s cute. AL ROKER: --the New York Knicks. TAMRON HALL: I like it. MATT LAUER: Very good. Nice. TAMRON HALL: You’re back with a forecast. AL ROKER: Let’s see what we have rest of the country. We are looking that arctic air coming in. Windy conditions down around the Gulf Coast. Breezy conditions, gale-force winds, Northern California, sunny skies here in the Mid-Atlantic States on into the Northeast. We’re going to get to your local forecast, coming up in the next thirty seconds. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) (Weather follows) AL ROKER: And that’s your latest weather. MATT LAUER: All right. Al, thank you very much. Coming up, inside the controversial mistrial of a former South Carolina police officer charged with murder. This morning, the jury foremen
and his attorney will speak out in a live interview. TAMRON HALL: And before Savannah left, she sat down with Facebook’s Sheryl Sandburg. What she’s saying about the criticism over fake news spread online during the election and we’ll get the social network’s year-in review. But first, this is TODAY on NBC. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) MATT LAUER: Coming up, when you should and shouldn’t brag. TAMRON HALL: And Sofia Vergara sued by her embryos? The unusual twist in her ongoing battle with her ex, after your local news. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) MATT LAUER: All right. Seven thirty now on a Thursday morning. It’s the 8th of December 2016. We’ve got a nice crowd outside on a slightly chilly morning not as chilly as it is in other parts of the country. We’re happy about that. And we expect to see an even bigger crowd tomorrow when Pharrell Williams takes over our concert stage outside. If you’re in the area, come on down. That’s going to be fun. TAMRON HALL: Meanwhile inside Studio 1A, here are the stories making headlines. A massive manhunt is underway in Georgia for the man who shot and killed one police officer and wounded another. It happened near the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The suspect identified as thirty-two-year-old Minquell Kennedy Lembrick. Investigators have announced a reward for information leading to his arrest. MATT LAUER: President-elect Trump will be in Iowa tonight for a stop on his post-election victory tour. In the meantime, The New York Times is reporting this morning that Mister Trump is considering handing over his real estate company to his adult sons during his time in office. But they say he intends to keep a stake in the business. TAMRON HALL: And in a new report being released by the U.S. Surgeon General’s office today, e-cigarettes are being called an emerging public health threat to young people. The report says while more studies are needed, too many teens are using them and that could lead to a new generation addicted to nicotine.

Source Title: BTN

Addiction – Ecig – PM – BTN 2

Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 689339

Article Title: SHOW: TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST From the white civil rights activist caught posing as African-American to the dentist who killed a beloved lion."

Date: 1/2/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: In June Rachel Dolezal, a chapter president of the NAACP, was outed as the daughter of a white couple. SHEINELLE JONES: It’s true. From the white civil rights activist caught posing as African-American to the dentist who killed a beloved lion. They became household names in an instant only to disappear from the spotlight. So where are they now? (Begin VT) MAN #1: Are you African-American? RACHEL DOLEZAL: I don’t– I don’t understand the question. SHEINELLE JONES: In June Rachel Dolezal, a chapter president of the NAACP, was outed as the daughter of a white couple. MATT LAUER: Are you an African-American woman? RACHEL DOLEZAL: Identify as black. SHEINELLE JONES: After being widely panned and vilified, she resigned from her job. Since then the website broadly profiled Dolezal. She shared she’s pregnant with a third baby boy on the way. KIM DAVIS: We are not issuing marriage license today. MAN #2: Why? SHEINELLE JONES: In September Kentucky County clerk Kim Davis spent five days in jail after refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. She took the spotlight again when Davis had a secret meeting with Pope Francis. Today, she continues to fight
lawsuits from gay and straight couples. Davis recently told the AP, “If I could be remembered for one thing it’s that I was not afraid to not compromise myself.” MATT LAUER: The desperate search to find and capture two inmates involved in a brazen prison break. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: New questions swirl around Joyce Mitchell and whether she help them hatch their plan. SHEINELLE JONES: The New York Prison seamstress was sentenced to seven years for helping two convicted killers escape from Clinton Correctional Facility. JOYCE MITCHELL: I knew I was in way over my head. SHEINELLE JONES: In November Mitchell was ordered to pay nearly eighty thousand dollars in restitution. She continues to serve out her term. JOYCE MITCHELL: I’m not the monster that everybody thinks I am. WILLIE GEIST: The death of Cecil the Lion has ignited controversy around the world. The doctor behind it now in hiding. SHEINELLE JONES: Walter Palmer, the fifty-five-year-old American dentist, faced death threats and public protest for killing a beloved lion in Zimbabwe. Palmer never faced any charges because he had the proper hunting papers, but said, quote, “If I had known this lion had a name and was important to the country or study, obviously, I wouldn’t have taken it.” AHMED MOHAMED: I brought something to school that wasn’t a threat to anyone. SHEINELLE JONES: In September fourteen-year-old Ahmed Mohamed was arrested after bringing a homemade clock to his Texas school that authorities mistook for a bomb sparking accusations of racism. In the aftermath, Ahmed received a flood of support. Since then, Ahmed’s family has moved to Qatar where Ahmed was awarded a full scholarship for high school and college. (End VT) SHEINELLE JONES: A happy ending there for Ahmed. But for the others, a very tough fifteen minutes of fame. ERICA HILL: It was. All right. Sheinelle, thanks. CRAIG MELVIN: When we come back, wouldn’t it be great if you could just wave a wand and get rid of certain annoying words or overused phrases from the English language? Not when come back. We’re going to do it right now. ERICA HILL: We’re going to do right now? CRAIG MELVIN: Yeah. ERICA HILL: I think we should. A group of faculty at Lake Superior State University in Michigan is doing just that. And Dylan has more for us from the Orange Room. DYLAN DREYER: Hey, guys. Yeah. The professors at this college are, yet, again saying enough is enough. The school released its forty-first annual list of words or phrases to banish in the new year. The college accepts thousands of submissions but only a few winners. I guess they’d be losers at this point. But let’s take a look at some of the words. The first one, Craig, you know about this one, manspreading. CRAIG MELVIN: I do like to manspread. I do. ERICA HILL: TMI, Craig Melvin, TMI. DYLAN DREYER: This word is TMI. This word is especially familiar to those of us who live in bigger cities. It’s the habit when men take up more space on public transportation than they need. They spread their legs encroaching on the other seats. The consensus is the term is stupid and men don’t need another disgusting word to justify the habit. Harsh words for manspreading. Clearly, they don’t like it. Another casualty, vape and vaping. It’s the act of smoking e-cigarettes. The university says it’s a strange word and it should just go up in smoke. I agree. Never used it. Guys, a lot of people in our business are probably guilty of these words, overused conversation. Think join the conversation but we all know that just ends up getting people screaming at each other. It’s never just a nice calm conversation. Break the internet is another one. This word is used when a post or video gets massive amounts of traffic. Well, this phrase is annoying a lot of you out there so we’re just not going to say that one anymore. And secret sauce. I’ve actually never heard of this one. Usually, it’s used in a sentence explaining the secret in excruciating public detail or the phrase is becoming too frequent in business discussions. There was also another one on there so I realize that’s kind of my crutch word. So, so. SHEINELLE JONES: So. CRAIG MELVIN: Yeah. So. DYLAN DREYER: I always say so. So, guys, what do you think? CRAIG MELVIN: What’s your crutch word? Like? Like is a crutch word. ERICA HILL: I don’t know, maybe like. SHEINELLE JONES: It used to be well but I got rid of. I say well. ERICA HILL: Yeah. SHEINELLE JONES: Yeah. ERICA HILL: Mine is-
- I’ll have to think about it. CRAIG MELVIN: We could add to that list exponentially. There are a lot of words we could ban. ERICA HILL: We could all make a list. SHEINELLE JONES: I’ve never heard of manspreading. I’ve never heard a lot of those. ERICA HILL: We can all make some lists in the break. CRAIG MELVIN: We probably shouldn’t. ERICA HILL: Still to come on TODAY, a look at the week’s biggest story and some smaller ones you may have missed from Donald Trump attacking Bill Clinton to NFL star Peyton Manning hiring a former White House staffer and the commander-turned comedian-in-chief taking a spin with Seinfeld. But, first, these messages. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) JERRY SEINFELD: I like the hand hanging over the wheel. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: Yeah, yeah. JERRY SEINFELD: That’s-- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: I mean, that’s-- JERRY SEINFELD: You go the-- yeah. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: If you’re driving a ‘Vette, you got to be doing that way. You can’t be doing the-- JERRY SEINFELD: Yeah. No, no, no. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: --12 and 2 thing. That’s not cool. Come on, man. I’m appreciably cooler than I was two minutes ago. JERRY SEINFELD: Yeah. CRAIG MELVIN: President Obama showing his comedic chops there taking the wheel of a classic Corvette with Jerry Seinfeld in his online series Comedians In Cars Getting Coffee. We will have more of that hilarious interview in just a moment. We’re back on this first Saturday morning of 2016. It is January second. And look at the brave and bundled up out there on the plaza. A special crowd this morning. We will get out there in just a bit. We’re going to help them ring in the-- the brand New Year. That’s probably also the first time the president’s been behind the wheel driving a car in some time, too. SHEINELLE JONES: Probably-- ERICA HILL: In a long time. CRAIG MELVIN: Yeah. SHEINELLE JONES: That and another Jerry Seinfeld had on sneakers. I’m thinking, man, I cannot imagine going into the White House with my grandparents seeing me wearing sneakers. CRAIG MELVIN: Jerry can do it. SHEINELLE JONES: He can do that. ERICA HILL: He can get away with it. CRAIG MELVIN: We’ll get to-- get to all those stories in just a moment. Here’s a quick look at what’s making headlines on this Saturday. Homes in rural Southern Missouri and Illinois are being threatened by swollen rivers as levees crumbling, water levels keep rising there. Two more levees failed Friday. Several people remain missing as a result of the deadly floods. ERICA HILL: Tributes are pouring in from around the world for legendary singer Natalie Cole who died Thursday at age sixty-five. The Grammy-winning daughter of Nat King Cole gained worldwide acclaim in 1991 rerecording his classic hits. CRAIG MELVIN: And blowouts were the headline at Friday’s bowl game. Stanford running back Christian McCaffrey stole the show at the Rose Bowl with a record-setting yardage lifting the Cardinals over the Iowa Hawkeyes 45 to 16. ERICA HILL: We begin this half hour with a check of your weather. Dylan is outside with some of those hardy folks on the plaza because now it’s starting to feel like winter, Dylan. DYLAN DREYER: It certainly is. January is here and of a sudden it’s cold outside. I want to say hello to someone who may or may not be watching right now but it is recording, right? You want to say hi to your dad? GIRL: Hi, daddy. DYLAN DREYER: And where is he right now? GIRL: He’s in Africa. DYLAN DREYER: On the USS Gravely, right? GIRL: Hm-Mm. DYLAN DREYER: Well, thank you so much for your service. Thank you, guys, for being here. Let’s take a look at the weather going on across the country where it is going to be a little bit colder, cold enough to produce that lake-effect snow off Lake Erie, Lake Ontario. We will see most of our high accumulations up near Watertown where those bands set up. That’s an area we could end up with about six to eight inches with some isolated higher amounts along the shores. At Lake Erie we could end up with about two to four inches. It’s not a big event but still the snow is falling. And it is going to be very chilly across the Northeast down through the Mid-Atlantic where temperatures will actually sink down into the thirties in Charleston by Monday, thirty-five for a high. Even in New York City, Monday, a high of only thirty-one degrees. We haven’t been below freezing yet in New York City so that’s going to feel a little bit different. We’ve got rain today
down through Southern Texas and Northern Florida. But the rest of the country, besides that lake-effect snow, enjoying a nice big area of high pressure. It’s chilly but it is going to be sunny so that will make it feel a little better. That’s a look at the weather across the country. Now here’s a peek out your window. (Weather follows) DYLAN DREYER: And that’s your latest forecast. Guys. CRAIG MELVIN: All right. Dylan, thank you. Now to The Download, our time to wrap up the week’s biggest stories."

Source Title: BTN

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 401412

Article Title: January frost"

Date: 7/14/2015

Article Content: January Jones (above) was a party pooper at a Playboy and “Self/less” party at Comic-Con. The “Mad Men” actress showed up to the Parq Restaurant & Nightclub with friends and “appeared absolutely miserable,” a spy said. “She was in a really foul mood and sat by herself, chain-smoking an e-cigarette while her friends danced. She was completely disinterested, and no one knew why she was there” among guests Oscar Isaac, Michael B. Jordan, Kendra Wilkinson and Hannibal Buress."

Source Title: News

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.99

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 22487

Article Title: News quiz; Test your knowledge of current events from the week of May 18

Date: 5/25/2014

Article Content: 1. A charge on U.S. consumers’ electricity bills for what future energy project disappeared this week after the Energy Department elected to suspend the fees? A. Cold fusion B. Wind turbines C. Hydroelectric plant D. Nuclear waste dump 2. The makers of what popular game are marketing an early childhood curriculum intended to make learning more fun? A. Angry Birds B. Candy Crush C. Mario Kart D. Fruit Ninja 3. An explosion at an election rally in Cairo, Egypt, injured four people. For which candidate was the rally held? A. Hamdeen Sabahi B. Adly Mansour C. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi D. Sufi Abu Taleb 4. Flooding in Serbia has claimed the lives of at least 37. What river’s rising has prompted evacuations, displacing thousands of people from their homes? A. Sava B. Orlja C. Zupeljeva D. Kresevka 5. What celebrity, who has played the role of a politician, caused a stir online after taking a selfie with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and then posting it on Twitter? A. Edward James Olmos B. Demian Bichir C. Kevin Spacey D. Val Kilmer 6. A pair of bombings at a bus station and market in what Nigerian city claimed the lives of at least 118 people? A. Jos B. Abuja C. Kano D. Zaria 7. A five-year study shows that switching to what might help smokers quit the habit? A. Coffee B. E-cigarette C. Nicotine
gum. Nicotine patch. A U.S. document known as the "drone memo," laying out the legal basis for using drones to kill who, will be released by the Justice Department? A. Terrorists B. American terrorists abroad C. Fugitives D. Drug smugglers. Police in Iran arrested 13 young men and women linked to a YouTube video in which they danced to a popular American song. Police called the video "obnoxious." To what song were they dancing? A. Happy B. Piano Man C. Roar D. Lights. What is the name of the Northern California obstacle course that includes challenges such as crawling through mud, swinging across monkey bars and passing under a curtain of live-wire tentacles? A. Ultimate B. Tough Mudder C. Spartan D. Mudathlon. Answers: 1. (D); 2. (A); 3. (C); 4. (A); 5. (C); 6. (A); 7. (B); 8. (B); 9. (A); 10. (B).

Source Title: News

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 773103

Article Title: Good science on marijuana is so hard to find - The Washington Post"

Date: 3/15/2017

Article Content: A worker tends to cannabis plants at a medical marijuana plantation near the northern Israeli city of Safed. (Reuters/Baz Ratner) The relationship of marijuana use to public health is one of the most confounding topics in science. As soon as one study is published making a claim about the safety of the drug, another is often published warning of the exact opposite. Take, for instance, the link between marijuana use and cardiovascular disease. Last week, a study was released detailing a review of outpatient hospital data, including more than 20 million health records and 316,000 people who reported using marijuana. The study found that using the drug was associated with 26 percent increased risk of stroke and a 10 percent increased risk of developing heart failure — independent of other health factors such as tobacco use, hypertension, diabetes and obesity. While the study hasn’t yet been peer reviewed (it will be presented this weekend at the American College of Cardiology’s annual meeting), it’s attractive given the massive amount of data. [The great mystery of e-cigarettes] The problem is that its conclusion directly contradicts a number of other large, recent studies looking at the same question. One longitudinal study published last month looking at more than 5,000 subjects over a period of more than two decades found no association between marijuana use and cardiovascular disease. Another longitudinal study from Sweden published last month reviewing more than 50,000 men found similar results. These are by no means the only studies on this topic. You can spend a whole day reading through the literature on this question and still not find a clear answer. The root of the problem comes from considering all of the limitations on studying marijuana. Because it is considered a Schedule 1 drug by the federal government — meaning it is considered to have no medical benefits — conducting a randomized controlled trial (the gold standard in scientific experiments) on marijuana use is essentially impossible. Instead, scientists must rely heavily on self-reporting from patients, making it extremely difficult to know how much, how often or through what means subjects use marijuana — let alone what type of chemicals they’re ingesting alongside the drug. Meanwhile, without collecting massive amounts of data from marijuana users, conclusions about those with cardiovascular issues are going to be based on small numbers of people. “There’s not great infrastructure in place for us to study cannabis well.”
said Aditi Kalla, lead author of the study released last week and a researcher from the Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. She notes that with more and more states legalizing marijuana, it’s becoming more acceptable to use the drug and for patients to discuss personal use with researchers. But marijuana remains a highly controversial and politicized topic. Regardless of the outcome of any marijuana study, scientists who tackle the issue do so knowing they will probably receive criticism. “This is not meant to be an anti-cannabis study,” Kalla said of her work. “We know we have limitations. We want to guide future research.” [The Trump administration’s nonsensical stance on marijuana] There are plenty of health implications from marijuana that research has substantiated fairly well, as evidenced by an extensive review of more than 10,000 marijuana studies by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine published earlier this year. We know from this research that the drug works to treat chronic pain, multiple sclerosis spasticity and nausea and pain in cancer patients. But we’re also pretty sure that marijuana use is linked to the development of schizophrenia and an increase in traffic accidents. So it’s clear from the science so far that use of the drug has both pluses and minuses. But there are still many questions about marijuana that need to be answered — especially on cardiovascular disease. It would be wrong to justify not legalizing marijuana simply because of public-health issues. There are reams of evidence linking alcohol to terrible health outcomes with no net benefits — and yet few people seem ready to go back to banning booze. Still, given that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, marijuana’s debatable link to cardiovascular issues should be a top health policy concern for everyone — supporters and opponents of marijuana alike. This is about making consumers aware of the risks of their choices. The more we know, the better. Expressing his views on drug policy, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said marijuana legalization wouldn’t be “good for us.” He also doubted reports of marijuana’s effectiveness fighting opioid addiction, adding “we need to crack down more on heroin.” (Reuters) Read more: The great mystery of e-cigarettes The Trump administration’s nonsensical stance on marijuana Don’t let Big Marijuana prioritize profits over public safety Marijuana is the bomb The opioid epidemic could turn into a pandemic if we’re not careful

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 689203

Article Title: Marijuana millionaires cashing in on cannabis legalisation | Society | The Guardian

Date: 5/22/2016

Article Content: Jeremy Moberg peers into a microscope at a leaf in a Petri dish. “Thrips”, he declares to a man wearing a facemask and surgical gloves. “We’ll get rid of those with neem oil.” Moberg spotted the pest while cloning in his greenhouse. He’s not your run-of-the-mill biologist or horticulturalist. The 41-year-old owns a marijuana farm with a multi-million dollar turnover in Washington state, USA, where the drug was legalised for recreational use in 2012. His expertise comes from two decades of growing illegally, deep in the woods, dodging the helicopter raids of drug-enforcement officers. The smell of marijuana hangs heavy and pungent in the processing centre, where half a dozen people are clipping flower buds. “You’re trimming too closely,” he calls to one man working on his cheapest product as he
walks to the boardroom. “Leave it shaggier and go faster.” Life is good for Moberg. He’s generated more than $3m in the 20 months since he started the business. However, he says a glut on the market has depressed prices this year, taxes are high and profits are invested back into the farm, so his personal pay cheque is modest. Still, he owns a couple of houses and enjoys eating out, skiing and fishing. It felt so good when the vote passed to legalise. We drank and sat in the hot tub As Moberg says, he is a “product of circumstance, the right person at the right time”. Four years ago he was on his uppers. He had taken a job as a fisheries ecologist, using his environmental science degree, and stopped growing weed to “go straight” while involved in a custody battle for his daughter, now 10. Then he was laid off and his life unravelled. With no crop in production, he sold wood to make ends meet, borrowed money from his mother and relied on friends for food. He nearly lost his house and had a difficult break-up with a girlfriend, which led to him being arrested for taking his rucksack out of her car. He was arrested again for stealing a Sim card tray from a shop so he could use his mobile for a job interview. Both charges were later dismissed. That’s important because people with marijuana convictions are often barred from working in the industry. This has meant Black Americans, who were disproportionately targeted in the “war on drugs”, are thought to be missing out on the opportunities created by legalisation. Now Moberg runs a legitimate business, producing and processing 900kg of marijuana a year that he sells to pot shops springing up across the state. And it’s about to become a family affair. His mother, a retired teacher, and his brother, a lawyer, are going into production, too, each having taken leases on farms neighbouring Moberg’s. “It felt so good when the vote passed to legalise,” Moberg says. “We drank and sat in the hot tub in the snow. We totally partied. The next morning my pipe, my beer, my weed were still there. I remembered saying: ‘This is going to be huge.’” Joint account: Jeremy Moberg’s farm in Okanogan County, Washington. Photograph: Patrick Kehoe for the Observer I first met Moberg in a coffee shop in Seattle – a four-hour drive west from his farm – on his way to deliver tens of thousands of dollars’ worth of stock. He was rangy from a food-is-fuel attitude and a hectic schedule, and his face was weathered from a life outdoors. He talked rapidly. It was no surprise that he smoked marijuana to help him sleep at night, although the double-shot espressos probably don’t help. Establishing his business hasn’t been straightforward. Moberg grows outdoors; the conditions in Okanogan are perfect – hot summers with low humidity. At first it was proposed licences be granted to indoor growers only, largely because of security concerns over open fields of marijuana. Moberg, who spent most of his life terrified of being raided by police or robbed, now had to step forward and argue his case in public. He and fellow growers formed the Washington Sungrowers Industry Association (WSIA), lobbying politicians in Olympia, the state capital, and giving a presentation to the liquor control board. Moberg’s mother told only close friends about the farm. ‘There’s prejudice – even in my quilting group’ Indoor production leaves a large carbon footprint, he told me, because of the electricity needed for intense lighting and air regulation. Sun-grown marijuana – as he calls outdoor weed – was more environmentally friendly, he argued, even in Washington, which uses mainly hydropower, considered greener than other energy sources. “Indoor growers use lots of nitrates and phosphates and there’s mercury in the lightbulbs.” He used only vinegar, natural plant-derived oils and potassium bicarbonate. “It was prohibition that led to growing indoors in the first place – to hide it,” he added. This led to a more potent product because it was bombarded with light and fertilisers. “People got used to the look and strength of it. There’s a perception that outdoor is crappy because for a long time it was grown illegally in difficult conditions. But I can manipulate the plant by depping [using tarpaulins to deprive plants of light and trick them into flowering] and can produce marijuana that is as good quality.” WSIA’s campaign was successful and licences were granted for outdoor cultivation of up to 30,000sqft. Moberg, now one of more than 600
growers in the state, told me there are strict rules around security and to avoid environmental damage like that caused by illegal outdoor farming in California, where there are cases of water being diverted from salmon-spawning creeks, deforestation and soil erosion. Pot luck: a worker in Moberg’s cannabis farm. Moberg legally sells 900kg of marijuana a year, generating more than $3m in the past 20 months.

Photograph: Patrick Kehoe for the Observer I joined Moberg as he delivered an order to Uncle Ike’s Pot Shop in Seattle. Moberg chatted to the owner, Ian Eisenberg, who said he was now testing the pot he sold for pesticides. Two Washington growers had been fined for using illegal pesticides and regulators in Colorado had recalled several batches over similar concerns. He pointed towards the lunchtime queue of office workers, hipsters and a couple of middle-aged women in yoga pants. A security guard checked ID at the door – you have to be over 21 to buy and use marijuana – and half a dozen “budtenders” stood in front of shelves filled with bottles of marijuana flowers with names like Girl Scout Cookies, Aliens on Moonshine and Double Lemon Cheesecake, as well as vape pens, pre-rolled joints, oils and waxes, and edibles – cookies, chocolates and brownies. Eisenberg said: “People care about how their chicken is raised, whether it’s in a cage or not, but until now no one cared how their pot was grown. The older crowd is going for non-pesticide now.” The older crowd is going for non-pesticide now.

The roads to Moberg’s CannaSol Farms in Okanogan County, north-central Washington, stretch long and empty, flanked by apple and pear orchards, and fields of alfalfa. There’s no sign marking the anonymous buildings on the one-acre site surrounded by 8ft fences topped with barbed wire and security cameras. Moberg has been teaching his mother MaryAnn Bennett, 68, how to clone marijuana from a mother plant, so the same strain can be grown repeatedly. She’s giggling at how the nickname for a greenhouse of marijuana plants is the Mother Room. “You’re getting the hang of it, Mom, just like you did with your roses,” jokes Moberg. With her long wool skirt, glasses and bobbed hair, she certainly looks more retired elementary school teacher than cannabis farmer. She’s a new convert to the drug. Moberg showed her how to infuse it into sugar and she sprinkles half a teaspoon in her tea every evening to help her sleep. She intends to grow medicinal marijuana, which is legal in 23 states. Recreational use is legal in Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Colorado as well as Washington DC. “This is a new venture for me,” she says. “I have senior friends who have really benefitted. One has a serious case of lupus and her joints hurt real badly, and this has really helped her.” However, Bennett, a churchgoer, adds: “I don’t really talk about it with my friends, just my very close ones. There’s still prejudices and bias, in the churches especially. Even in my quilting group – they’re older than me, I’m young, some are in their 80s – there’s a prejudice. I always thought it was less harmful than alcohol. It’s beneficial in certain circumstances. Everyone can use something to excess.” She says she knew nothing of Moberg’s years of guerrilla growing until she heard him speak at a symposium after he’d been granted a licence. “It was a bit of a shock,” she admits. ‘A lot of friends got busted. I used to hide my plants in the woods’: Moberg on his farm. Photograph: Patrick Kehoe for the Observer Moberg was the “hippy kid” growing up in Moses Lake, Washington. His father, since separated from his mother, was a lawyer. When Moberg was in his early teens he became a socialist, experimenting with dope and starting the school’s first recycling programme. His activism wasn’t always well received, particularly during the first Gulf war. “We had an anti-war group and held a forum… I got hate mail. I was, like, OK I’m not going to school any more.” His parents sent him to a private school 100 miles away in Spokane, where he lived with his older brother and enjoyed his new-found freedom. “Me and my friends used to cruise around for hours looking for green bud. We’d find a little bit of weed for 50 bucks, smoke it and go look for it again. That was what probably first made me think there’s a market here.” He was soon growing marijuana in his wardrobe and selling it at school, which ended with him being expelled and then arrested for possession. “I made
a deal to spend a month in rehab. It was full of alcoholics, cokeheads and meth heads. I was like: ‘I just smoke weed, I don’t know what your problem is.’” This stuff is so strong. Older people get wasted on it. They get sick Back at high school, he began growing in the basement of a house he shared, and then outdoors. “Me and my buddy would ride motorbikes deep into the woods and grow not very good weed. We had no idea. I was producing around 20lb a year. People could make $50,000 to $100,000 a year from that. It was a big risk and a lot of effort, but a good income for my age.” He made enough to put himself through college. “I’d turn up two weeks late for fall quarter and leave two weeks early. I had a crop to tend.” He bought some property in the North Cascades mountains near where CannaSol Farms now is. “I was just hanging out. My pal had next door. I had a beautiful lake. Those were my back-to-the-land years. I wasn’t making a lot of money, but enough.” It doesn’t sound relaxing, however. “I was a hermit. We were very afraid to speak to anyone, even fellow growers. The helicopters came every year and I had a lot of friends who got busted. I hid the plants under trees in the woods. They did find a lot, but they couldn’t prove it was ours unless they caught us with them. “One time, it was so scary, I couldn’t breathe. Even now when I hear the voom, voom, voom of a chopper, wow… I reckon I smoke marijuana to help my PTSD from selling marijuana.” In 2002 he got a “proper” job, monitoring habitat in rivers for an environmental consulting firm. He was laid off in 2011. For some of these years, Moberg lived next to the sheriff of Okanogan County. He still does – growers are not allowed to live on their farms – and they are on friendly terms. “I think he was like, ‘Yeah, we knew the whole time,’” says Moberg, laughing. Sheriff Frank Rogers is weeding the garden of his home in Okanogan. “Don’t mind dead animals, do you?” he yells, striding inside to the living room where half a dozen stag heads and a bobtail cat stare down from the walls. “Yeah, I knew Jeremy when he was counting fish, before he got into the legal dope growing. “I knew he grew illegally, they had dope in the house,” he continues. “I could’ve done something, but the trend was towards legalisation. He had a lot more up at his other place, turns out.” Ready to roll: a CannaSol employee holds a bag of ‘Dutch Treat’ marijuana ready to be shipped to retailers. Photograph: Patrick Kehoe for the Observer There has been a mixed reception to legalisation in this rural, conservative area – 48.6%, including Sheriff Rogers, voted against it in Okanogan. There were fears that usage would increase, particularly among young people, leading to more addiction and mental health issues, crime and traffic accidents. “We do see more people using it,” says Rogers. “Once it was legalised they were like, hey, we used to smoke this when we were kids. This stuff is so strong, though. They’re hallucinating, having anxiety attacks. These people my age, 55, 60, used to smoke a big bag of crap weed, but on this stuff they get wasted like with booze, they get sick. We’ve seen more problems with kids, too, because getting hold of it is easier – they can get it from home, steal a little bit from Dad. It’s here to stay. The worse issue here is the meth and heroin, it’s bad.” My best decisions were made smoking sativa – it’s the thinking man’s weed A paper published in the journal Addiction in January stated that while it was too soon to assess many of the effects of legalisation, there was little evidence that more people were using it. There had been an increase, it said, in the number of motorists suspected of driving under the influence testing positive for cannabis. There had also been a dramatic fall in the number of prosecutions for possession (it is legal to carry up to 28g), although African-Americans continued to be three times more likely than whites to be charged, despite comparable rates of use. Rogers worries about visiting houses where people are smoking marijuana. “It’s hard for cops. I can’t stand and talk to them because I can’t breathe it in. If I then go out and shoot someone, I’ll be automatically tested for drugs and alcohol and it’ll be in my system. We ask to talk to them outside.” Andi Ervin, of the Okanogan County Community Coalition, which works to reduce youth substance abuse, believes regular cannabis use affects the developing teenage brain. She
says data shows that the percentage of teenagers in the state who thought there was no risk of harm from regular use had jumped between 2008 and 2014. There’s another issue, too – Rogers has received complaints about the smell coming from the farms, which travels a couple of miles during harvest. “The county stinks,” he tells me. However, the “green rush” – which is producing millions in tax revenues for the state – has also brought economic benefits to the county, one of the poorest in Washington. There are more than 50 licensed growers in Okanogan now who are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars locally on equipment, labour and construction work. Moberg is in the greenhouse inspecting his mother plants. He describes how Cannabis sativa strains make users more alert, while C indica is more sedate. What does he prefer? “All my best decisions were made when I was smoking sativa, it’s thinking man’s weed,” he says, as an employee comes in to tell him he’s needed at a meeting. “But I don’t get to smoke as much as I did,” he adds ruefully. “I just don’t have the time.”

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 135002

Article Title: Is this a dark age for parenting? | The panel | Comment is free | The Guardian

Date: 4/1/2015

Article Content: Every day there seems to be a new story highlighting the dangers facing children and teenagers. Yesterday, for instance, it was reported that 10% of 12- to 13-year-olds are worried that they might be addicted to pornography – and also that one in five 14- to 17-year-olds have tried or bought e-cigarettes. There was a report last week that teenage boys spend an average of eight hours in front of a screen each day, a figure which just adds to the swirling anxieties around cyberbullying and video game violence. So, in the midst of all this, are we living in a particularly dark age for parenting, or one of the sunnier eras on record? Homa Khaleeli: we should keep our angst under control Last month I toyed with the idea of buying my 20-month-old daughter a helmet. Not for sport, but because I could not stop fretting that my marauding toddler was going to end up with a brain injury if she insisted on running into doors and falling off things. The month before, I crammed a car seat the size of an armoured tank into our tiny vehicle to protect her on the road. Today, I am trying to ignore a niggling anxiety that her cough is a symptom of something more serious than a cold. Dark days for parenting? Which days aren’t? Yet, surprisingly, anxieties that have been in the news recently, around e-cigarettes and screen time, leave me unmoved. Of course, this might be because I haven’t quite got my head around the idea that my comical ball of energy is going to become a little girl, let alone a teenager. But it’s also because it feels like scares about the modern world are so misplaced – and detrimental. We fear letting our children play outside unchaperoned, then complain they spend too much time looking at screens or are obese. We worry about stranger danger rather than addressing the fact that many children are at risk in their own homes, often from their own families. (And yes, we buy huge car seats instead of trying to make our roads and streets safer.) There is no evidence that our children are any less safe today than they were in the past – but we are certainly worrying about them more. And our deep-seated alarm only seems to spur us into creating bubbles for our children to live in; an attempt to shut out the world.
rather than change it. It’s true that it’s hard not to feel depressed, and yes, scared, when you read about how porn has infiltrated the lives of children. But rather than parents increasing their vigilance, wouldn’t it be better to address the underlying problem – by showing our children that girls and women do not exist for the pleasure of boys and men? This does not mean that getting the balance right is easy. Last week at a party, a colleague described having a child as allowing your heart to leave your body and go out into the world to be stamped on (yes, I know – this is terrible party chat). And if fear is an evolutionary tool that ensures our survival then panicked parents are probably the ones to thank for our flourishing species. But that doesn’t mean we have to be swayed by every scare story. For the moment, I’m going to keep my angst under control, and my daughter helmet-free. Charlotte Philby: the real threat is the pressure that parents feel As a relatively clued-up, interested mum of two young kids, I spend about 60% of my day worrying about my children. Given the constant threats of online bullying, porn, violent video games and the rest, it’s little wonder I spend the remaining 40% of my time Googling far-flung places to emigrate to the day they hit 10. The prospect of letting my babies loose in a digital age – into an online space that is totally foreign to me and one over which I feel I have no control – is daunting. Devastating, even. Speaking to my teenage cousins, and having worked as a news reporter, I have witnessed a spectrum of horrors that have chilled me. But then, in moments of horrifying lucidity, I remember my own pre-internet teen years and I realise all too keenly that regardless of where you are, adolescence is, for the majority, about experimenting and taking risks. What matters most is that you have the sense of security and sense of self to (at least occasionally) make the right choices. That is largely learnt from your parents – a result of a “stable” upbringing. Which, of course, puts more pressure on parents to help their kids create firm foundations – and admittedly you can’t always prevent your kids making mistakes. But wasn’t it ever thus? The truth is, you can never entirely pre-empt the challenges your children will face. All you can do is have the conversations that will hopefully enable your children to navigate through the most confusing and exciting years of their lives – online, and in the real world; preparing them to make the right choices when you’re not there. And ultimately, to come to you when they need counsel. That isn’t to say that we don’t live in a dark age for parenting. But the real threat to parents – particularly women – is surely the pressure we put on ourselves to do and have it all; to be the perfect mother, employee, partner and friend, while virtually updating the world on our respective successes. I say this as a woman who spends a third of her time checking emails, struggling to meet deadlines; another third scooting the kids between classes, arranging playdates et al; and the final third sobbing at the overwhelming impossibility of it all. If I’m honest, I think the prospect of me constantly striving to achieve more at the expense of my own mental health is a bigger long-term threat to my child’s confidence than the allure of Call of Duty. Steve Chamberlain: the porn, fags and screens were always there The white noise of fear, shame and competition dominates the debate on bringing up kids today. Parenting is something other people do badly in public so that we can tut at them and scurry off to write newspaper articles and blogs backed up by hysterical surveys which say kids can’t run/add up/read/climb trees/sleep/eat like they used to – all of which is very boring. Are kids addicted to web porn? Are they experimenting with e-cigs? Are they spending too much time looking at screens? And how the hell do you get them to eat broccoli? I don’t know: all I can talk about is bringing up my own two. And I’m having a great time – thanks for asking – mostly bumbling along and shouting too much, but I don’t feel the darkness looming. As far as I can see, the porn, fags and screens were always there and always will be. I think what wasn’t there and what has changed is the fetishisation and commodification of being mum and dad. At the bottom of it all is that we – as parents – are actually allowed to be out and proud about having kids like never before. Our mums and dads, and their mums
and dads, were locked into ways of living that demanded children were written out of the equation. Work and home were strictly separate. Leave the woman to bring up the kids and the dad to work. Now all that is mixed up, family life bleeds into work life and both have to wrap around the other, for better or worse. The result is that parenting becomes another project to be managed, another skill for us to be appraised on – pushed into the competitive arena by an industry that feeds off our anxieties by creating them in the first place – when, really, we should be too busy trying to bring up our kids to worry about the way we’re parenting them as well. The broccoli’s a bugger though. Linda Blair: we do face unprecedented dangers – but don’t despair Are children and teenagers today facing unprecedented dangers and temptations? And have their parents lost the ability to protect them from these dangers? It appears that the answer to both of these questions is yes. Several recent surveys suggest that our children are exposed to threats we couldn’t even imagine 20 or 30 years ago. In particular, internet porn is now easy to access, as well as graphic violence in video games and films. With the young spending more and more time on their electronic devices – one survey reports that the average screen time for children between five and 16 years of age is now 6.5 hours a day – their exposure to disturbing imagery is likely only to increase. Another danger that I am seeing far too often in my work as a clinical psychologist is the increasing practice of multi-screening – that is, attempting to attend to more than one device at any one time. The effect, at least in my clinical experience, is to make the viewer more distractible, less able to concentrate, focus on and later remember what was happening at the time, and less able to make decisions. This, in turn, has a negative impact on schoolwork and self-confidence.

Despite this negative picture, I am optimistic. As parents, we need not feel helpless or out of control. To make a difference in today’s world, however, we need to step back from content, from what we perceive to be threatening to our offspring, and look at how the threats gain power and influence. The more often our children are exposed to content – whatever its nature – the more important it will seem to them, and the more often they do so passively the more likely they are to accept that content without challenge. What we as parents must do, therefore, is to wake up their critical powers, and to help our children feel more in control of the information that surrounds them. The first step we need to take is to limit their screen time, and to discourage totally the practice of multi-screening. Furthermore, as role models for our children, we need also to limit our own screen time. Screen use is, and will no doubt remain, an important part of our lives now. But it need not, and should not, be the predominant way we learn and communicate. The second step is to open (or re-open) the lines of communication with our children. Learn about the things that interest your kids. Encourage them to explain modern technology you don’t understand, and to share their views and opinions about what’s going on in the world. Try to listen, truly listen, without harsh criticism and with the aim of understanding their dilemmas. And if, no matter how hard you try, your children still feel that they can’t talk with you, help them find others with whom they can work through their worries. Our aim in the long term should be to empower our children, not simply to try to protect them. "

Source Title: Web

Addiction – Ecig – PM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.85
Hand-coded: No
ArticleID: 690565
Article Title: Shock findings of undercover prisoners who lived in Clark County Jail for TWO MONTHS | Daily Mail Online

Date: 5/28/2016

Article Content: Homemade drugs, violent attacks over food and rampant gay prostitution have been exposed at one of America’s toughest jails after seven people went in undercover as prisoners. The brave civilians posed as inmates for a documentary as they spent two months behind bars alongside dangerous thugs and drug dealers at Clark County Jail in Jefferson, Indiana. The volunteers were sent in with fake identities and were treated like prisoners for the full two months, with none of the inmates and hardly any of the jail's staff knowing they were not convicts. Scroll down for video Homemade drugs, violent attacks over food and rampant gay prostitution have been exposed at one of America’s toughest jails. An inmate is pictured smoking a DIY drug called 'crack stick.' The undercover prisoners found that convicts would get into the most trivial of fights, with one violent row breaking out after a man failed to give another his hash brown as promised. Violence on the cell block was regular, with prisoners putting on their sneakers instead of their slippery sandals before getting into fights. The undercover prisoners discovered that drug use was huge inside the jail. With illegal substances harder to get hold of, the inmates had taken to making their own homemade highs, including one called 'crack stick.' They would make the drug by crushing an e-cigarette filter, wrapping it in coffee-soaked toilet paper and smoking it, Business Insider reported. DIY drugs were not enough for the convicts, with narcotics also smuggled in from outside the jail. Low-risk prisoners were allowed to help with tasks like food preparation, but the documentary discovered that they were using this as a way of getting drugs into cells. Trusted inmates would hide drugs inside the food trays and smuggle them into the women’s section of Clark County Jail. Gay prostitution was rife in the male section of the jail, with one inmate offering himself to others in exchange for items from the commissary. Dealing: Trusted inmates who were allowed to work in the kitchens would hide drugs inside the food trays and smuggle them into Clark County Jail. Banned: Armed guards had to raid sections of the facility to find a cell phone on one occasion after fears it was being used to organize attacks on inmates. The undercover prisoners also found that convicts would get into the most trivial of fights, with one violent row breaking out after a man failed to give another his hash brown as promised. 'It's not really fighting over hash browns. It's fighting over a guy not keeping his word,' one of the show's volunteers said. Another of the seven posing as prisoners said they could tell a fight was about to start when inmates started 'lacing up' their sneakers. They revealed that violent prisoners preferred not to wear their jail-issued sandals when brawling as they would slip. Gay prostitution was rife in the male section of the jail, with one inmate offering himself to others in exchange for items from the commissary. Prisoners had other ways of getting hold of goods from the commissary too. One new inmate was pressured into buying luxury items, such as beef jerky, for a tougher. Even one of the volunteers was targeted during her two-month imprisonment. An inmate who
was higher up the food chain stole the woman’s sandals from her feet, leaving her confused as to whether she should stand up for herself and risk a beating, or allow it but risk being regarded as easy prey. Contraband: Items hidden all over the correctional facility included blades made from any items prisoners could get their hands on. This included a plastic toothbrush (pictured) sharpened to make a dangerous weapon and a metal shank that was found stashed inside a lighting fixture. One of the volunteers ended up in solitary confinement for breaking a jail rule. He was held in the cramped room for 23 hours a day. Prisoners were given one hour a day of recreation time, in which they were taken into an enclosed room, where they could socialize and exercise. Pain: There was also suffering on the cell, with one female inmate trying to kill herself by leaping from a second-floor railing. One of the volunteers ended up in solitary confinement for breaking a jail rule. He was held in a tiny cell for half of his time in the facility. He was held in the cramped room for 23 hours a day. Cameras were set up all around the jail for the A&E documentary series 60 Days In, with the prison’s 500 inmates told filming was taking place - but not why. Sheriff Jamey Noel told Entertainment Weekly that the prisoners soon forgot about the cameras and did not know they were locked up with seven people from the outside world. He said the volunteers were given 'certain code words and different gestures' they could do if they felt they were in danger. Prison staff would then rush in and take them to another part of the jail - something Noel says happened a few times. The Sheriff allowed the filming so he could learn where the prison is going wrong, and one inmate has since been charged with drugs offenses after smuggling illegal substances into the jail."

Source Title: Web

**Youth**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Youth within the database is “cyouth8”.

**Tobacco (no ecig) texts**

More than Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_you”.

**Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1**

Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 427180

Article Title: 5 California Things to Know for Today"

Date: 10/13/2015
Your daily look at late-breaking California news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. **HIKING TRAIL KILLING** Three transients charged with murdering woman in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, man walking dog on Marin County hiking trail.

2. **TWITTER LAYOFFS** Messaging service laying off up to 336 employees, signaling CEO Jack Dorsey's resolve to slash costs amid struggle to make money.

3. **WILDFIRE** Firefighters battle 200-acre San Benito County blaze in thick brush 10 miles south of Hollister.

4. **CHEWING TOBACCO** New California law bans use of smokeless tobacco in all California ballparks.

5. **TOBACCO AGE LIMIT** Under threat of lawsuit from retailers association, Healdsburg suspends ordinance requiring tobacco purchasers to be at least 21.

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**DATELINE: LONDON**

A group of tobacco firms have lost a U.K. court bid to prevent the sale of cigarettes in standardized green packaging. Philip Morris International, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco and Japan Tobacco International challenged the legality of the new packages, which bear warnings and graphic images of the dangers of smoking. The companies argued that the packaging destroys property rights and makes their products indistinguishable from one another. The new regulations come into effect on Friday and are meant to make smoking less glamorous, particularly to young people. Simon Clark, director of the smokers' group Forest, says the rules "treat adults like children and teenagers like idiots." Tobacco companies have a year to sell old stock and fully implement the changes under the directive.

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**SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST**

The U.S. Postal Service is responding to a New York Times report about an extensive federal surveillance program. The program is called mail covers. It recorded information on the outside of mail for law enforcement agencies. SUNDAY MORNING senior correspondent Rita Braver asked Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe if the Postal Service allowed law enforcement to go too far.
Big Island. But, first, here’s a look at today’s Eye Opener @ 8. CHIP REID: This was the first catastrophic failure since NASA started using private companies to resupply the Space Station. CARTER EVANS: The lava is approaching the main road that goes through Pahoa. It could cross the road some time this morning. MAJOR GARRETT: In reality what appears most striking about current Ebola protocols is not consensus, but confusion. JUAN ZARATE: There are no active plots to trigger this warning but what you have is a general concern about the threat environment at large. ALLEN PIZZEY: Well, fresh from having taken on conservatives at the Synod of Bishops, Pope Francis siding with science over dogma. ANTHONY MASON: And what the FTC is saying here is if you’re going to offer an unlimited plan, it’s got to be unlimited. JEFF PEGUES: We’ve learned that the NYPD is actively looking for ways to stop an attack by a drone. SALVATORE DIPACE: We look at it as something that-- that-- that could be a terrorist’s tool. JEFF PEGUES: Guns. SALVATORE DIPACE: Guns. Definitely. GAYLE KING: So if you do the survey you get anything in exchange for what you pay. PETER GREENBERG: Well, here’s the funny part. The irony here is great. For everybody who actually responded they got eight thousand frequent flyer miles on Spirit. Another reason they hate them, you know why? Now try to redeem them. SETH MEYERS (Late Night with Seth Meyers, NBC): Jennifer Lawrence and musician Chris Martin broke up. It didn’t work out because the best celebrity couple nickname they could come up with was Martin Lawrence. GAYLE KING: I’m Gayle King with Norah O’Donnell and Jeff Glor. Charlie is off today. Space flight is hard. That’s one astronaut’s reaction to a spectacular explosion at a Virginia launch pad. The spacecraft that failed last night belonged to a private company that has a nearly two-billion-dollar contract with NASA. It’s the first major accident since NASA ended its space shuttle program. JEFF GLOR: That unmanned rocket was carrying supplies for the International Space Station. Another cargo mission is on its way there after a successful launch this morning in Kazakhstan. NORAH O’DONNELL: Dozens of Hawaiian homes and businesses are in danger this morning. Slow-moving lava threatens as many as sixty buildings. It’s creeping toward a small village up to forty-five feet an hour. Carter Evans is in Puna on the Big Island of Hawaii, where residents are watching the lava flow. Carter, good morning. CARTER EVANS (CBS News Correspondent): Good morning. The lava is approaching the main road that goes right through the middle of Pahoa here. It could cross some time early this morning, about a hundred yards behind where I am standing. Let me give you an idea of what this lava flow looked like overnight as it burned through backyards. A slow-moving wave of molten rock consuming everything in its path, inching along at about fifteen yards an hour. It’s already burned through miles of thick brush. The relentless lava flow burned down one structure yesterday as it approached this community. Now dozens of homes are threatened and there is absolutely nothing that can stop it. Hundreds of people have already evacuated. What is your biggest concern with this lava flow? RUSSELL BELLMAN (Pahoa, Hawaii Resident): That we’re going to be totally cut off from the rest of the island. If we don’t get run over and burned up by the lava then we’re get cut off and as it makes its way further and further towards the ocean, we lose all of our access ways out here. (End VT) CARTER EVANS: This community is now preparing for the possibility that it will be split in two by this lava flow. And you’ve got to understand, this is not something that you can rebuild over right away. Once the lava actually stops flowing, it can remain hot for months, even years. GAYLE KING: Wow. CARTER EVANS: Gayle. GAYLE KING: Didn’t know that one. Thank you, Carter. The U.S. Postal Service is responding to a New York Times report about an extensive federal surveillance program. According to an internal audit, nearly fifty thousand pieces of mail were monitored during the last fiscal year. JEFF GLOR: The program is called mail covers. It recorded information on the outside of mail for law enforcement agencies. SUNDAY MORNING senior correspondent Rita Braver asked Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe if the Postal Service allowed law enforcement to go too far. (Begin
VT) PATRICK DONAHOE: This has been something that’s been done for years. If there are issues that we need to take a look at, we will. But we-- we’re pretty stringent with out request. There may have been one or two that somebody would say, looked lax but we don’t feel that way. RITA BRAVER: So you’re not prepared to announce any kind of change in how you do business? PATRICK DONAHOE: No. We would work with law enforcement. I think we, you know, we’re with that balance to the American public. (End VT) JEFF GLOR: Donahoe insists the Postal Service never looks inside the mail. The audit found fifteen percent of the monitoring requests were not sufficiently justified. NORAH O’DONNELL: This morning stocks opened higher than they have in weeks. Thanks in part two strong corporate earnings. The market recovered much of the ground lost during this month’s plunge. The Dow ended yesterday back above seventeen thousand. A new survey from Wall Street powerhouse BlackRock finds more than half of American investors are positive about their financial future, but the high cost of living, state of the economy, and paying for health care remain a big concern. BlackRock pulled more than twenty-seven thousand people for their Global Investor Pulse survey. Rob Kapito is president of BlackRock and joins us now. Rob, good morning. ROBERT KAPITO (BlackRock President and Director): Good morning. NORAH O’DONNELL: So what did you-- what was one of the most significant findings? ROBERT KAPITO: Well, it’s really interesting to be able to go out and to find out what investors are thinking and just what the public is thinking. The most interesting thing that we found out is that people have not saved enough for retirement-- NORAH O’DONNELL: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: --and they’re really quite worried about that. And what we also found out is those that are-- NORAH O’DONNELL: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: --trying to do something about it, are doing the wrong thing. So it was a fascinating survey for us. We found that most people, most households are sitting in cash and you report on interest rates all the time. We know that they’re very low and cash is just the wrong thing to be doing-- NORAH O’DONNELL: In fact-- GAYLE KING: But we always hear cash is king-- ROBERT KAPITO: --if you’re planning for retirement. GAYLE KING: --though, Rob Kapito. We hear cash is king. ROBERT KAPITO: That’s a very good line but-- GAYLE KING: Yeah. ROBERT KAPITO: --retirement people should be looking to invest today-- GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: --because you can’t invest for the future in the future. GAYLE KING: I love that. ROBERT KAPITO: And we also found-- GAYLE KING: That’s your slogan. That’s your slogan. ROBERT KAPITO: Oh, it’s-- it’s great. And-- GAYLE KING: Yeah. ROBERT KAPITO: --for us we think it’s about convincing investors that it’s not timing the market. GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: It’s time in the market. GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: And today we have a very serious situation in this country where people are not saving enough and we were able to get information broken down by age group. And it’s fascinating because-- NORAH O’DONNELL: And on that issue of-- of age group, millennials are the most confident about their financial future. Sixty-six percent believe it will be a bright versus only forty-five percent of baby boomers. I found this hard to believe. I know. I don’t know any millennials. I mean, honestly, who are-- who are hopeful about their financial future. They’re strapped. GAYLE KING: And the millennial age range is twenty-five-- NORAH O’DONNELL: Yeah. They’re-- GAYLE KING: --to thirty-four. NORAH O’DONNELL: --they’re not making a lot of money. ROBERT KAPITO: Well-- NORAH O’DONNELL: They’re strapped. You know, housing costs accentuated. They do not make-- they don’t feel like they’re-- they’re getting ahead. ROBERT KAPITO: Well, there’s really two primary reasons. One is they didn’t really have a lot of assets when they went through the financial crisis. They’re younger. And they have a lot more time to worry about these issues, where as there’s a squeeze between the baby boomers and generation X because they had the expenses, they did lose some money in the financial crisis-- GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. ROBERT KAPITO: --and they’re closer to retirement. Now, the one thing that you have to think about is that people are living longer. GAYLE KING: Yeah. ROBERT
KAPITO: You know, in the 1950s people lived till sixty-eight. GAYLE KING: Sixty-something. Yeah. ROBERT KAPITO: Now today you’re going to live till eighty. NORAH O’DONNELL: Wow. ROBERT KAPITO: When did living longer become a problem? So just think about this that you used to spend about fourteen years of retirement. Today you’re going to spend twenty to twenty-five years in retirement. So you better think about saving today for the future. And that’s what the message is. And it was borne out by this survey. JEFF GLOR: There is still this big split, though, because you talk about how many people are uncomfortable not ready for retirement. The market is rolling. ROBERT KAPITO: Well, let’s talk about the market. People are not invested in the market. So only eighteen percent of households are actually invested in the market. And they’re scared because they see these gyrations. We wanted to send a message that that is just noise. You have to invest for the long term. The short-termism is not going to help you to retire. And cash is the worst thing, especially when you’re not getting paid on this particular- - on- - on cash. GAYLE KING: And there’s a difference between women and men. ROBERT KAPITO: It’s really also interesting in this survey between women and men. Women are saving less than men, and this is a big problem. Why is that? Because women are closer to the household of finances, they understand that expenses are high-- GAYLE KING: Yeah. ROBERT KAPITO: --and they’d rather spend the money on their children today than save for their own retirement. So this is-- NORAH O’DONNELL: That’s not hard to argue with. ROBERT KAPITO: --this is the number-- NORAH O’DONNELL: I know. ROBERT KAPITO: --number one crisis in America. NORAH O’DONNELL: I know, I know. Rob, thank you. ROBERT KAPITO: And-- and-- GAYLE KING: We get it, Rob. ROBERT KAPITO: --if you don’t save, by the way, your parents are moving back in with you at some point-- NORAH O’DONNELL: Thanks. ROBERT KAPITO: --so that should cause you to save as well. NORAH O’DONNELL: Thank you, Rob. Don’t give my mom ideas. Love you, mom. Ahead on CBS THIS MORNING, does milk really build strong bones? Surprising new research on potential dangers. But, first, it’s eight-o-nine, time to check your local weather. (LOCAL WEATHER BREAK) GAYLE KING: Coming up, Taylor Swift on dating in the media spotlight. TAYLOR SWIFT: Being very well aware of the things that have said about my personal life in the last couple of years-- GAYLE KING: You’re a serial dater. TAYLOR SWIFT: Yes. GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. TAYLOR SWIFT: So seeing that kind of take place and seeing how much these-- these media sites were just reveling in it, I mean they loved it, just like, “Look at the slideshow of Taylor’s ex-men.” GAYLE KING: Yeah. Taylor tells us what she’s leaving behind and what does she think makes a good boyfriend. We’ll ask. NORAH O’DONNELL: That’s an interesting discussion. Yeah. GAYLE KING: All right. That’s ahead on CBS THIS MORNING. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) (Excerpt from a TV commercial) GAYLE KING: That’s right. For decades ads like that one told us milk does a body good. But in our Morning Rounds, evidence is maybe time to put down the glass. A new study raises a possibility, think about this, that high milk consumption may be linked with more bone fractures and a higher death rate. What? Our Doctor Holly Phillips is here. Holly, it goes against everything we’ve been told so I say to you what are you talking about, Willis? This makes no sense? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS (CBS News Medical Contributor): Yeah. Gayle, it is, it does really seem shocking. You know the study really suggests that in large amounts milk may do more harm than good. So researchers in Sweden looked at a huge number of people over twenty years and they found for women who had three or more glasses of milk a day, they had a higher risk of fractures-- GAYLE KING: Mm. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: --particularly dangerous hip fractures and also a higher risk of death from any cause as compared to women who had less than one cup a day. Now, this was not a cause-and-effect study. They just established a link. But that link is important because right now adults are supposed to have three cups a day. GAYLE KING: Yeah. NORAH O’DONNELL: Okay. So what’s the science behind this? Now there is what is the-- is it vitamin D, is it too much calcium that backfires?
What is it? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: You know the theory that the researchers put forth was that as our bodies process the lactose in milk it can create compounds that create inflammation within our blood vessels and something called oxidative stress in our cells. What we know about both of those things is that they cause illness, like heart disease, stroke, and they’re bad for our bones. NORAH O’DONNELL: Mm. JEFF GLOR: We contacted the National Dairy Council. They say there’s no cause and effect here and point out the health benefits in milk in fighting heart disease and type 2 diabetes. They say dairy is just one factor-- DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Right. JEFF GLOR: --in a healthy lifestyle. This study talks about drinking too much, high, high amounts, right? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Right. Right. JEFF GLOR: Which you say is bad. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: You know that I-- I think it’s definitely too early-- to their point it’s too early to completely discount how nutritious milk can be but, you know, I think this is a really important study not just because of what it says about milk but because it represents sort of the future of science of nutrition. GAYLE KING: Mm-Hm. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: It’s not just about vitamins. It’s about how our bodies metabolize foods. GAYLE KING: Is almond vanilla milk okay? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: So we have to take it all in together. GAYLE KING: Is almond vanilla milk okay? DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Almond vanilla milk is great. You can get calcium from beans, nuts, leafy greens. It’s not just all about cow’s milk. NORAH O’DONNELL: I still think skimmed milk is one of the best things you can eat-- GAYLE KING: Yes. NORAH O’DONNELL: --it is one of the most nutritious things, even better than like a sports drink that has a lot of sugar in it. That’s-- that’s my opinion. GAYLE KING: All right. Doctor O’Donnell. You’ve got it. DR. HOLLY PHILLIPS: Weighing in on it. JEFF GLOR: Thanks, Holly. It is legal for any adult to buy so how can an entire town stop the sale of tobacco. That is next on CBS THIS MORNING. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NORAH O’DONNELL: A small town in central Massachusetts is poised to take the next big step in the tobacco wars. Officials in Westminster want to make it illegal to sell all tobacco products to anyone, including adults. Michelle Miller is here with the draft law that anti-smoking advocates hope will send a signal. Michelle, good morning.”

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Article Title: SHOW: THE O'REILLY FACTOR 8:00 PM EST Miller Meets Gutfeld Meets McGuirk Special; Bill Cosby Faces Sexual Assault, Charge After Numerous Accusations; San Bernardino Man Indicted on Terrorism"

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Article Content: BILL O'REILLY, FOX NEWS HOST: A special edition of THE O'REILLY FACTOR is on. Tonight: (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: We have an unforgettable show are for you tonight. It’s the Miller meets Gutfeld and McGuirk special. What does Dennis Miller think about the TSA? DENNIS MILLER, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Until you fly me privately the TSA are the biggest geniuses in the culture. O'REILLY: What are Greg Gutfeld’s thoughts on Russian leader Putin. GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS HOST: He is the world’s sexiest man. O'REILLY: What do college graduates really know about American history. Bernard McGuirk has some thoughts. BERNARD MCGUIRK, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: We already know the nation of
dunces -- we have the inalienable right to be stupid. O'REILLY: All that and more. Some of the best moments from the boys this year. MILLER: Keep it down, keep it down. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Caution, you are about to enter the No Spin Zone. THE FACTOR begins right now. Hi, I'm Bill O'Reilly. Thanks for watching us tonight for this very special edition of THE FACTOR: The Miller meets Gutfeld and McGuirk edition. Boy, you have got to hide the kids on this one because for the next hour we will bring you the best from the boys from the past year. We begin with the D Man. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) O'REILLY: The Dominican Republic, Miller. There was a Volvo exposition. I want to roll the tape on this. And this is a self-parking Volvo -- bang. It didn't really work. And the two guys who got whacked are journalists and I say Bernie Goldberg might have been hiding in the trunk there. MILLER: Well, let me say this. I think it did have the pedestrian notification because everybody knows today's journalists are completely pedestrian. So I think it went right for them. By the way, you know what this augers for -- robot journalists because a robot journalist can't be hit by a robot car. You know, this is all crazy. They won't be happy until there are driverless hybrids going around the track at the Indianapolis 500. Can we stop it right here? And by the way, if you are one of the first people to trust a driverless car, you are completely nuts. O'REILLY: I know. Can you imagine that? You are sitting in the backseat, you know, and some little machine is running -- I don't think so. I kind of like driving. MILLER: They got a little robo mother-in-law in the back nagging at you for your driving. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Slow down. You are driving too fast. O'REILLY: Country singer Willie Nelson getting into the pot business. He will be marketing his own brand of marijuana called Willie's Reserve in states where pot is legal. What do you think about Willie's Reserve? MILLER: God, Willie smokes a lot of dope, doesn't he? O'REILLY: Yes, he does. MILLER: I mean he is committed to the dope. You got the feeling if you were at Malikini (ph) and you scuba diving Willie would put some hash in the register of the air tank so he could fill his lungs up with (inaudible) while he was diving off the reef. But I've got marketing ideas for him, God bless him, if he wants to put these out there. I got a name for the chain of stores he is eventually going to have. I would call them Starbucked Up. People would go what's with you. And you would go I'm all Starbucked Up. If he goes in, you order an ounce, you can get a full nelson; half ounce is half nelson, quarter ounce is a little Willie. I mean the guy is 81 years old. And I tell you this, when he gets to heaven it's going to be a little cloudier up there than it is now. WILLIE NELSON, SINGER: I was a little surprised. MILLER: I know you're not going to come out with a line of factor weed but I would encourage you to come out with a line of don't be a pinhead or pothead shirt. Don't be a pinhead or a pot head. O'REILLY: Willie is 81 years old and he is still flying high as they say. MILLER: I don't know why he needs that tour bus because he is he cruising like Luke Skywalker on his own. O'REILLY: In the future, Miller, apparently collaborative robots -- and we are not talking about Willie Nelson anymore -- collaborative robots, machines, ok, are going to now be available so you can put them in your mansion. And they can like do stuff for us. Are you down with that? MILLER: Well, if they are going to be just like humans 92 million of the robots will be out of work. And you know something? When I go out nowadays America is in such tough shape, half the people behind the counters act like robots -- all right. If I could just squirt some 3 and 1 on them and get it together, that might be a nice thing. You've been in to Staples store for office supplies lately. Are you kidding me, it's like a George Romero film with name tags. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's called a movie. MILLER: So if there are going to be robots I say more power to them. Let the robots start getting high. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And, folks, he is only two years old, too. MILLER: Robot weed. O'REILLY: Yes. Willie will have a robotic marketing plan. But -- MILLER: Bring your own hash pipe. O'REILLY: Here's what's going to happen and when you get the robot to come to your house, number one, the robot is going to start to whine about stuff. That's what will happen.
And number two, the robot is going to start to text other robots. He's going to be texting all day long.

And so that's it. MILLER: You can't fire a robot now, Billy -- a lot of procedures in Cali to fire a robot.

O'REILLY: Yes, you can't. You can't. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're fired. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Fired?

You're fired. O'REILLY: They're protected. They are protected robots. You can't say mean things about
them anymore. And Indiana is trying to get in a law not to protect them but I don't know if that's going
to work out. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What are you talking about? O'REILLY: Give us your itinerary on your
vacation. MILLER: Well, listen, I started off in Iceland, Billy. My tour guide told me and I was intrigued to
find out 63 percent of the people in Iceland believe in gnomes. I thought that was amazing. You know,
when somebody disappears over there they say he went with the gnomes. So I went out for a walk one
day just to test the theory out in the lava fields. I ran across a little gnome. His local name Jassa Aquas
(ph) which I think translates out if I'm not mistaken in English to Jesse Watters. It's like Burt Reynolds in
the Cosmo issue. And I said to him, listen, I would like to go live with the gnomes. People are idiots right
now. And he said you can only come live with the gnomes if you answer me one question. I said go
ahead, shoot. I'm open. He said why would your country side with Iran over Israel? I said I can't answer
that. He said you can't come live with us. That was my story in Iceland. O'REILLY: Gnomes are
superstition that they live under ground in Iceland and some of them are good and some of them are
not. Now, from Iceland, you go to Scandinavia. You go to Norway and Sweden, right? MILLER: A lot of
furor in Norway. Evidently there is a local businessman turned politician over there called Donald Trump
who said -- he said that the Vikings were wusses. It hit the fan. You can't believe it. O'REILLY: The local
guy. Does he have the hair coming forward? MILLER: No, no he had a little glacier. He had a little
follicular glacier just sliding down his head. His name was Donald Trump. O'REILLY: And then the Vikings
are wimps, right? MILLER: Yes. The Vikings are wusses. He wouldn't apologize though. Now listen, the
people over there are so lovely and nice. I'm in the middle of this train going down this mountain to a
fjord. Billy, you have been there. You know how beautiful it is. I'm thinking God, this is such different
rhythms here I could just drop off the grid and live here. Bam, all of a sudden I got an American guy from
Chicago who wouldn't shut up for like two and a half hours. He was a labor organizer. He looked like an
older Ernest Hemingway. I told my son -- my nickname for him is Almost Hemingway because the twist
was everybody around him wanted to blow their head off. He just wouldn't shut up. UNIDENTIFIED
MALE: Like going on a date with a chatty catty doll. MILLER: I remembered thinking as I watched this cat
I thought man, the American (inaudible) can beat you down because we were just so, we're so pleased
with everything we say people over there just zip it for a while. Even me, you know, I got over there and
shut up for a while. But as I watch people, Billy, if you have done any people watching, lately, it is
terrifying what's out there right now. Everybody is walking around stunned, mouth-breathing, crazy --
absolutely. People are all individuals, but they are all nuts. To me, people are like snowflakes in that I
wish a lot of them, quite frankly would melt and go away. O'REILLY: All right. Now, we must say that
Norway and the fjords and the western part of that state absolutely beautiful. Scandinavia, very mellow
people; they can come out of the house only in the summer. So they are happy to be out. Global
warming hasn't hit up there Miller: Those six-months nights. O'REILLY: That's right. What is on your wish
list this year? MILLER: I asked Santa for a big honking forklift so I can carry around my entire set of your
“Killing” series. O'REILLY: You can get them on audio. They're much lighter. MILLER: That's just how I
managed it, Billy. It's beautiful. And then what else did I ask for? I would like two of one of my fellow
citizen's front teeth. I would like one of them since we have been -- seem to be donating half and half in
the country right now. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Am I missing a tooth? MILLER: I know what kerfuffle it is to
say the words Merry Christmas. I have come up with an alternative solution. When I come up to
somebody now and they seem like a stickler for that, I just look at them and I say Merry Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior’s Birthday because I want to say Merry Christmas. O’REILLY: You go for the long version. MILLER: Yes. Merry Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior’s Birthday. O’REILLY: There it is. MILLER: And then they are begging for Merry Christmas at that point. And if you come up to an atheist all I do is go hey, man, have an ok next Thursday. Have an ok next Thursday. (END VIDEOTAPE) O’REILLY: Coming up on this special edition of THE FACTOR, Gutfeld and McGuirk have a few things to say about Hillary Clinton and Vladimir Putin. The boys are next. O’REILLY: We begin with President Obama comparing the pilgrims to Syrian refugees. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Nearly four centuries after the Mayflower set sail the world is still full of pilgrims, men and women who want nothing more than the chance for a safer, better future for themselves and their families. What makes America “America” is that we offer that chance. We turn Lady Liberty’s light to the world and widen our circle of concern to say that all God’s children are worthy of our compassion and be care. O’REILLY: Here now are Gutfeld and McGuirk. That will make you cry, you know. It was very heartfelt and, you know, totally ignoring the realities of the situation that people in Syria, by and large are good. But there are some bad people. And you have to be very careful. GUTFELD: So he’s comparing pilgrims to the Syrians. That’s an insult from the left. Because aren’t pilgrims genocidal maniacs that destroyed the Indian population? O’REILLY: They killed all the Indians. GUTFELD: So he actually insulted the Syrian refugees. But the point is his logic is flawed because it’s like if you were to buy a product that you found that was contaminated, a small percentage, you would have it recalled. So that’s the same thing with the refugee crisis is even if there’s a tiny percentage you have to careful. O’REILLY: You have to be careful. But I have to correct you. The pilgrims really didn’t slaughter the Indians. GUTFELD: No, but that’s the left sing ideology -- O’REILLY: They tried to get -- (CROSSTALK) O’REILLY: They tried to get, you know -- bond with them a little because they didn’t have any food and the Indians did. That was a smart move. MCGUIRK: Well, the difference is they were actually pioneers and they actually fought the Indians. O’REILLY: Sometimes. MCGUIRK: Right. They fought with them for their own safety and they -- you know, for what they got. They fought. Now, the Syrian refugees are actually -- they are fleeing the civil war instead of staying there and fighting for their own -- whatever it is they have. O’REILLY: Yes, but kids and women can’t do that. I just think that the President is exploiting our history in a way that’s totally out of context. GUTFELD: He’s turning the war on terror into a war on immigration which is basically like saying fire fighting is an attack on buildings. O’REILLY: Yes. I mean you know, you can make a case, a very heartfelt case, that we should take every single suffering child, all right, woman in the world and bring them here. You can make that case. MCGUIRK: Look, Greg stumbled on -- he may have stumbled on to something -- Obama. Greg says that what he said last Columbus Day, Obama said that pilgrims introduced devastation, violence into the lives of indigenous people. O’REILLY: The Spanish were totally different than the English. MCGUIRK: That’s kind of like what happened in Paris and with the Tsarnaev brothers in Boston. So maybe he stumbled on to something by accident. O’REILLY: There is a way to do all of this without polarizing the whole country. Of course, Washington has no clue how to do it but there is a way. All right. Now Lena Dunham, do you know this Lena Dunham? She was in some HBO show, right, “Girls” or something? GUTFELD: It’s a delightful sitcom. O’REILLY: It’s like “Leave it to Beaver” but just an updated version? MCGUIRK: It’s in the show it would be like in Seinfeld like if Constanza walked around gratuitously naked all the time, you’ll be like Dude, put your clothes on. You’re making us sick. That’s what happened in the HBO show “Girls”. O’REILLY: Ok. I’ve never seen it and I’m glad I haven’t but Hillary Clinton has and she sat down with Miss Dunham for an interview. Go. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) LENA DUNHAM, ACTOR: Madam secretary, I can’t tell you what an honor it is for me and for all the Lena
readers to be able speak to you in this way. HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I thought this was an interview with Lenny Kravitz. DUNHAM: Did you see the footage where his like pants split? CLINTON: No, I missed that. DUNHAM: I mean his. CLINTON: Yes. DUNHAM: Stuff fell out. CLINTON: Yes do you think I could get that -- DUNHAM: On YouTube. CLINTON: On YouTube, ok. Good. I will look for that. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: And then they talked about North Korea and macroeconomics. So Lena Dunham, huh? MCGUIRK: Imagine if Donald Trump said he was going to look up Miley Cyrus' private parts. O'REILLY: That wasn't -- wait, wait. That's not Hillary Clinton's fault. That's Miss Dunham's fault. MCGUIRK: She said I'm going to look it up on -- O'REILLY: She was being facetious as you often are. MCGUIRK: Listen, Lena Dunham, she wrote a book where she admitted to sexually abusing her younger sister. She lied -- I read that she lied about a sexual assault on college. O'REILLY: That has been questioned. MCGUIRK: So you have one liar interviewing another liar. It would be like Donald Trump sitting down with Josh Duggar. O'REILLY: Ok. Let me ask -- you better answer honestly. You have a dopey book, all right? GUTFELD: Yes, I do. O'REILLY: Lena Dunham calls, will you come over and talk about Lenny Kravitz? I will mention your book. You do it. GUTFELD: I would have to do it because that voice was irresistible. O'REILLY: Thank you. I think I got it pretty close, did I not? GUTFELD: It is -- it was like dueling smoke alarms between them. I think you can get PTSD from this interview. I'm not sure. It really was like incredible. But she does get a free ride from the media. But I think have to do these introduces. It's a modern era Obama ushered this in. And if you want to be persuasively correct, you have got to do it. O'REILLY: You've got to do it. You've got to reach the kids. GUTFELD: Yes. O'REILLY: And Lenny Kravitz. GUTFELD: Don't touch the kids. O'REILLY: Who exactly is Lenny Kravitz? Is he a singer? GUTFELD: Are you kidding me. Lisa Bonet's ex-husband. O'REILLY: Who's Lisa Bonet. GUTFELD: The Cosby Show. O'REILLY: I know who she is. Gutfeld, did you see Putin. Have you seen him? GUTFELD: Yes, I ran into a bar downtown a little late. He's kind of shirtless, dancing right on the bar. I woke up later, I have no memory but I have to say that we had a great time. O'REILLY: You and Vlad? GUTFELD: Yes, me and Vlad. We get along great. He is the world's sexiest man. MCGUIRK: He knows now where all those young pretty Russian women went because he has been bouncing around the clubs. GUTFELD: They're all in Brooklyn, by the way. That's where there -- and this is serious -- there is a big Russian ghetto around the Coney Island area. A lot of Russians there, they've immigrated, obviously. MCGUIRK: A lot of Russian strippers too. Brought in a lot of money. GUTFELD: Wait a second. My wife is Russian -- we stop it right there. O'REILLY: Ok. I'm sorry, Gutfeld. We didn't even know you were married since you were hanging around with Vlad. We thought it might be another situation. GUTFELD: Yes. O'REILLY: Ok. MCGUIRK: Let's stipulate. He's a duplicitous narcissist, he's a beady-eyed snake but he had a good week starting with the “60 Minutes” interview where Charlie Rose as a journalist turned into Billy Bush as opposed to Bill O'Reilly. O'REILLY: Look, I cut him some slack, Rose, because no matter what you say this guy is going to lie, A, and B he is like a smirky little guy and the only way you can get through to him, Gutfeld, would be to throw something like why did you shoot down that Malaysian jet? You did it, we know you did it but why did you do it. GUTFELD: When you compare him to Obama this is old school versus grad school. Basically Obama is the Washington Generals to Putin's Harlem Globe Trotters. There is no match between the two. O'REILLY: Yes. I mean Putin is so ruthless and strong. He is a strong guy. Our president is a philosopher. MCGUIRK: He came off as the bad ass going after the bad guys -- the ISIS guys. O'REILLY: Putin, he's not going after the ISIS guys. He's not going to kill anybody that would remove Assad. If ISIS is in that category he is going to kill them all. MCGUIRK: He is going in. He came off that way. He said the right thing about keeping Assad as opposed to Obama whining, you know, like -- O'REILLY: I think Assad should go. I know what he is saying if you take him out you have nobody to put in
there. (END VIDEOTAPE) O'REILLY: Next up, the always interesting Dennis Miller spouts off about the Kama the cat, the Japanese train master that passed away earlier this year. I'm not kidding. That's next. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) O'REILLY: Thanks for staying with us. I'm Bill O'Reilly. In the Miller Time segment tonight, three hot topics so let's get right to the sage of southern California who joins us from Santa Barbara. So Miller, you look like a teenager, man, with no facial hair. What happened there? MILLER: Billy, we got a drought out here and it died off because I wasn't watering it. O'REILLY: Ok. So let's get to the TSA. Miller and I love those guys, 95 percent were found not to -- you know, they did a little sting operation and ran some weapons through and they didn't get them and is anybody surprised? MILLER: Well, you know what happens when they hear that 95 percent of the TSA has failed. They jump immediately into action and drum the 5 percent of the freaks out who were screwing up the curve for the rest of them. Listen, if you want me to say more than that, you fly privately. You want to put me on the plane with you, I'll do it. Until you fly me privately the TSA are the biggest geniuses in the culture. I defer to the TSA. They're the greatest people who ever lived. The other day I saw a TSA guy that was bright he was watching baggage go through the metal detector. He had a channel flicker, he was then watching baggage from the other airports just clicking around the tube. That's how smart those guys are. And the head of the TSA resigned this week. They're going to head him over and make him the head of homeland security he has done such a terrific job. O'REILLY: All right. There's Melvin. MILLER: I went through the other day, Billy. They had Carlos the Jackal on a slip and slide going right through the line. They had Berne Troyer, mini me up on a rack. They have their priorities over there. O'REILLY: No matter how many nice things you say they are still going to take your shampoo away from you. MILLER: The best. O'REILLY: You're not going to get it through. MILLER: Geniuses. I don't have to shampoo anymore. That's why I shaved it. I want to go through the bald line. O'REILLY: Now, did you see “American Sniper”, Miller? MILLER: Yes, yes. Sure I did. Chris Kyle is an American hero. God may he rest in peace. Thank God for men like him. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just want to get the bad guys. But if I can't see them I can't shoot them. O'REILLY: So I saw it too, and therefore my reaction to people like Seth Rogen and Michael Moore. I get upset about that. I thought the movie was a pretty fair deal. I think it showed honor and code of courage and I don't want it attacked. MILLER: I wouldn't even qualify that it was a pretty fair deal. We have the right to be as big of idiots as we want in this country and a lot of people prove it on a weekly basis. The only guy who affords that is a guy like Kyle on a roof in some crap town keeping good people alive and killing bad people. He is heaven-sent. They are heroes for the ages -- iconic figures. Thank god for men like Chris Kyle. And you know what? He leaves such a big wake that you even hear people -- I'm prize surprised that Michael Moore and Seth Rogen did not break out into flames, spontaneously human combustion when they talk about a guy like him. It's just a different species. O'REILLY: You know what's terrible about it is that Eastwood the director and the writer, they didn't glorify violence, they showed how much Kyle suffered and his wife and children suffered from this Iraq war. They didn't shy away from that. This isn't like John Wayne in “The Green Berets” in 1968 going into Vietnam and winning the war by himself. JOHN WAYNE, ACTOR: Let's move out. O'REILLY: That's not what this movie is. So therefore, I was pretty annoyed not only at the dopey actors but the “New York Times” reviewer and the other crazy magazine people. Go ahead. Last word. MILLER: Listen, in the world there are people who take a power drill to a kid. Thank God there are people like Chris Kyle up on a roof who blow the guy with the power drill's head off. And anybody else wants to look for subtext in that or try to figure out the B story. They have their heads so far up their arse they're going to have to cut in switch back trails to get to it. Rest in peace -- Chris Kyle. Thank you for affording me the life I have as a free American. O'REILLY: All right. In Japan, Tama the cat is dead and 3,000 people turned out for Tama's
funeral. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What is so damn funny? O’REILLY: I don’t understand it but there is Tama. And Tama died. I wanted you to eulogize Tama for the American audience. MILLER: This is why the Japanese people will eventually rule the world because they will get on the bullet train and let this thing be the station master and they don’t even have any fear about it. You are doing 140 miles an hour through a train station -- Hey, listen, all I can tell you is the moment they put this cat in his coffin in Japan, he went in to a pneumatic tube under the Sea of Japan and into a deli where he was converted from a hero to a hero sandwich. Remember, one man’s deity is another person’s mid afternoon snack. And -- O’REILLY: Miller. Miller. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Do some cat stuff real quick. O’REILLY: The darkest Caucasian I have ever seen -- John Boehner. Did you see him yesterday? What’s going on? MILLER: I’m looking at your -- Billy, I’m looking at your tie and seeing him. It’s the same color as his face for God’s sake. O’REILLY: Look at him. Look at him. It’s January. MILLER: Can I tell you what he got for Christmas? Earl Scheib, $99.95. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Now get an even better paint job at Earl Scheib. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Beautiful car. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Earl Scheib. MILLER: I looked it up in my 64-crayon box that’s right between number 20 burnt orange and number 21 burnt sienna. You can always tell which one is carrying water for Obama when it’s Boehner because he is the one who wheezes all the time. Wake up, Boehner? O’REILLY: But do you think it’s spray tan or it’s a tanning booth? MILLER: I think he’s just red faced because he’s embarrassed that he is such a hack. And by the way, if Snyder is out there watching this replace the Indian logo with Boehner’s face. You can you still call them the red skins, everybody wins. (END VIDEO TAPE) O’REILLY: Coming up, more Miller. This time he talks about his night out with Frank Sinatra. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MILLER: Go in, there is the bar, there is the main room. There is the VIP room. There is the PVIP room, there’s the pope room and then way in the core the nuclei. There’s the Sinatra room. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: Also ahead how smart are college kids really? Gutfeld and McGuirk have a few thoughts. LELAND VITTERT, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Good evening. For America’s New Headquarters, I’m Leland Vittert. After months of allegations by dozens of women who say Bill Cosby dragged them and sexually abused them, the comedian will now face criminal charges. Cosby was arraigned today in New York, Philadelphia on a sexual assault charged involving a former Temple University employee. He’s admitted having sexual contact with her. Prosecutors claimed it was without her consent say, she was in out of consciousness because the pills and wine Cosby gave her. And words just in from San Bernardino, California where a federal grand jury has indicted Enrique Marquez on charges that he conspired with terrorist Syed Farook and his wife. Marquez, a longtime friend of Farook is accused of supplying the assault rifles that were used in the December 2nd attack that left 14 people dead. I’m Leland Vittert. When news breaks, we will break in. Now back to the O’Reilly FACTOR. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) BILL O’REILLY, FOX NEWS HOST, “THE O’REILLY FACTOR”: Welcome back to this special edition of THE FACTOR. Miller meets Gutfeld and McGuirk. Continuing now with one of the most fascinating stories we have heard in a while. The night Dennis Miller had dinner with Frank Sinatra. FRANK SINATRA, SINGER, ACTOR AND PRODUCER: Pardon me, but I got to run the facts uncommonly clear. O’REILLY: All right, now, very few people know this but Miller hung out with Sinatra. DENNIS MILLER, COMEDIAN: I met him once. Listen, whenever I see Frank, one thing pops into my head. I can’t believe Mickey Rooney closed Ava Gardner. But beyond that, I was in Las Vegas once and I was at the MGM Grand, Frank was at -- Tom Dreesen, the great Chicago comedians open for Frank. He says, why don’t you come down and see the show tonight, I will leave you tickets. I go, great. Leave one for me and my wife and my beloved mother who is with me past sense. He says, okay, I will leave three. I do my show and go back to the room to gather everybody. My wife is pregnant with our second child. She says, I feel a little focus. I don’t know if I can go out. I said, why don’t we take our nanny Coy-coy
because we have got our first baby with us. She likes Sinatra. Take her. We go down. We see the show and afterwards Dreessen says, why don't you come to dinner with us? It's un-freaking believable. I go to dinner in this Italian restaurant, the old Desert Inn and they had that round gold elevator. I go in, there's the bar, there's the main room, there's the V.I.P. room, there is the V.V.I.P. room. There is the Pope room and then way in the core, the -- the Sinatra room. They opened up the doors. There sits the great man -- crashing on his right. Barbara Sinatra and on his left his attorney. His attorney's wife. Dreessen here. My mom here, I'm right across from Sinatra, Coy-coy, the nanny between Barbara and I, over the shoulder two huge Sicilian Luca Brasi like body guards. Listen. I'm getting absolutely blasted. It's like 20 minutes in and I'm throwing brown stuff down just because I thought I meet Sinatra I'm going to get loaded with him. It's an Ocean's Eleven. They are being really nice to us. And I realized they think Coy-coy is my wife. And I don't want to say anything I just roll with it. But about a half an hour in, she nudges me under the table, she has got an autograph book with a poodle on it, she's motioning toward Sinatra I almost faint. But I can't say anything. So, I have to go body language like no, no. Keep it down. Keep it down. (LAUGHTER) But now it's hanging over my head like the autograph book. I can't think anything else. I get up at the end of the dinner and we go around after an hour to kiss the ring. Here is how cool Sinatra is. My mom says -- Mr. Sinatra, when I was a young girl, I saw at the Stanley Theater in Pittsburgh in 1952 to finally meet you is the biggest thrill of my life. Sinatra looks up because 1952 Stanley Theater, I remember that show, baby. You looked good that night. You looked good. (LAUGHTER) My mom pulls away from the table like a fern gully. She is freaked out. She's in shocked. I said -- I go Frank, what you just did for my mother, he literally gives me the Julia Russell (ph) face like get out of here, kid. I turn Coy-coy steps up. She hits him with the autograph book. I almost vomit over my shoulder, I hear Sinatra say, did you say Soy-soy? (LAUGHTER) Coy-coy, Frank. Coy-coy. Sinatra says KC, what? I can't even take it. I go out of the bar, my mom and Coy-coy come out. They are flying in tandem now. I can't get mad at her. I say, Coy, let me see it. I open up to the page he signs, it says the Sopo. He went so far with the term Chinese, here my Sopo, that's my Sinatra story. O'REILLY: There he is, Dennis Miller, everybody. (voice-over): Gutfeld and McGuirk on deck. A viewer warning. Gutfeld and McGuirk are on deck. How dumb are younger Americans? MCGUIRK: Fifty eight percent thought Madison's wife was named Ashley Madison and that Jefferson's wife was named Lesey (ph). O'REILLY: And then later, why is the media torturing Tim Tebow over his social life. The boys, moments away. (END VIDEOTAPE) (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) O'REILLY: According to a new survey by The American Council of Trustees and Alumni, of 383 -- 383 recent college graduates, the young folks don't really know a lot. Only 54 percent could state how long the terms of senators and Congress people are. That would be six for senators, two years for Congress people. Ten percent believe Judge Judy is now a member of the Supreme Court. BERNARD MCGUIRK, PRODUCER, “IMUS IN THE MORNING”: She's not? O'REILLY: Here now noted scholars Bernard McGuirk and Greg Gutfeld. Where did you go to college, Gutfeld? GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS HOST, “THE GREG GUTFELD SHOW”: I don't remember. O'REILLY: No? GUTFELD: Yes, it was in the 80's. Back then we did some crazy stuff. I think it was Berkeley. I think I went to Berkeley. O'REILLY: You went to the University of California, Berkeley. GUTFELD: Exactly. O'REILLY: All right. Were you aware after you graduated the last couple of years that you were running around after college? Did you know anything about public life? GUTFELD: No. I didn't do -- I spent most of my college life drunk. But this is interesting because the constitution is only four to five pages long. O'REILLY: Right. GUTFELD: Shorter than an Applebee's menu. O'REILLY: Right. GUTFELD: So, you should be able to at least read it. Although it's on parchment and the words are quite weird. O'REILLY: Ahah! GUTFELD: You should take some time to read it. O'REILLY: But college kids don't. Where go did you go to college? MCGUIRK: I went to college in the
Bronx. School of hard knocks. Actually in the Bronx, college of Mount Saint Vincent. O’REILLY: You went to Mount Saint Vincent. MCGUIRK: A commuter student I drove a taxi while I went to school. O’REILLY: Did you drive a taxi to the school and from? MCGUIRK: Well, I called one. I didn’t have a car. O’REILLY: So, it was you and Danny Devito. MCGUIRK: That’s right. O’REILLY: Okay. When you graduated from the college -- MCGUIRK: And Marc Anthony. O’REILLY: When you graduated from college of Saint Vincent and you were a couple years out, did you know anything? MCGUIRK: Well, yes, I knew this stuff, of course. I mean, but still, I honestly think these people did surprisingly well. But look, we already know it’s a nation of dunces. Jesse Watters is out there. We have the inalienable right to be stupid. O’REILLY: Be a moron. Yes. MCGUIRK: That’s right. But actually I dug deeper, like 66 percent of people thought they correctly answered it was multiple choice that Habeas Corpus was against unlawful imprisonment. They knew that, right? But President Obama, he said that -- he called the Navy Corpsman a Navy Corpsman. So, we are not only being led by very, very stupid people. O’REILLY: But he also said there were 58 states at one point. MCGUIRK: That’s right. GUTFELD: Fifty seven. O’REILLY: Fifty seven was it? MCGUIRK: And he is constitutional scholar. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BARACK OBAMA (D), PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Over the last 15 months, we have traveled to every corner of the United States, I have now been in 57 states, I think. One left to go. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: Okay. So, we all agree that the frame of reference of college graduates isn’t what it should be. But then when you get into the real world and you have got to compete and you got to make money and you got to kind of build a life for yourself, you should lock in. GUTFELD: I disagree. O’REILLY: I don’t think people -- I don’t think people but you’re drunk all the time. GUTFELD: Bill, Bill, remember the constitution was written by evil white men. O’REILLY: Yes. GUTFELD: Therefore -- O’REILLY: Slave owners. GUTFELD: Yes. So, I think it should be rewritten by Rachel Dolezal and Esperanto. O’REILLY: OK. GUTFELD: So everybody can enjoy it. O’REILLY: So, you say you are discouraging the reading of the constitution, instead they should go to movies and see out of Compton or whatever that thing. GUTFELD: I would like to see Cornell West and Miley Cyrus make a hip hop version of the constitution. O’REILLY: Uh-hm. MCGUIRK: One more. The 59 percent mistakenly answered that the father of the constitution was Thomas Jefferson and 28 percent correctly picked James Madison. O’REILLY: Right. But that’s not an easy question. MCGUIRK: But even worse -- O’REILLY: Right. MCGUIRK: Fifty eight percent also thought that Madison’s wife was named Ashley Madison -- O’REILLY: Right. MCGUIRK: And that Jefferson’s wife was named Lesey, that’s I mean, that’s pretty bad. O’REILLY: That’s get into popular culture. This story bothered me. I don’t know Tim Tebow. I think I met him once. And he seems to be a nice guy. But he is a traditional guy, a religious guy. And now the tabloid papers are smearing him because they don’t like his dating habits. Now, it all has to do with a woman named Olivia Culpo, Miss Universe 2012 who we had actually had here on THE FACTOR, because she herself is very conservative. And is anti-drug, anti-intoxicants. All of that. Roll the tape. O’REILLY: Intoxication is not for you, right? Intoxication, getting drunk, not for you? OLIVIA CULPO, MISS UNIVERSE 2012: It’s not definitely not for me during this job. Well, I’m an international role model especially in this country where it is -- there’s a drinking age. I need to respect that, especially not only as a citizen of this country but as a role model. O’REILLY: All right. Now, they said that Tebow was going out with her and they broke up because Tebow wouldn’t have sex with Miss Culpo. And it turns out to be totally bogus. MCGUIRK: According to TMZ, they did say it was bogus. But still that didn’t stop publications like “The Daily News” from printing some really nasty, snarky -- O’REILLY: Nasty, snarky, garbage. MCGUIRK: Yes. Like a Tim Tebow still can’t find the end zone. His girlfriend breaks it off over lack of sex. O’REILLY: Right. Right. They think they’re really cute over there, you know? I mean -- MCGUIRK: The left wing of a media bullies is what they are. They said they celebrate courageous drug sniffing pervert Charlie Sheen for
coming out with HIV. You know, that's a big accomplishment. Maybe 30 years ago, that would have been courageous. What he's doing is courageous in this day and age which, you know, celebrating --

O'REILLY: Well, I think Tebow's private life should be left alone. But even “Sports Illustrated” -- “Sports Illustrated” cheap shots him. GUTFELD: It's terrible, you know, and it's very, very tough for her. After our ugly breakup and now this. O'REILLY: You and Olivia? GUTFELD: Yes. She's doing great though. She's staying at my place until she's strong enough to move on. But I have always been there for Olivia. And I just think what's happening to her is an injustice that must stop. Can we please show more pictures of her during this disturbing segment? O'REILLY: When we come right back, it will be Miller Time. Putin grandstanding again this time in the Black Sea. Miller is next. O'REILLY: Thanks for staying with us. And Bill O'Reilly in the Miller Time segment tonight. Unbelievable situation. Courtesy of California Congresswoman Barbara Lee, she says, quote, “Women will disproportionately face harmful impacts from climate change particularly in poor and developing nations where women regularly assume increased responsibility for growing the family's food and collecting water fuel and other resources. Food and secure women with limited socio-economic resources may be vulnerable to situations such as work, transactional sex,” unquote. So, we're linking global warming to prostitution industry. Did you ever think you would see it? MILLER: Well, of course, Billy. Sure. Look what it did to Al Gore? He turned into a prostitute for it. Some people sell their bodies. Some people sell their souls. But I'm telling you that moron is not going to get happy until we have a carbon tax and -- O'REILLY: And that is a big deal because the Left wants to eliminate fossil fuels and I do too but I don't want to ruin the economy and take people's livelihoods away from them in the process. I think we have to develop the alternative fuels and when they are ready replace the fossil fuels but you are right. MILLER: Yes. Those wind power is going to work, Billy. You know, my car now, I have hooked a beanie copper hat to a cable and ran it to my battery. I put it on my dog's head. He leans out the window and powers the car. Yes. Alternative fuels are great. At this point we need a big honking dinosaur mausoleum, we had to run a pipe into it and suck it drier than no coward's memoirs. These people are nuts right now with these alternative fuels. They don't work. I'm not going to pull into an electronic thing and have my car turn into, you know, some sort of chaotic scene where it's like Frankenstein's castle. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's a lie! MILLER: The other cars, the cars that run on. O'REILLY: Ethanol. MILLER: Helium and stuff like that, yes, ethanol. Yes, that's what I need. I want to be on the 405 with a thousand Mini Hindenburgs (ph) in the hydrogen cars. (INAUDIBLE) O'REILLY: Well, hamsters running in the engine. And I heard a rumor that the bunny ranch in Nevada is now just candlelight because of global warming. They are not using it anymore. (LAUGHTER) O'REILLY: Putin, another good friend of yours, and I know you correspond, he is running around and having, you know, a summer in Russia is like three days. So he is making the most of it. According to the BBC. Roll the tape. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's August. And time for another summer stunt by Vladimir Putin. This year, Russia's action man president took a plunge beneath the Black Sea. Officially, this ride was to examine an ancient shipwreck but on the -- up above was Russia's prime minister. In Crimea today, everything is political. O'REILLY: Well, at least he had clothes on, Miller. (LAUGHTER) MILLER: We all live in the yellow submarine, the Putin submarine. (LAUGHTER) MILLER: You know, Bill, in that little outfit, it reminds me, if you sought “Out of Africa,” the actor who played Meryl Streep's husband Klaus Maria Brandauer. He looks like him if he was Bernie Capel on “The Love Boat.” That kind of working, that sort of look. This guy is beautiful. He is a real (INAUDIBLE) and I love it when he does these little things. At least he's interesting. I think they were taking a deep sea dive on Hillary's trustworthy ratings is what I understand. You got get way, way down there to find out how many people still trust Hillary and that was the deep sea dive. But least, like I said, he's interesting. As long as he is
killing fellow Russian and not me, I'm all for it. O'REILLY: Next up, more Gutfeld and McGuirk, this time
the boys sound off on Black Lives Matter and the pot boom on college campuses. Right back with you.
Happened?” New poll from Rasmussen, among likely voters asked this question. Which statement is
closest to your own? Black Lives Matter? All lives matter, or neither statement reflects your thinking.
Eleven percent, Black Lives Matter. Seventy eight percent, all lives matter. Nine percent don't care about
life in general. Here now Bernard McGuirk and Greg Gutfeld. So, what do you think the poll means,
Gutfeld? GUTFELD: Well, I guess it's good news of the democratic voters 23 percent said, Black Lives
Matter. Sixty seven percent said, all lives matter. The remaining 10 percent said, Greg Gutfeld matters.
O'REILLY: Uh-mm. GUTFELD: We have reached the point in life where we are having polls about who
matters? This is scary. This is apocalyptic that we actually have to do this. But I'm sure they would never
do a poll of whose life matters with the unborn. They would never ask that question. O'REILLY: No, they
don't cross over because the reproductive rights crowd doesn't believe that babies are human beings
unless they are, I guess, born and in some cases they don't even believe that. GUTFELD: But they are
useful. O'REILLY: Babies? GUTFELD: No, they are useful for other living forms. O'REILLY: Yes. In research.
GUTFELD: Yes. O'REILLY: What do you take out of the poll? MCGUIRK: I'm not really surprised by it
because I think black folks understand that police are the last line of defense between the anarchy and
safety. And they are the people who depend on the police the most in these harsh neighborhoods and
these Black Lives Matter stuff started with hands up don't shoot lie. And what the phrase implies is that
cops are bad that they don't think Black Lives Matter -- O'REILLY: What is it? Sixty four percent of Blacks
said, all lives matter in this poll? MCGUIRK: I think it was 68 percent. I believe -- O'REILLY: I agree with
you. I think most African-Americans are smart enough, I think -- MCGUIRK: Yes. O'REILLY: -- to
understand that a pressure group like Black Lives Matter just alienates their protection. MCGUIRK: And
it's run mostly by and organized and funded by White Liberals and tacitly supported by leftists like -- Bill
de Blasio and the march is back last winter. Most of them were like hipsters, occupied Wall Street types.
O'REILLY: It's the radical left that just wants to tear down all. They think this is a police state. All right.
Boring politicians. We have them, right, in the United States? MCGUIRK: Right. O'REILLY: We have boring
politicians. MCGUIRK: Yes. We do. You know why? Because they are weak, stupid, disgusting losers. I
mean -- (LAUGHTER) How do you compete with somebody who speaks like that? Of course, you said it
last week next to a guy like Donald Trump they -- O'REILLY: That is why Trump is really has taken off.
MCGUIRK: Right. O'REILLY: And I don't even know if Trump understands that because he brings passion
and he brings authenticity and straight talk. Where if you go to the others, many of them and they are
cerebral like you Gutfeld. It's all up in here, nothing in here. GUTFELD: I have no heart. O'REILLY: That is
true. It's all up here with Gutfeld. GUTFELD: Let me tell you something. O'REILLY: Yes. GUTFELD: Boring
people are great. O'REILLY: Yes. GUTFELD: Boring people make the best brain surgeons. They separate
spoken low key. But you think about it, do you want to really exciting rigorous guy who likes to wage
Twitter wars against news anchors with their finger on their button, or do you want a capable boring
guy, I'd rather of a capable boring guy -- O'REILLY: I think you are using the wrong word for Carson. I
don't see -- what I think is boring and I want you to comment on this is the talking points. They bring in
the talking points. MCGUIRK: Right. O'REILLY: They say the same thing over and over and over again no
matter what you ask them. What kind of shoes are they? You know, in my state it's like that drives me
GUTFELD: Abe Lincoln wasn't making shadow puppets. O'REILLY: You didn't read “Killing Lincoln.” It was
funny. GUTFELD: I read it eight times. O’REILLY: Go ahead. MCGUIRK: Donald Trump is sort of like dating a stripper. You know, it's exciting but it could be reckless though still exhilarating -- O’REILLY: Yes. OK. But I got to get out of here before we are closed down by the board of health. The University of Michigan, good school, did a study that says that pot use in college is now the biggest ever, bigger than Woodstock, bigger than the '60s when everybody was going nuts, bigger than more use on pot, Gutfeld. And you say? GUTFELD: No. I think that they were comparing that to smoking cigarettes. Am I right, Mr. O’Reilly? O’REILLY: No, I think it is used more than ever but more than cigarettes. True. GUTFELD: Yes. And the point is, it is not about an increase in pot and decrease in smoking. Fewer people are smoking cigarettes now more than ever. Pot is more popular not just on campus but here on FOX News. More people at FOX News smoked pot. I saw Gretchen out there toeking up. It was disgusting. In front of the children! O’REILLY: Look! GUTFELD: But by the way, it also points on criminalization makes drugs easier by creating efficient delivery systems. It is just easier than buying cigarettes in a store. O’REILLY: OK. Just percentage, one in every 17 college students smokes marijuana daily. One in every 17. MCGUIRK: Which is sad. It’s sad because -- O’REILLY: -- their parents are paying tuition. MCGUIRK: Right. O’REILLY: That’s why it’s said. MCGUIRK: Right. You need every age you can get out. It's a jungle out there. O’REILLY: All right. MCGUIRK: And I mean, GPAs is the only way that -- O’REILLY: This is serious thing. You know what this K2 is? This is synthetic pot. MCGUIRK: Yes. O’REILLY: You know what that is? MCGUIRK: Uh-hm. O’REILLY: That can kill you. That thing. And that is the rage all over colleges now. Since this isn’t the Woodstock -- this isn’t Cheech and Chong. MCGUIRK: Right. O’REILLY: This is serious. MCGUIRK: And it will fry your brain and you will going to lose that edge. By the way, I found weed under Lou Dobbs' chair. GUTFELD: Yes, I told you. Everywhere. O’REILLY: All right. So, we have lawsuit by Gretchen Carlson, Lou Dobbs. Please directly them individually. I had nothing to do with it. MCGUIRK: Do it with my class. O’REILLY: All right, gentlemen. And that is it for this special edition of THE FACTOR. As always, we thank you for watching. I’m Bill O’Reilly. And please always remember that the spin stops right here, because we are definitely looking out for you. (END VIDEOTAPE)"

Source Title: BTN

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 695711

Article Title: Secondhand pot smoke can give you more than just a contact high

Date: 4/21/2016

Article Content: Matthew Springer, a researcher in cardiovascular disease, was attending a Paul McCartney concert at AT&T Park in San Francisco in 2010 when he took particular note of the “haze of smoke over the whole audience.” Springer, a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco, had studied the effects of secondhand tobacco smoke on heart and vascular function. But this smoke was marijuana, a fact that McCartney noted from the stage as the performer commented on the familiar herbal-scented San Francisco air, Springer recalled. “There were all these people who wouldn't have tolerated people next to them smoking cigarettes. But it was OK with marijuana,” he said. Springer, who spoke April 21 at the UC Center in Sacramento, said the concert haze and aroma inspired a research curiosity: What is the
impact of secondhand marijuana smoke on blood vessel function? His preliminary research, presented in 2014 at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions, suggested that smoke from marijuana can damage your heart and blood vessels as much as secondhand cigarette smoke. The findings, from studies on rats exposed to marijuana smoke containing both psychoactive tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and no THC at all, showed that blood vessel function dropped 70 percent after 30 minutes of either type of exposure. Regardless of whether it comes from cigarettes, pot or other burning substances, Springer concluded, “it is very clear that secondhand smoke is a health hazard.” In 2006, a UCLA study, headed by research physician Dr. Donald Tashkin, said marijuana smoke contains carcinogens and even has more tar than tobacco smoke. But the findings concluded that long-term marijuana smokers didn't have an increased risk of developing lung cancer, with Tashkin speculating that THC may reduce cancer rates in aging cells. A 2013 study led by Tashkin also said that habitual marijuana use alone doesn't lead to significant abnormalities in lung function. Nationally, long-term exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke is blamed for 50,000 deaths a year in the United States, including an estimated 34,000 deaths from heart disease. Springer says he isn’t ready to extrapolate such numbers to marijuana, given different exposure patterns. But he said the lab rat research, to be updated in a future study, suggests that blood vessel function is slower to recover from short-term marijuana exposure than with tobacco. In cases where rats were exposed to tobacco smoke for one minute, Springer said, their blood vessel function took about a half an hour to recover. But with marijuana, vessel function didn't return by 90 minutes - the maximum time that researchers tested. Springer said researchers haven't fully theorized why burning marijuana constituents seemed to have a greater impact than tobacco in “impairing vascular function.” He said more study is needed. The research didn’t examine vaporizing, a non-combustible consumption method increasingly popular among cannabis consumers. But Springer said the findings illustrate that secondhand marijuana smoke should be considered in a similar public policy realm as secondhand tobacco smoke. Under California law, it is currently illegal for medical marijuana users to smoke cannabis in any area where tobacco is banned, as well as within 1,000 feet of a school or youth center. A likely 2016 ballot measure to legalize marijuana for recreational use, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, would prohibit marijuana consumption “in any public space” other than premises authorized by local governments. Springer says he is taking no position on the measure but hopes it triggers a public health policy discussion on secondhand exposure to marijuana smoke. 5 things you need to know about the California marijuana propositionCalifornia was the first state to allow medical marijuana. Now, two decades later, voters are expected to be asked whether to legalize recreational use of the drug. The legalization measure most likely to qualify for the statewide November ballot is the p Peter Hecht: 916-326-5539, @phecht_sacbee"
Article Content: ABSTRACT

Notes to Globe South from readers commenting on a range of stories. Cyber learning When students are doing schoolwork on a laptop, pad, or desktop device, the key word is oversight (“In many schools now, there’s a laptop in every backpack,” Jan. 10). Students will malinger on these devices if no one is monitoring their use.Osprey8 Oh, great. Indoctrinate the kids that hauling around a computer is normal. So when they get a job, they will be used to having no spare time, just working 24/7. nhhiker The pretty amazing new stuff is way cool, but I haven't noticed the kids getting any smarter.HarryRPitts When Nate met Phyllis A truly beautiful story (“A late-life romance takes friends by surprise,” Jan. 10). A nice way to start a Sunday! linniel Friendship developing to love. This story is a great antidote to all those tales in Goldstein’s Love Letters, Dinner with Cupid, etc.veefbe Very nice story, gotta keep living. My mom died three years ago and my 89-year-old dad now has a girlfriend. They are both vibrant and want to live life. Congrats to Phyllis and Nate.merlinmurph The bill for smoking cigarettes (“Should Massachusetts raise the minimum age to buy tobacco-related products to 21?” Jan. 10) are the only legal, nonprescription product that, when used as directed, have been definitively shown to shorten users' lives. With my taxes, I help pay for the care of dying nicotine addicts. (Full disclosure: this includes my mom, who died of [lung-related] causes.) I think there are much better ways to spend tax dollars. Making it just a little harder to obtain cigarettes is the least that an industrialized society can do. billypat Two fruit centers, two thumbs up The Fruit Center Marketplace is the best reason to live in the Milton area (“Fruit Center Marketplace boasts doing it the old-fashioned way” Jan. 10). Yup, I sometimes do go there twice a day . . . It’s that good! Great food -- they have everything -- and great employees. The Fruity is what Whole Foods wishes it could be! user_4484153 Love the Fruit Center in Hingham!14thColony Water’s rising Re “Duxbury, Marshfield, Scituate get good news on flood maps” Jan. 10: I don't think Mother Nature knows how to read a flood map.rangerdoc13 Send comments to globesouth@globe.com"

Source Title: News

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 732214

Article Title: Children who have lost a parent twice as likely to have tried tobacco or alcohol before teens | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 10/10/2016

Article Content: Children who grow up without one of their parents are more likely to smoke or drink by the age of 11 (stock photo)Children who grow up without one of their parents are more likely to smoke or drink by the age of 11, a British study found. Researchers following thousands of children in the UK found those who had 'lost' a parent – either through death or separation – were twice as like to smoke and nearly 50 per cent more likely to have tried alcohol before they were in their teens. The University College London study analysed data from thousands of British children born between 2000 and 2002, who were questioned at three, five, seven and 11 years old. At 11, they were asked whether they had ever tried smoking or drinking and whether they had ever had enough alcohol to feel drunk. More than one in four of the 10,940 children who completed the surveys had 'lost' a parent by the age of
seven. These children were more than twice as likely to smoke and 46 per cent more likely to have started drinking alcohol by age 11, regardless of whether they were girls or boys. The association was linked to the fact a parent was absent and was not affected by which parent was missing or when they had been 'lost'. Smoking and drinking levels among children missing a parent were the same even when other factors were taken into account, including the parents' level of education, ethnicity, the mother's age at parenthood, whether she smoked during pregnancy, the length of the pregnancy and the child's birthweight. Children whose parent had died were generally less likely to drink alcohol by age 11 than those whose parents were absent for other reasons – but those who did were 12 times as likely to drink to get drunk. Across all children, including those with both parents, boys were more likely to have smoked or drank alcohol than girls. Across all children, including those with both parents, boys were more likely to have smoked or drank alcohol than girls. Nearly one in seven boys had tried alcohol, compared to just over one in ten girls. While boys were twice as likely to have drunk enough to feel inebriated – 12 per cent compared to 6.6 per cent of girls. Most children had not smoked by 11, but 3.6 per cent of boys had compared to 1.9 per cent of girls. The researchers said: 'Associations between parental absence and early smoking and alcohol consumption may operate through a range of mechanisms, such as reduced parental supervision, self-medication, and adoption of less healthy coping mechanisms.' For instance, nicotine in particular demonstrates psychoactive properties and may have benefits for mood regulation. The study was observational, so no conclusions could be drawn about cause and effect. However, the researchers said their findings echoed those of other studies and emphasised how health behaviours established in early life are known to set patterns for later life."

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 150915

Article Title: Lourdes smokes hand rolled cigarette on post-graduation beach holiday | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 8/13/2014

Article Content: High school's out! Lourdes smokes a hand rolled cigarette as she continues post-graduation fun with friends on the beach By Chelsea White for MailOnline Published: 14:27 EST, 13 August 2014 | Updated: 03:20 EST, 14 August 2014 Oh dear, Momma is definitely going to preach. With high school finally over and done with, Lourdes Leon is celebrating her independence - one puff at a time. The 17-year-old daughter of Madonna continued with her graduation party holiday in Cannes, France, on Wednesday, hitting the beach with friends. Scroll down for video Sneaky smoke: Lourdes Leon smoked her away through another day on her beachside holiday in Cannes, France, on Wednesday. While the budding fashionista has been sprung smoking before - much to her pop star mom's disapproval - the teen seems to be keen to take her rebellion on step further. Instead of just smoking a standard cigarette, as Lourdes has done in the past, on Wednesday the young woman was seen puffing away on a hand rolled cigarette. Of course, rolled cigarettes are not for beginners thanks to the skill needed to put them together, so the high school graduate seemed bent on proving her smoking was here to stay. Fun with friends: Lourdes puffed away as she and her pals trotted along the shoreline of
the very busy Cannes beach. Stepping it up: Instead of just smoking a standard cigarette, as the 17-year-old has done in the past, on Wednesday the young woman was seen puffing away on a hand rolled cigarette. Not worrying about who saw, the 17-year-old held the smoke between her two fingers and drew back with the lit end facing into her palm. Lourdes puffed away as she and her friends trotted along the shoreline of the very busy Cannes beach. Madonna publicly chastised her daughter in 2012 when the then 15-year-old was sprung smoking a cigarette in New York. At the time, the Like A prayer singer said she was going to be 'tougher' on her oldest as she 'wasn't happy'. Unusual style: Not worrying about who saw, the 17-year-old held the smoke between her two fingers and drew back with the lit end facing into her palm. Some explaining to do? Madonna publicly chastised her daughter in 2012 when the then 15-year-old was first sprung smoking a cigarette. The star told Rock Center's Harry Smith: 'Cigarette smoking I’m not very fond of - for anyone. I don’t approve of anyone smoking cigarettes, most of all my daughter.' Madge even vowed to crack down on her now 17-year-old. 'Honestly I don’t think I’m as tough as I should be. I think I need to be maybe tougher. It’s hard though... every day is a negotiation.'

Keeping the habit? Of course, rolled cigarettes are not for beginners thanks to the skill needed to put them together, so the high school graduate seemed bent on proving her smoking was here to stay. Changing it up: The 17-year-old wore a backwards baseball hat over her brown locks, which until Wednesday, had been braided back. While Lourdes may have some explaining to do, she did not seem too worried about it. After finishing her cigarette, the 17-year-old joined her friends in the water. At the encouragement of her male pal, the brunette rushed into the small waves. While not likely to wipe out in the small surf, Lourdes laughed and screamed as she splashed in the water. Cooling off: After finishing her cigarette, the teen joined her friends in the water. Surf's up! While not likely to wipe out in the small surf, Lourdes laughed and screamed as she splashed in the ocean water. For her day at the beach, Madonna's oldest wore a simple black two-piece with fashion forward red sunglasses and piled on plenty of bracelets and choker necklaces to give her beach look a grunge feel. The 17-year-old also wore a backwards baseball hat over her brown locks, which until Wednesday, had been braided back. Fun in the sun: The teenager seemed to be having a blast running in and out of the waves. Keeping it simple: For her day at the beach, Madonna's oldest wore a basic black two-piece with fashion forward red sunglasses and piled on plenty of bracelets and choker necklaces to give her look a grunge feel. Lourdes' famous mother has yet to be spotted on this trip but appears she did send someone to keep an eye on the newest high school graduate - the singer's toy boy Timor Steffens, 26. It is believed Madonna is being kept busy ahead of a release of her thirteenth studio album. The singer has been working with top producers for the new record, including Diplo, Avicii and Disclosure. Making the most of it: Lourdes has been on vacation since the start of the month, staying abroad a luxury yacht. Share or comment on this article.

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 129881

Article Title: Military's tobacco discount: Up in smoke | Fox News

Date: 7/15/2014
The familiar image of a battle-hardened member of the military smoking a cigarette may become a little less common. The Senate appropriations defense subcommittee on Tuesday approved a $549.3 billion defense spending bill that would eliminate the 25 percent discount that members of the armed services enjoy when buying tobacco products at commissaries and elsewhere, including cigarettes and chewing tobacco. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., chairman of the subcommittee, said studies show that tobacco use is higher in the military. He said that translates into more illnesses and health care costs of $1.6 billion a year. “There is no reason these deadly products are subsidized,” Durbin said. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said she was surprised that the subsidy was so high. The defense bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 would do away with the discount. The move is controversial and certain to generate disagreements in Congress. The House version of the defense policy bill would thwart any Navy efforts to restrict access to tobacco. In May, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., described smoking as one of the few pleasures for a member of the military, and he easily convinced his colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to back his measure.

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 703101

Article Title: More than a QUARTER of pregnant women smoke in Blackpool | Daily Mail Online

Date: 6/16/2016

More than a quarter of mothers in Blackpool are smoking by the time their baby is born, alarming new figures show. New NHS figures reveal 26 per cent of women were smokers at the time of birth in 2015/16. This contrasted with Westminster in central London at the other end of the spectrum, where just 1.5 per cent of women did. Experts warn that smoking while pregnant increasing the chances of abnormal foetal growth, raising the risk of miscarriage, premature birth and a baby being stillborn, among other health problems. More than a quarter of mothers in Blackpool are smoking by the time their baby is born, official figures show. The figures, from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, cover England for the 12 months up to March 2016. Overall, the figures are the lowest since records began in 2006/07. They show 10.6 per cent of pregnant women were smoking until full-term representing 67,200 of 631,230 maternities last year. A year earlier the figure was 11.4 per cent, continuing the steady decline since 2006/7, which saw a high of 15.1 per cent. The decrease means the percentage of women smoking during pregnancy was below the Government’s national target of 11 per cent for the first time. However, there were areas in England where up to a quarter of women giving birth over the last 12 months were smokers. Of the four areas where healthcare is commissioned in the country, London had all 32 of its Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) meeting the national ambition by the end of March 2016. The South of England had 30 of its 50 CCGs doing so and the Midlands and East of England had 26 of its 61 CCGs complying with the target. However, in the North of England just 15 out of 66 CCGs reported that less than 11 per cent of women were recorded as smokers at the time of giving birth. The report said: ‘Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature
birth, still birth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy.' Map shows percentage of women who are smoking at the time their baby is delivered. Dark blue means the number of women is between 14 and 26 per cent. Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England (PHE), said: 'The rate of women smoking during pregnancy continues to fall; the latest data show that 10.6 per cent of pregnant women were smokers at the time of giving birth, compared to 11.4 per cent at the same time last year.' However, further action is required to support women to achieve a smokefree pregnancy. 'It is vital to protect babies from smoke during pregnancy and in the early months, to ensure they get the best start in life. 'The best protection for mothers, their babies and partners is to quit smoking for good. 'We must also tackle significant differences across regions and social groups – especially as the burden and harm hits hardest in our more deprived communities. 'Public Health England will continue to work with others to provide the best support to those trying to quit.' Blackpool (pictured) had the highest percentage of smoking mothers (26 per cent), while Westminster in central London had the lowest (1.5 per cent) in the 12 months up to March 2016. Francine Bates, chief executive of The Lullaby Trust and co-chair of the Smoking in Pregnancy Challenge Group said: 'Maternal smoking is now the number one preventable risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). 'If a mother smokes one to nine cigarettes a day during pregnancy, they are four times more likely to have their baby die from SIDS compared to a mother who doesn’t smoke. 'To avoid these tragedies, investment in services to support women to quit is needed by every local authority. 'If we do not support women to quit when they become pregnant we are locking in a lifetime of inequality. 'Professor Alan Cameron, of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said: 'It is vital that investment in smoking cessation services continues and we welcome the new tobacco control plan which sets an ambitious target for further reducing smoking in pregnancy. 'As healthcare professionals, we need to support and help women to lead healthier lives and this must include smoking cessation. 'Women must be made aware of the risks of smoking on their fertility, in pregnancy, as well as their health later in life.' 

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is ("tobnoecig_SOURCE_you" – "tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_you").

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1864

Article Title: Student offenses drop at Kenai Peninsula schools"

Date: 12/2/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: KENAI, Alaska KENAI, Alaska (AP) - The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District reported a drop in campus disciplinary actions for such offenses as intoxication and drug possession in the first three months of the current school year, a decrease in part attributed to closer student oversight. Only one incident of a student under the influence of alcohol on campus and one of alcohol possession were reported mid-August through mid-October, compared to 10 in the same period of the 2013-2014 school year, according to district spokeswoman Pegge Erkeneff. Erkeneff said all 10
reports of students under the influence of alcohol for the last school year occurred in the first quarter. The decline of student offenses needing disciplinary action by administrators or law enforcement officers is noted in the district's quarterly discipline report for the 2014-2015 school year, the Peninsula Clarion (http://is.gd/wcnbqV) reported Monday. At Kenai Central High School there has been a drop in some offenses since administrators since the school was assigned a resource officer through the city, according to principal Alan Fields. Fields said reports of locker room thefts have decreased significantly since school resource officer Alex Prins started prevention measures such as locking up personal items. Misbehavior at afterschool activities also has dropped in the officer's presence. “I can't remember the last time we had trouble at a dance,” Prins said. At the school district, reported incidents of drug possession and fighting are also down. In the first quarter of the current school year there were three reports of being under the influence of drugs and three of possession compared to 16 drug-related offenses during the same period the previous year. Reported fights, both physical and verbal, totaled 25 in the first quarter of the current school year, compared to 38 for the same quarter of 2013-2014, which had a year-end total of 133 fights. That number declined since the reported 191 fights in 2012-2013, and 228 fights reported in the school year before that. Fighting, harassment, insubordination and particularly tobacco use are becoming less frequent, said interim Superintendent Sean Dusek. But disruptive behavior was on, or above, pace with previous years, according to the report. Soldotna Police Chief Peter Mylnarik said administrators are expected to contact authorities when reported behavior is criminal. “All crime is a crime no matter what the age,” he said. Information from: (Kenai, Alaska) Peninsula Clarion, http://www.peninsulaclarion.com"
outside of, our schools,” City Department of Education spokeswoman Devora Kaye said. “The DOE took swift action to immediately reassign Mr. Shaynak following his initial arrest. He is not, and will not be, in contact with students. Student safety remains our top priority.” Brooklyn Tech is one of the most selective high schools in the city."

Source Title: AP

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 1

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 29996

Article Title: SHOW: DR. DREW 9:00 PM EST Pot Debate; Transgender Teen`s Death Making Headlines"

Date: 1/14/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Nancy Grace talks to rapper 2 Chainz about marijuana. Dr. Drew considers question of using marijuana for both medicinal and recreational purposes being moralized over in a bizarre way. Panel discusses if marijuana should be legalized. Next, suicide of a teenage transgender brings up questions of family support and acceptance for transgender people. Next, a woman in China cuts her husband’s penis and throws it out of the window. More than a third of views in the poll justify what she did. DREW PINSKY, CNN ANCHOR: Tonight, the pot debate rages on. And we are right in the middle of it. And a transgender teen’s death is making headlines in Hollywood and on social media and Twitter. Plus, a wife with scissors accused of cutting off her husband’s -- cheating husband’s penis not once, but twice. Let’s get started. Good evening. My cohost, of course, is Samantha Schacher, now last night our colleague, Nancy Grace, got into it with none other than rapper 2 Chainz. And tonight, that has become our most tweeted story of the day. Take a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) 2 CHAINZ: You don` know what I`m talking about. NANCY GRACE, CNN ANCHOR: You went to college on a sports scholarship. Did you not? 2 CHAINZ: Yes. And I`m very intelligent. And smoking pot for me . GRACE: Can I get back to you in high school when you were - You were on a basketball scholarship, as I recall. 2 CHAINZ: Yes. GRACE: Were you - were you using pot then? 2 CHAINZ: I was selling pot then. GRACE: You were an athlete. 2 CHAINZ: Yes. I was selling pot then. GRACE: And would you want your children to do that? 2 CHAINZ: No. But it was . GRACE: And why is that? 2 CHAINZ: It was a way of living for me. GRACE: Why don`t you want your children to do it, man? 2 CHAINZ: Because I did it for them. I sacrificed that so they won`t have to do that. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: Oh, Nancy. Let me start off with my headlines. First of all, I pretty much agree with 2 Chainz. SAMANTHA SCHACHER, COHOST: You do? Yes! PINSKY: I pretty much agree with 2 Chainz. SCHACHER: Dr. Drew, so you are team 2 Chainz. PINSKY: I am team 2 Chainz. SCHACHER: Good. PINSKY: I do not care if cannabis and pot is voted up or voted down its legalization. That`s up to the people. People should make the laws they want. If they want it legalized, it should be legalized. If they want it illegalized, I completely understand that our laws as it pertains to substances are draconian and bizarre. They are bizarre. I can`t even get a (INAUDIBLE) of cannabis called CBD that might help my patients, because there are such moralistic cloud around a drug that`s just a chemical that humans relate to, like any other chemical, like nicotine, like alcohol. We have chosen this one, however, to make a moral argument about and to have very bizarre arguments around. Nancy`'s arguments were about as bizarre as they can get. That is bizarre as they can possibly get. She was
moralizing, she was demeaning, she was creating racial innuendo in order to demean for 2 Chainz who just felt that he should have the right to use a substance that other people have the right to use similar substances. I have got a lot to say. I’ve got a lot more to say, and let me just say one more thing. Cannabis is addictive, right? For some people. But because it is, it doesn’t mean I think it should be illegal any more than I think alcohol should be illegal that is - because it’s addictive for some people. I am a clinician. I observe things about these chemicals. I have got a lot of experience, 25 years of experience of watching the relationship that people have with these substances. You should want to mine that experience. It’s valuable. But whether it’s legal or illegal, that’s up to the people. Joining us to discuss, first up, Kelvin Washington, radio host, Vanessa Barnett, Hollywood.com, Anne Elise Goetz, attorney. You guys watch more from Nancy’s show. Here it is. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) NG: Legalizing pot ends up in stories like this. And you with so many people looking up to you advocate legalization of pot. And I don’t get it. I mean I’ve seen video of you smoking a big fat doobie. I mean I’ve read your lyrics. I know what you say in your songs. But when you hear stories like the mom and the dad on the front porch, the baby dies in a fire. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: Yes, Vanessa, when people use substances, they make terrible judgments sometimes. That does not make that particular substance any worse than any other particular substance. And it’s not a pertinent issue when it comes to law. VANESSA BARNETT: Yeah, I did all of that, but I’m completely dumfounded that you are sitting here saying that you agree with 2 Chainz. Honestly, I think you are just looking for a little street cred (ph) Dr. Drew. And - look, all respect due to you, but I get on this show and there’s been so many times where you are like, substances are bad. Substances are bad PINSKY: I never said substances are bad. I said addiction is a terrible disease. And I like to fight it. BARNETT: Now you are on. PINSKY: Vanessa. BARNETT: Legalizing pot. PINSKY: Vanessa, Vanessa -- you ever smoke pot? You don’t have to answer that. It’s up to you. (CROSSTALK) BARNETT: You have to repeat. I didn’t hear you. PINSKY: But the point is, if you did, that’s fine with me. It’s a spark up, my dear. Have a good time. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: That’s fine. BARNETT: The funny thing is -- PINSKY: I have no problem, I hope you enjoyed yourself. But if you had a disease called addiction, and your relationship with a particular chemical, filling a black chemical, caused you destruction and a horrible life course, I’m interested in helping you. Otherwise, I’m interested in you having a good time. Kelvin, do you see what I’m talking about? No, Vanessa, Kelvin. Kelvin. BARNETT: All of a sudden, now this is the argument when so many times before it was like, substances are bad. And I get that some people abuse substances. And look, I don’t even smoke weed. That’s not my argument here. My argument is look, Dr. Drew is all of a sudden, team 2 Chainz. And I am blown away. PINSKY: Kelvin, you get what I’m saying? I’m not saying that substances aren’t going to cause you to do things that could be a problem. They are. It’s on you then for making the choice to do it. KELVIN WASHINGTON: Right. I mean, you know, I don’t want to make it like it should be the men against the women on this particular panel. But, you know I’m Dr. Drew, I’m with you. My issue is, alcohol kills over -- nearly 100,000 people a year. We have tobacco which kills almost 500,000 people a year. So, I don’t get to your point how we’re going to pick and choose, while you can do this, you can’t do that, you can do that, but you can’t do that. PINSKY: Well, listen, and I’m going to say something equally as crazy as big Drew Chainz tonight. BARNETT: Oh, Drew Chainz. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: But -- maybe all substances should be legal. That’s up to the people. I will contend with whatever the people want. (CROSSTALK) PINSKY: Hang on - I’ve got to turn off -- hang on a second. Anna Elise, Now, listen, they tried it in Holland. It didn’t work so well. So, there’s evidence that it’s not such a great thing. But that’s up to the people to decide. You understand what I’m saying? ANNE ELISE GOETZ, ATTORNEY: I hear you, Dr. Drew. This is what I take issue with, though. It is - it’s specifically 2 Chainz as well as what you almost - and to Vanessa
there, so what we’re talking about here, is illegal. If people want to change it, great, that’s fine. What we have are celebrities, people going on national television saying it’s OK to break the law. And that I have a huge problem with. I don’t care what state you live in. This is illegal across the country because the federal government says it’s illegal. And it should not be appropriate for celebrities or anyone else to be out there saying, I think it’s fine. And in a civil disobedience manner going out and smoking pot and acting like it’s OK. SCHACHER: Dr. Drew -- GOETZ: It’s not the way the system works. PINSKY: I got it. GOETZ: Just because you don’t like the law, doesn’t mean it’s not enforceable. SCHACHER: I want to give some context to this whole debate. PINSKY: Yes, please. SCHACHER: Because there’s a huge reaction on social media and Anna Elise just pointed out that celebrities do have a lot of influence. And this wrapper - 2 Chainz and Dr. Drew, if you are going to be Dr. Drew 2 Chainz, you have to say his name properly. It’s 2 Chainz. That’s what you are supposed to say. PINSKY: Oh, yeah. SCHACHER: OK? But here is the thing. 2 million Twitter followers - OK? So, he does have a lot of influence on social. He is a huge rapper. He also gave a really good debate last night, Dr. Drew. PINSKY: Yeah, of course. SCHACHER: People on Twitter think he won the debate. That’s the federal consensus. PINSKY: Kelvin had that position, too. Right, Kelvin? WASHINGTON: Yeah, absolutely. My point was, he won the debate because he stuck to the topic at hand, which was should weed be legalized - he gave his opinions. He mentioned taxpayers. PINSKY: But guess what? Guess what, Kelvin? That’s the point. Nancy went in this sort of - with this scatter argument. WASHINGTON: She attacked him personally. PINSKY: But right. She moralized, she used racial innuendo. WASHINGTON: He was a great guy, the next he was bad. I didn’t understand. PINSKY: This is not a moral argument. We should not make it that. It’s a human relationship with a substance. WASHINGTON: She brought up his grade point average. PINSKY: Listen, and by the way. SCHACHER: It was a 4.0. PINSKY: Here’s another fact. SCHACHER: He is a well-educated man. I don’t know why it was a surprise. PINSKY: Hey, the fact is, in addition to being addictive for some people, if you start smoking even moderately at the age of 11, it will change your brain permanently. That’s a fact. SCHACHER: Whether it’s legal or illegal, that’s a fact. It’s also a fact, by the way, in Colorado, the black market has remained alive and well in spite of making it legal. It kind of surprised me. I thought when they made it legal in Colorado, it would be the end of the black market. But apparently, because it’s expensive and so taxed, there’s a black market. WASHINGTON: I thought you mean like black - me and Vanessa black market. PINSKY: No, no. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: I’m not absolutely - Let me look at some more what Nancy had to say. Put another tape up for me and then we’ll go to the next segment. But I want to see this tape. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) 2 CHAINZ: In the whole community. GRACE: I’ve got a problem, as successful as you are, as rich as you are, with this. Smoking California weed with California whores. Excuse me, true, I left that one out. 2 CHAINZ: Yeah, but we are talking about recreational use of marijuana. What are we talking about, Nancy? GRACE: What I’m saying, is, your lyrics. Your lyrics 2 CHAINZ: My lyrics pay the bills. Love is real life. GRACE: To support people. 2 CHAINZ: You know, I’ll tell you want me to talk about. (CROSSTALK) GRACE: Pot. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: Guess what, everybody? Suddenly, the cannabis debate drags in the misogynistic quality of certain lyrics. That’s a different argument. SCHACHER: Right. PINSKY: And by the way, that can be debated. That sounds pretty misogynist to me, I don’t think he wants his kids to be treated that way. I’m suddenly sounding like Kristen Wiig. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: But listen, let’s keep focus on the issues, such as - so, keeping with that, I want to bring in the behavior bureau for this
debate. And later on, this is a crazy story. A woman is accused of having cut off her cheating husband’s penis. Now, I know a lot of ladies have had that impulse. You are looking at a picture, yeah, Vanessa is giving the high sign on that. Now, what you are looking at there is a picture of the second time she did it. Back after this. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I’m (INAUDIBLE) with the “Daily Share” at this hour, gaining momentum on Twitter with over 18,000 tweets in the past 24 hours, NASCAR driver Kurt Busch says it’s true, his ex-girlfriend, Patricia Driscoll, is a trained assassin. Busch says he saw her return from a covert mission with an evening gown covered in blood. This is all coming out because Busch’s ex-filed a no contact order against him claiming he is the one who assaulted her inside his motor home at Dover International Speedway. He denies laying a hand on her. And she denies being an assassin. So, who is Patricia Driscoll? According to her Twitter account, she’s an author, philanthropist, executive producer and president of the Armed Forces Foundation supporting injured troops and military families. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GRACE: Rapper 2 Chainz, also known as Tity Boy, also known as Tauheed Epps. 2 CHAINZ: Yeah. GRACE: Why? Does a man like you who won’t even let his daughters have a coca cola or Pepsi and you are advocating the legalization of marijuana? It doesn’t fit together. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: I am back with Sam. This is our click fix, stories you are discussing most online. We are talking about cannabis pot. Should it be legalized for recreational purposes? Nancy Grace got into it with 2 Chainz. And Sam, in the last block, I said, I will say again, I do not care whether cannabis is voted up or voted down. Laws are made by the people. They should decide what they want. Our laws as they pertain to substances generally are bizarre. We arbitrarily decide some are good and some are bad. Cannabis is bad, alcohol is good. They are all substances. And all I’m interested in is the relationship humans have with those substances and how it pertains to their health. SCHACHER: But Dr. Drew, you are an addictionologist. PINSKY: Yes. SCHACHER: You see this firsthand. So, let me ask you. PINSKY: I’m against audition. SCHACHER: In compare - OK, in comparison, OK, weed to alcohol, to heroine, to cocaine, where does weed fall? PINSKY: In terms of what? In terms of its addictive. SCHACHER: In terms of . (NO SOUND) PINSKY: Effect on our socioeconomic. SCHACHER: In terms of being . PINSKY: Hallucinating product? I mean there is nothing - in terms of potential for causing cancer? It turns in terms of potential for causing cancer, it turns out alcohol is the worst. SCHACHER: Right. PINSKY: It can cause cancer tissue - cancer throughout the body. Nicotine, cigarettes, horrible potential for causing cancer. Neck, throat - lungs, obviously. Listen, this is -- these are horrible substances with horrible problems associated with them. We don’t need to moralize about them. Humans have a characteristic relationship with substances. You can study it, predict it, talk about it. For cannabis, for some people, highly addictive. For some people not so much. For some people when they take it, they take (INAUDIBLE) - they have an opium withdrawal syndrome. So what? That doesn’t mean whether it should be legal or illegal. That’s a separate issue. Bringing my panel. Heather McDonald, comedian co-host “All about Sex” “Saturday Night,” TLC, Judy Ho, clinical psychologist, Professor University, Erica America psychotherapist and radio host. And Heath, I hear that -- let’s hear your opinion. You are a little bit more on Nancy side? HEATHER MCDONALD: Listen, I kind of like what Nancy said. I don’t like pot. Raising kids, I think it’s going to make it harder to keep them from doing it. PINSKY: Why? MCDONALD: If you don’t have . PINSKY: Right now - right now you have the chances of getting your hands on? MCDONALD: No, because before you could say, you could be arrested. You could go to jail. That’s off the table, basically, and it will be by the time my kids are teenagers. Let’s face it. It’s basically legal. PINSKY: Erica. MCDONALD: So, I don’t live the pot, and I don’t - I think it’s a lazy drug. PINSKY: Listen, it’s not about the kids, no doubt about it, listen, it changes kids’ brains permanently. MCDONALD: Yes. PINSKY: The psychiatric consequences are profound, that’s a fact. It’s just a fact. Erica. MCDONALD: I like that Nancy brought up
MCDONALD: I like that Nancy said, kind of called him on his hypocrisy by saying you don`t let your kids have a coca cola, but you are all about being with the hoes and smoking pot. That`s - and that`s kind of - that`s what`s hard. Because his persona is a rapper. And you cannot change your job just because you have children. PINSKY: Heather. Heather. MCDONALD: No, I just kind of like that she pointed it out. PINSKY: Heather, it drives me crazy. MCDONALD: And I kind of like it. PINSKY: Listen, it drives me crazy that people abuse substances also have to be vegan and have to be clean. It`s bizarre. It`s terrible thinking. That`s another thing we can address that`s separate from whether it should be legalized. Erica, you get where I`m going here? ERICA AMERICA: Yes. Absolutely. I totally agree with 2 Chainz. I mean I`m in the radio industry, so I actually have met 2 Chainz. I`m friendly with him. And this is no surprise to me. I have known for a while that he is an intelligent guy, someone who has a strong authenticity about him. And yes, he has these songs that are about -- all about them booties and hoes, but he is not like that at all. I know he is an amazing father. And it`s so funny. PINSKY: Well. AMERICA: On Twitter, Drew, Chainz is going crazy. Everybody loves that you are saying Drew Chainz, yes, I don`t even smoke pot myself. But I am pro legalization, because just like alcohol back in the day, it causes more crime just to take it out of the streets. People go crazy about it. And it`s making our government focus limited funds on things when we really have bigger fish to fry. PINSKY: I cannot stand that this drug has so much moralizing and bizarre political energy around it that we can`t even be rational about it. That drives me out of my mind. I want to show you more of Nancy`s debate with 2 Chainz. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GRACE: What I`m trying to say to you is that if this is legalized, then everybody is going to have unlimited access to pot. And unlike other people that are responsible, irresponsible child abusers are going to have free access. 2 CHAINZ: Oh, I`m not sure if you know, but everybody has the ability to get their hands on pot right now, whether it`s legal or not. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: That`s a great point that 2 Chainz makes. Judy, and then - I think I heard Nancy say that somehow it`s going to cause people to become child abusers. I don`t know, Nancy. JUDY HO: Yeah. PINSKY: about that logic. But let me spell out another fact, Judy. I worked very closely with some organizations in Colorado. In fact, treatment centers in Colorado have seen a marked increase admissions for cannabis as the primary drug of addiction and the secondary drug of addiction, pot. Cannabis. The same thing. HO: Yes. PINSKY: But the point is, I don`t know that that`s bad. Maybe that`s people who would have languished for years before they ever got to treatment. Then this sort of precipitated them coming to care, being more open about the -- coming to care, realizing they had a problem, the conversion about this as a relationship that humans have that can cause real problems. More admissions for addiction. Good or bad in Colorado? HO: Right. Well, you are absolutely right, Dr. Drew. We should bring it back to the rational side of things. Because everybody gets so emotional about it. And as you mentioned, yes, the admissions have gone up. And another fact, 30 to 35 percent of casual users over the course of the year will end up developing an addictive process to marijuana. So, that`s about a third. OK? So, that`s a big number. That`s a significant number. It`s especially problematic if it`s in teenagers, young adults. As you mentioned. But even in older adults as well, we are starting to see clinical studies that somehow their brain volume gets smaller. PINSKY: OK. HO: That there are certain things that happen. And we just don`t know enough yet. So, this is my problem with the misinformation out there there`s no long-term consequences. PINSKY: All right, Judy is talking about the structural changes in the brain that occur when people smoke, even moderate amounts of cannabis. They occur. Fact, fact, fact. Sorry guys, but with adults, after the age of 21, that remits, goes back to normal when you are not smoking pot. If you are 11 or 12 when you start smoking pot, and you smoke even a modest amount, those changes become permanent. HO: And Dr. Drew, that`s the problem in
Colorado. Is that we do see a marked increase in those pre-teens and teenagers. 
PINSKY: That’s a problem. And people who determine the laws need to decide if they want to take that risk or not. If that’s a fact - Colorado is a great study environment, first look at, and then make the decision based on the facts is this something we want to get into further? We may decide to, we may decide not to. I don’t care. I’m interested in helping people. Erica, you want to make a last comment here? AMERICA: Yes, absolutely. About you saying that there’s so many things that are addictive. What about exercises. Are we going to close all the gyms because some people are addicted to exercise? Or are we going to get rid of all the sugar because some people are addicted to sugar? No, people have to police themselves.
PINSKY: First of all, Heather, how dare - how did Erica bring up my exercise bulimia? I’m sure - it’s vulnerable at times like this. MCDONALD: That’s ridiculous, but, you know, people are using prescription drugs like they never have before either. PINSKY: There’s never been a bigger problem than that - that’s what kills people right now. When we seem to be sweeping -- well, we start trying to deal with that problem. We are starting to deal with that problem. But that’s a massive, massive health problem in this country. It is public enemy number one. People are dying of pharmaceutical drugs. Here is the great head liner, buddy, this is why I’m Drew Chainz tonight, which is because - because Erica, suddenly I have become your best friend. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: It’s because - it’s because well . AMERICA: I love 2 Chainz. PINSKY: I know that. I get that. But the fact is, that if you are going to die of addiction, the overwhelming probability is you are going to die of a combination of oral opiates and oral benzodiazepines. Pharmaceutical prescription medication. And that’s what’s happening today. But to keep this debate going, we have more from Nancy Grace and 2 Chainz conversation. Please, tweet us. Give us our hashtag, which has now become #Drewchainz. Chainz. Wow. That’s something I didn’t foresee when the show started tonight. And later, this - I got to get to this, a transgender teen’s suicide has an impact on Hollywood social media and the world. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GRACE: Smoking California weed with California whores. Excuse me. True. I left that one out. 2 CHAINZ: True. GRACE: Smoking California weed with California whores. (LAUGHTER) GRACE: My weed so loud, everybody listen. 2 CHAINZ: Yes. GRACE: I’m so high like an attic. Good weed, bad bitch. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: I’m back with Sam. With click fix, the stories you were discussing most online tonight, you have been discussing pot and Drew Chainz. Should it be legalized for recreational use, Nancy Grace got into it with 2 Chainz. Now, here’s my point. I have got many points, obviously. SCHACHER: Yes, you do. And I love it. PINSKY: And Sam, I am sick and tired, I’m sick and tired of people moralizing around pot. And I’m sick and tired of people attacking me for just discussing the facts around the relationship that humans have with substances. There are facts. There’s moralizing. Let’s talk about what’s true. Yes, Sam. SCHACHER: Dr. Drew, you brought up in the last segment the fact that prescription pills . PINSKY: Yes. SCHACHER: It - it kills people. PINSKY: If you are a drug addict, that’s what you are probably going to die of. But if you, Sam, develop a horrible pancreatic cancer, those same pills, those same pills are God send. SCHACHER: Right. So, why . PINSKY: So, if the pills are not bad. Pot’s not bad. Alcohol is not. Pills not bad. SCHACHER: Right. PINSKY: It’s the relationship and the context that becomes a problem for some people in certain context. SCHACHER: But how strange is it that there’s this moral argument surrounding pot, but you don’t see people having that argument when it comes to prescription pills. PINSKY: Well, you do when people get addicted to the pills. They go, oh, there’s a horrible drug addict. SCHACHER: But I work with people . PINSKY: They are bad people. SCHACHER: Dr. Drew, I work with teens all the time. And they have this misconception that prescription pills . PINSKY: Are safe. SCHACHER: . are safe because they can get it prescribed to them. PINSKY: That’s right. Because a doctor gave it to them. Absolutely. Panel, Kelvin Washington, radio host, Vanessa Barnett, hiphollywood.com, Anna Elise Goetz, attorney,
they are all here. We are going to look at this clip from Nancy’s show. Take a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

GRACE: Are you telling me, 2 Chainz that my only two choices are to get my child high on pot or get him drunk on booze? How about neither one? How about it not be legal for recreational use? 2 CHAINZ: I didn’t say that. GRACE: No, you said - you said, you are showing video of a kid getting high on pot. 2 CHAINZ: That’s - that’s kind of what you use in this. I can’t help that’s all really you got -if you are using this one example. And I’m trying to tell you, that you. GRACE: No, I showed you like ten. 2 CHAINZ: Like you just google that footage. Google someone giving their child alcohol. And I bet it’d be hundreds of pages to go through. (END VIDEO CLIP)

PINSKY: Kelvin, he is absolutely right. I deal with this all the time. First of all, I heard Nancy argue in favor of illegalizing alcohol. I heard her say that. (LAUGHTER) PINSKY: I heard that. And that’s rational. You can make them all illegal. OK. That’s fine. That’s rational. But the deal is, I can’t tell you how often parents go, we teach our kids how to manage alcohol. We dilute the wine when they are five years old. Look at the statistics on what happens to those kids. The probability of alcoholism goes up at least eight times. Kelvin. WASHINGTON: You know, I’m not - I’m not one who is about the drinking or smoking at all. I myself do neither. Do none of that. PINSKY: I’m sure. I’m sure. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. WASHINGTON: To 2 Chainz point, it seems like she was on a witch hunt to find anything. And I don’t like that, but she keep bringing up his lyrics, which is like you said something we can debate for another show. But if the guy -- everyone who wants to smoke weed smokes weed. I don’t think if it’s legal or illegal the numbers increase or decrease. I think people who want it, get it and I think to correlate it with alcohol -- if she’s going to show video of - well, look at this one random video of a kid smoking weed, to his point, how many times have kids drinking beer, have kids drinking wine, all over the Internet, all over Instagram. So, for her to pick one video and try to attack him, it didn’t make any sense. (CROSSTALK) PINSKY: But here is a fact. Here’s a fact. I agree with you, Kelvin. Here is a fact. Cannabis exposure to young brains, it’s worse. It is worse. It’s just the fact. That’s just the way it is. WASHINGTON: I’m not arguing - I’m not arguing the scientific point. I mean again, I don’t think it’s a good thing for you. But for us to act like it’s the end of the world if someone smokes weed - and to Sam’s point, I think prescription pills for some, maybe it’s a white collar crime or something, and weed heads, we look at it - it’s like, you know, some druggie. PINSKY: You are bad. You are bad. WASHINGTON: Maybe something like that - I don’t know. PINSKY: You are bad. Listen, I would rather meet a pot head than an alcoholic. But I’m just saying. But Anna Elise, let me give you how nutty this all gets. The conjoinors (ph) of pot, the things that the chemicals that are derived from pot that could be helpful medically, physicians like myself, we can’t even get our hands on because there’s a moral shroud around the very molecule. How insane is that! GOETZ: Well, it’s illegal, though, Dr. Drew. That’s why . (CROSSTALK) PINSKY: Why? But why does it have to be scheduled -- GOETZ: People keep on saying, if you want to smoke it, smoke it. It’s illegal. I don’t understand why we are promoting an illegal activity. PINSKY: Vanessa, I’m not promoting illegal activity. I’m not saying that people should go out and smoke pot. Let’s be very, very clear about that. BARNETT: I get that, but . PINSKY: I’m saying that the illegal is - the legalization or illegalization is overly moralized or ignoring facts. BARNETT: But at the end of the day, Dr. Drew, at the end of the day, our Twitter followers and Instagram followers, which I’m just saying, because they went in on me, because they thought I went in on you, all they hear is, oh, yeah, Drew Chainz, he wants us to smoke pot. PINSKY: No. BARNETT: As a clinician . PINSKY: No, I don’t want them to smoke pot. BARNETT: And someone with the medical . What you say has a big . PINSKY: Thank you for pointing that out. I don’t want them to smoke pot. BARNETT: And you just said that prescription pills . PINSKY: Yeah. BARNETT: Unfortunately kids think they are safe because they are prescribed. PINSKY: They are not. BARNETT: So, people look around and say, hey, marijuana is now legal, it’s safe, that’s
what they are hearing. That’s what they are seeing. And so, it’s not just that Dr. Drew is now Drew Chainz, that he’s promoting weed. What you are saying is, if you don’t care, then that’s almost even worse. You can’t be indifferent. PINSKY: If I’m indifferent to the law, whether or not there’s a law for it or against it? BARNETT: You have to be the one to educate us. PINSKY: I would love to be. BARNETT: That’s your role. PINSKY: I would love - Vanessa, thank you for that. I would love that. But people are unwilling to listen because they are either moralizing or irrationally political or they are -- they just -- there’s so much crazy energy around it. You can’t even talk about it. That’s what drives me out of my mind. WASHINGTON: Drew, thanks. Is this because in the ’60s, we look it - to the hippies, and we’ve associated it with that - is it also because we looked at it as, well, those rappers, all that smoking weed and pot? What do you think? Where do we get this? This tone from - Because again, I’m not promoting it at all. I’m not about it. But to your point, nicotine, alcohol, kill almost 600,000 people combined a year. I don’t get it. I don’t - this is why . PINSKY: Nor do I think it’s appropriate for you to do. It should be legal because there’s no such thing as death by overdose from pot. That doesn’t mean it should be legal. That doesn’t mean that. SCHACHER: Question for Drew Chainz. PINSKY: Yes, it will not kill you if you smoke a lot, but you can become psychotic. Fact, they can. You can get addicted, fact. Do we want it to be illegal? You guys decide. But look at it very carefully. What’s up, Sam? SCHACHER: Yeah, I also had a question for Drew Chainz. OK, so you - you know, with all your work in treatment centers, how often do you see people come in in comparison to other people that are addicted to other substances to people that are addicted to marijuana? PINSKY: Say it again. SCHACHER: How often do you see people come into your treatment center that are addicted to pot? In comparison to, say, other things like pills? PINSKY: Very common - very, oh, well, I don’t know if I can get that down of the top of my head, but I can tell you this, this is what I would say. A common combination is alcohol, stimulants and pot. That’s a common combo. And when people start - and they use a lot of all three. But when they stop them, the one they really miss, the one they love is the pot. That’s the one they just have the most -- they love it and they have difficulty stopping. They go back and they chip on it - and it leads them back into their addictive process. These are realities, fact. Just a fact. It doesn’t - you guys, please, decide. What kind of world do you want to live in? What kind of society do you want to create -- if you are going to create - if the facts in Colorado look as though it’s going to impact on children, take a good look at that next time you start deciding what the laws ought to be. But don’t say -- don’t do what Nancy did. And God bless you, Nancy. I love you, no, I do. But don’t get into a moralizing posture. It just clouds the facts and the truth from people making really rational decisions about what kinds of laws they want in their land. It`s up to us. Next up, transgender teen’s death impacting social media and the world. And later, a wife who was cheated on gets revenge on her husband by cutting off his penis with the pair of scissors not once, but once it’s reattached, she cuts it off again. Back after this. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: When I was 14, I learned what transgender meant and cried of happiness. After ten years of confusion, I finally understood who I was. I immediately told my mom and she reacted extremely negatively telling me that it was a phase. That I would never truly be a girl. That God doesn’t make mistakes. That I am wrong. (END VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: These parents bullied their child into suicide and should be arrested and thrown in jail. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Parents were trying, coming from their lack of experience, their lack of understanding, to do what they thought was right. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Either I live the rest of my life as a lonely man who wishes you were a woman or I live my life as a lonelier woman who hates herself. There`s no winning. There`s no way out. I’m sad enough already. I don’t need my life to get any worse. People say it gets better, but that isn’t true in my case. It gets worse. Each day I get worse. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: I’m back with Sam for what we call
seriously? Those moments - headline, we cannot believe what we are seeing and hearing, especially in those situations where there’s a tragic outcome. The name Leelah Alcorn has been tweeted almost 100,000 times since her death in December. Thousands people searched her name when a Golden Globe Award was dedicated to her memory. Her suicide note posted on her Tumblr page went viral. Leelah’s mother spoke to CNN, Sam. SCHACHER: Yeah, she did, Dr. Drew. And first of all, Leelah’s mother said that she never even heard the name Leelah until she read the suicide note. She also says that as far as Leelah talking to her about being transgender, she claims that Leelah only talked to her about it once. She told CNN, “We don’t support that religiously, but we told him that we love him unconditionally. We loved him no matter what - I loved my son. People need to know that I loved him. He was a kid, a good kid, a good boy. PINSKY: All right. Joining us on the panel, transgender performance artist Nina Arsenault, Heather and Erica are back with us. Nina, I want to go to your first. Does what -- I want to frame this by saying, I’m not interested in attacking this mother. This mother lost a child. I don’t want to create another victim. But my question, perhaps more subtly is, does what this mother is saying disturb you? NINA ARSENAULT, BORN MALE IDENTIFIED AS FEMALE: Oh, absolutely it disturbs me. Yes. Her child committed suicide. And it turned to her with the most vulnerable, primal parts of herself. Our gender is such a core part of ourselves. And to have that denied and particularly on a spiritual level even with their religious believes, it’s appalling. PINSKY: If you had a chance, Nina, to speak to that mom when she was struggling with her -- at that time she perceived to be her son, what would you tell her? ARSENAULT: Well, what I would say is this. Just imagine for a moment that if you woke up in the middle of the night tonight, you looked down, you took the covers off your body and you saw the genitals of the opposite sex on your own body. What feelings of trauma would that put into you? How would that affect your ability to give and receive love? Just take a moment. One, two, three, four, five. Five seconds and imagine what that would be like. And then ask yourself what resources does a child or a teenager have to deal with that if they don’t have the support of their family and community. PINSKY: You know, Heather, this came to a poignant perspective for me when I heard Cher talk about it when she was discussing Chaz as the transgender transformation, and she said, you know, she goes - Cher said I love being female so much. I could just imagine how awful it must be to suddenly not like that and be upset about your gender. MCDONALD: Right. I mean I just feel -- I really feel badly for this woman. Because I mean hopefully, this is a lesson to any parent that when their child does come, they are going to remember this story and immediately talk to this child and maybe get him or her help. Because I feel like this woman probably didn’t think that it was at that level that he was at a suicidal level. PINSKY: Of course, yeah. MCDONALD: She was just trying to grasp it. I mean every little boy walks around in heels, you don’t immediately think that they actually want to be a girl. She might have just not taken it as seriously as she should have. And I just think, you know, it’s so terrible. Because whenever there’s a teen suicide, everybody looks to the parent like they did something wrong. And it’s got to be the worst feeling in the world, worse than any other way of losing a child. It’s somehow pointed like you did something wrong. And I really feel badly for them. PINSKY: And so again, understand why we’re approaching this, the way we’re approaching this is argument is we’re trying to understand what we’re doing wrong, all of us, what we are all doing wrong that we’re not helping parents understand and see and perceive and support these kinds of things when something like this happens to someone like they love comes to them with these sorts of issues. On the phone I have Liz Gordos who worked with Leelah at an amusement park. Now, Liz, your understanding was that Leelah was a gay male and she presented as - she presented as male to you at work. And by the way, full discloser for me. Maybe, Nina, you can straighten me out. I have trouble - I don’t have the language to talk about this often times. I stumble.
Please straighten me out. I’m happy to be educated about this. But don’t attack everybody. ARSENAULT: Sure. PINSKY: I’m just trying to. So, Liz, you can answer that question. LIZ GORDOS: Well, (POOR SOUND) to working with Leelah for the short summer that I did work with her, it is true THAT she did only come out to me as a gay male. And honestly, I think it was because of the fact that when you feel so confused in your sexuality and then like you are told by counselors and by people that are supposed to support you that what you are feeling is wrong, like all of a sudden you are thrown into a spot where people do accept you and then you are in that gray area of like, will they accept me if I come out? PINSKY: Right. GORDOS: Oh, it could be wrong. PINSKY: I imagine -- Erica I see its concern on your face - I imagine if people already tell you your sexual orientation is wrong, if I reveal this, - more tender issue, oh my god. Erica, what might they think of that? AMERICA: No, absolutely. I mean I think this is just a heartbreaking story from the level of the parents to friends and family. And I guess I just - what I would like to see on all levels, parents, friends and family is just an openness that whatever their child tells them about their sexuality that it’s OK and that we are going to figure this out together. Because that feeling that the child has, whether it’s just that there are gay or straight, that is transgender, is that - oh, my god, they are not going to accept me. I want to kill myself. And they don’t -- the parents don’t realize how deadly this feeling is within a child like this. PINSKY: How dangerous this is. AMERICA: And how dangerous it is. And that it can g- it can lead to suicide. So, I don’t know if we need to have some kind of education around this. But it sounds like the parents, even after the fact, are still saying, my son and my son. And so, I mean, some of it might be just kind of built in with religion and stuff. PINSKY: Well. AMERICA: But it’s just - I mean - the training could help. PINSKY: Nina, let me sort of finish this conversation with you. What do we need to do? What do all of us need to do? ARSENAULT: Well, I think that we need to acknowledge the seriousness of the matter. When someone refers to me in an inappropriate gender pronounce, someone calls me a man, I would consider that probably the same -- with the same gravity that a black person would feel when they are addressed with the n word. It’s that insulting. PINSKY: So, keep that in mind. ARSENAULT: And it’s absolutely. It’s a deep psychic wound when you are born in the wrong body and your - that wound is reopened on a constant basis with transphobia. And I think we have to also acknowledge that transgendered women are the most recent franchise - disadvantage people and culture at this point. And just to extend the metaphor that I brought up there, to say, you know, there’s so much things going on with race relations in the states. Could you imagine if there was as many transgendered people as there are black people in the United States? Compare that to the amount of discrimination we face on a daily basis. Many transwoman feel that they are constantly negotiating a hostile world. Every time we need the house. PINSKY: Thank you for that. I have to interrupt. I’ve got to go to break, and we are switching topics. Thank you, panel. A husband’s penis cut off by his wife. She learns he’s cheating, she does it twice. That’s the story after this. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A 32-year-old father of five is reportedly recovering in a hospital after his wife allegedly chopped off his penis twice. According to news reports, the man was having an affair with a 21-year-old lover. And when his wife discovered the alleged infidelity, she used the pair of scissors to cut off his penis as he slept. The doctors reattached the appendage, but his wife allegedly struck again, reportedly so irate, she snuck into her husband’s recovery room, chopped off his penis a second time and flung it out of window. (END VIDEO CLIP) PINSKY: Time for what the WTF. This segment is precisely what the name suggests. It is the most shocking story of the night, dominating social media. We are back with Sam, Kelvin, Heather and Judy. The story of this alleged - this might copy - castrated cheater. But more - not castrated. He’s - the fallos has been removed. This reportedly happened in China. Right, Sam? SCHACHER: Oh, yes, Dr. Drew. OK, so brace yourself, everybody as you heard enough.
in the previous package, 32 years old, father of five. And his attacker is reportedly his 30-year-old wife. Now, he supposedly went on her cell phone to send a really hot and provocative e-mail to his secret lover. She’s 21 years old. He forgets to log out of her phone. She discovers this steamy e-mail as well as other e-mails. She becomes irate. Waits until he falls asleep. Cuts his penis off with scissors. Then he goes to the hospital. They reattach it. The doctors, then she sneaks into his recovery room, cuts it off again, flings it out the window. And Dr. Drew, the doctors ran out to try to find his member, so to speak. But they could not. They believe that a stray dog or cat ran off with it. PINSKY: Heather, give me that face again. What . MCDONALD: OK, first of all. PINSKY: You look like the most . MCDONALD: I mean I’m just cringing. But we all remember Lorena Bobbitt. Maybe some of the kids at home were too young to know, but she was the Rosa Parks of cutting off people’s penises that have done her wrong. So, here is this woman in China. First of all, how are you having five kids in China? Does that - Law doesn’t apply . PINSKY: Maybe it’s Hong Kong or something. I don’t know. MCDONALD: OK. Well, and then it’s said that she was only 21, too. I don’t know if that -- maybe that information wasn’t correct. The wife and the mistress -- PINSKY: Maybe there are five kids . SCHACHER: No, the wife is 30. PINSKY: OK. MCDONALD: Like did she give birth to all five kids? That would piss you off. If you gave birth to all five kids - PINSKY: Heather, frankly, I was not worried about details like that. I was worried about this guy that had his penis cut off twice. And here’s what I want to know from Judy. MCDONALD: I have feeling for her. PINSKY: Oh, that’s my question, Judy. Do you think every woman is capable of being pushed to this point? Yes or no? HO: No, I don’t believe so. PINSKY: Thank you. Kelvin, we are fine. HO: Yeah, there is definitely people - Exactly, Kelvin. Everybody is safe. Dr. Drew and Kelvin, you guys are safe. Because I think there were definitely warning signs about this woman before. There must have been some kind of emotional instability. PINSKY: All right. We’ll get more after the break. And the results of our poll. There is still time. Do you blame the wife? And if you would like more HLN, check us out live wherever you go on the HLN to go app available for Apple products, android devices. We are back after this. PINSKY: We are back with WTF. Sam, Kelvin, Heather, Judy join me. We are talking about a father of five in China whose wife learned of his affair alleged with the 21-year old mistress, so chopped his penis off. When he got it sewn back on Kelvin, she chopped it off again and threw it out the window and then s stray dog - prey - that over or something happened and no possibility . (CROSSTALK) MCDONALD: Oh, my god. PINSKY: Stray dog or cat got it, that is bizarre. WASHINGTON: The story is just getting more and more out of hand. Heather, Rosa Parks was a hero. This lady is crazy. We cannot compare the two. MCDONALD: I know. I’m just joking. I’m just saying, she’s not the first is all I’m saying. WASHINGTON: Dr. Drew. MCDONALD: She’s not the first. PINSKY: And she can kill - but she is Heather’s personal idol. But go ahead, Kelvin. WASHINGTON: So, Dr. Drew, the man has to drink water at some point. PINSKY: Yeah. WASHINGTON: How is he going to urinate? Don’t answer that. How is he going to make love to probably not her again, probably the 21-year-old again? PINSKY: Yeah. WASHINGTON: What is he going to do? PINSKY: He’s not . MCDONALD: I’m pretty sure the 21-year-old who’s going to bail. SCHACHER: No, she says she’s still down. She says she’s going to stick around. (CROSSTALK) MCDONALD: A dad with five kids and doesn’t have a penis? Not a great package. WASHINGTON: Maybe she’s okay with the tree stump. I don’t know. HO: She actually said she’s OK with it. PINSKY: Yeah, Kelvin, there’s not going to be intercourse, Kelvin. There are some bizarre plastic procedures out there that you can reconstruct the whole thing. There are some guys who have . SCHACHER: Are they successful? PINSKY: They are peculiar. They are not like - you know, it’s Frankenstein. Let’s be fair. SCHACHER: Oh, no. MCDONALD: Dr. Drew. PINSKY: Yeah, and it’s sad. And yet urologically - you can get things prepared pretty easily, so the urinary system works. But the sexual functioning -- WASHINGTON: At least he got the five kids out of
the way, right? PINSKY: Yeah, he’s - and he’s funny. Here we go. The HLN vote, this is on our website. After catching her husband cheating, a wife allegedly chopped off the penis, do you blame her? 63 percent say yes, but . SCHACHER: 37 percent? MCDONALD: That’s amazing. WASHINGTON: That’s a lot of people. 37 percent. MCDONALD: I would have done the same thing they say? That’s crazy. SCHACHER: Also, I’m very impressed with the strength of the scissors. I would like to know who made those scissors. Were they made in China? Because they’re excellent. PINSKY: Judy, who do you think these women are that are saying yes they would do the same thing? It takes my breath away. You understand? HO: Dr. Drew, I think these are the scorned women who have been cheated on before. And they fantasize about doing something that would be so hurtful. PINSKY: My wife keeps saying, he would do this. Do you think she’s capable of it, Judy? HO: Who, your wife? PINSKY: Heather? MCDONALD: Yes, your wife is 100 percent capable. SCHACHER: No. PINSKY: Thank you. WASHINGTON: Sleep with one eye open. SCHACHER: I don’t believe that. WASHINGTON: Sleep with one eye open, brothers. SCHACHER: Oh, my -- I don’t believe it. MCDONALD: I don’t think she would do it. She would threaten you. HO: She’s too squeamish. PINSKY: We’ll check this out for the after show. I’m not sure what the topic will be. I’m suspecting pot. DVR us, you can watch us any time. “Forensic Files” up next.”

Source Title: BTN

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 717735

Article Title: SHOW: Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me! 11:00 AM EST Lightning Fill In The Blank GUESTS: Bill Kurtis, Amy Dickinson, Adam Burke, Gabe Liedman"

Date: 7/2/2016

Article Content: PETER SAGAL: Now on to our final game, Lightning Fill In The Blank. Each of our players will have 60 seconds in which to answer as many fill-in-the-blank questions as they can. Each correct answer now worth 2 points. Bill, can you give us the scores? BILL KURTIS: Gabe and Amy you each have 3. Adam has 2. PETER SAGAL: All right. AMY DICKINSON: Oh. PETER SAGAL: So, Adam, you are in third place. You’ll start. The clock will start when I begin your first question. Fill in the blank, Adam. This week, Turkish police detained at least 13 people following the attack on an airport in blank. ADAM BURKE: In Istanbul. PETER SAGAL: Right. This week, the Senate... (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: ...Passed a debt relief bill for blank. ADAM BURKE: For Puerto Rico. PETER SAGAL: Yes. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Thursday, a new study published in Science said that the hole in blank would be gone by 2060. ADAM BURKE: Oh, the ozone layer... PETER SAGAL: Right. ADAM BURKE: ...Over the Antarctic. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Sunday, Pope Francis said that the Catholic Church should ask for forgiveness from blank. ADAM BURKE: Gay people and... PETER SAGAL: Yeah. ADAM BURKE: Yeah. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: According to the Albany Times Union newspaper, blank is polling well against both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. ADAM BURKE: Beezlebub (ph). PETER SAGAL: No. (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: A giant life-ending meteor. (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: On Wednesday... ADAM BURKE: Called Beezlebub. AMY DICKINSON: So close. PETER SAGAL: On Wednesday, blank became the first male swimmer to qualify for five different Olympic
Games. ADAM BURKE: Michael Phelps. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: This week, the NFL suspended former Cleveland Browns quarterback blank for violating the league’s drug policy. ADAM BURKE: Johnny Manziel or whatever his name is. PETER SAGAL: That’s his name. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: Manziel. This week, a couple in Wisconsin called 911 to report they were being held hostage by blank. ADAM BURKE: A Roomba. PETER SAGAL: No. (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: Their cat. (LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE) ADAM BURKE: Oh. GABE LIEDMAN: Curses. PETER SAGAL: First, they learn physics. Then they get a gun. (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: No, this couple called 911 and said quote, “this is going to sound like a strange question, but we have a cat and it’s going crazy. And we’re kind of a hostage in our house. And we’re just wondering who we should call to do something.” (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: And the dispatcher was very sympathetic and sent over an animal control person. There was a very difficult four-and-a-half-hour negotiating session, which finally ended when the guy just did a laser pointer on the floor and that was... (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: They always fall for that. Bill, how did Adam do in our quiz? BILL KURTIS: He got six right for 12 more points. He has a total of 14 now. ADAM BURKE: Oh. PETER SAGAL: Well done. BILL KURTIS: And the lead. PETER SAGAL: OK. BILL KURTIS: Hard to catch. GABE LIEDMAN: Wow. AMY DICKINSON: Adam, I think I knew one of those. ADAM BURKE: OK. AMY DICKINSON: That was... PETER SAGAL: Well, you lucked out then. AMY DICKINSON: Yeah. Wow. Yeah. PETER SAGAL: Well, we have flipped a coin. Gabe has elected to go next. Fill in the blank. On Monday, the Supreme Court struck down Texas restrictions on blank. GABE LIEDMAN: Abortion. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Sunday, Iraqi forces announced they had fully recaptured Fallujah from blank. GABE LIEDMAN: ISIS? PETER SAGAL: Yes. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: This week, Nate Silver predicted that blank has a 19 percent chance of being elected president. GABE LIEDMAN: Trump. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Tuesday, Senate Democrats blocked a spending bill that included $1.1 billion in blank funding. GABE LIEDMAN: Zika. PETER SAGAL: Yes. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: This week, officials in Pennsylvania released an advisory to government employees requesting that they please don’t blank their governor. GABE LIEDMAN: Oh. (LAUGHTER) GABE LIEDMAN: Kiss him? PETER SAGAL: No. That they don’t hang up on him. He places his own calls and people think it’s a prank. GABE LIEDMAN: Oh, that’s cute. PETER SAGAL: On Monday, Chicago raised the legal age to buy blank to 21. GABE LIEDMAN: Cigarettes. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: This week, a 48-year-old man in Idaho was mortified to discover that his dad had blanked. GABE LIEDMAN: Oh, turned into a big tree. PETER SAGAL: No. That his dad had taken out a full-page ad in the local paper in order to find his son a wife. (LAUGHTER) GABE LIEDMAN: Oh, bad dad. PETER SAGAL: Yeah, bad dads do all kinds... GABE LIEDMAN: Come on. PETER SAGAL: We dads do all kinds of embarrassing things. We wear cellphone holsters on our waist. Sometimes dads say embarrassing things, like, if I wasn’t Ivanka father I’d be dating her. GABE LIEDMAN: Right. (LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE) PETER SAGAL: But this 78-year-old man named Arthur Brooks (ph) took out a full-page ad in the paper written to look like his son had placed it, in the first person. It says, quote... GABE LIEDMAN: No. PETER SAGAL: “I am looking for a wife who is ready, willing and able to have children as soon as possible.” (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: The son didn’t know about the ad until it was already in the newsstands, at which point he bought his own ad in the same paper, 48-year-old orphan looking for sane parent. (LAUGHTER) AMY DICKINSON: Oh, boy. PETER SAGAL: Oh, boy. AMY DICKINSON: Oh, boy. PETER SAGAL: Bill, how did Gabe do in our quiz? BILL KURTIS: He got five right, 10 more points, total of 13, one behind Adam. GABE LIEDMAN: (Growling). PETER SAGAL: All right. Well, how many then does Amy need to come from behind and take this thing? BILL KURTIS: Six to win. PETER SAGAL: Here we go, Amy. This is for the game. On Tuesday, a GOP-led
committee issued their final report on the 2012 attack in blank. AMY DICKINSON: Benghazi. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: This week, the Pentagon lifted its ban on blanks serving in the military. AMY DICKINSON: Transgenders. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Tuesday, California officials announced that legalizing blank would be included on November’s ballot. AMY DICKINSON: Marijuana. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Monday, the Supreme Court voted to vacate the conviction of Bob McDonnell, the former governor of blank. AMY DICKINSON: Virginia. PETER SAGAL: Yes. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: A woman in Maine who entered a house and said I came to commit a felony was disappointed this week when blank. AMY DICKINSON: It was knocked down to a misdemeanor. PETER SAGAL: Exactly, right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: On Tuesday, former University of Tennessee women’s basketball coach blank passed away at the age of 64. AMY DICKINSON: Pat Summit. PETER SAGAL: Right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) PETER SAGAL: According to new evidence found by the Daily Mail newspaper, the rightful king of England is blank. AMY DICKINSON: The rightful king of England is a floppy-haired corgi named... PETER SAGAL: No. (LAUGHTER) AMY DICKINSON: What? PETER SAGAL: No. The rightful king of England is some dude living in Utah. (LAUGHTER) AMY DICKINSON: No kidding. GABE LIEDMAN: Wow. PETER SAGAL: So they recently unearthed these documents about King George IV and they suggest that his direct descendant might be this gay ex-Mormon living in Utah. (LAUGHTER) AMY DICKINSON: Awesome. GABE LIEDMAN: Yes. PETER SAGAL: So it's amazing. Think of this guy. He's just living in Utah - living in Provo and all of a sudden - my God. He's the king of England. He goes over to England. He looks around and he says I'm going back to Provo. (LAUGHTER) GABE LIEDMAN: Yeah. ADAM BURKE: See you. He's going to come over just as soon as his dragons are fully sized. PETER SAGAL: Exactly. (LAUGHTER) PETER SAGAL: Then he'll seize the throne. Bill, did Amy do well enough to win? BILL KURTIS: She got six right. Twelve more points gives her a total and the win at 15. GABE LIEDMAN: Wow. PETER SAGAL: There you go, Amy Dickinson. AMY DICKINSON: (Cheering). (APPLAUSE) PETER SAGAL: In just a minute, we'll ask our panelists to predict how will Britain Bit-turn (ph) to the European Union. How will they convince the EU to take them back. But first, let me tell you that support for NPR comes from NPR stations and AT&T, with a network and solutions for helping companies sense and adapt to meet the demands of business. Discover the power of and with AT&T. CarMax, offering more than 40,000 used cars and trucks online and in store with over 150 locations from coast to coast. Learn more at carmax.com. CarMax, the bright side of car buying. And Lumber Liquidators, a proud sponsor of NPR, offering more than 400 styles, including hardwood, bamboo, laminate and vinyl, with flooring specialist and hundreds of stores nationwide. More at lumberliquidators.com or 1-800-HARDWOOD. WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME is a production of NPR and WBEZ Chicago in association with Urgent Haircut Productions, Doug Berman, benevolent overlord. Philipp Goedicke writes our limericks. Our house manager is Mr. Don Hall. The assistant house manager is Tyler Greene. Our intern is the scarecrow and Mrs. Lillian King. Our web guru is Beth Novey. Special thanks to the crew here at Chase Bank. BJ Leiderman composed our theme. Our program is produced by Robin Lynn and Miles Dorbass. Technical directions from Lorna White. Out CFO is Ann Nguyen. Our production coordinator, that's Robert Neuhaus. Our senior producer is Ian Chillag and the executive producer of WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME is Michael Linwood Danforth."
Article Title: Parents Guide; Advice about films kids may want to see -- whatever the rating -- in theaters

Date: 9/30/2016

Article Content: 'MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN' PG-13 What it's about: Based on a young adult novel, this film tells the story of a fantastical home for kids with oddities and special powers, pursued by dark forces of evil. The kid attractor factor: Kids will be drawn to the young adult genre, youthful cast and the fantastical Tim Burton aesthetic. Language: None. Sexuality: A rather chaste teen kiss. Drugs: Just parental beer-drinking at the pub. Parents advisory: This is a dark tale about preternaturally gifted and different children, appropriate for older kids and teens but too scary for smaller children. 'DEEPWATER HORIZON' PG-13 What it's about: Tells the true story of the souls on board the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon, who endured the worst oil disaster in the United States. The kid attractor factor: The true life adventure tale, action, star Mark Wahlberg. Violence: The second half of the film is a spectacle of explosions and fire. Language: Brief swearing. Sexuality: An implied sex scene between Wahlberg's character and his wife. Drugs: Bud Light Lime. Parents advisory: appropriate for teens and possibly older kids, but too intense for younger kids. 'THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN' PG-13 What it's about: A young woman retains the services of a band of mercenaries to battle the evil gold miner who has seized her town. The kid attractor factor: Star power from actors like Chris Pratt and Denzel Washington. Violence: A shoot-em-up, with dozens of murders, killings and deaths enacted with guns, hatchets, dynamite and arrows. Language: A few instances of swearing. Sexuality: Some suggestive references to sex, a few glimpses of female sex workers in the local saloons. Drugs: Whiskey drinking and cigarette puffing. Parents advisory: Far too violent for kids; only appropriate for teens.

Source Title: News

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Article Title: Movie Mom: 'Crisis,' 'Burnt,' 'Truth,' 'Ballerina's Tale'; Movie Mom

Date: 10/27/2015

Article Content: Information for parents deciding which movies are best for kids ages 2 to 18: “Our Brand is Crisis” Why it's rated R: Very strong and crude language, vulgar sexual references, smoking, drinking, some violence including riots, tear gas, guns. Minimum age: High school. Family discussion: Why did Jane take the job? What will she do next? If you like this, try: The documentary of the same name that inspired this film and “No,” based on the 1988 election in Chile. “Burnt” Why it's rated R: Constant very strong language, some sexual references, references to drug abuse, some angry confrontations, brief violence. Minimum age: Mature teens. Family discussion: Would you want to eat in
Adam's restaurant? What do you think of his million-oyster penance? If you like this, try: “Chef” and “Babette's Feast” and reality shows about Mario Batali and Gordon Ramsey, who worked on this film. “Truth” Why it's rated R: Very strong language, brief nudity. Minimum age: High school. Family discussion: What should Mary have done differently? If you like this, try: “All the President's Men” and the upcoming “Spotlight.” “A Ballerina's Tale” It's not rated, but: Discussion of racial prejudice, injury with brief disturbing images. Minimum age: Middle school. Family discussion: What other fields are as demanding as ballet? What did Misty Copeland learn from the women who went before her? If you like this, try: “First Position,” “Pina” and “Ballet 422.” “Jem and the Holograms” Why it's rated PG: Some bad and risky teenage behavior, including bullying and stealing, mild sexual references, some mild language, reference to dead parents. Minimum age: 7. Family discussion: What are your gifts? Why was it easier for Jerrica to perform under another name? If you like this, try: “Bratz” and the “Jem and the Holograms” animated television series. Find Nell Minow's reviews at Beliefnet on moviemom.com. Email: moviemom@moviemom.com"
Rolling Stone reporter out of her friend’s West Village townhouse when things got too real. That’s fine, though. Celebrities say silly things because they are usually silly, damaged people. I mean, let’s face it, fame has never made someone a better person. How could it? You go through life with all of these issues and shortcomings and then you get famous and are told that these flaws are perfect and to never change a thing. So you don’t. You go on your merry way with a pack of enablers and enter a permanent state of arrested development. It’s a strange existence and I wouldn’t be surprised if that’s Lana’s life now. The only way to be a normal famous person is to have a strong foundation, a real sense of self, but, uh, that’s not something many people have, hon. Truthfully, I am more interested in Lana’s music than what she says in interviews. After Ultraviolence came out, I listened to it at the gym. I listened to it while writing. I listened to it after bad dates. I listened to it after good dates. The album was never far from me. It became a security blanket, an easy way for me to define this period of time in my life. I tweeted something a few weeks ago, “All I’ve been doing this summer is getting drunk and listening to Lana Del Rey”, and I wasn’t kidding. photo via Mike Monaghan My favorite memory of listening to Ultraviolence came after having a terrible night out with some friends. The next morning I woke up and went over to my girlfriend’s house, hoping that her company would zap me out of my post-party fugue. “I know what we’re going to do,” my girlfriend said. “We’re going to make a fort out of pillows in my living room and we’re going to lay down, drink a bathtub’s worth of wine, and listen to Lana.” It sounds juvenile but it worked. Listening to “Shades Of Cool” while the sun bled through the windows made my life feel like a hazy Lana Del Rey music video. I’d like to think that this is how Lana would want someone to experience her record. This is the point of her image and career, to evoke these feelings of dreaminess and melancholy, but I’m probably wrong. In all likelihood, Lana doesn’t give a shit. This is how I picture Lana: a cool, disaffected girl who would smoke cigarettes with you in the parking lot of your high school, a girl who was the first to lose her virginity in her group of friends, a girl who was never particularly ambitious but things just happened to her, things that everyone else wished for and worked so hard to get but couldn’t. This is how I think she really is: a cool, disaffected girl who learned how to be cool and disaffected from listening to a lot of Bob Dylan, a girl who lied about losing her virginity to appear edgy, a girl who was ambitious and always knew she was going to be a fucking star. I like both versions. 

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 106938

Article Title: These Are the States Where People Live Longest"

Date: 1/29/2015

Article Content: Getty Images The states with the longest life expectancies have concurrently low mortality rates This post is in partnership with 24/7 Wall Street. The article below was originally published on 247WallSt.com. The United States has a health problem. Across the country, life expectancies routinely fail to meet the standards set by other developed nations. Differences in life expectancy between the United States and other developed nations, such as Switzerland and Japan, are dramatic. However, some states have closed the gap with these nations. In both Hawaii and Minnesota,
a resident born in 2010 could expect to live 81 years on average. In 12 states, the life expectancy at birth was 80 years or more. The states with the longest life expectancies have concurrently low mortality rates, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Across the United States, the age-adjusted mortality rate was 732.8 deaths per 100,000 people in 2012. However, in eight of the states with the highest life expectancies the mortality rate was less than 700 deaths for every 100,000 residents. In Hawaii, the age-adjusted mortality rate was just 586.5 per 100,000, the lowest in the country. Access to health coverage is among the important factors that promotes good health — and as a result leads to longer lives. In most of the states with the longest life expectancies a far lower percentage of the population was uninsured relative to the nation as a whole. While 14.5% of Americans did not have health care coverage last year, only 3.7% of Massachusetts residents did not. In Hawaii and Vermont the uninsured rates was also less than half the national rate. However, not all the research is conclusive on the effects of health care coverage on mortality. One 2009 study in the American Journal of Public Health stated that a lack of coverage led to nearly 45,000 deaths in the United States a year. However, another 2009 study appearing in Health Services Research argued that “there is little evidence to suggest that extending insurance coverage to all adults would have a large effect on the number of deaths in the United States.”

Poverty, too, can contribute to poor health outcomes. In fact, many states that have relatively high life expectancies also have relatively low poverty rates. New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Hawaii were all among the states with the longest life expectancies, as well as among the five states with the lowest poverty rates. Some contributors to poor health and the resulting low life expectancies are preventable. Smoking, for instance, was far more prevalent in the states with the lowest life expectancies, as was physical inactivity. By contrast, in many of the healthiest states, people were far more likely to have healthy habits, such as not smoking and being more active. In order to identify the states with the highest life expectancies at birth in 2010, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed figures from the OECD’s 2014 study on regional well-being. Data on age-adjusted mortality rates are from the CDC for 2012. Figures on poverty and health insurance coverage are from the Census Bureau’s 2013 American Community Survey. Other figures cited are from the 2014 edition of America’s Health Rankings, an annual study from the United Health Foundation. These are the states where people live longest.

10. Utah > Life expectancy: 80.2 years > Obesity rate: 24.1% (4th lowest) > Poverty rate: 12.7% (14th lowest) Utah has one of the highest life expectancies in the United States, at just over 80 years. No state had a lower percentage of adults who smoke. Utah is also the only top state for life expectancy that has not yet committed to expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Utah Governor Gary Herbert has instead pushed an alternative plan, called Healthy Utah, to provide coverage to disadvantaged residents. Read more: Cities With the Largest Homes 9. New Jersey > Life expectancy: 80.3 years (tied-8th highest) > Obesity rate: 26.3% (12th lowest) > Poverty rate: 11.4% (8th lowest) New Jersey has especially high number of medical professionals. There were more than 143 general practitioners as well as 83 dentists for every 100,000 residents as of the most recently available data. In addition to high numbers of medical professionals, residents were among the least likely Americans to smoke. The effects of a high life expectancy at birth are also reflected in a low age-adjusted death rate, at just 677.6 deaths for every 100,000 people. By comparison, the death rate for all Americans was 732.8 per 100,000 people. 8. New Hampshire > Life expectancy: 80.3 years (tied-8th highest) > Obesity rate: 26.7% (16th lowest) > Poverty rate: 8.7% (the lowest) Limiting poverty can also improve health outcomes, and no state had a lower poverty rate than New Hampshire. Just 8.7% of the New Hampshire population lived below the poverty line in 2013, versus 15.8% of all Americans. Residents were more likely than most Americans to exercise regularly, and were likely than almost all states to be a victim of a
violent crime. Violence has become increasingly recognized as a public health matter in recent decades.

For the rest of the list, please go to 24/7WallStreet.com. Read next: 20 Things You Should Throw Away for Better Health

Listen to the most important stories of the day.

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 108286

Article Title: ?New Fall TV: Should I Watch Red Band Society?"

Date: 9/17/2014

Article Content: Due to the popularity of dead-or-dying teens across this great nation of ours lately, and an aggressive marketing strategy, Fox’s new show (Wednesdays, 9/8c.) seems poised for success. As long as it can clear the hump of uninformed bad impressions with word-of-mouth apologies (“I understand you don’t fucking like football, what you are not hearing is that Friday Night Lights is not even about football in the way you hate football”), this show about the Children’s Ward should outlast its ensemble at least. Plus, few things are so easily a locus for fetishization and self-promotion than sick kids—the only person less self-aware of what they’re doing than the “I am such a huge animal lover” person is the “sick kids just break my heart” person—which means it will generate massive conversation, across every demo. Logline: Youths treat the Peds Unit as their own professional Breakfast Club, crossing class and clique lines with aplomb, getting to know each other, expressing their fears and loneliness, being loved and healed by a harshly dear Octavia Spencer and the lisping masculine beauty of Dave Annable, having their first kisses and last pre-amputation dances, and then... Dropping dead I guess. Bottom Line: Successful genre-crossers like Sleepy Hollow have this shared quality of seeming naïveté and determinedly, almost cynically, avant-garde at the same time. (They don’t know what they want until we show them that they want it.) That vibe is present here, in spades, which means success: Take everything that ever worked about Glee, add the popularity of your Hazels (and your If-I-Stays, too, that darker storytelling that whispers to kids, “People would love you more if you were dying”) and the soothing presence of a Dr. Miranda Bailey and recent lean crop of medical shows, and I am telling you. This is the big one. Watch This Show! If you are into things that are popular for a reason, which is a tricky needle to thread; if you think you are too good for; if you somehow made it through the trailer without crying, because you need more training in how to feel feelings. Alternately, you should watch it because this is one of the biggest premieres of the entire Fall, and you will be forced into having a take on it. Absolutely Do Not Watch This Show! It is narrated by a kid in a coma, everybody is doing constant Fault in Our Stars things to experience life to its fullest, and it’s visually reminiscent of Glee. If you hate women, young people, or especially young women, that can often translate into or express itself by you blowing off stories about them, and that may happen here. Fair warning. Parents Television Council Says: “...[The ill and dying] teens are hardly paragons of good behavior. In just the first episode they steal a car, smoke cigarettes and marijuana, and lie about their age to buy beer, while [an] adult character smokes pot from a bong. Language on the show includes uses of 'ass,' 'bitch,' 'balls,' and talk about 'getting laid.'” If you don’t want your kid to know about the word “ass,” or if you are afraid of
adults that smoke pot from a bong, stay away. Otherwise, play ball! Nothing more inspiring to the insufferable, elderly and self-righteous than the prospect of a dying child to whimper about. Red Band Society airs Wednesdays on Fox at 9/8c., starting tonight. STAY TUNED for more Should I Watch This, here at Morning After."

Source Title: Web

Youth – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 818926

Article Title: Adult ADHD: Symptoms, Statistics, Causes, Types and Treatments" 

Date: 6/29/2017

Article Content:  What Is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)? Many people have heard of ADHD. It may make you think of kids who have trouble paying attention or who are hyperactive or impulsive. Adults can have ADHD, too. About 4% to 5% of U.S. adults have it. But few adults get diagnosed or treated for it. Who gets adult ADHD? Every adult who has ADHD had it as a child. Some may have been diagnosed and known it. But some may have not been diagnosed when they were young and only find out later in life. While many kids with ADHD outgrow it, about 60% still have it as adults. Adult ADHD seems to affect men and women equally. Adult ADHD Symptoms If you have adult ADHD, you may find it hard to: Follow directions Remember information Concentrate Organize tasks Finish work on time This can cause trouble in many parts of life -- at home, at work, or at school. Getting treatment and learning ways to manage ADHD can help. Most people learn to adapt. And adults with ADHD can develop their personal strengths and find success. Challenges People With Adult ADHD Face If you have ADHD, you may have trouble with: Anxiety Chronic boredom Chronic lateness and forgetfulness Depression Trouble concentrating when reading Trouble controlling anger Problems at work Impulsiveness Low tolerance for frustration Low self-esteem Mood swings Poor organization skills Procrastination Relationship problems Substance abuse or addiction Low motivation These may affect you a lot, or they may not bother you much. They can be problems all of the time or just depend on the situation. No two people with ADHD are exactly alike. If you have ADHD, you may be able to concentrate if you’re interested in or excited about what you’re doing. But some people with ADHD have trouble focusing under any circumstances. Some people look for stimulation, but others avoid it. Plus, some people with ADHD can be withdrawn and antisocial. Others can be very social and go from one relationship to the next. Problems at School Adults With ADHD may have: A history of not doing well in school and underachieving Gotten in a lot of trouble Had to repeat a grade Dropped out of school Continued Problems at Work Adults With ADHD are more likely to: Change jobs a lot and perform poorly Be less happy with their jobs and have fewer successes at work Problems in Life Adults with ADHD are more likely to: Get more speeding tickets, have their license suspended, or be involved in more crashes Smoke cigarettes Use alcohol or drugs more often Have less money Say they have psychological trouble like being depressed or have anxiety Relationship Problems Adults with ADHD are more likely to: Have more marital problems Get separated and divorced more often Have multiple marriages How Is Adult ADHD Diagnosed? Look for a psychiatrist who has experience with diagnosing and treating people with
ADHD. The doctor may: Ask you to get a physical exam to make sure there aren’t other medical problems causing your symptoms Take some blood from you and run tests on it Recommend psychological testing Ask you questions about your health history While experts don’t agree on an age that you can first diagnose ADHD, they do agree that people don’t suddenly develop it as an adult. That’s why when a doctor sees you they will ask about your behavior and any symptoms that you may have had as a child. They may also: Look at school report cards. They’ll look for comments about behavior problems, poor focus, lack of effort, or underachievement compared to your potential. Talk with your parents to see if you had any symptoms during childhood. People who have ADHD may have had trouble getting along with others when they were kids or had a hard time in school. Teachers may have had to work with you. For example, maybe you had to sit at the front of the class. They’ll also ask if anyone else in your family has ADHD. This can be helpful information because it does seem like ADHD runs in families. How Is Adult ADHD Treated? If your doctor says you have ADHD, you’ll work together to make a treatment plan just for you. Treatment plans can include medicine, therapy, education or learning more about ADHD, and getting family support. Continued Together these things can help you find new ways to do things that can make day-to-day life easier. That can make you feel better in general and feel better about yourself. Making sure you get fully checked by a doctor is important. That’s because people with ADHD often face other conditions, too. You may also have a learning disability, anxiety or another mood disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, or a dependence on drugs or alcohol. Knowing the whole picture can make sure you get the best plan for you. Medications to Treat Adult ADHD Stimulant Medications. Adults with ADHD are often offered stimulant medications. Studies show that about two-thirds of adults with ADHD who take these medications have big improvements in their symptoms. Examples of stimulant medications include: But stimulants are not always ideal. Why? They can be: Addictive. Stimulants are controlled substances. That means they can be misused. Some adults with ADHD have substance abuse problems or had them in the past. Hard to remember to take. Short-acting types of stimulants (versus long-acting) may wear off quickly. Since people with ADHD can have trouble with forgetfulness, remembering to take them several times a day can be a challenge. Hard to time. If people choose to stop taking them in the evening, they can have a hard time focusing to do housework, pay bills, help children with homework, or drive. But if they do take them later in the day, they may be tempted to use alcohol or other things “to relax.” Non-Stimulant Medications. Doctors may also recommend a non-stimulant medication for you to take, either on its own or with a stimulant. They are: Therapy and Other Behavioral Treatments You may want to ask about making these part of your treatment plan, too: Cognitive and behavioral therapy. It can help with self-esteem. Relaxation training and stress management. These can lower anxiety and stress. Life coaching. It may help you set goals. Plus, it can help you learn new ways to stay organized at home and work. Job coaching or mentoring. This can help support you at work. It can help you have better working relationships and improve on-the-job performance. Family education and therapy. This can help you and loved ones understand ADHD better. It can also help you all find ways to lessen how much it affects everyone’s life. Continued Other Things You Can Do to Manage ADHD Here are some things you can do on your own to make life with ADHD more manageable: Take medications as directed. If you are taking any medications for ADHD or any other condition, take them exactly as prescribed. Taking two doses at once to catch up on missed doses can be bad for you and others. If you notice side effects or other problems, talk to your doctor as soon as possible. Organize. Make lists of daily tasks (be reasonable!) and work to complete them. Use a daily planner, leave notes for yourself, and set your alarm clock when you need to remember an appointment or other activity. Breathe slowly. If you have a tendency to do things you later regret, such
as interrupt others or get angry at others, manage the impulse by pausing. Count to 10 while you breathe slowly instead of acting out. Usually the impulse will pass as quickly as it appeared. Cut down on distractions. If you find yourself being distracted by loud music or the television, turn it off or use earplugs. Move yourself to a quieter location, or ask others to help make things less distracting. Burn off extra energy. You may need a way to get rid of some energy if you’re hyperactive or feel restless. Exercise, a hobby, or another pastime can be good choices. Ask for help. We all need help from time to time, and it’s important to not be afraid to ask for it. If you have disruptive thoughts or behaviors, ask a counselor if they have any ideas you can try that could help you control them. Sources SOURCES: Mayo Clinic: “Adult ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder).” Attention Deficit Disorder Association. FamilyDoctor.org: “Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder(ADHD).” © 2017 WebMD, LLC. All rights reserved. 

Source Title: Web

E-cigarette texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_you”.

Youth – Ecig – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.83
Hand-coded: No
ArticleID: 685
Article Title: Montgomery council OKs bill banning public e-cigarette use"
Date: 3/3/2015
Article Content: DATELINE: ROCKVILLE, Md. ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) - The Montgomery County Council has approved a bill that will extend the ban on smoking in public places to electronic cigarettes. The council passed the bill Tuesday, and it now goes to County Executive Ike Leggett for his signature. If he signs it, it would take effect 91 days after he signs. If the bill becomes law, smoking e-cigars, e-hookahs, e-pipes and vape pens would also be illegal in the same places where smoking traditional cigarettes is banned. The bill also bans retail outlets from selling certain liquid nicotine or liquid nicotine containers unless they are in packaging that makes it difficult for children to get into."
Source Title: AP

Youth – Ecig – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.82
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 1027
Article Title: House backs bill placing more restrictions on e-cigarettes"
Date: 2/11/2015
The state House has passed a bill that would place more restrictions on electronic cigarettes and other products that contain liquid nicotine. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reports (http://bit.ly/1tiydcJ) lawmakers voted 40-20 this week to approve the bill and send it to the Senate for more debate. It must pass a committee hearing there as well as three floor votes before heading to the governor’s desk. The proposal would require e-cigarettes and other “vaping” products that contain liquid nicotine to be sold in child-resistant packages. It also would ban the use of such devices at schools and certified day-care facilities during posted hours. Lawmakers passed a bill in 2013 that banned minors from buying e-cigarettes, which are defined as any product that delivers nicotine vapor from a nicotine solution. Information from: Wyoming Tribune Eagle, http://www.wyomingnews.com"
has come in and insinuated herself between me and my wife. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yeah. That’s what they do AL ROKER: They do that. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yeah, they like attention and, yeah, sometimes the man goes crazy over the dog or the jealousies can form all sorts of problems. It’s not all- it’s not-- it’s not all a picnic on the dog, you know. AL ROKER: No. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yeah. AL ROKER: There are problems. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yeah. AL ROKER: Which is what this talks about. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yes. It’s one of the- yes, we really finally are talking about some of the problems of dog ownership. Not really. It-- it’s kind of- - it’s a very-- it’s really about the marriage and relationships and a three-way relationship basically. Just one is a dog. TAMRON HALL: And awfully cute one there, Annaleigh. MATTHEW BRODERICK: They’re very cute dog. TAMRON HALL: Very cute there. ANNLEIGH ASHFORD: Thank you. TAMRON HALL: Now, there’s a tie to your wife Sarah Jessica Parker-- MATTHEW BRODERICK: Mm. TAMRON HALL: --in that she also had this role at some point in learning her career. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yes. Yes, there she is. TAMRON HALL: There she is. MATTHEW BRODERICK: She was the - the same dog, a little-- a different dog but in the same show. ANNLEIGH ASHFORD: She was the magical originator of Sylvia, so there’s like such a beautiful blueprint for all of us who have played it since then-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah. ANNLEIGH ASHFORD: --and you can kind of feel her all over-- all over the play which is so lovely. TAMRON HALL: So she’s kind of in the middle like Sylvia is in the middle in the play. Is that a stretch? AL ROKER: Yes. MATTHEW BRODERICK: No, not at all. AL ROKER: I think that’s pretty perfect. MATTHEW BRODERICK: And she-- I’m sorry, I see that look, but she based it on the dog. AL ROKER: You-- you saw the reflection of our stage manager-- MATTHEW BRODERICK: Yeah. There’s something happened. AL ROKER: --in - in my eyes. You know what? They are just counting it down something like that. MATTHEW BRODERICK: All right, never mind. AL ROKER: Matthew, Annaleigh, thank you so much. TAMRON HALL: Come back and visit us. MATTHEW BRODERICK: Okay. Thank you. ANNLEIGH ASHFORD: Thank you. TAMRON HALL: Sylvia again its sixteen-week Broadway run tomorrow and coming up her series Xena, certainly is a cult favorite and Lucy Lawless will tell us about it after your local news. AL ROKER: Weather. TAMRON HALL: And weather. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NATALIE MORALES: Taking a look at the headlines. The cancer research on with the World Health Organization says this morning that processed meats like bacon, hot dogs and sausage cause cancer in humans. The agency concludes there is sufficient evidence linking processed meat to bowel cancer. It also says that red meat, including beef, pork, and lamb probably causes cancer. The country’s leading pediatricians are calling for comprehensive changes in the nation’s tobacco laws due to the increasing popularity of e-cigarettes. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends the minimum age to purchase all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, be increased to twenty-one. They also favor raising the price of tobacco products and laws banning the use of e-cigarettes in public places. A new study suggests most women don’t need to fast during labor and they may actually benefit from eating a light meal. Researchers with the American Society of Anesthesiologists say improvements in anesthesia care have made pain control safer which reduces any risks of eating and they recommended doctors assess each patient individually to determine if they can eat during labor. American Airlines is planning to offer no-frills airfares starting next year. Its goal is to offer lower fares in an effort to compete with rivals such as Spirit and Frontier. There are few details available, but the no-frills plan could include fares that are non-refundable, no changes allowed and seat assignments after check-in. Halloween sales projections are giving retailers a scare. Spending on Halloween costumes, candy, decorations and greeting cards is expected to fall about seven percent this year although that still comes out to nearly seven billion dollars. It would be the lowest in four years. Large retail chains also look to Halloween sales as a way to predict whether consumers will be in a spending mood during the Christmas shopping season. Well, The Martian flew
back to the top at the weekend box office. The Matt Damon’s sci-fi flick pulled in an estimated 15.9 million, Goosebumps close behind and Bridge of Spies was third. Let’s get a check of the weather once again with Mister Roker. Hey, Al. AL ROKER: All righty. Let’s show you what we’ve got going. In case you hear- you hear a little baby crying, we’ve got a-- we’ve got a Halloween segment coming up with kids so a little fun in the studio right now. As we look a week at your week ahead, heavy rains, remnants of Patricia make their way up into the Ohio and Mississippi River Valley, sunshine in the Northeast and the southwest as well. It’s going to be cool throughout parts of the Plains and here in the East, warmer as you get around the Great Lakes. Mid-week that wet weather makes its way into the Northeast, Great Lakes, showers and wet weather into Northern California and the Pacific Northwest, where it will be cooler, same in the Plains. But warming up along the Eastern Seaboard and then the later part of the week we’re looking at sunshine through the southwest. Some showers and wet weather through Texas into the four corners area. They could see by the end of the week in Texas another three to five inches. They do not need that. That’s what’s going on around the country. Here’s what’s happening in your neck of the woods. (Weather follows) AL ROKER: And that is your latest weather. NATALIE MORALES: When New Zealand native Lucy Lawless first conquered American television screens as the tough as Nails warrior, Princess Xena which became a huge cult phenomenon. NATALIE MORALES: And now Lucy stars as Ruby in the new series Ash vs. Evil Dead based, of course, on the popular Evil Dead film series. And, Lucy, good morning. LUCY LAWLESS (Ash vs. Evil Dead): Good morning. NATALIE MORALES: HI. TAMRON HALL: It’s appropriate because we are approaching Halloween, but is it true you weren’t a fan of the series, is that just urban myth? LUCY LAWLESS: Well, when I was seventeen my first boyfriend said let’s go to our buddy’s house and watch this really great move, really scary and it was Evil Dead the first one. And the first five minutes had such a terrible act of violence and I was disgust and stomped off and (unintelligible) and I said the people who made this movie are sick misogynists and they ought to be in the ground and then twelve years later I was married to one of them, so. NATALIE MORALES: So your husband brought you in, right? LUCY LAWLESS: Ultimate karma. Yes. NATALIE MORALES: But, you know, tell us a little about it. I mean what made you decide that, okay, this time I think I can do this? LUCY LAWLESS: Oh, to be in this-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. LUCY LAWLESS: --because I love Bruce Campbell so much. We’re very old friends. In fact, he mentored me in how to be a good star early on before he was my husband, that guy, put me together with Bruce. And, you know, when they come and say, Lucy, do you want to do the umpteen fight this week-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. LUCY LAWLESS: --go and train for it. The answer was no. But Bruce taught me when they come to you with an unpleasant request you’re excellent. TAMRON HALL: Right. LUCY LAWLESS: And just by saying that it takes the curse off of it. So, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, I’m going to use that strategy from now on. TAMRON HALL: That’s smart. NATALIE MORALES: Excellent. LUCY LAWLESS: It really worked. I was hoping you would say that. NATALIE MORALES: Okay. AL ROKER: Fantastic. Let’s go with it. NATALIE MORALES: Be positive. LUCY LAWLESS: Four AM start, my favorite. AL ROKER: But let’s start at three. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. TAMRON HALL: Yes. LUCY LAWLESS: Yes. NATALIE MORALES: Why? We can start at two. AL ROKER: That’s right. Now you were quoted as saying you’re not a funny person but you are a good laugh. LUCY LAWLESS: Yeah. AL ROKER: Does that-- does that help cover a myriad of sins? LUCY LAWLESS: Well, it’s like- I don’t have to be interesting because I’m interested so, yes, I guess it does. But that’s why Bruce loves having me around because I just find him endlessly amusing, you know, so I guess that’s why he pulled me into this project. TAMRON HALL: You know, you have a lot of things that, of course, we love you for inspired different- you do a lot of work-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --with raising awareness issues specific to women, but your character Xena goes down as one of the most bad,
tough-- LUCY LAWLESS: Right. TAMRON HALL: --in a good way, you know, women I was going to say the other part of bad-- LUCY LAWLESS: Yes. I guess that guys are misogynous because he was actually instrumental in fact that the number one for creating this character of Xena. Yeah, I’m proud to have been part of it. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. Because you need people associate the costume with young teenage-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. TAMRON HALL: --(unintelligible) boys enjoying watching it. But in reality when you look at the landscape-- LUCY LAWLESS: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --of dominate female character, she stands above the rest in many ways. LUCY LAWLESS: Gosh, I don’t have that perspective. But if that’s true that would be amazing and I’m super proud. TAMRON HALL: No, you don’t think about it. I mean think about some of the superhero women out there-- NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: --she counted us they’re very few. NATALIE MORALES: So there’s still a lot of Xena in you, you know. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. LUCY LAWLESS: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: That Warrior Princess, right? LUCY LAWLESS: She rubs off. She rubs off. AL ROKER: And I love this-- one of your favorite things to do when you go to a new town as you got to the courthouse and watch trials. LUCY LAWLESS: Uh-Huh. Yes, if you don’t know anybody it’s so important too that people understand the jury system. It has to be transparent. You really learn a lot about communities. I was in Shreveport and watched a lot of the voir dires-- TAMRON HALL: Yeah. LUCY LAWLESS: --and, you know, with picking juries and you learn what people-- it’s really humbling how people get by in different communities around the world. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. AL ROKER: What a great idea. NATALIE MORALES: It’s a real world? TAMRON HALL: Isn’t that fascinating? NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. Absolutely. LUCY LAWLESS: And it makes you want to participate. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. LUCY LAWLESS: It makes you want to be a juror and it makes it that your part in the justice system as a-- NATALIE MORALES: Mm-Hm. LUCY LAWLESS: --helping in keep everything square. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: You are so phenomenal. We didn’t expect that turn. But that’s amazing. That’s good. Thank you, Lucy. LUCY LAWLESS: You’re so welcome. TAMRON HALL: And I tell people you’re debating dying your hair platinum blond. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah! TAMRON HALL: Yeah. LUCY LAWLESS: Right. TAMRON HALL: Lucky is like, I’m thinking about it. LUCY LAWLESS: Okay. If I do it it’s your fault. NATALIE MORALES: And then you have to do it, too. TAMRON HALL: That’s not what you - okay. AL ROKER: And then I’ll do it. LUCY LAWLESS: Would. Would. TAMRON HALL: Ahs vs. Evil Dead premieres Halloween night on Stars. And up next, no costumes, no platinum blond, no problem, easy last minute get up for the whole family after - oh - after this. NATALIE MORALES: So cute. TAMRON HALL: They’re so cute. NATALIE MORALES: Come on in kids. TAMRON HALL: Come in. Come in. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NATALIE MORALES: Well, have you been too busy to go out and buy a Halloween costume? Now you only have five days left until Halloween. The clock is ticking. AL ROKER: Don’t worry, though, we’ve got some clever last-minute ideas for the whole family courtesy of Lori Bergamotto, style director at Good Housekeeping magazine. Lori, good to see you. LORI BERGAMOTT: Good to see you guys. NATALIE MORALES: Hi. AL ROKER: Are you-- you’re a gum ball machine. LORI BERGAMOTT: I am, very good. NATALIE MORALES: Yes, cute. AL ROKER: All right. LORI BERGAMOTT: Procrastinators paradise. NATALIE MORALES: Well done. That’s cute. LORI BERGAMOTT: Thank you. NATALIE MORALES: And you look adorable. LORI BERGAMOTT: Well, thanks. So we’re going to start today with our Trophy family. AL ROKER: I love this. NATALIE MORALES: It’s cute. LORI BERGAMOTT: So we love this. What we basically did is you can see is a lot of families wanted to dress up as something and they want a theme. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. LORI BERGAMOTT: This is really good for all ages. The family here is being so great today. They’re all frozen in position, get athletic gear. NATALIE MORALES: Nicely done. LORI BERGAMOTT: You want to spray paint it gold, that’s what we did.
AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. LORI BERGAMOTT: But use a flexible fabric spray paint so it doesn’t crack. AL ROKER: Right. LORI BERGAMOTT: And then just get your gear, spray paint it all, we wrapped boxes in black wrapping paper, wrote on and here we are. NATALIE MORALES: Fantastic. AL ROKER: And this is-- what kind makeup? Is this something-- LORI BERGAMOTT: It’s just gold makeup. AL ROKER: Gold makeup. LORI BERGAMOTT: We actually got it at the drug store. Oops, the Trophies are coming to live. NATALIE MORALES: You lost your ball. LORI BERGAMOTT: But essentially that’s the whole-- NATALIE MORALES: There you go. LORI BERGAMOTT: --key to this segment is everything we got was at a hardware store, drug store, things that you don’t have to go to a costume shop to get. AL ROKER: So then you have to go as a family, ring the doorbell then set this up. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. LORI BERGAMOTT: Exactly. AL ROKER: Okay. NATALIE MORALES: So fabulous. And hold that pose. AL ROKER: And you’re going to school wearing this, right? NATALIE MORALES: Yes. AL ROKER: There you go. Okay. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. AL ROKER: Very nice. NATALIE MORALES: She barely moves. Okay. LORI BERGAMOTT: So fun. NATALIE MORALES: I love the emojis here. LORI BERGAMOTT: For middle schoolers and tweens we felt like this was a really fun costume to do. NATALIE MORALES: Right. LORI BERGAMOTT: The emojis. Here is Jack as the hashtag, sorry. NATALIE MORALES: Fun. LORI BERGAMOTT: He should be like hashtag lucky because he’s with these four beautiful girls. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. LORI BERGAMOTT: We have the purple devil, the flamenco dancer, the happy face and the heart. And we wanted to show you, you can really dress up as the actual Emoji-- AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. LORI BERGAMOTT: --or just get foam cord or cardboard at the craft store and make it yourself. This is just cardboard wrapped-- NATALIE MORALES: Yes. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. LORI BERGAMOTT: --in aluminum foil. NATALIE MORALES: Easiest costumes yet. AL ROKER: That’s great. LORI BERGAMOTT: Happy Halloween. NATALIE MORALES: Okay. Now this is adorable. AL ROKER: And then for the little ones. This is so cute. NATALIE MORALES: Hi, guys. LORI BERGAMOTT: So this is actually my family-- AL ROKER: Uh. NATALIE MORALES: Oh. LORI BERGAMOTT: --so my husband Nick is-- AL ROKER: Hi, Nick. NATALIE MORALES: Hi, Nick. LORI BERGAMOTT: And again, this is his rain coat some sweatpants. Al you probably already have this gear, right? AL ROKER: I have-- I’ve actually worn this outfit. NATALIE MORALES: Probably. LORI BERGAMOTT: Okay, great. NATALIE MORALES: The orange Crocs and the hat. LORI BERGAMOTT: And then we covered our wagon which we already had. Our kids are little, they need to be entertained-- AL ROKER: Sure. LORI BERGAMOTT: --so bubbles are a great thing. And there they are in the bubble bath. NATALIE MORALES: Cute. Oh, my gosh, your kid are gorgeous. AL ROKER: I love it. LORI BERGAMOTT: Thank you. AL ROKER: So cute. LORI BERGAMOTT: Hi, kiddies. AL ROKER: And minions. NATALIE MORALES: And these kids are gorgeous too. LORI BERGAMOTT: And we love these adorable kids. They are minions. NATALIE MORALES: Hi. AL ROKER: Hi, guys. LORI BERGAMOTT: So for-- for last-minute DIYs, it’s also difficult because some kids really just want to be characters. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. LORI BERGAMOTT: So this is an easy way to do the minions. We have Lena and El. NATALIE MORALES: So sweet. LORI BERGAMOTT: We have the overalls, just get a yellow hoodie or a little long sleeve T-shirt, the goggles and really just have fun with it. NATALIE MORALES: Adorable. LORI BERGAMOTT: They have their chocolate and their guitar. Our little minions. AL ROKER: Okay. NATALIE MORALES: Good job, guys. AL ROKER: There are some ladybug costumes for the newborn. LORI BERGAMOTT: Exactly. AL ROKER: This is-- this is really great. NATALIE MORALES: Look at the scuba. LORI BERGAMOTT: Thank you. So Debby and Nia as our pair of scuba divers. What we wanted to do is something for a really small baby and we even accommodated with her bianchi here. We just wrapped it in some black tape. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, my goodness. LORI BERGAMOTT: And this is El and Nia, this is just felt over their regular
shoes. AL ROKER: That’s fantastic. NATALIE MORALES: So cute. And it’s easy. LORI BERGAMOTT: This is a soda bottle. NATALIE MORALES: And she’s happy, right? LORI BERGAMOTT: Really easy. And the most expensive item today was eighteen dollars. NATALIE MORALES: Oh, my gosh. AL ROKER: You can actually get her bottle. NATALIE MORALES: Hi. LORI BERGAMOTT: You could. Al that’s actually better. Where were you on Saturday when I was-- NATALIE MORALES: Yes. AL ROKER: This though is pretty good. NATALIE MORALES: I love it. AL ROKER: They’re all fantastic. LORI BERGAMOTT: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Good job. AL ROKER: You guys are all terrific. LORI BERGAMOTT: Thank you so much. AL ROKER: That’s great. All right. Lori, thank you. NATALIE MORALES: Lori, great job. LORI BERGAMOTT: Thank you. Happy Halloween. NATALIE MORALES: Thank you models. AL ROKER: Hey, coming up next, we’ve got a no-bake Halloween treat that is sure to be a smash, right after these messages. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"

Source Title: BTN

Youth – Ecig – MPM – BTN 2

Predicted Probability: 0.87

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ArticleID: 785113

Article Title: SHOW: AT THIS HOUR WITH BERMAN AND MICHAELA 11:00 AM EST Live Coverage of the HHS Secretary Confirmation Hearing. Aired 11-11:30a ET

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Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Live coverage of the Senate confirmation hearing for HHS Secretary Rep. Tom Price. REP. TOM PRICE (R-GA), NOMINEE FOR HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY: Well, this is really critical, Senator, because as you mentioned area, in the rural areas, Georgia's the largest state geographically east of the Mississippi and we've got a large rural population. [11:00:00] And critical access hospitals are so important to communities around our state and truly around this nation. PRICE: Well, this is really critical, Senator, because as you mentioned in the rural areas, Georgia's the largest state geographically east of the Mississippi and we've got a large rural population. And critical access hospitals are -- are so important to communities around our state and -- and truly around this nation. But the regulatory scheme that's been put in place is choking the individuals that are actually trying to provide the care. So much so that you've got physicians and other providers who are leaving the practice, who are leaving the care -- caring for patients not because they've forgotten how to do it or they've grown tired of it, but because of the onerous nature of the regulatory scheme coming out of Washington, D.C. The meaningful use -- a project that you mentioned -- makes it that much more difficult. We've turned physicians into data entry clerks. You just have to ask them what they're doing. And if you talk to patients, what they recognize is when they go into see their doctor, they see the top of his or her head as they're punching the information, the data into a computer, as opposed to that sharing of information that's so vital and necessary between the physician and the patient for quality health care. So, one, a recognition of the problem is incredibly important; a recognition of the importance of rural health care in our nation and how it needs to be bolstered up. And then looking at the consequences of what we do as a government. As I mentioned earlier, oftentimes, I don't think we look at the consequences. We pass the rule. We pass the regulation. We institute it. We think it's the
greatest thing since sliced bread. But in fact what it's doing is harming the very individuals that are trying to provide the care. You don't get that information unless you ask. SEN. PAT ROBERTS (R), KANSAS: I appreciate that. My time is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. SEN. ORRIN HATCH (R), UTAH: Senator Nelson? SEN. BILL NELSON (D), FLORIDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congressman, I enjoyed our visit yesterday. We had a discussion when you were kind enough to come visit me, about the fact that I have in the state of Florida 4 million-plus seniors on Medicare. And they are petrified of the idea of privatized Medicare. And I talked to you about this. And you talked about the premium support system that you're advocating. And you pointed to a study that was done by CBO. You mentioned that you would send me a copy and we haven't gotten it. So what I did, I went and got the copy myself. And it is September of 2013. And what it concludes is opposite of what you said with regard to high-cost states like Florida. Medicare is going to be spending four percent lower under the proposal that you were talking about in this CBO report, lower than current law, and beneficiary cost will decrease by six percent on the average, which is what you said yesterday. But in high-cost regions like Florida, you're going to have the higher beneficiary cost than current law, under your premium support proposal. Annual premiums in Florida would increase 125 percent, according to the CBO chart on page 71. CBO says that the annual premium in a high-cost region like Florida would be $3,600 compared to the current law of $1,600. That's the 125 percent increase. So, please help clarify what you were saying yesterday as it applies to Florida. PRICE: Yes, thanks, Senator. And I enjoyed our time together as well. When we talk about Medicare, it's important for everybody to appreciate, as I know that you and your colleagues do, that the Medicare trustees, Republicans or Democrats, the Medicare trustees have told all of us that Medicare in a very short period of time, less than 10 years, is going to be out of the kind of resources that will allow us as a society to keep the promise to beneficiaries in the Medicare program. What that means -- it's important to appreciate what that means. It means that we will not be able to provide the services to Medicare patients at that time, which is very, very close, if nothing is done. [11:05:03] So my goal is to work with each and every one of you to make certain that we save and strengthen and secure Medicare. I think it's irresponsible of us as policy makers to allow a program to continue knowing -- knowing that in a few short years, it's not going to be able to cover the services that we're providing. So that's the first point, and that is the current Medicare program, if nothing is done, as some have described it, goes broke. Second point is that my role -- if I'm able to be -- if I'm confirmed and have the privilege of serving as the secretary of health and human services, my role will be one of carrying out the law that you all in Congress pass. It's not the role of the legislator, which I had when I was working to try to formulate ideas to hopefully generate discussion and get to a solution... NELSON: OK. Let me -- let me be so rude as to stop, because I'm running out of time. Remember that Donald Trump in the campaign said that he was not going to cut Medicare spending. And I would also point to you, in a legislative solution, one of the greatest examples is -- on Medicare -- is 1983, when we were just about to go bust. And it took two old Irishmen, Reagan and O'Neill, to agree to come to an agreement that made Medicare -- in this case, it was not Medicare, it was Social Security -- actuarily sound for the next half-century. Let me ask you, Representative Price, you had made a statement that it was a terrible idea of people who had preexisting conditions, that they would have the protection of insurance against those preexisting conditions. And what I'd like to ask you is, can you please, in light of President Trump expressing his desire to retain this basic protection, do you think his proposal to continue the ban on discriminating against people with preexisting conditions is a terrible idea? PRICE: No, I'm not certain where you're getting that quote from. What I have always... NELSON: It came from Politico, talking points memo, May 1st, 2012. PRICE: Oh, well, now there's a reliable source. (LAUGHTER) What I've
always said, Senator, is that nobody -- nobody... NELSON: So you didn't say it's a terrible idea? PRICE: I -- I don't believe I ever made that statement. What I've always said about preexisting conditions is that nobody, in a system that pays attention to patients, nobody ought to be priced out of the market for having a bad diagnosis. Nobody. That's a system, again, that may work for insurance companies; may work for government, but it doesn't work for patients. So I believe firmly that what we need is a system that recognizes that preexisting conditions do indeed exist and that we need to accommodate it and make certain that nobody loses their insurance or is unable to gain insurance because of a preexisting condition. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, as I close, I would like to insert in the record the September 2013 Congressional Budget Office analysis of premium support system for Medicare. And I would invite you, Congressman, to please respond with the CBO report that you said yesterday that supports your position, because this one does not. PRICE: Look forward to that. Thank you, sir. HATCH: Senator Menendez? SEN. ROBERT MENENDEZ (D), NEW JERSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Congratulations, Congressman Price. Let me ask you a series of questions. Given your medical training and time spent as a practicing physician, I have a couple of simple yes or no questions to start off with. In your medical opinion, does HIV cause AIDS? PRICE: I think that the scientific evidence is clear that HIV and AIDS are clinically directed. MENENDEZ: And in your medical opinion, have immigrants led to outbreaks of leprosy in the United States? PRICE: I don't know what you're referring to, but I suspect that there are instances where individuals have an infectious disease and they come to the United States and that that... MENENDEZ: I'm not asking about an infectious disease. I'm asking specifically about immigrants in the United States causing leprosy in the United States -- in your medical opinion and scientific background? PRICE: Again, I don't know the incident to which you refer. Are you referring to a specific incident? [11:10:02] MENENDEZ: There are statements that have been made in the public domain that immigrants have led to outbreaks of leprosy in the United States. As a person who's going to be designated as the director of Health and Human Services, that is not only the national but the world's health epicenter, I want to know, in your medical opinion, is there such a causation? PRICE: The -- any time you get two individuals together for -- in -- in any relationship whatsoever, whether it's an immigrant or a visitor, and -- and one individual has an infectious disease, then it is possible that individuals transmits that infectious disease. MENENDEZ: Including... PRICE: Whether it's the flu or a cold... MENENDEZ: Including leprosy? PRICE: In -- in any infectious disease whatsoever. MENENDEZ: In your medical opinion, do abortions cause breast cancer? PRICE: I think the science is -- is a -- is relatively clear that's not the case. MENENDEZ: In your medical opinion, do vaccines cause autism? PRICE: Again the science, in that instance, is -- is -- is that it does not, but there are individuals across our country who are... MENENDEZ: I'm not asking about individuals. I'm talking about science because you're going to head a department in which science, not alternate universes of people's views, is going to be central to a trillion-dollar budget and the health of the nation. Can you commit to this committee and the American people today, that should you be confirmed, you will swiftly and unequivocally debunk false claims to protect the public health? PRICE: What I'll commit to doing is doing the due diligence that the department is -- is known for and must do to make certain that the factual information is conveyed to... (CROSSTALK) MENENDEZ: And that factual information will be dictated by science, I would hope? PRICE: Without a doubt. MENENDEZ: OK. So, let me ask you about Medicaid specifically. Let me just say, I'm a little taken back about your answer on the question of immigrants and leprosy. I think the science has pretty well dictated in that regard too. Let me ask you this. One of the most beneficial components of the Affordable Care Act was the expansion of the Medicaid program that resulted in 11 million people nationwide and over half a million in New Jersey gaining coverage, many for the first time. It's one of the
biggest programs on the Republican chopping block, with proposals to not only repeal the Affordable Care's Medicaid expansion, but going further in gutting billions in federal funding to the states. There's no doubt that this would result in catastrophic loss of coverage for tens of millions of low income families and lead to tens of billions in losses to safety net and other health care providers. Do you recognize Medicaid to be a valuable program and consider the coverage it provides to 74 million Americans to be comprehensive? PRICE: Medicaid is a vital program for health care many individuals in this country, but one that has significant challenges. There are one out of every three physicians who should be seeing Medicaid patients who's not taking -- who are not taking any Medicaid patients. There's a reason for that. If we're honest with ourselves, we'd be asking the question why? (CROSSTALK) MENENDEZ: Well, if that's the case, that one in three don't treat Medicaid, you have to ask yourself, is that because Medicaid reimbursements are so low? And since provider reimbursements are set at a state level, won't cutting federal funding and hitting states with higher costs only lead to lower provider rates? And how many doctors would actually treat former Medicaid beneficiaries when they no longer have any coverage or ability to pay? So even if there's only one of three, there's still two of three that are providing the services. Imagine if you don't have coverage, which goes to my next question. You have advocated (ph) to, in essence, block grant Medicaid. Now, the essence of Medicaid is an entitlement, which under the law it means if I meet these criteria I have the right to have that coverage under the law, when you move to a block grant, you remove the right and you make it a possibility subject to whatever funding there is going to be. Do you recognize that in doing so, you risk the potential of millions of Americans who presently enjoy health care coverage through Medicaid no longer having that right? PRICE: I -- I think that it's important to appreciate that -- that no system that any that - - that the president is -- has supported or that I have supported would leave anybody without the opportunity to gain coverage. Nobody. MENENDEZ: That's not my question. So let me reiterate my question. Medicaid, under the law as it exists today, is a right, is that not the case? Yes or no. PRICE: It's an entitlement program. MENENDEZ: And as an entitlement, doesn't that mean you have the right if you meet the criteria that you are entitled to the services... (CROSSTALK) PRICE: One is eligible. That is correct. MENENDEZ: One is eligible, meaning you have a right. When you move to a block grant, do you still have the right? PRICE: No. I think it would be determined by how that was set up. If, in fact, that was what Congress did. Again, the role of the Department of Health and Human Services is to administer the laws that you pass, not to make the law. MENENDEZ: Yes. But I would just simply say to you, I -- I know in our private conversation -- I appreciate you coming by to visit me -- you suggested that your role is that of an administrator of a large department. [11:15:11] Well, that's not even what the vice president said when you were nominated. He said he expected your experience, both medically and legislatively, to help drive policy. And even beyond the expectations of the vice president in that regard, when we have regulatory abilities of the secretary to dictate regulation, that is policy. So please don't say to me that I am here just to do what Congress says. I respect that you will follow the law and do whatever Congress says, but you will have an enormous impact. And based upon your previous opinions as it relates to Medicaid, ultimately, block granting means a loss of a right. And then it's just a question of funding and then we'll have a bigger problem with a number of providers willing provided. So, I hope we can get to better understanding, of your commitment to Medicaid as it is an entitlement as a right. Thank you sir. HATCH: Senator, your time is up. We'll go to Senator Carper now. SEN. THOMAS CARPER (D), DELAWARE: Congressman Price, welcome to you and to your -- to your wife. I -- there's a verse of scripture -- you mentioned earlier that you're active in your church. There's a verse of scripture in the New Testament, in Matthew 25, which speaks to the least of these. When I was hungry, did you feed
me? When I was naked, did you clothe me? When I was thirsty, did you get to drink? When I was sick and imprisoned, did you visit me? When I was a stranger in you land, did you take me in? It says nothing about; when my only access to health care coverage was going into the emergency room of a hospital, did you do anything about it? PRICE: What we sought to do with the ACA, is to do something about it. And we didn’t -- in this room invent the Affordable Care Act. The genesis of the Affordable Care Act, goes back to 1993 when Hillary Clinton, first lady, was working on what was called Hillary Care. And a group of Senator’s lead by Senator John Chaffee, a Republican from Rhode Island, developed legislation co-sponsored by, I think 23 senators including, as I recall, Senator Orrin Hatch and Senator Grassley. And what he did in his legislation, what he proposed in his legislation, was to use really five major concepts. One, to create large purchasing pools for folks who otherwise may not have access to health care coverage. He called them exchanges or market places. He also proposed that there be a sliding scale tax credit to buy down the cost of people getting coverage in those exchanges within the different states. Third thing he proposed was the notion that there should be an individual mandate, he wanted to make sure that people got covered and he realized that if they didn’t mandate coverage for people getting coverage, then -- then you would end up with insurance pools that health insurance companies that could not begin to coverage (inaudible) it would be workable. He proposed as well, employer mandates and he proposed as well, the notion that people shouldn't lose their coverage because of pre-existing conditions. Those are not Democrat ideas. Those were proposed by Republican leadership, actually in the Congress at the time. And when Governor Romney developed his own plan in Massachusetts, I don't know a decade or so later. He borrowed liberally from those ideas. When he instituted it, as you may recall, they instituted what I call -- what others call Romney care. They had found that they were doing a pretty good job on covering people, but not such a good job on affordability. And what took place over time is you found out they had insurance pools, where a lot of the people were not young, they were not very healthy and they were older and they needed more health care. And as a result, the insurance companies, in order find -- be able to stay in business had to raise the -- the premiums. I don't know if any of this sounds familiar to you, but it sure sounds familiar to what we’ve seen in the last six years or so with the -- with the Affordable Care Act. To the ideas of Senator Chaffee and the ideas of Govenor Romney, we've have added some things. We have made -- we've encouraged states to increase the number of people they cover under Medicaid by raising to about 135 percent, the primary level in at which people can receive -- can receive health care. PRICE: We've encouraged to focus on prevention and wellness. Not just treating people when they're sick, but also trying to make sure that people stay healthy in the first place. We provide funding for contraception, we provide funding for programs that are inclined or intended to reduce obesity. [11:20:02] We have programs that they’re intended to reduce the -- reduce smoking, the use of tobacco.. This is a -- this is not a yes-or-no question. What was wrong with that approach? What is wrong with that approach? And last thing I'll say is this, before you answer, the health insurance companies found it difficult to stay in business in the state groups -- the group exchanges across the country. One of the reasons why they were unable to is because, I think, really we learned this from Massachusetts, we didn't raise the fine, or if you will, we didn't have the incentive high enough to get young healthy people like my sons into the -- the -- the -- the exchanges across the country. S&P, I'm told, has just put out, about a month ago, an update looking at the financial health of the health insurance companies in this country as they have tried to figure out how to price this product. And it seems like, according to S&P, believe it or not, they seem to have sort of figured it out because the health -- financial health of the -- the health insurance companies has begun to stabilize. Your reaction to this, please. PRICE: Well, as I mentioned in -- either in my opening or in
response to -- to a question, the principles of health care that all of us hold dear, affordability and accessibility and quality and choices for patients, I think are the things that we all embrace. The next step, how we get to accomplish and -- and meet those goals and those principles, is where it takes work together to do so. The program that you outline has much merit, whether it's making certain that individuals with pre-existing illness and disease are able to access coverage, whether it's the pooling mechanisms which I've actively and aggressively supported for years, there's a lot of merit there. So I'm - - again, what I'm hopeful that we're able to do is to, in a collegial, bipartisan way, work together to solve the remarkable challenges that we have. One of my -- one of my physician colleagues used to tell me that he never operated on a Democrat patient or a Republican patient, he operated on a patient. And -- and that's the way that I view this system. It's not a Republican system, it's not a Democrat system. It's a system that hopefully we're focusing on the patients to, again, make certain that they have access to the highest quality care possible.

CARPER: Thank you for that. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying -- I'll use an analogy. If there is a large building and there are people in the large building and there was a fire in the large building but for some reason they could not use the stairways or they could not use the elevators, and they looked out the windows and there's fire fighters down in the streets saying go ahead and jump, we'll save you, but they don't have any safety nets. And my fear is if we repeal what I've described, the -- the system that I described that we put in place of the Affordable Care Act, largely founded on Republican ideas, which I think were good ideas, and we don't have something at least as good in place to catch those people as they fall from the building, we will have done a disservice to them and to our country. Thank you.

HATCH: Thanks, Senator. Your time is up. Senator Burr? SEN. RICHARD BURR (R), NORTH CAROLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and a quick reminder that the Affordable Care Act was not passed with one Republican vote in the House or in the Senate. So Dr. Price, a couple of questions just to cut to the chase. Are all of your assets currently disclosed publicly? PRICE: They are now and they always have been. BURR: OK. Are you covered by the Stock Act legislation passed by Congress that requires you and every other member to publicly disclose all sales and purchases of assets within 30 days? PRICE: Yes, sir. BURR: Now, you have been accused of not providing the committee of information related to your tax and financial records that were required of you. Are there any records you have been asked to provide that you have refused to provide? PRICE: None whatsoever. BURR: Now, you have been asked to provide that you have refused to provide? PRICE: None whatsoever. BURR: So all of your records are in? PRICE: Absolutely. BURR: Now, I got to ask you. Does it trouble you at all that you're -- as a -- as a nominee to serve in this administration, that someone will hold you to a different standard than you as a member of Congress? And I might say, the same standard that they currently buy and sell and trade assets on. Does it burn you that they want to hold you to a different standard now that you're a nominee than they are as a member? PRICE: Well, I -- I -- I -- we know what's going on here. BURR: Well, we do. We do. PRICE: I mean, that -- it's -- and I understand. And -- and as my wife tells me, I volunteered for this. So... BURR: So let's go to substance. BURR: You and I have a lot in common. [11:25:00] We both spoke out in opposition to Obamacare early. We predicted massive premiums increases. When the president promised if you like your doctors, you can keep them, if you like your plan, you can keep it, we both said these promises would be broken and in fact they were. Over the last seven years, you and I, Senator Hatch, Congressman Upton and others have actually written our own health care plans because we were, I think, brave enough to say that if you're gonna be critical of something, then put your ideas on the table. In your opinion, was it clear to the American people that repeal of Obamacare was a promise that Donald Trump made before he was elected president? PRICE: Well, I have no doubt that it played a very prominent role in this past election and that the president is committed to fulfilling that promise. BURR: And as the nominee, and hopefully, and
I think you will be the secretary of HHS, what are the main goals of an Obamacare replacement plan?

PRICE: Main goals, as I mentioned, are outlined in those principals. That is imperative that we have a system that accessible for every single American, that's affordable for every single American, that is -- incentivizes and provides the highest quality health care that the world knows and provides choices to patients so that they're the ones selecting who's treating them, when, where and the like. So, it's complicated to do, but it's pretty simple stuff. BURR: I want to thank you for not only testifying here but testifying in front of the Health Committee where Johnny and I both had you over there. You're brave to go through this, but the country will be much better off with your guidance and your knowledge in this slot. Mr. Chairman, I yield back. PRICE: Thank you, sir. HATCH: Well, thank you. Senator Cardin? SEN. BEN CARDIN (D), MARYLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Price, again, thank you for your willingness to serve in this and we also thank your family for being willing to put up with your voluntary choices. I want to talk about a few issues in the time I have. One, yesterday the president, by executive order, reinstituted the Global Gag Rule, but he also did it in a way that is more comprehensive than the previous. The new policy would prohibit any federal aid to foreign organizations that provide or promote abortion. In the past, the policy only applied to organizations to cut family planning funding, now it will apply to organizations that get global health money, potentially, including maternal help programs, anti-Zika efforts and expansion of PEPFAR to stop HIV/AIDS. My question to you is this. If confirmed, how will you make sure that the U.S. can fully participate in these global health efforts to help with maternal health, to help stopping the spread and ending HIV/AIDS, to deal (ph) -- to make sure that the next Zika virus that we be able to contain it so it doesn't cause the catastrophic effects if the Global Gag Rule is enforced in a way that prevents us from participating in international health organizations? PRICE: Yeah, this is really important, Senator. I appreciate the question. The department is full of all sorts of heroes, as you well know, and incredibly talented individuals, and my goal, if I'm given the privilege and if confirmed and given the privilege of serving as the secretary of Health and Human Services, is to gather the best minds and the best talent that we have within the department and without -- and determine what is wisest policy for this nation to have it relates to, in this instance, infectious disease. Germs know no geographic boundaries. And we do incredible work, the work that the CDC does and the work that's done by others in our nation that try to prevent -- work to prevent infectious disease, work to detect the spread of infectious disease and then provide a logical and methodical and aggressive response to the outbreak of any infectious disease is absolutely vital to protect the American people and we're committed to doing so. CARDIN: Now, I agree with that, I just hope that you will look at perhaps unintended consequences from these executive orders that could compromise our ability to be as effective as we need to using all tools at our disposal. I want to get to tobacco regulation for one moment, an area that I think is now clear within the medical community the impact that tobacco has. The fact that the Family Smoking Prevention Tobacco Control Act of 2009 authorizes the HHS secretary through FDA to regulate tobacco products, including restricting tobacco sale to minors. It also has been expanded to include the selling of e-cigarettes, et cetera. I know initially you did not support that legislation. [11:30:00] If confirmed, can you commit to us that you would rigorously enforce that act to make sure particularly our children are not subjected to the new forms of tobacco products?"
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 20949
Article Title: Corporate News: Nicotine Inhaler Wins U.K. Health Clearance
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Article Content: LONDON -- British American Tobacco PLC said it would start selling a cigarette alternative approved by the British government's health-care authority, the first time a product sold by Big Tobacco has been licensed by a reputable medical body anywhere in the world, according to experts. The device -- called Voke -- this week received a medicinal license from the U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, or MHRA. That means it can be sold as a safer alternative to cigarettes in the same way as nicotine gum or patches, and can also be prescribed by doctors. Voke will be sold as a cigarette-size stick in a box containing 20 nicotine refills. One thing is certain, according to Voke's creators: It is not an electronic cigarette. Instead, the device is a “cigarette-shaped nicotine inhaler” that doesn't heat liquid, use a battery or create vapor. Critically for BAT, that means it should escape any of the regulation expected to be imposed on e-cigarettes by many governments in the next few years. The World Health Organization in August called for tougher restrictions on e-cigarettes, including curbs on advertising, indoor use and such flavors as fruit and candy. That followed plans outlined in April by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that e-cigarettes be banned for those under 18 years of age and include health-warning labels. Analysts say final rules by the FDA are still months or even years away. Voke marks the first time a tobacco company has secured the approval of a medical body sanctioned by a Western government to sell one of its products, according to industry analysts. “It is completely unique,” said Erik Bloomquist, an analyst at Berenberg Bank. He said that although the product would at first have minimal impact on BAT's bottom line, it would give the U.K. company a head start over rivals, including Philip Morris International Inc. and Imperial Tobacco Group PLC. Voke was created by closely held patent developer Kind Consumer Ltd. and Nicoventures, a BAT subsidiary set up in 2010 to advance alternative nicotine products. The product does face one more hurdle before it hits the shelves: A further MHRA approval is required to allow it to be mass-produced. Nicoventures hopes to be able to sell Voke through the same distribution channels as BAT's major cigarette brands -- including Lucky Strike and Dunhill -- as well as in places where selling traditional tobacco products is prohibited, such as pharmacies and health stores. Anti-smoking groups said Voke was an attempt by BAT to influence the debate on public health. “Big Tobacco is using nicotine delivery devices like this as a global PR scheme to gloss over its tarnished image to position itself as a 'solution' to the problem it drives,” said John Stewart, director of the Challenge Big Tobacco campaign, which is run by advocacy group Corporate Accountability International. License this article from Dow Jones Reprint Service
Article Content: "We need a national debate on nicotine," said Mitch Zeller. Zeller is the director of the Center for Tobacco Products, a division of the Food and Drug Administration created in 2009 when Congress passed legislation giving the F.D.A. regulatory authority -- at long last! -- over cigarettes. In addition, the center will soon have regulatory authority over other tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, which have become enormously controversial even as they have gained in use.

Through something called a "deeming rule," the center is in the process of asserting that oversight over e-cigarettes. Opponents of electronic cigarettes, which include many public health officials, hope that the center will treat these new devices like it treats cigarettes: taking steps to discourage teenagers from "vaping," for instance, and placing strict limits on the industry's ability to market its products.

Proponents, meanwhile, hope that the center will view e-cigarettes as a "reduced harm" product that can save lives by offering a nicotine fix without the carcinogens that are ingested through a lit cigarette.

In this scenario, e-cigarettes manufacturers would be able to make health claims, and adult smokers might even be encouraged to switch from smoking to vaping as part of a reduced harm strategy. When I requested an interview with Zeller, I didn't expect him to tip his hat on which direction he wanted the center to go, and he didn't. Indeed, one of the points he made was that the F.D.A. was conducting a great deal of scientific research -- more than 50 studies in all, he said -- aimed at generating the evidence needed to better understand where to place e-cigarettes along what he calls "the continuum of risk." Zeller is a veteran of the "tobacco wars" of the 1990s, working alongside then-F.D.A. Commissioner David Kessler, who had audaciously labeled cigarettes a "drug-delivery device" (the drug being nicotine) and had claimed regulatory authority. Zeller left the F.D.A. in 2000, after the Supreme Court ruled against Kessler's interpretation, and joined the American Legacy Foundation, where he helped create its hard-hitting, anti-tobacco "Truth campaign." After a stint with a consulting firm, Pinney Associates, he returned to the F.D.A. in early 2013 to lead the effort to finally regulate the tobacco industry. "I am fond of quoting Michael Russell," Zeller said, referring to an important South African tobacco scientist who died in 2009. In the early 1970s, Russell was among the first to recognize that nicotine was the reason people got addicted to cigarettes. "He used to say, 'People smoke for the nicotine but die from the tar,'" Zeller recalled. This is also why Zeller found e-cigarettes so "interesting," as he put it, when they first came on the market. A cigarette gets nicotine to the brain in seven seconds, he said. Nicotine gum or patches can take up to 60 minutes or longer, which is far too slow for smokers who need a nicotine fix. But e-cigarettes can replicate the speed of cigarettes in delivering nicotine to the brain, thus creating real potential for them to become a serious smoking cessation device. But there are still many questions about both their safety and their efficacy. For instance, are smokers using e-cigarettes to quit cigarettes, or they using them to get a nicotine hit at times when they can't smoke cigarettes? And beyond that there are important questions about nicotine itself, and how it should be dealt with. "When nicotine is attached to smoke particles, it will kill," said Zeller. "But if you take that same drug and put it in a patch, it is such a safe medicine that it doesn't even require a doctor's prescription." That paradox helps explain why he believes "there needs to be a rethink within society on nicotine." Within the F.D.A., Zeller has initiated discussions with "the other side of the house" -- the part of the agency that regulates drugs -- to come up with a comprehensive, agency-wide policy on nicotine. But the public health community -- and the rest of us -- needs to have a debate as well. "One of the impediments to this debate," Zeller said, is that the e-cigarette opponents are focused on all the flavors available in e-cigarettes -- many of which would seem aimed directly at teenagers -- as well as their marketing, which is often a throwback to the bad-old days of Big Tobacco. "The debate has become..."
about these issues and has just hardened both sides," Zeller told me. It's not that Zeller believes nicotine is perfectly safe (he doesn't) or that we should shrug our shoulders if teenagers take up vaping. He believes strongly that kids should be discouraged from using e-cigarettes. Rather, he thinks there should be a recognition that different ways of delivering nicotine also come with different risks. To acknowledge that, and to grapple with its implications, would be a step forward. "This issue isn't e-cigarettes," said Mitch Zeller. "It's nicotine." Follow The New York Times Opinion section on Facebook and Twitter, and sign up for the Opinion Today newsletter. URL:

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Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 745333

Article Title: E-cigarette fires and injuries on the rise with 66 explosions reported in 2015 and 2016 | Daily Mail Online

Date: 12/14/2016

Article Content: The number of injuries caused by exploding e-cigarettes is on the rise, the FDA has warned, with 66 explosions occurring in 2015 and early 2016 alone. That's compared with 92 explosions between 2009 and September 2015 - averaging around 18 a year, or 27 per cent of the most recent totals. And those figures could be an undercount - just one hospital, Seattle's Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, says it has seen about 23 patients with e-cigarette burns since it started tracking them informally in October 2015. Exploding e-cigarettes have hit the headlines in spectacular and horrifying fashion over the past year. In April, Katrina Williams of Queens, New York, suffered third-degree burns on her leg when an e-cigarette exploded in her pants pocket 'like a firecracker' while she was driving. The blast was so bad, she said that the cigarette was propelled out of her pocket and became embedded in the dashboard. Williams, a freight manager, said she still hasn't returned to work. 'It was very disturbing,' she said. Faulty batteries, coupled with increasing popularity, are the suspected culprits in the dramatic increase in injuries. The industry maintains e-cigarettes are safe when used properly. In late November Otis Gooding, a clerk at a liquor store in New York's Grand Central Station, was casually leaning against a counter when the e-cigarette in his pocket erupted. A security camera captured him frantically trying to snuff out a fountain of white-hot sparks. Gruesome photos showed the skin on his leg melted away, and burned off his right hand. Surveillance video also captured an e-cigarette explosion in September, when a Louis Vuitton bag belonging to Mara McInerney, suddenly began smoking as she stood at a New Jersey checkout counter. No-one was hurt in that incident. And police say a teenage girl on a train at the Universal Orlando amusement park suffered burns in October when an electronic cigarette belonging to another visitor exploded and shot a fireball at her. 'They are extremely dangerous and need to be revamped or revised,' said Marc Freund, a New York attorney who represents both Williams and a 14-year-old boy who was partially blinded when an e-cigarette device exploded at a smoking kiosk in a Brooklyn mall. The problems with the devices are linked to their lithium-ion batteries, which help vaporize liquid nicotine into a mist that distributors and some health experts say is far less harmful than traditional tobacco cigarettes. The same types of batteries are used safely in many consumer electronics,
but they've also been behind fires in hover boards and smartphones. Last year, the federal Department of Transportation issued a rule prohibiting passengers from packing e-cigarettes in checked luggage to protect against in-flight fires. And their popularity cannot be denied: There were 10.8 million regular e-cigarette users in the US in 2015, generating $3.5 billion in sales, according to Euromonitor International, a market research company. Gregory L Bentley, a California attorney who won a nearly $2 million judgment for a woman burned by an e-cigarette last year, said he has a growing list of similar cases. Most of them, he said, involve batteries and other components manufactured in China that have been subject to little safety oversight. 'The problem is defectively manufactured batteries,' he said. 'Consumers need to know it's next to impossible to sue a Chinese company. If people want to seek compensation they have to target distributors, wholesalers and retailers.' Thomas Kiklas, co-founder of the Tobacco Vapor Electronic cigarette Association (TVECA), on the other hand, argues the devices are safe when used properly. He said the TVECA encourages proper recharging of the batteries as a way to prevent possible injuries. Last week, the US surgeon general called e-cigarettes an emerging public health threat to the nation's youth, although he highlighted the risk of nicotine addiction, not explosions. New York Senator Charles Schumer said the FDA should consider a recall. 'It's bad enough that e-cigarettes cause nicotine addiction and may be dangerous to a person's health, but now it seems they're doubling as a ticking time bomb,' he said. FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said the agency is reviewing the health impacts of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. He said the review will include an evaluation of the use of e-cigarette batteries, including 'amperage, voltage, wattage, battery type' and other issues."

Source Title: Web

Youth – Ecig – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 137875

Article Title: CVS Renames Itself CVS Health as It Ends Sale of Tobacco Products - WSJ"

Date: 9/3/2014

Article Content: Updated Sept. 3, 2014 7:37 a.m. ET CVS Caremark Corp. emerged from its seven-month purge of tobacco products with a new corporate name: CVS Health. CVS 0.21 % The retail chain and pharmacy-benefits manager unveiled the new moniker Wednesday, coinciding with the sale of its last tobacco product at its 7,700 pharmacies, one month ahead of schedule. In February CVS said it would rid all of its stores of tobacco products by Oct. 1, forgoing around $2 billion in annual sales. The financial risk was balanced by the hope that being the first major pharmacy chain to stop selling tobacco would create a public relations halo. CVS is banking that the distinction can help it win business in other parts of the company, like administering prescription-drug programs for clients, and position it as a broader provider of basic health services. “While there's never a right time to walk away from $2 billion in revenue, this was the right time,” CVS President and Chief Executive Larry Merlo said in an interview. “Eliminating this obstacle will allow our company to grow over the long term.” It is unclear whether the move has yielded any financial benefits to the pharmacy chain. None of the other national pharmacy chains have followed CVS to drop cigarettes. Walgreen Co., the largest pharmacy chain in the U.S., said
that just 4% of tobacco products are sold at pharmacies, and believes that not selling tobacco will have little effect on use since shoppers can go to places like dollar stores, which have added cigarettes in recent years. As it continues to sell cigarettes and other tobacco products, Walgreen said it will focus on offering products and programs that help people quit smoking CVS, in a study released Wednesday, said that in Boston and San Francisco, where tobacco sales were banned at retailers with pharmacies, the number of people buying tobacco fell 13.3%, showing that a widespread effort is more effective at getting people to quit. CVS plans to use the space vacated by tobacco products behind the cash registers to advertise the fact that it is no longer selling the products, Helena Foulkes, president of the pharmacy division said. Some of that space will also be used for products that help smokers quit. One product CVS doesn't plan to carry is electronic cigarettes. "We don't think it's consistent with everything that we've talked about,” Mr. Merlo said. Write to Paul Ziobro at Paul.Ziobro@wsj.com "

Source Title: Web

Youth – Ecig – MPM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 98622

Article Title: America's Smokers: Still 40 Million Strong - WSJ"

Date: 7/16/2014

Article Content: The U.S. adult smoking rate has plunged to below 20% from more than 40% half a century ago. Increasingly, smokers are poorer and less educated. And many smokers call themselves “occasional” or social smokers, consciously reining themselves in to try to avoid getting hooked. Still, there are more than 40 million smokers in the U.S. today. And beneath the broad trends are pockets of growth and opportunity that are generating great interest in the tobacco industry. Smoking rates are higher in gay, lesbian and bisexual groups, which are being targeted by the industry. More Americans are switching to menthol cigarettes like Newport, Lorillard Inc. LO -0.61% 's biggest brand. Indeed, Newport is the hot brand that Reynolds American Inc. RAI +0.44% expects to add to its portfolio with its planned $25 billion acquisition of Lorillard, announced Tuesday. At a time when Americans crave extreme taste in products that range from candy to beer, it isn't surprising that the only flavored cigarette the FDA allows—menthol—is also the one that is growing fastest. Menthol cigarettes have grown to 31.4% of the cigarette mix, up from 28.7% in 2008, according to Citi Research. The Food and Drug Administration is weighing restrictions on menthol, amid studies suggesting it cools the mouth and throat, making it easier to start smoking and harder to quit. “It just tastes good,” said Jay Oh, a 29-year-old waitress in Kotzebue, Alaska, who smokes Kool menthols and lives in the county where U.S. smoking rates are the highest: 41.5% for men and 40.8% for women, according to a recent study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Menthol cigarettes are particularly popular with African-Americans, who smoke them 80% of the time. Small-business consultant Bo M. Marshall, 40, bought a pack of Camel Crush Menthol cigarettes at Tobacco & Gifts in Raleigh, N.C., on Tuesday morning. The Crush cigarette, made by Reynolds, tastes like a regular Camel until you crush the logo on the filter, releasing a menthol burst of flavor. Reynolds also has been cultivating its niche Natural American Spirit brand by pitching it as “organic." Russell Mick, a 27-year-old environmental sciences major at the University of
Arkansas, rolls his own cigarettes with organic Natural American Spirit tobacco. “It's 'healthy,'” said Mr. Mick, making air quotes with his fingers. cigarette companies have already stepped up their marketing in the LGBT community. A government survey published last month estimated the smoking rate among lesbian, gay and bisexuals to be 27.7%, compared with 17.3% among heterosexuals. The higher smoking rates could be tied to greater social stress, more frequent visits to bars and higher rates of alcohol use, according to Legacy, an anti-smoking group. Smoking rates also vary regionally. Kentucky, a major tobacco producer, had the highest smoking rate in the country last year at 30.2%, followed by West Virginia and Mississippi, according to a Gallup poll. Utah had the lowest rate, at 12.2%, followed by California and Minnesota. In Vicksburg, Miss., 34-year-old restaurant worker Felicia James says she has been smoking for 20 years and doesn't feel out of place. Her city is near Issaquena County, where the male smoking rate rose 1.1% in annualized terms between 1996 and 2012, the biggest increase in any U.S. county, according to a recent study. “It's like everybody smokes,” said Ms. James, who smokes Newport menthols. Something else that hasn't changed despite years of state and federal excise tax increases: the lower the income, the higher the smoking rate. The adult smoking rate among Americans below the poverty line was 27.9% in 2012, compared with 17% for those above the poverty line, according to a government survey. The smoking rate in households with annual incomes that top $100,000 is 9.3%, according to another recent government survey. But cigarettes also cost less in smoker-heavy states. The 10 states with the highest smoking rates had an average cigarette tax of 82 cents a pack in 2012, compared with $2.42 in the 10 states with the lowest smoking rates, according to Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. About 70% of American smokers say they want to quit, and about 50% try to quit every year. “I need to quit,” says Mr. Marshall, the North Carolina small-business consultant. “I have quit a number of times.” Many say they are ashamed of the habit. Donna “D” Sharp, who works at a law firm in Atlanta, has been smoking a half a pack of Newports a day for 30 years. “We're definitely pariahs of society at this point,” Ms. Sharp, 59, said. She isolates herself at dinner parties and goes outside her office building during the day to smoke. “It's a horrible, ugly habit,” she said. But kicking the habit remains tough. Only about 1 in 20 who try to quit in any given year actually succeed, according to various surveys. Vivek Dutta, a 65-year-old engineering consultant in Cupertino, Calif., says he began smoking when he was 24 and smokes a pack a of Marlboro Golds each day. But he only smokes the first half of each cigarette, hoping less tar will enter his lungs that way. When Chuck Rushton started smoking as a teenager, cigarettes were 35 cents a pack. Now he's spending about $48 a week for a carton of Doral Gold cigarettes at N.C. Tobacco, the strip-mall shop in southwest Raleigh where he is a regular. Mr. Rushton, 63, said he would like to quit but hasn't been able to. “I've tried gum, patches, hypnosis, and cold turkey,” he said. “The longest I lasted was four days.” His doctor suggested he switch to electronic cigarettes, but it turns out that for him—and a lot of others—e-cigarettes just aren't the same as smoking. He thinks an e-cig “looks like a portable hookah,” he said. Mr. Marshall, the Camel Crush smoker, doesn't trust them. “You don't know what's in that stuff,” he said. “I can't see inhaling a vapor that's not necessarily FDA approved.” Mr. Mick, the college student, says most of his smoker friends switched to e-cigs because they are more convenient. He tried, but “it doesn't appeal to me,” said Mr. Mick. “An e-cig is not a cigarette. The tactile experience, the disgusting sensation of smoke entering my lungs. It's not the same.”

Source Title: Web

Youth – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.85
E-cigarettes are widely accepted as a positive alternative to traditional cigarette smoke, but recent pushback has started to call this reputation into question, and a story reported this week isn’t going to help. According to WABC-TV, a toddler has died after getting into the nicotine liquid used for what e-cigarette users refer to as “vaping.” The Fort Plain, New York, child was described as a one-year-old boy. Charges are not expected as the police are looking at it as a tragic accident. The liquid nicotine utilized when smoking e-cigarettes is legal in the state of New York, but it’s a highly toxic substance, especially at such a highly concentrated level as what the child consumed. Containers within the state are not required to have child-proof caps at present, though that is expected to change as Governor Andrew Cuomo is expected to sign the already-passed bill into law within a few weeks. Some are pointing their outrage at the relatively new electronic cigarette experience and the “candy-scented poison” that liquid nicotine is. They point to incidents like this one as well as this recent study that claims e-cigarettes have more carcinogens than traditional cigarettes as “proof” that e-cigs should be banned along with their older brother. Of course, in the case of the carcinogens study, vaping advocates were quick to point out the flaws, noting that even in the worst-case Japanese product used for the research, e-cigarette aerosol contained six times lower formaldehyde levels compared to tobacco cigarette smoke. Going back to the e-cigarettes tragedy in New York, one Gawker commenter had this to say. “This one-year old died because of parental neglect. No different than if he drank bleach when mommy wasn’t paying attention. I’m all for regulating the packaging of e-liquids, regulating advertising and taking any other steps to protect minors. Just like alcohol. Even the candy-flavored and other festively-packaged alcohol.” No matter which side of the vaping argument you come down on, what this commenter says in the last part of her statement is hard to disagree with, hence the move by New York lawmakers to place child-proof restraints on liquid nicotine. One commenter from the EU couldn’t believe that it’s not mandatory already in the United States given how poisonous pure nicotine is before it has been vaporized. “Every single e-liquid I’ve ever seen has medicine-style childproof caps: they have to be sold legally in the EU. All the major global brands do, like Hangsen: if U.S.-specific brands don’t because of lax U.S. consumer protection laws, it really is outrageous.” Do you think e-cigarettes are dangerous, readers, and what about child restraints — should the U.S. have them or should people keep a better watch on their kids? (Or both?) Sound off in our comments section. [Image via Shutterstock]
JUDGE DISMISSES ZIMMERMAN LAWSUIT AGAINST NBC A judge in central Florida has dismissed the defamation lawsuit filed by George Zimmerman against NBC and three reporters. The judge said the former neighborhood watch volunteer failed to show that the network acted with malice. Zimmerman was acquitted in the 2012 shooting death of Miami teenager Trayvon Martin. In the lawsuit, he said NBC’s editing of a story made it sound as if Zimmerman voluntarily told an operator that Martin was black. He was actually responding to a dispatcher’s question. FLORIDA SUPREME COURT SWEARS IN NEW CHIEF JUSTICE Florida’s high court has made history by swearing in Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, the first Cuban-American to serve as chief of the state’s supreme court. He became the 56th chief justice in a ceremony Monday afternoon in Tallahassee. JUDGE RETURNS TO BENCH AFTER ALTERCATION A Florida judge accused of punching an assistant public defender during an altercation outside the courtroom has issued a public apology as he prepares to return to the bench after a leave of absence. Brevard County Judge John C. Murphy wrote an open letter to the public Sunday saying his actions may have “tarnished the reputation of the entire judiciary.” NEW LAWS BECOME EFFECTIVE AT MIDNIGHT Nearly 160 new state laws will go into effect Tuesday. They include laws that will better track sexual offenders, allow children of immigrants in the country illegally to get in-state tuition at state universities, ban e-cigarette sales to minors, allow local school boards to choose which textbooks are used in their classrooms and redefine the state’s ban on late-term abortions. The most important law taking effect will be the state’s $77 billion budget, which includes more money for child welfare programs and projects to battle water pollution. It also boosted money for colleges and universities but without raising student tuition rates. AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY WILL PURSUE FEDERAL LAWSUIT OVER MANDATE ON CONTRACEPTIVES University officials say they’re thrilled by a Supreme Court ruling Monday against a requirement to provide health care that includes contraceptives, and they’ll push forward with a lawsuit against the government over the mandate. The ruling applies to for-profit companies, not the university, but Ave Maria President Jim Towey said he hopes the ruling prompts the government to create “the exemption that should have been provided from day one for faith-based groups.”
Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed into law on Friday dozens of measures covering everything from flood insurance, late-term abortions, electronic cigarettes to regulating parasailing. The Republican governor, who has been holding re-election campaign events for most of this month, did the bill signings privately. Scott and previous governors usually hold public bill signings during the summer, but he has spent little time in the Capitol since the end of the annual legislative session. Scott signed nearly 100 bills into law, including a measure that redefines that state's current third trimester abortion ban. Current law prohibits abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is at risk. The new law (HB 1047) will require women to have a doctor determine whether a fetus is viable before having an abortion. Some of the other bills signed by Scott include one (SB 542) that is designed to make it easier for private companies to sell flood insurance in the state. Florida is home to 37 percent of the federal flood insurance policies. The push for the bill came in the wake of skyrocketing premiums in the federal program although Congress did roll back some of those amid an outcry from coastal homeowners. The governor also signed a measure (SB 224) that prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. Parasailing in the state would be subject to safety guidelines under a bill also signed by Scott. The popular water sport in which people are lifted into the air by a motor boat has received national attention in recent years with several deaths and accidents. One of the main requirements of the new law (SB 320) is that parasailing would be banned if there is a sustained wind speed of more than 20 miles per hour, when gusts are higher than 25 miles per hour, or when rain or fog diminishes visibility. In 2012, Kathleen Miskell died after her parasail harness broke and she plummeted as much as 200 feet into the Atlantic Ocean. Amber White died in a parasailing accident in 2007. “The safety of Floridians and the many tourists who visit our state is paramount, and this law will hopefully prevent parasailing tragedies such as we’ve seen,” said Sen. Maria Sachs, D-Delray Beach and the bill sponsor. Charities in the state would be subject to stricter regulations (HB 629) under another bill approved by Scott. The legislation was a top priority of Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, whose office regulates charities, and came in the wake of articles by the Tampa Bay Times examining fraudulent charities. “This law will weed out the bad actors who are defrauding generous givers and thus bring integrity back to Florida's network of reputable charities,” Putnam said in a statement. Scott also signed a bill (SB 708) that would prohibit insurers from using credit information to deny a claim or cancel a policy. The new law would also create a “homeowner claims bill of rights” that requires insurers to spell out to homeowners what they can expect when they file a claim. The legislation was a top priority of Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater."
That is a practice that’s becoming increasingly popular with U.S. businesses and more and more unpopular with Washington, which sees it as a sneaky way for companies to take advantage of a tax loophole. ANTHONY MASON: Talk about commuter confusion, drivers heading towards Washington, DC, encountered some squiggly lines on Interstate 66 Monday. Temporary striping pulled away from the asphalt and caused a mess. There were no accidents. The drivers had to slow down. Road crews were out early this morning. And all the lines are now straight again. GAYLE KING: That could be confusing. Welcome back to CBS THIS MORNING. Charlie and Norah are off. Sharyn Alfonsi, hey, Sharyn-- SHARYN ALFONSI: Hi. GAYLE KING: --joins us at the table and Anthony and I are still here. Coming up in this half hour, the volcano trapped under ice that has a global aviation industry on alert this morning. Professor Michio Kaku is in Studio 57 today. We’ll look at the potential for an eruption and a repeat of the 2010 disaster that left millions of airline passengers just stuck. SHARYN ALFONSI: Plus, the moment everyone is talking about from last night’s Emmys. How Billy Crystal remembered his good friend, Robin Williams. That’s ahead. ANTHONY MASON: Time to show you some of this morning’s headlines. The New York Times looks at new findings in the Veterans Affairs health scandal. The watch dog office for the VA says there’s no link between the deaths of forty veterans in Phoenix and delayed care at VA centers. Outrage over the deaths exposed problems in the VA health system, which included secret waiting lists to cover up delays in care. SHARYN ALFONSI: USA Today says the National Security Agency built a search engine like Google to share digital records with other government departments. That’s according to a website called the Intercept, citing documents from NSA leaker Edward Snowden. The ICREACH database features about eight hundred and fifty billion records of phone calls, e-mails, and cell phone locations. More than one thousand government employees have access to the information. GAYLE KING: The Baltimore Sun says the World Health Organization is calling for a crackdown on e-cigarettes. In a report issued today the WHO issued tight regulations of e-cigarettes and their contents. It wants a ban on indoor use and advertising and sales to minors. SHARYN ALFONSI: The Seattle Times says Amazon is paying nearly one billion dollars for the popular gaming site Twitch. Twitch allows gamers to stream and follow live video feeds of games being played. Amazon is paying nine hundred and seventy million dollars in cash. ANTHONY MASON: And the Wall Street Journal says Warren Buffett is backing Burger King’s plan to buy Tim Hortons, the coffee and doughnut chain. Buffett’s holding company Berkshire Hathaway is expected to provide about one-fourth of the financing for that merger. Buffett has a well-known sweet tooth. Berkshire Hathaway already owns Dairy Queen. Wall Street is welcoming that possible merger. Shares of both Burger King and Tim Hortons soared nearly twenty percent on Monday. But Main Street and some in Washington are fuming about the fast food giant’s potential move to Canada. JAN CRAWFORD is at a Burger King in Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside Washington. Jan, good morning. JAN CRAWFORD (CBS News National Correspondent): Well, good morning. So by moving its headquarters from Miami to Canada Burger King would be relocating in a country with a lower tax rate. That is a practice that’s becoming increasingly popular with U.S. businesses and more and more unpopular with Washington, which sees it as a sneaky way for companies to take advantage of a tax loophole. (Begin VT) JAN CRAWFORD: Even talk of moving the home of the whopper to Canada was enough to get Burger King customers fired up. Hours after confirming the company was looking to take over coffee and doughnut chain Tim Hortons, Burger King’s Facebook page was flooded with messages from people threatening to boycott. DAN PRIMACK (Fortune Magazine Senior Editor): This is one of the very few companies where consumers can very easily vote with their wallets. But I would wager that almost every American citizen knows of the company, knows what they make, knows what their brand looks like. JAN CRAWFORD: The burger giant
confirmed the possible merger in a statement Sunday night, saying the combined company would generate twenty-two billion dollars in sales worldwide, but a deal could also mean big tax savings on foreign income. The U.S. has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world at about thirty-five percent. Although legal, the practice known as a tax inversion has faced repeated criticism from President Obama. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: And it sticks you with a tab--because if-- if they’re not paying their fair share and stashing their money offshore, you’re paying-- you-- you don’t have that option. It ain’t right. Not only is it not right it ain’t right. JAN CRAWFORD: Democratic senator Sherrod Brown from Ohio shared that outrage Monday, saying "Burger King’s decision to abandon the United States means consumers should turn to Wendy’s old fashioned hamburgers or White Castle sliders." Burger King isn’t the first American company to face a backlash. Earlier this month Walgreens ditched plans to move its headquarters to Europe after an onslaught of negative publicity. Since 2012 at least twenty-one American companies have announced or completed similar deals. Most of them involved health care companies until now. DAN PRIMACK: I think what we’re starting to see is industry creep where other industries outside of health care are looking at tax inversions and saying, hey, wait, look at Burger King. They did it, we could do it, too. (End VT) JAN CRAWFORD: Now tax rates aren’t the only draw for this merger. It also could help Burger King take a bigger bite, so to speak, out of the breakfast wars. Listen to this, Tim Hortons claims to sell eight out of every ten cups of coffee sold in Canada. Sharyn. SHARYN ALFONSI: Oh, I believe that. Jan, thanks. Iceland continues to prepare this morning for a possible volcano eruption. Volcano buried deep under one of Europe’s largest glaciers is rumbling to life. Since August sixteenth more than three thousand tremors per minute have led to more than twenty-six hundred earthquakes. GAYLE KING: So you may remember back in 2010 another eruption in Iceland created an ash cloud nine miles high. The plume spread across Europe grounding one hundred thousand flights, stranding eight million travelers and costing airlines nearly two billion dollars. CBS News contributor Michio Kaku is a physics professor at the City University of New York. Professor, always good to see you. MICHIO KAKU (CBS News Science and Futurist Contributor): Mm-Hm. GAYLE KING: So how-- Mm-Hm. SHARYN ALFONSI: Mm-Hm. GAYLE KING: How concerned should we be? MICHIO KAKU: This could be the volcano from hell. GAYLE KING: Okay. MICHIO KAKU: To quote-- SHARYN ALFONSI: How do you feel about it? GAYLE KING: You got our attention. MICHIO KAKU: To quote Yogi Berra, it’s deja vu all over again. Remember the paralysis four years ago? With millions of passengers being stranded with the threat of airplanes falling from the sky. We have a renewed threat. And just this morning--just this morning, a 5.7 earthquake rumbled across the glacier. And so scientists are very nervous that a earthquake could be happening maybe in the next few days, we don’t know for sure. ANTHONY MASON: Why would this eruption be more dangerous than others? MICHIO KAKU: You see this is not an ordinary volcanic eruption. We have five volcanic dusts in the air. You have magma that could potentially punch through glacier, freezing causing classified rocky pebbly cloud to arise. ANTHONY MASON: Mm-Hm. MICHIO KAKU: And that gets into an engine and chews up the gears, chews up the blades. So this-- this ash coming out is not a typical ash, that’s why ice volcanoes are much more dangerous than ordinary volcanoes. GAYLE KING: So the level at first was red and now it’s been reduced to orange. How do they decide what the level threat is going to be? MICHIO KAKU: Well, over the weekend, they had three thousand small earthquakes, tremors all the time, so it went to red alert. That is, an eruption is imminent. But scientists finally tracked the motion of magma. Magma is building up under the ice but it hasn’t reached the surface yet. That’s why we’ve been backed down from red to orange. And, remember, it could even be a dud. Sometimes, the magma never does reach the surface. ANTHONY MASON: Right. MICHIO KAKU: But we’re not taking any chances this time.
ANTHONY MASON: Professor Michio Kaku, I’m rooting for the dud. Thank you very much. SHARYN ALFONSI: Me, too. MICHIO KAKU: Thank you.

Source Title: BTN

Youth – Ecig – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 31590

Article Title: SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST At last night’s MTV Video Music Awards in California, women prove they run the world."

Date: 8/25/2014

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: The best pop video went to Ariana Grande’s “Problem.” Katy Perry won for “Dark Horse”. At last night’s MTV Video Music Awards in California, women prove they run the world. The best pop video went to Ariana Grande’s “Problem.” Katy Perry won for “Dark Horse” but as Ben Tracy shows us--there she is--one artist reigned supreme. (Begin VT) BEYONCE (MTV/Last Night): MTV, welcome to my world. BEN TRACY: Beyonce was right the night belonged to her. (Beyonce performing live on stage) BEN TRACY: She proved why she`s Queen Bey, performing a medley of every song on her latest album. (Beyonce performing live on stage) JAY-Z: And the greatest living entertainer Beyonce. BEN TRACY: And perhaps trying to put those pesky divorce rumors to rest, husband Jay-Z presented her with the biggest honor of the night, the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. BEYONCE: Blue, I love you. My beloved, I love you. My fans, I love you. MTV, I love you. (Taylor Swift performing live on stage) BEN TRACY: Taylor Swift promoted her new album, “1989,” the year she was born. Her latest hit “Shake It Off” sounds as though she is completely shaken off her country roots. (Taylor Swift performing live on stage) BEN TRACY: Back inside Usher channeled his inner Michael Jackson, while newcomer Sam Smith was all soul. (Sam Smith performing live on stage) BEN TRACY: The unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, provided the most serious moment of the show. COMMON: I want us all to take a moment of silence for Mike Brown and for peace in this country and in the world. BEN TRACY: But then it was back to business, MTV style. (Maroon 5 performing live on stage) JIMMY FALLON: Miley Cyrus, “Wrecking Ball.” BEN TRACY: Miley Cyrus and her “Wrecking Ball” took home Video of the Year but she unexpectedly sent a teenage runaway up on stage to accept the award. JESSE: I`ve survived in shelters all over the city. I have a lot of the same dreams that brought many of you here tonight. BEN TRACY: For CBS THIS MORNING, Ben Tracy, Los Angeles. (End VT) GAYLE KING: I love all things Beyonce-- you know she has a body I am supposed to have. But I stayed up late. I stayed up late because I thought I’m going to go to bed after she performs. She was at the end of the show. ANTHONY MASON: Yeah. That-- that`s why they did that. GAYLE KING: That`s why they did. ANTHONY MASON: So you`d still be there. GAYLE KING: They got me. It is seven nineteen. Ahead on CBS THIS MORNING, Burger King wants to buy Canada`s most famous doughnut chain. Why it could help the fast-food giant avoid U.S. taxes. That`s ahead. But, first, it`s seven nineteen, time to check your local weather. (LOCAL WEATHER BREAK) GAYLE KING: They come in flavors like cherry, cola, and chocolate. Good, right? But e-cigarettes are leaving bad taste in one group`s mouth. ANTHONY MASON: And Doctor Tara Narula on new concerns the government isn`t keeping e-
smokes away from kids. GAYLE KING: The news is back in the morning right here on CBS THIS MORNING. Stay tuned for your local news. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"

Source Title: BTN

*Youth – Ecig – PM – Newspaper 1*

Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 650332

Article Title: 2016 rings in new laws on hot issues"

Date: 1/1/2016

Article Content: Laws taking effect at the start of the new year show states diverging on some hot-button issues, reflecting a nation with increasingly polarized politics. A look at some of the more notable laws taking effect this month:

**Guns:** Texas is joining 44 states in allowing at least some firearm owners to carry handguns openly in public places. Under the Texas law, guns can be carried by those with licenses and only in holsters. California has multiple new laws on gun control. One tightens a ban on firearms in and around schools. Under the new law, the prohibition applies even to most people who are allowed to carry concealed weapons generally. Another allows people to request that a judge order weapons be taken away from relatives who are believed to pose a threat.

**Voting:** California and Oregon become the first states that automatically register eligible voters when they obtain or renew their driver's licenses. In both states, people can opt out of being registered. Similar measures have been proposed in other states but never adopted. In North Carolina, a voter identification law passed in 2013 that requires people to show a photo ID is taking effect. An amendment allows voters who have trouble obtaining the required ID to vote anyway. That provision keeps North Carolina from joining eight states in which a photo ID is strictly required. Public health: Hawaii becomes the first state to raise its minimum age, from 18 to 21, to buy or use cigarettes or e-cigarettes. California is joining West Virginia and Mississippi as the only states without a personal-belief exemption for parents who do not want to vaccinate their kids. Children whose parents refuse to have them immunized against several diseases will not be allowed to enroll in public or private school and would instead have to be home-schooled.

**Employment:** In California, a law lets female employees allege discrimination based on wages a company pays others who do substantially similar work. It's now up to employers to prove a man's higher pay is based on factors other than gender. Oregon becomes the fifth state with a paid sick leave mandate for many employers. In Missouri, the duration of jobless benefits will now be linked to the state's unemployment rate.

**Minimum wage:** It rises in many cities and states. Some of the increases are coming under laws that phased them in over years. Some are automatic bumps tied to the cost of living. Fast-food workers in New York state receive pay bump under a new law that eventually will push their minimum wage to $15. The full amount will kick in at the end of 2018 in New York City and 2021 in the rest of the state. The federal government has not touched the minimum wage since it was increased to $7.25 effective in 2009. Wages are rising in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia. States with automatic annual increases are Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio and South Dakota. Taxes: Income tax rates drop slightly in Oklahoma, where state revenues have fallen sharply, and Massachusetts. In North Carolina, the tax on
gasoline drops by a penny a gallon to 35 cents. The sales tax on boats will drop in New Jersey as of Feb.
1. Taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products rise in Minnesota, as do hotel taxes in Hawaii.

Immigrants: Two more states are allowing people who are in the U.S. illegally to be licensed to drive.
Delaware's law took effect Sunday and Hawaii's takes effect in the new year. Ten states and the District
of Columbia already have similar provisions. ct16 0006 160101 R S 0000000000 00002238"

Source Title: News

Youth – Ecig – PM – Newspaper 2

Predicted Probability: 0.80

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 9530

Article Title: Age 18 may be crime adulthood"

Date: 1/3/2015

Article Content: AUSTIN -- In Texas, you have to be 21 to apply for a concealed handgun permit, and, in
many cities, 18 to buy an e-cigarette. In the eyes of the criminal justice system, however, you are
considered an adult at age 17, a nearly century-old law that juvenile justice advocates and law
enforcement officials increasingly agree is out of step with national norms. Texas is one of only nine
states with an age of adulthood under 18. The cutoff long has raised the hackles of advocates who say
17-year-olds aren't mature enough to be tried, sentenced and incarcerated alongside adults. Now, some
agreement is coalescing around the idea of upping the age to 18 as Texas seeks to comply with newly
instituted federal standards for jails and prisons. “We support it,” Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia
recently said. Four lawmakers already have filed bills ahead of this year's session to raise the age to 18.
Support from influential law enforcement officials like Garcia and Guadalupe Valdez, his counterpart in
Dallas County, would be key to ensuring the success of the effort during the 2015 session. Ana Yáñez-
Correa, executive director of the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, said the issue is garnering attention
from all corners. “Initially brought to us by local researchers, sheriffs have asked us to prioritize the issue
of removing kids from their jails,” Yáñez-Correa said. “Their jails are no place for kids, but they have no
other option but take them in.” There are multiple reasons why 17-year-olds shouldn't be incarcerated
in the adult criminal justice system, University of Texas Professor Michele Deitch said. Youths under 18
endure higher rates of physical and sexual abuse in adult jails and prisons, and are 36 times more likely
to commit suicide, Deitch said. And while Texas' juvenile justice system continues to turn itself around
after years of scandal, she said it can provide youthful offenders with the educational and behavioral
programs necessary for a developing mind. Even as the effort to raise the age gathers support, its price
tag and worries over conditions at Texas' juvenile facilities could be its downfall. Sheriffs' Association of
Texas President A.J. “Andy” Louderback said much of the financial burden would fall on counties, where
many sheriffs would be tasked with constructing new or additional juvenile detention facilities. “Eighty
percent of the counties in Texas don't have juvenile holding facilities,” Louderback said, including
Jackson County, where he's the sheriff. “This is not a minor thing. It would affect a lot of counties
financially.” Louderback said the association hasn't decided whether to support boosting the adulthood
age. He said in addition to cost, he is concerned the state's juvenile department would not have the
ability to handle an influx of 17-year-olds who already have spent time in the adult system. Harris
County Assistant District Attorney Justin Wood agreed, saying: “We would definitely want to be assured that TJJD (the Texas Juvenile Justice Department) could handle the addition of these 17-year-olds to the system. “In the last several years, they have really downsized the number of facilities, I think with the goal of increasing the security of those facilities, but that has not translated. They've been disastrous in some locations.” Lawmakers demanded an immediate security inspection at all five state-run juvenile centers in late March, after an audit report showed staff at Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg left cell doors open so inmates could fight one another. Sen. John Whitmire, a Houston Democrat who chairs the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, said he disagrees with advocates that 17-year-olds should be pushed back into the juvenile justice system. “I think at 17 you should know right from wrong,” said Whitmire, who added he does not think it “realistic” that a bill to increase the age to 18 will pass this session. Calling the Juvenile Justice Department “dysfunctional” and “broken,” Whitmire said lawmakers should be focused on fixing the agency instead of funneling potentially violent adults into compromised facilities with children. Yáñez-Correa said she understands concerns related to cost. Her group is proposing legislation to gradually phase in the move over the next several years to give counties leeway to figure out how to deal with any additional financial burdens, allow the Legislature to appropriate more state funds and hand the state additional time to ensure it complies with new federal regulations under the Prison Rape Elimination Act. “The deadline is 2017 to get everything done,” Yáñez-Correa said of the PREA federal legislation targets. “We feel like if we pass the bill this session, provide that time period so that jurisdictions can get together and work it out, it would be smooth sailing in 2017.” The federal regulations require jails and prisons to institute a number of reforms aimed at reducing rape rates, including separating those under 18 from the adult prison population and barring searches of male inmates by female guards. Gov. Rick Perry made clear Texas wouldn't comply with the standards when the first of the mandates kicked in earlier this year. “Obviously, this issue keeps us from being compliant,” said Sheriff Garcia, whose office said about 117 17-year-olds are jailed in one of the county's two adult facilities on any given day. “We would like to be compliant, but we need assistance from all of our stakeholders.” By August, Texas will be expected to implement the cross-gender pat-down restrictions; by 2017, new minimum staffing requirements for juvenile facilities will go into effect. Bucking these mandates would open up state and county law enforcement officials to litigation and could mean the loss of millions in federal dollars. Texas has received more than $3.5 million in federal funds to implement the standards. Wood said his office has not decided whether to support the effort, but added: “It's definitely a trend I see becoming a reality, whether it be this session or next session.”

Source Title: News

Youth – Ecig – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 128882

Article Title: Mobileye is car industry’s ‘iPhone moment’ - MarketWatch"

Date: 8/26/2014
MARKETWATCH FRONT PAGE Shares of the car-camera maker surge on upbeat analyst views. See full story. This house market is falling apart Most real estate experts believe the housing market is roaring back. Few have anything to negative to say about real estate. But, asks Michael Sincere, what if they’re wrong? See full story. These companies won (or lost) big at the Emmys How the Emmys shook out for the companies behind the shows at Monday’s ceremonies. See full story. E-cigarettes hooking more high school kids E-cigarettes boosting number of teens who say they’ll try regular smokes, too, a new survey shows. See full story. Boycott iPhones before Whoppers if tax maneuvers are upsetting If you’re going to be upset over maneuvers to reduce tax bill, the Burger King-Tim Hortons deal really isn’t the first place to look, writes Steve Goldstein. See full story. MARKETWATCH PERSONAL FINANCE China, where driving a Buick and drinking a PBR are signs you’ve made it. See full story. "

Source Title: Web

Youth – Ecig – PM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 170920

Article Title: Endorsements for Maryland House and Senate primary elections - The Washington Post"

Date: 5/31/2014

Article Content: MONTGOMERY COUNTY’S all-Democratic delegation of state lawmakers in Annapolis includes a number of the General Assembly’s most senior and respected stalwarts. Despite that, its status as the state’s only county (or city) with a population exceeding 1 million, it doesn’t always exercise clout commensurate with its weight. Some promising newcomers might help. The following candidates, identified in bold type, are our choices in the contested Democratic primary races on June 24. (There are no contested Republican primary races in Montgomery.) (Identify your legislative district and current representatives by entering your address online at mdelect.net . See a list of all candidates and your sample ballot for the June 24 primary by entering your name, date of birth and Zip code at wapo.st/mdprimary .) District 14: There is no real race in this district that includes Damascus, Olney and Burtonsville. Three incumbents in the House of Delegates — Anne R. Kaiser, an energetic veteran, and a pair of first-termers, Eric G. Luedtke and Craig J. Zucker — face only nominal opposition from a challenger who has not mounted a viable campaign. District 15: Two House incumbents in this big district, which stretches from North Bethesda and Potomac to Poolesville and Barnesville, deserve support for reelection. Kathleen M. Dumais has been a smart and effective member of the Judiciary Committee; Aruna Miller gained a spot on the powerful Ways and Means Committee in her first term and sponsored legislation to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to minors. The third delegate seat is occupied by David Fraser-Hidalgo, who was appointed to a vacancy last fall. One of only four Latinos in the legislature, he has been a quick study on the Environmental Matters Committee and should be returned for a full term. Challenger Bennett Rushkoff, a lawyer in the D.C. attorney general’s office, differs from his opponents only in offering unrealistic proposals, such as for a state-run health insurance program. District 16: The best candidate to replace Sen. Brian E. Frosh, who is running for state attorney general, is Susan C. Lee, who has represented this district (including parts of Chevy Chase, Bethesda and
Potomac) in the House for 12 years and has Mr. Frosh’s endorsement. Ms. Lee has been a leader in responding to the dangers of cybercrime and identity theft and has worked to protect victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. Her most serious challenger, Hugh Hill, is an emergency physician with an admirable record of medical service but less involvement in civic and political affairs.

In the House races, two incumbents — C. William Frick, an emerging leader, and Ariana B. Kelly — have worked hard for transportation funding, marriage equality and other priorities and both merit renomination. Among six challengers competing for the third seat, two stand out: Hrant Jamgochian, a health policy expert whom we endorsed four years ago, and Marc Korman, a first-time candidate who wins our endorsement this year. Either would be a highly able legislator, but Korman — an attorney, former aide to two Democratic members of Congress and local party activist — has the edge as someone who would focus on Montgomery’s transportation and school construction needs and who has the legislative smarts to be effective from Day One.

District 17: The retirement of Sen. Jennie M. Forehand has prompted one of the county’s most competitive races. The district includes Rockville and Gaithersburg. Luiz R.S. Simmons, who has served three terms in the House, is matched against Cheryl Kagan, who was a delegate from 1995 to 2003. Mr. Simmons is an intelligent and independent-minded legislator, but his mixed record on domestic abuse legislation in the Judiciary Committee gives the edge to Ms. Kagan, who is committed to strengthening protections for abused women. Mr. Simmons’s departure leaves two incumbents, Majority Leader Kumar P. Barve and James W. Gilchrist, running for reelection in the House. Mr. Barve, a player in Annapolis, deserves another term, but Mr. Gilchrist, the son of a former Montgomery County executive, has accomplished little in his two terms. Two of the four challengers look like better bets: Susan Hoffmann, a former mayor of Rockville with extensive experience in promoting development, and Andrew Platt, an energetic former Capitol Hill staffer who has a good grasp of issues.

District 18: In what is likely a first for Maryland, an openly transgender candidate, Dana Beyer, is challenging an openly gay incumbent, Richard S. Madaleno Jr., in the Senate race in this district stretching from Chevy Chase and Kensington to Wheaton. Both are knowledgeable and qualified, but this is not a close call: Mr. Madaleno is one of the ablest members of the Montgomery delegation and, with Mr. Frosh’s departure, stands to become one of its leaders. He is an expert in tax and budget matters and a pioneer in bringing marriage equality to Maryland, and he has been a force in keeping college affordable. Ms. Beyer is challenging him from the left, but there is little daylight between their positions. Hints by three-term delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez that she might retire prompted a competitive campaign, even after Ms. Gutierrez chose to run again. Of the four challengers to the three House incumbents, Rick Kessler, a lobbyist for Chevron and other energy companies, has raised the most money, but Emily Shetty, a federal lobbyist for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, has a stronger grasp of the issues. She would be a better bet than incumbent Alfred C. Carr Jr., who has little to show for two terms in Annapolis other than unproductive tilting against the Purple Line transit project. Ms. Gutierrez, the most senior Latino representative in the legislature, is an effective representative of that community and deserves reelection, as does Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher, a reformist voice on the hidebound Judiciary Committee.

District 19: Sam Arora’s decision not to seek a second term in the House gives this district around Silver Spring an opportunity to elect Paul Bardack, a policy-oriented former federal housing official with extensive experience creating jobs in the private sector. He would round out a strong team anchored by Benjamin F. Kramer and Bonnie L. Cullison. Mr. Bardack’s idea of cutting corporate taxes to offset the impact of the state’s minimum-wage increase on small and mid-size businesses is a business-friendly proposal in a state that needs more of those.

District 20: Nine candidates want to represent this area that includes parts of Silver Spring and Takoma Park; just one,
longtime House Ways and Means Committee chairwoman Sheila E. Hixson, is an incumbent. There is little ideological variation among the contenders, so voters will have to distinguish based on experience and personal qualities, which are generally strong in this bright, diverse field. We pick Ms. Hixson for another term employing her veteran’s clout on behalf of the county; Howard University business school instructor Darian Unger, for his technical smarts and life-saving experience as a volunteer firefighter; and Will Jawando for his energy and his work in the Obama administration building private-sector support for education reform. "

Source Title: Web

Youth – Ecig – PM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 669924

Article Title: Today in 10: North Korea holds a congress, Ryan rebuffs Trump, SpaceX sticks the landing - The Washington Post

Date: 5/6/2016

Article Content: North Korea kicks off its much-hyped congress: For the first time in 36 years, North Korea’s Worker’s Party has called a congress. Details about the meeting are scarce — no information has been released about how long the congress will last, who has been invited to participate in Pyongyang or what will be discussed. Analysts expect that Kim Jong Un will use the event to bolster his claim on the leadership. Full story Paul Ryan holds off on Trump endorsement: The Republican Party’s highest-ranking elected official says Trump hasn’t been “a standard bearer who bears our standard.” It’s an extraordinary rebuke that shows the painful reckoning that the GOP now faces. Full story North Carolina faces Monday deadline on bathroom law: The Department of Justice has asked North Carolina’s governor to halt enforcement of the state’s controversial bathroom law or risk losing millions in federal funding. N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore (R), says that lawmakers “will take no action by Monday.” The White House says several federal agencies are now reviewing the law to see if more funding should be denied. Full story It’s not looking good for Obama’s big promise on jobs: During the president’s 2012 reelection campaign, he vowed to deliver 1 million manufacturing jobs by 2016. It probably won’t happen. Progress has been stymied by larger economic forces: A slowdown in China, the plummeting of oil prices and continued relocation of American companies overseas. Full story Nearly 400 death sentences could be reduced in Florida: The Florida Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that could lead to nearly 400 death-row prisoners receiving life sentences, a move experts say could be the country’s single biggest jettisoning of death sentences in decades. Full story Booming e-cigarette market set for regulation: The federal government on Thursday banned the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18 and required manufacturers to disclose their ingredients and submit their products to the government for approval. Full story ‘Grim Sleeper’ serial killer convicted: Lonnie Franklin Jr., who for more than 20 years preyed on several young, black women, could face the death penalty, the Associated Press reported. Full story The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket returns to land. (Joe Skipper/Reuters) SpaceX rocket sticks the landing: The Falcon 9 rocket came in hot, but successfully landed on a barge off the coast of Florida. Elon Musk, the billionaire chief executive of SpaceX, had previously put the odds of not
crashing at a coin toss, at best. Mission accomplished. Full story What you should see — and not see — in theaters this summer: From the latest in the Captain America franchise to the sequel to “Finding Nemo” to a female ghost-busting troupe, here are the potential blockbusters and duds of the season, ranked by their buzzworthiness. Full story London may be set to elect first Muslim mayor: Sadiq Khan is widely expected to win the election to become the British capital’s mayor. If he does, he will be the first Muslim mayor in Europe’s largest city and the first elected Muslim mayor of any major European city. Full story Sign up here to get Today in 10 delivered straight to your inbox.

Source Title: Web

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 670504

Article Title: Thursday's Morning Email: Inside Trump's Pivot For The General"

Date: 5/5/2016

Article Content: TRUMP BECOMES PRESumptive Nominee After John Kasich dropped out yesterday, Donald Trump laid out what his first 100 days in office would look like, announced he would not self-fund and went after establishment Republicans’ support. The last one might be rather tricky -- former Presidents H.W. and George Bush have no plans to endorse him, and some other establishment Republicans feel the same way. [NYT] PRINCE WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ADDICTION COUNSELOR The day after his death. [Reuters] DREAMING ABOUT THAT SUMMER VACATION ALREADY? Good news - - flights are about to get very, very cheap. [Suzy Strutner, HuffPost] CALIFORNIA UPS SMOKING AGE TO 21 And adds regulations to electronic cigarettes. [Reuters] FARMING IN NORTH KOREA “They said it was a model cooperative farm. There were vegetables, to be sure, but there was barely a farmer in sight, barely any activity. And it was surprisingly spotless given that farming usually entails dirt.” [Wapo] VEGAS JUST BECAME THE BACHELORETTE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD Channing Tatum announced a “Magic Mike” live show will debut next March on the strip. [Dominique Mosbergen, HuffPost] JAY Z PENNING A REBUTTAL ALBUM TO 'LEMONADE' Is this, plus his absence at the Met Gala, one big cash cow? [Vulture] THE LINK BETWEEN PURITY PLEDGES AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES “About 18 percent of the girls who had never taken virginity pledges became pregnant within six years after they began having sex. Meanwhile, 30 percent of those who had taken a pledge -- and broken it -- got pregnant while not married.” [The Atlantic] 'A BITTER PILL' ‘Josiah Zayner's gut was making his life hell -- so he embarked on an extreme DIY fecal transplant.” [The Verge] DISSECTING SPOILER ETIQUETTE The Morning Email tries its best to abide by pretty strict no-spoiler rules, but as Matthew Zoller Seitz points out for Vulture, the Internet does not quite oblige. [Vulture] CONGRATS TO JANET JACKSON The pop star is reportedly expecting her first child with husband Wissam Al Mana. [HuffPost] 'I WAS CATFISHED BY ABC' A riveting firsthand look at what gotcha TV means to the innocent folks caught in the crossfire. [Deadspin] For more from The Huffington Post, download our app for iOS or Android. HELPING TEACHERS BUY SUPPLIES “Amid school budget cuts and slim resources nationwide, it's no secret many teachers are forced to pay out-of-pocket for classroom supplies. But this week, they're getting a little something in return. For Teacher Appreciation Week, GoFundMe is giving $100 to any newly launched
campaigns that raise money for a teacher or their classroom.” [HuffPost] For more, sign up for the What's Working newsletter. ~ President Barack Obama headed to Flint, Michigan -- and drank the water. ~ How journalism “lost” this election, according to The New York Times' Jim Rutenberg. ~ Patton Oswalt's tribute to his late wife is a tearjerker. ~ Don't believe it when you see these news scam news sites posting about the next A-List star moving to your town. ~ Caitlyn Jenner is set to cover Sports Illustrated in only an American flag and her gold medal. ~ This child was born with 31 fingers and toes. ~ We were totally chopping onions when we watched this animated short. Explains all the tea. ~ Woody Allen gave a predictably creepy interview about his marriage. ~ We're with Buzzfeed -- Taylor Swift is turning into Jenny Humphrey. Send tips/quips/quotes/stories/photos/events/scoops to Lauren Weber at lauren.weber@huffingtonpost.com. Follow us on Twitter @LaurenWeberHP. And like what you're reading? Sign up here to get The Morning Email delivered to you.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low within the database is “cpopnormstob9”.

Tobacco (no ecig) texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tpoplo”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 419396

Article Title: LA moves to strike smokeless tobacco out of ballparks

Date: 9/8/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: LOS ANGELES LOS ANGELES (AP) - The Los Angeles City Council has moved to strike smokeless tobacco out of ballparks. Council members voted unanimously Tuesday to prepare an ordinance banning the product from amateur and professional sports venues. The proposal cited findings by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that high school athletes use smokeless tobacco nearly twice as much as non-athletes. Council members hope a ban will help reduce teen smoking. The Los Angeles Dodgers issued a statement in support of the measure. The council will take a final vote on the measure when the city attorney's office has prepared the ordinance. San Francisco and Boston have also enacted such bans.

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: No
When Dr. Ralph Alvarado was elected to the Kentucky state Senate in 2014, he found his new colleagues had something in common with most of his patients: They knew smoking was bad, they just couldn't quit. For more than two years, Alvarado has led the effort to restrict smoking in a state with the highest smoking rate in the country. He keeps a white lab coat in his Senate office, giving him a little more authority with lawmakers and lobbyists. But his efforts have so far been thwarted by the cultural legacy of tobacco, which along with coal has declined sharply because of a mix of market and political forces while still maintaining its grip on public policy in Kentucky. Banning smoking in public places is still a politically perilous position for most of the state's Republican lawmakers, whose constituents view it as an attack on their personal freedoms.

Alvarado - also a Republican - is insulated from this, even though his district includes parts of rural Montgomery and Clark counties where he says smoking bans are met with scowls. “The comments from people (are), ‘Well what do you expect, he’s a doctor.’ And so I’m almost excused,” he said. “It takes off the shackles for me a little bit to be able to talk about this issue.” State lawmakers have focused most of their attention to the state's rising death toll from drug overdoses, including opioids, which killed more than 1,200 people last year. During that same time period, more than 8,800 Kentuckians died from tobacco-related illnesses, according to Shawn Jones, past president of the Kentucky Medical Association. Kentucky had more tobacco-related cancer cases per 100,000 people than any other state, according to a study from 2009-13 by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “If you're going to use the word crisis with respect to the opioid epidemic in Kentucky - and I think we should - then we must do the same with regard to smoking,” he said. Alvarado's first attempts to ban smoking failed. In 2015, he angered his Republican colleagues when he joined Democrats in an attempt to force a vote on a statewide workplace smoking ban. Last year, Alvarado sponsored a similar bill that had the support of at least one major tobacco company and the promised indifference from other tobacco interests. But he could not convince a majority of Republican senators to bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote.

Alvarado has since narrowed the legislation and is trying again. This week, he convinced the Senate to approve a ban on all tobacco products from public schools and school-sponsored events, something only 36 percent of Kentucky's 173 school districts had done. The bill still drew opposition from some rural Republicans and Democrats, but it prompted a reluctant “yes” vote from Sen. Damon Thayer, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate who has long opposed other statewide smoking bans. “The people at a school have no choice to be there,” Thayer said. While the Senate vote gives anti-smoking advocates hope that they have momentum, they still have hurdles to overcome. Since 2011, the tobacco industry has spent more than $4.5 million lobbying the state legislature, among the most of any industry. And most lawmakers have steered the debate away from health risks and toward the philosophy of personal choices. “You hear the statement that this could save lives. There’s a lot of things we could do to save lives,” Republican Sen. John Schickel said. “For me the question is who should be making the decision? Clearly, we shouldn’t be making it.” A spokesman for Altria, which owns Phillip Morris USA and is consistently one of the top lobbying spenders in Kentucky, said the company did not lobby Alvarado’s 2016 smoking ban bill. But they do support his tobacco ban in public schools. Alvarado says his primary motivation comes on Friday afternoons, when he exchanges his suit jacket for a white lab coat and visits patients. “I'm watching them kill themselves and I see them die with their last dying breath with a
cigarette in their mouth,” he said. “You get frustrated for those people probably more so than trying to pass a law.”

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 421730

Article Title: SHOW: THE O'REILLY FACTOR 8:00 PM EST The Changing Republican Party; Presidential Politics and Race; Big Win for Tom Brady"

Date: 9/3/2015

Article Content: BILL O'REILLY, FOX NEWS HOST: THE O'REILLY FACTOR is on. Tonight: (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I will be totally pledging my allegiance to the Republican Party and the conservative principles for which it stands. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Donald Trump will not run as a third party candidate, convinced he can win the Republican nomination. Tonight we'll have an inside look at how the GOP is changing. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) REP. STEVE ISRAEL (D), NEW YORK: UNIDENTIFIED MALE: To a significant extent, the Republican base does have elements that are animated by racism. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They still sort of look down on minorities. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Some Americans continue to say the Republican Party is racist. But what about Dr. Ben Carson's strong showing? We'll have a special report on that. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TOM BRADY, NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS QUARTERBACK: I feel like I have always played within the rules. I would never do anything to break the rules. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Also ahead, big victory for New England Patriot Tom Brady. A judge voids his four-game suspension. But is the quarterback guilty of cheating? Caution, you are about to enter the No Spin Zone. THE FACTOR begins right now. Hi, I'm Bill O'Reilly. Thanks for watching us tonight. The changing Republican Party -- that is the subject of this evening's “Talking Points Memo”. Donald Trump held a press conference today here in New York City, telling the world he will not run as a third party candidate. Mr. Trump believing he will win the GOP nomination outright and that he is the man to turn the country around. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TRUMP: Our country can be doing much better. We have deficits that are enormous. We have all bad trade agreements. We have an army that the head said is not prepared. We have a military that needs help end especially in these times. Nothing works. Our country doesn't work. Everybody wins except us. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: According to Real Clear Politics average of national polling here's where the Republican field stands today. Trump leading with 27 percent, followed by Dr. Ben Carson 13 percent, Jeb Bush 9 percent, Ted Cruz 7, Marco Rubio 6 -- all the other candidates follow. In 13 days the second Republican debate will be held and that, of course, will influence the polling. Now some pundits say it's still early -- that's not true. The first vote in Iowa just about five months away. Now, there is no question the Republican Party is changing. Few expected a populist like Donald Trump to be dominating the campaign. But millions of Americans are very angry about what President Obama has done and how the Republicans have failed to counter it. Mr. Trump's signature issue is illegal immigration as you know. He was smart to seize upon that as every fair-minded American understands our southern border is a mess, and immigration in general chaotic. For decades, both parties have been unwilling to solve is the problem. Trump says he will solve it in
dramatic ways. So standard politicians like Jeb Bush, for example, find themselves up against the man who has literally nothing to lose who says pretty much anything he wants, taking no prisoners, rhetorically speaking. Trump's posture has again changed the Republican Party. The other aspect is the rise of Dr. Ben Carson, polar opposite to Trump in personality. Carson is a political outsider as well who also speaks straight but softly. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BEN CARSON (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Well, of course black lives matter, but what I feel is that instead of people pointing fingers at each other, and just creating strife, what we need to be talking about is how do we solve the problem in the black community of murder? (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Carson's entry into the race is problematic for liberal America. An African-American, he grew up in poverty, no father in a tough Detroit neighborhood. Through hard work Carson graduated from Yale and then the Michigan School of Medicine. He became a skilled neurosurgeon. The fact that so many Republicans admire Dr. Carson completely trashes the far left line that the GOP is a racist party. We'll get to that in our second block tonight. Summing up, the rise of Trump and Carson mean traditional Republican campaigning is over probably for the best. And that's the memo. Now for the top story tonight. Joining us from Washington, Laura Ingraham, editor-in-chief of Life Zed, a brand new Web site. So what I want to know Laura is do you have a litmus test, a conservative litmus test that the Republican candidates must meet before you will vote for them? LAURA INGRAHAM, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: I don't know if I have a litmus test. I mean I worked for President Reagan so I believe in Reagan conservatism, Bill. And I think it's close to a more nationalist, economic policy. A prudent strong foreign policy. Even an immigration policy that was smart and focused towards more of the American workers and what's good for the American middle class. Remember when Reagan agreed to that Simpson-Missoula bill, the promise of enforcement, that was real and that was three million people. Who knows what Reagan would be saying about where we are today but his conservatism was much more skeptical of a very adventurist foreign policy and an economic policy that would be tangled up in all these international trade agreements. So that's where I am and on social issues obviously I'm more of a social conservative. But the party is big party and people are going to disagree on these issues, and that's fine. O'REILLY: Well, that's right. And that's what's happening -- INGRAHAM: So I don't think there is anything wrong with that. O'REILLY: That's what's happening with Trump. Bret Stevens in the “Wall Street Journal” scorched him this week and then people who support him. I mean it was a very, very -- INGRAHAM: Yes. O'REILLY: -- aggressive column that said, look, the guy can't get -- INGRAHAM: He called him a vulgarian. He called him a vulgarian. O'REILLY: Whatever -- I didn't like all that from Mr. Stevens. INGRAHAM: Yes. O'REILLY: I think that's disrespectful. INGRAHAM: It's ridiculous. Not only disrespectful but he called Trump supporters quieter vulgarians. Now, think about that. You have a guy who has now 30 percent in the polls -- right. That's millions of people. Now, you tell me the strategy for Republicans to win the presidency by alienating and basically calling stupid or racist or xenophobic millions and millions and millions of Republican and Independent voters. I don't get that. O'REILLY: Yes. But I don't think Stevens is in the bus to win elections. He is a columnist. That's what he does. An opinion guy. But the point of the matter is this, that whether you like him or not, Trump is a polarizing man -- right? INGRAHAM: Reagan was polarizing. Reagan was polarizing. Go back and look at what people were saying about Reagan. O'REILLY: Different styles, though. No, no, no. No, no, no, no. INGRAHAM: I'm not saying he is Reagan. Reagan was polarizing. O'REILLY: Different style. INGRAHAM: Of course he's different. They are all different. O'REILLY: No, no. But come on now. Look, Ronald Reagan went out of his way to try to convince the other side to agree with him. Donald Trump doesn't care what the other side thinks at all. He is just basically putting it out there, what he believes is right for the country and, as you pointed out, millions
of people are saying, you know what, that's the way I believe. INGRAHAM: Well, Bill, the millions of people are reacting directly to what they have seen as a failed establishment Republican Party. O'REILLY: Yes. INGRAHAM: In 1974, and '73, Reagan -- they are not the same people -- Reagan was governor of California. He had a huge experience in politics. We all know that. O'REILLY: Yes, he's an establishment guy. INGRAHAM: I'm not saying they are the same people. But he challenged the establishment. O'REILLY: In a far different way. INGRAHAM: In a different way. O'REILLY: Far different way. INGRAHAM: But they hated him. The Republicans hated Reagan for what he was doing. O'REILLY: Some did. INGRAHAM: They demanded that he drop out. O'REILLY: Some did. INGRAHAM: A lot of them did. O'REILLY: Ok. But now we have a whole different ballgame in the sense that it isn't based on ideology. It's based on style. And that's why -- INGRAHAM: I don't think so. O'REILLY: Oh yes. It's style. INGRAHAM: I disagree with you though. It's some style. O'REILLY: That's why Jeb Bush and some of the other candidates, who they have good things to say, too, on some issues. But they can't get their message out because their style is so low key and Trump seizes upon that. INGRAHAM: Yes, Carson. You must made the point that Carson was low key but Carson is hitting key issues for people from social conservative issues, economic issues, some trade issues. So I think look, it's not a problem, right? If you are a politician and you are able to get thousands of people to come to an event that is a good thing. We shouldn't downplay that. But if Trump were doing the same thing, Bill, and he were advocating Jeb Bush style policies, I don't think Trump would have thousands and thousands and thousands of people supporting him or be at 30 percent in the polls. I think it's a combination. O'Reilly: He has definitely gone out, put himself out there on very emotional issues that people care about. Now in Kentucky Kim Davis, 49 years old, elected clerk, won't give marriage licenses to gays so they put her in jail. Roll the tape. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) KIM DAVIS, KENTUCKY COUNTY CLERK: Our constitution was founded on faith, by the word of God so we are done. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, this is not. Our country was not founded on - - this is not a Christian nation. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're breaking the law. DAVIS: I'm not doing marriage licenses today. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why? DAVIS: Because I'm not doing marriage license today. We're putting in the (INAUDIBLE) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Under what authority? DAVIS: Under God's authority. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: God's authority -- I knew you would say that. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I didn't see the temple. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: So a judge ordered her to be taken into custody because it is federal law that gays can marry. She is a federal representative, has to obey the law. So, I you think she is a conscientious objector. I think that's what's going on here. INGRAHAM: Right. Muhammad Ali was conscientious objector during the Vietnam War. I mean I guess the cultural elites can keep do this and the things that if you tell 10 to 30 million, 40 million Americans that they are hateful awful people they have no religious liberty rights. I guess it could go down that path. I just don't think that's a helpful path for anybody -- gay Americans, straight Americans. I think it's a bad, bad -- O'REILLY: Yes, but they had to uphold the law. If you are going to say you have to uphold immigration laws and the sanctuary cities say blank you. They should pay a price. INGRAHAM: Yes. The Supreme Court doesn't write the law. The Supreme Court interpreted the constitution which is fine but I think it's all the - - O'REILLY: But it is the law of the land. INGRAHAM: There should be an accommodation for people of faith and they can get married obviously easily in other -- O'REILLY: I don't think that -- if you are an elected official of this country then you have to abide by the law. INGRAHAM: You have no religious liberty rights? You have none? At all? O'REILLY: You have to either be a conscientious objector and take what comes or you can't make the sanctuary city law. You have to obey the law. Look, I'm sympathetic to the woman but she has to do it. INGRAHAM: Jailing someone for their religious beliefs -- O'REILLY: I wouldn't have jailed her. INGRAHAM: Yes, that's a little much. O'REILLY: I
would have told her to take a walk. But she has to pay a price. She has to enforce the law -- she is elected to do so. Laura -- thank you. Next on the rundown the Republican Party and Race, focusing on Dr. Ben Carson. Then later, Gutfeld and McGuirk on President Obama's Alaska trip -- that could get out of control fast. And we are coming right back. O’REILLY: “Impact Segment” tonight, as we told you in the “Talking Points Memo”, Dr. Ben Carson now running second to Trump in the national polling. As you may know African-Americans usually vote Democratic and more than a few of them buy the theory that the Republican Party is anti-black. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ISRAEL: To a significant extent, the Republican base does have elements that are animated by racism. BILL MAHER, TV HOST: Nowadays, if you are racist, you are probably a Republican. MORGAN FREEMAN, ACTOR: Their stated policy -- publicly stated is to do whatever it takes to see to it that Obama only serves one term? It is racist. COLIN POWELL, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE: There is also a dark, a dark vein of intolerance in some parts of the party. What do I mean by that? I mean by that is they still sort of look down on minorities. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: The question tonight is simple. If Dr. Ben Carson is doing so well, is he not a minority, General Powell? With us now here in New York City, David Webb, Fox News contributor; and Keith Boykin columnist for BET.com, former White House aide to President Clinton. Do you think the Republican Party is racist -- Mr. Boykin? KEITH BOYKIN, BET COLUMNIST: I think it has racist elements in it just as I think several of the commentators before it acknowledged. I don’t think that it’s a racist party entirely. But since 1968 there was a southern strategy going to Barack Obama questioning his background, his identity and birth certificate, you have a party that is -- O’REILLY: Was that on the party platform? I don’t believe it was. BOYKIN: No, it doesn’t have to be on the party platform. Everybody in the political party was basically condemning Barack Obama -- O’REILLY: Everybody in the party. BOYKIN: Well, almost everybody in the political party. O’REILLY: I think that might be overstating. BOYKIN: When I say everybody I don’t literally mean everybody. But I do understand that this party has a problem with racism. O’REILLY: All right. Are there racists in the Democratic Party? BOYKIN: Absolutely but I think -- O’REILLY: Ok. So every party has racist. BOYKIN: -- that the Republican Party caters to racism in a way the Democratic Party does not. O’REILLY: Can you give me an example of that? BOYKIN: Well, yes. Look at 1968 -- O’REILLY: ‘68? BOYKIN: Southern strategy. Look at Jesse Helms ad in 1990. O’REILLY: He’s the North Carolina -- was Jesse Helms running the Republican Party. BOYKIN: Yes, he was running the Republican Party. I worked on Mike Dukakis campaign in -- O’REILLY: No, he wasn’t. BOYKIN: Jesse Helms was a Republican. He ran in 1990. O’REILLY: He wasn’t running the Republican Party. BOYKIN: He was running with the Republican Party -- O’REILLY: No, he was a senator from North Carolina. BOYKIN: Ok, yes. But he’s a classic Republican. I worked in 1990 for Mike Dukakis. O’REILLY: All right. Robert Bird was a senator from West Virginia. Robert Bird -- BOYKIN: Robert Bird was -- O’REILLY: -- Ku Klux Klan member. BOYKIN: He disavowed those beliefs. The Democratic Party used to be a racist party until 1968 when the Republicans adopted the southern strategy. O’REILLY: Abraham Lincoln was a Republican. BOYKIN: Yes. But that -- you are going back in time. O’REILLY: I don’t know. So are you. BOYKIN: No, but the Democratic Party used to be racist -- DAVID WEBB, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: This is the modern time today. BOYKIN: It’s no longer a racist party. O’REILLY: What say you? WEBB: I have been very patient but I have also been a Republican for over 40 years. Let’s put that in context. Are there elements within American society right or left that have racist elements? Yes. Institutionally, no. We don’t accept any codified law, any social mores in the Republican Party. They have had an issue with going to the minority communities around America and engendering a base of support there. And I would say to the black community why are you giving your vote unyieldingly to a party that no longer needs you or gives you, if you look at the urban environment any future path to success? When it comes to racism, we have
to deal with the individual aspects of it, Bill. And this constant cry and narrative is to paint Republicans as someone to run away from. So, they will use whatever necessary platform to say that but cannot provide proof. O'REILLY: Well, it's definitely a vote getter. But Carson, I think, proves, Mr. Boykin, that a black American with a message of self-reliance can and will be embraced by the Republican Party. Am I wrong? BOYKIN: Well, you know, black people like Ben Carson for many, many years before when he was just a neurosurgeon before he became a political candidate. Republicans didn't start liking Ben Carson until he started attacking Obama. WEBB: Hold on. That is patently false. BOYKIN: Republicans weren't even paying attention. WEBB: That is patently false. O'REILLY: There's a difference between -- BOYKIN: He went to the prayer breakfast and attacked Barack Obama. That's when Republicans started liking him. O'REILLY: There's a difference between attacking a policy and attacking a man. WEBB: Right. Carson's been very, very careful. BOYKIN: He compared to slavery to -- he compared Obamacare to slavery. That's not a comment that black people but that's a comment that white Republicans particularly are willing to -- WEBB: Let's just stay on here and stay on the attacks. Let's separate the policy as you talked about from the man. Dr. Ben Carson has lived by conservative principles his entire life. His mom who decided that education was important while he was in the tough neighborhoods in Detroit. All the principles that led him to where he was, earning his way forward, not having entitlements handed to him. So he stepped out politically and spoke on policy. I happen to know Dr. Carson. An I can tell you that this is a man who has always been who he is. Therefore, his decision to come out and be a Republican candidate is reflective who he has been his entire life. O'REILLY: And he's been very well accepted. BOYKIN: He is a great neurosurgeon. WEBB: Can I (INAUDIBLE) Bill? BET where you work, BET was in love with him, the movie about his life. They ran this movie repeatedly. They -- since this has come out and he's come out politically have not. You, on the left, like to push aside Republicans and put them into a narrative that fits your political agenda. O'REILLY: That's true. BOYKIN: All black people who supported Barack Obama are dumb and people who support -- (CROSSTALK) WEBB: I never said that. O'REILLY: Now, we're wandering there. That was a good debate but I have got to go. All right? Directly ahead, star quarterback Tom Brady wins a huge victory in court. We will tell you all about it. Also the end of television as we know it the ridiculous MTV exposition. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MILEY CYRUS, SINGER: All right. On the count of three. Everyone is going to say marijuana, 1, 2, 3, marijuana. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Excellent. Those reports after these messages. O'REILLY: “Factor Follow Up Segment” tonight. Big victory for the New England Patriots and their star quarterback Tom Brady as you may know. There are accusations that Brady ordered footballs deflated so he could throw them better in cold weather. That allegedly happened in a playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts. Brady said he did nothing wrong but was suspended for four games by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Today in New York City, U.S. district judge, Richard Berman overturned that suspension saying basically that Brady did not receive due process. Joining us now from Atlanta Hall of Fame quarterback Fran Tarkenton and from Los Angeles, Jim Gray who covered sports for Fox News. You are kind of sympathetic to Brady -- right, Jim? JIM GRAY, FOX NEWS SPORTS: Yes I am. It never should have happened. Didn't occur. He did nothing wrong. The NFL admitted their top lawyer when under pressure from Judge Berman said they had no direct evidence. It never should have gotten to this point and it was wrong from the beginning. O'REILLY: Ok. Now, you say he did nothing wrong but you couldn't possibly know that. Because you weren't in the locker room and the other side says he did do something wrong. They couldn't possibly know that either because there really isn't any witness that came forward and said Tom Brady ordered this. There is a lot of innuendo, is there not? GRAY: I'm just judging from the direct evidence, just like the judge did. Even though that wasn't what he was trying to figure out. That
was the line of questioning. The direct evidence points to absolutely no involvement at any time, any sort, in any scheme with Tom Brady. O’REILLY: It’s all circumstantial evidence. But he did destroy his cell phone before the NFL investigators could look at it. Did that give you pause, Jim? GRAY: No, sir. He was not told that he would not be punished for not turning over his cell phone. So to destroy something that’s not going to be turned over and then not given notice he got rid of his cell phone. It’s not like he threw it off the Empire State Building and smashed it a million pieces. He got rid of a cell phone that wasn’t working because he wasn’t told that if he didn’t turn it over he would be punished. In addition he offered all of those emails to the NFL. And Roger Goodell noted that in a footnote as well as a text in his Wells report. And you -- O’REILLY: So you Jim Gray are a hundred percent sure that Brady got shafted in this whole deal? GRAY: That’s my opinion. Yes, Bill. O’REILLY: Ok. Mr. Tarkenton, you see it differently, tell us. FRAN TARKENTON, NFL HALL OF FAME: I strongly disagree. It’s no question that the balls were deflated. The question is did Tom Brady have anything to do with it? Where are the ball boys who deflated the balls? O’REILLY: They were fired. TARKENTON: I have played football for -- they were fired and where are they now? Somewhere in the Bahamas. I played 18 years. I had ball boys to get the balls ready for my game to get the sheen off the balls. I was in control of the balls. They would have never done anything -- O’REILLY: Ok. Let me play devil’s advocate. I have thrown a lot of footballs in my life, too. Not at the level, of course, that you have. When I had a preference, I made it clear to the football team manager, you know, I like this ball or I like that ball. Isn’t it possible that Brady made a preference and say look, the softer the better, you guys. Find a ball that's not frozen? Isn’t that possible. TARKENTON: I think it’s possible -- improbable, I don’t believe that’s the case. I believe he instructed the people to deflate the balls. O’REILLY: But why would you believe that though? Why would you believe that? If Brady says he didn’t do it, why would you believe that he is lying? TARKENTON: Brady said he didn’t do anything wrong. And the judge didn’t question whether he did or didn’t do it. He said the process that Goodell was -- O’REILLY: That’s absolutely true. The judge did not rule on the merits of the case, that’s true. And it’s interesting -- you are a good man and I think Brady is a good man. I don’t know him as well as Jim does but I know him and he seems like a stand-up guy to me. If Brady looks me in the eye and says look, Bill, I didn’t do it. Why would I not believe him? You know, and you seem to be adamant that he is lying. And that’s what I want to get to. TARKENTON: well, here is what I am adamant. Ball boys were guilty of deflating the balls, that seems clear and that’s everybody’s agreement on that. I would say this, the ball boys making -- GRAY: Nobody is in agreement on that. That’s absolutely wrong, Fran. Fran, that’s not correct. That’s not correct. O’REILLY: Wait Jim. TARKENTON: Please. GRAY: No, no, no. O’REILLY: Jim, wait. I will give you the last word. Go ahead, Mr. Tarkenton, go ahead. TARKENTON: If the balls were deflated which I understand they were and I heard they are, then Brady is the person in control of the balls. I want to hear from the two ball boys? Where are they? O’REILLY: All right. That would be an interesting interview. I don’t know where they are but we will try to find them. TARKENTON: Yes. O1: I’m going to give you the last word, Jim, because, look, it is true the balls were deflated -- all right. That’s true. It is true that the balls were in the possession of the ball boys. It is true that the ball boys have vanished. We don’t know. We will find them. So, isn’t it possible that this might have happened because the judge didn’t say it didn’t happen? He just said that Mr. Brady didn’t get due process. 30 seconds. GRAY: I’m speaking to the credibility of Tom Brady. I don’t know the ball boy, I don’t know the trainer. I don’t know what went on in the organization. Tom Brady said he had nothing to do with this. He has been proven right. There is no definitive evidence. The league participated in a sting operation, a smear campaign, with misinformation. It is well documented and recorded. They never corrected any of that. And at the end of the day it was a very courageous judge. Judge Berman
who set the record straight. The NFL cannot do just whatever they want just because they have the power to do it. O’REILLY: Now, I’m going to put my best investigator. TARKENTON: That's (INAUDIBLE) and not right. O’REILLY: All right. Both of you guys have -- wait, wait. You both had your say and the audience is going to decide. I’m going to put my best investigator to find where the ball boys are. All right? And we will continue. Thanks, gentlemen. Plenty more ahead as THE FACTOR moves along this evening. Another appalling display at the MTV Awards -- almost beyond belief. And I believe children are getting hurt by all this stuff. Also Gutfeld, McGuirk have some analysis of President Obama's Alaskan journey. I think the boys are jealous. We hope you stay tuned for those reports. O’REILLY: “Personal Story” segment tonight, I know most of you don't give a hoot about the MTV Video Music Awards. I know that. However, the show that ran last Sunday evening was so base, so full of garbage, it was off the charts. The hits, including many pro-drug references. Believe me when I tell you, kids, 10, 12, 14, hear this stuff. And they internalize it. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) (MUSIC PLAYING) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That starts with an earth back to this -- this had a lot to say about me the other day in the press. (MUSIC PLAYING) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I wrote up a new song. I knock the edge off. (MUSIC PLAYING) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: These Mary Jane brownies are strong! (MUSIC PLAYING) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You were on the air in the 90's -- O'REILLY: Yes. KENNEDY: -- and you complained about MTV back then the gangster rap and drug references and all that stuff. I don't let my kids watch it, I won't let my kids watch it. O’REILLY: There were millions of kids watching that show. KENNEDY: Not that many millions. This year the VMAs that the viewership was way down. Because people look at someone like Miley Cyrus. O'REILLY: They watch it on the internet. You know they do. So, millions of kids Meghan see this. All right? MEGHAN MCCAIN, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Can I tell you how influential MTV was to me in my life? I'm gueing out that I'm on TV with Kennedy right now. I grew up watching her -- O'REILLY: Yes, everybody is so. MCCAIN: But I do what I do because of women like that. Because I did grow up in the golden age of MTV when they were asking politicians questions. Bill Clinton being asked about his marijuana use. It was a big moment and debatably swayed the election for him had. MTV has a lot of influence. O'REILLY: Yes. I would not argue that. MCCAIN: But this has dissolved into trash and vulgarity. And I'm not socially conservative person in many ways. And I am embarrassed the fact that the only influence young women have is a woman that is going to go on stage naked, acting like this is acceptable and talking about being dragged on pot. O'REILLY: Right. MCCAIN: They have to go on stage. It's embarrassing. O'REILLY: So, the kids that are watching this Kennedy though. KENNEDY: Yes. O'REILLY: They take it all in. All right? They take it all. In and the message is, you can be as salacious as you want, you can be as drug alleged as you want and that's a fun, fun thing. Do you disagree with that? KENNEDY: I don't disagree with the kids internalize things. O'REILLY: Okay. So, that's the message that they are internalizing. KENNEDY: They are going to internalize that message from a number of places. O'REILLY: That maybe true. But you don't justify bad behavior by saying other bad behavior is okay. That's my concern. I don't care. KENNEDY: That's a fallacious argument and I understand where you are coming from. O’REILLY: Well, I'm glad.
Because it really is to the point now where parents have to say, look, and you know what was shocking to me, Meghan -- MCCAIN: Yes. O'REILLY: That this Miley Cyrus person, who if believe now has destroyed her career. MCCAIN: I agree. O'REILLY: Introduces her parents. MCCAIN: I can't believe that. O'REILLY: Her parents were sitting in the audience. If I were her father, I would have got up and take her off the stage myself. MCCAIN: I can't believe that. I would like to say, MTV has abandoned this generation from content while it's down. Losers are very important to me growing up. They talked to politicians, it had debates that doesn't exist anymore. They got rid of it in 2011. MTV doesn't -- O'REILLY: I don't know what it is. KENNEDY: She has much more of an impact actually in 2013 when she performed at the show. She is not a very talented host. O'REILLY: Look, I don't care about her. I just think that there should be a line, all right. And there isn't a line anymore. I have to call you on one thing. When you everywhere on MTV, you did a little gross thing with Rudy Giuliani in a mic. I don't want to you defend it or even talk about it if will just assume you were very much more immature than you are now.

KENNEDY: It was my 22nd birthday. O'REILLY: Okay. KENNEDY: It was live TV. O'REILLY: I know I'm going to get letters on that. But 10 seconds each, if you were running MTV, would you have put that show on the air? KENNEDY: I understand the justification of putting. O'REILLY: Would you have put it on -- yes or no? Would you put it on the air? KENNEDY: I have higher broadcast standards but MTV is not mine. O'REILLY: Okay. I will take that no. MCCAIN: No you can be rock and roll and edgy in pop culture without this vulgarity and that's exactly what it was. I have a 22-year-old sister. I don't want her watching this. I think it's a horribly bad influence. And I sound like a grandma saying this -- O'REILLY: Anybody over 18 -- (CROSSTALK) Anybody over 18 in my opinion can watch what they want. MCCAIN: I don't want young women. O'REILLY: Ten, 12, 14. MCCAIN: I don't want young women only seeing Miley Cyrus. O'REILLY: They're over 18, that their own choice. But the kids, if you are a parent, and you let your kids watch that, shame on you. Ladies, thanks. When we come right back. President Obama in Alaska, Gutfeld and McGuirk have trip envy. The boys moments away. O'REILLY: Thanks for staying with us, I'm Bill O'Reilly. In the “What The Heck Just Happened?” segment tonight, a record breaking pot situation with President Obama in Alaska. Here now, Bernard McGuirk and Greg Gutfeld. So, the President spent three days in Alaska, Gutfeld. What was he doing up there? GREG GUTFELD, FOX NEWS HOST, “THE GREG GUTFELD SHOW”: Well, he was doing a number of things. Alaska for people at home it's a state. Now, it's actually the largest state in the United States but it's 48th in population. There's only 800,000 people in Alaska. O'REILLY: Yes. GUTFELD: And the reason is, it's because it's freezing cold. The second state, the largest state is Texas. They have 28 million. Why is that because it's warm? So, President Obama went there because it's cold and he is worried about global warming. If he only understood that a few incremental increases in temperature more people would live in Alaska. But he doesn't like Science so instead he watched fish spawn because that's what he does. O'REILLY: How about you McGuirk? What do you think he was doing up there really? BERNARD MCGUIRK, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, “IMUS IN THE MORNING”: Now, listen. You have to commend the President he gave up his usual, traditional end of summer vacation. O'REILLY: No. He was at the Vineyard. No, no, no, no -- MCGUIRK: Hang out with the rich and famous. O'REILLY: He had three weeks at Martha's Vineyard and then he went up to Alaska. MCGUIRK: This wasn't vacation it was work. O'REILLY: Is he the Kardashian and chief? Look at how hard he is working there. (CROSSTALK) He did the dance. MCGUIRK: But look, he went out with bear grills by the way who is great. O'REILLY: Who is that bear? I thought that was a bar. MCGUIRK: Liberal, you know, environmentalist, he is a former British special forces guy. O'REILLY: Yes. MCGUIRK: Good tough dude. O'REILLY: Yes. MCGUIRK: And they are not up there on some, you know, Brokeback Mountain. O'REILLY: What was he doing with the bear? MCGUIRK: What's that? O'REILLY: What was he doing with the bear?
MC GUIRK: They went out to check out the environment. O’REILLY: Check out the environment.
MC GUIRK: To raise awareness for climate change. Global warming. GUTFELD: We don't hear about it enough. O’REILLY: So, you guys both say this trip was to promote global warming and fewer fossil fuels.
MC GUIRK: Except for the fact that President Obama, you know, like, for example, Al Gore said five years ago that the polar ice is going to vanish. NASA just came out a few months ago and said that it's almost tripled polarized -- O’REILLY: Antarctic I think is -- MC GUIRK: President Obama is up there drinking his own urine and feeding us a bunch of crap. O’REILLY: Okay. I don't believe that's true. Have you guys ever been to Alaska? MC GUIRK: No. O’REILLY: I want to give them a plug. One of the best trips ever. All right. So, I have trip envy of President Obama. Excellent place to go. Okay. The University of Michigan. Good school, did a study that says that pot use in college is now the biggest ever, bigger than Woodstock, bigger than the 60’s when everybody was going nuts. Bigger than more use on pot, Gutfeld. And you say? GUTFELD: No. I think that they were comparing it to that smoking cigarettes. Am I right, Mr. O'Reilly? O’REILLY: No. I think it's more than ever. But more than cigarettes. GUTFELD: Yes. And the point is it's not about an increase in pot but a decrease in smoking. Fewer people are smoking cigarettes now more than ever. Pot is more popular not just on campus but here at FOX News. More people at FOX News smoke pot. I saw Gretchen out there. It was disgusting in front of the children. But by the way, it also points to one point. Criminalization makes drugs easier by creating efficient delivery systems. It just easier to get than buying cigarettes in the store. O’REILLY: Okay. One in every 17 college students smokes marijuana daily, one out of every 17. MC GUIRK: Which is sad, it's said because -- O’REILLY: Their parents are paying their tuition. That's why it's sad. MC GUIRK: Right. You need every edge you can get. It's a jungle out there. O’REILLY: Right. MC GUIRK: I mean, GPA is the only way that you -- O’REILLY: This is a serious thing. You know what this K-2 is, this is synthetic pot. MC GUIRK: Yes. O’REILLY: Do you know what that is? GUTFELD: Um-huh. O’REILLY: That can kill you, that thing. That is a rage all over colleges now. So, this isn't the Woodstock. And this isn't Cheech and Chong. MC GUIRK: Right. O’REILLY: This is serious. MC GUIRK: And it will fry your brain and you will going to lose that edge. By the way, I found these under Lou Dobbs chair from last night. GUTFELD: I you told you. O’REILLY: All right. So, we have lawsuits by Gretchen Carlson, Lou Dobbs, and Barack Obama. We have three. Please direct them individually. I had nothing to do with it. MC GUIRK: Dude, where's my class? O’REILLY: All right, gentlemen. Hillary Clinton on deck. One of her aides now taking the fifth to avoid testifying on Benghazi. Not good. Right back with the latest. O’REILLY: Back with the book segment tonight. More bad news for Hillary Clinton, a man name Bryan Pagliano who set up Mrs. Clinton’s server in her New York home called to testify in front of a house panel investigating the assassination of the American ambassador in Benghazi, Libya. But Pagliano's lawyers says, he will take the fifth and will not testify. Joining us now from Washington, FOX News correspondent James Rosen and Catherine Herridge who is covering the story. Catherine, why is this important? CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX NEWS CHIEF INTELLIGENCE CORRESPONDENT: Well, Bill, maybe I'm old fashioned but when you're low level I.T. guy takes the fifth, I mean, that is not good. And then on top of that today, we had this nine-hour deposition with this long time Clinton ally, Cheryl Mills who was her chief-of-staff. And it was clear that after that deposition there was some kind of agreement between the Republicans, Democrats and Mills on the committee that they would come out and just give one statement to the press, which wasn't extremely professional. She answer all of the questions. Nothing was sort of left in question. But it's all classified so now there's like a lid on it. And you've done big investigations. You know how this works. They start with the little people on the outside and they start moving in and building a paper trail so that they can see who's being truthful and who's not and kind of lay the traps for the big people which is going to be
Clinton and Aberdeen. **O'REILLY:** Well, Lois Lerner got away with it, took the fifth on the IRS investigation, and Pagliano is going to do the same thing. As he said, he's a low level guy, he's a tech guy, he's not an editorial guy. But he did see things or he wouldn't be taking the fifth, correct? **HERRIDGE:** Absolutely. **O'REILLY:** He had to. **HERRIDGE:** Yes. He's got a lot of inside information. But the setup of that server, who was involved, who signed off on it, what kind of additional security provisions were put into place because one of the questions we're hearing increasingly is whether there was some kind of compromise by an intelligence service or hackers. There are reports that wants to sale all these e-mails. So, this guy was in on the ground floor and he is not really a political appointee. So, he doesn't have a lot of cover with the Clintons, necessarily. **O'REILLY:** Okay. Now, what is the committee trying to get Rosen in the big picture on Benghazi? It's gone on for years and year and years now. How do you see the big picture here? **JAMES ROSEN,** FOX NEWS CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT: Let me comeback to that Bill. We should point out the Clinton campaign says, it encouraged Bryan Pagliano to testify freely. I just want to encourage you to step back for a second and see this in broader terms if we can. With Bryan Pagliano signaling his intention to plead the fifth and thereby withhold what he knows from Congressional investigators, the story of Mrs. Clinton and her server takes on still another feature of an epic scandal on the motive Watergate as we were discussing earlier this week, namely the low level figure who served in both the campaign and on the government whose name means nothing to the general public but it was a center for the maintenance of the secretive operation and who if presented with some form of immunity could conceivably be flipped to testify about the higher ups with whom he interacted. When you marry that to the pending court cases, the FBI investigation and this periodic release of still more e-mails you have in structural terms, checked just about every box for the making of a scandal with real legs in the presidential campaign setting. **O'REILLY:** We don't want to speculate on it, but learn I was not offered any deal. I don't think she would have taken it anyway. **ROSEN:** The irony here Bill, the irony is that Edward Snowden would have us believe that the NSA can recover literally every key stroke that you and I type. The only people on planet earth -- every centipede is recoverable except if you're Lois Lerner or Hillary Clinton. Then your stuff is just gone. **O'REILLY:** Yes, it's gone. **ROSEN:** In terms of your other question about Benghazi -- **O'REILLY:** Ahah! **ROSEN:** What this committee hopes to achieve, this committee as a select committee is a little unusual and that it was formed some two years after the events in question. So it started kind of behind the eight ball as opposed to other famous select committees like Watergate or Iran contra. In this case what they're trying to determine is, why was systemic -- were the requests for more security by the folks on the ground in Benghazi almost systematically rebuffed. What exactly happened during the eight plus hours of the attacks themselves? And then why did the White House and other aspects of the administration -- **O'REILLY:** Misdaread. **ROSEN:** -- press a patently false explanation of what occurred. **O'REILLY:** Okay. I want to give Catherine the last word. Rosen is speculating that this is Watergate, you know, bubbling up. Do you see it that way as well? **HERRIDGE:** Well, I think there are real serious questions about whether there were efforts to cover up the extent of the classified. And that took place at the State Department. We uncovered new information this week, along with Senior Executive Producer Pamela Brown, that there was a lot of monkey business with the codes. So, e-mails that were marked as classified and then went to the lawyer's office and the coding was change to something called B-5 which makes it impossible for the public and for Congress to see. And the key thing here Bill, is the lawyer in that office was the same lawyer who was handling the Lois Lerner e-mails at the IRS. **O'REILLY:** Yes. **HERRIDGE:** And whistleblowers sort of like, whoa, like -- **O'REILLY:** Yes. **HERRIDGE:** Are you trying to -- I mean that's an internal thing. And that' key. **O'REILLY:** It's a tight little dirty circle. **HERRIDGE:** Yes.
Absolutely. O’REILLY: And I think it is dirty. I think that, you know, but I don’t know if it’s going to come out before the election. We’ll see. Catherine, Rosen, thank you. FACTOR tip of the day, I am a magazine cover guy once again. The tip moments away. O’REILLY: FACTOR tip of the day, Bill O’Reilly magazine cover guy in a moment. But first the mail, Doug Wilson, Alberta Canada. “By ignoring common sense, ways to protect folks like Kate’s Law. Jorge Ramos showed his true colors – he’s a zealot on illegal immigration. Nicholas Mowad, Howard Beach, New York. “As a young conservative I respect Ramos. He has good intentions and only wants to help people.” John Eison, Los Angeles. “Bill, you had Jorge on the point about him being a commentator, not a news reporter. But he had you on illegal immigrants coming here because we give them jobs.” I have said that for decades, John. That the federal government and business look the other way so more profit could be made. But that doesn’t justify the failure to secure our borders or to enforce the law, does it? Steve Van Wei, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. “It’s really quite simple, Jorge should change the name of his show to the Ramos factor.” Big royalty to me. Michael James, Bolling Green, Kentucky. “I had my mind made up that I would hate the Ramos interview but I was wrong. Great interview showing people can disagree but still respect each other. By the way, I’m a new BillO’Reilly.com Premium Member and love it.” Well, welcome Michael. We appreciate that. Lloyd Lim, Honolulu. “Seriously, O’Reilly. Do you really think Dick and Liz Cheney are credible on bias sources of information?” It that were the litmus test, you’ll be looking at test – Lloyd. Most of our guests have strong points of view. That’s what makes the FACTOR hum. Cheney’s have years of political experience. And what they say is submitted for your consideration, same thing with all of the guests. Conor McCrimmon, Dunellen, New Jersey. “I chose to read “Killing Lincoln” for summer home work and it was amazing.” Well, I appreciate that Conor. “Killing Lincoln” now out in paper book when you read the hard back. So, thank you very much. Stasia Krebukinski, Staten Island, New York. “Thanks Bill for an O’Reilly summer. Read “Killing Patton” on the beach, caught the Don’t Be a Pinhead show in Atlantic City.” Funny you should mentioned that Stasia. Miller just checked in, he’s over in Italy about the tickets sales. Only three shows in the fall have tickets remaining, Chicago at the Rosemont, South Florida at the Hard Rock, Phoenix at the Comerica. Details on BillO’Reilly.com. Also, a very happy birthday to Evelyn Wagner, 102 in Florida. Rose Corne (ph), 101 in Bellevue, Illinois. Way to go, ladies. And finally tonight, the FACTOR tip of the day. This coming Sunday, September 6, I am once again a magazine cover guy. Parade magazine which you get in your Sunday newspaper has an article on my books called “Bill O’Reilly is killing it.” The stimulator for the piece, “Killing Reagan” which will be released on September 22nd. The article is fair which is refreshing and don’t forget, if you become a BillO’Reilly.com Premium Member, you get “Killing Reagan” or any of the other books free of charge. And you’ll get it first, you preorder. FACTOR tip of the day. Check out Parade Magazine this coming Sunday. And that is it for us tonight. Please check out the FOX News FACTOR website different from BillO’Reilly.com. Also, we’d like you to spout off about THE FACTOR from anywhere in the world. O’Reilly@FOXNews.com O’Reilly@FOXNews.com Name and town if you wish to opine. Word of the day, no salebrosity when writing to THE FACTOR. Salebrosity. Huh? Pretty good word. Trump here Tuesday along with Beck. Wow! Again, thanks for watching us tonight. Miss Megyn, is next. I’m Bill O’Reilly. Please remember, the spin stops here. We’re looking out for you.”

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes
SHOW: TODAY SHOW 7:00 AM EST A protest was staged this week at a Missouri high school over a transgender student’s right to use the girls’ bathrooms and locker rooms."
we all gave you a bunch of information. All right. Gender, age, blood pressure, BMI whether or not we smoke, diabetic, all those kinds of things-- NATALIE AZAR: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: --that go into this formula. NATALIE AZAR: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: Let’s do a little reveal. Shall we? NATALIE AZAR: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. I’m going to start. I’m forty years old. AL ROKER: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: My heart age is forty-one. One year older than my chronological age. Is that a problem? NATALIE AZAR: That’s a problem. WILLIE GEIST: Really? NATALIE AZAR: Well, okay. AL ROKER: One-- one year? (Cross talking) NATALIE AZAR: So here’s-- here’s one really important take home from this study, I think, is that the study was not meant to-- to generate a number or a statistical number, a relative risk like if you are X number of years over your real age, your risk for a heart attack or stroke is this much higher. It is merely meant to drive home the point that the risk factors that you just mentioned, age, gender, diabetes, BMI, all factor into your heart health. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. NATALIE AZAR: And so if your real-- if your heart age is truly greater than your real age, then ostensibly your risk for heart disease is higher. WILLIE GEIST: And we will talk in a second about some ways we can maybe bring that number down. NATALIE AZAR: Exactly. WILLIE GEIST: Let’s move over to my pal, Savannah. NATALIE AZAR: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: How old are you, Savannah Guthrie? SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: I’m forty-three years old, Willie. WILLIE GEIST: Well, your heart is forty-three years old. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Whoo. I’m average. Yay. I guess that’s good, right? WILLIE GEIST: That’s good news. NATALIE AZAR: Yeah, it’s great. I mean, that’s technically you want to be at your real age or lower. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: How about this one? Al Roker, sixty-one years old, correct? AL ROKER: Yes, yes. WILLIE GEIST: Your heart is sixty-one years old. AL ROKER: All right. NATALIE MORALES: Nice. WILLIE GEIST: We’re doing really well, guys. AL ROKER: This is like a-- (Cross talking) SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Team average. NATALIE MORALES: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. Now we knew this one was coming. AL ROKER: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: Natalie. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: She will be like twenty. AL ROKER: She is twenty-two years old. WILLIE GEIST: Forgive me-- forgive me for asking your age. How old are you? NATALIE MORALES: Forty-three. WILLIE GEIST: Your heart is seventy-eight years old. Your heart-- AL ROKER: Whoa. WILLIE GEIST: Forty-four. NATALIE AZAR: You are forty-four. CARSON DALY: I blame genetics. I blame my family, those that came before me. NATALIE AZAR: I know. But-- but here is the thing. And that could account for high blood pressure. We are not asking you details about your medical history. But a few things that this does omit, the calculator omits family history, it doesn’t include cholesterol. Obviously we know that all those things are important, physical activity and stuff. So, Willie-- WILLIE GEIST: So what do we do. NATALIE AZAR: --to your point about what do you do with this information. Well, you take a look at all-- what I always like to tell people, my patients particularly, you have modifiable risk factors, that is things you can change and you have non-modifiable risk factors, things you can’t change. You can’t change your age, your gender or your family history. But all the other things that you can, your cholesterol level, your level of exercise, your BMI, your-- your you know, diabetes status, and smoking, all of those things factor in very heavily into your heart age and your risk for cardiovascular disease. Those are the things that you need to change. That’s the take home from this. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: You know, it’s kind of interesting educational tool. And that sounds like what
it’s supposed to be. NATALIE AZAR: Right. And-- the idea here is that people respond better to an idea like this than they just do a ten-year-- NATALIE MORALES: Sure. NATALIE AZAR: --probable-- like, oh, your risk for is ten percent. That doesn’t-- that’s -- that’s meaningful for people but this kind of can hit home. If you’re X number of years and your heart age is older, you are like, huh. WILLIE GEIST: Right. NATALIE MORALES: Because that’s pretty easy to calculate. NATALIE AZAR: Exactly. WILLIE GEIST: You can make-- AL ROKER: Good knowing you, Carson. CARSON DALY: Yeah, thanks. Yeah, thanks. Good seeing y’all. WILLIE GEIST: It was a good ride, Carson. CARSON DALY: Thank you very much. WILLIE GEIST: Natalie, Doctor Azar-- CARSON DALY: Hope I make to the POPStart. WILLIE GEIST: --thank you so much. By the way, if you want to calculate your own heart age, visit today.com-- CARSON DALY: Don’t. Just don’t. WILLIE GEIST: --for a link to the Framingham heart study’s predictor. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: POPStart will always be part of your legacy, though. CARSON DALY: Yeah, thank you. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Coming up in Trending, no tears here, couples actually celebrating a split with a selfie. Why apparently the divorce selfie is a-- is the new thing? NATALIE MORALES: Okay. WILLIE GEIST: Plus, free money. Avoid a critical mistake when it comes to you and your Social Security. It’s a misstep. It could cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars. But good news, Jean Chatzky has a simple fix. AL ROKER: And speaking of saving money, Jill Martin is here with an additional Steals and Deals that’s designed to make your transition from summer to fall, fun and affordable and fashionable. (Cross talking) AL ROKER: That’s right. Hey, you got to-- (Cross talking) AL ROKER: But first, these messages. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: All right. We are back. It’s eight fourteen. Time for What’s Trending TODAY. There has been a bit of a sea change on college campuses nationwide and I think this is one of those good news, bad news stories. For the first time ever, college students are saying they smoke marijuana more than cigarettes. So I guess it’s good that cigarette smoking is down. But marijuana smoking is up. This is a survey from the University of Michigan. Nearly six percent of students said, yes, they smoked marijuana regularly. For cigarettes, it was just five percent. But get this, back in ’99, not that long ago, the number that said they smoked cigarettes was nineteen percent. So you are seeing that drop which is good, but more people are smoking marijuana. AL ROKER: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: It’s interesting as marijuana has become legalized and just culturally people say, ah, it’s no big deal-- SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah. CARSON DALY: Right, right. WILLIE GEIST: --which is debatable-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: --I-- I think as it becomes more permissible in places like college campuses. NATALIE MORALES: I know. CARSON DALY: But smoking, however, is down quite a bit which is so great. WILLIE GEIST: Oh, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Exactly. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. Wasn’t that long ago when we were in college-- CARSON DALY: Oh, my gosh. WILLIE GEIST: --most kids-- I don’t know most-- but a lot of kids were smoking out their dorm windows-- CARSON DALY: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Right. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Oh, yeah. NATALIE MORALES: Casually drinking and, you know, that’s what happens. WILLIE GEIST: But they’re still doing that. NATALIE MORALES: Starts smoke. Yeah. Exactly. AL ROKER: Hmm. WILLIE GEIST: Okay. The people spoke, McDonald’s has listened. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: McDonald’s just announced that starting next month they will start serving breakfast all day long. Right now you cannot get your Egg McMuffin or your-- your Hash Brown past the 10:30 A.M. cutoff. But that all changes on October 6th, McDonald’s is hoping the move will kickstart its slumping sales. We have got some Egg McMuffin, some Hash Browns in front of us. NATALIE MORALES: Thank you, McDonald’s. CARSON DALY: Given the fact that my heart is eighty-nine years old, I’m not going partake. Very mixed message-- AL ROKER: You have got nothing to lose. NATALIE MORALES: What took you so long? AL ROKER: Go for it. CARSON DALY: I was lucky to survive the commercial break apparently. And then, they put this in front of me. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: By the way-- CARSON DALY:
Watch my heart go from forty-four to forty-six in one segment. AL ROKER: I have got a copy of POPStart in case you go down. CARSON DALY: Thank you. Thank you. WILLIE GEIST: Backup. (Cross talking) CARSON DALY: That`s great. WILLIE GEIST: You know what, I wouldn`t know about this. Why can`t I now have lunch in the morning if I can have breakfast in the afternoon. (Cross-Talking) WILLIE GEIST: I want a Big Mac at 9:00 A.M. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Oh, why don`t they serve the Big Mac at 9:00 A.M.? WILLIE GEIST: Why isn`t the whole menu, all day long? SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: You know what, this is the next battleground. NATALIE MORALES: That`s true. AL ROKER: This is it. NATALIE MORALES: There you go. WILLIE GEIST: Thank you. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: This is where we take our mission next. AL ROKER: Willie Geist-- (Cross talking) NATALIE MORALES: Good idea. WILLIE GEIST: To the next frontier. AL ROKER: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: I`m on it. NATALIE MORALES: Very nice. AL ROKER: Ronald. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: The divorce selfie is apparently a thing now. People boasting about their splits, holding up their divorce papers. One couple photographed themselves outside the courthouse saying this is how you get divorced like champions, #PowerCouple, #NotReally. So what do we think about this? NATALIE MORALES: It`s like put a good face on it. And if, you know, it`s-- CARSON DALY: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: You know, they are-- they are parting ways happily, then, you know, why not? CARSON DALY: Any breakdown in the family is not easy for anybody. NATALIE MORALES: Right. CARSON DALY: The parents, the kids. But if you can come together like that, I mean, that`s the best-- making the best of the situation. (Cross talking) AL ROKER: ---that`s a great situation. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: All right. WILLIE GEIST: It`s just a one way to announce it to people you know and love. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: That`s true. NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: Put it up Instagram. AL ROKER: That`s true. NATALIE MORALES: Also to say, don`t worry about choosing sides either. WILLIE GEIST: There you go. CARSON DALY: But it`s where you don`t know if someone is newly married or newly divorced. WILLIE GEIST: Right. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Right. AL ROKER: That`s right. CARSON DALY: Congratulations, question mark. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Then you are-- exactly. (Cross talking) WILLIE GEIST: I think we all know Marshawn Lynch. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah. AL ROKER: Yes. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yes. WILLIE GEIST: Seattle Seahawks superstar running back who should have gotten the ball and won the Super Bowl. That`s a different story. Does not like interviews. NATALIE MORALES: No. WILLIE GEIST: Does not like the press. Uncomfortable doing them. He famously answered questions with I`m just here so I don`t get fined at the Super Bowl. NATALIE MORALES: Right. We love that. (Cross talking) WILLIE GEIST: Okay. We found one thing he`s happy to talk about and that is Skittles candy. You know, he eats them on the sidelines. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. AL ROKER: Mm-Hm. WILLIE GEIST: We have seen him on the bench eating Skittles. He loves them so much, he went on the Home Shopping channel to tell you all about it. Marshawn. (Excerpt from Marshawn Lynch Home Shop Video Clip) WILLIE GEIST: This is a guy who hates the press. But he loves Skittles more. CARSON DALY: He has got such a great personality. The demeanor about him when he does talk, he is so lovable and likable. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. AL ROKER: Yeah. NATALIE MORALES: He is fine. WILLIE GEIST: Yes. CARSON DALY: He would be great doing press for the Seahawks and for the NFL because he is clearly-- he is just such a nice guy. AL ROKER: That`s right. WILLIE GEIST: Yeah. CARSON DALY: Every reporter is going to have to work Skittles into their-- SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah, exactly. AL ROKER: That`s the way in. NATALIE MORALES: I got you a pack of Skittles. Now give me the answer. WILLIE GEIST: It`s-- it`s funny you`re watching the Home Shopping channel, right-- NATALIE MORALES: Right. WILLIE GEIST: --and you`re trying to get like a
sensible fall sandal or something and here comes Marshawn Lynch with Skittles. CARSON DALY: That’s right. AL ROKER: He has been such a-- (Cross talking) SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: There he is. All right. Now to the battle over James Bond and a whole new vibe on Kanye’s epic VMA speech. Carson, are you okay? CARSON DALY: We are good. We are good to go. NATALIE MORALES: The heart is good. AL ROKER: Good luck. CARSON DALY: The heart is young. Here we go. First up, the author of new James Bond novel apologizing to Idris Elba. Idris, of course, rumored to be on the shortlist to play 007, but Anthony Horowitz told The Daily Mail that Idris is, quote, “too street,”-- AL ROKER: Oh boy. CARSON DALY: -- saying it’s not a color issue, it’s a question of being suave. AL ROKER: Uh-Oh. CARSON DALY: Horowitz now saying he regrets the comments. But Idris had a pretty classy response. He says, quote, “Always keep smiling. It takes no energy and never hurts. Learned that from the street.” NATALIE MORALES: Ooh. CARSON DALY: Speaking of James Bond, Daniel Craig getting pretty frank about the iconic character. Daniel telling Esquire magazine that despite all the beautiful women, Bond is basically sad and lonely. And he hopes that his version isn’t as sexist and misogynistic as earlier ones. Daniel’s suggestion for updating the spy series, “You cast great actresses, you make the parts as good as you can for the women in the movies.” (Cross talking) CARSON DALY: Daniel’s-- possibly his last Bond movie that came out in November. Finally-- AL ROKER: Judy Grant was great a Amy. CARSON DALY: Kanye West-- yes, she was-- Kanye West back in the news again. We know he might be running for President in 2020. But if the Electoral College map doesn’t quite work out, Kanye could try his act, sure, little stand-up comedy. Somebody on Twitter set his VMA rants to the Seinfeld theme. It sounds pretty good. Take a look.

KANYE WEST: I still don’t understand award shows. This arenas tomorrow, it’s going to be a completely different setup. Some concert, something like that. How could you explain that? It crosses my mind a little bit like when I go to a baseball game. After that night, the stage is gone. I don’t understand this, bro. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: It’s perfect. CARSON DALY: There you go. That is your POPStart. AL ROKER: Say Vandelay. NATALIE MORALES: Perfect. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Ooh. CARSON DALY: Speaking of James Bond, Daniel Craig getting pretty frank about the iconic character. Daniel telling Esquire magazine that despite all the beautiful women, Bond is basically sad and lonely. And he hopes that his version isn’t as sexist and misogynistic as earlier ones. Daniel’s suggestion for updating the spy series, “You cast great actresses, you make the parts as good as you can for the women in the movies.” (Cross talking) CARSON DALY: Daniel’s-- possibly his last Bond movie that came out in November. Finally-- AL ROKER: Judy Grant was great a Amy. CARSON DALY: Kanye West-- yes, she was-- Kanye West back in the news again. We know he might be running for President in 2020. But if the Electoral College map doesn’t quite work out, Kanye could try his act, sure, little stand-up comedy. Somebody on Twitter set his VMA rants to the Seinfeld theme. It sounds pretty good. Take a look.

WILLIE GEIST: Was it exciting? Was it riveting? NATALIE MORALES: Apparently. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah. AL ROKER: It was riveting. I couldn’t take my eyes off it. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: So riveting. WILLIE GEIST: We will explain what’s happening. This is on ESPN. Al Roker attending the match as-- CARSON DALY: Is the match going on during this one? WILLIE GEIST: --former New York city Mayor Dinkins is being interviewed behind him. (Excerpt from U.S. Open Footage of Al Roker) AL ROKER: And you know it’s how impressed my daughter is. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Yeah. WILLIE GEIST: There is about a minute stretch before your interview there where you are just staring into the distance with your jaw open. AL ROKER: I’m just watching-- I’m just watching the-- the match. Just watching the match. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: I think you were sleeping with your eyes open. NATALIE MORALES: Yeah. AL ROKER: You know, I-- I have not perfected that. (Cross talking) NATALIE MORALES: You’re pretty good at it. WILLIE GEIST: There you go. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Look at this. Look at this. AL ROKER: Huh. My moment of Zen. There you go. WILLIE GEIST: What about the weather, Al? What’s happening? NATALIE MORALES: The cameras are always watching, Al. Always watching. SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Al. AL ROKER: That’s what’s going on around the country. Here’s what’s happening in your neck of the woods. (Weather follows) AL ROKER: And that’s your latest weather. Savannah.”

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1

Predicted Probability: 0.82
Whole foods Chain's sales hurt by bad publicity Whole Foods says its sales are hurting from bad publicity over its overcharging of customers in New York City. The grocery chain known for its organic offerings noted that sales growth slowed sharply in the last two weeks of the quarter ending July 5. That was after New York officials said an audit found the chain's stores were overcharging by overstating the weight of pre-packed products. “There's no magic bullet for restoring whatever trust was lost,” co-CEO Walter Robb said. Robb noted the company has taken actions to ensure the overcharging doesn't happen again. After adjusting for the timing of Easter, the company said sales rose 2.6 percent at established locations in the first 10 weeks of the quarter. The figure fell to 0.4 percent in the final two weeks of the period after the New York audit became public. Overall, for the third quarter, Whole Foods reported a profit of $154 million, up from $151 million a year earlier. Currency $10 bill redesign attracts a million responses WASHINGTON - Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said Wednesday he's gotten more than a million responses to his request for comments on how U.S. currency should be redesigned and for what woman should become the first female on U.S. paper money in more than a century. Lew announced in June a redesign of the $10 bill that would replace the portrait of Alexander Hamilton with a woman. Lew said that a decision is expected “in the very near future” and that while a woman's portrait will be on the $10 bill, Hamilton will still be honored in some way. tobacco cigarette sales climb despite higher prices A better economy is helping sell more Marlboros and Camels, even as prices climb. That brought higher profits for their makers in the second quarter. Marlboro maker Altria has seen two quarters of upticks in cigarettes sold. That is unusual at a time when tobacco companies have routinely seen declines, as people smoke less because of tax increases, smoking bans, health concerns and increasing social stigma. Camel maker Reynolds American said a day earlier that it also sold more cigarettes in the quarter. funerals SCI reports its quarterly profit doubled Service Corporation International saw its net income double in the second quarter to $52.6 million compared with a year ago. The Houston-based owner of funeral homes and cemeteries attributed the growth to selling more cemetery plots to people planning ahead. automakers VW global leader in sales but sees profit decline Automaker Volkswagen saw profits slip in the second quarter despite taking the global lead in sales over Toyota and GM. The German company was hit by $198 million in restructuring costs at its MAN truck division. Profit after tax fell to $2.9 billion from $3.5 billion in the prior-year quarter. in other news UPS plans to buy as much as 46 million gallons of renewable diesel over the next three years, helping the company reach a goal of displacing 12 percent of the petroleum-based fuels in its ground fleet by 2017. MasterCard said its second-quarter profit dipped 1 percent to $921 million as a strong dollar weighed on the payment processor's results.
Insurers who sell plans on HealthCare.gov in Missouri are supposed to help people quit smoking but none offer adequate coverage, according to a new report by the American Lung Association. Using information on the insurers' publicly available websites, the report concluded that no plan offered on the government-run health exchange in Missouri covers all seven Food and Drug Administration-approved devices designed to help smokers kick the habit. The findings, which insurance companies dispute, point to a continuing issue with the Affordable Care Act. While the law requires health plans to cover certain “essential benefits,” such as tobacco cessation, enforcement is less than rigorous, especially in states like Missouri that rely on the federal government to act as watchdog. Missouri is among the states that declined to create and run its own health insurance exchange, making the federal government provide that service instead. That meant Washington, instead of Jefferson City, was in charge of implementing this part of the Affordable Care Act. And that may have translated into less oversight. The federal government's role in regulating multiple insurance plans is “difficult from a resources standpoint as well as a logistical standpoint,” Georgetown University professor Sabrina Corlette said. “There are clearly shortcomings of having everything removed in Washington.” Tobacco cessation hasn't been the only issue where advocates and experts have urged more oversight from the federal government. LGBT advocates have long complained about how HealthCare.gov plans treat prescription drug coverage for those with HIV. They've accused insurance companies of charging high cost-sharing amounts for those drugs used to treat the condition, in effect discriminating against HIV patients. The Affordable Care Act prohibits insurers from charging more to consumers who have a medical condition with one exception for tobacco use. The Affordable Care Act requires state and the federal government to take a more pronounced role in regulating health insurance coverage. But the American Lung Association says the issue of smoking cessation may have fallen through the cracks. Its report finds that only 17 percent of health insurance carriers covered all seven FDA-approved smoking cessation treatments at no cost to the consumers. None were in Missouri and only one carrier in Illinois was defined as “compliant” by the association. The seven devices are nicotine gums, patches, lozenges, nasal sprays and inhalers, as well as bupropion and varenicline. Insurance companies were very critical of the lung association's findings. They say that oftentimes smoking cessation treatments are covered under a policy but may not be listed on the publicly available drug formularies. “It is important for members to understand that we do cover smoking cessation programs in accordance with the ACA and even though over-the-counter drugs or programs may not be in a formulary, they are still covered,” said Rohan Hutchings, a spokesman for Coventry Health Care. James Martinez, a spokesman for the lung association, said information not included in the formulary was not factored into the report and could mean that more insurers are covering more tobacco cessation treatments than laid out in the study. America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry trade group, said carriers have had a long commitment to helping their customers quit smoking. It said insurers are following federal guidelines when it comes to tobacco cessation coverage and cited the government’s regulatory authority. “All of these plans and products have to be reviewed by regulators and approved,” said Clare Krusing, a spokeswoman. But to some, it’s the regulatory process that could lead to cracks in the system. Corlette said it's unclear how
often federal regulators are auditing the health plans for compliance. She also said that both the government and the insurance industry have been “drinking from fire hoses” since the health law was enacted, meaning some things have slipped through the cracks. The problem is even more pronounced in Missouri, which doesn't have a robust regulatory system on the state level. Missouri is one of the five states that told the federal government it did not have the ability to regulate the Affordable Care Act's “market reforms.” In an emailed statement to the Post-Dispatch, the federal Department of Health and Human Services said it would continue to work with health carriers to seek reductions in the smoking rate. “We are committed to reducing the burden tobacco has on our nation and has made preventing and reducing tobacco use a priority,” the statement said. Industry stakeholders acknowledged the challenge ahead. “This is health care and it’s very complex. There are multiple different pieces to it and it's relatively still new,” Martinez said.

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 719857

Article Title: Cash may convince some smokers to quit | Fox News

Date: 8/25/2016

Article Content: Paying smokers to quit and giving them more money the longer they avoid cigarettes might help get more people to kick the habit than cessation advice on its own, a recent study suggests.

To test the power of money to combat addiction, researchers in Switzerland offered about 800 low-income smokers pamphlets and online cessation guides. Half of them were also eligible to receive as much as $1,650 if a series of six lab tests verified that they stopped smoking. These payments started out at $100 if lab tests verified participants hadn't smoked after one week, and gradually increased to $440 by the time the last test was done at six months. More on this... At six months, 36 percent of the payment group and about 6 percent of the control group had quit smoking. One year after the payments ended, about 10 percent of the people eligible for financial incentives remained abstinent, compared with roughly 4 percent for the control group. “Money compensated for the loss of a valued activity (smoking) and increased both the likelihood of making a quit attempt and the likelihood of succeeding when trying to quit,” said lead study author Jean-Francois Etter, a public health researcher at the University of Geneva. The participants were around 32 years old on average at the start of the study and they had typically started smoking around age 17. They tended to smoke about 16 cigarettes a day, a little less than a pack. About one in five were unemployed and roughly 45 percent were students. Half of them made no more than about $20,000 a year. All of the participants received self-help books with advice for quitting and researchers also encouraged them to enlist a friend or family member to support their efforts. Researchers tested for carbon monoxide in exhaled air and a byproduct of nicotine in saliva samples to confirm whether participants had quit or continued to smoke. While many people who quit relapsed after payments ended, abstinence rates at the 18-month mark for the group that received financial motivation were nearly 10 percent, compared to less than 4 percent in the group that didn't get any money, researchers report in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. With a
difference of about 6 percentage points between the control and the payments group one year after the money stopped flowing, 17 people would need to go through an incentive program like the one in the study to get one person to quit, the authors note. One limitation of the study is that a large proportion of the 81 participants who dropped out of the study were in the control group, not the payments group, the authors note. Any participants who dropped out or had missing data were counted as smokers. People joining the study also knew some participants would receive incentive payments, which could have impacted behavior, the authors also point out. Previous research, however, has shown that financial incentives can help smokers remain abstinent, particularly among more affluent employed smokers who have access to counseling and other cessation support, Etter said by email. With low-income smokers, cessation can be hard to encourage, Etter said. “Many interventions based on education (booklets, leaflets, various education strategies) tend to work less well among people with low income and low education, in whom smoking prevalence is particularly high,” Etter said. Still, the findings suggest that this method would cost about $28,000 a year to get just one additional long-term quitter, Judith Prochaska of Stanford University in California writes in an accompanying editorial. This might limit adoption in the real world. The appeal of this intervention is its simplicity, Prochaska told Reuters Health by email. “Individuals could create this type of intervention for themselves,” Prochaska said. “A pack a day smoker who puts that money aside rather than purchasing cigarettes would save over $2000 a year - more than the payment provided in the study.”

Source Title: Web

*Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2*

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 134356

Article Title: Impact Of Strong Regulations On Philip Morris In Australia - Forbes*

Date: 10/8/2014

Article Content: Two regulatory hurdles have affected global tobacco major Philip Morris adversely in Australia in recent years. The first of these came in the form of plain packaging restrictions that mandated graphical health warnings on cigarette packs and uniformity in the font, color and size of brand names across companies. The second of these was a series of annual excise tax hikes of 12.5% to be effected every year for four years. In this article we review the situation in Australia for tobacco companies and see how Philip Morris has been impacted. See Our Full Analysis For Philip Morris What Are Plain Packaging Laws The idea behind plain packaging is simple – to make cigarette packs ugly in order to turn off youngsters from smoking. The removal of attractive packaging is primarily aimed at preventing young people, especially children, from picking up the habit of smoking. It is not so much intended for old smokers, who are already addicted to it. Proponents of the idea suggest that if they can prevent youngsters from smoking, they can potentially reduce the number of casualties arising from the dangerous habit in the long run. The Australian government estimates that around 15,000 people die every year in the country from tobacco-related illnesses. The Tobacco Industry’s Perspective The tobacco industry has openly criticized the plain packaging law citing lack of substantial evidence supporting claims made by the Australian government. The tobacco companies do not agree that plain
packaging would be effective in discouraging young people from smoking or encouraging existing smokers to quit. They have also argued that because generic packaging makes all cigarette packs look alike, it becomes harder to prevent smuggled and counterfeit products entering the market, which could indirectly fuel growth in the black market for cigarettes. Furthermore, the tobacco companies also claim that the law denies them to use their intellectual property, which they have created and invested in over long periods of time. Adoption By Other Countries Since the very beginning, a prime concern for the stakeholders of tobacco companies has been the implementation of standardized packaging requirements in other countries. Australia represents only a small share of the global tobacco market. In 2013, the country made up less than 2% of the total number of cigarettes sold in Asia, excluding China, by our estimates. However, if other governments start adopting similar measures, it could potentially have a big impact on the tobacco industry. We have written earlier about Philip Morris’ lawsuit with the Uruguayan Government on this account (See Uruguayan Lawsuit For Philip Morris). Ireland is considering implementing such laws, which experts say can have a domino effect on the rest of the European Union. Australia’s success in this regard is said to have inspired France’s own version of plain packaging law. Impact Of Plain Packaging Laws Australia’s cigarette plain packaging law, which came into effect in December 2013, is supposed to be the most restrictive in the world. However, the government and the industry sing different tunes when it comes to analyzing the results of this law. Data from Australia’s Bureau of Statistics suggest that household consumption of tobacco fell 4.9 percent in financial year 2013-14. Economists at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia say consumption of cigarettes and tobacco dropped 7.6% in the first quarter of this calendar year. On the other hand tobacco manufacturer, British American Tobacco Australia says that industry volumes have actually grown. British American Tobacco has a big presence in Australia with a 45% market share among the 3.5 million smokers of the continent. It claims that the decline in the number of people smoking has slowed, a trend seen for the first time in ten years. Whether the contradictions among these reports are due to apples-to-oranges comparisons, sampling errors or the biases of the researchers is uncertain. Impact Of Higher Excise Taxes The annual 12.5% hike in excise for the year 2014 was implemented on September 1. With an additional tax proposed this year, the effective rise in tax rate on cigarettes increased by 13.7%. This has raised the price of a single cigarette stick to about 1 Australian Dollar. Someone who smokes a pack of cigarettes a day in Australia will now have to spend ~7000 AUD per year. The Government has highlighted the fact that this increase in tax is expected to raise $5.3 billion over four years, thereby helping to balance the national budget. The rise in prices due to increased excise taxes has led consumers to shift their demand towards the more affordable categories. In response to this trend, market leader British American Tobacco reduced prices of its super-low price category cigarettes to $13 per pack. This affected the market share of Philip Morris in the first quarter, as it fell to 32.9% from its previous two year average of 37.7%. In the second quarter, it has resorted to price reductions, helping improve market share in the low-price segments. Its profitability has suffered due to this price based competition. There is likely to be little respite for Philip Morris on this front as British American Tobacco has affirmed its commitment to meet consumer expectation with respect to prices in the low-price category. View Interactive Institutional Research (Powered by Trefis): Global Large Cap | U.S. Mid & Small Cap | European Large & Mid Cap | More Trefis Research Like our charts? Embed them in your own posts using the Trefis WordPress Plugin.* *
Glasgow has highest lung disease death rate in Britain - BBC News

The incidence of lung conditions in Scotland is blamed on historic smoking rates and heavy industry Scotland's urban areas, particularly around Glasgow, have the highest lung disease mortality rates in Britain, a new report has found. People living in the city are almost twice as likely to die from lung disease as those in Stirling, according to the British Lung Foundation (BLF). The charity said historic smoking rates were partly to blame for the serious health problems. But it believes heavy industry has also led to high rates of lung conditions. The BLF has called on the Scottish government and NHS Scotland to set up an "independent taskforce" to produce a strategy for tackling lung health in Scotland. Its report, The Battle for Breath: the Impact of Lung Disease in the UK, is the result of a three-year study. It has been hailed as "the most comprehensive overview of lung disease in a decade".

The study's findings include: Rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer are highest in Scotland. The conditions are commonly caused by smoking. Scotland has higher rates of less common lung conditions like pneumoconiosis, caused by inhaling dusts and chemicals in the workplace. Parts of Scotland with a history of shipbuilding have high rates of the asbestos related cancer, mesothelioma. Scotland has among the highest rates in the UK of conditions such as asthma, sarcoidosis and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) - but reasons are unclear. The UK-wide report reveals that lung disease is one of the UK's "big three" killers - alongside heart disease and cancer. It found that one person dies of lung disease, and five more are diagnosed, every five minutes.

Scotland is "making great progress" in some aspects of tackling lung disease, with lung cancer awareness campaigns and in tackling smoking. But Irene Johnstone, Head of the British Lung Foundation Scotland, said thousands of people were dying every year from lung conditions not caused by tobacco. "New treatments" she added that any strategy to reduce lung cancer deaths in Scotland needed to be more wide-reaching. "This is why we need a national improvement plan for lung health in Scotland, to look at the full range of options available for fighting lung disease - from better awareness, screening and prevention, to improved data collection and sharing, and more integrated care," she said. "We have some of the UK's leading centres for lung disease research here in Scotland - let's invest in finding new treatments and cures to improve our lung health. "At the moment, we have the some of the highest rates of lung disease. But with the right attention from government and public health bodies, we can absolutely turn that round and lead the other countries in the UK and across Europe".

The Scottish government said while lung cancer remained the most common cancer in Scotland, it had fallen 14% in men and 11% in women. A spokeswoman said the government was committed to creating a "tobacco-free generation" by 2034. She added: "The Scottish government is working with a range of stakeholders including the Respiratory National Advisory Group to support improvement in care for people living in Scotland with the wide range of respiratory conditions."
Most Teen Smokers Also Turn to Alcohol, Drugs, Study Finds

By Robert Preidt, HealthDay Reporter

MONDAY, Dec. 12, 2016 (HealthDay News) -- Many U.S. teen smokers -- even those who only light up occasionally -- also use other drugs, a new study suggests. Of the 176 teen smokers in San Francisco who took part in the study, 96 percent said they'd used at least two other substances besides cigarettes. In most cases, those other substances were alcohol, marijuana and other tobacco products. However, 16 percent reported the use of harder drugs, such as cocaine, hallucinogens and Ecstasy, or the misuse of prescription medications. “Most of these adolescents smoked five or fewer cigarettes a day,” said study author Karma McKevelly. She’s a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco. “This tells us that multidrug use among adolescents may be more prevalent than we think, and that even kids who smoke only occasionally are likely to be doing other drugs,” she said in a university news release. The researchers also found that teens who used harder drugs at the start of the study were more likely than other teens to have depressive symptoms one, two and three years later. And the percentage of teens who used harder drugs remained consistent over the study period. This “implies that patterns of smoking and drug use established in adolescence can be chronic and persist over time,” McKevelly said. Depression scores might be used to better identify teens who would benefit from drug prevention and treatment programs, according to McKevelly. “When you ask a teenager if he or she is a smoker, the most likely answer will be no,” she said. “Adolescents do not necessarily identify as smokers, even if they do occasionally smoke cigarettes. However, kids who do not self-identify as smokers are more likely to be overlooked for inclusion in prevention and cessation programs, the idea being that if they don’t smoke, they’re less likely to drink or do drugs,” McKevelly explained. “Instead, let’s perhaps look at their depression scores,” she added. “Let’s ask adolescents how they’re feeling and doing. Go deeper and find out what’s really going on with them.” The study was published Dec. 12 in the journal Addictive Behaviors. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on youth and tobacco. Copyright © 2016 HealthDay. All rights reserved.
Powerful new opioids, overdose deaths worry EU drug agency

DATELINE: LISBON, Portugal

LISBON, Portugal (AP) - Potent new synthetic opioids that mimic the effects of heroin and morphine are a growing health threat in the European Union, the bloc's drug agency said Tuesday. The Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction also expressed concern in its annual report about a rise in drug overdose deaths in 2016 for the third consecutive year. Young people are exposed to increasing numbers of new and dangerous drugs, according to the agency. They include powerful synthetic opioids that are now also available as liquids and nasal sprays. “With only small volumes needed to produce many thousands of street doses, new synthetic opioids are easy to conceal and transport, posing a challenge for drug control agencies and a potentially attractive commodity for organized crime,” the European Drug Report said. On average, the agency identified more than one new psychoactive substance coming onto the EU black market each week in 2016. At the end of last year, it was monitoring more than 620 new psychoactive drugs that had appeared in recent years. Europe's most commonly used illicit drugs are cocaine, MDMA - also known as ecstasy - and amphetamines. The annual report also included the results of two surveys of 15- and 16-year-olds in the EU and United States, which indicated a decline in drinking and smoking tobacco among the school students, while cannabis consumption remains largely unchanged.

Source Title: AP

Kids' asthma rates quiet down after earlier increase: Study

DATELINE: CHICAGO

CHICAGO (AP) - Asthma rates in U.S. children have quieted down after a decades-long increase, a government study found, and researchers are trying to pinpoint reasons that would explain the trend. A possible plateau in childhood obesity rates and declines in air pollution are among factors that may have helped lower cases in kids, the 2001-13 study suggests. Overall, average asthma rates among kids aged 17 and younger increased slightly, then leveled off and declined by the study's end, when 8.3 percent of kids were affected. Rates varied among some regions, races and ages. The study was published online Monday in the journal Pediatrics. NUANCED TRENDS Childhood asthma rates doubled from 1980 to 1995, partly because of more awareness and diagnosis. The new study shows slower increases after that, rising to 9.3 by 2010. Declines in the most recent years were in children younger than 5, Mexican kids, those in the Midwest and those from families that weren't poor. Rates plateaued among whites and those living in the Northeast and West, but increased in those aged 10 to 17, kids from poor families and those living in the South. Rates increased but then plateaued among blacks. The study is based on annual in-person government health surveys in which parents of more than 150,000 kids were asked if their children had been diagnosed with asthma. Data not included
in the study show 2014 rates climbed slightly to 8.6 percent but it's not clear if that change was real, said lead author Dr. Lara Akinbami, a medical officer at the government’s National Center for Health Statistics. COMPETING FORCES Asthma’s causes are uncertain but authorities believe several factors play a role or trigger attacks, including air pollution, obesity, tobacco smoke, premature birth and respiratory infections in infancy. Competing changes in some of these factors complicate efforts to understand asthma trends, Akinbami said. For example, while U.S. air quality has generally improved from decades ago, children whose schools are built near congested expressways may not be benefiting. And while U.S. smoking rates have fallen, a warming climate may prolong growing seasons and kids' exposure to pollen. THE QUOTE Akinbami called the study overall good news since rates are down or mostly stable. “We're cautious because we never know that the next year is going to show,” she said.

Online: Pediatrics: http://www.pediatrics.org Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at http://www.twitter.com/LindseyTanner . Her work can be found at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/lindsey-tanner"

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 1

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Article Content: KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE, THE FIVE SHOW CO-HOST: Hello, everyone. I'm Kimberly Guilfoyle along with Bob Beckel, Eric Bolling, Katie Pavlich and Greg Gutfeld. The 5 o’clock in New York City and this is The Five. GUILFOYLE: Our commander in chief says, “We’re going to degrade and destroy ISIS, but if he really committed to the fight.” Airstrike haven't stopped the terror network from just raising its black flag near the Syrian city of Kobani. John McCain call the president campaign so far, reckless. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JOHN MCCAIN, UNITED STATES SENATOR: There’s a town called Kobani surrounded by ISIS and if it falls, there's gonna be a mass slaughter. And there will be no one better indication of the ineffectiveness and recklessness of this air campaign we're now seeing. (END OF VIDEO CLIP) GUILFOYLE: Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters agree that he's accusing President Obama of just launching strike for political reasons. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) LT.COL. RALPH PETERS, FOX NEWS STRATEGIC ANALYST: Our president who launched this phony air campaign, basically to absolve him of any blame to get him through -- his party through in November elections. This air campaign has been paltry from the start, he warned them we're coming, he hit empty buildings in the dead of night, he doesn't want casualties, not only civilian casualties, he doesn't even want a lot of dead terrorists. (END OF VIDEO CLIP) GUILFOYLE: And it's not just critics from the right, taking the president to task for the continued rise of ISIS, his former defense secretary says, “he should have followed through on that red line he set for Syria.” (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) LEON PANETTA, FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY: The most important thing that the president has is the credibility of our word, when he drew the red line in Syria I think it was the right thing to do. But once you draw that line, and he did, then I think the credibility in the United States
is on the line, that really somehow began to pull back. I sent a mixed message not only to Assad, not only to the Syrian, but to the world. (END OF VIDEO CLIP)

GUILFOYLE: There we have it, Leon Panetta, you take. KATIE PAVLICH, THE FIVE SHOW GUEST CO-HOST: Well, I think that the president needs to take a hard look at what the point of this is, I mean he's clearly made a huge mistake by telling the enemy that they -- we're not gonna implement ground troops, because now they have readjusted their strategy, right? They're going into these areas in a way that we can't get to and we have that the question of, “Is this really going to work in a way?” he says, “If we hold on to account to his own statements, which is to degrade and destroy ISIS.” First of all, we're not degrading them really and we're certainly not destroying them, they're on the march. And so until President Obama start to treat them like they're not the JV team, they're not gonna act like the JV team. And blowing up a couple of trucks here and there certainly isn't stopping them and we're starting to see them marching as close to Turkey as they're gonna get much we do something else. GUILFOYLE: Given what we have been doing in air campaign, you would expect at least some better results been said they're taunting, “21 ISIS militants are deceased” so is that we were supposed to clapped about and applaud. PAVLICH: Right, out of 31,000, right? And that's the other thing if they're still recruiting, people are going over, they're recruiting something like, 5,000 fighters at a time and we're touting this idea that we're killing a couple here and there. I mean, this is a huge problem, and if the United States doesn't want to have a long war, like Philip (ph) always complains about, then we need to get in there and get the job done and get out.

BOB BECKEL, THE FIVE SHOW CO-HOST: OK. So now -- unless you guys are right, we got two trucks and 21 big one, I was from campaign for 60 days, I just want to sure your facts right. GUILFOYLE: Bob. BECKEL: Peters by the way, with all due respect, is the most ridiculous comment I've heard anybody make. Because I could not understand it very well but, it is probably called and could be forgiven but the point here is to suggest that the commander in chief will do something like that to get you through a fall election, it's one of the -- it's just -- well, it's somebody that's been out of the military too long. GREG GUTFELD, THE FIVE SHOW CO-HOST: But, OK. Two things, President Obama is a political magic 8-ball. Whenever you go to him, every answers there was gonna be political. However, we are talking about American lives and I don't think that he's doing this for political reasons. But when you talk about what critical things are said about Obama, you got to remember what was said about President Bush during the Iraq war and how vile that was to make anything said about President Obama look like a butterfly kiss. This stuff is mile compared to the stuff that was a -- (CROSSTALK) GUTFELD: Preminisce to call Bush, Bush Hitler. But I do think there is point to be made, that the issue is trepidation, and war was supposed to be waged, it's not supposed to be manicured like a Zen garden. And because of this procrastination, the campaign has become less efficient, we're bombing vacant buildings. I called it airaoke, its karaoke air strikes, they -- which are seem more perfunctory than they actually are substantive and I think that's the problem. BECKEL: You don't believe that's the strategy do you? That they picked out empty.

(CROSSTALK) ERIC BOLLING, THE FIVE SHOW CO-HOST: And that is the problem. Look, I'm gonna agree with what the president is doing with the exception of he has no strategy. What's the end game if you add -- GUILFOYLE: So what are you agreeing with? (LAUGHTER) GUTFELD: Eric campaign. GUILFOYLE: That's it. BOLING: Look, Muslims have been fighting for Jihad for 1,500 years. We're not going to wipe out ISIS, we'll turn ISIS into another form of Jihad, but they will continue to fight it, they'll continue to hate the west, they'll continue to hate anybody who frankly doesn't ascribe to their call of faith. So what is the strategy? Isn't to degrade and destroy? May be that's a little bit too aggressive, may be it should be punish these people for what they're doing. Look, we have two beheaded Americans. GUILFOYLE: I don't understand this. So you want to put ISIS in the corner, like on a stool and say, “you've got a time
out?” That's not gonna work. BOLLING: Here's I wanna do, as of at. GUILFOYLE: Its punish. BOLLING: At the beginning of June, the ISIS -- against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, we've hit Syria 104 times air strikes and in Iraq 265 for a total of 1,000 about 1,100 bombs dropped on this group in that period of time. That's not enough, you just go after them, you hit them, hurt them, and if they behead another American, hit them again and hurt them even more. But I just -- I don't know that we have had one American death. We have had one marine who, I believe is considered a casualty of this war so far, of this portion of the war. I'm -- I like that number low. GUILFOYLE: Well, sure but you know, but do you like terror better? I mean this is the problem. BOLLING: You never gonna get strategic war and never gonna eradicate terror, we're fools if you think the war on terror is a winnable war, it's a manageable war, but not a winnable war.

(CROSSTALK) BECKEL: Your approach is to recognize its rules are put on the ground here, right? GUILFOYLE: My approach is to do whatever it takes to get it done. I don't want to hear their name again, I want do their job right so that other generations don't have to suffer from it. And we have the military that has the wherewithal to do it and get it done right. And they're frustrated, marching straight over to Turkey to the border. (CROSSTALK) BECKEL: This start was out in the empire 2,000 years ago. PAVLICH: OK. But we're in a position now. We're not just talking about a terrorist group here, a terrorist group there, we're talking about a terrorist group that is 40,000 strong now they are an army and they have two countries that they have taken over and they're not going to stop. They're going to continue on.

GUILFOYLE: Bob, I want to see your eyeballs roll like that. PAVLICH: Exactly, so there -- we're not talking about some terror group and stopping a small cell here, we're talking about a huge portion of the Middle East that's been taken over. And to Kimberly's point, what is the point here? I mean the president complained and actually pulled the troops out of Iraq in the first place because he said we had been there too long. Why then are we engaged in a campaign that is going to take a long time to get the job done? And this idea that we're gonna take a year to train the moderate Syrians to fight out ISIS when be trained Iraq army couldn't do it. The only people that are capable of doing it is the U.S. military with forces and maybe some of these coalition forces. GUILFOYLE: I don't think we have a year to wait and waste time. PAVLICH: Yeah, and they have already taken so much land. BOLLING: What's ends goal if we win in full force as many boots under, as many troops as we needed. The end goal, will we defeat Al Qaeda and Khorasan and ISIS and all the forms of terrorism in the Middle East least? Or do we just shoot them to another country. That's -- rebirth. PAVLICH: I think taking out tens of thousands of them is a good start, stopping the recruiting and President Obama listening to his military leaders when they say all of them, pretty much, including people who have left the administration, who worked under both Bush and Obama saying, “this is what you’ve sweet done (ph) what you’re doing is mission impossible” that is something that we can start with. BECKEL: I don't want to give you a geography lesson, Katie, but if you say the whole chunks of the Middle East, that is ridiculous. It probably less. PAVLICH: You don't think Syria and Iraq are huge chunks of Middle East? BECKEL: No, no, not the Middle East. BOLLING: But they -- they have been won and they been lost and they been won over countless tens of centuries.

(CROSSTALK) GUILFOYLE: I don't know what happened here. GUTFELD: No, but were actually. GUILFOYLE: This table is getting sauce and I thank Katie wore her boots. (LAUGHTER) GUTFELD: We can agree on one thing and that is terror is at a minimum a 30- year war, Panetta is right on that. But that shouldn't keep us for want him to destroy them completely. HGU: Thank you. GUTFELD: So I think -- I think you could be right and said this thing is -- is this thing is ongoing, but so was it like getting up in the morning and going to the gym. That killing terrorists is just like going to the gym, you get up, you do what every day to make your life a little better. And we have this -- we have the best killing machine ever created in the history of the world, this is what it is made for, to eradicate evil and evil will
always be here, that’s the nature of the world. (CROSSTALK) BECKEL: Are we supposed to take care of the Middle East? GUILFOYLE: And by the way, and by the way they're ready to answer the call. GUTFELD: It’s our responsibility to eradicate those were a threat to America. And they are a threat to America. (CROSSTALK) BOLLING: Can I agree to Greg. GUILFOYLE: They're a direct threat to the United States of America and our military is ready, willing and able to serve. We don't have a draft in this country. We don't have to force people to serve. (CROSSTALK) BOLLING: I said we all agreeing on the same thing or we're just debating on what method of doing it. GUILFOYLE: So if you think, OK. BOLLING: We all feel terror. GUILFOYLE: What? Is not air strike then what? BOLLING: I said air strikes. (CROSSTALK) GUILFOYLE: The military commanders have said that's not gonna work. BOLLING: We have done 400 air strikes in six months, 400. How about 200 a day? I mean, when we went into Iraq, we -- there I think. GUILFOYLE: Eric. BOLLING: There were more than 100 air strikes the first day in Iraq. We have done 400 in six months. GUILFOYLE: But all the credible experts agree that this is not working, it is woefully insufficient to get the job done. PAVLICH: The former head of the marine corps, the head of central command, I mean Leon Panetta has said this, Oliver north has said this, I mean, all of the attend (ph) military commanders who are both retired and currently serving have said, a Martin Dempsey came in front of congress and said, “if ground -- if air force are strikes do not work, we will have to send in ground troops” and the American people have said, “we support air strikes and if they fail” which they are failing -- BECKEL: How do you know that? How do you say that? GUILFOYLE: Bob, are you paying attention? Are you paying attention what's going on? (CROSSTALK) GUTFELD: They are moving on. I mean they are about to take another city. GUILFOYLE: Marching and raising the flag. They've got this open. BECKEL: I tell you, if I was in New Jersey, I would be worried about it. GUILFOYLE: You know what? You can make a joke about this, but this is a real threat to the United States. BECKEL: This is American -- these Americans men and women have to go and fight a war that they should be fighting. (CROSSTALK) GUTFELD: But they want to. GUILFOYLE: Give them a chance. GUTFELD: I think the military is more than happy to hear the media concerned about them, but they are happy to do this, this is the volunteer army and then are trained to do this and they're looking for who -- It may be a holy war for our military as well, not just for them. GUILFOYLE: But that's what I've been trying to say, I don't understand. They have taken those, and they've signed up, they want to be part of this, they believe in this country, they want to fight for freedom and liberty and for the gains that we achieved in the Middle East. (CROSSTALK) BOLLING: In the Middle East, that's what this fight is about. And that's part of the problem. GUILFOYLE: Alright. OK, let's talk about them, let's have Bob's favorite suggest, the administration, President Obama, Biden once again, Biden is the new Bob and this is what he had to say, suggesting last week that Turkey, the UAE and the Saudi support the extremist in Syria. We’re gonna take it around. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JOE BIDE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERIC: Our allies in the region were our largest problem in Syria. The Turks were great friends, the Saudi’s, the Emiratis’, etcetera. They were so determined to take down Assad, and essentially we have a proxy Sunni-Shia war, what did they do? They poured $100,000,000 and 10,000 tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against Assad, expect to the people who were being -- who were being supply were all in Syria (ph) and Al Qaeda. (END OF VIDEO CLIP) GUILFOYLE: Alright, Bolling? BOLLING: Well, he was right. GUILFOYLE: About the money? BOLLING: He was right about a lot of things, I mean, we don’t really know who we were supplying, we don’t know who we were arming and that’s part of the problem. It offended some of the Arab coalitions, so he had to make the official anthology, but, look he was -- he was right. Look, you know how I feel about this. You say what you mean, you mean what you say, and ifs -- if you have to apologize, I guess. GUTFELD: There will never a yell-- what’s interesting, though? I have been on this
planet for a long time, 20 years. No one ever apologizes to America, nobody says, “hey, guys, sorry about those terrorist that came from our country.” I don't get the apologize -- we apologize for everything including the good stuffs we do. When you grade things into this world and then we have to apologize for exporting values that make you live longer. BECKEL: And that's it -- it is a good point but I mean, let's also say that what Biden said, if anybody here can factually suggest us that Saudi Arabia has not funded terrorism. I mean is what Joe said was the truth the problem is, he shouldn't have said it because it was. GUKFOYLE: Well, it doesn't help the coalitions that a love sandwich trying to make this work out. PAVLICH: What Bob, I actually completely agree with you, I was surprised that these countries were offended that we would -- even accuse them of funding terrorism. And of Bin Laden came from Saudi Arabia, let's be real. So the fact were apologizing now to these countries who -- not only a funded terrorist, a Harvard (ph) terrorist, I think it's right. BOLLING: If he doesn't apologize, exactly what happens, I'm not sure. PAVLICH: The coalition falls apart. And they go back to their.. BOLLING: Will they really fall apart? PAVLICH: Of course, they're looking for any reason to leave the coalition. They wanna leave so bad. GUILFOYLE: It should be stronger than that it's unfortunate, isn't it? Once again, calling America. Ahead on The Five, an American teen is arrested for trying to join ISIS. Greg, thinks the fed, should let him go. GUTFELD: Yeah. GUILFOYLE: He's gonna tell us why. GUTFELD: So imagine you're throwing a party and some obnoxious guest wants to leave. Do you stop him or do you jail him in your garage? Of course not, you toss him out like the stinky garbage he is, which is common sense. I like how we treated the Chicago team busted on O'Hare for trying to join ISIS. Muhammad Hassan Khan, no doubt a tea party or Mr. Affleck, was arrested before heading to Istanbul. If convicted, he'll face 15 years in jail, which really means two, and thanks to prison, when he leaves, he'll be lean and lawyerly. He can sue you and do 100 pushups simultaneously and while in jail, I doubt he'll convert to Buddhism. So I say you let the dude go and follow him to Jihadist land then blow that places with the rings. (ph) It's obvious, a Western Jihadist is an amazing tool for Intel, a tracer that lead you to the target, he's the skeet. More important the straw (ph) had an express a hatred for western values, so we should be grateful that he is leaving. Unlike those who come here and stay with Sharia in mind, we need a martyr exaltation program, where we encourage the mawps (ph) to migrate. And as the self appointed Sally Struthers of infidel support, I'll buy the first one-way ticket to paradise myself. Think about it, for just pennies a day, you too can eliminate a dirt bag, and we'll send you a picture of your adopted martyr, once he's achieved nirvana, although it's probably not suitable for framing. So I think, I mean, there is -- I guess, Katie there is -- there is a logic to keeping him here because there's a fear that if he goes, he'll come back. But aren't we smart enough that when he goes, we can follow him? PAVLICH: apparently not. Because the problem that we're facing is that we can't keep these guys from coming back to United States. The way the law is written, they can't -- you can't just stripped off their passport because they haven't run out their citizenship, Ted Cruz introduce legislation about two weeks ago. GUILFOYLE: Right. PAVLICH: That would have allowed for the stripping of citizenship and therefore the passports and they couldn't come back. So I don't mind letting him go, but we need to work on keeping them there aspect of this, but yeah, following them right away knew the drone can fire it, it's from the airplane. That will work out pretty well. GUILFOYLE: Yeah, I mean, why do you put a GPS and put some take their phone, put something on there, trace some, drone them, something charming like that. GUILFOYLE: You're the James Bond to this show. PAVLICH: Love it. GUILFOYLE: I mean honestly, I'm about so constrained perhaps to sit here from 5 to 6, the things I could do. GUTFELD: But Bob, why didn't we stop them? I don't know. BECKEL: Listen, an example of the guest being thrown out of the party, I was many, many times. (LAUGHTER) And they should have let me keep going. I agree with you completely. Look, what it
is done, here's the good news about all this, we disagree on how to deal with this right now, but all the major Jihadists in the world are gathering for their conventions, in a relatively small area by the way, and what now we have to -- whether you decide you want to do it with troops I don't think we you should do, we can leave it aside, get let him go. GUTFELD: Yeah. BECKEL: I mean, I don't -- the idea that we can't track these guys is silly. BOLLING: You're making a very, very good point. Why not track him? Especially, this guy was gonna go -- the flight he was boarding was gonna go to Turkey. I mean, at least the Turks could follow him. GUTFELD: Yes, yeah. BOLLING: It's not like he's going to find his way into Pakistan or Afghanistan and get lost somewhere. We hope that they would pick them up on there on the side. But look what he say, he left a note to his parents saying, “He wanted to fight for ISIS because U.S. taxes were being used to kill Muslim, his Muslim brothers.” At that point, I'm going to agree with Katie and Ted Cruz well, you just -- you relinquish your citizenship at that moment. If you're treasonist, you should probably be sent to Gitmo (ph) and then go ahead water board the torch. (CROSSTALK) GUILFOYLE: Any other country, they don't have this problem. They don't unlock the moral will to be able to do something and say, “Listen, you have committed not to treason against this country, I'm not gonna be worried about hurting your legal feelings, give me your passport, your citizenship is revoked, so be it.” BECKEL: Well that every European country is like that. That's why treason got the problem they got VAT (ph) GUILFOYLE: No, they don't let people in, guess what? BECKEL: But they don't. GUILFOYLE: They don't let everybody come back. Anybody is coming from Liberia. BECKEL: I know, I know you're a worldwide travel, because I been in terrorist line and it's more Muslim there than they are. PAVLICH: Well they did it and then they learned their lesson and they. GUTFELD: Yeah, but it is too late. The genie is out of that bottle. (CROSSTALK) PAVLICH: You know the FBI is tracking these people they're just tracking them after they go fight for ISIS and come back to the United States and they're saying that they can't necessarily arrest them. GUILFOYLE: What about a porous border, I would have to say, I would just walk right on over from Mexico. BOLLING: It's easy to do. If anybody else concerned that -- call me on 60 minutes on Sunday night, we have our eye on 12. PAVLICH: Exactly. BOLLING: And I got to do this a lot more on 12. GUILFOYLE: That's the 12 that they know about. BOLLING: But he said he knew about all of them and there are 12. (CROSSTALK) BECKEL: It's not like congress would not know about them and they got out of the country so they can back on test. GUTFELD: Well here's -- there's this other interesting weird development. This is got to be the first, I guess engagement were -- it's also an online war. Catherine Herridge reported this morning that their ISIS and their sympathizers were threatening an air force pilot and his son on Facebook, they're sworn by sympathizers. This is a new thing, and I don't know how serious you take it, but given the fact that they are encouraging followers to go to military homes and slaughter them, this is just an internet troll. PAVLICH: Right. BECKEL: It's proven, it is proven already, that somebody is listening in, and this is something -- this guy is Oklahoma, all of a sudden then you'll find out that he probably got a lot of his information from those terror networks and web pages. But and by the way, before we leave segment, I wanted to be very clear. I have been the toughest one on this show on Muslims. That anybody. GUTFELD: Radical Muslims. BECKEL: And nobody said anything about it. GUILFOYLE: Radical Muslims Jihadists. BECKEL: As I said before, let me say today, Jihadist. (LAUGHTER) I was talking about this thing when nobody else was talking about it. And what I wasn't doing was leading the military campaign to get over there. I want you to do that, because you would be great at it. GUILFOYLE: I'm all got it. PAVLICH: Can be a done and out if Kimberly was in charge. GUILFOYLE: And I also would like to military families to stay off of social media and Facebook, we goes, go dark. GUTFELD: Really? GUILFOYLE: Yeah. GUTFELD: That isn't right. That I think they should. GUILFOYLE: I want them to be safe. GUTFELD: Why run from trolls? GUILFOYLE: You know why, because
be fell (ph) find a way to serve, find a way to get after them, they'll make it. GUTFELD: They have to use Facebook to talk to their -- to their husbands and wives who are away, you know? PAVLICH: Privacy settings. Change them. (CROSSTALK) GUTFELD: Screw these people. Screw these people that are harassing them. GUILFOYLE: Or Skype. GUTFELD: Don't let them stop you from what you're doing.

BOLLING: Alright. I think we have it. GUILFOYLE: Why don't we eliminate them so we don't have this problem anymore? That's what I'm saying. BECKEL: Every one of them. GUILFOYLE: Greg. GUTFELD: Alright. Coming up, is one of America's most popular TV shows Islamophobic? What some politically correct critics are saying about homeland when he come back. BOLLING: Well, you all know by now homeland is one of my favorite TV shows. Watch. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNKWON: We should go. UNKNOWN: Wait. Wait. (END OF VIDEO CLIP) BOLLING: Well, season four kicked off Sunday. The lead character is a CIA agent now stationed in Pakistan. Most critics love “Homeland,” but others are panning it, calling it Islamophobic. One writer in The Washington Post just said it’s the most bigoted show on television, riddled with basic errors about Islam and filled with absurd stereotypes. I want to bring it around, Greg. It's a TV show. GUTFELD: Yes, it is. Can I point out the writer is an activist who writes for The Socialist Worker? So it’s not even about Islam. It’s not about Islam; it’s about being anti-west. This is somebody that is accusing this show, which is approximately for the United States, of racism. In fact, she says actually “Homeland” perpetuates racist ideas that have real consequences. The accusation of bigotry always arises as a defense against hate facts. These are the facts that you hate because you cannot dispute them.” She cannot dispute so she has to call everybody racist. BOLLING: Katie, four seasons now, there's a lot of things that are very, very close to what's really going on in the world, and maybe that's what scares people who are worried about things like Islamophobia. PAVLICH: I think that they just need to distinguish that this is a television show. This is fiction, as you mentioned at the top of the segment. And if there are exaggerations or things that are not true, it's because the show isn't true, and it's written by people based on maybe world events, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's true. Are Brad Thor (ph) books homophobic - Islamophobic, as well. I mean, there's plenty of literature you can look at that is based on world events and pull any of these things out, whether it's Islam or other situations. So I just think it's ridiculous. BOLLING: That's part of the problem. It's so close to reality that they feel that... PAVLICH: Maybe it's -- maybe it's so close to reality that they're uncomfortable, as Greg said, with maybe some of the truth coming out about what they're all about. BECKEL: That wouldn't be - - if it wasn't for what's going on at the same time is not an issue. It is a TV show. But it's going on at a time of Kimberly's (ph) war. So you're going to get this. BOLLING: All right. Listen, yesterday we showed you Ben Affleck on a panel with Bill Maher, arguing over public criticism of radical Islam. Last night Bill O'Reilly weighed on in that debate. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BILL O'REILLY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Militant Islam continues to draw worldwide terrorism, and there are plenty of sanctuaries from which to commit their evil. Ben Affleck should well understand that he himself would be beheaded in a heartbeat by these ISIS animals and that even though they are the most extreme element of the Jihad, they're not that far away from their fanatical cousins. (END VIDEO CLIP) BOLLING: K.G. GUILFOYLE: I mean, here's the problem I have. Islam is a religion. And people keep saying, “Oh, you're racist.” Race is talking about a religion? I mean, they don't even understand the terminology. They're making these blanket statements, getting hysterical, throwing it out there instead of understanding the history, understanding the cause, the news, what's going on and the different facets of it. So they're speaking in a way that I find to be very ignorant. BOLLING: Along these lines of something K.G. just said. People are saying if you're -- if you have a big issue with this, you could be racist instead of Islamophobic. Is one worse than the other? BECKEL: No. The racist part floors me. You have to keep in mind that this is a religion that
these people follow that are killing a religious people, Christians, who were there before many of them.

GUILFOYLE: And they're... GUTFELD: But they're also killing Muslims. Muslims are killing more Muslims than Christians. The interesting thing about the writer, The Washington Post article and Ben Affleck is they don't mention radical Islam's attacks on women. And interesting thing also about the article in The Washington Post is the woman mentions that one of the creators is Jewish, and I wonder why she puts that in there. PAVLICH: Yes, well, I think if we're going to be consistent with western values, both liberals and conservatives, that people like Ben Affleck, if they're really going to be out there parading for gay rights and women's rights, then they should probably speak up against radical Islam where they're hanging gays off bridges and stoning women in the street for going out without the proper headgear.

GUILFOYLE: And this is all in the name of a religion, of using Sharia law and their interpretation of the Koran to justify these heinous crimes that are being committed. BOLLING: Did you see -- after we talked about this yesterday, did you see Bill Maher explain to Salon what he was really saying? He literally didn't walk back his comment, but he wanted to explain to all his fans, I guess, who are giving him a hard time, why he just seemed so weak and so shallow. GUTFELD: I think his point is that, if you're a liberal, you should defend liberal beliefs. BOLLING: Right. Above all. Above all. GUTFELD: And also if you wanted to make clear that he thinks all religion is stupid, he just finds at the moment Islam is the most potentially harmful or radical Islam is the most potentially harmful of the religions. BECKEL: Here's the good news. Finally, the Muslim community is beginning worldwide to speak out, and that's a good sign. BECKEL: All right. We're going to have to leave it there. Up next, is Colorado's governor second-guessing his state's decision to legalize pot? We'll have that Democrat coming up on “The Five.” PAVLICH: A lot of folks in Colorado are happy the state became the first to legalize marijuana in 2012. But its Democratic governor isn't one of them. John Hickenlooper actually says it wasn't such a good idea and is warning other governors to think twice. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A number of other states are looking at what Colorado has done when it comes to recreational marijuana. Was Colorado's move a mistake? GOV. JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D), COLORADO: To do that without having all the data, there is not enough data, and to a certain extent, you could say it was reckless. I'm not saying it was reckless, because I'll get quoted everywhere. But if it was up to me, I wouldn't have done it. I've opposed it from the very beginning. Oh, what the hell? I'll say it's reckless. (END VIDEO CLIP) PAVLICH: He's going to say it's reckless. So Bob, there are three other states -- well, Washington, D.C. isn't a state -- but Washington, D.C., Alaska and Oregon who are considering -- they're putting this on the ballot next month for legalization. What, do you think they're going to heed his warning? Or do you think they're going to go through? BECKEL: No, I don't think -- the problem with studies and facts about drugs and alcohol, is that there are so many varying studies that you can find. The idea that there's a definitive study on the impact of marijuana and that it is addictive, which having been down that road myself many times, it is not. Whether it does corrode certain parts of your brain, a lot of things do. Kimberly does to me once in a while. GUILFOYLE: I definitely improved your brain. BECKEL: But I just -- I'm a little bit -- this guy said he was -- we needed more facts. Well, facts are facts are facts. Greg, you're the fact guy. GUTFELD: Well, there's a lot of -- there's a lot of studies that come out, and it's true with Bob, like the percentage of drinkers who become alcoholics is higher than the percentage of pot smokers who become heavy users. You don't hear about that. Pot's effect on I.Q.'s, they've been saying it lowers your I.Q. But it may be the behavior, the fact that somebody who tends to smoke a lot of dope misses the key information from school that would help you in an I.Q. test. It has to do with the fact that it's stealing time from education. The fact is, pot does affect your brain, and that's why you shouldn't do it all day, just like booze, sugar and cable TV. All of them will destroy you if you do it 24/7. PAVLICH: Yes. I want to
bring up the study that, it’s actually one of the most expensive studies done on marijuana in the past 20 years. It’s a 20-year study on the long-term effects of cannabis by professional Wayne Hall. And it’s -- he’s an advisor to the World Health Organization. He found that one in sixteen -- one in sixteen marijuana users become dependent on marijuana if they use it on a regular basis. Intellectual development is impaired for heavy using teens. It doubles the risk of developing psychotic disorders, including schizophrenia. So this is a 20-year exhaustive study when all of the other studies we’ve seen, Kimberly, have been very... GUTFELD: I hate to use a pun; it’s a rehash. PAVLICH: A rehash? GUTFELD: It’s a rehash. I just went through some of the things that disprove what he said. I’m sorry, go ahead. GUILFOYLE: No, no, no, this is a great debate. You’re engaged in it. I’m happy to hear your voice. GUTFELD: The percentage of drinkers that become alcoholics is higher. If you look at percentage of who die in car crashes, 31 percent are from drinking. Maybe 18 percent had pot, but they also might have been drinking at the same time. So you can’t even put that on pot. Can I just add one little weird theory? It’s Jacob Stallen (ph), who’s a brilliant writer. Marijuana impairs driving less dramatically than booze. If it is substituted for booze, you might actually see less traffic fatalities if more people smoked marijuana than drink. In fact, total traffic fatalities, as marijuana consumption increases. It’s gone 20 percent fewer, from 2012 inks back perhaps to the fact that maybe more people are smoking. GUILFOYLE: But when you think about driving, though, think about the other crimes that are committed, or people using it as a gateway drug into other more serious or harder drugs. It’s the first step. (CROSSTALK) GUILFOYLE: In the study, they... GUTFELD: You’ve been smoking, haven’t you? BOLLING: ... and I don’t. But let me give you the fiscal side of things. PAVLICH: Numbers. Yes, numbers. BOLLING: Tax revenue has gone up in Colorado. It probably would go up in any state that legalized it. And if you don’t go so far as legalizing it, you probably are going to see a push to decriminalize it in states which means you’ll save a ton of money with over-occupied prison systems, jail systems at the state level. GUILFOYLE: That’s the Democratic-libertarian argument. BECKEL: Can I make one fast point. This guy says this it is addictive. Being an addict myself, addiction means when your drug of choice is removed, you have a physical reaction to it. You have to have it, or you have to go through the DTs or you have to go through whatever to get through it. I have yet to see in all my years of both rehabs and working with alcoholics and working with drug addicts, I have never seen anybody go -- getting the Jones off of marijuana. BOLLING: But you have seen people step up from marijuana when they can’t get high any more from marijuana. GUILFOYLE: This is all insane. Not so innocent. GUTFELD: I think alcohol is the biggest gateway drug there is. I never did anything bad until I started drinking. PAVLICH: Well, we’re all going to need a drink after the show, I’m sure. GUTFELD: I’m buying. PAVLICH: Coming up next, who are the most generous people in America? The wealthy or the poor? And where do they live, in red states or blue states? The answers may surprise you, coming up on “The Five.” BECKEL: That is an awful song. I apologize. Americans are generous people. And according to a new analysis of IRS data, it’s not just the wealthy who are charitable in this country. From 2006 to 2012, poor Americans actually increased donations to charity while their incomes were going down. The rich decreased their donations. The study also shows which states as a whole gave the most. The top ones all happened to be red ones. Yes. The top five are Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Utah is No. 1. Eric, you were suggesting about Utah what? BOLLING: I think the people you saw there, they’re -- it’s a heavily Mormon population. and they tithe. They give a lot of money of their incomes. BECKEL: Twenty percent. BOLLING: Surprising, though, the top 1 percent, the top even 1 to 5 percent have done very well in the last couple of years. I’m surprised to see them back off their giving. GUILFOYLE: Why do you think that is? BECKEL: Because they... BOLLING: It’s probably a raw number, in other words they’re probably giving
the same percentage, but it's not -- they're not giving -- I'm sorry, they're giving the same amount, but not the same percentage of their income, so as their income is going up... GUILFOYLE: They're not investing it. They're not investing. BECKEL: That was a good try. They're just not giving as much money. PAVLICH: This is the number that actually caught my eye, was the $200,000 number. So Americans who make more than $200,000 a year are typically people who own small businesses. So the way that they offer charity isn't through donating money; it's through creating jobs. And they're maybe not donating the extra money they had to charity, because now they're dealing with a lot of government regulations. Obamacare is a big one. So I don't think that's really fair to say they're not being generous, considering what they have to spend the money to... BECKEL: You just hijacked my segment. GUILFOYLE: Did you see how amazing that was? BECKEL: I mean, what -- right away. PAVLICH: They don't have the money. BECKEL: My entire -- what is it called, the Stockholm Syndrome? You're taking hostage my story -- block here. So be quiet. I don't want to talk about Obamacare. No, it was a good point, I think. Now Greg, your giving has gone up? GUTFELD: Yes. Here's my theory on the difference between income -- the richer you get, the more it might be reflective of an education. And the more educated you are, you tend to be less religious, and we see that trend happening. Charity is often a product of a community, which is often bound together by faith. And that raises the question, what happens when religion declines? Who replaces, what replaces religion in terms of tying a community together and encouraging charity? Somebody's got to figure that out, because it doesn't look good. BECKEL: You know, that's what Greg was saying -- or Eric was saying about Mormons. They do tithe; 15 to 20 percent of their income goes to the church and to charity. They do wonderful things. GUTFELD: That Mitt Romney was a terrible person. GUILFOYLE: Horrible. Thirty million dollars a year. BECKEL: I was trying to support your point. GUTFELD: No, no. I was saying that he was such a good man, but it didn't matter. GUILFOYLE: I know. I was so upset about it. We miss you, Mitt. BOLLING: And I just -- you notice the other four in the top five were all southern states? BECKEL: Yes. BOLLING: The people in the south, right? BECKEL: Always have been. BOLLING: Fantastic. GUILFOYLE: Oh, Bob's... BECKEL: It was the war of northern aggression, and don't suggest that it's over. They're simply waiting for resupplies? PAVLICH: What are you talking about? BECKEL: Just what you were talking about, which is take my whole segment and taking it into Obamacare. So now I'm going to take mine into something else. PAVLICH: I'm just saying people who make that much money, $200,000 number, are typically people who are giving others jobs. And when they have extra money, think have extra charity money. BECKEL: That's not the point of this segment. OK? GUILFOYLE: Yes, it is. BECKEL: It's a good point, yes. But I mean... GUILFOYLE: Gee, Bob. She made a good point. Here's the deal, that's what happens. BECKEL: That was a very tough thing to say right there. I mean, it was just -- that was a gut shot, that one. And I really don't appreciate it. OK, now. GUILFOYLE: I'm not sorry. BECKEL: You know we're struggling here? I'm going to tell you why. Normally, my blocks last 90 seconds, and today it's four minutes. GUILFOYLE: Now you know what to do. Please adjust the timing. You see? BECKEL: I got to put up with you guys all week long, being outnumbered. GUILFOYLE: Couldn't we find a better way? BECKEL: What? OK, now let's go. “One More Thing” is up next. GUILFOYLE: Well, it's time now for “One More Thing.” Are you excited? I am. Did you guys check out Jimmy Kimmel? Because as always, he is very, very funny. And he asked Americans, went to people and said, “Hey, who is Joe Biden?” These answers are hilarious. Take a look. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Who is Joe Biden? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I have no idea. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Want to take a guess? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A man. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Joe Biden? I don't know. A terrorist group, I guess. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Who is Joe Biden? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No comment. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Joe Biden, is he a movie star? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Who is Joe
Biden? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Joe Biden? I don't know who that is. (END VIDEO CLIP) GUILFOYLE: All right, do they all vote? That's my concern. Bolling, what do you got for me? You're agreeing over there.

BOLLING: OK. So 272 points down in the Dow today, a lot going on over there on the FOX business network, you should check it out if you get a chance to. Europe getting a little bit weak, China also saying their growth projections may back off a little bit. Take a look at the chart very quickly. The S&P over the last year and a day on the S&P. Watch, some important numbers got taken out of the downside rate there. You know what? Basically it turns into the stock market probably has a little bit more to go south, maybe 500 to 1,000 points. So if you're an investor or looking to invest, pull up. Give it a little time to breathe. GUILFOYLE: And if you don't have FBN, demand it. BOLLING: Right. GUILFOYLE: OK, Greg. GUTFELD: All right. It's time for... (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) GUTFELD: Greg's Sports Corner. (END VIDEO CLIP) GUTFELD: And is this a good one. We've got the International Kangaroo Street Fighting Championship, which took place in Perth. Check this out. They're not booing him; they're “roo”-ing him. Kangarooing him, that is. In a typical ritualized fight where you have high standing posture, with pawing direct at the chest and head, locking forearms and wrestling. By the way, they were fighting over a parking space. Harsh. Anyway... GUILFOYLE: You sure that wasn't in L.A.? GUTFELD: The -- let's come back to me. An interesting kangaroo fact. A kangaroo releases no flatulence, which is methane. Scientists are now interested in transferring the bacteria in kangaroos to cattle, because the gases effects of cattle are 23 times greater than carbon dioxide. Kangaroos, because they can't pass wind, may save our planet, ladies and gentlemen. BECKEL: You're about to make me throw up. GUILFOYLE: This is, like, the weirdest show. Bob. BECKEL: And I'm following up your kangaroos with my “One More Thing.” There's a lot of dog lovers around here. I'm not one of them. But I want to show you what happens when these cute little dogs you all like so much -- look what they do to this poor old guy. Like, he comes in there to pet those puppies. They bring him down, that one's got his ear. That's a gut shot right in the middle. That one's got the hand. And they're little puppies. Imagine when they get big. They're going to ruin the whole neighborhood. This poor guy, look at him. He's dying. GUILFOYLE: OK. This has now become Animal Planet. PAVLICH: Well, I have a public service announcement. Winter is coming, it is flu season. It is cold season. If you're going to cough or sneeze, either in your home, in public or on public transportation, you do not do this into your hands. You sneeze into your elbow and your biceps. You're helping everyone stay clean. You're helping everyone stay healthy. GUTFELD: You just offended somebody. PAVLICH: Just make sure you sneeze in your elbow and not in your hand. Thank you very much. GUILFOYLE: Like a kindergarten class. BOLLING: What do you do if your bicep is too big? GUILFOYLE: I don't know, Bolling. Guns and (UNINTELLIGIBLE). Before we go, we're celebrating an anniversary here today at FOX. Thank you to big boss Roger Ailes, who launched this network 18 years ago, the most powerful name in news. GUTFELD: We're legal. GUILFOYLE: We'll all so very proud to be a part of it. That's it for us. “Special Report” is next. BECKEL: Bye-bye."

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Article Title: SHOW: THE O'REILLY FACTOR 8:00 PM EST Battle for America's Children; America Going to Pot; Rise of the Machines"
Article Content: BILL O’REILLY, FOX NEWS HOST: Special edition of THE O’REILLY FACTOR is on tonight. The battle for America’s children. Tonight we investigate the dangers of marijuana use as the legalization of pot creeps into our society. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) PATRICK KENNEDY, FORMER RHODE ISLAND CONGRESSMAN: They are going to target teenagers. They’re going to make their money off of people like myself who are addicts. And I just don’t think this is the kind of thing that makes our country stronger. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: How harmful is texting and the Internet to our kids? David Schwimmer and Meghan McCain discuss the dangers. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Every day 160,000 kids skip school because they are bullied and the Internet is just making it worse. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: Also, Jesse Watters hits the streets of Denver to find out just how destructive marijuana use can be firsthand. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JESSE WATTERS, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: What do you do on a daily basis? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Wake up. Throw a morning bowl (ph). WATTERS: So if someone came to you and they said I have this job it pays about $50,000. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If I’m in an office, I can’t do it. (END VIDEO CLIP) O’REILLY: Caution, you are about to enter the No Spin Zone. THE FACTOR begins right now. Hi, I’m Bill O’Reilly. Thanks for watching us tonight. Is America going to pot? That is the subject of this evening’s “Talking Points Memo”. As you may know, I believe the increasing acceptance of marijuana among American young people is a bad thing for the country. And now even some liberal media people are agreeing with me. Tina Browne, former editor of “Newsweek” tweeted, quote: “Legal weed contributes to us being a fatter, dumber, sleepier nation even less able to compete with the Chinese,” unquote. That’s true. The stats back it up. Let’s take it step-by-step. If you use any intoxicating agent, your goal is to leave reality. You’re not satisfied with your current state of mind. You want to get high, buzzed, blasted, whatever. Some adults can handle that on occasion, others cannot. So it’s literally Russian roulette. But putting intoxicating agents in the hands of children can be devastating. According to research by the Society for the Study of Addiction, teenagers using marijuana before the age of 18 are two to four times more likely to develop psychosis compared to those who don’t. One in six children who try pot will become addicted according to the National Institutes of Health. And the latest study by that organization says that nearly 23 percent of seniors in American high schools right now admit to smoking marijuana recently. That’s an incredible stat. So why is this all happening? One of the reasons is because the pot legalizers have made the drug glamorous and the media has played along. Celebrities like Snoop Dogg, Willie Nelson, Miley Cyrus and others flaunt their association with marijuana. And very few speak out against it. Now more bad news: combine the drug aspect with the Internet. According to the report by the American Academy of Pediatrics, 75 percent of 12 to 17-year-olds in the U.S.A. have cell phones and virtually all of them text. 33 percent of teenagers send more than 100 text messages a day. And 66 percent of teens say their parents have imposed no rules regarding texting at all. Here’s the kicker. A study by the University of Winnipeg in Canada says students who text more than 100 times a day are 30 percent less likely to be ethical or principled in life. Are we getting all this? Young people in America are combining drugs, alcohol, and high tech to build false lives to run away from reality. In China young people are encouraged to compete, be disciplined, to live in the real world. Not here. And, again, there are very few voices speaking out against drug and tech abuse. This is an epidemic that will lead to a weaker nation. Anybody who tells you differently is lying to you. And that’s the memo. Now for the top story tonight, reaction. Joining us from Newburyport, Massachusetts Dr. Keith Ablow a psychiatrist. Here in New York City Dr. Carl Hart, associate professor of psychology at Columbia University, author of the book “High Price”. All right. Kids and pot-- You don't recommend that, right? DR. CARL HART, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: Of course not. I don't recommend kids
taking alcohol or smoking tobacco. O'REILLY: Any intoxicants at all bad for them? HART: That's right.
O'REILLY: All right. So we have some common ground? HART: Absolutely. Anybody who can think would agree with you. O'REILLY: All right. Thank you. And I appreciate that. Texting. You know it's an addiction. It's going crazy. Are you aware of that right? HART: No, I'm not aware that it's an addiction. O'REILLY: You don't think texting is an addiction among some children now? HART: Well, it all depends how you define addiction. You know people -- O'REILLY: They're compelled to do it. They have to do it. They have the machine in their hand all the time. HART: Well, you are compelled to do this show every day.
O'REILLY: I get paid to do this show. HART: Exactly. O'REILLY: I wouldn't do it if I didn't get paid to do it. HART: Exactly O'REILLY: All right. It's not a compulsion it's a business decision. HART: No, no. Like you said you get paid to do it. O'REILLY: Yes. HART: So there is a reason for you to do it. O'REILLY: Is there a reason for a kid? HART: It does not disrupt what you are doing. O'REILLY: So if you had a son or daughter and they were -- HART: I do. I have three. I have three boys. O'REILLY: In their teens. HART: Two in the teens. O'REILLY: And if they are texting more than 100 times a day you don't have a problem with that. HART: Well, the thing is I have a kid who's in an ivy league institution, he's a teenager. My main sort of concern is how well he does in school. He texts quite a bit but he also gets all As in school. O'REILLY: Yes, but I don't know if that's -- you want the whole child to develop not just the academic. HART: Precisely -- you just said it. O'REILLY: Right. HART: That's precisely it. O'REILLY: And I don't know if the texting is leading to that. All right. Dr. Ablow you see it a little bit differently. I see a coming storm here, a tsunami building with the drugs, the soft drugs, the pot and the high tech abuse. I think it's abuse. I think the kids texting 100 times a day -- that's abuse, go. DR. KEITH ABLOW, FOX NEWS CONTRIBUTOR: Absolutely. This is a perfect storm. We have talked about this, Bill. I have written about it. Bottom line is any time you attempt to exit the real world in favor of a fantasy land where your emotions aren't troubling to you, there is a price to pay for that. Those are called addictions. Texting, the incessant use of Facebook. The use of marijuana now which parents, by the way, they are caving. They are telling their kids oh, it's just marijuana. Oh, you just sell marijuana? O'REILLY: I don't know how many -- I don't know how any parents would do that. ABLOW: They are. They are. O'REILLY: Look. we all know there are permissive parents but I still believe in this country they are a minority. I think parents don't want their kids involved with intoxicating agents -- most parents, most responsible parents. There are parents who are addicted and who are irresponsible. But let's stay on the texting and the games. Because the study shows from Winnipeg, interesting study, that the parents, they are lost here with the texting. They are not really on this. Remember, texts can be erased right away. So you literally have to be following your kid around, all right, to know -- ABLOW: Yes. O'REILLY: -- what that kid is doing and the interaction. Therefore, the children are bold now. The children are doing things that -- ABLOW: Yes, of course. O'REILLY: You would never do on the telephone because you might be overheard. Go ahead.
ABLOW: Well, this is the Trojan horse because even the people who can identify this as a huge problem are using texting. You can say they are using it less. But they are still on the drug. And we're going to find out that this disempowers people. It deposits them in a virtual world where their feelings don't need to have integrity. Where their intentions can be the same as a pot smoker’s -- non-motivational, looking for the next high. O'REILLY: And you say to that? HART: Well, I don't know what to say because -- no, no. Hold on. O'REILLY: Let me frame it though. I think we are becoming a weaker nation because of all of this, particularly under 30. Under 30 is going to have to take over some day, all right? And they are lost in this world. HART: Bill, let's slow down. Let's think about the last three guys who occupied the White House. They all smoked marijuana in their youth, right? The last three guys and -- O'REILLY: Not chronically, one didn't inhale and the other -- HART: Wait, hold up, hold up. You didn't believe that when
he said that? O'REILLY: I believe everything the President is telling me. All right? Bush was an alcoholic and dealt with it and Obama we're not exactly sure how serious he was involved. But as I said in the Talking Points, some can handle but some cannot. HART: That's exactly right. O'REILLY: And the prevalence of this is overwhelming now. So you're going to have a lot of casualties on the battlefield. HART: That's not true. Let's talk about the statistics. Let's talk about the data. In 1978, the recent number of marijuana smokers in the 12th grade -- it was 37 percent of the 12th graders said that they smoked marijuana recently. Today that number is down to 22 percent. O'REILLY: Not the number I just gave. HART: Well, your number is wrong. O'REILLY: No. HART: Your number is wrong. O'REILLY: Take it up with the National Institutes of Health -- all right. They are the one that put it out. HART: I'm a council member on the National Institutes of Health. Your number is wrong. I'm telling you it's 22 percent of seniors who smoke marijuana in the past month. That's a fact. O'REILLY: I doubt it's a fact because we don't get this wrong -- these researchers -- HART: That's wrong. O'REILLY: Go ahead Dr. Ablow. ABLOW: Look, the doctor has it wrong. The bottom line is this is not 1978. 1978 people weren't carrying cell phones. They weren't using Facebook. They weren't depositing themselves on YouTube and being surprised by being arrested after beating somebody up on YouTube. They are like, wait, this is the real world? They're going to get arrested for this? I thought it was all fun and games. We are weakening our young people because we are suggesting to them that it's ok to be high all the time. It's no surprise that we now have a government -- O'REILLY: I don't know if we are suggesting that. I don't know if we're suggesting that. ABLOW: I think we are because we are saying have a Facebook account, use marijuana, text, and, by the way we have the government economy -- O'REILLY: Right. There isn't enough condemnation -- there's a difference between not condemning and encouraging. And by the way Dr. Hart is correct. It's 23 percent of seniors in high school that say they are smoking marijuana on a regular basis. That's a lot. That's a lot. Would you say that's a lot? HART: It is nowhere near the 37 percent we saw in 1978 to 1980. So I'm telling you that we need to make sure we keep this in perspective. O'REILLY: We will. All right. Good debate. Thank you. Coming up on this special edition of THE O'REILLY FACTOR. Former Rhode Island Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Peter Lawford's son Christopher both recovering substance abusers speak out about the dangers of marijuana to our children. CHRISTOPHER LAWFORD: The two most damaging drugs on the planet are both legal -- alcohol and nicotine. We don't need another legal drug. Legalization will increase prevalence, our youth are at risk. O'REILLY: Legalized pot -- Colorado says it collected $2 million off pot sales in January the first month of legalization out there. But I believe the amount of damage being done it Coloradoans in the addictions, driving problems, other social ills will cost that state far more than it’s taking in. Of course I could be wrong. Joining us now from Washington Patrick Kennedy, former congressman from Rhode Island and here in New York, Christopher Kennedy Lawford, author of the book, “What Addicts Know: 10 lessons from recovery to benefit everyone". Both men were substance abusers at one time. Mr. Kennedy, I understand you are against the legalization of marijuana, why? KENNEDY: Well, I had a mood disorder and I'm also in recovery because I'm also an addict. And with another drug being commercialized, one that actually has the for-profit motive of hooking new consumers, they are going to target teenagers. They are going it make their money off of people like myself who are addicts. And I just don't think this is the kind of thing that makes our country stronger, our families stronger and of course, jeopardizes the public health at large. O'REILLY: Ok. But pro-pot people say it's not addictive. It's harmless. Less harmful than alcohol and it's unfair to have alcohol legal and pot not. And you say? KENNEDY: I say two wrongs don't make a right. And the marijuana today is in beverage form. It's in candy form. You can eat it. Now, I was an asthmatic so I didn't go down the route of marijuana. But if it were available to me today, I
could have eaten it like they can out in Colorado, it would have been a totally different game. This is a scary thing. People think this is smoking couple joints every other weekend. This is a whole new commercial industry and that's what should frighten people is their profit motive will be to marketing this. We want demand reduction and yet this is going to be increasing demand for addictive substance. That's my problem with it. O'REILLY: Ok. Now, Mr. Lawford you are kind of a libertarian kind of guy but you are against the legalization of marijuana as well? LAWFORD: Well, I'm primarily against it because of what it might do to our young people. The two most damaging drugs on the planet are both legal -- alcohol and nicotine. We don't need another legal drug. Legalization will increase prevalence. Our youth are at risk. We have studies that demonstrate not only the addictive capabilities of marijuana but the difficulty in treating people who are addicted to marijuana. One in six young people smoke it chronically. Chronic use of marijuana obliterates ambition and leads to potential psychosis, all sorts of mood disorders. It's not a good drug. It's not a matter of policy to legalize. O'REILLY: Ok. Now, both of you guys are Democrats and fairly liberal -- I mean I don't know your politics as precisely as I should perhaps, but the liberal wing, Mr. Lawford, they're the ones that are driving the legalization -- all right. So you see he in Colorado, for example, it breaks down and there are libertarians. There are libertarians. But why does the left so fervently want this substance -- is it Woodstock, does it go back there? LAWFORD: No, medical marijuana was the initial way. O'REILLY: That's a ruse though. LAWFORD: I know. I understand that. And George Soros pushed this thing primarily because of the inner city. And it's true. Young African-American males are getting targeted by police departments in the inner city in terms of arrests to show cops how to do drug busts, basically. Legalization is not the answer to that issue. O'REILLY: All right So that's why you think that the -- do you concur, Mr. Kennedy. Do you think it was a racial social issue that drove the left to want it? KENNEDY: Yes. I think it's driven by the racial. Keep in mind, African-Americans, minorities are discriminated against throughout the justice system. Just by legalizing this, you are not going to get rid of the discrimination in the application of laws in this country. We should address that and make it a separate issue. Not conflate addressing incarceration with the decriminalization and legalization. O'REILLY: Ok. But I will point out to both of you -- and you both made very good points tonight but I have to run -- that the neighborhoods that have been most impacted by drug addiction in this country have been black neighborhoods, all right? LAWFORD: That we know of. O'REILLY: Well, they have been and that crack epidemic when all of those mandatories were put in, that wiped out a generation and that's why it was there. I don't think -- LAWFORD: That's correct. KENNEDY: And Bill -- O'REILLY: Go ahead. KENNEDY: There are eight times as many liquor stores in minority neighborhoods than there are in white neighborhoods. O'REILLY: You got it. You got it. KENNEDY: And the same thing is going to happen with legalized marijuana. It's going to target the most vulnerable in our country. O'REILLY: Excellent point. I can't thank you guys enough for coming in. You guys made excellent points. Next up, the rise of the machines: texting, the Internet, and the addiction that comes with it. How can parents protect their kids? (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MEGYN KELLY, FOX NEWS HOST: I am going to be like Gladys Kravitz when it comes to my children's privacy. I'm going to peering out the window -- I'm going to look at the texts. I'm going to tell them when I give them the phones I am going to see everything. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Right back. O'REILLY: “Kelly File Segment” tonight: protecting the kids. With the rise of the machines, American children are subjected to adult things, we just heard, very early age. Also they are constantly distracted by the net. They have their little things in their hand especially teenagers. That's changed everything. With us now Miss Megyn Kelly who has three young children to protect. By the time these kids are adults, your kids are adults, the cyberspace thing is going to be ten times worse than it is now. KELLY: Yes, it is. O'REILLY: And have you and your
husband planned on how you are going to deal with this kind of thing? KELLY: You know, Doug is an author so he gets to live in this fantasy world of novels. He doesn't have to think about it yet. I however work in news where the darkest corners of society confront you every day and not just on this show at this particular moment -- I'm just saying (ph) that. We cover the news in general. O'REILLY: Got it. KELLY: So it's forced. You're forced to think about it even though my children are nowhere near surfing the net. My oldest is five. O'REILLY: Pretty soon. By the time he is seven, he is going to be going like this on the computer because they teach it in the school now. KELLY: No. And can I tell you that in New York City kindergarten, the test to get into these kindergartens is on an iPad. And so -- O'REILLY: They're going like this. KELLY: Whether you want them to be introduced to it or not they are going to be. O'REILLY: All right. What conclusion or what's the headline in Kelly's defense of the kids? KELLY: I think active parenting because I just don't think you can keep your kids away from it. O'REILLY: You can't. KELLY: Think about when I was a kid the big danger was TV. What's going to be on TV. Kids are watching too much TV. My parents didn't grow up with TV. O'REILLY: Yes, "Gilligan's Island" was terrible. KELLY: Well, at the time it seemed like very low brow and what kind of an influence is this having on our children. If you have active parents who care about you and stay involved and talk to you. O'REILLY: Not enough. And I will tell you why it's not enough because it's the peer pressure. Listen to me. I'm older and wiser -- all right. It's the peer pressure. Once the kid gets into adolescents and teens they are all on these things. They are all texting. KELLY: right. O'REILLY: If you look at the texts, good kids, crude language, terrible things saying about other children, no restraint. If you said those words, and you heard them. KELLY: That's why there is point two. There's point two of my plan which is be an active, loving, involved parent who has a good relationship with my child. But point two is be a good spy. I'm going to be like Gladys Kravitz when it comes to my children's privacy. I'm going to be peering out the window. I'm going to look at the text. I'm going to tell them when I give them the phones, I'm going to see everything. I'm getting the program where I can read all of your texts. I'm going to see everything you do. O'REILLY: Because you know they can even get -- KELLY: I'm going to go review history. O'REILLY: They can even get around that now with this Instagram stuff and they can delete and there are things that kids know. I'm a Luddite and Stossel is right I don't have anything like this. But I see kids -- KELLY: I don't have a Blackberry, I don't have a blue berry, Kelly -- I think that's what I do. O'REILLY: I have to tell you, you compensate for the rest of the people. KELLY: I'm here doing you a favor. O'REILLY: What favor is that -- KELLY: KELLY: I'm here on THE FACTOR -- on a Tuesday where I don't normally appear and I get insulted. He insults me. O'REILLY: What's the name of your show? KELLY: Give me a break. O'REILLY: What's the name of your show? KELLY: As you well know because you always take credit for inventing it. O'REILLY: That's right. I invented your show. All right. Let's get back to this serious issue. Kids' personalities change and if they're assaulted you can be assaulted on the Internet. KELLY: Yes. O'REILLY: You know. And when I was growing up we had fights in the playgrounds and this and that but it was face to face. Now you can be assaulted. KELLY: That's already morphed. O'REILLY: People can say terrible things about you. KELLY: I know. But that's already morphed. Let me say when I was growing, it was the mean girls calling my home and doing terrible prank phone calls to me and that's a form of torture that can come and get you. O'REILLY: Compared to what it is now and then the intrusion of what they can see. They can see every movie in the world, all right? Every movie they can -- KELLY: Well, I mean there are some blocks but realistically -- realistically you can't block everything. O'REILLY: On handhelds there are none. On the handhelds, there are no blocks. You can go out and your friend has the big handheld or the iPad and bingo there is the exorcist Linda Blair saying all this and the 10-year-olds are looking at it. KELLY: I know. I know. But hopefully, hopefully you can, you know, stay in touch enough with your child that you know -- O'REILLY:
That's the hope. KELLY: That's a diet you don't want to dine on. O'REILLY: But it's the most dangerous time in the history of the children and the most challenging time for adults. KELLY: Well, what do you think at the end, Bill? What do you do? O'REILLY: There is no answer. All right -- there is no answer. KELLY: You just have to let them consume it. O'REILLY: You have to basically try to challenge their consumption. Try to get them out into the fresh air. Try to tell them there is other things in life rather than the stupid machine. KELLY: Actively involved in sports. O'REILLY: Right. Travel them. Take them places, right. That kind of thing. Plenty more ahead as THE FACTOR moves along this evening. While many Americans want to legalize pot, a new study says it devastates kids. We'll have some new information for you. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What we know about marijuana and the teen brain is that one in every six teens will become addicted to marijuana and that long-term marijuana use affects problem-solving, memory and IQ. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Right back with it. TRACE GALLAGHER, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: This is a FOX News alert. I'm Trace Gallagher. The prison worker believed to have helped two convicted killers to escape from prison in Upstate, New York is about to be arraigned. Fifty-one-year-old Joyce “Tillie” Mitchell facing charges of first degree promoting prison contraband and fourth degree criminal facilitation. Mitchell who is currently suspended with pay is accused of befriending the escapees David Sweat and Richard Matt at the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora and giving them contraband like hack saw blades. One of the charges against Mitchell carries a prison sentence of up to seven years but it's not believed she gave them the power tools they used to break out. Now, more than 800 state, federal, and local law enforcement officers are now searching for the convicted killers who have been on the run since last Saturday. Stay with FOX News Channel for continuing updates on this story. I'm Trace Gallagher. Now back to the O'Reilly FACTOR. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) BILL O'Reilly, HOST, “THE O'REILLY FACTOR” : FACTOR “Follow Up” segment tonight, while many Americans want to legalize marijuana, evidence continues to mount that it is devastating if children use it. New study by the Australian government says if teenagers use pot daily they are 60 percent less likely to graduate high school, also they are seven times more likely to attempt suicide. In addition, a book by former Secretary of Health Joseph Califano called, how to raise a drug free kid says, today's pot is 10 times more potent than the stuff the hippies were using back in the 1960s. Joining us now from Seattle psychiatrist Dr. Nick Weiss and from Miami Dr. Daniel Bober, also a psychiatrist that deals with children. So, I believe marijuana is dangerous to American kids and that fact is what I believe has been understated by the media Dr. Bober, or am I wrong. DANIEL BOBER, D.O., CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST: No, I think you are right, Bill. We have been hearing a lot in the media about the beneficial effects of marijuana for a legitimate serious illnesses. And I think that's true. About what we know about marijuana in the teen brain is that one in every six teens will become addicted to marijuana. And that long-term marijuana use effects problem-solving, memory and IQ. In one study that was done in Colorado, what we found was that 75 percent of youth in a treatment center were getting their marijuana from adults with legal marijuana registration cards. So, it's become more accessible. It's become more socially acceptable and I think it's a big problem. O'REILLY: Do you concur, Dr. Weiss? NICK WEISS M.D., CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST: I agree that it's a significant problem and certainly the harms of marijuana on the adolescent brain are being increasingly documented and at the same time, teens see it as less risky than ever, less risky than they ever did before. They see it as less risky than alcohol. They see it as less risky than cigarettes. And so that inevitably is going to lead them towards increased use. O'REILLY: Okay. So you are in Washington State, which now has legalized marijuana. And teenagers then pick up that, okay, so if the old folks can smoke it, why can't I? That's just normal. That's what they did with alcohol and that's what they are doing with marijuana. And as Dr.
Bober pointed out, the studies say that people who are buying legal marijuana are giving it to the kids. So, we expect that to happen in every state that legalizes, do we not Dr. Weiss? WEISS: Well, the use of marijuana by teens is really a nationwide issue. O'REILLY: Well, I understand that but it's almost taking on now, tsunami like proportions because it has been glamorized by the media. No question it has been. WEISS: I think the real shame is that the risks haven't been acknowledged. O'REILLY: That's part of the glamorization. WEISS: Teens really do need to know about those risks. O'REILLY: They hear it. Right. But the media doesn't want to do it because the media wants it legalized. Dr. Bober, when you see a child and as you said 15 percent of all-American teenagers of all stripes become addicted to marijuana. When you see this happen, it's not something that's easily overcome, is it? BOBER: No, it's not. And there is a lot of evidence that suggests that marijuana is a gateway drug to other drugs. And the younger they start, the worse it is. So this is really a conversation that we need to be having and we need focus on both aspects of the argument. O'REILLY: What about the freedom aspect of it? You know, Americans who want legalized marijuana say, look, “I can do what I want with my own body and I'm an adult and all of this and society is putting marijuana users in jail, which is a falsehood.” We have debunked that here. But that's a powerful argument that again the media has embraced. BOBER: I think that, you know, if you are an adult, you should be able to do what you want, but the indirect effect that that is having is teens are getting their hands on marijuana and we know that teens have a developing brain and is particularly sensitive to the effects of marijuana. And that puts us all at risk when we put our kids at risk. O'REILLY: All right. And, Dr. Weiss, when you smoke marijuana it's a pretty pungent situation so you can't do it if you are an adult in the home without your kids knowing about it. Very famous person told me that's his great regret that he smoked marijuana and his children knew it even though he did it in another room in private, they smelled it and then they got involved with drugs and he feels guilty about it. So I think that's inevitable, is it not? WEISS: Well, it is often a multigenerational issue and it's true that if adults don't act as role models for their kids and also dialogue with their kids about the harms of drugs then kids are going to follow in their footsteps and make bad choices. We really need to mobilize parents and other responsible adults to get involved in the lives of kids in a deep way in a ways that when they talk about the risks of marijuana those kids are actually going to listen. O'REILLY: Yes. But if they're using it at the same time and their friends and neighbors in Colorado -- state have legalized it and the media is glamorizing it, it's an awful lot for a kid to overcome. It really is the curiosity factor alone. And as you said, once a teenage mind or the child mind gets involved with intoxicants, boom, their childhood is over. Doctors, thank you. When we come right back -- (END VIDEO CLIP) ANNOUNCER: Cyber-bullying, it's a big problem these days, we talked to actor David Schwimmer and Senator McCain's daughter Meghan about the problem. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's an absolute epidemic. Everyday 160,000 kids skip school because they are bullied and the internet is just making it worse. (END VIDEO CLIP) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: “Unresolved Problem” segment tonight, celebrities fighting become against cyber-bullies and online predators, actor David Schwimmer and Senator McCain's daughter Meghan, they stopped by the “No Spin Zone” to talk about their efforts to combat the dangers on the net. One of the topics I saw your roster that you are going to talk about that interests me is the cyber-bullying deal. MEGHAN MCCAIN, HOST AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, “RAISING MCCAIN“: Uh-mm O'REILLY: Which is really causing kids to commit suicide, it's wreaking havoc in public and private schools across the country. What's your take on that? MCCAIN: I agree it's an absolute epidemic. Every day, 160,000 kids skip school because they are bullied. People that are bullied and bullies are more likely to have psychological problems as adults. And it's an absolute epidemic and the internet is just making it worse. O'REILLY: Were you ever bullied as a kid because you have a famous dad
and stuff like that. MCCAIN: Not to the severity that people that commit suicide do but I'm grateful that the internet wasn't around when I was growing up. O'REILLY: You are being attacked on the internet now just because you are, you know, an adult who has famous dad. But what I'm trying to get at is, are children meaner now than they were when you were growing up -- I'm older, obviously, when I was growing up, kids were pretty mean back then. There were a lot of fights in my neighborhood mostly over bullying, but I see this kind of sadistic streak because they can hide behind the internet. You don't have to go out in the school yard and risk taking a shot to the head, you do it in your own basement or whatever. And I think it's a huge problem. MCCAIN: Oh, yes, the anonymity of the internet is just making it so much worse. O'REILLY: Are they meaner though? Are these kids meaner today? MCCAIN: I don't know if kids are meaner. But they have a different kind of platform. You know, they can attack online and they can post pictures. I mean, there is a bunch of things going on. With shaming women on the internet. And it's just, it's very scary any idea that you can, you know, you are so young, there's so many different tools with cameras. You can take on your phone, you take when you're 18 that's going to come back to haunt you possibly when you are 30. O'REILLY: No, absolutely. Everything, you're going to watch, your parents and grandparents got to watch that like crazy. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: What's your problem? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What's my problem? My problem is you lied to me, sweetheart. From the second that you knew you wasn't 15 you should have told me. And you didn't. When you found out for the first time, what were you thinking? You didn't know then that something was wrong? O'REILLY: What attracted you to the material? Do you feel that this is an underreported crime? Do you feel that there has been a lot of publicity? On this program. We do a lot of this kind of reporting. DAVID SCHWIMMER, ACTOR: I wanted to make the movie because I have been involved with this organization called the rape treatment center in Santa Monica, California for the last 14 years. I'm on the board of directors of the Rape Foundation. I met countless victims. Child victims of sexual assault and rape and their parents and after speaking to many fathers, I was really moved by how this kind of trauma impacts the entire family. O'REILLY: Absolutely. SCHWIMMER: And fathers that I spoke to talk about a kind of incapacitating rage. O'REILLY: Why did you want to get involved with this? Why did you get on the board of that? SCHWIMMER: Well, for a several issues, I felt that this issue traditionally has been directed towards women, in terms of education, prevention and where they can go for assistance as victims. And there's really been a gap trying to get the message out to men. And I was approached with that aim to throw you as a man in show business, with some kind of celebrity to try to get the message out and for personal reasons I have many friends that are victims of child victims of sexual assault. O'REILLY: Really? SCHWIMMER: Yes. And two former girlfriends, long-term relationships were also child victims of sexual assault. O'REILLY: As you know we did the Jessica's law campaign here and how in front of that. Did you when you made it big on “Friends,” did you say to yourself, I have an obligation now. SCHWIMMER: Hundred percent. O'REILLY: Now that I'm rich and famous? SCHWIMMER: Hundred percent. UNIDENTIFIED ACTRESS: I have got a crisis. SCHWIMMER: Yes, but I have got couscous. That's the way I was raised. I mean, you know, when the crush of celebrity first happened, I was approached by dozens of organizations. And I took a step back and instead of spreading myself thin and lending my name here and there. I thought all right I'm going to dedicate all my resources, my talent, my energy, my commitment to one that means the most to me. And because for personal reasons as I described, this was the one. I felt I could really make a difference. (END VIDEO CLIP) ANNOUNCER: Coming up, former drug czar and education Secretary Bill Bennett fires off some pretty disturbing stats about marijuana use. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Harvard, northwestern, Oxford, kills motivation interferes with memory. Interferes with concentration. How is this? Start smoking pot in your teen years. Stay with
it once a week, not every day, once a week, lose eight IQ points. (END VIDEO CLIP) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

O’REILLY: FACTOR “Follow-up” segment tonight, legalizing marijuana, Colorado and Washington State have done that as you know. And according to a study by Drug Free America, across the country, pot users are absent from work 78 percent more than non-pot users. Those who smoke marijuana are 85 percent more likely to be injured at work. And the journal of American Medical Association says, “if you use pot on a regular basis, your decision making is far worse than if you do not.” With us now former Secretary of Education Bill Bennett whose new book “Going to Pot” is out this week. What is the headline of the book? BILL BENNETT, AUTHOR, “GOING TO POT”: Public opinion is getting softer on marijuana. O’REILLY: No doubt. BENNETT: Just as the science, the hard science is making overwhelming evidence how dangerous pot is. I didn’t have this evidence when I was drug czar with ‘89-’90. Studies out of Oxford, North Western, Oxford, kills motivation, interferes with memory, interferes with concentration. How is this start smoking pot in teen years, stay with it once a week, not every day once a week lose eight IQ points. Eight IQ points. That’s a lot. O’REILLY: Okay. But here is why the public opinion is changing. Two reasons. The baby boomer generation, which started the pot craze in late 1960’s, a lot of them have stayed with the drug. And they feel it’s benign. They say it didn’t hurt me, so and they passed that down to their children and grandchildren. And then there is the whole alcohol is worse argument that has gained traction among younger people. How do you respond? BENNETT: First of all, the marijuana today is three to five times more powerful. Three percent THC. Tetrahydrocannabinol content, the ‘60s and ‘70s. Today, 15 percent, 20 percent. But some of the dispense reasons Denver where I’m heading. Ground zero. Twenty five and 30 and 40 percent. Maureen Dowd, columnist for the “New York Times.” O’REILLY: Yes. She ate a cookie and then she wanted to become a -- BENNETT: She thought she had died. She thought she had died she said. O’REILLY: Right. She was hallucinating. Okay. So, stronger pot now. But again, there are so many people in the United States who use marijuana illegally. BENNETT: Right. O’REILLY: I mean, tens of millions. Maybe none. I don’t think it is hundreds of millions but tens of millions of people. They ingesting this high, they want to get high and they don’t want the government to tell them they can’t. BENNETT: Right. O’REILLY: It’s the libertarian view. BENNETT: It is the libertarian view. But we live in a world and other people. We live in a world with young people. Governor of Colorado, a democrat said this was a mistake. O’REILLY: Yes. Hickenlooper said, it was a mistake. He couldn’t really articulate it why it was a mistake. BENNETT: Well, he said if we could protect the kids from getting it. Plus, he has seen the advertisements, the candy bar advertisement. O’REILLY: Oh, sure. It is a subliminal thing. But then the argument is, the kids can get it anyway so regulate it, tax it. You know, you have heard this same thing. So here is my key question. You write a book. Okay? The pot heads aren’t going to read the book. They are not. Anybody who likes marijuana are going to laugh at you. You are a full gee. You’re a conservative. So what good does it do for you to write the book? BENNETT: Start with Republicans. Okay? I mean, it is disappointing that a lot of republicans are on the wrong side of this issue. The libertarian side of this issue. But the main reason for writing the book is to stop this freight train because a lot of people are going to get hurt. A lot of people are going to get -- O’REILLY: I agree. I think intoxication of any alcohol or drugs, any drug damages people particularly children. Once they get involved they are never the same again ever. BENNETT: That’s right. O’REILLY: So, and that message gets blunted by the cynical media which thinks it is cool to smoke pot. I mean, the rap industry is just devastated. Poor children both black and white. And you have a culture that you Dr. Bennett and me Bill O’Reilly, we are the dinosaurs and we are bad, mean people and all of that. BENNETT: Just before we conclude that we are opposed to people having fun and a good time, you want something that opposes a good time? Marijuana. It interferes with the pleasure
center of the brain so that after a while it is the only thing that makes you feel good. O'REILLY: Right. BENNETT: Not anything else. Not sports, not entertainment. O'REILLY: Once you get involved with the drug world or alcohol, too and you sit at the bar with your money on it and you're just going like this then everything else recedes in your life. BENNETT: That's right. O'REILLY: And that is why we have the terrible addiction and alcoholism problem we have. (END VIDEO CLIP) ANNOUNCER: Next up an inside look on what pot and other drugs can do to society. Watters' World hits the streets of Denver, Colorado. JESSE WATTERS, O'REILLY FACTOR CORRESPONDENT: Are you homeless right now? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Displaced but not homeless. WATTERS: Do you have addictions? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Right back with it. (END VIDEO CLIP) (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: Watters' World segment tonight. Big article in “Time” magazine this week about the increase in driving under the influence of pot throughout the USA no surprise. With legalization of two states and decriminalization of others, many more stoned people on the road. Another unintended consequence of marijuana acceptance in the USA is happening in Denver where the homeless situation is going up. “Salvation Army” reports, it’s up almost 100 percent in some shelters. So, we send Watters to the Mile High city to check it out. WATTERS: Have you noticed an uptick in homelessness over the last couple of years? UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: We have seen about 153 percent increase. They are here in the Denver area because of the legalization of marijuana. WATTERS: What state did you come from? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Originally I'm from Maine. WATTERS: It's beautiful state. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Yes. Until the gangs started showing up. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Oh-oh. Here comes trouble. WATTERS: It's a nice pussy cat. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Her name is Kush. WATTERS: What's her name? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Kush. WATTERS: I just met a cat named Kush. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I moved here from California two months ago. WATTERS: Why did you move down here? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I am a house maker. WATTERS: You smoke a lot of weed? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Not a lot. Yes, I smoke a lot. (LAUGHTER) WATTERS: What's your name? UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I'm Giggles. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Who are you, seal? WATTERS: What do you do on a daily basis? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Wake up, smoke a morning bowl. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Go to the library, use the computer for a few hours. Facebookaholic of course. WATTERS: You're homeless and you have a Facebook page. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Oh, yes. WATTERS: I'm going to have to friend you. What are you doing now right now? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I'm just medicating myself. WATTERS: What is your illness? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: My what? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We have to start being more responsible. WATTERS: Are you homeless right now? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Displaced, but not homeless. WATTERS: Do you have a plan to get back up on your feet? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I'm standing. WATTERS: It's more of a euphemism. Excuse you. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: What are you, my mother? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I have been on these streets since I was 10. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: My dad was a decent drunk. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I have been homeless since February. Dad is incarcerated and mom is a recovering drug addict. I think everybody should have to go through this really. I mean, it kind of humbles you. WATTERS: You would like to see me sleep on the street? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I would like to see you on the street. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We would supply a generous bank account/ WATTERS: Do you have any addictions? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I have smoked weed most of my life, ever since I would say 6th grade. WATTERS: How is that working out for you? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Doing great. WATTERS: You sure? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: So, I mean, yes. WATTERS: So if someone came to you and they said I have this job that pays about 50,000. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: If I am in an office I can't do it. I have to be outside interacting with people constantly. WATTERS: So, you want to do what I do? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Probably. That wouldn't be that hard. I mean, they -- WATTERS: You don't turn tricks, do you? UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Hell, no! What the hell I look like? I will pimp you before you pimp me, I'll
promise you that. UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Calm down. WATTERS: Let's go buy some weed. How many customers do you get on average? UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Hundred to twenty to 200 on the recreational side. WATTERS: On a day? UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yes. WATTERS: Wow! What do you think about Bill? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Bill is cool. Very aggressive. Keep it up, man. WATTERS: Do you watch Watters' World? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: No, I haven't. WATTERS: I'm Watters and you're my world right now. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Really? UNIDENTIFIED MAN: This is my world Watters, so right now your world is filled with legal recreational pot smoke from Colorado. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: What? O'REILLY: It's funny but it's not. Right. Most of these people I assume are unemployed, is that correct? WATTERS: Yes. Or they're working odd jobs for minimum wage. O'REILLY: And how do they get the money to buy the marijuana? WATTERS: Sometimes you can do, you know, minimum wage, manual labor and you can scrape by. And then sometimes it is so available people just pass it around. O'REILLY: Where do they sleep? WATTERS: I mean, sometimes they sleep in shelters and other times if it's nice temperature, they can sleep outside. O'REILLY: Do the city of Denver see this as a problem? WATTERS: I don't think they recognize it all. I mean, anecdotally a lot of the homeless shelters are doubling in population. But it's a different type of homeless species there are in San Francisco. In San Francisco, it is like hard core aggressive junkies. These kids in Denver, they are more runaways, they're kind of looking for work. They are a little more educated and they are just stoners and they are just trying to get by. O'REILLY: You know, in Portland, Oregon, big big drug fueled homeless problem. And I think Denver is going to mimic that. WATTERS: It is definitely going in that direction right now. O'REILLY: Right. (END VIDEO CLIP) O'REILLY: That is it for us tonight. Thank you for watching this Special Edition of the FACTOR. I am Bill O'Reilly. And please always remember the spin stops right here because we are definitely looking out for you."

Source Title: BTN

*Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 716415

Article Title: 'How's Amanda?'"

Date: 7/24/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: INFARMINGTON HILLS, MICH. She had already made it through one last night alone under the freeway bridge, through the vomiting and shakes of withdrawal, through cravings so intense she’d scraped a bathroom floor searching for leftover traces of heroin. It had now been 12 days since the last time Amanda Wendler used a drug of any kind, her longest stretch in years. “Clear-eyed and sober,” read a report from one drug counselor, and so Amanda, 31, had moved back in with her mother to begin the stage of recovery she feared most. “Is this everything I have?” she asked, standing with her mother in the garage of their two-bedroom condominium, taking inventory of her things. There were a few garbage bags filled with clothes. There was a banged-up dresser she had put into storage before moving into her first abandoned house. “Where's my good makeup?” Amanda asked. “Maybe you pawned it with the jewelry,” said her mother, Libby Alexander. “What about all of my shoes?” “Oh, God. Are you serious?” Libby said. “Do you even know how many pairs of shoes you've lost or sold?”
Amanda lit a **cigarette** and sat in a plastic chair wedged between the cat food and the recycling bins in the garage, the only place where she was allowed to **smoke**. This was the ninth time she had managed to go at least a week without using. She had spent a full decade trying and failing to get clean, and a therapist had asked her once to make a list of her triggers for relapse. “Boredom, loneliness, anxiety, regret, shame, seeing how I haven't gone up at all in my life when the drugs aren't there,” she had written. She had no job, no high school diploma, no car and no money beyond what her mother gave her for Mountain Dew and **cigarettes**. A few days earlier, a dentist had pulled all 28 of her teeth, which had decayed from years of neglect. It had been a week since she’d seen her 9-year-old twin sons, who lived in a nearby suburb with their father, and lately the most frequent text messages coming into her phone were from a dealer hoping to lure her back with free samples: “Got testers,” he had just written. “Get at me. They're going fast.” In the addicted America of 2016, there are so many ways to take measure of the pain, longing and despair that are said to be driving a historic opiate epidemic: Another 350 people starting on heroin every day, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; another 4,105 emergency-room visits; another 79 people dead. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of injury-related death in the United States - worse than guns, car crashes or suicides. Heroin abuse has quadrupled in the past decade. Most addicts are introduced to heroin through prescription pain pills, and doctors now write more than 200 million opiate prescriptions each year. But the fact that matters most for a chronic user is what it takes for just one addict to get clean. The relapse rate for heroin has been reported in various studies to be as high as 97 percent. The average active user dies of an overdose in about 10 years, and Amanda’s opiate addiction was going on year 11. She believed her only chance to stay sober was to take away the possibility of feeling high, so she had decided to pursue one of the newest treatments for heroin. It was a monthly shot of a drug called naltrexone, which blocks the effects of opiates on the brain and makes getting high impossible. But the shot came with dangerous side effects if she still had opiates in her system. Doctors had told her that first she needed to pass a drug test, which required staying clean for at least two weeks, which meant her appointment for the shot was still four days away. “Soon you can breathe. You can start getting your life back,” Libby said. “That’s all just days away.” “Days are forever,” Amanda said. “Do you even know how hard it is to go for one minute?” She had been trying to occupy herself with coloring books and cellphone games, anything to keep her hands busy. Now she picked up a hand-held mirror and began reaplying her makeup for the second time that morning, even though she hadn't left the house in a few days. She had worked as a model in high school, but now her gums were swollen and her arms were bruised with needle marks. She tugged down her sleeves and put away the mirror. Shame was a trigger. Regret was a trigger. She grabbed her phone and looked at the dealer’s latest text message. She wondered if her mother was still locking her car keys in a safe. She wondered if she could find a ride into Southwest Detroit for one last $10 bag: the euphoria when the drug entered her bloodstream, the full-body tingling that moved in from her hands to her chest, erasing pain, erasing fear, erasing sadness, erasing anxiety and feelings of failure until finally the tingling stopped and the only thing left to feel was blissful numbness, just hours of nothing. One minute - she could make it one minute. She watched a video on her cellphone. She sorted her nail polish and lit another **cigarette**. Libby came back into the garage, setting off the burglar alarm she had installed a few years earlier, after Amanda had helped a boyfriend steal $5,000 worth of guitars from Libby's husband. “I hate that sound,” Amanda said. “It brings everything back. It’s a trigger.” “I'm sorry,” Libby said. “It's our reality.” “Yeah, I know,” Amanda said. “And reality's a trigger.” Their condo was tucked away in a small development surrounded by pine trees and occupied mostly by retirees: no loud noises, no solicitors, no unauthorized visitors allowed
beyond the guard shack after 8 p.m. Libby was usually in the living room with the TV on mute. Amanda's stepfather was in the study, playing chess online. It was a place so quiet that Amanda could sit in the garage and literally hear the clock tick. Seventy-two hours left until the shot. Seventy-one. Seventy. "No way I'm going to make it," she said. She was sweating and picking at her nail beds, and when she said that she might know of a few clinics where she could get the shot right away, Libby agreed to drive her. They drove out of the exurbs, through the suburbs and into the city. Libby tucked her purse against the driver's side door, where Amanda wouldn't be able to reach it. She relocked the doors as she drove and cupped her hands over the car keys, remembering a time when Amanda had grabbed her keys and refused to give them back unless Libby paid her. For most of the last week, she had been requesting time off from her job as a beautician, afraid of what could happen if she left Amanda alone. Amanda sat in the passenger seat and stared out the window as they came into Southwest Detroit, passing the overgrown lots and decaying houses where she had spent so much of her adult life. Her first opiates had been a prescription for 120 tablets of Vicodin, offered by a doctor to treat a minor snowmobiling injury in high school. The pills chased away that pain and also the anger left over from her parents' divorce, her depression, ADHD and self-doubt, and soon she was failing out of high school and becoming increasingly dependent on pills. Just one or two to make it through another shift at work, a pawnshop where she stood behind the counter and gave addicts their $25 loans. Just two more to pass the time spent alone watching TV while her husband, a truck driver, was traveling. Just three or four to get going with the twins in the morning, to feed them, to sing to them, to feed them again, to sit and play all day in a lonely trailer out in Macomb. Just five when it started to feel like she was suffocating, 24 years old, divorced and already so stuck. Just a dose every five or six hours throughout the day to quiet the noise in her head, so why wasn't she numb? Why was 15 pills each day still not enough? If only there was something cheaper, stronger, and so in 2012 a boyfriend had introduced her to heroin, and she had been injecting it into a vein in her forearm twice a day ever since. Now they drove past the boarded-up trap houses where she'd met dealers and learned how to buy a $10 bag, until her tolerance grew and she needed five or six bags each day. They continued past the corner where she'd panhandled; and the blocks of abandoned houses where she'd learned how to strip out copper wire and sell it for scrap; and the motel where she'd worked from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m., shooting up before and after each shift, the only housekeeper in a 31-room motel where the rooms were rented in three-hour blocks and the best tips were drugs left behind by customers. They continued past a decaying apartment tower and then a small Victorian with busted windows. It reminded Amanda of a vacant house where she'd squatted for a while with a dozen other users, a rat-infested place without heat or electricity. She'd tried to make it feel like home, scrubbing the floors with Pine-Sol and hanging a poinsettia wreath on the boarded-up bedroom door. She'd met a girl there who had become like a little sister - a young runaway from Tennessee who was always using too much at once and risking an overdose. “I want to go find Sammy,” Amanda said now, turning to her mother. “What? Who's that?” Libby said. “What about finding a clinic?” “This is more important,” Amanda said, and so she began to explain how Sammy reminded her of herself, and how they had looked out for each other in the abandoned house. “If she sees I'm doing good, maybe I can convince her to go into rehab.” “This better not be some kind of scheme,” Libby said, but she also remembered this side of her daughter from before the addiction - selfless, determined, enterprising, sometimes sneaking extra cash into the loans she handed out to desperate customers at the pawnshop. Maybe helping someone would boost her self-esteem. “Okay,” Libby said. “Tell me where to go.” “Up there,” Amanda said, pointing to a two-story building with no windows, no door and trash spilling out from the entryway. Libby pulled over and Amanda jumped out. “How long?” Libby said. “Not long,”
Amanda told her and then disappeared into the building. Libby tapped her hand against the steering wheel and stared out the window. She could see a sleeping bag and a needle near the building's entrance. She saw something moving on the second floor. “Come on, come on,” she said, until a minute or so later Amanda stepped out. “She’s not in there,” Amanda said. “Try that next one,” and so Libby pulled up to another decrepit house, where a few people were sitting on the porch and others were pacing outside. One of the men waved to Amanda. “Be back in a minute,” she told Libby, and then she hurried out of the car. Libby checked the clock on her dashboard and thought about all of the other times she had watched Amanda disappear. Once she had stolen Libby's car and run off for a week; another time she had gone out to buy a Mountain Dew and then called a few days later from Florida. “Let Go and Let God,” was the advice some other mothers had repeated in Nar-Anon group meetings, but instead Libby had gained weight from stress, developed insomnia and started losing her hair. How many times had she filed a missing persons request? How often had she called the police station, and then the hospitals, and then the morgue to ask again for Jane Doe and to describe Amanda's birthmarks and her “Wild At Heart” tattoo? “This was so stupid. This was a mistake,” she said now, banging her fist against the steering wheel. She checked for her keys. She felt for her wallet. It was all there, but Amanda had been gone for seven minutes. Libby sent her a text message. “This doesn't look good at all,” she wrote. “I'm about to walk back,” Amanda responded. Libby drove around the block and pulled closer to the house. She saw a man digging into his pockets. She saw other people walking up to that man carrying cash. Twelve minutes Amanda had been gone now. Libby drove around the block again, drumming her hands against the steering wheel, possibilities racing through her head. Was Amanda using? Where had she gotten the money? What had she done to get it? She felt again for her wallet. She checked again for her keys. “This is bullshit,” she texted to Amanda, but there was no response. “Come on,” she wrote, and still nothing. “So over this.” “Come on right now.” She started to circle the block for a third time, and then suddenly there was Amanda, walking down the sidewalk and opening the passenger door. “What the hell was that?” Libby said. “What do you mean?” “Where the hell were you? Where's Sammy?” “I found her, and we called her parents, but she decided she didn't want help,” Amanda said, and to prove it she handed Libby her phone and showed her a seven-minute call made to a number in Tennessee. “So that was it?” Libby said, staring at her daughter. Her eyes were clear. Her hands were steady. She looked the same as she had when she'd left the car. Another 79 opiate addicts dying every day, but today her daughter wouldn't be one. A 97 percent chance to relapse, but at the moment Amanda looked clean. “Okay,” Libby said. “Let's get the hell out of here.” She had been an admitted opiate addict for 11 years, five months and 14 days, and on almost every one of those days she had promised to quit. She had tried therapy and group counseling, inpatient and outpatient. She'd run up thousands of dollars in credit-card debt to pay for a wellness retreat in the woods, and she'd slept on a cot in the hallway of a Medicaid addiction center. She had tried flushing away her supply; and erasing every number in her phone so she couldn't contact dealers; and waiting again on the long list to get into the city's free medical detox; and showing up at the hospital psych ward to say that she was suicidal. She'd searched for God at 12-step meetings and instead found new dealers. She'd tried methadone and Suboxone, two synthetic opiates used to treat heroin addiction, but instead wound up abusing those synthetics to get high. She had even tried an earlier version of the naltrexone shot a few years back, and it had helped her stay clean for five months until she relapsed. Maybe this time it would last. Nineteen hours now until her appointment. She lit a cigarette and sat down in the garage. The air was still and the neighborhood was quiet. A group of retired women walked by in visors and spandex, making their usual morning loop. She had been warned by a doctor that it was normal in the first year of sobriety to feel
“bored, flat, depressed, blah, tired, anxious” - a change in brain chemistry that exacerbated so many of
the longings that made heroin appealing in the first place. “I'm not seeing what's so great about being
 clean,” Amanda already had told her mother once, and in an effort to feel better she had started
thinking back to a time when she was 19, hopeful and sober. For most of that year she had traveled with
her husband as he drove long-haul loads. They had made it to 48 states without ever planning beyond
the next week. Maybe they would stay for a while in Texas. Maybe they would move up to the Rocky
Mountains in Colorado. All that sky. So many possibilities. And then eventually the job had gone away
and the road had led them back to Michigan - to the trailer, to the pawnshop, to the pills, to the twins,
to a dissolving marriage and a courtroom dispute for custody, and it felt to Amanda like she'd been
fighting to hang on ever since. The walkers circled past the garage on another loop. Amanda stomped
out her cigarette and headed inside. “Seventeen hours,” her mother said, greeting her. Amanda sat
down next to Libby on the couch, where Libby was watching daytime TV and scrolling through Facebook
on her phone. Lately, Libby had been spending a few hours each day in a conversation group for addicts'
mothers. It had more than 20,000 members, and Libby came to them for support, advice and most of all
for a reminder that the addiction overtaking her house was also ongoing for 1.6 million other chronic
heroin users and 8 million abusers of prescription drugs. “I just got the call,” read the first post of the
day. “My son was alone in his hotel room. I can't breathe.” “OD #6 but he's alive,” wrote another
mother. “Hospital kept him a couple hours and put him back on the street barefoot in scrubs with a
map.” Libby set down her phone. She looked up at the clock. Still almost 17 hours to go. “These days are
like dog years,” she said. She leaned her head against Amanda’s shoulder and kept scrolling through her
phone. “My addict son and his girlfriend were just found passed out at home with their baby crying.
When does this nightmare end?” “Dead in a walmart parking lot ...” “On our way to view her remains ...”
“My daughter was last seen around midnight ...” Libby stood up and walked into the kitchen. How many
times had she reworked Amanda's obituary in her head: a sarcastic sense of humor, a sharp wit, a
patient mother of young twins, a woman so disarming that once, when agents from the Drug
Enforcement Administration came to confiscate her prescription pills, she wound up dating one of the
agents. “Do you want a Mountain Dew?” Libby called out to Amanda, but when Libby looked into the
living room, Amanda was pacing and talking on her phone. “What do you mean there's a problem with
my appointment?” Amanda was saying now, and Libby started cursing under her breath. “I really need
this to happen tomorrow,” Amanda was saying, and Libby balled her fists and knocked them against the
kitchen counter. Amanda hung up and told Libby there had been a miscommunication between her
Medicaid insurance and the doctor's office. She said Medicaid needed more time to approve coverage
of the shot, and without coverage it would cost more than $1,000. Instead of getting the shot in 16 hours,
she would have to wait five more days. “That's not possible. Call back,” Libby said, because she wasn't
sure if Amanda was telling the truth or inventing a reason to put it off. Amanda dialed again. Libby stood
close so she could listen. “I'm seriously worried I'm going to relapse,” she heard Amanda say. “Please,
I'm trying to do good here,” she said. “There's really nothing you can do?” “Fine. See you next Tuesday,”
she said, and then she hung up. Amanda walked out to the garage to light a cigarette and Libby
followed. “If this is all a big lie, just tell me now,” Libby said. “Jesus. Can't you ever trust me?” Amanda
said. “I want this shot way more than you.” “How are you going to make it five days?” Libby said, her
tone softening. “You need a plan.” “You're the one freaking out,” Amanda said. “What about you?” Four
days left to go, three days, two, and as the hours crawled by until the appointment Libby decided she
needed to leave the house. She asked her husband to keep an eye on Amanda and went to have dinner
with two of the women she'd met in the Facebook group for addicts' mothers. For nearly a decade,
Libby had avoided talking to anyone about her daughter's addiction, mostly because Amanda didn't want people to know. “How's Amanda doing?” friends and relatives would ask, at every graduation, wedding and baby shower, and what was Libby supposed to tell them? That while everyone else's life was marching along in neat succession, her daughter was still sleeping late in the basement? That she was giving Amanda an allowance for cigarettes and cleaning up her moldy cereal bowls? “She's just fine,” was what Libby had always said, until eventually people stopped asking, which felt even worse. So Libby had started spending more time at home, and then more time on Facebook, where she had connected with a group of local addicts' mothers who had become her closest friends. “How's Amanda?” asked one of them, Mary Carr, as they sat down at a restaurant and ordered drinks. “Who knows?” Libby said. “Clean? Using? You'd think by now I could figure it out, but I honestly have no idea.” “They're masters of manipulation,” said another mother, Dana. “My rule at this point is don't believe anything,” Mary said. “Otherwise you end up feeling naive. I'm done with that.” Mary said that she had bumped into her son a few nights earlier in their neighborhood. He was 27, and he had been homeless for parts of the last 12 years, but lately he had been living with a girlfriend. He looked good and it was nice to see him, Mary said, but later that night he had called her a dozen times, harassing her and begging for money. “Do you know how many times he's done that?” Mary said. “So I'm finished. For the first time ever, I actually blocked him on my phone.” “See, that's the part I'm no good at,” Libby said. “I can't let go. I always think I can save her.” Libby had been a mother for only three months the first time Amanda got sick. Doctors had told her it was just a stubborn cold, until one night Libby went to check on her infant daughter and found her wheezing in the crib. The baby was turning blue. She couldn't breathe. Libby picked up her up, blew air into her mouth and rushed her to the emergency room. They stayed in the neonatal unit for the next two months as doctors ran tests to see what was wrong. Finally Amanda had been diagnosed with a severe kind of asthma, treated and sent home, and for the next year Libby had stood over her crib for a little while each night watching her breathe. Now she had spent 11 more years trapped in that cycle - expecting her daughter to die, sacrificing her sanity to save her, and doing most of it alone. She rarely talked to her ex-husband about Amanda's addiction; her current husband was patient and supportive, but sometimes, as Amanda's mother, Libby felt that the responsibility was mostly hers. So Libby had gone by herself to heroin awareness rallies at the state capitol. She had forced Amanda to take monthly drug tests and locked her out of the house. She had gone through the medical records Amanda left lying around and cursed out the doctors, pill mills and pharmacists who continued filling her prescriptions. She had tried, most of all, to be loving and patient with her daughter and to remember what so many experts had told her, that addiction was not a choice but a disease, even as Amanda stole her checks and then her credit cards, running up more than $50,000 of debt. And then, finally, nine years into her daughter's addiction, Libby had come up with a plan to be done with all of it. She had put on a bathing suit beneath her beautician uniform one morning and driven out of the city toward Kensington Lake. She had been a competitive swimmer as a teenager, but now she was out of shape. If she could swim out for a mile or so, she would be too exhausted to make it back. Nobody would see her. Nobody would hear her. She sat at a picnic table and stared out at the water. She watched a family shove their canoe into the lake. She watched two kids throwing rocks. She sat for hours until the sun descended over the water and then she got back in her car and drove home, resolved to seek help. She met with a therapist, confided in her husband, consulted with a bankruptcy lawyer and started talking regularly with the mothers she'd met online. “If I cut the cord with Amanda, would she recover faster?” Libby asked them now. “Would it be easier on both of us?” “There's no one right way,” Mary said. “I worry about enabling,” Libby said. “But what if I kick her out
and she dies in some abandoned house? How do I live with myself?” Nobody answered. They sat in silence for a moment and Mary reached for Libby’s hand. “You’re doing everything you can,” she said. “I don’t know where to draw the line,” Libby said. “I need your pee,” Amanda was saying to her mother now, on the last day, just hours before her appointment for the shot. She had come upstairs with darkened eyes, a runny nose and a confession. “Excuse me? You need what?” Libby said. “I need your pee. For the drug test. Otherwise I’m not going to pass and I can’t get the shot.” “What are you even saying?” Libby said, and so Amanda began unwinding the lies she had been telling her mother for the past week. That day she jumped out of the car in Southwest Detroit and then disappeared for 12 minutes? She had been trying to find Sammy, but she had also been trying to buy heroin, and she hadn’t been able to find any. The appointment five days earlier that had been postponed at the last minute because of insurance? She had actually canceled it and then made a series of fake phone calls to confuse her mother. That night earlier in the week when she said she was going to sleep over with her twins? She had stayed with them for a while, played with them and taken them to a movie, but then she had found a babysitter and gone to a motel with a friend, where she had gotten high on $50 worth of methadone, a long-acting opiate that was still running through her body now. It would be at least two weeks before the methadone was out of her system and she could pass a drug test. In two weeks, Amanda said, “I’ll probably be using and back out on the street.” Libby started to shake her head and bite her nails, cursing under her breath. “It’s always the same with you, isn’t it?” she said. “I need the shot now or I’ll never do it,” Amanda said. “I can deal with the sudden withdrawal.” “I can’t believe you’re even asking me to do this,” Libby said, but she had already decided that she would help Amanda, even if it required going to extremes. Withdrawal might send Amanda to the emergency room, but it was still safer than going back on heroin. Libby went into the bathroom and came out carrying a small bottle, and they drove together to a clinic wedged between a liquor store and a pharmacy near the Detroit River. Amanda checked in at the main desk and then waited outside the front door, smoking a cigarette until a nurse came out to get her. “There are a few things we need to go over first,” the nurse said, leading her back to a small exam room. She explained that the shot was an opiate antagonist. She explained that if Amanda still had drugs in her body the shot would cause an immediate and severe reaction: muscle spasms, cold sweats, abdominal cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, fever, impaired breathing. “When did you last have opiates in your system?” the nurse asked. “I’m not really sure,” Amanda said, looking down, picking at her nail beds. “Has it been over 14 days?” “I think so.” “No heroin? No Suboxone or methadone?” Amanda looked across the room at Libby, who stared back at her and nodded. Amanda sat for a minute and thought about telling the truth. Her appointment would be rescheduled. No shot. No muscle spasms or impaired breathing. She would be outside in a few minutes smoking a cigarette, and she could catch a ride to Southwest Detroit and be high within an hour. “Yes. I’m clean,” Amanda said finally. “It’s probably been, like, 20 days.” “We’ll need to do a drug test,” the nurse said, handing her a small cup for a urine sample. She said the test was mostly for record keeping. “Right now?” Amanda said. “I don’t really have to go.” “That’s fine. You can do it after the shot,” the nurse said. She took a deep breath and wiggled her toes and squeezed her arms and rolled her neck and decided she felt ... fine. “I think I’m actually okay,” she told Libby. “You’re great. You’re clean,” Libby said. She looked at Amanda with relief and then reached over to squeeze her shoulders. “Twenty-eight days without having to worry about this nightmare.” “I can’t believe I actually did it,” Amanda said.
“Pretty damn brave,” Libby said, but now as she looked at her daughter she saw that her face was turning pale and there was sweat on her forehead. Amanda's right leg began to tremble. Her left leg jolted forward and she almost fell to the curb. She dropped her cigarette and crawled into the back seat of the car. “Take me to the emergency room,” she said, and Libby started driving. By the time they arrived at the hospital 10 minutes later, Amanda was in full withdrawal because of the methadone that had still been in her system. She couldn't stand, so Libby got her into a wheelchair. She couldn't steady her hand to fill out the intake forms, so Libby helped do them for her. “Heroin?” the receptionist asked, because the hospital had already seen 11 of those cases in the last 24 hours. “Yes,” Libby said, and then added: “Recovering.” “Okay. Have a seat and wait to be called,” the receptionist said. They sat in the waiting room for five minutes, then 10, then 30. “I need medicine,” Amanda began to moan. “Put me to sleep. Give me something.” She started to tremble and then convulse. Her arms swung wildly and collided hard against her legs. Her muscles cramped, and she slumped in the wheelchair and slid toward the floor. “Can I get some help over here?” Libby asked, but nobody answered. Amanda threw up in the bucket, in a trash can, and then all over the bathroom floor. “How much longer until we get seen?” Libby asked, and finally after about half an hour a nurse came out to check on them. “Sorry, ma’am,” she said. “We'll get to you soon.” “But there's no one else here,” Libby said, gesturing around the empty waiting room. “We have to go by priority,” the nurse said. “People who are having chest pain come before other things.” “And this isn't a priority?” Libby said, pointing to Amanda, who now was crying and saying that she needed a sedative, that she wanted to be knocked out. She had vomit caked in her hair and welts rising on her legs in the places where she’d been hitting herself. “She'll make it,” the nurse said, looking down at Amanda. “We see a lot of addicts in withdrawal.” “She needs help,” Libby said, her voice rising. “It's too much. Can't you see that?” The nurse walked away and then a few minutes later a doctor came out into the waiting room. He grabbed Amanda's wheelchair and started rolling her back into triage. He told Amanda the hospital would take good care of her. He said she would be out of withdrawal and feeling better within three or four days. “Congratulations on Day One,” he said, but Amanda didn't seem to hear him. Every nerve in her body was on fire. She was sick. She was clean. She was scared. She was feeling all of it now, so many sensations rushing in at once. “Please,” she said, reaching up for the doctor’s arm, tugging at it. “Make me feel nothing.”

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.83
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 390868
Article Title: GIFT OF HEALTH; A FOUNDATION INVESTS IN A FIT ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Date: 5/31/2015

Article Content: The Allegheny County Health Department has its work cut out for it as it strives to create a healthier region, with improved access to care and nutritious food, lower rates of obesity and smoking, cleaner air and water and fewer overdoses and infant deaths. The Richard King Mellon Foundation is helping in a big way, with a $750,000, one-year grant. The health department conducted a yearlong assessment to identify the county’s key health needs, and voluminous facts and figures are
available on its website, www.achd.net. Gauges display how the county is doing on 30 different topics. A needle points to green if results are positive - rates of health insurance coverage are above national levels - and red if results are poor - there are too many deaths due to drug abuse, for instance. Progress will be measured on a quarterly basis, and the needles should move toward the green end of the gauges. The goals are concrete. For example, in order to cut the obesity rate among children by 10 percent, the county wants to improve meal options at schools and youth organizations. To cut the proportion of adults who smoke from the current 23 percent, the county aims to increase the number of tobacco-free parks, playgrounds and public housing units. The generous gift from the foundation will help transform goals into action, and Allegheny County should become healthier as a result."

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 159390

Article Title: Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index 2014 - Business Insider"

Date: 2/19/2015

Article Content:  
dcsl/flickrSeward Highway is one of Alaska’s most famous drives. Alaska was ranked the happiest state in the US by the Gallup-Healthways 2014 well-being index. The latest 2014 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being index was released Thursday, and for the first time in the poll’s history Alaska is the happiest state in America. It was followed by Hawaii, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana to round out of the top five. The Gallup-Healthways data is based on over 176,000 interviews with US adults from January until December 2014. It tests five essential elements of well-being, including motivation to achieve goals (purpose), having positive relationships (social), economic satisfaction (financial), feeling safe and having pride in where you live (community), and taking care of your health (physical). Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index 2014In addition to being the happiest state in the US, Alaskans also have the highest ranking in “purpose” or motivation to achieve life goals. Dan Witters, research director for the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, told Business Insider that Alaska’s ranking this year wasn’t a surprise given that it has finished in the top five states three other times since 2009. “Alaskans led the nation in 2014 with the lowest levels of daily stress, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol,” Witters said. “They also make good choices, including the lowest level of drug use in the US.” In addition to Health, Alaska’s community well-being was strong. “Alaska is tops in the nation in having residents who help to improve their community, and is in the top five for feeling safe and secure,” Witters added. Hawaii ranked the highest for financial and physical health well-being while South Dakota was number one in both social and community well-being. The biggest drop on the list was North Dakota which earned the top spot on the 2013 list but fell to number 23 this year. The Gallup-Healthways press release said, “North Dakota’s drop was mostly attributable to a drop in its residents' overall life evaluation, coupled with worsened health-related behaviors such as higher smoking rates, reduced exercise, and less healthy eating compared with 2013.” Hawaii and Colorado are still the only states to place in the top 10 every year since the poll began in 2008. Hawaii held the top spot for four
years in a row until it was dethroned by North Dakota in 2013. Check out the full state rankings below.

Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index 2014 Please enable Javascript to watch this video

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 395056

Article Title: Philip Morris shares get a boost after profit, sales beat expectations - MarketWatch"

Date: 7/16/2015

Article Content: Shares of Philip Morris International Inc. PM, -0.05% rose 1.7% in light premarket trade Thursday, after the cigarette seller beat second-quarter profit and revenue expectations. Earnings grew to $1.89 billion, or $1.21 a share, from $1.85 billion, or $1.17 a share, in the same period a year ago. Total revenue fell 11% to $18.76 billion, while revenue excluding excise taxes declined 12% to $6.9 billion. The results were above the FactSet EPS consensus of $1.13 and revenue consensus of $6.75 billion. cigarette shipment volume slipped 1.4% to 219.8 billion units, including a 1.1% drop in sales of its top Marlboro brand. For the full year, the company expects adjusted EPS growth, excluding the negative effect of currency movements, to be toward the upper end of its projected range of 9% to 11%. Separately, Philip Morris and Swedish Match said they dissolved their smokeless joint venture. Philip Morris's stock had lost 2.7% over the past three months through Wednesday, while the S&P 500 has gained 0.1%.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 130928

Article Title: FTSE CLOSE: Oil and mining stocks eyed as commodity prices tumble | Daily Mail Online

Date: 11/4/2014

Article Content: FTSE CLOSE: Oil and mining stocks eyed as commodity prices tumble; Glencore, L&G and Imperial issue updates By Tanya Jefferies for Thisismoney.co.uk Published: 03:22 EST, 4 November 2014 | Updated: 12:25 EST, 4 November 2014 17.10 (close): Strong corporate earnings failed to offset weaker oil stocks today as the London market’s poor start to the week continued. Shares in Imperial Tobacco, Primark owner Associated British Foods and Legal & General were up by two per cent or more following well-received updates. But the FTSE 100 Index, which closed sharply lower on Monday following disappointing manufacturing data in a number of countries, remained under pressure to close 34 points lower at 6454. Oil prices: Brent and WTI crude have fallen after Saudi Arabia cut prices to the US. Sentiment was hit by a downgrade to economic growth forecasts by the European Union, with the 18-country eurozone now set to grow by 0.8 per cent rather than a prediction of 1.2 per cent made in the
There were also concerns over the UK economy after the latest purchasing managers’ reading for the UK construction sector fell to a five month low of 61.4, well below City forecasts. On currency markets, the pound was down against the euro at 1.27 but was marginally higher against the US dollar at just below 1.60. Oil prices were a major factor in the performance of the FTSE 100 Index after Brent crude dropped sharply to around 82 US dollars a barrel. The slide came after Saudi Arabia cut prices for US customers in order to compete with the surge in oil production there. Tullow Oil was the biggest faller in the top flight with a decline of 25.4p to 457.9p, while Royal Dutch Shell was off 62p to 2220p and BP dipped 13.3p to 430.4p. Imperial Tobacco was one of the biggest risers in the top flight - up four per cent or 110p to 2777p - following a 24.6 per cent rise in profits to £1.5 billion for the year to September 30. Overall volumes are in decline but Imperial has benefited from cost cuts and demand for its major brands such as Lambert & Butler and JPS. AB Foods was 112p higher at 2783p after it grew annual profits at Primark by 29 per cent to £662 million following a ‘magnificent’ year for the retailer. Overall, adjusted pre-tax profits at the conglomerate, which owns Ryvita and Ovaltine, lifted two per cent to £1.1 billion as lower prices at its sugar division were offset by growth in its grocery, agriculture and ingredients units. Marks & Spencer, which is due to post half-year figures tomorrow, was 0.8p higher at 404.7p. The other big results day boost came from insurer Legal & General after it said annuity sales increased by five per cent to £3.9 billion in the third quarter of the year. Its shares rose by two per cent or 4.6p to 235.2p. In other corporate news, engines giant Rolls-Royce was 13p higher at 848p after it announced plans to cut 2,600 jobs as part of an ongoing efficiency drive. The biggest risers in the FTSE 100 Index were Associated British Foods up 112p at 2783p, Imperial Tobacco ahead 110p at 2777p, Randgold Resources up 105p at 3805p and Legal & General ahead 4.6p at 235.2p. The biggest fallers were Tullow Oil down 25.4p at 457.9p, Aggreko off 65p at 1455p, BG Group down 36.9p at 999.1p and Weir off 76p at 2165p. 15.00: The Dow Jones has opened virtually flat, down half a point at 17,365.7, as US traders mull the fallout from an overnight drop in the oil price. Saudi Arabia has cut its oil price in the US to $82.94 a barrel and WTI crude to $77.22 a barrel. A drop in fuel costs could help the US economy but will be a drag on big oil stocks. In London, the FTSE 100 was down 6.9 points at 6,481.1. 13.55: Futures trading points to a lower open on the Dow Jones, with poor US trade figures for September dampening investor mood across the Atlantic. ‘The US trade deficit widened in September after weakening global growth cooled exports,’ said Lee Mumford of Spreadex. ‘The gap grew by 7.6 per cent to $43 billion, the largest since May. The recent recording is the first sign that American companies’ international sales could suffer as global growth fears ripple the markets.’ In addition, cheaper oil and increased crude production cut foreign petroleum purchases to a five-year low, offsetting record imports of consumer goods. ‘Americans are heading to the polls today for mid-term Congress and state governor elections, which are held in between the four-yearly presidential votes. Tom Stevenson, investment director at Fidelity Personal Investing, said: ‘History shows that mid-term elections have typically heralded a rally in the Dow Jones index after a decline leading up to the vote. This is particularly the case when the election occurs during a tightening of monetary policy.’ The powerful US Federal Reserve last week announced it was ending its vast six-year money programme aimed at supporting the economic recovery, signalling the start of a move from loose to tighter central bank policy. In London, the FTSE 100 was down 11.2 points at 6,476.8 in early afternoon trading. 12.20: London stocks have slipped back into the red, dragged down by the oil sector and a pessimistic economic update from the European Commission. The FTSE 100 fell 4.9 points to 6,483.1 as oil shares tracked lower prices on commodity markets. Brent crude had dropped to $82.58 a barrel and US WTI light crude to $76.60 a barrel by lunchtime today. US elections: Americans are heading to the
polls today for mid-term Congressional elections, which typically herald a rally in the Dow Jones.BP was off 2 per cent or 7.45p at 436.25p while Shell also shed 2 per cent to trade 44.5p lower at 2,237.5p. Tullow Oil was the biggest faller in the top flight index with a decline of 13p to 470.3p. Meanwhile, the European Commission has downgraded its economic forecasts and predicted more low inflation and high joblessness. In its autumn estimates, the EU executive said the eurozone's economy would expand 0.8 per cent this year, rather than the 1.2 per cent it forecast in the spring. It predicted 1.1 per cent growth next year and 1.7 per cent in 2016. There were also concerns over the UK economy after the latest purchasing managers' index reading for the construction sector fell to a five-month low of 61.4, well below City forecasts. A figure above 50 indicates growth, and one below signals a contraction.10.20: The FTSE 100 has reversed early losses and pushed 15.7 points higher to 6,503.7 following a batch of positive corporate updates. Shares in Imperial Tobacco, Primark owner Associated British Foods and Legal & General were all higher after they posted well-received figures. Imperial was the biggest riser in the top flight, up 3 per cent or 85p to 2752p, after it reported a 5 per cent rise in full-year operating profits to £2billion and said it had seen stronger performances from its growth and specialist brands. AB Foods was 7.5p higher at 2678.5p after it grew annual profits at Primark by 29 per cent to £662million following what it called a 'magnificent' year for the retailer. Overall, adjusted pre-tax profits at the conglomerate, which owns Ryvita and Ovaltine, lifted 2 per cent to £1.1 billion as lower prices at its sugar division were offset by growth in its grocery, agriculture and ingredients units. Read more here about Primark, which has shrugged off the 'weather effect' of a warm autumn, and is boasting of strong recent trading. Retailing giant Marks & Spencer, due to post half-year figures tomorrow, was 4.6p higher at 408.5p. Meanwhile, an overnight fall in the price of oil left BP 5p lower at 438.75p and Royal Dutch Shell down 33.5p to 2248.5p. David Madden, market analyst at IG, said: 'In London, equity traders shunned the selloff in Asia and adopted a more optimistic attitude. Banks are back in favour with dealers now that the five major UK banks have reported, and since the dust has settled the British banking sector is broadly unchanged after this round of the reporting season. Despite iron ore falling to its lowest level in nearly five years, the London-listed miners are trading higher this morning as dealers dig up whatever bargains they can find.' Madden noted that Virgin Money plans to go ahead with a float on the stock market this month. The [Sir Richard] Branson business bought Northern Rock when it was at rock bottom, and IG is offering a grey market on what the market capitalisation will be. Currently it suggests a market value of £1.9 billion.'8.20: The FTSE 100 opened down 11.7 points at 6,476.3, with commodity stocks in focus as iron prices dropped to near their weakest level since 2009 while Brent crude fell to $83.60 a barrel. Rio Tinto was off 28.75p at 2,940.25p and BHP Billiton slipped 11.00p to 1,599.50p as iron ore looked poised for further losses following a fall of 42 per cent this year due to a supply glut. Major oil groups and services companies will also be eyed after top oil exporter Saudi Arabia cut prices to the US. The price of US WTI crude fell to $77.66 a barrel this morning. Jonathan Sudaria, a dealer at Capital Spreads, said: 'Faced with a soaring production in the US crude, Saudi Arabia took the drastic decision to cut the cost of its oil sold to US customers in an attempt to preserve their market share. The energy complex's reaction sent the WTI crude prices $2.41 lower to $78.21 a barrel as the price war among OPEC [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries] members might now escalate.' The FTSE 100 closed 58.5 points lower at 6488 points yesterday. Stocks to watch today include: LEGAL & GENERAL: Insurer Legal & General saw a rise in net cash generation in the first nine months of 2014, helped by sales of bulk annuities. ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS: Associated British Foods posted a 6 per cent rise in full year earnings, with strong performances from the group's Primark discount fashion chain and grocery division offsetting the adverse impact of lower sugar prices. IMPERIAL
TOBACCO: Imperial Tobacco Group reported declines in full-year revenue and profit hurt by adverse currency exchange rates and a reduction of inventories in several markets. Primark has shrugged off the 'weather impact' of recent warm weather and is boasting of strong recent trading.GLENCORE: Glencore posted a 8 per cent increase in copper output in the first nine months of the year thanks to strong production from its African operations and said its trading arm performed in line with its expectations.ASTRAZENECA: AstraZeneca has agreed to buy Definiens, a private company that has developed a way of unlocking information from cancer tissue samples, for an initial $150million.GRENE KING/SPIRIT PUB: Greene King said it had reached an agreement to buy rival pub operator Spirit Pub.WEIR: Engineering firm Weir Group said orders in the third quarter rose 14 per cent on a constant currency basis, helped by strength in its oil and gas business.PERSIMMON: Housebuilder Persimmon said its operating profits would rise in the second half of the year, boosted by improving margins and strong consumer confidence.BALFOUR BEATTY: Infrastructure company Balfour Beatty said chief financial officer Duncan Macgrath would leave the business in 2015.WILLIAM HILL: Bookmaker William Hill said its Manila service centre would be investigated due to allegations relating to illegal gambling activities in the Philippines.VIRGIN MONEY: Lender Virgin Money is seeking to go ahead with its postponed London stock market listing amid firmer market conditions by the end of next week, two sources familiar with the matter said.UNITED BISCUITS: Turkey's largest food group Yildiz Holding has bought cookies and snacks maker United Biscuits, in a deal it said made it the world's third-biggest biscuit maker and would help it expand into new markets.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – Low – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 406384

Article Title: Young at heart? Not most Americans, government report says - Business Insider"

Date: 9/1/2015

Article Content: NEW YORK (AP) — Your heart might be older than you are. A new government report suggests age is just a number — and perhaps not a very telling one when it comes to your risk of heart attack or stroke. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report takes a new approach to try to spur more Americans to take steps to prevent cardiovascular disease. CDC scientists estimated the average “heart age” of men and women in every state, based on risk factors like high blood pressure, obesity, and whether they smoke or have diabetes. Then it compared the numbers to average actual ages. The results? Nearly three out of four U.S. adults have a heart that’s older than the rest of their body, according to CDC calculations. For U.S. men on average, the predicted heart age was nearly eight years greater than their real age. For U.S. women, it was about five-and-a-half years. “This is alarming. Heart disease is the nation's number one killer,” said the report's lead author, CDC scientists Quanhe Yang. “But the bottom line is you can do some very simple things” to become younger at heart, he said. Each year, one in four U.S. deaths is due to heart disease. Many are heart attacks and strokes. The average age of first heart attack is about 64½ for men and 72 for women, according to the American Heart Association. The nation's heart disease death rate has been falling thanks to advances in
prevention and treatment, including drugs to control blood pressure and lower cholesterol. But heart
disease remains America's leading cause of death and health officials have been pushing to get more
people to control their weight, quit smoking and take other steps to help their heart and blood vessels.
The CDC is leading a “Million Hearts” campaign, launched in 2012 to prevent 1 million heart attacks and
strokes by 2017. CDC scientists were intrigued by a heart age calculation developed by other researchers
conducting a large study in Framingham, Massachusetts. Some research has indicated that Framingham
heart age calculations have resonated more with patients than more conventional medical advice and
warnings, so CDC researchers used the Framingham model — and CDC national survey data — to
produce the first report on heart age across the nation. CDC officials released the report Tuesday. “It
gives a stark, simple picture of your future risk of having — or dying from — heart attack or stroke,” said
CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. The estimates were specific to adults 30 to 74 who have not had a heart
attack or stroke. Mississippi has the highest proportion of adults with advanced heart age, followed by
West Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana and Alabama. Those states also have higher rates of smoking, obesity,
and other heart disease risk factors. Utah and Colorado had the lowest proportions of people with a
heart age five years or greater than their actual age, followed by California, Hawaii and Massachusetts.
The study also found that for blacks nationally, heart age was 11 years greater than actual age. The gap
was much smaller for whites and Hispanics. On Tuesday, CDC also officials shared the Framingham
study's online heart age prediction calculator for individuals to assess themselves. People have to know
their systolic blood pressure — the higher of the two measurements — to generate an estimate. ____
Online: CDC report: http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns Heart age calculator:
http://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/risk-functions/cardiovascular-disease/general-cvd-risk-
prediction-using-bmi.php

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High within the
database is “cpopnormstob8”.

Tobacco (no ecig) texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is
“tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tpophi”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 796727

Article Title: Public health advocates still pushing for cigarette tax hike"

Date: 4/5/2017

Article Content: DATELINE: INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Public health advocates say they haven't
given up on efforts to get Indiana lawmakers to increase the state's cigarette tax. Raise It for Health
campaign chairwoman Monique French said Wednesday that it's one of the biggest steps lawmakers can take to improve the state's health. But a proposal to increase the state's 99-cent-per-pack tax by $1 has run into stiff opposition. Gov. Eric Holcomb doesn't support it. Senate Republican budget writer Luke Kenley didn't include it, even though the House budget proposal does. Indiana has one of the country's highest smoking rates, and advocates say research shows hiking the tax would lead to a drop in smoking. French says public opinion research shows broad support for a cigarette tax increase.

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 729953

Article Title: Data: Adult smoking rate in Arizona drops to 14 percent"

Date: 9/28/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: PHOENIX PHOENIX (AP) - Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that the adult smoking rate in Arizona has dropped to 14 percent. That's down from more than 19 percent in 2011. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services The latest Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System report shows the decrease translates to more than 200,000 Arizonans who quit smoking over the last five years. Smoking is a leading cause of death in the United States. State officials say secondhand smoke also is harmful to family members who don't smoke, especially children. To help people quit smoking, the Department of Health Services operates the Arizona Smokers' Helpline. The ASHLine offers free individual counseling to people who want to quit any tobacco product."

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.99

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 410355

Article Title: SHOW: CBS MORNING NEWS 4:00 AM EST Police in Baltimore are canceling leave for all officers during court hearings that start tomorrow for six officers accused in the death of Freddie Gray.

Date: 9/1/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: The twenty-five-year-old's death was caused by injuries while in police custody in April and that triggered protests and violence that injured more than a hundred police officers. The police commissioner wants all hands on deck. ANNE-MARIE GREEN: Police in Baltimore are cancelling leave for all officers during court hearings that start tomorrow for six officers accused in the death of Freddie Gray. The twenty-five-year-old's death was caused by injuries while in police custody in April and that triggered protests and violence that injured more than a hundred police officers. The police commissioner wants all hands on deck. KEVIN DAVIS (Interim Baltimore Police Commissioner):
Our intelligence is not predicting unrest. We do know that there will, undoubtedly, be some--some level of protests or presence by a lot of folks. ANNE-MARIE GREEN: The mayor says that Baltimore is prepared. And police in Phoenix, Arizona, are looking for someone who is shooting at vehicles on Interstate-10. Monday's early morning shooting hit the windshield of a bus. It was the fourth shooting in three days. Investigators say it's unclear where the bullets are coming from or if there is any connection between the vehicles being hit. State police are asking for help from the public to catch the freeway shooter or shooters. FRANK MILSTEAD (Arizona DPS Director): If it's somebody you know or you were in the car with that particular person or you were on the side of the road with the person that did this, we will pay you for the information by silent witness. ANNE-MARIE GREEN: So far, no one has been seriously hurt. Straight ahead, a boost for a hacked website. A site for unfaithful spouses finds new members, despite a data breach. And Samsung unveils its new smartwatch. Details in MoneyWatch. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) ANNE-MARIE GREEN: A new government report says the smoking rates for U.S. adults keep falling. The CDC released the findings today. The smoking rate was about fifteen percent for the first three months of this year. But that survey data tends to be skewed by the temporary impact of New Year's resolutions. Last year, the smoking rate dropped to seventeen percent, down from eighteen percent in 2013. Well, cigarette smoke may be down. But new research finds that regular marijuana use is actually on the rise among college students. The study by the University of Michigan found that just under six percent said that they had used marijuana daily or at least twenty times in the previous thirty days. That compares to only three and a half percent who use pot daily in 2007.

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.95
Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 31936
Article Title: SHOW: FOX SPECIAL REPORT WITH RET BAIER 6:00 PM EST Political Headlines
Date: 7/10/2014
Article Content: DOUG MCKELWAY, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: The bad optics continue on immigration for a President who now insists he has no interest in photo-ops. This is "Special Report." Good evening. I'm Doug McKelway. Bret Baier is on assignment tonight. A President who frequently desperate his Washington may in fact be glad to be back here tonight. President Obama has put significant geographical, if not political distance between himself and the continuing immigration crisis on the southern border. Chief White House correspondent Ed Henry reports from Austin Texas, where the President could not escape the growing turmoil earlier today. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) ED HENRY, FOX NEWS CHIEF WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): One day after explaining away his decision to skip visiting the border by insisting he is not interested in photo-ops, President Obama held a photo-op over a cup of coffee in Austin, feeling the pain of a University of Texas student who had written the President about both of her parents losing jobs. BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Part of what touched me in the letter -- HENRY: And when the President tried to keep to a speech today tackling focused on his economic message, a brief mention of immigration reform sparked an angry outburst from protesters on the left to think he has been too eager to deport illegal immigrants. OBAMA: I'm
sorry, what are you yelling about there? Sit down, guys. I'm almost done. Come on. Sit down. I'll talk to you afterwards, I promise. I'll bring it back to you. I'm wrapping things up here. HENRY: Back in Washington, Republicans grilled the President's homeland security secretary, Jeh Johnson, about whether the $3.7 billion emergency budget request misses the mark. SEN. RICHARD SHELBY (R-AL), SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: While the President is seeking billions for the admission, detention and care of illegal children, and adults, only -- yes, only $45.4 million, is my understanding, is requested for the department of justice's adjudication and immigration proceedings. JEH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY: This request has the right focus on deterrence, added detention, and removal. HENRY: Republicans are skeptical after the President on Wednesday appeared to offload the responsibility on Congress and Texas Governor Rick Perry. OBAMA: I suggested to the governor, I suspect some influence over the Texas delegation and that might be helpful to call on them to pass this supplemental right away. HENRY: Perry put the onus back on the President saying he shouldn't have rejected a direct plea to send the National Guard to the border. GOV. RICK PERRY (R), TEXAS: I don't know whether he heard what I said. Because a leader acts. And what I haven't seen out of this President are actions that make me think that he understands what's going on. HENRY: While their meeting, at least on the surface, was more cordial than either side expected, the flash point was the President refusing to visit the border. OBAMA: This isn't a theater, this is a problem. I'm not interested in photo-ops. I'm interested in solving a problem. HENRY: That comment quickly went viral. The President's critics starting to #not interested in photo-ops, connected to a stream of tweets, with photos ranging from the President shooting pool at a bar in Denver a few nights ago, to some infamous selfies with prime ministers and baseball sluggers. And today when senior adviser Valerie Jarrett herself tweeted a pic of the copy photo-op in Austin, the senior adviser was mocked on social media. While a fired-up speaker of the house unloaded on the commander in-chef. REP. JOHN BOEHNER (R-OH), SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: This is a problem of the President's own making. He's been President for five and a half years. When's he going to take responsibility for something? (END VIDEOTAPE) HENRY: Two other big moments at this Senate hearing. Administration officials said without new money they're going to run out of beds for kids in August. Meanwhile, when Republican Lindsey Graham pressed where these kids are being turned over to adults who are here in America illegally, administration officials admitted they simply don't know. And Graham's response as whether these kids will show up at deportation hearings, zero percent chance -- Doug. MCKELWAY: Ed Henry in Austin, Texas. Thank you, Ed. A federal judge is ordering the IRS to explain under oath how it lost all those emails from former official Lois Lerner. The judge gave the tax agency a month to submit the explanation in writing. Lerner is the central figure in the scandal of targeting conservative groups. The IRS says it lost the emails in 2011 when Lerner's computer crashed. Meantime, an IRS employee has agreed to a 100-day suspension for urging callers to voters for President Obama in 2012 while working on the customer and service helpline. You could soon need protection from President Obama's environmental protection agency, raiding your paycheck. Chief Washington correspondent James Rosen tells us about another big power grab for the EPA. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) JAMES ROSEN, FOX NEWS CHIEF WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): As bureaucratic nightmares go, the internal revenue service garnishing your wages to collect delinquent tax debt is among the most familiar, because it's been happening for decades. Now however, under a new proposed rule, the environmental protection agency would also be able to garnish wages without a court order to collect unpaid fines and interest imposed on individuals found to have violated environmental laws. JORDAN SEKULOW, AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE: I think the Obama administration is the way to use the EPA to implement policy that they can't do through legislation. And
they operate with significant revenue inside their own legal system, this administrative legal system and they set the rules of the game. ROSEN: As legal ground, EPA cites the debt collection improvement act of 1996. The Obama administration claims that law empowers all federal agencies to garnish wages provided they develop the same due process protections built into the IRS enforcement model. Some agencies, like the department of education, and federal trade commission have already adopted the practice. EPA told us administrative wage garnishment would only apply after the EPA attempts to collect delinquent debts and after treasury attempts to collect delinquent debts through other means. The agency also provides notice prior to any wage garnishment action the spokesman said, including the opportunity for the debtor to review, contest or enter into a repayment agreement. It also outlines procedures for a hearing at the debtor's request. DOUG HORNELL, FORMER VAN HOLLEN COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR: One of the tools of last resort is wage garnishment. And so, what they're doing right now is just complying with that law. ROSEN: Critics argue the EPA has a track record of mismanagement and bullying, sometimes lobbying overwhelming fines for minors even non-existent transgressions. And as such, should not be invested with IRS style powers. Three GOP senators have written to EPA chief Gina McCarthy demanding the rule be withdrawn. I think the SEN. JOHN BARRASSO (R-WY), SENATE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: IRS should not, they do have that power and they use it, I do not want that power extended to the EPA, specifically when we see the abuse by the EPA in this administration. (END VIDEOTAPE) ROSEN: This rule goes on the books September 2nd unless EPA says it receives adverse comments by August 1st, in which case it said it would withdraw the rule. We asked how many adverse comments were required, and EPA told us, quote, "any." Officials there also confirmed they have received such comments today. So the fate of this rule, Doug, appears at this point very much up in the air. MCKELWAY: Thank you, James. Stocks were down today. The Dow lost 70.5. The S&P 500 off eight. NASDAQ fell 23. The White House says it is talking with the German government about its decision to kick out the CIA station chief in that country. Merlin’s (ph) dramatic move comes amid allegations that two men have been spying for the U.S. relations with Germany, are already very tricky. After revelations that the national security agency had been monitoring Angela Merkel’s cell phone. This is a FOX News alert. Breaking news on the Israeli situation right now. We have learned President Obama spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu just a few minutes ago, about the violence with Palestinian’s Hamas. And the White House reads out says quote “the President expressed concern about the risk of further escalation, and emphasized the need for all sides to do everything they can to protect the lives of civilians and restore calm.” The United States remains prepared to facilitate a secession of hostilities including a return to the November 2012 ceasefire agreement, it says. Correspondent David Lee Miller is Jerusalem again tonight. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) DAVID LEE MILLER, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): Israeli forces continue to mass near the Gaza border preparing for a possible ground invasion. Some 20,000 reservists have been called up, bracing for what could be a bloody confrontation. In the last three days, there have been over 800 Israeli air strikes that have dropped more than 400 tons of explosives on Gaza. At least 87 Gaza residents have been killed. Palestinian officials say more than half of the fatalities are civilians, mostly women and children, 600 others have been wounded. BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER (through translator): We're doing everything possible not to hurt civilians. If there are any innocents that are hurt, it's because Hamas hides behind Palestinian civilians. MILLER: For the first time since the current conflict has got under way, there have been Israeli casualties. Two soldiers that are based near the Gaza border received light to moderate wounds from mortar fire. Meanwhile, much of Israel endured more than 120 rocket attacks on Thursday. In the city of Ashto, about 15 miles from the border, a rocket set a car on
fire. But no one was injured. Tel Aviv and Jerusalem also came under attack. The U.N. Security Council convened an emergency meeting to try and resolve the conflict. The Palestinian representative demanded intervention. RIYAD MANSOUR, PALESTINIAN OBSERVER TO UNITED NATIONS: The council must bear its responsibilities. It must act to protect the civilian lives, de-escalate the current crisis and salvage the prospect for peace and security in our troubled region. MILLER: Israel's U.N. ambassador played the council the warning siren heard before a racket attack to demonstrate what Israelis endure. RON PROSOR, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS: Fifteen seconds, that's how much time you have to run for your life. Imagine having only 15 seconds to find a bomb shelter. (END VIDEOTAPE) MILLER: Despite the escalating violence, Israel today allowed some 200 trucks hauling things such as food and fuel and other vital supplies to enter Gaza. It's an effort to try and avert a humanitarian crisis, especially if Israel launches a ground invasion -- Doug. MCKELWAY: David Lee Miller, in Jerusalem. Thank you, David. Up next, the latest on the fate of the U.S. marine held in a Mexican jail, after one very wrong turn. But first here's what some of our FOX affiliates are covering tonight. FOX 25 in Boston with a house fire has left seven people dead. The blaze tore a three-storey apartment building at low overnight. Fire officials say about 48 people were inside when the fire broke out. FOX 26 in Houston where a 34-year-old man is facing charges in the deaths of six family members. Authorities say Ron Lee Haskell surrendered after multi-hour standoff. Four children among the dead, a 15-year-old survived. And this is a live look at Los Angeles from FOX 11. One of the big stories there, "Game of Thrones" leads the way with 19 Emmy nominations, Fargo, American horror story, (INAUDIBLE), Breaking Bad, and a Normal heart were right behind. Also nominated, the episode of the satirical web series, "Between Two Ferns," the one featuring President Obama. That's tonight's live look outside the beltway from "Special Report." We'll be right back. MCKELWAY: Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi is back in a Mexican jail tonight, one day after his day in court. The marine who was caught crossing the border into Mexico with weapons is still waiting to get back home. Senior correspondent Adam Housley has the latest from Los Angeles. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Andrew, how did it go today? ADAM HOUSLEY, FOX NEWS SENIOR CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): After a nine-hour hearing in front of a Mexican federal judge, marine sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi left the Tijuana court house still officially in Mexican custody and still charged with illegally transporting weapons across the San Ysidro, California border. FERNANDO BENITEZ, ANDREW TAHMOORESSI ATTORNEY: We feel the hearing was a success. And we feel we are finally on the right track in order to achieve what every one of us is ultimately hoping for. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're optimistic about the future. He's very strong. He's very strong and positive. HOUSLEY: The 26-year-old marine veteran has been under arrest and held without bail in a Mexican jail for 102 days. Wednesday was the first time he faced a judge and testified that he accidentally drove into Mexico because he was confused by poorly marked signs. Tahmooressi said he immediately waved over Mexican authorities and told him he had three legally registered U.S. weapons in his car. During the evidentiary hearing, those Mexican border agents were questioned by his attorney. BENITEZ: It was finally and officially discovered that there are multiple irregularities with the order to search his vehicle. HOUSLEY: Tahmooressi's family hopes those discrepancies will lead to his release. And while they weren't allowed inside for his hearing, they did get to see him afterwards. JILL TAHMOORESSI, MOTHER: I was able to talk to him for 20 minutes. He's strong, he's confident, he is very privileged to have Mr. Benitez defend his innocence. (END VIDEOTAPE) HOUSLEY: A big difference in U.S. court, the Mexican judicial system allows for the case to be heard in segments, which means the judge could theoretically rule at any time. However, that is not expected before the next scheduled hearing on August 4th -- Doug. MCKELWAY: Thank you, Adam. Another hole tonight in the Obama administration's initial
argument that the Benghazi terror attacks were spontaneous reactions to a video. Chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge reports on the latest evidence. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) CATHERINE HERRIDGE, FOX NEWS CHIEF INTELLIGENCE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The transcripts released by the house oversight and armed services committee has reinforced the conclusion that the 2012 attacks were premeditated. General Carter Ham who led the military's Africa command at the time, told Congress terrorists who attacked the CIA annex during the third wave of the assault had professional training. Quote, "given the precision of the attack, it was a well-trained mortar crew, showing a degree of sophistication and military training that is relatively unusual and certainly I think indicates that this was not a pickup team." Ham also testified that the eight-hour gap between the consulate attack at 9:40 p.m. and the mortar strike on the CIA base in the early morning hours of September 12th was significant suggesting the perpetrators were not the same. I think it's reasonable, Ham testified, that a team came from outside of Benghazi. Despite the new testimony, the state department doubled down on its characterization of the attack. JEN PSAKI, STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESWOMAN: We've been pretty clear, or we've stated many times, and very consistently, that we believe it was an opportunistic attack on our mission, that did not involve significant preplanning. HERRIDGE: But those with extensive military experience with mortars strongly disagreed. LT. COL. BILL COWAN, (RET.) U.S. MARINE CORPS: This was the one piece of evidence that convinces me, and certainly convinces others with experience with mortars or attacks that this was pre-planned, well laid out, well thought-out and reasonably well executed. HERRIDGE: In most cases, mortar crews can't see the target, so they're trained to rely on complex maps calculations for distant direction and altitude. In Benghazi, five mortars rein down on the CIA annex in under a minute. The first two missed, but the next three were direct hits. Ham testified the mortar crew likely used a spotter to recalibrate. COWAN: There was no happenstance luck there. They knew exactly how far it was from their mortar round to the target. (END VIDEOTAPE) HERRIDGE: The recent indictment for Benghazi suspect Ahmed Abu Khattala links him to the precision mortar strike and is part of the ongoing investigation of the terrorist attack. FOX News was the first to report in December 2012 that the mortar strike was the trigger for the CIA's chief of faith to shut down their operations -- Doug. MCKELWAY: Thank you, Catherine. Still ahead, why most top Republicans are trying to tamp down talk about impeaching President Obama. But first, hookah smoking popular, social and dangerous. MCKELWAY: A new twist on an old habit could lead to unforeseen problems for people seeking an alternative to cigarette smoking. FOX News medical analyst Marc Siegel explains how hookah smoking is catching on despite the risks. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) DOCTOR MARC SIEGEL, FOX NEW MEDICAL ANALYST (voice-over): At a time when cigarette smoking is declining rapidly among America's youth, hookah use where smokers draw flavored tobacco through an ancient style water pipe is on the rise. A New York University study just published in the prominent journal "Pediatrics" reveals that a whopping 18 percent of high school seniors, mostly those of higher socio-economic class are now using hookah and hanging out in hookah lounges. But why? UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I think it's somewhere to go when there's nowhere else to go. Something different to do. Because a lot of people don’t really do it. Until they get into their teen years. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's relaxing. It's like you're hanging out and you smoke it, and you just relax. You don't get high or anything. SIEGEL: Hookah is a social event where smokers share. Many of those polls say they believe hookah is safer than cigarettes. However, it is a myth as old as the hookah itself that the water somehow filters the tobacco. The charcoal adds more carcinogens, there's more tar and nicotine than a filtered cigarette, and there is growing scientific evidence that Hookah use is linked to lung and oral cancer, heart disease and early low birth weight infants. On top of that, there are the risk of sharing. JOSEPH PALAMAR, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY: A lot of people actually
pass around the hookah pipe and without changing the mouthpiece. And that basically increases the likelihood of you catching or spreading any infectious disease. And whether it be cold sores, or the flu, anything like that, I mean, if you’re putting your mouth on something, you’re passing it to the next person, the whole germ factory waiting to happen. (END VIDEOTAPE) SIEGEL: There are individual mouthpieces, but part of the social event is not to change them from one person to the next -- Doug. MCKELWAY: Thank you, doctor. Do not look for the last two folks to put one of those the silly wagers on Sunday's world cup final. In fact, the Vatican said it is unlikely that Argentina native Pope Francis and German Pope Benedict will even get together for a watch party. Francis has promised not to pray for any team and Benedict is not known to be a sports fan. No grapevine tonight so we can look at the issue of impeaching the President, who’s for it and who’s against it. MCKELWAY: There may be no more polarizing word in Presidential politics than impeachment. But calls for President Obama’s impeachment are increasing. Some are worries that it could backfire on Republicans. Chief congressional correspondent Mike Emanuel looks at who is pressing the issue and who wants it to go away. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) MIKE EMANUEL, FOX NEWS CHIEF CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): While some prominent outside conservative voices have called for President Obama to be impeached, House Speaker John Boehner disagrees preferring a lawsuit to be filed by the house. BOEHNER: The path that we’re going is the right one to defend our institution against the encroachment from the executive branch, and to preserve the constitution of our country as it was written, and as it was intended. EMANUEL: A key House Democrat says Boehner should stand his ground. REP. STEVE ISRAEL (D), NEW YORK: On this, I happen to agree with Speaker Boehner, that we should not be spending our time and wasting our money pursuing impeachment of this President. EMANUEL: Some senate conservatives say impeachment would be a waste of time. SEN. JEFF FLAKE (R), ARIZONA: I think it’s a distraction and it is not shared by most Republicans. I think that we realize, let’s do this at the ballot box. EMANUEL: House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi recalls President Clinton’s impeachment. NANCY PELOSI, (D-CA) HOUSE MINORITY LEADER: What he did was stupid, but it had nothing to do with public policy, and his office. EMANUEL: And Pelosi resisted calls from some liberals to impeach the last Republican president for the Iraq War. PELOSI: I do think people could have made a case about President Bush. But I did not want to go down that path because of what it would mean to the American people. EMANUEL: A prominent legal scholar said Mr. Obama has violated separation of powers and has increased the growth of presidential power. JONATHAN TURLEY, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY: I believe it’s reached a constitutional tipping point. But to impeach him at this stage would be very difficult and I think unwise. EMANUEL: And Turley, who testified in the Clinton impeachment, says Congress should fight to get its power back another way. TURLEY: The talk of impeachment sheds more heat than light in this debate. I think the Congress is wise to try to find other means to bring this president into line with the separation of powers. (END VIDEOTAPE) EMANUEL: As for the Boehner lawsuit, we learned a short time ago its focus will be on the president’s unilateral actions changing the health care law’s employer mandate. While Congressional Republicans believe there are many examples of executive overreach, they maintain what Mr. Obama did with health care gives them the best chance for success in the courts. Doug? DOUG MCKELWAY, FOX NEWS HOST: Thank you, mike. The immigration crisis may be serving as something of a political rehabilitation for Texas Governor Rick Perry. The former and possibly future presidential candidate has taken his lumps in the past, most of them self-inflicted. Now chief political correspondent Carl Cameron reports perception may be changing. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) CARL CAMERON, FOX NEWS CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT: Texas Governor Rick Perry’s been all over the U.S./Mexico border crisis. GOV. RICK PERRY, (R) TEXAS:
Since back in 2005, we've been on that that this border was a real issue. CAMERON: And all over
President Obama, whom Perry warned in 2012 about the problem and chastised this week for refusing
to visit the border and see for himself. PERRY: That's what president's do. That's what leaders do. They
show up. They interact and they see for themselves what's going on. CAMERON: He's been all over TV,
too, and wants very much to be president. LARRY SABATO, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA: Now, when
immigration comes up in the debates in 2016, he can always start talking about how he faced down
President Obama in that meeting about the border crisis. CAMERON: It was a debate gap that did in
Perry's first presidential run when he infamously couldn't recall the third government agency he had
been making campaign promises to close. PERRY: The third one I can't, sorry. Oops. CAMERON: But the
"oops" jokes have subsided along with wisecracks about Perry wearing glasses to seem smart rather
than to see clearly. Even when some Democrats describe this week's clash between Perry and the
president, the Republican gets equal praise. REP. FILEMON VELA, (D) TEXAS: Governor Perry has been
the governor of Texas for 16 years. And he's done some things that I agree with, some things that he
hasn't. And the same holds true for the president. I think we have two true leaders. CAMERON: Perry
turned off immigration hard-liners in 2012 with his support for allowing certain undocumented
youngsters brought here by their parents to obtain legal status. But a Harper poll now shows 71 percent
of Republicans would rather vote for a presidential candidate that backs immigration reform to 15
percent who prefer a reform foe. Unlike Perry's ill-prepared and late entry into the 2012 presidential
race, he's gearing up early this time. He's campaigned three times in six months in the leadoff caucus
state of Iowa, visited the first southern primary state of South Carolina twice in the last year, hosted a
group of New Hampshire power players in Texas, and campaigned in the first primary state next month,
not to mention creation of a political action committee and a growing team of seasoned pros. (END
VIDEOTAPE) CAMERON: Perry was actually the GOP front-runner briefly in 2012. He knows his image
needs more rehab, but if he remains gaffe-free, this week could come to mark the first time voters
began to take seriously the Texas governor's attempted comeback as a presidential candidate. Doug?
MCKELWAY: Thank you, Carl. We'll be watching that. Ohio Senator Rob Portman says that he might
make a run at the Republican presidential nomination. Portman says his focus is seeking Senate
reelection in 2016, but if he does not see a strong presidential candidate emerge who addresses his
concerns about the economy and other issues, he will take a look at his own possibilities. President
Obama avoiding a border photo-op, but not avoiding heavy criticism from Rick Perry, other Republicans,
and even some Democrats. We'll talk about it with the panel when we come back. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)
BARACK OBAMA, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The only question at this point is, why
wouldn't the Texas delegation, or any of the other Republicans who are concerned about this not want
to put this on a fast track and get it on my desk so I can sign it and we can start getting to work. REP.
JOHN BOEHNER, (R) HOUSE SPEAKER: This is a problem of the president's own making. He's been
president for five-and-a-half years. When's he going to take responsibility for something? PERRY: I think
you could have 1,000 National Guard troops on the border, the message sent well before that, but in 30
days actually have them in place, and the message would be overpowering back to Central America that
you no longer can put your kid on a train, put them on a bus, send them up with a coyote, and have
them come into the United States because that border is now secure. (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY:
One thing you can say about Texas Governor Rick Perry is that he succeeded in getting the president to
have this meeting over the crisis at the border even if he didn't succeed in getting him to go to the
border. But he brings himself front and center to the national stage over this issue again. And for a guy
who's got his toe in the water of the 2016 presidential campaign, he brings some liabilities as well as a
lot of benefits. Let's bring in our panel now, Juan Williams, columnist with "The Hill," Elise Viebeck, staff writer for "The Hill," and syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer. Juan, let's start with you. Let's talk about some of those liabilities that he brings. JUAN WILLIAMS, SENIOR EDITOR, "THE HILL": Well, obviously, he did not prove to be quite the tough candidate in the last go-around and fell out early, and actually fell out over this immigration issue, if you recall. He was the Republican who said that he thought that there should be in-state tuition and the like for children of immigrants. MCKELWAY: We have that sound bite from a debate 2011. Let's listen up. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) PERRY: If you say that we should not educate children who have come into our state for no other reason than they've been brought there by no fault of their own, I don't think you have a heart. (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY: Much like Jeb Bush's comment that this is an act of love. WILLIAMS: Exactly. And, you know what, much like, remember, Marco Rubio, who, of course, is closely tied and somewhat damaged by his support for immigration reform in the Senate. That hurt him with some of the hard-liners who oppose immigration reform and see it as amnesty. MCKELWAY: Elise? ELISE VIEBECK, STAFF WRITER, "THE HILL": I think it's interesting, Rick Perry, what he needs to do is boost his policy and intellectual chops at this point. That was what was lacking for him in the last cycle. And if he can move in that direction that would benefit him as he seeks to either climb the establishment or the conservative ladder. Now, I'm not sure what's going on at the border right now gives him those credentials, frankly. He is standing up to President Obama, which is popular with the base, but he has a lot more work to do, particularly to regain his credibility with the national media, which still has it in for him, we have to say. MCKELWAY: Charles, to his benefit, there's a new "Harper's" poll that came out that said 71 percent of Republicans would rather vote for a presidential candidate that backs immigration reform to 15 percent who prefer a reform foe. CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER, SYNDICATED COLUMNIST: First of all, I think what's really helped him the most are the eyeglasses. He looks like a male librarian. I think he's great. Look, I don't think the poll means anything. Reform could mean anything. Reform could mean strengthening the border. So to say 70 percent of Republicans want to support a candidate who backs reform, unless you tell me the content of the reform I don't think it tells us much. I do think that what we don't quite remember is that towards the end of the primaries after the implosion in that debate where he couldn't remember the three points, he did fairly well when the spotlight came off him and he was no longer the frontrunner. He conducted himself fairly well in the subsequent debates, and he came out not bad. So I think he is positioned right now by at least being visually out there in a kind of a photo-op toe-to-toe with the president on immigration and defending the border. I think that's helped him a bit. If he wants, he could be one of the major candidates. MCKELWAY: Back to this issue of the supplemental $3.7 billion that the president wants Congress to approve for the border security problem. Listen so Senator Richard Shelby who commented on this and how this money will be divvied up. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. RICHARD SHELBY, (R) ALABAMA: While the president is seeking billions for the admission, detention, and care of illegal children and adults, only -- yes, only $45.4 million is my understanding is requested for the department of justice's adjudication and immigration proceedings. (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY: Juan, that's a drop in the bucket of $3.7 billion. WILLIAMS: Right. And so what you have to ask him, I think that's the concern up on the Hill, Doug, is what's this money going for? We don't want to write a blank check. And of course you're going to authorize the White House to make a lot of these decisions on this emergency basis. They say it's for not only added judges in terms of what the Justice Department would get, but you also need then people who would be court security, court personnel. You need people who would handle deportation, you need to transport people who are not being allowed to stay but are being deported back. MCKELWAY: But there are so many skeptics who say even if the president devoted
billions and billions of dollars for border enforcement, one wonders whether or not they would be used at all. I harken back to the testimony well over a year ago of Chris Crane who is the head of the ICE unit who said this about border enforcement. Again, keep in mind that this is well over a year ago. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) CHRIS CRANE, NATIONAL ICE COUNCIL PRESIDENT: As our officers are investigated by ICE for enforcing U.S. immigration law, as they see other officers threatened with suspensions for making lawful arrests, increasingly the officers feel they have become the enemy of this administration which certainly is not a healthy sign for any law enforcement organization. (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY: Charles, things have not improved since he said that. KRAUTHAMMER: I think everybody here is missing the point, especially the president when he talks about this supplemental $3.7 billion. If you look at it, as Shelby indicated, this is almost entirely money that will be spent to absorb the refugees, or the illegal immigrants, if you like. This is going to do absolutely nothing to either reverse the influx, or to prevent further influx. You can get all the judges you want. These kids are not going to show up at the deportation hearings. Everybody understands that. The problem is the 2008 law, which the president said he would get changed, that's the law that makes an exception of Central Americans. If you're a Mexican kid apprehended at the border, you get returned immediately. The Central Americans are treated differently because of an obscure law that was intended for sex trafficking. Unless that law is changed, this crisis will continue. Everybody understands that. This supplemental is a distraction, it's a red herring, it's a non-sequitur. The problem is change the law. Only the president has the power -- WILLIAMS: But I don't know how it could be a red herring, Charles, if at the moment you have 50,000-plus people now, who are making appeals. That's not a red herring, that's a reality. KRAUTHAMMER: You have to deal with the -- WILLIAMS: That's why Republicans say there is a crisis at the border. KRAUTHAMMER: You have to deal with the fact at the border of the U.S. and Mexico today has as much about reality as the border between Iraq -- WILLIAMS: It's not Mexican kids, as you just pointed out. These are Central American kids who are in a crisis. Rick Perry said to the president, he should act without congressional approval, which I thought politically was dangerous for Rick Perry to say, as you know, the Congress thinks that the president acts with an imperial manner anyway. KRAUTHAMMER: He shouldn't, but he could propose a change in the law. He said he would. WILLIAMS: He proposed comprehensive immigration reform. MCKELWAY: And is the president going to let that back up stand as it is. VIEBECK: I think he will. But in fact there are two efforts in Congress to reform the 2008 law that Charles alluded to. And in fact that's likely to be attached to the passage of the supplemental. KRAUTHAMMER: Where is the president on that? VIEBECK: He said last night that in fact he would support that. KRAUTHAMMER: Why isn't it in the package then? VIEBECK: Well, that's a good question. But Congressional Republicans are going to take care of that for him. MCKELWAY: Coming up next, one e-mail that is not missing is causing quite a stir for the IRS. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) REP. JIM JORDAN, (R) OHIO: Here's the takeaway. Nine days after the IRS knows they're in trouble, Lois Lerner is trying to cover her tracks. That's why we've got the e-mail exchange here. REP. LACY CLAY, (D) MISSOURI: The facts are that Ms. Lerner did not destroy any records subject to the federal records act. She did not use the computer assigned to her to fail. And she made every effort to recover the files on the computer. TOM FITTON, JUDICIAL WATCH PRESIDENT: The government needs to be transparent, and part of transparency is telling people when there's a problem. And the fact that they didn't want to tell people there was a problem and they are still being cagey about what that problem is shows you they have something to hide. (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY: Big news in the IRS situation today. A federal judge apparently agrees with Tom Fitton of Judicial Watch, Judicial Watch filing suit against the IRS for their targeting of conservative groups. Judge Emmet G. Sullivan ordered an IRS official, and he did not
specify who, must swear in writing under oath in the next 30 days about Lois Lerner’s lost emails and computer crash. He also ordered IRS officials to explain how Lerner's files may be recovered through, quote, "other sources." A big development. Elise? VIEBECK: That's right. I think that many Americans hope that this judge's order will help take some of the politics out of this entire discussion. At the same time, I'm not sure this has been reported yet, Steve Stockman, a conservative in the House, filed a resolution with Speaker John Boehner putting pressure on him to in fact arrest through House sergeant at arms Lois Lerner if she comes to Capitol Hill. So that's where you see the conservative wing again exerting itself, putting pressure on John Boehner in order to take action against Lois Lerner. MCKELWAY: Juan, Judge Sullivan apparently means business. He wants an answer under oath. He wants it in writing within 30 days, no ifs, ands, or butts. WILLIAMS: Apparently the IRS commissioner is glad to come talk to the judge as he did the Hill, so he'll get that. What's interesting here is though I think it's exactly what Elise said. You are going to get a judge kind of refereeing this issue because it's so highly polarized and political at the moment it's hard to it make sense of it at some level. People are very suspicious of the fact that anybody's emails suddenly disappears. The IRS says no, this is not atypical, that these kinds of events do occur. The other part of this that's news today is the inspector general at the IRS says he is going to look into this as well. MCKELWAY: Charles, one of the interesting things is the courts seem to be making much more progress than Congress is. KRAUTHAMMER: That's right. I think the reason that we are not making progress or because it looks so muddled is not because it's become a partisan issue, but it's because the administration, the IRS has shown contempt for Congress, has been subpoenaed, doesn't answer, waits a year, waits two years, and then reports stuff that is incomplete and has to be learned through lawsuit. And there is a tough judge here. He is going to lay down the law, literally. You don't want stunts like the sergeant of arms of Congress arresting Lois Lerner for god's sake. That's almost as idiotic as impeachment. But what you do is you trust to the courts, because the Democrats, the administration, and the IRS are going to have to respect what a judge does. You lie to a judge, you are going to be in real trouble. You could end up in jail. Theoretically it also happens in Congress, but it looks as if the way that the Department of Justice, the administration, the White House have treated the Congress with such contempt that is actually no apprehension. But what we saw in that email today, that new email from Lois Lerner where she is obviously instructing people by code to be careful what's in your email, shows you so obviously that they are trying to hide things. It's the most powerful agency in government after the military, and they are hiding things from oversight, from Congress, which is required by law, clearly trying to undermine any attempt to reign in -- MCKELWAY: Let's take a look at those emails because I know you ran the first of them. I want to run the whole series of them, three parts to it, her question and the response. She says in the first email "We need to be cautious about what we say in emails. Someone asked if instant messaging conversations were also searchable. I don't know but told them I would get back to them. Do you know?" The response to that is this -- "My general recommendation is to treat the conversation as if it could, is being saved somewhere, as it is possible for either party of the conversation to retain the information and have it turn up as part of an electronic search." And her response, Lois Lerner's response is "Perfect," as if things are taken care of. Nothing is going to come to the surface. The curious thing to me and the significant thing is the timing of that email because it happened just days after the IRS found out that the I.G. was doing an investigation. WILLIAMS: Right. But, you know I mean, look, everybody knows that in any company we have email exchanges like that about, you know, beware of what is in your email. It's very public. But again, it's because I think this does spark suspicion. It looks like the timing was intended to obscure something that we are having this conversation today. I might add that there are now Republicans on the Hill who want
the Defense Department because of NSA and all the rest of it to look at their files to see if possibly they have some, you know, contemporaneous record of what was in Lois Lerner's emails. KRAUTHAMMER: I say all we do is ask Snowden. He could turn over all the documents. WILLIAMS: He could. MCKELWAY: He is one of the few government employees or at least contractors who did a good job of retaining emails. (LAUGHTER) MCKELWAY: That's it for the panel. But stay tuned to find out which U.S. president is the true romantic in chief. MCKELWAY: Finally tonight, nearly 1,000 pages of salacious letters between a married Warren G. Harding and his longtime mistress will go public later next month. But it turns out Harding wasn't the only one to send love notes from the Oval Office. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Warren Harding to his lover Kerry Phillips. "My darling, there are no words at my command sufficient to say the full extent of my love for you." John Adams to his wife Abigail, "My dearest Abigail, your undeniable beauty quickens my affections." Franklin Roosevelt to his wife Eleanor. "Eleanor, nice hat." This has been presidential love letters. (LAUGHTER) (END VIDEO CLIP) MCKELWAY: I suspect Eleanor would have a few choice words for her other half. That's it for SPECIAL REPORT tonight. I'm Doug McKelway in Washington. ON THE RECORD coming up next.

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 420832

Article Title: More New Yorkers butt out as smoking dips"

Date: 9/17/2015

Article Content: The Big Apple's adult smoking rate dropped to 13.9 percent last year - the lowest on record since tougher restrictions were enacted 13 years ago, the city Health Department reported Wednesday. The smoking rate has declined 35 percent since 2002, when former Mayor Mike Bloomberg and the City Council approved a ban on smoking in bars, restaurants and other public spaces. The Health Department also launched hard-hitting ads warning of the dangers of smoking. In 2013, 16.1 percent of city residents were smokers. The previous low was in 2010, when 14 percent of New Yorkers were puffing away."

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Newspaper 2
Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 730865

Article Title: It's time to get serious about improving health in Northeast Texas"

Date: 9/8/2016

Article Content: 2,615. That's the number of people who died in Northeast Texas in 2014 who wouldn't have died if mortality rates in the region were simply the same as in Texas overall. We don't always think
of the region on its own terms. If Northeast Texas were its own state, however, it would rank 45th in the nation in overall mortality. Texas, by comparison, ranks 31st. A new analysis by The University of Texas System and UT Health Northeast finds that the region has extremely high mortality rates for four of the five leading causes of death: heart disease, stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases and unintentional injury. Lung cancer mortality rates are 35 percent higher than the state overall. Suicide rates are 40 percent higher. Stroke mortality rates are so high that if Northeast Texas were a state, it would be dead last in the country, 51st out of 51. The rates in Northeast Texas are also higher than the Texas average for infant mortality. Half of pregnant women in Northeast Texas do not receive prenatal care in the first trimester, and the rates of smoking during pregnancy are almost three times the state average. There's no quick path to bringing better health to the 35-county region of Northeast Texas, which is home to just over 1.5 million people, over half of whom live in a rural area. Improving health for the region is possible, however, and it needs to begin from the recognition that the disparity between Northeast Texas and other parts of the state isn't primarily about lack of health care providers or access to insurance. On those metrics the region is in line with the overall numbers for Texas. Understanding health disparities, whether racial or geographic, requires looking into differences in the conditions in which people are born, live, work and grow old. Compared to the overall Texas and U.S. populations, median household incomes and education levels are lower in Northeast Texas. Looked at in aggregate, it's an intimidating picture. However, the data provide direction on where to start. For most of the causes of death for which rates are higher in Northeast Texas, smoking is the key causal factor. In this region, smoking rates are 40 percent higher and rates among pregnant women are triple the rates in Texas overall. Smoking can be a terribly difficult habit to break, but we know that most smokers do want to quit. We also know that demography and geography aren't destiny. Rates of smoking-related deaths vary dramatically from county to county within the region, and experience shows that with the right policies and practices in place smoking rates can come down over time. Perhaps the most important thing the numbers tell us, though, is that to address the health challenges of Northeast Texas in a meaningful way we'll need to work together. We'll also need a vision of better health that focuses on prevention, social determinants and sophisticated population-level analyses of health and illness. In January of 2017, as the centerpiece of The University of Texas System's commitment to realizing this vision, we will welcome the first class of graduate students to the new School of Community and Rural Health at UT Health Northeast in Tyler. The school will have a particular focus on the challenges that face rural and under-served populations. Its mission won't be just to train the next generation of community health and public health professionals, but to become a focal point of the kind of systemic effort that's needed to improve health in the region. But we're just one player. To truly make a difference, it will require the knowledge, wisdom and energy of local healthcare providers, officials, educators and community members. The numbers are daunting. They're also an opportunity to identify solutions -- an opportunity we should seize. David Lakey is the University of Texas System's associate vice chancellor for population health. Kirk Calhoun is president of UT Health Northeast, where Eileen Nehme is assistant professor of population health."

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88
Hand-coded: Yes
Fewer Americans are dying from heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes and injuries, a new study reveals. American Cancer Society researchers analyzed age-standardized rates of death for six leading diseases and conditions over nearly five decades and found significant progress overall. However, deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) -- a debilitating disease often caused by smoking -- increased dramatically during the time period studied, 1969 to 2013. The COPD death rate reflects the different smoking patterns among men and women. COPD deaths have started to decrease among men, since males started smoking -- and quitting -- years earlier. But COPD deaths are still increasing among women, who took up smoking later and began quitting later, the researchers said.

“We continue to make progress in reducing death rates from five of the six major causes of death,” said lead researcher Dr. Ahmedin Jemal, the society's vice president for the surveillance and health services research program. “But the death rate from COPD doubled.” Jemal credited the overall progress to a decline in smoking, early diagnosis and better treatment of heart disease, cancer and stroke. But better diagnosis and treatment can only go so far, he said. Noting that reductions in deaths from heart disease, stroke and diabetes have slowed in recent years, Jemal emphasized the need to prevent these diseases in the first place. “If we apply what we know in preventing cancer, heart disease, stroke, COPD and diabetes, we could reduce deaths by half,” he said. “There is a huge opportunity to prevent these diseases.” Prevention includes a healthy lifestyle -- avoiding smoking, reducing obesity, eating a healthful diet and exercising, Jemal said. The report was published Oct. 27 in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Deaths from all causes, including these conditions, dropped about 1.3 percent a year over the near half century studied for a 43 percent decline overall, the researchers found. Deaths from heart disease dropped 68 percent and from stroke, 77 percent. Injury-related deaths fell 40 percent, and deaths from cancer and diabetes dropped 18 percent and 17 percent, respectively. But COPD-related deaths jumped 101 percent, according to the report. Although deaths from heart disease continue to drop, the decline slowed to 1.4 percent in 2010-2013, the researchers found. The drop in death rates has also slowed for stroke and diabetes. This falloff may reflect the consequences of increased obesity since the 1980s, the study authors say. Dr. J. Michael McGinnis, from the National Academy of Medicine, said more progress is possible, but it will take individual and community effort. “A substantial component of the reduction in deaths is due to prevention, as a result, for example, of reduced use of tobacco, better control of high blood pressure and reduction in cholesterol levels,” he said. More has been learned in the past generation about what makes people healthy or not, said McGinnis, author of an accompanying journal editorial. These factors include genetics, health care, behavior, environment and social circumstances, he said. “We need to modernize our view to focus on the most important things we now know and can measure about what really makes people, communities, and the nation healthy or not,” McGinnis said. More information For more on healthy living, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.Copyright © 2015 HealthDay. All rights reserved.
Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes
ArticleID: 703101

Article Title: More than a QUARTER of pregnant women smoke in Blackpool | Daily Mail Online"
Date: 6/16/2016

Article Content: More than a quarter of mothers in Blackpool are smoking by the time their baby is born, alarming new figures show. New NHS figures reveal 26 per cent of women were smokers at the time of birth in 2015/16. This contrasted with Westminster in central London at the other end of the spectrum, where just 1.5 per cent of women did. Experts warn that smoking while pregnant increasing the chances of abnormal foetal growth, raising the risk of miscarriage, premature birth and a baby being stillborn, among other health problems. More than a quarter of mothers in Blackpool are smoking by the time their baby is born, official figures show. The figures, from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, cover England for the 12 months up to March 2016. Overall, the figures are the lowest since records began in 2006/07. They show 10.6 per cent of pregnant women were smoking until full-term - representing 67,200 of 631,230 maternities last year. A year earlier the figure was 11.4 per cent, continuing the steady decline since 2006/7, which saw a high of 15.1 per cent. The decrease means the percentage of women smoking during pregnancy was below the Government’s national target of 11 per cent for the first time. However, there were areas in England where up to a quarter of women giving birth over the last 12 months were smokers. Of the four areas where healthcare is commissioned in the country, London had all 32 of its Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) meeting the national ambition by the end of March 2016. The South of England had 30 of its 50 CCGs doing so and the Midlands and East of England had 26 of its 61 CCGs complying with the target. However, in the North of England just 15 out of 66 CCGs reported that less than 11 per cent of women were recorded as smokers at the time of giving birth. The report said: 'Smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems. These include complications during labour and an increased risk of miscarriage, premature birth, still birth, low birth-weight and sudden unexpected death in infancy.' Map shows percentage of women smoking at the time their baby is delivered. Dark blue means the number of women is between 14 and 26 per cent. Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England (PHE), said: 'The rate of women smoking during pregnancy continues to fall; the latest data show that 10.6 per cent of pregnant women were smokers at the time of giving birth, compared to 11.4 per cent at the same time last year.' However, further action is required to support women to achieve a smoke-free pregnancy. 'It is vital to protect babies from smoke during pregnancy and in the early months, to ensure they get the best start in life. The best protection for mothers, their babies and partners is to quit smoking for good. We must also tackle significant differences across regions and social groups - especially as the burden and harm hits hardest in our more deprived communities. 'Public Health England will continue to work with others to provide the best support to those trying to quit.' Blackpool (pictured) had the highest percentage of smoking mothers (26 per cent), while Westminster in central London had the lowest (1.5 per cent) in the 12 months up to March 2016. Francine Bates, chief executive of The Lullaby Trust and co-chair of the Smoking in Pregnancy Challenge Group said: 'Maternal smoking is now the number one preventable risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). 'If a mother smokes one to nine cigarettes a day during pregnancy, they are four times more likely to have their baby
die from SIDS compared to a mother who doesn’t smoke.' To avoid these tragedies, investment in services to support women to quit is needed by every local authority. 'If we do not support women to quit when they become pregnant we are locking in a lifetime of inequality.' Professor Alan Cameron, of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, said: 'It is vital that investment in smoking cessation services continues and we welcome the new tobacco control plan which sets an ambitious target for further reducing smoking in pregnancy. 'As healthcare professionals, we need to support and help women to lead healthier lives and this must include smoking cessation.' Women must be made aware of the risks of smoking on their fertility, in pregnancy, as well as their health later in life."

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 180325

Article Title: 8% of Americans now have a drinking problem and only Brits drink more | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 6/1/2015

Article Content: America’s alcohol crisis: Researchers warn 8% of population now has a drinking problem - and only the British drink more More Australians have taken cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamine-type drugs in the last 12 months than elsewhere in the world More than 12% of British people have an alcohol disorder, compared with nearly 8% of people in the US and almost 4% of Australians Alcohol and tobacco are the most widely used substances worldwide Experts: Smoking and alcoholism causes the most deaths each year By Madlen Davies and Mark Prigg For Dailymail.com Published: 14:19 EST, 1 June 2015 | Updated: 16:26 EST, 1 June 2015 Almost 8 per cent of Americans have a drinking problem, researchers have warned. It puts the US far above an estimated 4.9% of the world's adult population (240 million people) suffer from alcohol use disorder (7.8% of men and 1.5% of women), the world's first comprehensive report on global addictions revealed. The shocking report also found 68.9 per cent of in the US drank alcohol at least once a year. Scroll down for video The world's first comprehensive report on global addictions revealed the shocking figure, and found 68.9 per cent of in the US drank at least once a year. FACT BOX TITLE Overall, the report found Britons have one of the biggest problems with smoking and alcohol, while Australians take the most illegal drugs. The report, from the University of Adelaide, is the first time that global data on the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use, and gambling, has been presented in a single compilation. It said globally alcohol caused an estimated 257 disability-adjusted life years lost per 100 000 population. However, the US drinking pales in comparison the the UK, where more than 12% of people suffer alcohol problems. Overall, the report found Britons have one of the biggest problems with smoking and alcohol, while Australians take the most illegal drugs. The report, from the University of Adelaide, is the first time that global data on the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use, and gambling, has been presented in a single compilation. It found that 10.3 per cent of Australians smoke cannabis at least once in a 12-month period, compared to 5-7 per cent of people in the UK. Around 3 per cent use ecstasy compared to 1.1 to 1.7 per cent of people in the UK. And 2.1 per cent of Australians use amphetamine-type drugs at least once in a 12-
month period, compared to 1.1 to 1.7 per cent of people in the UK, the researchers found. Unsurprisingly, the report revealed that alcohol and tobacco are the most widely-used vices across the globe. Approximately 84 per cent of Australians drink alcohol at least once in a 12-month period, compared to 83.9 per cent in the UK and 68.9 per cent in the US. However, the UK leads the way with alcohol abuse problems. The study found that 12.1 per cent of people in the UK are considered to have an alcohol use disorder, compared to 7.8 per cent in the US and 3.7 per cent of Australians. Britons also smoke more, with 22 per cent admitting to the habit, compared with 20 per cent of Australians.

Researchers did not provide information on US rates of illegal drug taking and smoking. The study’s lead author, Linda Gowing, an associate professor at the University of Adelaide, said alcohol and tobacco are the most common addictions in most countries and they are also the most harmful. ‘Around 11 per cent of deaths in males and 6 per cent of deaths in females are linked to tobacco each year globally. ‘Alcoholism is associated with a range of health issues and takes years off someone’s life,’ she says. ‘It is important that this data is used to reduce the impact of alcohol abuse and tobacco smoking, she added. Australians smoke less tobacco and drink less alcohol than the British, but take more illegal drugs, according to a report which compiled global data on the world’s vices for the first time. She said: ‘This data is highly valuable and can be used to guide policy-makers and researchers in planning responses to addictions world-wide. The research, published in the journal Addiction, also found that around 43 per cent of adults globally (approximately 2.1 billion people) drink alcohol. Yet there is considerable regional variation, from 9.8 per cent in central, southern and western Asia to 88.2 per cent in western Europe. Meanwhile approximately 22.5 per cent of adults globally smoke tobacco, equating to approximately 1 billion people. The figures again vary geographically, but less so with alcohol. While there is regional variation, the extent of this variation is less than is the case with alcohol. The prevalence of tobacco smoking among adults ranges from an average of 13 per cent in Africa, the Caribbean, central and northern America to 29.5 per cent in Oceania. Women were less likely to smoke than men, with just seven per cent lighting up compared to 32 per cent of men. HOPE FOR DRUG ADDICTS, AS SCIENTISTS DISCOVER HOW COCAINE AND AMPHETAMINES DISRUPT THE BRAIN Scientists have discovered how cocaine and amphetamines disrupt the brain’s normal functioning, paving the way for new treatments for those who are addicted to the drugs. Researchers revealed how the substances disturb the dopamine transporter in the brain. They found the dopamine transporter serves as a ‘pump’ that removes the neurotransmitter - which carries chemicals - from the gaps between nerve cells. Dopamine is a chemical messenger released by the brain after food or sex, and is associated with a pleasurable feeling, or a high. Amphetamines and cocaine block dopamine signalling by interfering with the dopamine transporter. Scientists have discover how cocaine and amphetamines disrupt the brain’s normal functioning. Researchers said the breakthrough could help lead to an understanding of why some drugs are addictive while others aren’t. It could also lead to the development of new treatments that could blunt the effects of cocaine and amphetamines in patients who are addicted, they added. Currently, there are no approved drug therapies for amphetamine abuse, and the rate of relapse for people addicted to cocaine and amphetamines is high. Dr Eric Gouaux, of the Vollum Institute at Oregon Health & Science University, said: ‘Addiction to amphetamines and cocaine devastates lives, families and communities in Oregon and across the U.S. ‘Our research pinpoints how these addictive drugs interfere with the dopamine transporter and normal signaling in the brain, bringing us closer to developing effective treatments for people who are addicted to cocaine and amphetamines.’
WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has ruled that tobacco companies had no basis to challenge a Food and Drug Administration report on menthol cigarettes, which the industry alleged was written by experts with conflicts of interest. The decision by a three-judge panel overturns a lower court ruling that barred the FDA from using the report and ordered the agency to reform its committee of tobacco advisers. The committee’s 2011 report concluded that menthol flavoring has led to increased smoking rates, particularly among teens, African Americans and those with low incomes. The report said removing the flavoring would make it easier for some smokers to quit.

DATELINE: MUNSTER, Ind. MUNSTER, Ind. (AP) - An annual survey of U.S. health rankings puts Indiana at 41st in the nation for the third straight year, despite noting some progress the state has made in improving its citizens' health. United Health Foundation's report and rankings released last week indicate that while Indiana was strong with regards to immunizations, infectious diseases and binge drinking, it still has work to do in physical activity, obesity, air pollution and other health-measurement categories. State health commissioner Dr. Jerome Adams said it will take a coalition of state and local officials and Hoosier themselves to make progress on some of Indiana's greatest health challenges. “The first step is awareness. No. 41 is not where we want to be, but acknowledging it and figuring out what we need to do to move forward is the only way to climb the ladder and get to my goal
of being No. 1,” he told The Times of Munster (http://bit.ly/1wCK8Fc ). Adams credits Indiana’s (800) QUIT-NOW tobacco hotline with reducing the number of Hoosiers who smoke. The new report said Indiana reduced its smoking rate to 21 percent from 25 percent over the past two years, and its childhood poverty rate fell from 24 percent in the past year to 14 percent. Adams said Indiana has been successful in immunizations because of a 2010 state law that required certain vaccinations for 6- to 12-year-olds and cut the state’s rate of infectious diseases. Among the state’s challenges highlighted in the report, Indiana ranked 48th in air pollution, 47th in public health funding and 43rd in physical inactivity. Health officials note that many of the factors on which the ratings are based, such as obesity, physical activity and smoking, come down to personal lifestyle choices. Dr. Guy Shrake, medical director for the United Health Foundation of Indiana, said the annual report helps “everyone be aware of the importance of living healthier lives.” ___ Information from: The Times, http://www.thetimesonline.com"

Source Title: AP

_Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – AP 2_

Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 1557

Article Title: 10 Things to Know for Tuesday"

Date: 9/16/2014

Article Content: Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about Tuesday: 1. US WILLING TO INVOLVE TEHRAN IN FIGHT AGAINST MILITANTS Secretary of State Kerry rules out any military coordination, however, with its longtime foe against the Islamic State group. 2. EXTREMISTS SET RULES FOR SCHOOL In Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city, the Islamic State militants decree a ban on art and music among other classroom prohibitions. 3. ODILE TEARS UP MEXICO’S BAJA PENINSULA Along the corridor between San Jose del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, the hurricane damages homes and businesses, shatters countless windows, and topples trees and power poles. 4. WHY MICROSOFT’S $2.5B BET ON MINECRAFT CARRIES RISK Gamers are a fickle bunch and today’s popular hit could be tomorrow’s dud. 5. STUDY: FRACKING NOT TO BLAME FOR TAINTED GROUNDWATER The contamination in several highly publicized cases in the U.S. was instead caused by problems with pipes and seals in natural gas wells, scientists say. 6. WHERE SMOKING’S ON THE RISE As smoking rates fall across the U.S., 16 percent of adults in New York City smoked in 2013, up from 14 percent in 2010, government figures show. 7. MIGRANT DEATH TOLL SPIKES The number of people killed this year fleeing Africa for Europe across the Mediterranean is pushing toward a record 3,000. 8. WHAT’S MAKING FINANCIAL REGULATORS NERVOUS Federally insured reverse mortgages - which because of high default rates have cost the government billions - are again gaining in popularity. 9. APPLE RELEASES 'DELETE' TOOL FOR U2 ALBUM A webpage is set up to help iPhone users get rid of the album after some people complained when the tech giant added the songs for free to 500 million iTunes accounts. 10. WHICH NFL STAR’S BEEN CLEARED TO PLAY Running back Adrian Peterson, accused of child abuse, returns to the Minnesota Vikings after being benched one game."

Source Title: AP
If you want to live to be one hundred, there are places around the globe that seem to make it easier to reach that age. To do it, she’s teaming up with National Geographic fellow Dan Buettner who located the five places on earth where people live longer and healthier than anywhere else.

Lester Holt: If you want to live to be one hundred, there are places around the globe that seem to make it easier to reach that age. So you can either move to one of those spots or find out what they’re doing right and apply it right here at home like an entire American city is now trying to do. NBC’s Cynthia McFadden takes us there. (Begin VT)

Cynthia McFadden: A lot-- Cynthia McFadden: Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price is on a roll. You’re a biker? Mayor Betsy Price: No, I’m not a biker. I’m a cyclist. The difference is bikers wear leather and cyclists wear spandex. Cynthia McFadden: The health conscious mayor wants to revolutionize her city. Mayor Betsy Price: Cynthia, this isn’t about living longer, this is about having more life in your years. Dan--

Cynthia McFadden: To do it, she’s teaming up with National Geographic fellow Dan Buettner who located the five places on earth where people live longer and healthier than anywhere else. Dan Buettner: The longest lived man on the planet lived right around here. Cynthia McFadden: He dubbed them “blue zones” and reveals their common secrets in his new book The Blue Zones Solution. We joined him on the Italian island of Sardinia. (Man speaking foreign language)

Cynthia McFadden: A place that produces more hundred-year-old men than anywhere else on earth. People here are constantly on the move. Eat meat rarely, but have beans almost every day. What you’ve learned is there is no silver bullet. Dan Buettner: Yeah, I call it silver buck shot actually. It’s twenty or thirty little things. But they’re little things that you can transport from places like Sardinia and bring them home and have them work for you. Cynthia McFadden: But can they transform a city nicknamed Cow Town, a beef-obsessed place with high obesity rates and stressed-out commuters. You guys are on life support here. Mayor Betsy Price: Yeah. Cynthia McFadden: It’s not so good. Mayor Betsy Price: We’re really way down there. Cynthia McFadden: But the mayor and Buettner think they can change that over the next five years.

Dan Buettner: About eighty percent of chronic disease—cancer, dementia, heart disease, and diabetes is avoidable. And what these people are doing better than us is they’re avoiding the diseases that foreshorten our lives. Cynthia McFadden: And they’re doing that in— in ways that we can imitate. Dan Buettner: And we— you don’t even have to think about it. Do you know the adjective that most assures that you won’t order an entree it’s the healthy choice. Nobody wants to dig healthy choice. So changing the adjective from that salad, from the healthy salad to the crispy Italian salad the orders go up. Cynthia McFadden: He’s already implemented these ideas and many others in twenty-two smaller cities. Dan Buettner: And after two or three years, we see obesity dropping by double digits. We see smoking rates drop by as much as thirty percent. We see healthier eating, more physical activity.

Mayor Betsy Price: Less government is better— Cynthia McFadden: Mayor Price believes Fort Worth can do it, too. Though, there are those who would say government should keep its nose out of this. Mayor Betsy Price: Now I’m not in any state. We’re not passing any ordinances. I’m very conservative. And I’m the last person
that would say you have to do this. So this is about making better choices. If you’re used to eating beef six days a week, maybe you eat it four days a week. CYNTHIA MCFADDEN: We’ll see if the shepherds in Sardinia can land a hand to the cowboys in Texas. Cynthia McFadden, NBC News, Fort Worth. (End VT)

LESTER HOLT: We’re back in a moment with a big unveiling today by the first lady and Oprah, and questions about the origin of a famous quote. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.84

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ArticleID: 700488

Article Title: SHOW: HARBALL 5:00 PM EST HARBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS for May 24, 2016"

Date: 5/24/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Donald Trump zeroes in on the Clintons. Donald Trump actually questions whether the 1993 suicide of Bill Clinton aide Vince Foster was really a suicide. Bernie Sanders wants a recount now in Kentucky, and he says the convention this summer will be messy. CHRIS MATTHEWS, HOST: Trash talk. Let’s play HARBALL. Good evening. I’m Chris Matthews up in New York. For weeks, Donald Trump has been totaling the Clintons like a pair of used cars. Now he’s smashing them with an even harder suspicion that the death of Bill Clinton’s deputy counsel Vince Foster back in 1993 was not a suicide. In an interview with “The Washington Post,” Trump called theories about possible foul play in Foster’s death “very serious” and called the circumstances surrounding it “very fishy.” Well, according to Trump, quote, “Vince Foster had intimate knowledge of what was going on. He knew everything that was going on. And then, all of a sudden, he committed suicide. I don’t bring Foster’s death up because I don’t know enough to really discuss it. I will say there are people who continue to bring it up because they think it was absolutely a murder. I don’t do that because I don’t think it’s fair.” Well, that’s Trump talking. For the record, a federal investigation that involved lawyers, physicians and FBI agents and interviews with 125 witnesses concluded Foster’s death was a suicide. Well, this was just the latest salvo from Trump. In speeches and in on-line videos, the Republican nominee-to-be has attacked Bill Clinton as a sexual predator and Hillary Clinton as his “enabler.” Let’s watch. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESUMPTIVE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: She’s married to man who was the worst abuser of women in the history of politics! She’s married to a man who hurt many women! And Hillary, if you look and see (ph) a (ph) study, Hillary hurt many women, the women that he abused! She was an unbelievably, nasty, mean enabler, and what she did to a lot of those women is disgraceful! UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: No woman should be subjected to it. It was an assault. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: He starts to bite on my top lip! And I tried to pull away from him! (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Well, in the past, Trump has spoken generously of the Clintons. He’s called the former president “fantastic” and his impeachment “nonsense.” Here Trump was with me back in 1998. Let’s watch him then. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Bill Clinton -- what’s he need to do? TRUMP: Well, I don’t know. It’s so embarrassing. And you have to say, Where does it stop? I really like this guy. But you really have to say, you know, Where does it stop? Why do they keep revealing the details? He had sex, and now they talk about the kind of sex, the -- where it took place, where it was, on the desk, off the desk. I mean, it’s --
it’s so out of control. Paula Jones is a loser. But the fact is that she may be responsible for bringing down a president indirectly. And you know, the statement was a bad statement to have made -- to have been made, and it’s proven to be false. So... MATTHEWS: Which statement was that? I’m sorry. TRUMP: Paula Jones in the deposition. And I’m not even sure that he shouldn’t have just gone and taken the 5th Amendment and said, Look, I don’t get along with this man, Starr. He’s after me. He’s a Republican, he’s this, he’s that, and you know, just taken the 5th Amendment. It’s a terrible thing for a president to take the 5th Amendment, but he probably should have done it. I don’t think he could have done any worse that’s what’s happened. Starr has taken something from nothing and brought it into this big crescendo. But you know what? It’s got to stop. It’s enough. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Wow. Well, Michael Steele’s the former chair of the Republican National Committee. Susan Page is Washington bureau chief for “USA Today.” And my colleague, Joy Reid, is with me. She’s host of “AM JOY” weekends on MSNBC. Joy, let’s talk about why Trump says things, if he put some thought into saying it. Why is he -- he was asked about this by Robert Costa of “The Washington Post.” He didn’t bring it up. But when it was brought up about Vince Foster and how he died, he jumped on the theory, the I think hard-right argument, that Trump -- that Vince Foster was killed, he didn’t commit suicide... JOY REID, HOST, “AM JOY”: Yes. MATTHEWS: ... that the Clintons somehow had something to do with it. REID: I sometimes picture Donald Trump sitting up in his apartment in Trump Tower mainlining WorldNetDaily and Alex Jones videos and then walking out to reporters and regurgitating whatever last sort of conservative conspiracy theory because he is trying to reinvent himself as this conservative figure. But you heard him, and you were interviewing him, you know, closer to the actual contemporaneous moment. That’s what he felt at the time. But I think part of what Donald Trump is also doing is trying to make sure that if “The Washington Post” and “The New York Times” and this network and others are going to report on his own past scandals, that he wants to get in there negative information about the Clintons, too. It’s part of his sort of victimology that he needs for them to delve into this stuff. MATTHEWS: So he’s putting out the sandbags... REID: Yes. MATTHEWS: ... for the flood to come. Anyway, Michael, what do you think? I mean, I don’t know. I think -- I have a theory, but I let you all hear all three of yours about why he does this stuff, why he makes these vicious attacks, you know, that -- you know, that Rafael Cruz somehow had something to do with killing Kennedy. MICHAEL STEELE, FMR. RNC CHAIR, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Right. MATTHEWS: He jumps on any theory that’s out there and pushes it to its limits. How’s that to his advantage? STEELE: That’s the reality TV portion of our program, ladies and gentlemen, and that’s something that feeds the masses and has fed the masses that have come into Trump world going back some 10, 15 years now. So there is that piece of it that he is consistently using because it works. It’s an attention grabber. What are we talking about today? It’s leading the news. It’s going to be on the front page, or at least in the A section, tomorrow. So that piece is there. I think part of what Joy said is also part of the mix, putting the sandbags out and saying, If you want to come after me, come after me, but I’m bringing some folks with me. And that’s going to be Bill and Hillary Clinton. And the third piece I think is also drawing the Clintons out. He wants to let Hillary Clinton know this is not going to be easy, and everyone in your world is fair game, starting with your husband. And to that point, if I can draw Bill out into a conversation, as we’ve seen happen before, all the better. MATTHEWS: Well, let -- Susan, your thoughts. I want to get to some more tape from Trump. By the way, I’ve got about a half dozen more tapes we’re going to show in the weeks ahead, days ahead if I can get them out there, about what Trump has been saying over the years. Some of it’s consistent. Some of it. A lot of it’s not. Let’s go -- what do you think why he’s doing the thing about -- exhuming poor Vince Foster from the grave? For what reason is he -- why didn’t he just say, I pass, to Robert Costa when he asked about it? SUSAN PAGE,
"USA TODAY": Well, for one... MATTHEWS: I don`t talk about that. It`s a horrible story. PAGE: For one thing -- for one thing, if we have a -- if we have a contest, it which looks like we`re going to have, between two candidates who are both very unpopular, both have negative ratings above 50 percent, we`re going to have a campaign where each tries to make the other even more unacceptable than they are. So I don`t think this is the last time... MATTHEWS: So he`s saying Hillary and Bill are murderers. So it`s a worse charge than... (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: ... back at him. PAGE: Yes. And also, when you raise the issues of mistreatment of women, I think it`s an attempt to moderate or minimize Hillary Clinton`s big advantage among women voters. Maybe it doesn`t make women voters want to vote for Donald Trump, but it may make some women voters think twice about voting for Hillary Clinton. So in that way, I think there`s a kind of voter strategy involved with some of this. MATTHEWS: Well, when I interviewed Trump in `98 -- this is from the same tape -- he had far more praise for former president Clinton then, current president at that point. Here`s what he said about the economy back then. Let`s watch. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TRUMP: I think his -- the best thing he has going is the fact that the economy is doing great. I`ve never seen anything like it. You know, they talked about the `80s were good, the `90s are better. I mean, the `90s are really much better. The economy has, I don`t think, ever been better. I mean, we`ve had a little glitch over the last couple of months, but it`s very minor, relatively speaking. It`s just very strong. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Anyway, at that time, Trump said he would have a hard time running for president, given what he referenced as his past with women. Let`s watch him on this point. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Did you ever have a flicker when you`re taking a shower or walking to work or waking up in the morning where you said, Donald Trump, you`ve won every battle you`ve ever fought, why don`t you run for governor, why don`t you run for president? Do you ever think about that? TRUMP: People want me to all the time. MATTHEWS: What about you? TRUMP: I don`t like it. MATTHEWS: Why? TRUMP: Can you imagine how controversial I`d be? You think about him with the women. How about me with the women? Can you imagine? (END VIDEO CLIP) (LAUGHTER) MATTHEWS: Michael, there he is chuckling about his swordsmanship, if you will. STEELE: Oh, that`s a clip! MATTHEWS: I mean, I don`t know whether he wants that one thrown around. But maybe he does. STEELE: Well, look, no. I mean, he`s consistent. I mean, it`s like -- talk about controversial. Hello? You know, talk about me with the women. Hello? So yes, I think he was a little bit prescient there and sort of looking -- he knows himself well enough to know. And I think, again, Chris, that`s something that people like about him. He doesn`t hide from that stuff. He`s not trying to mask it or put a bushel basket over it. He`s fully exposed and going back many years now. MATTHEWS: Well, I don`t know. Donald knows what Donald`s done. REID: Yes, except for the fact that the one real vulnerability to Donald Trump -- because, you know, throwing negative information about the things he`s said and done doesn`t work to destabilize his support -- but the idea that he`s a phony is the big vulnerability... MATTHEWS: Where is that in here? Tell me where that is in here. REID: ... because all Democrats, if they`re smart, have to do is go and unearth all that of tape of him saying exactly the opposite. MATTHEWS: Well, we`re going to do that. REID: Right. (CROSSTALK) REID: But it`s going to also be played against him, that the things he`s saying now are just made up and he is a fraud, that the things... MATTHEWS: Where (INAUDIBLE) OK, document that. REID: Because if he`s now saying that the Clintons are evil, but at the time, contemporaneously, he was saying... MATTHEWS: He wasn`t running against them then! (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: By the time you were 5 years old, you know that politicians make arguments based on their self-advancement. REID: Right. (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: I`m not going to defend him except to say it does undercut the power of what he`s saying now because it looks so purely political. REID: It looks purely political, and it also looks like it wasn`t his authentic thoughts. At the time, contemporaneously,
he thought one thing, and now that he’s decided... (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: OK... REID: ... be president, he’s suddenly reversed... MATTHEWS: OK... (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: Joy, did you ever seen two guys, two members of Congress, man or woman, next door to each other, all of a sudden, they get redistricted and have to run against each other. REID: Sure, and it doesn’t help them. MATTHEWS: All of a sudden, they don’t like each other. REID: And it doesn’t help them. It doesn’t help them to look like a phony. MATTHEWS: OK. All right. (CROSSTALK) REID: And I think for his audience, this is the one vulnerability, that he’s a phony. MATTHEWS: OK. OK. Last night on FOX News -- you heard it, he’s a phony -- anyway, Trump defended bringing up Bill Clinton’s past. He said he had to respond to attacks by the Clinton campaign. So here he is defending the fact that he’s throwing some mud. Let’s watch. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TRUMP: I’m only responding to what they do. There -- there have been nasty -- she’s been very nasty. She’s been very nasty. I don’t like doing that, but I have no choice. When she hits me on things, I just have to choose. So you have to do it. It’s unfair. And you know, they’re dirty players. They have dirty historically, and I have to fight back the way I have to fight back. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Well, Susan, he looks a little different now, but I look about the same as (INAUDIBLE) (LAUGHTER) MATTHEWS: I’m not very happy with these tapes. But go ahead. What do you make of this, I have a right to do tit for tat, so anything goes because they’re coming at me? But they’re not actually coming at him as viciously as he’s counterattacking. PAGE: Right. MATTHEWS: Nobody’s called him a murderer, to be blunt. PAGE: It’s pretty... MATTHEWS: Which is what they are. PAGE: But it’s pretty preemptive, right? It’s a warning shot that they better not attack him for whatever is in his past, anything personal, but he’s got all this ammunition that he’ll use back at them. And also, I think a lot of this is an attempt to just get under their skin, get them to respond, get them off message because one of the hardest things I think the Clinton campaign will have is to get their message through. Let’s presume that somebody is going to talk about... MATTHEWS: You’re so smart. PAGE: ... issues and tomorrow, as opposed to what happened yesterday -- so it makes it harder maybe for Clinton to do that if he’s launching all these -- all this fusillade at... MATTHEWS: And let me -- let me follow up to your point because if you look at all the numbers that we came out with at NBC over the weekend, the “Wall Street Journal” poll and our poll, clearly, one of the problems Hillary Clinton faces now is the old likability thing. I’m not pushing it. It’s just there. But if she’s there defending herself against the murder charge, it’s very hard to have a charm offensive. How do you say, Don’t you like me? I’m not a murderer. I mean, it’s -- it’s -- it puts her in the -- in the -- in the back seat of an argument, doesn’t it? I mean, how do you win that argument, I’m innocent but also I’m kind of likable? PAGE: You can’t be in a discussion -- you can’t be in a discussion about whether or not you murdered Vince Foster and make any progress in your presidential campaign. (LAUGHTER) PAGE: You have to just put that aside... MATTHEWS: Michael’s laughing. PAGE: ... and talk about your issues. MATTHEWS: It’s absurdity. Let’s agree it is an absurd charge. It’s a rine (ph) charge. Let’s just -- but there’s something about Trump’s ability to launch these grenades. Last word. REID: Well, the last part I’d say is that the problem with what Trump is doing is that it’s not additive, right? It helps with people who already hate the Clintons and already are going to vote for him. At some point, he’s got to do something... MATTHEWS: OK... REID: ... that involves addition. MATTHEWS: Spoiler alert. He’s running even with Hillary Clinton with his tactics. (CROSSTALK) REID: ... at 46, you got to get to 51, right? (INAUDIBLE) MATTHEWS: Are you willing to bet against him getting to 50? REID: I am. I actually am. (CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: ... so steadfast in your opposition! Anyway, thank you, Michael Steele. I laugh about this because it is absurd. And Susan Page, thank you, and Joy Reid. The Clintons had nothing to do with -- well, they had nothing to do with Bernie Sanders being the candidate against them, but they had nothing to do with Vince Foster dying. It
was a tragedy of the worst kind. And if you study the case, you know what happened to the guy. Coming up -- Bernie Sanders wants a recount now in Kentucky, and he says the convention this summer will be -- his word “messy.” Why does he continue to fight so aggressively, knowing that he can’t actually catch Hillary Clinton in the race for the nomination? Plus, Bill Cosby is ordered to stand trial on charges of criminal sexual assault in Pennsylvania. We’ve got the latest on the case against Cosby and what to expect from his trial. And the Clinton campaign is pushing something Trump said in 2006 when he talks about all the money he’ll make from the collapse of the housing market. That’s another problem for him. The HARDBALL roundtable is here to talk about whether any of his past quotes with Trump will actually stick hard to him now. Finally, “Let Me Finish” with what we can learn from trolling through the Trump tapes. And this is HARDBALL, the place for politics. MATTHEWS: Come back at 11:00 PM Eastern tonight. We’ve got a special edition of HARDBALL live for results of the Washington state Republican primary, plus the latest reporting and analysis of where the race stands now on both the GOP and Democratic side. That’s all at 11:00 PM Eastern tonight here on MSNBC. And we’ll be right back.

MATTHEWS: Welcome back to HARDBALL. Hillary Clinton has turned her focus to her general election opponent, Donald Trump, of course, but Bernie Sanders refuses to give up. And now he’s predicting the Democratic national convention this summer will be, in his words, “messy.” That’s what he told the Associated Press yesterday. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (D-VT), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I think if they make the right choice and open the doors to working class people and young people, create the kind of dynamism that the Democratic Party needs -- it’s going to be messy, you know? Democracy is not always nice and quiet and gentle. But that is where the Democratic Party should go. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So you think the convention could be messy. SANDERS: So what? Democracy is messy. Every day, my life is messy. But if you want everything to be quiet and orderly and allow, you know, just things to proceed without vigorous debate, that is not what democracy is about. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Well, in a later interview, NBC’s Kristen Welker asked Sanders to clarify what he meant and pressed him to explain why a prolonged campaign against Hillary Clinton won’t damage her in the general election. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) SANDERS: Messy means the media often takes words out of context. The context of that was that democracy is messy, that people will have vigorous debate on the issues. KRISTEN WELKER, NBC CORRESPONDENT: Will the convention be messy? SANDERS: Well, of course it will be, but everything -- that’s what democracy is about. WELKER: How can you argue that this primary battle is not in some ways hurting her in a general election and hurting... SANDERS: First of all -- first of all -- well, I guess if we take your assumption and Clinton supporters’ assumption that the logical conclusion - - you know what we should do? We should go back to a monarchy and not have any elections at all, not any debates at all! Why don’t we just appoint somebody to become our king or our president? (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Is he sitting up in a tree? I’ve never seen him look so much taller than Kristen Welker. Anyway, in another challenge to Clinton, the Sanders campaign today requested a recanvass of the results of the Kentucky primary, which Hillary Clinton narrowly won last week. I’m joined right now by NBC’s Kristen Welker, MSNBC contributors Mike Lupica, the columnist for “The New York Daily News,” of course, and former Democratic congressman Harold For, who supports Hillary Clinton. Kristen, I thought the -- is he that tall, Bernie Sanders, all of a sudden? I mean, he was looming over you! (INAUDIBLE) strangest perspective! Anyway, just kidding. Not important. WELKER: The reality is I’m not that tall. (LAUGHTER) MATTHEWS: Well, what do you make -- I think the word “messy” -- what I would think was a good word for you to throw back to him because if you look at what happened in Nevada, which he said was non-violent, which a lot of people would say, Well, that’s a little careful there. That was a pretty rough-looking scene there. And then he says messy
doesn’t really mean bad. You wonder what his definitions really mean about combustion and trouble in a political setting. WELKER: I think -- I think, Chris, what he means is that he’s gearing up for a very vigorous debate. He is prepared to go to the mat over issues like universal health care, the minimum wage, free college tuition, all of these issues that he’s been debating with Hillary Clinton about. Now, of course, yesterday, we learned that the DNC is going to give him a very big role in shaping the platform. And what he’s basically saying there, Chris, I think, is this is not just going to be for optics. I’m really going there to make my policies a priority at this convention. And I think you pointed out the fact that he’s calling for a review of Kentucky. That plays into his strategy. He wants to go to that convention, Chris, with as many delegates as possible. And that’s also why he’s fighting so hard here in California. Even if he wins California, it’s going to be tough for him to win the nomination. But if he wins a state this big, he’s going to have more leverage heading into that convention. MATTHEWS: You say go to the mat. I think he’s going to the mattresses. This guy is really going -- well, he’s going to be tough. Anyway, Mike, you were pretty critical of Sanders in your column today in the paper. You wrote: “Sanders stays in the race because his own rhetoric has become a narcotic for him; because he really has convinced himself he is the face and voice of a revolution. And if you’re running a revolution, it’s a little difficult to head back to the Green Mountains. Well, to the end, Sanders really does act as if the scoreboard is some great big lie, even when the numbers are up there for everybody to see.” Mike, I don’t know. I agree with your column. I don’t think he’s operating in the same sort of world that Hillary Clinton and the objective journalists are. MIKE LUPICA, “THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS”: Chris, he keeps saying that the system is rigged. He makes it sound like they changed the rules of baseball on him in the fifth inning, and they went to four outs and four strikes. Did he not know what the rules of engagement were before he decided to run for president of the United States? Chris, this isn’t about his character or his ideals or his vision of America. This is about the reality of what’s going on. Nobody is stealing this from him. And when he talks about a messy convention, does it only get messy because he’s not going to get the resolution that he wants? MATTHEWS: I just wonder about Nevada again, Congressman. Nevada was more than a mess. HAROLD FORD, MSNBC POLITICAL CONTRIBUTOR: It was violent. MATTHEWS: It was scary out there. And people were -- people like Senator Boxer, one of the best liberals there’s ever been, felt physically threatened. That’s not a joke. And when he says messy, I wonder where his line is drawn. FORD: Look, he has every right to make the case that he’s making and to make it effectively. I think Mike’s column lays out pretty clearly where all Americans are. You look at the scoreboard, and he lost. You may have played valiently, but you didn’t win. Two, if he’s serious about beating Donald Trump, this is not helping to defeat Donald Trump. And, three, I get a little unnerved at times. I’m more of a moderate conservative Democrat. And some of my liberal friends often attack us moderates for not being as aggressive and progressive as they are, as if they have a monopoly on the ownership of the Democratic Party and what needs to be done to raise wages and make life better for all Americas. So, I think at some point this line here is probably what’s going to bring an end to this campaign, a call for almost a messiness and almost a violence, much like we saw in Nevada, because if that’s what he is looking for in Philadelphia, I think you will see a number of leading Democrats begin to speak even more forcefully that you have run a great race, you have raised important issues. We’re going to address them in the platform. You are going to have an opportunity prime time to make the case, but we have got to move on, because we have a very serious opponent on the Republican side who, if he wins, will fundamentally undo most of what Barack Obama has done. And that -- we cannot risk that. MATTHEWS: Let’s talk about how he puts the brakes on. You start, Kristen, then Mike. How does he put the brakes on at the speed he’s going right now? Because he’s promising free college tuition for state universities.
How does he back down from that? Lifetime health care as a right, lifetime. What is the second -- how do you pull back from that? And huge increase in Social Security and a $15 minimum wage. He goes into that drafting committee with his five votes or four votes, and now how does he come out of it and say I have done a great job here, I moved the party to the left, I can now turn it over to Hillary? How does he do that running at this speed? WELKER: I think that`s the huge challenge for him right now. And you can also feel that the campaign is trying to figure it out, because they have come this far, because so many people feel as though he has run a great campaign. How does he land this plane now in a way that does speak to the desires of all of his supporters and that allows them to ultimately get behind Hillary Clinton? That`s not necessarily I think his top priority. I think his top priority is making sure that some of his policy positions get into the Democratic platform. So, I think compromise is going to be a big word, because Hillary Clinton has to walk a very fine line, Chris. She can`t go too far to the left in a general election against Donald Trump. And she`s been pretty clear that she`s not going to adopt all of his policy positions. So, there`s no way to have to be a lot of compromise involved in that. And I asked him, look, is he calling for his supporters to protest if he doesn`t get what he wants at the convention? And he sort of sidestepped that question and said, look, ultimately, I feel confident that we will be able to reach some agreement. So, I think that is what he`s going to be looking for, Chris, maybe not all of those policy positions that you just mapped out, but at least a few of those. And, again, he`s really the linchpin to starting to rally some of those younger voters, who right now a lot of them saying they are not going to support Secretary Clinton in a general election. MATTHEWS: Mike, you know when you`re looking at the inside pages, say, of a broadsheet, where there`s like page 15, page 17 is foreign news, not just American political news? You`re reading all this. Somewhere in Venezuela, they claim voter fraud. Somewhere in South Africa, they have claimed voter fraud. There`s never an election where the loser doesn`t say they claim voter fraud. And then, when they win, they arrest the person who lost the election and throw them in jail, where there`s boots, wherever, or not -- they hang them. I begin -- and when you listen to Trump and you listen to Bernie Sanders, it`s beginning to sound like one of those what we used to call Third World countries. They talk like that. There is no such thing as losing -- when is the last time you heard a decent concession speech from Bernie Sanders or from Trump, an actual concession speech? I lost. I tried really hard. I`m doing a Brooklyn accent. We really tried hard. We really tried hard. We lost by a billion votes. Why doesn`t anybody do that anymore? We lost. Is he going to ever say that? LUPICA: And, Chris, Chris, there`s also this conceit here. And I -- believe me, I can see how passionate Senator Sanders` followers are. There is this conceit here that only the people voting for him matter in this election. And I have a feeling that the guys who want Trump to win, they think the same way. And I keep asking this. What`s the endgame here? Because you keep hearing all this third-party talk. Doesn`t it seem that Bernie Sanders is running a third-party campaign already? MATTHEWS: Yes. FORD: But the big difference between Trump and Sanders, at least Trump got enough delegates to make the case he`s making. I understand what Mike is saying. MATTHEWS: There is a difference. FORD: But the scoreboard is clear on Trump`s part. MATTHEWS: Well, he`s already in another party, Mike. It would be fairly convenient to run a third-party candidate. Anyway, I don`t think he will, though. I think about it -- it`s so difficult to run, and then you end up picking up seven or 20 or some votes. And you end up being a spoiler in the end. All you do is hurt your side of the spectrum. Anyway, we have seen that a hundred times. Kristen Welker, Mike Lupica, Harold Ford Jr., thank you all. Up next, Bill Cosby back in court. We will get a report on Cosby`s appearance today as he now heads to trial on sex assault charges. And this is HARDBALL, the place for politics. MILISSA REHBERGER, MSNBC CORRESPONDENT: I`m Milissa Rehberger. Here`s what`s happening. The Justice Department intends to seek the death penalty against
accused Charleston church gunman Dylann Roof. Roof is accused of killing nine people at the Emanuel AME Church last June. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe says every check that came into his campaign was vetted. The FBI is investigating whether his 2013 campaign accepted illegal donations. McAuliffe insists there is no wrongdoing. And the U.S. smoking rate has fallen to a historic low of 15 percent, according to the latest figures from the CDC. About 50 years ago, the U.S. smoking rate was roughly 42 percent -- back to HARDBALL. MATTHEWS: Welcome back to HARDBALL. Well, today, a judge in Pennsylvania ruled that Bill Cosby will stand trial for sexual assault charges. Former Temple University employee Andrea Constand alleges that Cosby gave her pills before assaulting her back in 2004. Constand is one of more than 50 women who have made sexual assault allegations against the 78-year-old comedian. NBC News reporter Janet Shamlian is outside the courthouse right now in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Janet, tell us what happened today regarding this case. JANET SHAMLIAN, NBC CORRESPONDENT: Hey, Chris. Good evening to you. Yes, there’s enough evidence that Bill Cosby committed a crime for this case to go forward. In a nutshell, that is it. That was the ruling of Judge Elizabeth McHugh after this 3.5-hour preliminary hearing today. And the significance is this. Of the 50 or so women who have accused him over a period of decades of some type of sexual misconduct, this is the first time that he’s going to face trial on criminal charges, and could go to prison if convicted. Now, at this point, they have not set a trial date. Today’s hearing focused largely on the police report filed by the accuser, Andrea Constand, who said that Bill Cosby gave her pills that made her feel woozy and that, after that, she could not stop his unwanted sexual advances. This was not the face-to-face confrontation, though, that many people thought would happen here. Andrea Constand was not in court. The judge said that she did not have to be in court because the burden of proof was lower for this preliminary hearing than it would be for a trial. Now, Cosby’s attorneys have tried to get this thrown out of court for the last five or six months, without success. The judge, today, did set the preliminary -- or the arraignment, rather, for July 20. But before he left here today, he waived his right to appear at that July 20 hearing. So, Chris, this now sets the stage for a trial later this year -- back to you. MATTHEWS: Well, thank you very much, Janet Shamlian, up in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Now let’s bring in criminal defense attorney Midwin Charles. Midwin Charles, thank you for joining us. MIDWIN CHARLES, CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY: Hi, Chris. How you are? MATTHEWS: I’m looking at Cosby there, and I have followed his whole career, like everybody else has. We all think we know the guy. I guess we don’t. CHARLES: Sure. MATTHEWS: But he looks like he’s blind. Is that going to -- could that be a plea at some point where his physical impairment, he can’t stand trial or he can’t be in prison? When would that come into play? Did you see him holding onto the guy walking around there? CHARLES: Right. Right. Not so much he can’t stand trial, which basically is more of a mental capacity standard, which really doesn’t exist here. But when it comes to advocating for leniency, should he be convicted, then, yes, it will come into play. I think the optics here are great for that. For example, when he had showed up before in court, remember, he was limping at one point and he had a more younger junior escorting him to sort of give this appearance that this is someone who needs assistance and is sort of perhaps medically challenged. MATTHEWS: This is almost like a class-action suit. There’s like 50 -- “The Washington Post” today, I was there this morning -- 50 pictures of women of different ages who have all made these allegations. What relevance does that have to this one individual case in Norristown, Pennsylvania? CHARLES: Well, what I think is interesting is that those 50 cases had relevance in the sense where the new prosecutor decided, you know what? We should look at this again. But when it comes to this trial, I think that his defense attorneys are going to try really, really hard to prevent that information from coming in. MATTHEWS: How do you keep it from the jury, though? They know about it. CHARLES: This is
where you have to do the work as an attorney to make sure you impanel a very, very good jury.

MATTHEWS: How do you find a jury that hadn`t read about this story in America? CHARLES: You won`t. But what you do is, you find a jury who says that it won`t sway their decision either way. MATTHEWS: OK. Who are these people? (LAUGHTER) MATTHEWS: You`re laughing because it -- we all use common sense, at least outside the courtroom. CHARLES: Right. Right. MATTHEWS: And we go, you know, if you have heard that much smoke, you assume fire. CHARLES: Well, not necessarily. There are a lot of people who believe the Bill Cosby should have his day in court and that he should defend these allegations. And he`s entitled to a rigorous defense. So, I don`t think that every person believes that he`s guilty.

(CROSSTALK) MATTHEWS: Let`s assume, to his advantage, that he gets acquitted in this case. Does he have to then go through 49 other cases? CHARLES: No, not at all. Remember, these 49 cases, a lot of them are in different jurisdictions. And right now, many of the cases that he`s facing are civil suits. They are defamation cases. They are not criminal charges. This right now is the only criminal charge the Bill Cosby is facing. MATTHEWS: So, he could actually settle all the other ones? CHARLES: It`s possible. It`s possible. MATTHEWS: It`s great to have you on. We will probably have you back. This is just tragedy, the whole thing. Anyway, thank you, Midwin, Midwin Charles. CHARLES: Thank you. MATTHEWS: Up next, the past is prelude, how Trump`s past comments square with the candidate of 2016. The HARDBALL roundtable is coming here with its assessment. You`re watching HARDBALL, the place for politics. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Hillary`s a great friend of mine. Her husband is a great friend of mine. They`re fantastic people. You know, the thing -- they get a bad knock. She`s a very nice women. People think tough, tough. And I guess she`s tough, but she`s a very nice woman and he`s a very nice guy. We know all about the smarts and how smart they are and all, but they are good people. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Don`t you love videotape? And welcome back to HARDBALL. That was Donald Trump back during an interview back in October of 2008, not a million years ago. It`s been part of a back to the future kind of day for Donald Trump, as old interviews like that one you just saw, ranging from his views on everything from the Clintons to women and the economy, are out there resurfacing all of a sudden. Also emerging today is an ad by the Hillary Clinton campaign where Clinton is now using sound from a 2006 audiobook in which Trump points to business opportunities when the housing bubble burst. That audiobook was titled “How to Build a Fortune.” Let`s listen. (BEGIN AUDIO CLIP) TRUMP: I sort of hope that happens, because then people like me would go in and buy. If there is a bubble burst, as they call it, you know, you can make a lot of money. (END AUDIO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Well, meanwhile, at a housing event out in California today, Clinton reminded the crowd of what happened during that recession. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Donald Trump said, when he was talking about the possibility of a housing market crash before the great recession, he said, “I sort of hope that happens.” He actually said that. He actually said he was hoping for the crash that caused hardworking families in California and across America to lose their homes, all because he thought he could take advantage of it to make some money for himself. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Well, Trump responded to Clinton`s attack in the following statement -- quote -- “I`m a businessman, and I have made a lot of money in down markets, in some cases, as much as I have made when markets are good. Frankly, this is the kind of thinking our country needs, understanding how to get a good result out of a very bad and sad situation. Politicians have no idea how to do this. They don`t have a clue.” Well, that`s Trump talking. So, will any of these comments from the past that have resurfaced today come back to haunt Trump. Joining me tonight on the roundtable is Howard Fineman, global editorial director for “The Huffington Post”, Michelle Bernard, columnist for “Roll Call” and president of Bernard Center for Politics and Public Policy, and Gabe
Sherman is a writer for “New York Magazine”. Gabe, I know. We know the answer, don’t we? I mean, it’s like an old set of scriptures from ten million years ago and it’s a few years ago. GABE SHERMAN, NEW YORK MAGAZINE: Clearly, this is what Trump supporters like. He’s a businessman. Hillary is playing into the core argument of his candidacy. So, I can’t imagine why these attacks are –– MATTHEWS: Being a sharpie, Michelle, is what people are looking for. I’m a sharpie. I see an opportunity on downside, I make some money. MICHELLE BERNARD, BERNARD CENTER FOR POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY. Absolutely. I think she was off target in the comments that she made. I think she was probably going after the part of the women’s vote that is sympathetic and would think to themselves how could you say something like that. It was bad when others said they wanted the president to fail. You can’t love America if you want any aspect of America to fail. MATTHEWS: Howard? HOWARD FINEMAN, THE HUFFINGTON POST: Well, if this is the quality, if that thing today from Hillary about Donald Trump’s record trading in the down market is as tough as they’re going to get on his business record, then they’re going to lose. That’s not the way you go after –– if you want to go after Donald Trump’s business record, you have to be specific, you have to be detailed. You have to go over a long period of time and build your case. You don’t do it by making, as Gabe said, exactly the wrong argument. MATTHEWS: Let’s take a look at what Trump was saying not too long ago, about who we thought were the better presidents, the last four or five presidents. Let’s take a look at that now and see how that holds up now. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)
UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Of the four, who’s the best? DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Well -- UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Bush 41, Clinton, Bush 43, or Obama, and why? TRUMP: I would really say Clinton, probably. I would have to say Clinton. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Why? TRUMP: There was a little spirit. Frankly, he would have been had he not met Monica, had he not met Paula, had he not met various and sundry, semi-beautiful women, he would have had a much better deal going. (END VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEWS: Skip the aesthetic critique there, what do you think about the fact he puts Clinton at the top of the last four or five presidents? BERNARD: Well, I think it’s interesting because he’s now anti-NAFTA and anti-trade and Bill Clinton was responsible for pushing NAFTA through. MATTHEWS: Well, Hillary is against all those things, too. Let’s be fair. BERNARD: Well, she is now. But we’re not talking about Hillary. We’re talking about Donald Trump. It’s going to be interesting. It’s sort of, you know, with Hillary Clinton, people say the three faces of Eve. With Donald Trump, it is the ten faces of Eve. MATTHEWS: I’ve already said something there that I noticed, I’m going to do this for the next couple of days and weeks. Throughout interviews I have with him, he keeps talking about the psychology of effective leadership. He talks about it consistently, spirit. Like Churchill is the same man spirit, women are spirit. It’s always getting back to the idea that he can create a enthusiasm for this country’s future by the way he is, the salesman. It’s in there and there to us again, a little peek at it there. FINEMAN: Yes, I think –– MATTHEWS: His people, by the way, like. FINEMAN: Put it this way, he admired the sort of animal clout of Bill Clinton, I would say, OK? Even though the women were only semi-beautiful, the implication there being –– MATTHEWS: Why does he have to do that? FINEMAN: Because that’s Donald Trump. BERNARD: It makes him feel better about himself. FINEMAN: My women are beautiful. His women are only semi-beautiful. This is a guy who responds as a street guy mentally at all times. That’s who he is. Anybody in his vision who gets in the way of him being the guy is going to get run over. This is both the attraction and the danger of Donald Trump. MATTHEWS: It’s the old song, standing on the corner watching all the girls go by. SHERMAN: You know, it’s interesting, he said Bill Clinton. If he said George W. Bush, I don’t think that would have been that helpful for the Republican base at this point. I mean, the Republican Party has moved so far beyond the Bush years that Donald Trump if he invoked Bush, that might have been damaging. FINEMAN: By the way, I think that might be one of the reasons he
picked Clinton as well in that interview just to give another elbow to the Bush brand. BERNARD: They have sort of devolved the Republican Party. He’s made George Bush look very sophisticated by any stretch of the imagination. MATTHEWS: I think it’s amazing how we’re going back to almost through scripts ago, we used them in school exegesis, you remember? We’re going through the bible studies trying to find inconsistencies when we know they are there within the last two weeks. FINEMAN: Chris, that’s the whole modus here. He’s been in so many places over such a long period of time on the issues, there’s certain core consistencies -- MATTHEWS: Attitude. FINEMAN: -- of his attitude. MATTHEWS: His attitude. FINEMAN: But on the issues, it is like the three card Monty, to give you another New York analogy, precisely because people don’t take any one of these statements seriously. He gets away with dominating the conversation via the lack of seriousness. MATTHEWS: Let’s try to really bad one. Vince Foster is not the first conspiracy theory that Trump has given oxygen to. Earlier this morning, the story in the “National Enquirer” that said without foundation, that Ted Cruz’ father was tied to Lee Harvey Oswald who assassinated Kennedy. Let’s watch. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) TRUMP: His father was with Lee Harvey Oswald prior to him being, you know, shot. I mean, the whole thing is ridiculous. What is this, right, prior to his being shot. And nobody even brings it up. I mean, they don’t talk about that. That was reported. Nobody talks about it. I think it’s horrible. [END VIDEO CLIP] MATTHEWS: Gabe, I got to stop there. I don’t think it’s much worse than saying that somebody killed the president. Somebody’s father killed the president not even running. And yet we sort of -- that’s the one I really jumped on Trump for. I said this is factually wrong. There’s no basis for saying it. Then you’re accusing this guy’s father of murder who was an anti-Castro guy. He wasn’t likely Harvey Oswald, who’s infatuated with Castro. The facts are wrong around it. SHERMAN: Of course, so the litany of falsehoods and misstatements that Trump has made from the beginning would have been disqualifying to anyone else. He famously said he would have to kill someone on the street in Fifth Avenue for his supporters to turn on him and even then they might not. These debates almost feel academic because we can poke holes in his statements but at point -- MATTHEWS: OK, let’s go back to the one that offended so many African American people, I don’t mean to bring you in this, but it just clicks on me now, which is birther. That the president of the United States is some kind of illegal immigrant who’s came from Africa, this weird bank shot where a white woman from Kansas goes over to Africa, and has a baby names him Barack Obama, Barack Hussein Obama, with the idea that 35 years later, he’ll be eligible to run for president. It’s looney tunes. BERNARD: And he said it over and over and over again, and outside of the fact that he kept repeating it, the thing I found so distasteful was that the president actually at one point in time showed the world his birth certificate. It was horrible. If that is any picture of -- if he did that to Barack Obama, what’s going to continue to come down the pike for Hillary Clinton is going to -- MATTHEWS: Guess who remember he had to do that? FINEMAN: Who? MATTHEWS: Barack Obama. BERNARD: Yes. FINEMAN: No question. MATTHEWS: This is personal. He had to go through that. He had to show his papers like he was stopped by the cop. (CROSSTALK) BERNARD: Show me your paper laws. FINEMAN: Michelle put her finger on the way to go after Trump, but at least according to the Democrats, the smart Democrats I talked to, which is that he’s dangerously crazy. MATTHEWS: Ha! FINEMAN: I’m serious, Chris. The conspiracy things are not tied to any provable reality. They have an element of hot house nuttiness about them. MATTHEWS: Call in radio feeds on that stuff. FINEMAN: Right. I know it does, but that’s only one part of the country. MATTHEWS: I know, but they’re listening and talking. Anyway, the roundtable is sticking with us. And up next, these three will tell me something I don’t know. And this is HARDBALL, the place for politics. (NEWSBREAK) MATTHEWS: Howard, tell me something I don’t know. FINEMAN: Well, Chris, I got to go back to my old Kentucky home where Bernie Sanders is going to
challenge the count. He lost by 1,800 votes. He’s going to challenge it and they’re going to put on the spot Allison Lundgren Grimes, a Democrat and ally of Hillary’s, who’s the secretary of state. If they lose the recount the recount, then it will be all Allison Grimes’ fault. In other words, we’ve got one guy who is a conspiracy theorist, the other guy who wants to be a conspiracy theorist. MATTHEWS: That’s not going to make it very clean. You want messy, that’s messy. BERNARD: So my thing is who would have known that Justice Roberts on the United States Supreme Court would be the first Supreme Court justice, conservative, to really come out on the right of African-Americans. As you know, yesterday, the United States Supreme Court reduced a conviction, turned around a conviction for an African-American man who was convicted of a pretty horrible crime. There was never an issue as to his innocence. He actually pled guilty. The whole issue in the case was the fact that the jury was rigged to knock off every single black person. MATTHEWS: All the challenges were race-based. BERNARD: We’re all race-based. John Roberts says doing that two times is two times too many. Justice Clarence Thomas, the only African-American on the Supreme Court, says his biggest issue with the case is that the new evidence became public and now every person who is in jail is going to go out and look for evidence to proof their innocence. MATTHEWS: Does the guy get another trial? BERNARD: No. MATTHEWS: He’s free? BERNARD: He’s free. SHERMAN: There’s talk inside the Trump campaign about when to deploy the Bill Clinton sex scandals. And there’s thought of waiting for summer. But Trump couldn’t help himself. So, now, from here until Election Day, he’s going to keep talking about it, keeping the scandal alive, because they think they have something no other campaign has had, a principal, the candidate himself, willing to make these allegations. MATTHEWS: Yes, I think that is -- SHERMAN: Prior to that, it’s always done through surrogates, third parties. MATTHEWS: The only argument for that is nobody else has tried it. SHERMAN: He’s doing it himself. MATTHEWS: Anyway, Howard Fineman, thank you, Michelle Bernard and Gabe Sherman. When we return, let me finish with what we can learn from trolling through the Trump tapes. You’re watching HARDBALL, the place for politics. MATTHEWS: Let me finish with this: You know, tonight, we showed you bits of an interview I did with Trump way back in 1998. It is a good question. What should we make of these things someone said a generation ago? Times change, so do conditions. Should something nice, a guy says about a president 18 years ago negate something far less generous he said a week ago? Well, certainly, it makes you realize again as you must have begun realizing when he reached the age of reason that politicians say things to advance themselves, not necessarily to speak the truth. In any case, I’ve been looking over the transcripts of the many interviews I’ve conducted with Trump over the past two decades and I’ve come across areas of intriguing consistency. Matters where the building tycoon has exposed a Trump approach to what we’re seeing now from him. I’ll show you them in the days ahead. What you’ll find interesting is the man’s continuing focus on the power of psychology in this country’s national life. The key importance of boosting the country’s morale, the importance of America having the spirit needed to prevail. There are other leading indicators. Trump, for example, said if he ever ran for president, he would rely significantly on programs like this where he could present himself both freely and not unfortunately for free. He once said something that’s proven especially foresightful. Trump said he would only run for president if he could see his way to victory. There would be no college tries or attempts at what some candidates might call moral victories. He intended to more than beat the spread. He intended to pick up all the marbles. I’ll be showing this earlier Donald Trump, what’s consistent with what we’re getting now, what’s not. We’ll show you where he’s coming from, that’s more useful than hanging on his last word, which history shows is not going to be his last word. That’s HARDBALL for now. Thanks for being with us. Come back and join us at 11:00 p.m. Eastern tonight for a special late edition of HARDBALL as we learn the results of
the Washington state Republican primary. “ALL IN WITH CHRIS HAYES” starts right now. THIS IS A RUSH TRANSCRIPT. THIS COPY MAY NOT BE IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MAY BE UPDATED."

Source Title: BTN

_Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 1_

Predicted Probability: 0.90

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 693077

Article Title: New study eyes high mortality for whites; Stagnant progress on curing diseases may be adding to the death rate"

Date: 1/31/2016

Article Content: DATELINE: WASHINGTON -- Higher than expected death rates among middle-aged white Americans are largely being driven by stagnant progress against heart disease and other common illnesses, according to new research. The unexpectedly high mortality has come into focus recently amid a rising toll of drug deaths and suicide. But the new report from the New York-based Commonwealth Fund suggests that drugs and suicides are only a part of the problem. The problem was worst in a handful of states stretching from appalachia south and west across the deep South. Mortality rates were 60 to 76 percent higher than they would have been if the trends of the 1980s and 1990s had continued in West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The gap between expected and actual mortality rates was smallest in New York, New Jersey, California, Connecticut, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Illinois. “There is clearly something going on that is troubling,” said Samuel Preston, a University of Pennsylvania demographer. The focus on middle-aged whites intensified when a pair of Princeton University economists -- Nobel laureate Angus Deaton and Anne Case -- published an article last year showing that, since 1999, death rates had increased among non-Hispanic, white Americans 45 to 54. Researchers have not found a similar problem among African-Americans and Latinos. Deaton and Case pointed to a dramatic increase in deaths attributed to drug poisoning, suicide and alcohol-related liver disease, which killed twice as many working-age whites in 2014 as in 1999. The Commonwealth Fund researchers, working with the same data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, looked beyond those causes. They found a marked slowdown in what had been a steady improvement in death rates linked to illnesses including heart disease, diabetes and respiratory disease. For example, between 1983 and 1998 there was a 41 percent decline in mortality linked to heart disease. By contrast, the death rate fell by 11 percent between 1999 and 2014. “Mortality rates for middle-aged whites have stopped declining -- or actually increased -- across a broad range of health conditions, including most of the leading causes of death,” authors David Blumenthal and David Squires wrote. The states showing the worst trends have high rates of poverty as well as some of the highest rates of smoking and obesity in the country. They also historically have had among the weakest health care systems, with high rates of people lacking insurance. Some of these shortcomings may be addressed in some states by the Affordable Care Act. Arkansas, Kentucky and West Virginia have expanded their Medicaid safety nets through the law, a step that other research suggests should have health impacts over the longer term. The remaining states with the biggest health gaps continue to resist the law and do not guarantee health coverage. But Blumenthal and co-author David Squires note
that broader trends affecting middle-aged whites may explain much of the worsening of death rates. They point to an “increasing disengagement from the mainstream economy” on the part of less educated workers, declining rates of marriage and falling incomes. “We are witnessing regression that has little precedent in the industrialized world over the past half century,” the authors conclude.

nlevey@tribune.com"

Source Title: News

_Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 2_

Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 26701

Article Title: Mississippi, a Vaccination Leader, Stands by Its Strict Rules"

Date: 2/5/2015

Article Content: JACKSON, Miss. -- The Mississippi state epidemiologist, Dr. Thomas E. Dobbs III, stood in a crowded room at the State Capitol this week and waited for a legislative verdict on the law that fostered what he regards as a public health triumph in a place that has few of them: the country’s highest immunization rate among kindergarten students. But in recent weeks, the nearly unbending nature of Mississippi’s law requiring students to be vaccinated has been in jeopardy, with two dozen lawmakers publicly supporting an exemption for "conscientious beliefs." The debate, coming as other states grappled with a measles outbreak, turned Mississippi into one more battleground between medical experts who champion vaccinations and parents who fear the government’s role in medical decision-making. "We have been a victim of our success, and people don’t realize how bad these diseases are," Dr. Dobbs said in an interview before lawmakers met on Tuesday to consider a bill that would have expanded exceptions to the vaccine requirement. "But by and large, I think there’s an increasing understanding of how important it is to maintain our invaluable defense against unnecessary illnesses." Members of the education committee for the House of Representatives, in effect, endorsed the state’s current approach on Tuesday. By a voice vote, they advanced a heavily amended version of the bill that now calls for only technical changes to Mississippi’s law, which has been largely untouched since the late 1970s. The law requires all children in public and private schools to have certain immunizations, including for chickenpox, hepatitis B and measles. Generally, children must have the vaccines by the time they are in kindergarten. Mississippi -- one of the states with the worst rates of smoking, obesity and physical inactivity -- is seldom viewed as a leader on health issues. But it is one of two states that permit neither religious nor philosophical exemptions to its vaccination program. West Virginia is the other. Only children with medical conditions that would be exacerbated by vaccines may enroll in Mississippi schools without completing the immunization schedule, which calls for five vaccines. For the 2013-14 academic year, Mississippi reported that nearly all of its 45,719 kindergarten students had been adequately immunized, and the state’s measles, mumps and rubella vaccination rate was about five percentage points higher than the national median of 94.7 percent. For kindergartners that year, Mississippi approved just 17 medical exemptions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Neighboring Arkansas, which had about 3,100 fewer kindergarten students than Mississippi that year, recorded 24 medical exemptions, along with 468 religious or philosophical exemptions. Amid the
measles outbreak, policy makers across the United States are considering whether to modify state
vaccine policies. A group of California legislators said Wednesday that they would offer a proposal to
eliminate their state's personal belief exemption. "As a mother, I know the decisions we make about our
children's health care are deeply personal," Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, a supporter of the
planned measure, said in a statement. "And, while I respect that fundamental right to make medical
decisions for your own family, a parent's decision to ignore science and medical facts puts other children
at risk. We as a state can't condone that." In Mississippi, where officials like Dr. Dobbs applauded
the outcomes associated with the state's vaccination program, the inflexibility bred discontent among some
legislators, as well as people beyond Jackson. The original version of the bill that went before lawmakers
Tuesday would have required parents who cited conscientious beliefs as the basis for an exemption to
indicate an understanding of "the benefits and risks of vaccinations and the benefits and risks of not
being vaccinated." The proposal's supporters, many of whom do not fully agree with parents who
consider vaccines harmful, sought to portray the bill as grounded in personal freedoms. "It is a medical
treatment," said Amy Martin, a nurse from the Jackson area who, dressed in a white coat, walked the
Capitol's hallways on Tuesday. "All medical treatments -- medication, procedures -- they all come with
risk. And because of that, I believe that parents ought to have the freedom and the liberty to decide
what is best for their children." Lindey Magee, a co-director of Mississippi Parents for Vaccine Rights,
said the immunization standards were so overbearing that she opted to home-school her son and
daughter so that they could avoid certain inoculations. "I don't like being coerced into something," said
Ms. Magee, of McComb, a city of about 13,000 people near the Louisiana border. "My husband and I
prayerfully and carefully made that decision, and there's no room for prayerful, careful decisions in
Mississippi concerning our vaccine schedule." Ms. Magee said that she did not wish for Mississippi's
vaccine program to be abolished. She said she wanted a more relaxed schedule and the right to choose
which shots her children would receive and when. She also said the extraordinary vaccination rate that
Mississippi officials cherish was shameful. "I'm not proud of it," Ms. Magee said. "I don't think it's
something to be proud of. I think all it shows is that we are being extorted for our reputation of
ignorance in Mississippi. We bring up the national rear in everything that matters. I think it's silly to look
at that vaccine rate and think that's something to be proud of." But Dr. Dobbs said the concerns of "a
small group of loud constituents" were often based on misinformation, and he said Mississippi officials
feared that changing the immunization rules would lead to increases in measles and pertussis. The
Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in 1979 that the state had the authority to order widespread
vaccinations as a condition of school enrollment. In its ruling, which described much of Mississippi's
vaccine law as "a reasonable exercise of the police power of the state," the court even struck down a
religious exemption. "The protection of the great body of schoolchildren attending the public schools in
Mississippi against the horrors of crippling and death resulting from poliomyelitis or smallpox, or from
one of the other diseases against which means of immunization are known and have long been
practiced successfully, demand that children who have not been immunized should be excluded from
the school community until immunization has been accomplished," the court said. The subsequent
immunization campaign has led many public health experts to hail Mississippi as a model for the nation,
at least in this case. "That kind of strong approach is helpful for the health of children in America," said
Dr. David W. Kimberlin, the president of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and a professor at the
University of Alabama at Birmingham. "I believe that that should be something we all work toward, that
we all hold in the highest of value in terms of our prioritization." State health officials emphasized
Mississippi's performance in discussions before the education committee's meeting. "We've tried to use
that as an example of us doing something right and really being a national leader," Dr. Dobbs said. After the vote, some parents left in tears. URL: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/05/us/mississippi-a-leader-on-vaccination-rates-stands-by-strict-rules.html"

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 641729

Article Title: Closing the Farm-to-Table Gap in Alaska - The New York Times

Date: 1/3/2016

Article Content: Photo At Alaska Natural Organics in Anchorage, greens are raised hydroponically — in water, without soil or pesticides, under blue-and-red LED lights. Credit Joshua Corbett for The New York Times
ANCHORAGE — Across much of Alaska at this time of the year, as winter tightens its grip with darkness and cold, finding a nice crisp head of lettuce at an affordable price can be like prospecting for gold. Where the farm-to-table distance is measured in thousands of miles, the odds get long. “Most of our produce looks like a truck ran over it,” said Susie Linford, the managing partner at Alaska Coastal Catering, a company here in the state’s largest city. But now there is hope; the salad wars are on. Two new small start-ups, each with a starkly different vision for how to grow produce year round, under uniquely Alaskan conditions, have opened their doors. “This town wants lettuce,” said Jason Smith, the founder of Alaska Natural Organics, as he showed a visitor through his garden inside a former dairy warehouse two miles from downtown on a recent blustery day when five-and-a-half hours of natural sunlight was all that residents in this part of the state could hope for. Mr. Smith, a 34-year-old Marine infantry veteran, raises greens hydroponically — in water, without soil or pesticides, under blue-and-red LED lights — and sold his first crop this fall. Photo Jason Smith, the founder of Alaska Natural Organics, inspecting seedlings. Credit Joshua Corbett for The New York Times
Vertical Harvest Hydroponics, another new company, has ideas of growing green where climate might otherwise frown by aiming for portability. The company’s three partners, all also in their 30s, are refitting boxcar-size ship cargo containers into indoor grow spaces that can be installed in restaurant basements, parking lots or remote, off-the-road-grid villages where the only access — for people or produce — is by air or sea. Each container can nurture 1,800 heads of leafy greens and herbs at a time and is designed for harsh conditions, or what Cameron Willingham, one of the company’s founders, called, “Arctic-capable growing.” “Our target market is the northern communities where you can pay $6 or $7 or $8 for a head of lettuce,” he said. “It’s hard to ship stuff out there,” he added. “It freezes on the tarmac.” Urban indoor farming is blossoming in many seemingly unlikely places around the world. A company in Newark is building a huge urban farm inside a former steel plant. Growers from Japan to Vancouver, British Columbia, to the suburbs of Chicago have found that cultivating compact indoor spaces as close as possible to the consumer — even if costs are higher than at dirt farms farther from town — can pay off. What makes Alaska different, perhaps especially with food, are the big distances and the knotty logistics. With short growing seasons here, and no roads in many places, fresh produce for much of the year comes from California or Mexico. Because of the lag time in reaching consumers, the produce is
picked long before ripening, to reduce spoilage on the way, chefs and agricultural experts here said. That hurts the quality. Alaska imports about 90 percent to 95 percent of its food, state officials said, putting about $2 billion a year into out-of-state farmers’ pockets. While locally grown produce has become more common in recent years, farmers and food distributors tend to focus on the state’s biggest cities, especially Anchorage, leaving rural residents out in the cold. Obesity rates rose faster in rural Alaska than in the urban areas from 1991 to 2012, a state report said, though health experts cautioned that other factors, including access to doctors and high smoking rates, could also have contributed. “I talk to store owners who said they have just stopped even trying to order fresh fruits and vegetables because the transportation systems just don’t work,” said Danny Consenstein, the executive director of the Department of Agriculture’s Alaska Farm Service Agency. Even in many of the stores that try to stock fresh produce, Mr. Consenstein added, the fruits and vegetables that are offered “look terrible.” Photo Jason Smith, a former Marine infantryman who founded Alaska Natural Organics, outside his indoor garden located in a former dairy warehouse. Credit Joshua Corbett for The New York Times “Second of all, they’re priced so high,” he said. “I can understand why somebody would walk down that aisle and say, ‘You know, I’d rather buy a bag of chips.’ ” Stories like that, investors and growers say, spell opportunity. “If you want to start up something like this, say down in California, you’ve got to compete with San Joaquin Valley and all of the dirt farms,” said Forrest A. Nabors, a founder of Alyeska Venture Management, a two-year-old venture capital firm that backs local entrepreneurs through its Alaska Accelerator Fund. But in Alaska, added Mr. Nabors, who is also an assistant professor of political science at the University of Alaska, the inefficiency of the market for produce means that new ideas have room to run or, as he put it, “a comfortable margin to play with, to produce a better product at a competitive price.” The Accelerator Fund made Mr. Smith’s organic produce company one of its first investments, and was the largest contributor to his initial start-up, which cost just under $1 million. There is also a clear demand, in rural Alaska especially, for small-scale businesses and jobs. “Local food production is something we enjoy and are passionate about,” said Kyle Belleque, 40, who lives in Dillingham, which has about 5,000 people in a spread-out district 350 miles southwest of Anchorage. “The problem is that with such a small growing season, we just focus on growing for ourselves.” Mr. Belleque (pronounced ba-LECK) and his wife, Johanna, 39, are buying a Vertical Harvest growing unit scheduled for delivery this spring and are in preliminary talks, he said, with local stores and restaurants that might want to buy the greens. “With these containers, all of a sudden you’re producing 12 months a year,” Mr. Belleque said. A Vertical Harvest garden costs just under $100,000, more if a buyer wants add-ons like solar power ability. Mr. Smith, of Alaska Natural Organics, envisions creating jobs in villages through scaled-down versions of his Anchorage operation. He said he was in preliminary talks with an Alaskan Native group about where such farms might go and how local residents might be trained and employed to run them. Ms. Linford, the caterer, who has bought Mr. Smith’s produce, said part of the appeal was the beauty of the items. Unlike some dirt-raised organic vegetables she has tried, which can be blemished, or wilted by the duress of shipment, Mr. Smith’s vegetables are raised in dirt-free, atmospherically controlled conditions. And for a catered winter party on a dark Alaska night, Ms. Linford said, you can’t beat the just-in-time taste. “He harvests an hour before our events,” she said.
In general, young white women in the US have a relatively low death rate. They’re not yet dealing with the numerous health problems that come with age; women have longer life expectancies than men; and white women in this country still live significantly longer than black women. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System

Addressing the stark health disparities between Americans of different racial and socioeconomic groups is rightly a top priority for public health advocates, but the low death rate for young white women might be masking a troubling trend. Death rates are rising among white women ages 15-54, according to a new report from the Urban Institute, as reported by Bloomberg, even as death rates among black women in the same age group — much higher to begin with — are dropping. Lauren F. Friedman / Business Insider

The spike in the death rate among young white women is even clearer if we zoom in to see what’s happening with this group, without comparing it to other sub-groups: Lauren F. Friedman / Business Insider

It can be hard to make sense of what death rates actually mean, but if the 2013 rate had been the same as it was in 1999, there would have been about 10,000 fewer deaths that year in this group. The trend could be a signal of much larger problems, suggests the Urban Institute report. “If death rates for a group are rising, it is highly likely that the health of that population is worsening, thus affecting a much larger group of people than those who die,” the researchers write.

Among 13 major causes of death in young white women, death rates rose “substantially” in seven categories, according to the report. Urban Institute

The staggering rise in “accidental poisonings,” which increased almost fivefold in a little over a decade, is mostly due to the increase in overdoses from prescription painkillers. But even when that’s removed as a factor, death rates are still going up. The researchers saw the top eight categories in the chart above as “consistent with social trends most likely to be worsening (especially for adult women), such as drug use, obesity and lack of exercise, smoking, and general stress.” The bottom five, they suggest, reflect lower rates of murder, smoking, and “general improvements in medical care.” Still, the areas of improvement do little to offset the overall trend. Among non-Hispanic black women, meanwhile, some causes of death are on the rise — but the overall picture is very different: Urban Institute

Why is this happening? This rise in mortality among young white women might be analogous, the researchers suggest, to “the spike in black mortality... that accompanied the rise of the crack epidemic in the late 1980s and early 1990s.” If that’s the case, targeted interventions — with a particular focus on reducing smoking, obesity, and prescription opioid abuse — should curb these rising death rates. But there’s also “a more troubling possibility,” the researchers write. White women could be “experiencing a systematic reversal in the long-term trend of mortality decline.” If that’s the case, this trend could be a sign of much more widespread health problems in the US, which could lead to lower life expectancies across the board. That’s a scary but not implausible scenario. The kinds of behaviors contributing to these rising death rates, such as drug use and unhealthy eating habits, are often “inextricably embedded in the social and economic context of individuals’ lives,” the report notes. That suggests there could be broader social forces at play. One hypothesis the researchers hope to investigate is whether rising
inequality in the US may be a contributing factor. “Other research,” Bloomberg notes, “has shown that
longevity is decreasing for poorer and less-educated white women” — not all white women. The Urban
Institute is also planning future analyses to look at cause-of-death trends in Hispanic women, black
women, and other racial minorities. Additional research by Andy Kiersz. Please enable Javascript to
watch this video

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 642419

Article Title: More than 1.7 million cancer deaths averted since 1990s - CBS News"

Date: 1/7/2016

Article Content: The cancer death rate in the U.S. has plummeted by 23 percent since 1991, new figures
show. The steady decline over more than two decades is due in great part to people kicking their
cigarette habits. The American Cancer Society says that the drop, documented in their annual report on
cancer incidence, translates to more than 1.7 million averted cancer deaths through 2012. Dr. Otis
Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, told CBS News, “We think much of this is
due to prevention, especially smoking cessation.” Brawley said better treatments and screening methods
are also responsible for fewer deaths from cancer. Gender differences were analyzed in the report and
revealed deaths from cancer dropped by 1.8 percent per year in men and 1.4 percent per year in
women. Decreases in deaths from lung, breast, prostate, and colon/rectum cancers drove overall
debates, said Brawley. Breast cancer-related death rates in women have been especially striking,
declining by more than a third from peak rates in 1989. In men, deaths from prostate and colorectal
cancers have also dramatically dropped, going down by about 50 percent from peak rates. “We have
good data to show breast cancer screening, especially in women over 50, lowers the risk of death. We
have incredibly strong data to show colon cancer screening lowers risk of death,” Brawley said. Lung
cancer death rates declined 38 percent between 1990 and 2012 among males and 13 percent between
2002 and 2012 among females due to reduced tobacco use. The report also looked at cancer death rates
by state and found that while it’s the second leading cause of death nationwide behind heart disease, in
21 states, cancer is the number one killer. The report projected ahead for 2016 as well, estimating that
there will be 1,685,210 new cancer cases and 595,690 cancer deaths in the United States this
year. Cancer is the leading cause of death among 40- to 79-year olds, and among Hispanics and
Asian/Pacific Islanders, who together make up one-quarter of the U.S. population. Brawley said the
research findings reveal that the nation can do even better when it comes to slicing more deaths from
cancer. “When we look at this data, we actually see where we can do better on all fronts. Fifteen to 16
percent of women and 19 percent of men still smoke cigarettes and we can do much better there,” he
said. While cancer screening is improving, Brawley said outcomes could be even better if more people
followed screening recommendations. A third of women aged 50 to 75 are not getting breast cancer
screening, he said, pointing out that the median age of diagnosis of breast cancer is in the middle
60s.” The number of lives that could be saved if we were to work on that one-third of women 50 to 75,
get them screened and a good diagnosis” would make a big difference, Brawley said. More than a third of people over 50 don’t get recommended stool blood testing and colonoscopy, even though early detection of colon cancer can now decrease the risk of dying by 35 percent, he said. Lifestyle changes can reduce the odds of dying from cancer, too, including eating five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables day, avoiding or reducing red meat to just a few servings a week, maintaining a healthy weight close to ideal body weight, and getting moderate exercise for 30 minutes four to five times a week, Brawley advised. “If we didn’t have the obesity epidemic, the rate of deaths to cancer would have gone down,” Brawley said. © 2016 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Population Norms – High – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 95572

Article Title: More Than 1.5 Million Cancer Deaths Avoided Thanks To Advances In Prevention, Detection

Date: 12/31/2014

Article Content: By Reuters Staff (Reuters Health) - More than 1.5 million Americans avoided death from cancer since 1991 thanks to falling smoking rates and better cancer prevention, detection and treatments, according to a study from the American Cancer Society. The overall rate of deaths from cancer decreased from about 215 per 100,000 people in 1991 to about 169 per 100,000 people in 2011, researchers found. “Further reductions in cancer death rates can be accelerated by applying existing cancer control knowledge across all segments of the population, with an emphasis on those in the lowest socioeconomic bracket and other disadvantaged populations,” write Rebecca Siegel and her colleagues in CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. For the new report, the researchers compiled data from the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics. During the most recent years with data available, 2007 through 2011, cancer cases decreased by 1.8 percent among men and remained steady among women, they found. For those years, deaths from cancer also decreased by 1.8 percent among men and fell by 1.4 percent among women. Although the overall cancer death rate dropped over the past two decades, the researchers also found that not all Americans benefited equally. The decline in deaths varied from state to state. For example, declines in cancer deaths reached about 15 percent in southern states, compared to drops of 20 percent or more in northern states. Southern states also had the highest current cancer death rates. “The large geographic variation in cancer death rates and trends reflects differences in risk factor patterns, such as smoking and obesity, as well as disparities in the national distribution of poverty and access to health care, which have increased over time,” the researchers write. Using the same data, the authors also estimate the number of cancer cases and deaths for 2015. Overall, they estimate that about 1.7 million cancer cases and about 590,000 cancer deaths will occur in the U.S. during the coming year. They predict prostate cancer will remain the most diagnosed cancer among men and breast cancer the most diagnosed among women. Lung cancer will be the second most diagnosed cancer among both sexes, but will be the leading cause of cancer deaths for both sexes. Among children ages one to 14 years,
leukemia will be the most diagnosed. For older children between ages 15 to 19 years, cancers of the brain and nervous system will be most common, the researchers say. In a statement emailed to Reuters Health, Dr. Steven Rosen, provost and chief scientific officer at City of Hope, said people should be vigilant for increasing cancer rates from a number of factors, including obesity. “Recreational marijuana use can increase lung cancer and the rise of sexually transmitted diseases is associated with cancer risk,” said Rosen, who wasn’t involved in the new study. “In addition, cancer is associated with aging, and as life expectancy fortunately increases, cancer rates will rise proportionately.”


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**E cig Population Norms – High**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for E cig Population Norms – High within the database is “cpopnormsecig7”.

**E-cigarette texts**

**More than Passing Mentions**

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_epophi”.

**E cig Population Norms – High – Ecig – MPM – AP 1**

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 2127

Article Title: Cuomo proposes restrictions on electronic cigarettes"

Date: 1/22/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: ALBANY, N.Y. ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Gov. Andrew Cuomo has proposed banning electronic cigarettes from all the public indoor places where smoking tobacco is prohibited. In the budget proposal for the coming year, Cuomo would also prohibit e-cigarette marketing that targets children. According to the governor's office, there is “little quality control” on the production of the devices or the nicotine liquids they use and “significant health and safety concerns” about them. Among those concerns is a federal study showing more than 250,000 youths who had never smoked before used electronic cigarettes in 2013."

Source Title: AP

**E cig Population Norms – High – Ecig – MPM – AP 2**

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 779876

Article Title: Nebraska lawmakers consider raising smoking age to 21"
A bill that would raise Nebraska's legal smoking age from 18 to 21 won support from medical groups at a legislative committee hearing Monday, but opponents say it would strip rights from young people who are considered responsible enough to vote and serve in the military. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Merv Riepe of Omaha, would apply to smoking, chewing tobacco and using alternative nicotine products such as e-cigarettes. If it becomes law, Nebraska would join California and Hawaii as the only states to ban smoking until age 21. Riepe said the measure would help “disrupt the chain of youth tobacco addiction” by limiting the number of 18 to 20-year-olds who legally use tobacco or nicotine products and preventing younger teens from getting cigarettes through their older friends. “Raising the drinking age to 21 is a prime example of the deterring effect raising the minimum age can have on society,” he said. About two-thirds of people who smoke at least one cigarette a day started in their teens, said Andy Hale, vice president of advocacy for the Nebraska Hospital Association. Smoking has decreased steadily in the past decade, but it’s still a leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., he said. “That's more deaths caused by tobacco than by HIV, illegal drug use, alcohol use, suicide and motor vehicle accidents” combined, Hale said. The bill also applies to e-cigarettes, which Nebraska banned for minors in 2014. Most e-cigarettes are designed to look like traditional filtered cigarettes, and they contain a solution of often-flavored nicotine that's vaporized by a heating element. They’re often touted as safer alternatives to cigarettes because they don’t contain tar or other additives. Many e-cigarettes are sold with fruity or sweet flavors, such as grape, cotton candy or Captain Crunch cereal, which specifically target younger students, said Julia McKarble of the Nebraska chapter of the American Lung Association. She said 22 percent of high school students reported using e-cigarettes, while 13 percent reported smoking traditional cigarettes. “Tobacco at any age is a killer, and if we can stop the access of our youth, we’re setting ourselves up for success,” McKarble said. But proponents of e-cigarettes say they can help people quit smoking. Sam Salaymeh, who owns a chain of Midwest vape shops, told the committee he smoked two packs a day after he came back from Iraq, and he wasn't able to quit until he took up vaping. He said he uses fruity flavors because they taste better than tobacco-flavored solutions, not to target children. Sens. Carol Blood, of Bellevue, and Burke Harr, of Omaha, questioned how the state could say 18-year-olds were old enough to vote and serve in the military but too young to smoke. “How can you help me justify the fact that we make 18-year-olds register for draft, can make them go to war, but can't let them make the adult decision to smoke?” Blood asked Riepe. Increasing the smoking age sets a “slippery slope” for young adult rights, said Gregory Conley of the American Vaping Association. It also could make existing 18 to 20-year-old smokers criminals, something he said he experienced as a 19-year-old when New Jersey raised its smoking age to 19 in 2006. Conley's friends asked him to buy them cigarettes, he said. “I don’t think it respects the rights of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds, especially those who are already smokers and vapers,” he said. “They deserve rights too.” __ Follow Julia Shumway on Twitter at http://twitter.com/JMShumway"
Article Title: There's A Sad Reason 'Migrants,' Not 'Immigrants,' Is The Word Being Used ANCHORS: Mark Memmott, Scott Simon'

Date: 4/25/2015

Article Content: SCOTT SIMON: This is WEEKEND EDITION from NPR News. I'm Scott Simon. More than 800 people died last weekend when a boat they were taking to flee the war, suffering and terror in the Middle East, capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. Those who died were characterized by most news outlets as migrants. They came from almost 10 countries, including conflict zones like Syria and Somalia. Why do news organizations, often including NPR, say migrants? We're joined now by Mark Memmott, NPR standards and practices editor. Mark, thanks so much for being back with us. MARK MEMMOTT: Glad to be here. SCOTT SIMON: Why do we say the victims were migrants and not say refugees? MARK MEMMOTT: Well, let's work through the words. Refugees leave their homes or their countries to escape persecution, or they might be seeking safety because of wars, as you said. Some may have been forced from their homes by armed forces. Certainly, many of the people who we've been hearing or reading about are refugees, but they've been coming from more than a dozen countries, and they've been coming for many different reasons; some of them maybe just to seek better lives. The word migrants fits for them all. As the dictionary says, a migrant is a person who moves from one place to another, and in particular, it's a word applied to those who leave one country to settle in another. We haven't been using the word immigrants for a very sad reason. The people who didn't make it to Europe - the hundreds who drowned - never got the chance to immigrate. One immigrates when you arrive in a new country. SCOTT SIMON: Does the choice of word frame the story in a certain way for people? MARK MEMMOTT: Yes, and I think it also helps them understand what the situation - you know, the word migrants puts a picture in listeners' minds. These are people who are on the move; many have traveled hundreds, thousands of miles. And as we learn more about the individuals or the families who've been part of this migration and the reasons they've left their homes, we probably will refer to many of them as refugees. But without knowing the specifics of their stories, the word that seems to fit best when reporting about them is migrants. SCOTT SIMON: Let's move on to another topic. The New York Times recently ran into some trouble with one of its sources in an article they had about the rise in popularity of vaping - electronic cigarettes - e-cigarettes. Help us understand this story if you could. MARK MEMMOTT: Well, I should begin by saying that, you know, as the expression goes, there, but for the grace of God, go I, or in this case, we. What happened to The Times could happen to NPR and actually may have happened. We just don't know it. Here's the story. A Times reporter posted a message on Twitter. It was a callout. She wanted to hear from - and I'm paraphrasing her words - teens who vape and who are willing to talk about it with a reporter twice their age. One of the people who got in touch with The Times made up a good story. He pretended to be an 18-year-old high school senior from Mississippi who enjoys a particular flavor endorsed by a rapper known as Lil Ugly Mane. The Times found out about the hoax after the pretender bragged about it on Twitter. SCOTT SIMON: So a prank. MARK MEMMOTT: A prank - he wanted to see if he could get it into The Times, see how far he could go. In fact, he said afterward that he had an even greater story to tell, but he liked the reporter so much that he didn't press it too far. SCOTT SIMON: (Laughter) News organizations use social media callouts these days, including this one. MARK MEMMOTT: Yes. I mean, we want to find, quote, unquote, “real people.” We need to talk to those who have been affected by events. We can't be everywhere. Social media callouts are another way of reaching out. The thing is, there's hard work to be done once the responses start coming in. Identities need to be verified. Stories need to be checked out. Claims need to
be challenged sometimes. We don't want to be trolled, as the hoaxers say, and end up reporting someone's fun but fabricated tales. SCOTT SIMON: One of the things I like about social media callouts is that - assuming you can verify the story - you can get a diversity of experience that you don't get 'cause I - we both remember the days when, for example, if you needed to talk to a citizen about, let's say, filing his or her taxes, you would literally walk out into the newsroom and say, you know, anybody here know someone who has to get a tax extension? And you'd wind up with a shoe salesman from Winnetka because some guy who worked in the newsroom knew him or her. MARK MEMMOTT: Right, a guy who knows a guy would put you in touch with an accountant who then would track down one of his clients who's willing to talk - a classic way of finding people. This is kind of the - similar in some ways. You're putting out a call for input, if you will. You're putting out a call for people to get in touch. The thing is it's just another tool, and the key is what happens after the responses start coming in. That's where the skill we call reporting comes in. The old rule in newsrooms, as you know, Scott, is if your mother tells you she loves you, check it out. We need to remember that when we do these social media callouts, too. We need to check that person out. SCOTT SIMON: Mark Memmott - NPR standards and practices editor. You can write to him directly at word matters - all one word - @npr.org. Thanks very much, Mark. MARK MEMMOTT: You're welcome."

Source Title: BTN

*E cig Population Norms – High – E cig – MPM – BTN 2*

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 31837

Article Title: SHOW: New Day 6:30 AM EST Fight Over Attorney General Vote Heats Up; Aaron Hernandez Jurors Speak Out. Aired 6:30-7a ET"

Date: 4/17/2015

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch, and she's been waiting 160 days for the Senate vote. Aaron Hernandez jurors spoke to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively, and they say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former New England Patriots star guilty. [06:32:27] CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: There's big development here -- 23-year-old Ohio man is in custody this morning, charged with providing material support to terrorists. Authorities say Abdirahman Shaikh Mohamud trained with Islamic terrorists in Syria last year before returning to America on a mission to kill. According to an indictment, Mohamud planned to execute soldiers at a Texas military base and had a backup plan to attack a prison. This is the first case brought by the American government against an American for allegedly planning attacks here after training over there. JOHN BERMAN, CNN ANCHOR: Big changes in security expected at the White House. The U.S. official tells us that temporary steel spikes will be added to the perimeter fence to help keep jumpers away. Word of the move comes after several alarming incidents including one last September where a man jumped the White House fence and made it into the White House itself all the way to the East Room. Replacement fence is expected to be built next year. POPPY HARLOW, CNN ANCHOR: A new study out finding the number of teens using e-cigarettes tripled in the last year in this country. This comes from the Centers for Disease Control, and it
says high schoolers use the electronic cigarettes more than conventional tobacco cigarettes. Remember, no one under 18 is supposed to be smoking these. E-cigarettes don’t contain tobacco. They do almost always have nicotine, which can harm brain development in children. CUOMO: All right. So we are now hearing the 911 call from a Seattle airport worker who fell asleep and ended up taking off in a cargo hold of an Alaska Airlines jet. The emergency operator seemed to have trouble understanding that the panicked caller is actually stuck in the belly of a plane. Take a listen. (BEGIN AUDIO CLIP) 911 OPERATOR: Are you at the airport? AIRLINE WORKER: I’m not at the airport. I feel like it’s moving. (INAUDIBLE) 911 OPERATOR: Are you by yourself or with somebody? AIRLINE WORKER: By myself, geez. (END AUDIO CLIP) CUOMO: It is so bizarre and it’s terrible. Obviously, the plane made an emergency landing. It’s not obvious. Actually, luckily the pilots heard them. And after 14 minutes, they wound up landing again. They were hearing banging coming from underneath the floor. The worker wasn’t hurt, amazingly, because that cargo hold was pressurized and temperature controlled. But he’s banned from working on any Alaska Airlines flights. HARLOW: He was on a sleep. So, can you imagine waking up to that? BERMAN: Well, I don’t think -- I can’t imagine that and I can’t imagine being the 911 operator getting that call. I don’t think they train for, I’m trapped in the cargo hold of a plane that’s flying right now. [06:35:00] So, when she asked are you alone, he’s like that’s not an important question right now. HARLOW: I know. But this is how they’re trained to stay so calm throughout the 911 operators. CUOMO: It’s also got hoax all over it in terms of if it’s coming in. They have to take everything seriously, but she probably never heard anything like that before and hopefully never again. HARLOW: I don’t think this is going to happen again. BERMAN: Let’s hope not. All right. It is CNN Money now time. Chief business correspondent Christine Romans in the Money Center. Hey, Christine. CHRISTINE ROMANS, CNN CHIEF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT: Good morning, again, John. Apple Watch mystery. If you ordered one, get ready to wait until June to have it ship. The original plan was for watches to be on sale in stores next Friday. You can still have them, try them on in the stores. You can preorder them still online. But to have one on your wrist won’t be next Friday as planned. No word from Apple why. Netflix added an unbelievable 5 million new subscribers in just three months, 5 million new customers. Looks like that gamble of original programming like “House of Cards,” looks like that’s paying off. The stock surged 18 percent yesterday, $562 a share, folks. Some predict Netflix shares could double by the next year. Millennials don’t talk about what are you watching on TV, they talk about what you’re going to watch on Netflix. It’s really changed the game -- Poppy. HARLOW: They do. They have a few good shows on Netflix, right, Romans? ROMANS: I’d say. HARLOW: Just a few. Coming up on NEW DAY, growing outrage as Loretta Lynch waits and waits and waits for her confirmation vote, just a vote on her confirmation as possibly the next attorney general. How much longer will she have to wait and what can Democrats do to move the process along? How much can they force the hand here? Also, the new CNN original series “High Profits” tells the extraordinary story of two marijuana entrepreneurs. It is only here on CNN this coming Sunday night. Here’s a sneak peek. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We're starting off with some of the most beautiful places in Colorado. We'd like to open a store in Crested Butte. We'd like to open one in Steamboat Springs and Vail, different states, different countries. I want the Breckenridge cannabis club to be a household name. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: A lot of people made money selling picks and shovels during the gold rush. This is the green rush. I would say there will be three to five billionaires minted in this industry in the next three years. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: This right here, this is the real stuff. You're not going to find this on the street. This is top quality organic bud. In 2009 when we first started, we started off very small. We were growing in a garage. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We had our own medical marijuana cards and a few other patients. Mostly
just grew and gave that away until there was a profitable business plan that we could go forward with. And that's when we got into Breckenridge. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We didn't work as hard as we've worked the last four years to just scrape by. We have much bigger plans than that. (END VIDEOTAPE) [06:41:54] BERMAN: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is threatening to force a vote on President Obama's nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch. She's been waiting 160 days for this Senate vote, but we should tell you there are signs that the block could be resolved soon. And perhaps as soon as next week, there could be a vote. But, man, it's taken a long, long time. Joining us now, Richard Socarides, former senior adviser to President Bill Clinton and a Democratic strategist. Also here, Cheri Jacobus, a Republican strategist and the president of the political consulting firm Capital Strategies PR. Richard, I just said there are indications from our Senate folks from CNN that may be there could be a deal that would put a vote some time next week. Barring that, because these things have a tendency to fall through, you think this has gone on an inexcusably long time. RICHARD SOCARIDES, DEMOCRATIC STRATEGIST: Way too long. And you know, you said that she's been waiting for a vote. The unfortunate part about it is that the American people have been waiting to have this woman confirmed, a career prosecutor, an African-American woman who has been waiting for the longest time since seven attorney generals combined, and for absolutely no good reason. I mean, the Republicans are blocking her without any reason whatsoever. BERMAN: Technically speaking, the Democrats are blocking a vote on a human trafficking bill because there is abortion language in that bill. Democrats aren't allowing that vote, the Loretta Lynch vote would have to come after the human trafficking. Cheri Jacobus, is this a fight worth having for the Republicans? Rudy Giuliani who thinks President Obama doesn't love America, Giuliani loves Loretta Lynch. He calls her an extraordinary pick to be attorney general. So, why not have the vote? CHERI JACOBUS, REPUBLICAN STRATEGIST: Look, Mitch McConnell is well within his rights and job description to do this. This is the type of thing that happens all the time. The Democrats and Harry Reid did this sort of thing all the time to Republicans. In fact when he was majority leader, they actually instituted rules that made it harder for the minority to block and filibuster some lower level nominees. So this is him, you know, yelling and screaming. BERMAN: But, Cheri, does can mean should? He can do it, should he? JACOBUS: I think it's fine. I think it's going to have to be resolved at some point. But they're making the point. And the Democrats screaming about the abortion language in this bill is basically the Hyde Amendment, no federal funding for abortion, and it's been public since January. And they're acting like this was snuck in and we just found it. So, there's some politics on both sides. There's much ado about nothing. In terms of this nominee, yes, she's a strong nominee. When she reached the threshold of 51, it looked like this could be a done deal. However, very important position, it's now come out just as of yesterday, Senator Vitter sent her a letter asking her what would you be willing to or would you commit to an investigation of Hillary Clinton e-mail scandal? Which is very serious. That's not just partisan Republicans saying it, that's voters and the public when you look at the polls. And she wrote back yesterday and said, you know, I just don't have enough information so I can't commit to that. That might change a few votes. This is a very important issue. BERMAN: If there's a vote, which there isn't one yet because the whole thing is being held up. JACOBUS: Right. They want that 51 percent. Senators need to be comfortable that to the degree possible this nominee would not be partisan would do her job. [06:45:06] BERMAN: Richard, on the subject of politics you think it's very important, crucial, inexcusable that there's not an up or down vote on Loretta Lynch because you think they're playing politics. How come there isn't an up or down vote on the human trafficking bill? How come that's not just as much politics? SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri -- BERMAN: You don't have an answer for that. SOCARIDES: No, I do have an answer. BERMAN: OK. SOCARIDES: I'm glad that Cheri raises the issue of
woman's right to choose and Hillary Clinton e-mails in this context, because this is exactly what's happening. The Republicans are playing politics with a career prosecutor who's been nominated for the most important law enforcement job in the world. And all of a sudden, they've interconnected issues of a woman's right to choose and if Hillary Clinton's e-mails just as Cheri said with this issue. The point is this is a very important job. This is a job that American security and freedom depends upon this job. Now, the ironic thing here, of course, is that Republicans have complained for six years how horrible Eric Holder is and he's a partisan attorney general and now they're fighting to keep him. JACOBUS: They're not fighting to keep him. That's a good point. (CROSSTALK) SOCARIDES: The hatred of Barack Obama by these Republicans is so without bounds that they have decided that they want to keep Holder in there just to punish -- (CROSSTALK) BERMAN: Hang on one second. Well, you know who thinks it might be a little better, who thinks that this is getting tied up? And it is Jeb Bush. Jeb Bush in New Hampshire yesterday commenting on the Loretta Lynch vote. He thinks the vote should go forward. Listen to what Jeb said. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) JEB BUSH (R), FORMER FLORIDA GOVERNOR: I think presidents have the right to pick their team in general. The longer it takes to confirm her, the longer Eric Holder stays as attorney general. Look at it that way. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: So Republicans in the Senate really don't like Eric Holder one bit, yet ironically their inaction is keeping him in that attorney general's office more days. JACOBUS: It is. I think Loretta Lynch will eventually be, you know, she'll be in. It's going to take a little while longer, more questioning which the American people deserve. But I think it's the Democrats who are playing politics. This is actually not about a woman's right to choose. This is about federal funding for abortion. And so, let's not misrepresent what it is. It will be resolved. It's possible both sides are playing politics. But to say this is just Republicans, no, that's not true. I think we need to be sure about this nominee. I think Senator Vitter and others are doing the right thing by making sure that we can make sure to the degree possible she's not a partisan. BERMAN: I think it's more than possible both sides are playing politics. I think it's likely. But thank you both for being with us. Cheri Jacobus, Richard Socarides, thanks so much. Chris? CUOMO: All right, JB, good discussion there. So here's a big question, what made the case against Aaron Hernandez for jurors? They gave their answer to CNN's Anderson Cooper exclusively. They say they faced a number of challenges in finding the former New England Patriots star guilty. That's why it took seven days. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) ANDERSON COOPER, CNN ANCHOR: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger or do you don't? FEMALE JUROR: I don't know. There's no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger. (END VIDEO CLIP) BERMAN: Anderson in a huge issue there. So, if the jurors weren't sure who pulled the trigger, how did they find Hernandez guilty? The answer in a CNN exclusive you don't want to miss. [06:52:12] CUOMO: They deliberated for nearly 36 hours over seven days before deciding former NFL star Aaron Hernandez was guilty of first-degree murder. The jury foreperson says arriving at that verdict was by far the hardest thing she's ever done. Now, she along with her fellow jurors spoke exclusively with CNN's Anderson Cooper about the trial, and most importantly, how they reached their verdict. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) COOPER: So it wasn't premeditation? FEMALE JUROR: No. COOPER: You don't you can't say this was premeditated? FEMALE JUROR: No. I can't say with 100 percent certainty that he premeditated that while I was sitting in that jury room I can't say that. COOPER: But you do see extreme atrocity or cruelty? FEMALE JUROR: I see extreme atrocity and cruelty. COOPER: Was it with the number of shots? FEMALE JUROR: It was his indifference. And that was part of what I had to look at. And it was, even if there was no premeditation, he could have made choices there when he was there. He was there. They admitted that. And he could have made different choices and he chose not to. MALE JUROR: I think one thing in that regard that surprised a lot of us was that indifference. We watched the video footage at his home later in the
morning or early afternoon after the incident occurred. And he was just lounging around by the pool and playing with the baby and just going about his regular life. I mean, for us to acknowledge he was there at the time that his close friend was murdered, personally, there’s no way I could just carry on hours later like nothing ever happened. That’s indifference. COOPER: So those videotapes, in particular his own security camera tapes were crucial. MALE JUROR: Hours later. FEMALE JUROR: Definitely. FEMALE JUROR: But in the instructions we weren’t asked to use that after the murder to weigh our decision, to leave your friend on the ground knowing that he’s not there anymore. He’s either dead or he’s going to die, that’s indifference. He didn’t need to pull the trigger. He could have made different choices when that man was laying there. COOPER: Were there other signs to you of extreme cruelty? FEMALE JUROR: For me it was -- somebody had mentioned that, well, it was a gun. So for me trying to think about extreme cruelty, what are we talking about? Are we talking about somebody physically cutting off someone’s arm and letting them bleed to death? Is that extreme cruelty? Or is the fact -- for me, it was a gun. You took a weapon, it didn’t matter. You shot him once, but you kept going and shot him six times. [06:55:00] There’s just no need for that. And there’s no need to use a gun, period. No need to use a gun. So, for me personally, it was about the gun. It was about taking that weapon, knowing what you’re going to do and shooting somebody and killing them. That’s pretty cruel.

COOPER: Do you feel like he did pull the trigger? Or do you know? FEMALE JUROR: I don’t know. There’s no evidence to support that he pulled the trigger, but he chose not to do anything about it. And he’s the one that had the -- COOPER: In that moment or the aftermath? FEMALE JUROR: Exactly. In that moment is what I was looking at because that’s what I was instructed to do in that moment. MALE JUROR: He played a role. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. MALE JUROR: Whether he was a shooter or the transport, he played a role in that murder. And that’s what he was charged with. COOPER: I notice a couple of you have called him Aaron. And I think people who haven’t been on a jury don’t understand the intimacy that exists in a courtroom where somebody is sitting, you know, a couple feet away from you. FEMALE JUROR: For three months every day. FEMALE JUROR: Yes. COOPER: Did you look at him a lot? Did he look at you? FEMALE JUROR: Yes. FEMALE JUROR: I did. COOPER: You did? FEMALE JUROR: Oh, yes. One time we made eye contact and he actually nodded to me at one time. You know, it’s hard. You come in that room every day and you see this person. And it’s hard to come to that decision at the end because three months with them it’s almost like you, you know, they’re part of you. And all of a sudden, now, you’ve got to make that decision to either put him away or let him go. It’s very hard.

MALE JUROR: At the end of the day though you make sure you understand you didn’t choose to make those decisions. You were just asked to decide if they were relevant. (END VIDEOTAPE)

CUOMO: What stands out to you? BERM: Look, the jurors say that the defense admitted that Aaron Hernandez was there. The defense did that to offer the possibility he was there but didn’t pull the trigger. And it seems to have been a big mistake perhaps. HARLOW: And they say the fact that in opening statements the defense alleged he wasn’t there. Later in the trial says, all right, he was, but -- I think that change for them was a big deal. CUOMO: I think this was a great example of the humanity that is at play in a jury that often you don’t suggest it’s all about the documents and the clues and the gotcha and forensics. Anderson did a great job of listening. The impact of I saw him every day was a part of me then I have to make this decision. BERM: And they understood the law too. The idea did he pull the trigger or not pull the trigger? He didn’t have to pull the trigger to get convicted. They understood that. It’s not a totally easy concept. CUOMO: But it’s a very high bar. If you don’t feel beyond a reasonable doubt that he pulled the trigger, if you don’t field beyond a reasonable doubt that this was a premeditated evil plan, the bar is now much higher for you to get over. It is interesting what they said they pointed to was the stuff that
happened afterwards and his emotion and his reactions. HARLOW: Indifference. That word kept coming up, indifference. CUOMO: Things that a lot of people would dismiss, yes. What do you think? You know how to tweet us and Facebook us. Let's keep this conversation going because we just got great grist for the mail. Big story this morning. A lot of news. So, let's get to it. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Purgatory for Loretta Lynch. JOSH EARNEST, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: She's waited now more than twice as long as the previous seven attorney general nominees combined. BUSH: Presidents have the right to pick their team. CUOMO: Terrorism here at home. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Twenty-three-year-old from Columbus, Ohio. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He left the United States last year to go join the al Nusra front in Syria. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: On the brink of falling punishing assault on Ramadi. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is a test of the new government in Baghdad. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It won't be the end of a campaign. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Those pleas for help from the civilians, the commanders cannot be ignored. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The 73-year-old Robert Bates may not have been telling the full truth about his training. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He provided service, he made an honest mistake. ANNOUNCER: This is NEW DAY with Chris Cuomo, Alisyn Camerota and Michaela Pereira. (END VIDEOTAPE) CUOMO: Good morning. Welcome to your NEW DAY. Alisyn and Micky are off. Poppy and John are here with me this morning. Loretta lynch, you know the name. She would make history as the first African-American to serve as attorney general. You know what? She's already made history in the wrong way for how long she's had to wait for a vote, 160 days and counting. That is longer than the last seven nominees combined. HARLOW: The fight over Lynch's stalled nomination is heating up. It may come to a head next week in the Senate. The Democratic leader of that chamber threatening to force a vote to force Washington's hand. Our Sunlen Serfaty joins from the White House this morning. I guess if you look technically at the rules, he can do that. SUNLEN SEFARTY, CNN WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT: That's right. And, you know, he's one of the people on Capitol Hill, Harry Reid, saying that Loretta Lynch is in purgatory over this hold up. Now, Poppy, we know this hold up will at least continue into next week. But there are some small signs of progress. Democratic and Republican sources telling us that they are close to reaching a compromise on this other unrelated issue, the human trafficking bill that's standing in Loretta Lynch's way."

Source Title: BTN

Ecig Population Norms – High – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 27544

Article Title: DATELINE: Steve Lonegan is done running for office

Date: 6/29/2014

Article Content: DATELINE: Steve Lonegan is done running for office and he means it this time. After losing his sixth race for state or federal office to Tom MacArthur in the Republican 3rd Congressional District primary early this month, the former Bogota mayor plans to settle in his new home of Lavallette and focus on his home-building business. Lonegan, who ran this year even though he declared his campaigning career over after losing last year's special U.S. Senate race to Democrat Cory Booker, told The Auditor he is sure he'll never seek elected office again. "I'm going to stick to making money," he
said. This last race was expensive for Lonegan, who loaned his campaign almost $300,000. He says he'll eat the loss, unlike after last year, when Gov. Chris Christie helped him hold a fundraiser to retire $100,000 in campaign debt. "You know what, I'm done. I'm just moving on. I'll deal with it," he said. But Lonegan said this doesn't mean he'll fade away. He told The Auditor he does plan to do “policy things.” “I don't intend to let grass grow under my feet," Lonegan said. “I've got a bunch of things working you'll hear about in the near future.” The final stats on Lonegan campaigns show he got more than 920,000 votes over the years, with last year's Senate tangle against Booker accounting for nearly two-thirds of that. Tax-killer Kean tweets it out Not a single Republican voted for the $34.1 billion budget the Democratic-controlled Legislature sent to Christie Thursday night. But Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean Jr. did take to Twitter Friday morning to laud himself and his colleagues on one aspect of the budget they liked: killing the proposed tax on e-cigarettes. The idea for the tax came from Christie himself when he proposed his budget in February. With the popularity of e-cigarettes rising as quickly as a puff of water vapor, Christie's budget anticipated collecting $35 million in revenue by applying the $2.70-per-pack regular state tax on cigarettes to the e-cigarettes. At the time, the administration described it as “tax parity,” and not a tax. Convenience store owners and vaping professionals who pleaded with the Legislature to eliminate the tax predicted it would extinguish a profitable line of business for them. Apparently the lawmakers listened -- even those who share a party affiliation with the governor and seldom, if ever, do anything to challenge him. When The Star-Ledger's Statehouse Bureau tweeted that the budget passed without this tax, Kean responded: @senatenj & I are proud to have eliminated that tax increase.” Schaer wants budget madness every other June If it were up to Assembly Budget Committee Chairman Gary Schaer, the drama over the state spending plan wouldn't be an annual June ritual. New Jersey, he says, should pass a budget once every two years. “Right now the only thing that we do at the end of each (fiscal) year is compliment ourselves on having gotten through the year," Schaer (D-Passaic) said. “There needs to be much more than that.” Schaer briefly floated the idea at a budget committee meeting last week, saying two-year budgets allow for better planning. “It is the law in, I believe, 26 states," Schaer said. “And the purpose of the law obviously is to demand continuity. Obviously underscore transparency. And demand goal-setting.” But such a change would require amending the state's constitution, which needs voter approval. Schaer said he doesn't have immediate plans to author a resolution, and hasn't discussed it with Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto (D-Hudson). “I will tell you that there is real interest in correcting a ridiculous situation. Is this the answer? Maybe not. But it certainly is an answer and it seems to be successful in 26 other states,” he said. Sweeney: Being a proud dad trumps everything Senate President Stephen Sweeney has had a pretty good month. He got Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner reconfirmed. His budget proposal will likely help smooth things over with the public sector unions whose support wouldn't hurt for a potential run for governor. And his tensions with Rutgers board of Trustees are cooling, for now. But perhaps best of all, Sweeney (D-Gloucester) saw his daughter, Lauren, graduate from high school Monday -- just three days after her Special Olympics soccer team won the gold medal in unified soccer. Lauren, 21, has Down syndrome and is the reason Sweeney says he went into politics. "She's been wearing the gold medal since she got it,” Sweeney said. “I asked her if I could wear it. She said, 'No, you didn't win it.' " Lauren graduated from Bankbridge Regional School, which is for students with special needs. She plans to attend Gloucester County's Adult Center for Transition. “Lauren was with me when I cut the ribbon to open the school back 14 years ago,” Sweeney said. “And now I'm standing onstage with her receiving her diploma.”"
Article Content: Childproof caps urged for e-cig refills Citing a rising number of calls to poison control centers relating to liquid nicotine, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer yesterday called on the federal government to require childproof caps on containers used to refill e-cigarettes. Poison control centers in New York have received nearly 70 calls so far this year regarding accidental poisonings from the liquid. That’s compared with 46 calls in all of 2013, Schumer said. Nationally, calls to poison control centers about liquid nicotine have gone from one per month in 2010 to 200 per month in 2014, a reflection of the electronic devices’ growing popularity. E-cigarettes contain liquid nicotine. Some of the devices are refillable, and liquid is sold in separate containers. The New York Democrat said he is urging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to require e-cigarette makers to place childproof caps and warning labels on the containers. More than half of the poison control center calls were about a child 5 years old or younger. “With flavors like bubble gum and chocolate, it’s no wonder children are attracted to e-liquid in the hopes that it’s candy,” Schumer said. A warning to avoid mosquito bites New York State residents are being urged to avoid mosquito bites this summer now that health officials have found the season's first trace of West Nile virus. The state's Department of Health says the virus was confirmed in a mosquito sample from Rockland County last week. Acting state Health Commissioner Howard Zucker says residents should cover up when outdoors, use insect repellent and eliminate sources of standing water, where mosquitoes breed. There have been no reported human cases of the virus so far this year. Last year, there were 33 human cases and no deaths. Woman struck by train, hospitalized A 22-year-old woman was hospitalized yesterday after being struck by a train in a Midtown subway station, authorities said. The NYPD said the woman was drunk when she fell onto the tracks of a northbound N train at the 49th Street and 7th Avenue station shortly after 6 a.m., but she was able to tuck herself between the tracks when the train rolled into the station and only suffered minor scratches. Emergency crews took her to Bellevue Hospital Center, the FDNY said. - amNewYork Charges against grandfather dropped Queens prosecutors declined to file charges against the grandfather of a 3-year-old boy who went missing, the district attorney's office said yesterday. The boy, Kah-yon Reynolds, disappeared after his grandfather, Wiley Reynolds, 49, fell asleep on a Queens-bound F train Saturday. The boy was later found in Newark, where he lives, after he was taken home by another man who he knew, police said. The older Reynolds last saw his grandson as the train passed the Smith and 9th Street station in Brooklyn. When he woke up in Queens Kah-yon was gone, police said. Reynolds was charged with failure to exercise control of a minor, but the charges were dropped, the district attorney's office said. - amnewyork City to fund dozens of countdown clocks Transit advocates are praising members of the New York City Council for allocating almost $2.8 million in the budget that was just approved for countdown clocks at bus stops. Riders Alliance says the funds are enough to install more than 100 of the clocks at stops in all five boroughs. There are already clocks at two locations on Staten Island. All of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s buses have been fitted with GPS devices. The clocks would use
E-cig Population Norms – High – Ecig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 81555

Article Title: Vaping may not be as safe as smokers think, research suggests | Society | The Guardian

Date: 2/4/2015

Article Content: E-cigarettes generate toxic chemicals similar to those found in tobacco and may harm the lungs and immune system, new research suggests. The findings, from a study of mice, indicate that vaping may not be as safe an alternative to smoking tobacco as many people believe. In the experiments, mice exposed to e-cigarette fumes suffered mild damage to their lungs and became far more susceptible to respiratory infections. Their immune responses to both viruses and bacteria were weakened by such an extent that two out of ten animals died. Scientists also found that e-cigarette vapour contained free radical toxins similar to those found in cigarette smoke and air pollution – although at around 1% of the level of conventional cigarettes. Free radicals are highly-reactive molecules that can damage DNA and cell membranes. This came as a surprise to the researchers because e-cigarette vapour does not contain combustion products or tar released by tobacco burning. The findings will be a concern for users who have moved off tobacco to a healthier alternative. There are an estimated 1.3 million e-cigarette smokers in the UK and the rapidly-growing market is expected to be worth £340m this year. Professor Shyam Biswai, from Johns Hopkins University in the US, who led the research published in the online journal Public Library of Science ONE, said: “Our findings suggest that e-cigarettes are not neutral in terms of the effects on the lungs. “We have observed that they increase the susceptibility to respiratory infections in the mouse models. This warrants further study in susceptible individuals, such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder) patients who have switched from cigarettes to e-cigarettes, or to new users of e-cigarettes who may have never used cigarettes.” For two weeks, mice were exposed to e-cigarette vapour in a chamber in amounts equivalent to the doses inhaled by humans. Puffs from menthol e-cigarettes entered the chamber every 10 seconds and the mice were exposed twice a day for one and half hours. The animals were then infected with pneumonia bacteria or a strain of flu virus to test how well their immune systems could cope. Compared with other non-exposed mice, they were much more likely to develop a weakened immune response. Co-author Dr Thomas Sussan, also from Johns Hopkins, said: “E-cigarette vapour alone produced mild effects on the lungs, including inflammation and protein damage. “However, when this exposure was followed by a bacterial or viral infection, the harmful effects of e-cigarette exposure became even more pronounced. “The e-cigarette exposure inhibited the ability of mice to clear the bacteria from their lungs, and the viral infection led to increased weight loss and death, indicative of an impaired immune response.” The study is thought to be the first to investigate an animal’s response to e-cigarette inhalation. E-cigarettes generated just 1% of the amount of free radicals in tobacco smoke, but this still posed a potential health risk, said the researchers. “We were surprised by how high that number was, considering that e-
cigarettes do not produce combustion products,” said Dr Sussan. “Granted, it’s 100 times lower than cigarette smoke, but it’s still a high number of free radicals that can potentially damage cells.” E-cigarette sales in the US are expected to overtake sales of cigarettes in the next 10 years. In 2013, more than 250,000 American teenagers who had never smoked a cigarette reported using e-cigarettes. 

Source Title: Web

Predicted Probability: 0.81

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 125937

Article Title: Philip Morris Strikes U.K. E-cigarette Deal - WSJ

Date: 6/26/2014

Article Content: LONDON— Philip Morris International Inc. PM -0.11% said on Thursday that it has bought one of Britain’s biggest electronic cigarette makers, Nicocigs Ltd., the latest foray by the U.S. cigarette maker into the fast-growing market for tobacco-free smoking. Philip Morris didn’t disclose a price, saying it wasn’t material. It also said the deal wasn’t subject to regulatory approval. The Birmingham-based Nicocigs is small by global standards but it is a big player in the U.K., with a market share of the local e-cigarette market of just over 27%, Philip Morris said. The company’s best-known brand is Nicolite. For Philip Morris, which already has a licensing and distribution agreement for Altria Group Inc. MO -0.24% ‘s e-cigarette products, the Nicocig acquisition will provide the company with its first e-cigarette product, the company said. The company has been seeking to push into the e-cigarette market as sales for traditional tobacco products have flagged. Philip Morris earlier Thursday cut its earnings guidance for this year, partly because of charges related to stopping cigarette production in Australia and the Netherlands. Thursday’s deal comes as Philip Morris’s rivals have swooped into the fast growing, but highly fragmented, market for e-cigarettes in the U.K. According to the U.K. government, the country is home to approximately 250 independent e-cigarette suppliers, in addition to a number of startups, catering to 1.3 million e-cigarette users in Britain. Earlier this month, Japan Tobacco Inc. agreed to buy Zandera Ltd., maker of the E-lite brand. In 2012, British American Tobacco BATS.LN -0.40% PLC bought CN Creative, the maker of e-cigarette Intelicig. “This acquisition provides [us] with immediate access to, and a significant presence in, the growing U.K. e-vapor category,” said Philip Morris’s Europe regional president, Drago Azinovic. The acquisition of Nicocigs also fits in with Philip Morris’s reorganization of its distribution arrangements in the U.K., Mr. Azinovic said in a statement."

Source Title: Web

Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 801445

Article Title: House panel agrees to outlaw vaping on planes, to bolster a DOT ban"
Article Content: A man uses an electronic cigarette April 23, 2014, in Chicago. (Photo: Nam Y. Huh, AP)WASHINGTON – A House panel voted Tuesday to outlaw vaping on planes, even though the Transportation Department already snuffed out the practice by regulation. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., proposed to ban electronic cigarettes as part of legislation setting Federal Aviation Administration policy. Her proposal would have complemented a 30-year law against smoking cigarettes in airline cabins as a health risk, and a ban against stowing electronic cigarettes in checked baggage because of fire concerns. Airlines already tend to prohibit vaping during flights. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee narrowly supported Norton’s proposal on a 30-29 vote. She had won a similar vote last year in the committee, but her provision didn’t become law. In the meantime, the department banned electronic cigarettes by regulation in April 2016 on all U.S. and foreign flights into or out of the country. Norton said Tuesday that regulations could change as electronic cigarettes become more popular, so Congress should act. “It is necessary to update our laws to reflect this new nuisance,” Norton said. “Congress should institute a permanent statutory ban on the use of electronic cigarettes on planes, particularly considering the increasing popularity of electronic cigarettes.” Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., argued that nicotine vaporizers help smokers quit the habit without actually burning tobacco like cigarettes. He demonstrated vaping with two devices during the committee’s voting session. One device had nicotine, which would be banned under Norton’s provision, while the other didn’t, he said. “This is just more extraneous law,” Hunter said. The panel’s chairman, Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., also opposed Norton’s provision. “I think it’s settled,” Shuster said. Read or Share this story: https://usat.ly/2tlOOVL

Source Title: Web

Ecig Population Norms – High – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.82

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 728695

Article Title: Fewer teens are smoking cigarettes, but what’s behind the rise in vaping? - TODAY.com

Date: 10/2/2016

Article Content: October 2nd, 2016 Fewer teens are smoking cigarettes, but what’s behind the rise in vaping? For decades, movies and television shows taught us that smoking was for the cool kids. But within the last two decades, the number of teens who smoke has dramatically dropped. So what’s behind the rise in a new vice that some young adults are picking up? NBC’s Morgan Radford reports for Sunday TODAY. 

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“ecig_SOURCE_epophi” - “ecigmpm_SOURCE_epophi”).
Article Content: DATELINE: BOSTON BOSTON (AP) - A new report by state health officials is showing a drop in violent crime, but continued problems with heroin overdose deaths and childhood asthma and obesity. The study by the Massachusetts Health Council, citing the most recent FBI crime report available, said that the state's murder rate fell by 34 percent and all violent crime fell by 4.5 percent between 2011 to 2012. The study also confirmed the state's struggle with heroin and opioid addiction. According the report, there was a 10 percent increase in opioid-related deaths between 2011 and 2012, while the estimate for the 2013 fiscal year is even higher. The report said there were 1,300 babies born with narcotics in their system last year in Massachusetts - a rate of more than 17 per 1,000 hospital births, far higher than the rate of five per 1,000 births nationally in 2012. "The opioid crisis we raised an alarm on two years ago has continued to hit the state hard," Massachusetts Health Council Executive Director Susan Servais said in a written statement. The report also found rising rates of asthma among children. Rates of lifetime asthma in Massachusetts are among the highest in the country. While Massachusetts has made some progress on childhood obesity, challenges remained. In the 2011-2012 school year, nearly 37 percent of fourth-grade boys and 33 percent of fourth-grade girls were obese or overweight. The report also found significant disparities in overweight and obese rates when measured by race and ethnicity. The study found that the poverty rate in Massachusetts climbed from 10 percent in 2010 to 12 percent in 2012, with more than over 213,000 children currently living under the poverty line. And while the state has seen overall progress fighting smoking, the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems - or e-cigarettes - has been taking off in Massachusetts. The report also found that more than 36 percent of 18-24 year olds are binge drinkers, consuming more than four to five alcoholic drinks at one occasion in the past month. A quarter of high school students used marijuana in the last 30 days. In good news, HIV infection diagnoses decreased by 41 percent over the past decade with deaths from HIV and AIDS falling by 34 percent, according to the report.

Source Title: AP
thousands of documents from last year's cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment into a searchable online archive. 2. SECRECY SHROUDS OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO An AP investigation finds that the barely known, decade-old leak is far worse than has been reported. 3. ITALY'S MIGRATION CRISIS TAKES DEADLY TWIST Police report that Muslim migrants threw 12 Christians overboard during a recent crossing from Libya. 4. GYROCOPTER STUNT RAISES SECURITY CONCERNS The pilot "literally flew under the radar" to the lawn of the Capitol, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson says. 5. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AGREE TO FAST TRACK TRADE PACT The bipartisan deal allows Obama to move forward on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, involving the U.S., Japan, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico and seven other Pacific rim nations. 6. WHERE STAKES ARE HIGHEST IN FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE GROUP Losing Ramadi in western Iraq to the extremists would be troubling - but an even more vital battleground is Beiji, home to a major oil refinery, U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey says. 7. PUTIN WARNS WEST TO RESPECT RUSSIA'S GLOBAL INTERESTS During a marathon TV call-in, he defends his move to deliver a long-range air defense missile system to Iran. 8. JUDGE ORDERS 'SUGE' KNIGHT TO STAND TRIAL ON MURDER CHARGE The co-founder of Death Row Records is charged with intentionally killing a man and seriously injuring another by striking them with his truck. 9. E-CIGS A HIT WITH US TEENS While teen smoking hit a new low last year, the popularity of electronic cigarettes and water pipes boomed, a report shows. 10. HOW FIDO MAKES FRIENDS Just by gazing at their owners, dogs can trigger a response in their masters' brains that helps them bond, a study says.

Source Title: AP

E-cig Population Norms – High – E-cig – PM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.85

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 785256

Article Title: SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST First up, folic acid and its role in preventing birth defects."

Date: 1/14/2017

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: This week the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force re-released guidelines on using folic acid supplements to help prevent neural tube birth defects. According to recommendations published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the two most common types of neural tube defects are anencephaly, which affects the brain and skull, and spina bifida, which occurs in the spine. ANTHONY MASON: Time now for Morning Rounds with CBS News chief medical correspondent Doctor Jon Lapook and CBS News contributor Doctor Tara Narula. First up, folic acid and its role in preventing birth defects. This week the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force rereleased guidelines on using folic acid supplements to help prevent neural tube birth defects. According to recommendations published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the two most common types of neural tube defects are anencephaly, which affects the brain and skull, and spina bifida, which occurs in the spine. An estimated 6.5 cases of these defects occur every ten thousand live births in the U.S. Tara, what are the recommendations when it comes to taking folic acid? DR. TARA NARULA (CBS News Medical Contributor): So these really reinforce the 2009 recommendations about the substantial benefit of folic acid in reducing neural tube defects. And that recommendation is that all women who are capable and
planning on getting pregnant should be taking a daily supplement of four hundred to eight hundred micrograms of folate. Now the reason they say capable of becoming pregnant is because half of all pregnancies are unplanned and most of these neural tube defects happen very early in pregnancy in the first several weeks before a lot of women know that they're even pregnant. So the critical time period for taking folic acid is basically one month before conception up to two to three months into the pregnancy. Now this does not apply to women who are considered high risk. Those would be women who either had a prior pregnancy complicated by neural tube defect who have a family member who's had a pregnancy or who are on certain medications like anti-seizure medications. ALEX WAGNER: Doctor Lapook, are-- are supplements the only way women can get their folic acid or are there other ways? DR. JON LAPOOK (CBS News Chief Medical Correspondent): No. Actually you can get it from fortified foods and actually there are cereals that have a hundred percent of the recommended daily requirement. You can find that on the CDC website. And then there's also in your diet. I mean green leafy vegetables, legumes. I always have to look up with that is being and lentils. ALEX WAGNER: And lentils, right. DR. JON LAPOOK: Orange juice or oranges, asparagus, things like that. ANTHONY MASON: Tara, when it comes to women of child-bearing age actually taking folic acid, what-- what did the report show? DR. TARA NARULA: It showed that when you do a better job at educating the public because in the survey of 2007 to 2012 forty-eight percent of respondents said that they were only getting their folic acid through fortified foods. Twenty-nine percent were taking a daily supplement but half of that twenty-nine percent were taking a supplement that was less than the recommended amount of four hundred micrograms a day. ALEX WAGNER: All right. That's the number to keep in mind. Our next topic, health goals. The government's Healthy People Initiative sets national health goals and objectives ten years at a time. The initiative has spanned four decades. This week the midcourse review for Healthy People 2020 was released providing an update on our progress. While there are over a thousand objectives, a select group of twenty-six high-priority items called leading health indicators were chosen to illustrate where we stand. According to data put together by the National Center for Health Statistics, of the twenty-six leading health indicators, eight had met or exceeded their target. Eight were seen as improving. Seven showed little or no detectible change. Three were getting worse. Okay, Jon, so what are some of the twenty-six objectives that we are improving on or have already met? DR. JON LAPOOK: I mean this is a huge report. This was-- ALEX WAGNER: Huge. DR. JON LAPOOK: It was slogging to get through it. Doing adult physical activity and muscle strengthening has improved. We're all the way up to twenty-one percent so almost eighty percent of people are not getting enough. Good news is that there is improvement. There's a lower amount of alcohol abuse and drug abuse, illicit drugs and adolescent cigarette smoking has gone down. But, of course, we know at the same time from other studies that e-cigarette use has gone up. So there's a little bit of that. ALEX WAGNER: Interesting. ANTHONY MASON: We-- we met the adult exercise goal apparently, yes? ALEX WAGNER: Yes, we did. Which is great. DR. TARA NARULA: Good for us. That's great news, right? DR. JON LAPOOK: Still like this much of what it should be. ALEX WAGNER: All right. ANTHONY MASON: All right. But what about obesity in general? DR. TARA NARULA: Yeah, we didn't do so great on obesity. So the report showed that we have little or no detectible change when it came to obesity. So, for adults, the rates went from about thirty-four to thirty-five percent. The goal for 2020 is about thirty and a half percent. For kids and adolescents, it went from about sixteen to seventeen percent and that goal is about fourteen and a half percent. So it's still a ways to go when it comes to that. And we know that with obesity, it's not just exercise, you know, it's really a lot of it is diet and diet change. DR. JON LAPOOK: And we are improving at least in a few things. We're improving in medical insurance coverage and then a number of kids getting vaccines and also in
our control in adults of hypertension so we’re getting there but not where we should be. ALEX WAGNER: Okay. I’ll be the bearer of bad news. Jon, what are some of the objectives that are trending the wrong way. DR. JON LAPOOK: Yeah. I mean I think a hugely serious problem is that suicides are up 11.5 percent-- ANTHONY MASON: Mm. ALEX WAGNER: Wow. DR. JON LAPOOK: --from 2007 to 2013 and that goes along with an increase in adolescence with major depressive disorders. This is something that we have-- ALEX WAGNER: Big issue mental health. DR. JON LAPOOK: --got to do better and I think stigma is such a huge part of that. You know it is still in our society a stigma. People are embarrassed to come forward. And even when they do come forward, there aren’t the kind of services that people have. You have parents. I’ve gone through this with my own parent-- my own patients who have kids who are depressed, who are even suicidal, trying to get them plugged into services where they’re going to try to prevent some kind of horrible event from happening. It’s really tough. We have to do better with this. DR. TARA NARULA: And when it starts in adolescence then you’re more likely to have depressive episodes down the road. DR. JON LAPOOK: Yes. DR. TARA NARULA: So really picking it up early and treating it early could prevent complications in these kids down the road. DR. JON LAPOOK: Yeah. ANTHONY MASON: All right. Finally, innovation, sometimes to move forward you have to look for inspiration from the past. Researches at Stanford have developed a hand-powered centrifuge. The inspiration the old toy called a whirligig or buzzer. Centrifuge devices used in labs rapidly rotate liquids like blood to separate different components for analysis. The Stanford centrifuge uses a disk that can be made from basic materials like paper and plastic, pulling on string that pass through the center create speed and rotation. The paperfuge, as it’s called, costs as little as twenty cents to make. It’s lightweight and portable which comes in handy in areas where electricity isn’t widely available. The researchers demonstrated that the paperfuge can separate plasma from whole blood in less than two minutes and isolate malaria parasites in fifteen. The findings were published in the journal Nature Biomedical Engineering and more testing is planned. This is-- DR. TARA NARULA: It’s such a great story. ANTHONY MASON: Yeah. DR. TARA NARULA: They said that-- the engineer developed it saw centrifuge being used as a doorstop in Uganda because they just didn’t have electricity. ANTHONY MASON: Electricity, yeah. ALEX WAGNER: Yeah. DR. TARA NARULA: So to have something that’s cheap and that you can use in these low-resource settings-- DR. JON LAPOOK: Well, just to separate the blood because you can’t do these tests on the whole blood. You have to do it on the serum that clear part. But I love the low tech part of it. ALEX WAGNER: Yes. DR. JON LAPOOK: Maybe not-- ALEX WAGNER: So analyze. DR. JON LAPOOK: So you can increase your muscle strength also at the same time. ALEX WAGNER: Right, right. Wait till you see what they do with boomerangs. DR. TARA NARULA: He developed a fold-a-scope they said too that costs about a dollar. ALEX WAGNER: Amazing. DR. TARA NARULA: The same engineer. Pretty amazing microscope. ALEX WAGNER: So analogue in this modern digital world sometimes you got to go back to the basics. Doctors Jon LAPook and Tara Narula, always great to see, you guys. Thanks for your time. Up next, the countdown is under way. SpaceX is hoping to launch their key rocket this morning for the first time since disaster struck in September. We’ll have an exclusive look inside the pioneering company. You’re watching CBS THIS MORNING: SATURDAY. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"

Source Title: BTN

Ecig Population Norms – High – Ecig – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.95

Hand-coded: Yes
The first major blast of super frosty air this season has crossed the border from Canada, revealing a sudden new reality this morning. Winter’s come knocking early and it’s packing a punch especially in North Dakota, already over a foot of snow. And still a mountain of problems. RON MOTT: Hey, Tamron. Good morning to you. The calendar still says fall for another thirteen days but that is not stopping old man winter from simply barging right on in. (Begin VT) RON MOTT: The first major blast of super frosty air this season has crossed the border from Canada, revealing a sudden new reality this morning. Winter’s come knocking early and it’s packing a punch especially in North Dakota, already over a foot of snow. And still a mountain of problems. MAN #1: Some of the main through-fairs we’ve got cars stuck on them. So we’re trying to get that cleared off too. RON MOTT: In Denver, near whiteout conditions slowing travel to a trickle. In Kansas City, slick roads and sidewalks made for uneasy commutes. And in the Pacific Northwest, ice in Oregon sending a pickup into a building in Portland, no one hurt. MAN #2: It spun out and hit ice and just turned one eighty. RON MOTT: Elsewhere, bitter cold and even more snow in the forecast especially in the Northern Great Lakes region from Cleveland into Upstate New York. Here in Chicago, single-digit wind chills overnight out of nowhere. MAN #3: Another like-- it’s like another level of cold. WOMAN: No, was not prepared to go Christmas shopping in the weather like this. (End VT) RON MOTT: Now as cold as it is today, even more chilling news in the forecast for mid next week. Here in Chicago next Wednesday and Thursday, the high temperature expected six and seven degrees with the low temperatures well below zero. Tamron, Matt, back to you. TAMRON HALL: Ron, you had us clutching ourselves with that temperature, thank you very much. MATT LAUER: How long is this going to last? TAMRON HALL: Hello, buddy. AL ROKER: Well, you know, we’re getting into winter. This is what we do. MATT LAUER: So you’re saying until April. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. AL ROKER: Well, yeah, I mean-- I believe-- look, July 4th-- MATT LAUER: You promise. AL ROKER: --it’s going to be spectacular. But in the meantime, look at these temperatures. The difference in the last twenty-four hours. We had an eleven-degree temperature drop in Oklahoma City. Albuquerque, fifteen. Seventeen drop in Denver where right now the air temperature is minus two and we’ve got more coming. Now there’s no wind blowing right now in Casper, so the wind chill is the same as the air temperature, same in Denver. But Omaha, it feels like seven below. Seven in Chicago. St. Louis, ten, even as far south as Little Rock, it’s twenty-seven degrees right now. And here comes the cold air. And what looks like in the next twenty-four hours we’re really going to see the bulk of the cold air. Minneapolis, you’re going to bottom out at seventeen on Friday. Today, Kansas City, Friday, Chicago, you’ll only be at twenty-three. And we make our way toward the end of the week and into the Northeast, Chica-- Boston, thirty degrees. Forty in New York. Forty-one in DC. Charleston, thirty-two. But look even as we get down to the South, you can see those temperatures still awfully chilly. Lake-effect snow is going to be firing up, up to a foot through today, but we’re not done yet. It’s going to continue through the day tomorrow. Before it’s all over, we’re talking snowfall amounts one to two feet the Leeward side of Lake Superior. One to two feet, Lake Erie. Lake Ontario could be the big one where we see over three feet of snow in some spots. Sixteen million people in the Pacific Northwest under some sort winter weather advisory. Portland schools are closed today. Seattle schools, there are some closings and some delays. They could pick up anywhere from four to eight inches of snow. The mountains up to a
foot and a half. And as Ron Mott kind of mentioned, we’ve got Siberian express coming middle of next week. MATT LAUER: Dogs and cats living together. AL ROKER: Mass hysteria. Then I haven’t told you about Twinkie yet. MATT LAUER: Yeah, great. TAMRON HALL: Oh, boy. MATT LAUER: All right. Thanks, Al. You ever see him so excited? TAMRON HALL: Never. And we’re in pain. Thank you very much, sir. Well, now to Columbia, South Carolina, where officials are searching for an escaped inmate suspected of attacking a police officer. The officer was stabbed multiple times after she responded to a shoplifting call at a Walmart last night. Officials are looking for Michael Williamson who was caught on surveillance camera before the stabbing. He had escaped earlier in the day from a prison about eighty miles away where he’d been serving a life term. According to police, the officer is recovering from those injuries. MATT LAUER: We have an update now on those devastating wild fires in Tennessee that killed fourteen people. Two juveniles are now in custody and they’re charged with arson. The suspects haven’t been identified because they are minors. The wild fire started late last month. They destroyed or damaged more than twenty-four hundred buildings in the Gatlinburg area. TAMRON HALL: You’re thinking about buying a car, listen up. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has awarded eighty-two new vehicles the top safety picks for 2017. Toyota and it’s luxury brand Lexus led all automakers with nine of its models making the list. Honda had five. The institute toughened its standards for headlight performance this year and only seven of the vehicles in the top category earned a good rating for headlights. You can find the complete list of this year’s winners actually on our website today.com. MATT LAUER: All right. The stars were out at Madison Square Garden last night right here in New York because LeBron James and the world champion Cavaliers were in town to take on the Knicks. It was a rough one for the hometown fans, a total blowout. You’re probably saying why are we doing a typical sports day, right? Well, the Cavs had a twenty-seven point lead at the end of the third quarter so LeBron and his teammates got so bored in the fourth quarter, they had to find ways to entertain themselves and they did it with the bottle flip challenge. That, of course, became very popular on the internet. Apparently LeBron still to master that skill. That’s one of those things where I’m not sure you want to be doing that during the game. TAMRON HALL: No. AL ROKER: Yeah. TAMRON HALL: Well, you’re the other team— MATT LAUER: It’s little showy. TAMRON HALL: Yeah. What are you thinking? AL ROKER: It was— it was a little showy. MATT LAUER: You were there. AL ROKER: Yeah. It was a little depressing. TAMRON HALL: Did you see that? AL ROKER: Actually-- TAMRON HALL: Oh gosh. AL ROKER: --you know, it was sad. MATT LAUER: Yeah. AL ROKER: You know, they’re thinking, well, when they started knitting-- MATT LAUER: Yeah. At the end effort fourth quarter, they had macromate a hammock. AL ROKER: Exactly. So that was a little rough but Nick-- Nick and I enjoyed it. MATT LAUER: Yeah, it’s cool. AL ROKER: So my little New York Knick we went to see-- TAMRON HALL: Oh, that’s cute. AL ROKER: --the New York Knicks. TAMRON HALL: I like it. MATT LAUER: Very good. Nice. TAMRON HALL: You’re back with a forecast. AL ROKER: Let’s see what we have here of the country. We are looking that arctic air coming in. Windy conditions down around the Gulf Coast. Breezy conditions, gale-force winds, Northern California, sunny skies here in the Mid-Atlantic States on into the Northeast. We’re going to get to your local forecast, coming up in the next thirty seconds. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) (Weather follows) AL ROKER: And that’s your latest weather. MATT LAUER: All right. Al, thank you very much. Coming up, inside the controversial mistrial of a former South Carolina police officer charged with murder. This morning, the jury foremen and his attorney will speak out in a live interview. TAMRON HALL: And before Savannah left, she sat down with Facebook’s Sheryl Sandburg. What she’s saying about the criticism over fake news spread online during the election and we’ll get the social network’s year-in review. But first, this is TODAY on NBC. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) MATT LAUER: Coming up, when you should and shouldn’t brag. TAMRON
HALL: And Sofia Vergara sued by her embryos? The unusual twist in her ongoing battle with her ex, after your local news. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) MATT LAUER: All right. Seven thirty now on a Thursday morning. It`s the 8th of December 2016. We`ve got a nice crowd outside on a slightly chilly morning not as chilly as it is in other parts of the country. We`re happy about that. And we expect to see an even bigger crowd tomorrow when Pharrell Williams takes over our concert stage outside. If you`re in the area, come on down. That`s going to be fun. TAMRON HALL: Meanwhile inside Studio 1A, here are the stories making headlines. A massive manhunt is underway in Georgia for the man who shot and killed one police officer and wounded another. It happened near the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The suspect identified as thirty-two-year-old Minquell Kennedy Lembrick. Investigators have announced a reward for information leading to his arrest. MATT LAUER: President-elect Trump will be in Iowa tonight for a stop on his post-election victory tour. In the meantime, The New York Times is reporting this morning that Mister Trump is considering handing over his real estate company to his adult sons during his time in office. But they say he intends to keep a stake in the business. TAMRON HALL: And in a new report being released by the U.S. Surgeon General`s office today, e-cigarettes are being called an emerging public health threat to young people. The report says while more studies are needed, too many teens are using them and that could lead to a new generation addicted to nicotine.

Source Title: BTN

Predicted Probability: 0.80

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 20844

Article Title: ONLINE DICTIONARY REFLECTS CHANGING TIMES"

Date: 8/16/2014

Article Content: Scrabble's about to get a lot more amazeballs. The batch of cray new words added to Oxford Dictionaries Online is a hot mess of definitions that capture the zeitgeist of today in a baller way. Hot diggity! If none of this hip lingo sounds familiar, it's time to read up: Oxford Dictionaries Online has added more than 400 words and phrases to its dictionary, including words such as pogonophobia (a fear of beards), hexacopter (a six-rotor helicopter that's unmanned) and mansplain (a verb used to describe the act of explaining something in a condescending manner, usually a man to a woman). Amazeballs (extremely good), cray (crazy), hot mess (something that is out of control), baller (successful) and hot diggity (used to express excitement) are all on the list. The list, updated four times a year, consists of words that are chosen based on the Oxford Corpus, a database that finds words in various places on the Internet. If a word is used frequently enough and in a variety of places, it's eligible to appear in the online dictionary. The entire list of new words is available at oxforddictionaries.com. Some words have been commonly used for years but are just gaining popularity on the Internet. Bare (exposed) and fratty (the characteristics of a college fraternity) have been around for a while. Olinguito was coined in 2013 in reference to a Colombia- and Ecuador-based tiny, tree-dwelling, nocturnal mammal that belongs to the raccoon family. Some words quickly gained prominence online because of the hyperconnected (also a new word on the list) quality of the Internet. Slang words that once were limited to small groups of people can take off in minutes and percolate around the world. The word e-cig, short for electronic
cigarette, gained popularity because electronic cigarettes gained popularity. “So there’s lots of different trajectories, and some words have a slow burn,” said Katherine Martin, head of US Dictionaries at Oxford University Press. It’s no surprise that many of the new words on the list refer to technology. Live-tweet (tweeting while an event is taking place), binge-watch (watching multiple episodes of a television show in one sitting) and clickbait (links on the Internet that lure readers with provocative content) are all on the list. “As computer technology permeates into the mainstream of the culture, it’s gonna reflect in the language,” said Elliot Halpern, a linguistics student at the University of Pittsburgh. “We’re sort of hitting a new generation that has values and experiences, and one of the experiences is the Internet, and these words started as slang and have been accepted as mainstream discourse.” “One of the things that’s changed is in the old days the print process took a really long time for a print dictionary,” she said. “There was also the factor of a print dictionary having limited space. The online dictionary is infinite, so we can publish things faster ... and slang spreads faster because of the global nature of the Internet.” Having words in a dictionary, strange as they are, validates a concept and provides a reference point in history. “Perhaps in 25 years - I’m not sure about YOLO [you only live once] - but clickbait might be accepted as just another concept,” Mr. Halpern said. The online dictionary is competing with other online sources of reference, but Ms. Martin believes it uses rigor and technology required to provide the best product. “We’re proficient writers of definitions, so we provide a consistent approach to language, so it’s a different kind of resource. We’re trying to record as many possible definitions as used today for people who are on our website,” she said. Her favorite new word is in silico (experiments or research done by computer simulation). “[It’s] not a sexy slang word, but it’s coming from Latin, and it’s a new Latin formation [that] isn’t brought into English too much. ... I love the inventiveness of that,” she said. “It's a more serious take that shows another way that English has to change as our world changes, and technology is a driving force of that.”
Bernini’s Colonnade in St. Peter’s Square to cater to homeless men and women. Krajewski, whose small acts of charity in Francis’ name are well known, told La Stampa’s Vatican Insider website that he came up with the idea after meeting a homeless man named Franco. He told me that you can always find something to eat in Rome, but what is missing are places to wash yourself. - A bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced legislation Thursday to strip people suspected of being Nazi war criminals of their Social Security benefits. The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act comes in response to an Associated Press investigation published in October that revealed millions of dollars in benefits have been paid to dozens of former Nazis who were forced out of the United States. At least four are still alive, living in Europe on U.S. Social Security. - Use of electronic cigarettes by high school students tripled over three years, according to a new government report released Thursday. In a large national survey last year, 4.5 percent of high school students said they had used e-cigarettes in the previous month. That’s up from 1.5 percent in 2011 and 2.8 percent in 2012. - Seeking to shore up reforms in long-isolated Myanmar, President Barack Obama pressed the country's leader to hold inclusive elections next year and respect the rights of its persecuted Muslim minority. Despite setbacks on those fronts, Obama insisted he remains optimistic about Myanmar’s move toward democracy. We recognize that change is hard and it doesn't always move in a straight line, Obama said after a meeting with Myanmar's president, Thein Sein. But I am optimistic about the possibilities for Myanmar. From wire reports

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 67626

Article Title: Latest News: Taliban Attack on Pakistan School, Sydney Siege Inquiry - NYTimes.com

Date: 12/16/2014

Article Content: Photo Taliban gunmen attacked a military school in Pakistan, killing at least 145, mostly children. Credit Mohammad Sajjad/Associated Press Good morning.Here’s what you need to know:• Militants lay siege to school.Taliban gunmen attacked a school in northwest Pakistan today, killing at least 145 and wounding more than 100. Most of the victims are children of military families.Officials say the attack, the deadliest ever by the Taliban in Pakistan, is now over, with all of the militants killed. • Mourning in Australia. As flags fly at half-staff, the police began an inquiry today into the operation that ended the 16-hour siege of a cafe in Sydney on Monday. They want to know whether the two hostages — a cafe manager and a lawyer — were killed by the gunman or died in the crossfire. Continue reading the main story And the prime minister is questioning why the gunman, an Iranian refugee who was a known extremist who faced multiple criminal charges, was not on the country’s terrorism watch list. • Apple not guilty. An eight-person jury decided today after about three hours deliberation that Apple did not block songs sold by rival music stores from the iPod in order to monopolize the digital music market. The class-action lawsuit had been around in various forms for 10 years before it finally went to trial in early December. • Grace period on health care. The health insurance industry today is announcing that companies will give consumers more time to pay January’s premiums under the Affordable Care Act. It is trying to avoid complications as millions of customers renew their plans and new ones come
aboard. Mideast diplomacy. Secretary of State John Kerry is in London today, talking to Palestinian and Arab League officials. A Palestinian-drafted resolution to the U.N. Security Council, calling for Israel to leave the occupied West Bank by November 2016, could be voted on this week. For their consideration. The lame-duck Senate is acting on executive and judicial branch nominations this week. On Monday, it confirmed the nominee for surgeon general. At the White House. President Obama is meeting this morning with Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In the afternoon, he convenes a meeting of the National Security Council. Fallout from “nut rage.” South Korean authorities said today that Korean Air will be punished with up to a 21-day suspension of flights or a $1.3 million fine after its handling of a dispute over serving macadamia nuts.

MARKETS: Wall Street stocks are mixed. Europe shares are higher, and Asian indexes ended mostly lower. Russia’s economy edged toward panic despite a middle-of-the-night move by the central bank to prop up the currency by raising interest rates to 17 percent from 10.5 percent. Plunging oil prices and Western sanctions over Ukraine are pushing Russia into stagflation, a period of high inflation and low growth. One of Britain’s major banks, the Co-operative Bank, flunked the Bank of England’s new stress test, and two others, Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds, barely passed. Apple announced today that dozens more banks and retailers — including TD Bank North America, Staples and Winn-Dixie — have signed up for its mobile payment service called Apple Pay.

NOTEWORTHY: The year in search. Robin Williams, World Cup, Ebola and Malaysia Airlines are 2014’s most searched terms worldwide, Google said today in its annual “Zeitgeist” report. Others in the top 10 are ice bucket challenge, Flappy Bird and ISIS. Teenagers and e-cigarettes. Seventeen percent of high school seniors have tried electronic cigarettes, while the number smoking tobacco cigarettes dropped to new lows, according to an annual drug-use survey released today. Marijuana use by teenagers appeared to level off after recent increases, the National Institutes of Health said, while binge drinking of alcohol and abuse of synthetic marijuana and prescription drugs showed declines. Rock ‘n’ roll royalty. Lou Reed, Green Day and the 1970s soul star Bill Withers are among the 2015 inductees to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Also to be honored in Cleveland on April 18 are the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, and Stevie Ray Vaughan and his group Double Trouble, the organization said today. Free agent signings. Chase Headley agreed to a $52 million, four-year contract to stay with the Yankees, signaling that New York is not counting on Alex Rodriguez to play third base regularly. There were other big deals in Major League Baseball on Monday. Soccer star calls time. Thierry Henry, 37, said today that he is retiring after a 20-year soccer career that included star turns at Arsenal, on the 1998 French team that won the World Cup, and for the New York Red Bulls.

BACK STORY: Soon after Thomas Edison patented the first commercially viable light bulb, he strung a few together during the 1880 Christmas season and hung them outside his lab in Menlo Park, N.J. In 1882, Edison’s partner, Edward H. Johnson, went a step further, tying together red, white and blue lights and wrapping them around his Christmas tree. The practice didn’t immediately catch on. Electricity was widely mistrusted because people thought dangerous vapors would seep into their homes through the lights and wires. President Grover Cleveland is credited with popularizing electric Christmas tree lights after he used them to light the first family’s tree in 1895. And in 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the tradition of the National Christmas Tree, adorning it with 3,000 bulbs on the White House’s South Lawn. We’ve come a long way: This year, 300,000 girls are taking part in a Google project to use computer code to program the White House tree lights. Tatiana Schlossberg contributed reporting.

Your Morning Briefing is posted weekdays at 6 a.m. Eastern. What would you like to see here? Contact us at briefing@nytimes.com. Want to get the briefing by email? Here’s the sign-up.
Source Title: Web

*Ecig Population Norms – High – Ecig – PM – Web 2*

Predicted Probability: 0.80

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 407347

Article Title: Junk bond market: Danger ahead - MarketWatch"

Date: 9/8/2015

Article Content: MARKETWATCH FRONT PAGE A spike in the effective yield on high-risk debt is either a buying opportunity or an ominous warning about the state of the U.S. economy, writes Brett Arends. See full story. Dick Cheney on Iran nuclear deal: ‘It is madness’ Dick Cheney to rip Iran nuclear deal in speech; budget-watcher increases government-shutdown odds; labor plays hard to get with Hillary Clinton; and more. See full story. Video: A larger ‘Stonehenge’ may have just been discovered Archaeologists have discovered what they say are the buried remains of a prehistoric stone monument just 2 miles from Stonehenge. See full story. Top 5 new car deals for Labor Day weekend Labor Day weekend usually means one thing for new car shoppers: Model clearance sales. See full story. Teens who use e-cigarettes are also vaping marijuana, study finds Roughly one-fifth of high-school students already using e-cigarettes said they have put cannabis, hash oils or THC-infused wax into the device, according to a Yale University study. See full story. MARKETWATCH PERSONAL FINANCE China, where driving a Buick and drinking a PBR are signs you’ve made it. See full story."

Source Title: Web

*Ecig Population Norms – High – Ecig – PM – Web 3*

Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 430814

Article Title: FDA nominee faces questions about drug industry ties - The Washington Post

Date: 11/17/2015

Article Content: Robert Califf spent decades as a researcher and administrator at Duke University. (Courtesy of the FDA) President Obama’s nominee to lead the Food and Drug Administration defended his past ties to the pharmaceutical industry on Tuesday, saying that drug company dollars never influenced the outcome of his academic research and vowing to maintain the agency’s standards for ensuring that approved treatments are safe and effective. Robert Califf, a cardiologist and long-time Duke University researcher, acknowledged that pharmaceutical companies helped fund many of the clinical trials he oversaw. But the drug industry routinely funds such studies, he noted, and Duke’s contract requirements protected the independence of investigators to publish research outcomes, whatever the results. The two-hour hearing before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee was the first review of Califf’s credentials since his nomination. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) said the significant pharmaceutical support he received over the years “naturally
raises questions about your relationship” with the drug industry. “Your financial relationship with the industry also raises questions of what your priorities would be if you are confirmed with this job,” she said, asking whether Califf would sympathize with arguments that FDA is too stringent and needs to relax its standards in order to get promising treatments to market faster. “I think if you look at my record, I've never been a proponent of lowering standards. If anything, I've argued for raising them,” Califf replied, while adding that the agency could move faster in some cases. “I think I've been staunch in that regard.” [This bill promises to speed up drug approvals so much that it’s making people uncomfortable] Califf also said he had rejected roughly “70 percent” of potential collaborations with companies because they would not agree to certain conditions, such as giving researchers full access to clinical trial data and not censoring or demanding changes in findings. Warren said she would decide whether to support his confirmation after she reviews Duke’s clinical trial contracts with the drug industry. Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders addressed skyrocketing drug prices — an issue that many Americans have identified as a serious economic concern — and said he doubted Califf would act to lower them. FDA, however, cannot currently consider a drug’s price when determining whether to approve it for market. “At the end of the day, people are dying and not buying the food they need because they have to pay outrageous prices for medicine,” Sanders said. “We’ve been extraordinarily weak at taking on the pharmaceutical industry that has been ripping off the American people. I believe we need a commissioner who’s going to stand up to the pharmaceutical industry and protect American consumers. And I have to say to you, with regret, that I think you are not that person.” Califf has faced scrutiny about his drug industry ties since President Obama tapped him for the top FDA post in September. A 2014 financial disclosure showed his salary at Duke was underwritten in part by large drug companies such as Eli Lilly, Novartis and Merck. He also has reported receiving speaking and consulting fees from a range of other pharmaceutical companies, though he has said he donates those fees to charity. Earlier this month, the non-partisan watchdog group Project on Government Oversight detailed how Califf led one clinical trial that faced sharp criticism from FDA reviewers and outside advisors. Agency staffers found the trial, for the blood thinner Xarelto, was biased in favor of the unproven drug and that the trial’s design showed a “lack of care” that could have resulted in unnecessary strokes among some patients, according to one FDA official. Despite such misgivings, the agency approved the anti-clotting drug in late 2011 and has since expanded its indications for use. For his part, Califf has insisted that such collaborations between academic researchers, patients, the government and the pharmaceutical industry are a necessary, if sometimes uncomfortable, reality of modern drug development. He reiterated that stance Tuesday. “To advance, we must find common ground with industry and academia on the science without compromising [the] fundamental role of the FDA,” Califf said in opening remarks. [Cardiologist and researcher Robert Califf nominated as next FDA commissioner] Despite the grilling from some Democrats about his ties to Big Pharma, Califf received a mostly warm reception on Capitol Hill. He vowed to try to speed up the process for generic drug approvals. He spoke about the need to combat antibiotic-resistant “superbugs,” to develop regulations governing laboratory-developed tests and to create ground rules for overseeing e-cigarettes and mobile health apps. At one point, he even answered questions about college basketball. If confirmed by the Senate, as widely expected, Califf would inherit an FDA facing broad new responsibilities and confronting potentially major changes. Regulators are in the midst of implementing the most far-reaching overhaul in generations, as directed by Congress in a landmark 2010 law. The agency also has been wrestling with how to regulate the booming market for e-cigarettes, which so far have faced little oversight despite growing into a multibillion-dollar industry. A bill currently working its
way through Congress, known as the 21st Century Cures Act, also would mandate serious changes at the FDA under Califf’s tenure. The legislation, whose backers include an array of medical organizations, patient groups and members of both political parties, is aimed at streamlining the FDA’s approval process and speeding the development of lifesaving drugs and devices. But skeptics have expressed concerns that the effort could force the FDA to compromise its standards for safety and efficacy in the name of speed. Many health groups welcomed Califf’s nomination, saying his decades of experience as a respected researcher, clinician and administrator make him an ideal fit to run FDA. The agency regulates not only food and drugs but also thousands of other products that Americans use on a daily basis, from sunscreen to infant formula to microwave ovens. Nearly 70 organizations, from the American Heart Association to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, signed a letter sent this week urging Senate lawmakers to confirm Califf. It called him a “world expert” in clinical trial design and a skilled and “visionary” leader who can help FDA navigate the fast-changing world of modern medical innovation. “[He] has acquired decades of real-world experience running and evaluating clinical trials,” the groups wrote. “He also maintains a deep understanding of the fast-moving science and the diverse stakeholders in government, academia, industry, and the patient community.” Jeffrey M. Drazen, a Harvard Medical School professor and editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, wrote last month that lawmakers should confirm Califf “as soon as possible.” In part, he cited Califf’s experience, which includes publishing more than 1,200 peer-reviewed research articles. But he also noted that even when Califf has overseen clinical trials sponsored solely by the drug industry, he has relied on data above all else, often making recommendations that did not favor the companies involved. “Given this performance,” Drazen wrote, “it is impossible to argue that Califf has a pro-industry bias.”

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Nearly 60 percent of Americans — the highest rate ever — are taking prescription drugs
Brady Dennis is a national reporter for The Washington Post, focusing on food and drug issues.

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Article Content: Donald Trump whips up supporters in Fayetteville, N.C., on Tuesday night. (Gerry Broome/AP) THE BIG IDEA: Richard Nixon tried to keep his enemies list secret. Donald Trump may post his on Twitter. Chuck Jones, the president of the local chapter of the United Steelworkers union that represents Carrier employees in Indianapolis, told The Post on Tuesday that the president-elect exaggerated the number of jobs he claims to have saved. It turns out that 550 of the union’s members will lose their livelihoods, after all, because Trump was taking credit for keeping 350 engineering positions in the United States that were never going to leave. Yet the company will still collect millions in lucrative tax breaks. CNN invited Jones on last night to discuss this further: Pres. of United Steelworkers
Union on @Carrier deal: "What nobody's mentioning is 550 people are losing their jobs"
https://t.co/SxPg1jZHk9— OutFrontCNN (@OutFrontCNN) December 8, 2016
Twenty minutes after his appearance, the man who will be the 45th president of the United States began attacking him on Twitter: Chuck Jones, who is President of United Steelworkers 1999, has done a terrible job representing workers. No wonder companies flee country! — Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 8, 2016
If United Steelworkers 1999 was any good, they would have kept those jobs in Indiana. Spend more time working-less time talking. Reduce dues— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 8, 2016
Half an hour after Trump’s first tweet, the union leader's phone began to ring and kept ringing. “Nothing that says they’re gonna kill me, but, you know, ‘You better keep your eye on your kids. We know what car you drive.’ Things along those lines,” he explained. “My first thought was, ‘Well, that’s not very nice.’ Then, 'Well, I might not sleep much tonight;’,” he told our Danielle Paquette in between the threatening calls to his flip phone. Trump and Pence wave as they visit the Indianapolis Carrier factory last week. (Evan Vucci/AP)-- Trump’s latest tweetstorm came at the end of a day in which he refused to take any responsibility for the consequences of his rhetoric. “When you say ‘divided states of America,’ I didn’t divide them,” he said on the “Today” show, complaining about the Time Magazine story that crowned him Person of the Year. “They’re divided now. I’m not president yet, so I didn’t do anything to divide!” Trump then claimed that he is actually “very restrained” on social media. -- The truth, of course, is that the incoming president often uses a bazooka when a scalpel or a toothpick would do. Since January, the New York Times has kept a running list of the people, places and things that he has attacked on Twitter alone. It is up to 289 entries, including the aides of his ex-rivals, from Jeb Bush communications director Tim Miller to Hillary Clinton body woman Huma Abedin. -- Trump has said that, by his nature, he is “a counterpuncher.” Fair enough. But it is one thing to pick on a multibillion-dollar corporation like Boeing or a cable host who has 30 minutes of airtime a night to respond or a newspaper that buys ink by the barrel. It’s something else entirely to go after individuals, whether it is Alicia Machado, Khizr Khan or, now, Chuck Jones. -- Idle talk happens in every campaign. When you actually hold power, though, it starts wars and moves markets. Pharmaceutical stocks, for example, dropped yesterday as soon as Time published the Person of the Year story. Trump was quoted saying, “I’m going to bring down drug prices. I don’t like what has happened with drug prices.” President Obama drinks beer with Cambridge police sergeant James Crowley and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. Vice President Biden joined in. (File) -- All 44 of our presidents have had a Herculean learning curve in this regard. Nothing can fully prepare you for holding the most important job in the world, and you cannot possibly appreciate how much weight your words carry until an offhand joke creates an international incident. Remember the “beer summit”? In the summer of 2009, Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. was arrested by a Cambridge cop as he tried to get into his home because the front door had gotten jammed. Someone had seen an African American man and called 911. During a news conference, Obama was asked about the incident and said that the police had “acted stupidly.” Then he mentioned “that there’s a long history in this country of African Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately." This led to a massive outcry from law enforcement. The new president tried to settle the firestorm by inviting the cop and the professor to the White House for beers. Obama internalized a valuable lesson from what he’s called a “teachable moment,” and from then on he watched his words more carefully. -- Growing up out West, I was taught that baby rattlesnakes are much more dangerous than mature ones because they don’t yet know how to control their output of venom. Right now, the president-elect is still a baby rattlesnake. Like Lennie in “Of Mice and Men,” he doesn’t know his own strength. -- The haters are always going to hate. The trolls are
always going to troll. Our best presidents have been the ones who don’t let the bastards get them down. True leadership is the ability to turn the other cheek. True strength is being the bigger man. True wisdom means, to borrow from the first lady, going high when your critics go low. Khizr Khan addresses the Democratic National Convention in July. Khan’s son, Humayun Khan, a U.S. Army soldier, was killed in Iraq. (Michael Robinson Chavez/The Washington Post) -- After Trump attacked the Gold Star Khan family in August, conservative host Bill O’Reilly offered the following commentary on Fox News. His points are more relevant today than ever. “Lesson number one for Donald Trump: Commenting on regular folks is fraught with danger, no matter what they say,” O’Reilly said. “All powerful people have to know that calling folks out has to be done surgically. If a family has lost a son fighting for America, you simply cannot hit them with a broadside — no matter what they say. You have to let it go. If you punch down, as the saying goes, the media will label you a bully or worse.... Not always fair, but that’s the reality.... Final lesson: ... If he fights everyone who comes after him, he will lose.” -- From Trump’s perspective, he punched down repeatedly throughout the campaign. And he won. So why stop now? Feuds often worked to his advantage during the nominating process. He likes to have foils. Often it’s symbiotic, as with Megyn Kelly, Joe Scarborough or countless lesser-known TV pundits. He believes that his supporters like that he’s not politically correct and operates outside traditional norms. -- Remember when he was at the top of the polls, and he’d pointlessly kick primary rivals at the bottom? .@GovernorPataki couldn’t be elected dog catcher if he ran again—so he didn’t!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) July 1, 2015 Oh wow, lightweight Governor @BobbyLindal, who is registered at less than 1 percent in the polls, just mocked my hair. So original!— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) September 11, 2015 Two academics recently studied all the posts from the 2016 GOP candidates. Of the 252 tweets in which one candidate criticized a weaker opponent in the polls, Trump accounted for all but 10: Negative and positive tweets from Nov. 20, 2014 — May 4. Each red dashed arrow represents a single negative tweet. Each solid gray arrow is a positive tweet. Pairs of candidates connected by many tweets appear close to one another in the visualized network. (Data: Twitter and UMass Amherst; Figure: Justin H. Gross) -- From a practical political standpoint: Trump doesn’t appear to fully grasp how much he elevates his opponents by attacking them. His criticisms of “Hamilton” might have ginned up his base, but they also meant that way more people heard the statement that the cast read aloud to Mike Pence than would have otherwise. His attack on “Saturday Night Live” last weekend guaranteed that millions more people watched the skit mocking his use of Twitter than would have otherwise. The truth is that relatively few people actually watch CNN. Very few caught Jones’s interview with Erin Burnett. But every news organization in the country today will cover the back-and-forth and ensure that more voters hear the message that Trump exaggerated how many jobs he saved at Carrier. Perhaps Trump thinks that this is good for him because the headlines will still be about jobs being saved at Carrier, but he also just handed a small-time union leader in the Hoosier State a megaphone and a national platform to make the case against him. As an unintended early Christmas gift, the president-elected just gave Jones his 15 minutes of fame. -- The hashtag #ImWithChuck is trending on Twitter, as rank-and-file union members who have been dispirited by the election results find a cause célèbre to rally around. There are thousands of tweets like this: Chuck Jones is hope that unions still have some fight in them. Forward together. Not. One. Step. Back. @steelworkers #Imwithchuck — Carrie O. Lax (@carrieolax) December 8, 2016 The man who built his casinos w/ Chinese steel going after the @steelworkers who’ve fought hard to keep jobs in America <ed><U+00A0><U+00BD><ed><U+00B8><U+00A1> #imwithchuck — Kelsey (@kelsey_mansell) December 8, 2016 The next president of the united states went to twitter war with a guy who uses a flip
phone. The guy with the flip phone won #ImWithChuck— Brett Banditelli (@banditelli) December 8, 2016 -- Labor groups are also showing solidarity and fired back at Trump: Chuck Jones is a man of integrity who ALWAYS puts the interest of workers first. To say otherwise is not only false, it's infuriating.— Indiana AFL-CIO (@INAFLCIO) December 8, 2016 Chuck is a hero not a scapegoat: you, others know about Carrier because of his, members' tireless work since day 1 to save ALL jobs there. https://t.co/C9fwajHY7 — United Steelworkers (@steelworkers) December 8, 2016 Dues have helped us file 45+ cases against bad trade; saving jobs in tire, paper, steel, etc. We walk the walk. #imwithchuck #wearewithchuck https://t.co/PIGznkwrTS — United Steelworkers (@steelworkers) December 8, 2016 -- And many are circulating this tweet from March, which suggests Mike Pence doesn’t share his running mate’s view of Jones (or at least he didn’t used to): Appreciate the chance to meet w/ Chuck Jones & hardworking men of Local 1999 about our efforts to save Carrier jobs pic.twitter.com/jAzV4DO4PY — Governor Mike Pence (@GovPenceIN) March 2, 2016 WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING: Union members march in Seoul with an effigy of South Korean President Park Geun-hye. (Reuters/Kim Hong-Ji) GET SMART FAST:<U+200B><U+200B> South Korea’s parliament introduced an impeachment motion against Park Geun-hye, setting up a vote that will likely be delivered by the end of the week. (AP) Syrian government forces swept through the Old City of Aleppo, expanding Assad’s control to some three-quarters of east Aleppo. The push comes as John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met in Germany to discuss a last-ditch agreement that would allow the city to be evacuated. (Louisa Loveluck and Karen DeYoung) Ohio lawmakers passed a “heartbeat bill” that would prohibit abortion at the first sign of a fetal heartbeat – drastically reducing the legal time for abortion to just six weeks (before many women even realize they are pregnant). Many GOP lawmakers say they are energized by the promise of a more conservative Supreme Court that could actually overturn Roe v. Wade. (Sandhya Somashekhar) Life expectancy for Americans has declined for the first time in more than two decades, according to brand new health statistics, with a spike in fatalities caused by heart disease, strokes, diabetes, drug overdoses and more. In all, death rates rose for eight of the top 10 leading causes of death. (Lenny Bernstein) The surgeon general calls the skyrocketing use of e-cigarettes among young people a “major public health concern,” urging policymakers to help keep the nicotine products away from young people as health officials continue to research possible detrimental effects. (Brady Dennis) The Koch political network is laying off 81 people, a move that comes as the billionaire brothers seek to reorganize their advocacy network. (Politico) Two juveniles have been charged with arson in the deadly Tennessee wildfires, leaving 14 dead and more than 1,700 buildings damaged or destroyed. (J. Freedom du Lac, Sarah Larimer and Lindsey Bever) A Michigan appeals court rejected Jill Stein’s recount effort as unlawful, saying state canvassers should have never let her proceed because she had no chance to overturn the results and is thus “not an aggrieved candidate.” The decision essentially ends the recount. (Detroit Free Press) Emotional testimony began in the Dylann Roof trial. One survivor recounted her harrowing tale of the Charleston church shooting, in which Roof sat in on a Bible study for nearly an hour — “chuckling” when the pastor said something funny — before gunning down both her son and aunt. By the time the judge ordered a short recess, even the sketch artist was in tears. (Kevin Sullivan) A Florida woman was charged with making death threats against the parent of a child who died in the Sandy Hook elementary school shootings because she thought the massacre was a hoax. Her arrest comes after years of conspiracy theories, with some claiming the tragic massacre was staged to prompt support for gun control legislation. (AP) Members of the House Transportation Committee approved plans for a new FBI headquarters, advancing plans to fully fund the 2.1 million square-foot facility next year. (Jonathan O’Connell) Pope Francis spoke out against fake news, comparing the spread of
disinformation to a fascination with feces. “Disinformation is probably the greatest damage that the media can do, as opinion is guided in one direction, neglecting the other part of the truth,” the pope said in an interview. (Ishaan Tharoor) Meanwhile, the Vatican formally reaffirmed its policy that gay men should never be priests in the Catholic Church. (Julie Zauzmer) The giraffe is at risk of extinction. Scientists voted the lanky mammal onto the official watch list of threatened and endangered species, upping its status by two levels on a “danger ladder” of species at risk of disappearing. (AP) Actress Sofia Vergara is facing a right-to-live lawsuit filed on behalf of her own embryos. The bizarre suit was filed by Vergara’s ex-fiancé Nick Loeb, who claims the embryos – reportedly named “Emma” and “Isabella” – are being deprived of their right to live and receive a trust fund that was set up for them. (Bryanna Cappadona) Sadly, sexism is alive and well across the pond too: British Prime Minister Theresa May came under heavy fire for wearing a pair of $1,200 leather pants for a photo shoot, drawing outrage among some who suggested the item puts her “out of touch” with the common man. But male politicians, such as predecessor David Cameron, often donned outfits that cost nearly four times as much. And no one complained. (Adam Taylor) A North Carolina mother is demanding that a mall Santa Claus be fired after he “body shamed” her son, telling the nine-year-old to “lay off the burgers and french fries” and driving him to tears. (ABC-WLOS) A Muslim-owned restaurant in Britain is offering a free three-course meal to the homeless and elderly on Christmas, declaring on a simple white flier, “No one eats alone on Christmas Day! … We are here to sit with you.” (Amy B Wang) Lt. Gen. John F. Kelly awards a Purple Heart to an injured Marine in San Antonio in 2011. (Nikki Kahn/The Washington Post) TRUMP STOCKS HIS CABINET WITH GENERALS AND BILLIONAIRES: -- Trump selected retired Marine Gen. John F. Kelly as secretary of homeland security, recruiting a third former member of the military’s brass to serve at the highest levels of his administration. From Philip Rucker and Mike DeBonis: “Trump’s choice of Kelly — and his continued deliberations about tapping as many as two more military figures for other posts — has intensified worries among some members of Congress and national security experts that the new administration’s policies may be shaped disproportionately by military commanders. Despite making regular remarks on the campaign trail disparaging the nation’s generals, Trump has long shown an affinity for them. In shaping his administration, Trump has prioritized what one adviser described as ‘can-do, no-bull types,’ which the president-elect sees as a deliberate contrast from the personnel choices President Obama has made.” If confirmed, Kelly and defense secretary nominee James Mattis, a retired Marine general with the nickname “Mad Dog,” would join retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, Trump’s pick for White House national security adviser. Meanwhile, retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus is under consideration for secretary of state, and Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers is a contender for director of national intelligence. Other figures with military backgrounds are populating the administration as well, including Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-Kan.), who graduated from West Point and served in the Army in the Gulf War, is Trump’s nominee to lead the Central Intelligence Agency, while Stephen K. Bannon, a former naval officer, will serve the president in the West Wing as chief strategist and senior counselor. -- A chorus of Senate Democrats decried the reliance on former brass for top jobs: Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee: “I’m concerned. Each of these individuals may have great merit in their own right, but what we’ve learned over the past 15 years is that when we view problems in the world through a military lens, we make big mistakes.” Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.): “For a guy who got four or five deferments from the draft, he seems pretty impressed with the military.” Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.): “It’s the G&G cabinet. It does seem to be fairly limited to Goldman Sachs and generals.” -- But William A. Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Democrat who served as a White House policy adviser to former president Bill Clinton, said the
concerns about generals “charging ahead” with no regard for legal or constitutional constraints — or without a willingness to challenge the president’s decisions — are misplaced. He told Rucker that modern-day generals are trained to navigate a minefield of potential conflicts and legal concerns. “They’re schooled to believe that if they or any subordinates receive an unlawful order, it’s not to be obeyed,” Galston said. “If you asked me, would I prefer a government of generals or a government of lawyers, that’s not an easy choice. We’ve experimented with a government of lawyers, and that hasn’t been so fantastic, has it? Maybe it’s time to give the generals a chance.” -- Trump will nominate wrestling magnate and twice-failed Senate candidate Linda McMahon to head the Small Business Administration. “Linda has a tremendous background and is widely recognized as one of the country’s top female executives advising businesses around the globe,” Trump said in the announcement. “And while McMahon won’t have a ‘titantron,’ or video package that plays as wrestlers enter the ring, when she steps into the White House for the first time, if she did, it probably would not look all that different from the one she used at WWE,” WaPo sports reporter Marissa Payne notes. McMahon is billionaire #3 for Trump cabinet, which now has net worth of at least $9.3B—not incl. Trump’s billions https://t.co/zv4Hn5rweW pic.twitter.com/sYoKnA72SK — Rebecca Ballhaus (@rebeccaballhaus) December 8, 2016 -- “Meet Wilbur Ross, who once bailed out Trump in Atlantic City and is now his pick for Commerce secretary,” by the Los Angeles Times’s Chris Megerian: “Wilbur Ross became rich investing in faltering businesses like steel mills and coal mines, finding a fortune in blue-collar industries that others dismissed as beyond saving. But before he was scooping up Rust Belt factories, the banker was sizing up another troubled asset: [Trump]. More than two decades ago, Ross represented bondholders who were gunning for Trump after he failed to pay back the high-interest loans he had taken out to build his casino empire. [When Ross arrived in Atlantic City], he found a throng of journalists and curious onlookers eager to catch a glimpse of Trump.... For the quiet Ross, the scene inspired a revelation: Trump’s flashy image had resilience. [Now], a Palm Beach, Fla., resident who owns an art collection valued at nine figures and is worth an estimated $2.5 billion.... Ross earned a reputation as a so-called vulture investor for finding profits in dying businesses. Ross described himself differently in an interview with New York magazine: ‘We’re a phoenix that rebuilds itself from the ashes.’” -- Trump’s transition team is considering Silicon Valley investor Jim O’Neill, close with Peter Thiel, to head the FDA. From Bloomberg: “[Jim O’Neill] is a managing director at Thiel’s Mithril Capital Management, and last served in government during the George W. Bush administration as principal associate deputy secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services. He’s also a board member of the Seasteading Institute, a Thiel-backed venture to create new societies at sea, away from existing governments. He would be an unconventional pick, since he doesn’t have a medical background. The head of the FDA for the last five decades has either been a trained physician or a prominent scientific researcher.” -- Garrison Keillor, the Minnesota radio personality, has a funny line: “Voters in high dudgeon against Wall Street manipulators and the Washington aristocracy vote for the billionaire populist who puts tycoons in power.... If Billy the Kid had been smart, he’d’ve run for sheriff." Scott Pruitt arrives at Trump Tower yesterday. (Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post) AL GORE DIDN’T BREAK THROUGH: -- Trump has tapped Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA, a move signaling a full frontal assault on Obama’s environmental legacy. From Chris Mooney, Brady Dennis and Steven Mufson: “Pruitt, who has written that the debate on climate change is ‘far from settled,’ joined a coalition of state attorneys general in suing the agency’s Clean Power Plan, the principal Obama-era policy aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector. He has also sued over the EPA’s recently announced regulations seeking to curtail the emissions of methane, a powerful
greenhouse gas, from the oil and gas sector. On his LinkedIn page, Pruitt boasts of being ‘a leading advocate against the EPA’s activist agenda.’ In an interview with The Post in September ... Pruitt (said) ... agencies such as the EPA should not be trying to ‘pinch hit’ for Congress." -- Leonardo DiCaprio and the head of his eponymous foundation said they met with Trump last night after he picked Pruitt to discuss clean jobs and renewable energy. DiCaprio Foundation CEO Terry Tamminen, who was secretary of California’s EPA under former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, said Trump was receptive, and suggested they meet again next month. (AP) -- Trump also confirmed that ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson is under consideration for secretary of state. “We have a great, great gentleman, the head, the boss over at Exxon, and, you know, he’s built a tremendous company over 30 years with great style,” Trump said on the "Today" show, adding that he is likely to announce his nominee for Foggy Bottom next week. He also stressed that Mitt Romney is still in the running. “I’ve spoken to him a lot, and we’ve come a long way together. We had some tremendous difficulty together, and now I think we’ve come a long way,” Trump said. “It’s not about revenge. It’s about what’s good for the country. And I’m able to put this stuff behind us.” Donald kisses Ivanka on election night. (Ricky Carioti /The Washington Post)

HOW TRUMP ROLLS: -- “[Trump] is considering formally turning over the operational responsibility for his real estate company to his two adult sons, but he intends to keep a stake in the business and resist calls to divest,” Maggie Haberman and Jo Becker report in the Times: “The Trumps are exploring what was described by one person briefed on the discussions as a ‘legal structure’ that would give Mr. Trump and his daughter separation from the company. Under a plan now being considered by the Trump family and its lawyers, Ivanka Trump ... would also take a leave of absence from the Trump Organization, in the surest sign that she is exploring a potential move to Washington with her husband, Jared Kushner. Mr. Kushner is discussing an as-yet undetermined role advising his father-in-law, and Ms. Trump plans on being an advocate on issues in which she has a personal interest, like child care. Before deciding how to separate from her father’s business, Ms. Trump is also assessing how to disentangle from her apparel and licensing brands ... She plans on appointing a president of her company to run the day-to-day operations.” -- The RNC is holding this year’s Christmas party at the new Trump Hotel, another signal that groups which want to curry favor with the new administration are expected to spend money at establishments owned by the president-elect. Mike Pence spoke at a fundraiser hosted by the Heritage Foundation there on Tuesday night. (HuffPost) -- "Trump raises millions for transition while swiping at Boeing and joking about ‘Apprentice’-style inaugural stunts,” by Matea Gold: “He took another shot at Boeing on Wednesday morning, telling hundreds of donors packed into a Manhattan restaurant that he refuses to allow the costs of a new Air Force One jet the manufacturer is helping outfit to soar to $4 billion. Trump told the crowd at Cipriani that his fellow real estate developers could have negotiated a better deal for the Air Force One program ... At Wednesday's over-capacity fundraiser, which was expected to raise at least $4 million for the nonprofit running Trump's transition effort, the president-elect indicated that he will continue to use his post to put pressure on individual corporations. Trump told the audience that he urged Apple chief executive Tim Cook to build his next factory in the United States instead of overseas, saying that would make him happy.” Attendees said Trump appeared cool to a suggestion that he kick off his inauguration with a Fifth Avenue parade before boarding a Trump-branded helicopter to Washington, noting how much a parade would snarl Manhattan traffic. -- “Trump’s deal to create 50,000 jobs in America looks a lot different on Day Two,” by Ana Swanson: “When [Trump] announced Tuesday that Japanese corporate giant SoftBank had agreed to invest $50 billion in the U.S. and create 50,000 new jobs, he presented it as a triumph for American workers. But economists and analysts ... suggest it might be a bigger win for the Japanese telecom and Internet
conglomerate, SoftBank, and its billionaire founder, Masayoshi Son. Analysts said the Japanese company could be angling for lucrative benefits, including the regulatory approval to carry out one of the largest telecom mergers in recent history, between Sprint, which SoftBank owns, and rival carrier T-Mobile. It could also be cultivating a friendly environment for further technology investments Son is seeking to make in the United States. Shares of SoftBank Group rose 6.2 percent on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Wednesday to close at their highest level in more than a year. [And] shares of Sprint Corp. rose nearly 9 percent ...‘I think Son must have thought how to use Trump and this opportunity’ for his business, said analyst Mana Nakazora." -- “CEOs turn to a top Wall Street banker, JP Morgan’s Jamie Dimon, to lead outreach to Trump administration,” by Jim Tankersley: “Jamie Dimon, the chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase and one of the most influential links between Washington and Wall Street, will become chairman next year of the Business Roundtable, one of the most powerful lobbying organizations in the country. Dimon is a self-described Democrat and a member of [Trump’s] economic advisory team. He appears likely to push the group to embrace the opportunities of the shifting political landscape, including possible cooperation with Trump ... on lowering corporate taxes and rolling back environmental, financial and other regulations issued by the Obama administration. He also appears set to push the business community, and Trump, to work together on issues meant to help working-class Americans, such as investing in job-training programs. Dimon’s champions inside the Roundtable say he is also likely to steer the group to confront Trump on several issues, most notably trade and immigration, where his campaign promises have broken with long-standing goals of the business lobby.’’ Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin checks on renovations of the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. She botched her job interview with Trump because she was not prepared and didn’t know much about policy specifics. (Steve Sisney/The Oklahoman via AP) THE APPRENTICE, POTUS EDITION: -- “The interviews amount to a ‘little bit of a testing,’ ... with Mr. Trump trying to gauge how people react under pressure and whether they think quickly and show confidence,” Peter Nicholas, Michael C. Bender and Carol E. Lee write in the Wall Street Journal. “A case in point: The continuing quest to hire big names to run the sprawling Interior and Energy departments. Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin was considered a top choice to head the Interior Department until she sat across from Mr. Trump inside Trump Tower last month. Pressed on details of selling off public lands, she struggled to offer the specific answers Mr. Trump wanted. ... She is still in contention, but after she left Mr. Trump asked his team whether he should expand the search. Illustrating the difference a successful interview makes, Mr. Trump came away impressed after a session in New York last month with ... Rick Perry, who is now considered the leading candidate to head the Energy Department.” -- “What It’s Like to Apply for a Job in Trump’s White House,” by New York Times’ Julie Hirshfeld Davis: “Mr. Trump’s interview style in the real world is direct but conversational, according to people who have sat opposite him. He did not take notes or appear to refer to a set list of questions, but he did have dossiers on his visitors and often displayed intricate knowledge of their backgrounds and experience. In New York, he liked to show off the sweeping views of Central Park visible over his shoulder. Job seekers must parade before the news media in the marble and bronze lobby of Trump Tower. ‘It was almost like walking the red carpet in Hollywood,’ said Representative Lou Barletta ... He said that the president-elect often asked open-ended questions and had little patience for meandering answers." Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner, along with Tiffany Trump, on election night. (Mark Wilson/Getty Images) -- Tiffany Trump toured Harvard Law School this week. The 23-year-old U Penn grad, who was praised by her father in a 2014 interview for getting straight A’s at the university, was seen walking though campus with Secret Service agents on Tuesday. (Politico) Joe Biden presides over the Senate one last time. CONGRESS
WRAPS UP THE SESSION: -- “Joe Biden, on valedictory tour, mixes emotional farewell with lingering ambition,” by Paul Kane: “The vice president tribute tour reached a crescendo Wednesday in the rarest possible fashion: He barely said a word on the Senate floor. Biden, who for 36 years filled the chamber with voluble oratory, sat in the presiding officer’s chair ... as a bipartisan collection of colleagues poured out tributes for the outgoing vice president. The senators mixed personal and professional stories, highlighting how often Biden overcame family tragedy and kept on serving, first in the Senate and then the nation as vice president.” Harry Reid wiped tears from his eyes as Mitch McConnell quoted a favorite Biden line regularly attributed to his father: "Champ, the measure of a man is not how often he is knocked down, but how quickly he gets up." John McCain ... told the story of being a Navy officer helping lead a congressional delegation overseas that included a night in which McCain drank too much and ended up dancing on a table — with Jill Biden. "We’ve both been privileged to know members of this body who were legends in their own time, and are remembered as important historical figures. But I haven’t known one who was a better man than you," the Arizona senator said. -- Congress passed sweeping legislation that boosts funding for medical research, eases the development and approval of experimental treatments and reforms federal policy on mental health care. From Mike DeBonis: "The 94 to 5 Senate vote Wednesday followed a 392 to 26 House vote last week. The bill, known as the 21st Century Cures Act, now heads to the desk of President Obama, who praised the bill Wednesday and said he would sign it. It provides for $4.8 billion in new funding for the National Institutes of Health; of that, $1.8 billion is reserved for the “cancer moonshot” launched by Biden to accelerate research in that field. Another $1.6 billion is earmarked for brain diseases including Alzheimer’s. Also included are $500 million in new funding for the Food and Drug Administration and $1 billion in grants to help states deal with opioid abuse." -- Chuck Schumer drew a red line, promising lockstep Democratic opposition to any GOP replacement plan if Obamacare is repealed: "We’re not going to do a replacement," Schumer said of the Senate Democratic caucus in an interview with Greg Sargent. “If they repeal without a replacement, they will own it. Democrats will not then step up to the plate and come up with a half-baked solution that we will partially own. It’s all theirs.” Asked directly if Democrats would refuse to support anything that falls significantly short of the ACA in terms of expanding social welfare, Schumer said: “The odds, after they repeal without any replacement, of us sitting at the table to do something that will chop one arm off instead of two is very small.” -- “House spending bill would limit visas for workers at places like Trump’s golf courses,” by Kelsey Snell and Karoun Demirjian: “House Republicans are set to approve a must-pass spending bill Thursday that would dramatically reduce the number of visas available next year for seasonal workers like the ones who have been hired at [Trump’s] golf courses in Florida. The measure does not renew a one-year, one-time expansion of the H2B seasonal worker visa program that effectively increased the number of visas available in 2016. It was championed by lawmakers who represent cyclical tourist hubs in places such as the Colorado mountains, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and at Trump’s golf courses at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., and in Jupiter, Fla. ‘I’ve hired in Florida during the prime season — you could not get help,’ Trump said at a 2015 primary debate ... ‘Everybody agrees with me on that.’ But the program drew the ire of labor leaders, who excoriated Congress for expanding a program they believe exploits foreign workers, and conservatives who favor keeping the number of available visas in check, which is in line with Trump’s hard-line immigration stance.” Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) speaks during a rally yesterday at Freedom Plaza in Washington. (Alex Wong/Getty Images) -- Keith Ellison relented and announced that he’ll resign from Congress if he is elected as DNC chair: “Whoever wins the DNC chair race faces a lot of work, travel, planning and resource raising,” the Minnesota Democrat said in a statement. “I will be ‘all-in’ to meet the challenge.” His refusal to do so
has complicated his bid for chair. (CNN) -- Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel (R) jumped into the 2018 Senate race, seeking once again to unseat incumbent Sherrod Brown (D). (Cleveland Plain Dealer) Paul Ryan waits for his turn to speak during the tree lighting ceremony at the Capitol. (Alex Wong/Getty) -- Paul Ryan continued to dodge questions about Trump’s conflict of interest problem in a CNBC interview, telling the host that Trump should handle the issue “however he wants to.” “You know, this is not what I’m concerned about in Congress,” Ryan said, When pressed, he continued: “I have every bit of confidence he’s going to get himself right with moving from being the business guy that he is to the president he’s going to become. I’m focused on getting this agenda passed so that we can turn around and tackle this country’s big problems before they tackle us. That is what I’m focused on. And not the legal details of how he divorces himself from his business, which I know he will.” Right off Grace Church Road sits Locke Fire Department, where Edgar Welch worked for a time. (Logan R. Cyrus for The Post) PIZZAGATE FOLLOW-UPS, DAY 4: -- “In home town of alleged Pizzagate gunman, shock and disappointment,” by Rachel Weiner in Salisbury, N.C.: “When a man from this small city was arrested [on Sunday] ... the incident quickly became national news. But most people here were focused on crimes closer to home. Hours earlier in Salisbury, a city of about 34,000, three people were killed. One longtime local reporter called it ‘Hell night,’ the worst he had seen in 25 years. ... For locals, the news is especially painful because they believe Salisbury, about 50 miles north of Charlotte, should stand out not for violence, but for tolerance and creativity. The small and vibrant downtown boasts theaters, independent bookstores and a string of artist studios set up in an old railroad depot. When the Ku Klux Klan announced plans to hold a victory rally in North Carolina last weekend, city residents responded with a ‘March for Love.’ ‘You never hear Salisbury,’ said Don Vick, who owns a candy store downtown. ‘And then all of a sudden — ba-boom, ba-boom, ba-boom.’” -- Edgar Welch spoke to the New York Times’ Adam Goldman in his first interview since opening fire at a D.C. pizzeria last weekend. “I just wanted to do some good and went about it the wrong way,” he said. Some highlights from their exchange: What was his original plan: “Mr. Welch, the father of two daughters, said he woke up Sunday morning and told his family he had some things to do. He left ‘Smallsbury,’ a nickname for his hometown, for the 350-mile drive to Washington with the intention of giving the restaurant a ‘closer look’ and then returning home. Once he got to the pizzeria, there was an abrupt change of plans.” What was he like?: “Mr. Welch was soft-spoken and polite, and said he liked the outdoors. He said he did not believe in conspiracy theories, but then added that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks needed to be re-examined. ... He said he did not like the term fake news, believing it was meant to diminish stories outside the mainstream media, which he does not completely trust. He also said he was not political.” What did he think when he discovered there were no children at the pizzeria?: “The intel on this wasn’t 100 percent,” he said. However, he refused to dismiss outright the claims in the online articles, conceding only that there were no children ‘inside that dwelling.’” Students from numerous high schools in Los Angeles walked out of class to protest near City Hall on Nov. 14. (David McNew/Getty Images) AMERICA, DIVIDED: -- The Los Angeles School District started a hotline and opened several extended support sites to counsel its majority-Latino students who are worried about the future under Trump. Shortly after the election, the city’s board of education also approved a resolution upholding its policy that federal immigration agents cannot enter a school campus without permission. (Valerie Strauss) -- Chicago tore down its Trump street signs this week because local leaders are angry about the “caricature” of their city that Trump presented throughout the campaign. It’s unclear what city officials plan to do with the placards, though some have suggested possibly melting them down and refashioning them into signs “for somebody who deserves an honor.” (Chicago Tribune) -- Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri follows up
on last week’s Harvard shouting match in a Post op-ed, explaining that Trump’s team must “own up to how he won”: “A good bit of the post-election analysis has centered on what our campaign should have done differently. That’s appropriate. We should think long and hard about why we lost. Trust me, we have. But it’s also important for the winners of this campaign to think long and hard about the voters who rejected them. I haven’t seen much evidence of such introspection from the Trump side. That’s concerning. The Trump team likes to tell Clinton supporters ‘hashtag he’s your president.’<U+2009>” But this isn’t a one-way street. If Trump expects the Americans who did not vote for him to accept him as president, he needs to show that he accepts all of them as Americans. He needs to show that he understands their concerns and hears their fears. ... We all have a role to play here. But it’s the winner who carries the burden of taking the lead in uniting the country.”

Hillary Clinton confers with her communications director Jennifer Palmieri aboard the campaign plane on Nov. 6. (Melina Mara/The Washington Post) -- Hillary is hosting her first political event since last month’s election to thank campaign megadonors – but the exclusive gathering has left some grumbling that they didn’t make the cut. From Anne Gearan: “The Dec. 15 evening gala at the Plaza Hotel will be held in the iconic ‘grand ballroom,’ one of New York’s most opulent spaces. It is also small by mega-party standards, holding a few hundred people. The columned 4,800-square-foot ballroom built in 1907 is apparently too small to accommodate the entire group of Clinton campaign ‘bundlers,’ or people who solicit and collect donations from others in keeping with federal limits on individual donations. Invitations to the party went out last week, and the remaining staff of the Clinton campaign has been fielding complaints ever since from donors who were not included ... The Plaza's storied history includes a period of ownership by Trump, who had coveted the five-star historic property for years before buying it for more than $400 million in 1988. The businessman lost the hotel in bankruptcy several years later.”

PUNDITS WEIGH IN: -- New York Times columnist Frank Bruni rips Ryan for his “dangerous silence” on the president-elect: “On the subject of Trump, Ryan has spoken out of so many sides of his mouth that it’s less an oval than an octagon at this point. Last spring he even affirmed his endorsement of Trump while calling him out for racism. ... Behold leadership at its most gelatinous. Discussing Trump on ‘60 Minutes,’ he had a manner that was borderline coquettish. He said that Trump, with his tweets, was ‘basically giving voice to a lot of people who have felt that they were voiceless.’ Sometimes, yes. But many times, Trump is giving a green light to kooks and the finger to the dignity that Americans rightly expect of a president and that Ryan should demand of him. Ryan is sacrificing too much for too little, and it’s time he rummaged through his wobbly endoskeleton and made fresh acquaintance with his spine. Until that happens, this sadly groveling Boy Scout will be lost in the woods.” -- George F. Will says Trump’s Carrier deal is the opposite of conservatism: “So, this is the new conservatism’s recipe for restored greatness: Political coercion shall supplant economic calculation in shaping decisions by companies in what is called, with diminishing accuracy, the private sector. This will be done partly as conservatism’s challenge to liberalism’s supremacy in the victimhood sweepstakes, telling aggrieved groups that they are helpless victims of vast, impersonal forces, against which they can be protected only by government interventions. Although the president-elect has yet to dip a toe into the swamp, he practices the calculus by which Washington reasons, the political asymmetry between dispersed costs and concentrated benefits. ... What formerly was called conservatism resisted the permeation of society by politics, and particularly by the sort of unconstrained executive power that has been wielded by the 44th president. The man who will be the 45th forthrightly and comprehensively repudiates the traditional conservative agenda and, in reversing it, embraces his predecessor’s executive swagger.” -- New York Magazine’s Jonathan Chait says Trump has proven liberals right about the Tea Party movement: "When the tea party appeared on the
scene in 2009, an intense partisan dispute broke out as to just what this movement represented. Conservatives insisted that what spurred protesters into streets and town halls were the timeless principles of conservative movement thought: advocacy of balanced budgets, adherence to a strict constructionist version of the Constitution, opposition to ‘crony capitalism,’ and skepticism of Keynesian economics. Liberals suggested a different explanation. The tea party was an expression of ethno-nationalist rage centered around a black president and the belief that his coalition stood for redistribution from older, white America ... One could not have devised a sequence of events more perfectly designed to prove the liberal theory of the case than the election of Trump. It’s one thing to suspect tea-party rhetoric was phony, quite another to believe the entire GOP could disregard every single putative principle of the movement even before it had its hands on power. Why is anybody pretending

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms within the database is “cindnormstob1”.

Tobacco (no ecig) texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tindnorm”.

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.88

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 3734

Article Title: California security guard killed chasing cigar thieves"

Date: 2/16/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: SAN JOSE, Calif. SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) - Authorities say a security guard was shot and killed trying to stop a pair of men stealing cigars from a Northern California liquor store. KCBS-Radio reported on Monday (http://cbsloc.al/1AexgoT ) that police are reviewing surveillance video from the Saturday night shooting but have made no arrests. Police identified the victim as 34-year-old Manuel Alvarez Zuniga. Liquor store owner Sonny Gia says two men tried to steal Swisher Sweets cigars, and they ran to a nearby car. He says Zuniga chased after the men, and one of them opened fire, killing Zuniga. Gia says Zuniga worked as a security guard for the Bboss Nightclub next door, but he also kept an eye on the liquor store. Police say they continue to investigate but have not released a description of the suspects. ___ Information from: KCBS-AM."

Source Title: AP
Article Title: Fire started by careless smoking damages Portland house"
Date: 11/11/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: PORTLAND, Ore. PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Fire damaged a southeast Portland home early Wednesday, but functioning smoke alarms allowed everyone to escape. Portland Fire & Rescue says crews arrived at 2 a.m. to find flames shooting from several windows, and the windy weather forced firefighters to initially attack from outside the house. They eventually got inside, fully extinguishing the blaze. Smoke alarms alerted four people to get out, and two dogs also escaped without injury. Investigators say the fire was caused by improperly discarded smoking materials. Damage is estimated at $100,000."

Source Title: AP

Article Title: SHOW: Ask Me Another Games Fictional People Play ANCHORS: Art Chung"
Date: 1/7/2016

Article Content: JONATHAN COULTON: Our next game is called Games Fictional People Play, and here to play it are Kristy Svec and Jordan Beltz. (APPLAUSE) JONATHAN COULTON: Kristy, I have been given to understand that you once won an all-expenses-paid trip to Montana courtesy of the Philip Morris Corporation. (LAUGHTER) KRISTY SVEC: That is true, yes. JONATHAN COULTON: What a wonderful fairy tale of a story. Did you... (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: Did you find a golden cigarette in a box? (LAUGHTER) KRISTY SVEC: No. It was a random drawing, and my sister and I ended up going there for four days. JONATHAN COULTON: Montana - is that Marlboro country, by any chance? KRISTY SVEC: Apparently it is now. I mean, smoking aside, it was really, really fun. FAITH SALIE: So when all the expenses were paid, were you also given tons of cigarettes? KRISTY SVEC: I think we got five packs when we got there for four days. JONATHAN COULTON: That seems like a lot of packs. KRISTY SVEC: Luggage, all the outdoor clothing we needed, boots, cowboy hats. FAITH SALIE: How 'bout dry-cleaning bills? Were they paid for? KRISTY SVEC: No, not that, no. JONATHAN COULTON: The wonderful, generous people of Philip Morris Corporation. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: Jordan, I have been told that you hate being wrong and you are known for never losing an argument even when you are actually wrong. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: You sound like a delightful young man. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: And also tells me that you are an attorney, which surprises me. (LAUGHTER) JORDAN BELTZ: It all makes sense now, right? JONATHAN COULTON: It does. It all comes together. Why do you hate being wrong so much? JORDAN BELTZ: Well, it's great in my professional
career. When I'm in court, you can just sort of beat your opponent into submission with facts or made-up facts. But... JONATHAN COULTON: You're also at a quiz show right now. You - it's entirely possible you're going to get something wrong, Jordan. JORDAN BELTZ: I will convince you that I am not incorrect and I... JONATHAN COULTON: Well, we'll see about that. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: This game is about - well, it's a game about games. The twist is that the games we're talking about are from works of fiction. So think Quidditch from "Harry Potter." And, of course, although Quidditch was created by J.K. Rowling, thanks to the nerds it is now a real sport where you can run around down a field with a broomstick between your legs - finally. (LAUGHTER) FAITH SALIE: People really do that? JONATHAN COULTON: Yes, they do. It's called Quidditch. FAITH SALIE: Ring in when you know the answer, and the winner will move on to the final round at the end of the show. Here we go. These grisly, young adult-oriented dystopian games feature Jennifer Lawrence fighting other teenage tributes to the death. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) FAITH SALIE: Kristy. KRISTY SVEC: “The Hunger Games?” FAITH SALIE: That is right, that is right. (APPLAUSE) FAITH SALIE: Are you a fan? KRISTY SVEC: Love it. FAITH SALIE: Love it? Really. KRISTY SVEC: Yeah. FAITH SALIE: I mean, is this a dumb question? Who's your favorite? Does everybody root for Katniss? KRISTY SVEC: Katniss, I guess? She's the one that survives so I mean... FAITH SALIE: I guess... (LAUGHTER) FAITH SALIE: I guess there's that. JONATHAN COULTON: You'd be a fool to root for anybody else. Trey Parker and Matt Stone starred in 1998 movie about this made up pro sport combining hoops with America's pastime and a lot of trash talk. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) JONATHAN COULTON: Jordan. Now it's your big chance to be wrong. (LAUGHTER) JORDAN BELTZ: (Laughter). “BASEketball.” JONATHAN COULTON: “BASEketball.” That's right. (APPLAUSE) FAITH SALIE: Did not even have to convince us. JONATHAN COULTON: Yeah, didn't have to convince us. Still not wrong, Jordan. In that way, you're doing great. JORDAN BELTZ: There's still time. (LAUGHTER) FAITH SALIE: This is board game is awful. It makes vines grow all over your house and wild animals appear from nowhere. Players get sucked into the game board for 26 years, and the game play is just boring dice rolling. Pass. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) KRISTY SVEC: “Jumanji.” FAITH SALIE: Kristy. Yes. KRISTY SVEC: Sorry. (LAUGHTER) KRISTY SVEC: I'm so sorry. (APPLAUSE) JONATHAN COULTON: All right. We'll give you the game, you tell us what TV show it's from. True American is 50 percent drinking game, 50 percent life-sized Candyland. If you are roommates with Zooey Deschanel, it's the perfect way to drink yourself through tricky relationship issues. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) JONATHAN COULTON: Kristy. KRISTY SVEC: “The New Girl.” JONATHAN COULTON: You got it. (APPLAUSE) FAITH SALIE: If you swing by 10 Forward, you might find Counselor Troi and Commander Data playing this game involving bishops, rooks and a three-tiered game board. Thumbs are so poised. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) FAITH SALIE: Kristy. KRISTY SVEC: “Star Trek” chess. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: That's a fantastic guess. (LAUGHTER) FAITH SALIE: Puzzle guru, will we accept that answer? ART CHUNG: No. FAITH SALIE: OK, OK. All right. (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) FAITH SALIE: Jordan? JORDAN BELTZ: “WarGames?” FAITH SALIE: We're not going to accept that either, are we? You can convince the court here. (LAUGHTER) JORDAN BELTZ: I have nothing. FAITH SALIE: Please argue your case, sir. JORDAN BELTZ: I think “WarGames” involved chess. FAITH SALIE: Kristy, you were so close. Tri-dimensional chess from “Star Trek” and “Star Trek: The Next Generation.” All right? JONATHAN COULTON: This is your last clue. Matthew Broderick plays a young hacker who unlocks a set of computer games including chess and tic-tac-toe. (LAUGHTER) JONATHAN COULTON: Jordan's got his thumb ready. (LAUGHTER) KRISTY SVEC: It's all you. JONATHAN COULTON: He settles on global thermonuclear war, a strange game in which the only winning move is not to play. What movie is this game from? (SOUNDBITE OF BELL) JORDAN BELTZ: “WarGames.” JONATHAN COULTON: Yes. (APPLAUSE) JONATHAN COULTON: You are correct. (APPLAUSE) JONATHAN COULTON: Art Chung, how did our
contestants do? ART CHUNG: Well, Kristy, you're moving on to the final round at the end of the show. (APPLAUSE) FAITH SALIE: Coming up, we'll find out what poor decisions keep comedian David Cross up at night. So stick around. I'm Faith Salie, and this is ASK ME ANOTHER from NPR. (APPLAUSE)"

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 32375

Article Title: SHOW: NIGHTLINE 12:37 AM EST CAUGHT ON CAMERA; AARON HERNANDEZ MURDER CASE

Date: 2/26/2015

Article Content: CONTENT: LLOYD, HERNANDEZ, PATRIOTS, MURDER JUJU CHANG (ABC NEWS) (Off-camera) Good evening. Thanks for joining us. Tonight, intriguing new evidence in the murder trial of former New England Patriot Aaron Hernandez. How do shell casings and bubble gum allegedly link the former NFL star to the execution-style killing of his friend? Here's ABC's Ron Claiborne. GRAPHICS: CAUGHT ON CAMERA RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Key new evidence from prosecutors in the Aaron Hernandez trial. Blurry surveillance footage at a gas station outside of Boston taken just 90 minutes before prosecutors say he committed murder. The video, which shows Hernandez acting erratically, even seeming to dance at the gas station, where he buys blue bubble gum, which investigators say could link him to the crime. It's just the latest in a mounting series of caught on camera moments the prosecution has shown jurors to build a timeline in their murder case against the former NFL star Aaron Hernandez. PATRICK BOMBERG (ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF BRISTOL COUNTY) Orchestrated or participated in the killing, covered up the killing... RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Earlier this month, Hernandez's former teammates celebrating football's greatest victory, the New England Patriots Super Bowl win. SPORTSCASTER (MALE) The New England Patriots are the NFL champions. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Meanwhile, a stone-faced 25-year-old Hernandez was entering the first month of his murder trial. Memories of his $40 million NFL contract gone. The former tight end who pleaded not guilty was 23 at the time of the murder, a rising star in the football world. SPORTSCASTER (MALE) Second and a deuce... RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Scoring a touchdown in Super Bowl XLVI. SPORTSCASTER (MALE) Touchdown Hernandez. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Prosecutors say it all unraveled in June 2013 when police say Hernandez and two others picked up a friend, 27-year-old Odin Lloyd, a journeyman semi-pro football player, and murdered him. The night began in Providence, Rhode Island, where Hernandez and a group of friends ran up a $243 bar tab at the South Street Cafe. The bar manager testifying in court today she saw Hernandez smoking marijuana. KELLY ROE BELANGER (FORMER BAR MANAGER OF SOUTH STREET CAFE) Mr. Hernandez and the other gentlemen were smoking on the corner of the street. ATTORNEY (MALE) Okay. When you say they were smoking, what were they smoking? KELLY ROE BELANGER (FORMER BAR MANAGER OF SOUTH STREET CAFE) I believe marijuana, 'cause that's where the smell was coming from. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) He paid the tab and left without incident. Authorities say he stopped for gas shortly after 2:00 in the morning with a man resembling his co-defendant Carlos Ortiz.
and could be seen raising his arms and seeming to dance as he walks toward the store. Inside, he buys cigars and blue Bubblicious bubble gum, the same type of gum authorities later found attached to a .45-caliber shell casing. NANCY GRACE (HOST OF HLN'S “NANCY GRACE”) Here's what's important about that. Remember, he bought blue Bubblicious gum. There is a wad of blue Bubblicious gum stuck on a .45-caliber shell casing. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Outside, the man resembling Ortiz appears to be wearing a white towel around his neck. Authorities say a white towel was also discovered at the murder scene. After this, prosecutors say Hernandez and two accomplices drove to pick up Odin Lloyd, then drove him to an industrial park where they shot him to death. When prosecutors showed jurors pictures of the victim's body, found just half a mile from Hernandez's home, the dead man's mother rushed from the courtroom in tears. Police have never found the murder weapon or the white clothes Hernandez was wearing that night. NANCY GRACE (HOST OF HLN'S “NANCY GRACE”) Well, one thing I know is missing, that's Hernandez's clothing. Is that in the black bag? There's a lot of the speculation that the murder weapon may have been in the black bag. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) That black bag also captured on surveillance video at Hernandez's home. His fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins, two days after the murder, seen carrying a heavy-looking black trash bag from their shared home. NANCY GRACE (HOST OF HLN'S “NANCY GRACE”) Why is she taking trash bags of potential evidence out of the home? RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) For Hernandez, it's been a steep fall from athletic stardom and riches. CHRISTINE BRENNAN (“USA TODAY”) You're thinking, he's headed for Pro Bowls and more Super Bowls. And instead, of course, now we look and see, you know, he could be very easily headed for a life in jail. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Aaron Hernandez grew up in a rough Connecticut neighborhood and lost his father at a young age. MIKE REISS (ESPN NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS REPORTER) And that was very, very tough for him at the age that it happened. And had a little bit of a tough upbringing, both because of that and even before that. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) But Hernandez found refuge in his great talent. MIKE REISS (ESPN NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS REPORTER) Football was something that he really loved. I think it gave him a little bit of a reprieve from maybe some of the other everyday challenges of life, when he was around football he could forget. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Even in high school, his talent obvious. He started getting calls from colleges, eventually recruited by the University of Florida. A bright future was his for the taking, if he could keep on the straight and narrow. But before he even played a game at Florida, he nearly lost it all. JOSH LUCHS (FORMER SPORTS AGENT) There are reports that Aaron Hernandez had an altercation at a bar called The Swamp. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) A police report from that 2007 incident surfaced recently. Hernandez had gotten into a fight with a bar manager over two drinks that Hernandez maintained he had not ordered. And guess who tried to come to his aid? According to the police report, squeaky clean college teammate Tim Tebow offering to pay for the drinks. Instead, according to authorities, Hernandez punched the manager so hard his eardrum burst. JOSH LUCHS (FORMER SPORTS AGENT) He could've been kicked off the team and he wasn't. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Hernandez was never charged in that alleged assault and his career quickly took off. By the time he reached the NFL, even he insisted he had grown up. AARON HERNANDEZ (FORMER NEW ENGLAND PATRIOT) You get changed by the Patriot way. Now that I'm a Patriot, I have to start living like one and making the right decisions for them. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) But only three years into his run with the New England patriots, one tragic night changed everything. CHRISTINE BRENNAN (“USA TODAY”) It's just a stunning fall from grace, all self-induced. But one of those stories that for every one of those rags to riches kind of stories, a kid makes good, this is the opposite. This is the complete opposite. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Now, as prosecutors
pile up evidence, his fate remains uncertain. NANCY GRACE (HOST OF HLN’S “NANCY GRACE”) Many people have asked me, do I think the state's got a lock on the case? Believe it or not, no, I don't. I believe that there is a mountain of evidence showing that Hernandez murdered Lloyd. Here's the problem. He's a sports superstar. Do I have to say OJ Simpson? There's never a lock on any case, ever. RON CLAIBORNE (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) For “Nightline,” I'm Ron Claiborne in New York. JUJU CHANG (ABC NEWS) (Off-camera) So after seeing that video, what would you be thinking about Aaron Hernandez if you were on the jury? Head to our Facebook page and join the debate. JUJU CHANG (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) Up next for us, think you could be America's next top model? GRAPHICS: INSTA-N TLY FAMOUS JUJU CHANG (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) How Instagram helped a regular guy go from construction to high fashion. GRAPHICS: HOW TO GET AWAY WITH... JUJU CHANG (ABC NEWS) (Voiceover) And later on “Nightline,” we're with the cast of “How To Get Away With Murder,” still reeling from those season finale shockers. COMMERCIAL BREAK
easy to continue the habit. Over the next 10 years, I became dependent on cigarettes. At the age of 28, I smoked my last cigarette. Today, millions of Americans across the nation will celebrate the Great American Smokeout. I'll celebrate by offering these tips. Although I went “cold turkey,” there are other options. Like getting help from the New York Smokers' Quitline at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Take it one day at a time. It took a year for me to feel normal again, but it will happen. I fought every day to get to the next. You may have friends who don’t want you to succeed. The man I dated at my quit time was a smoker and would light up in front of me. He did not want me to quit because he couldn’t. That made me even more determined. Don’t let the dreaded weight gain stop you. When I started gaining, I started walking, especially after dinner when I craved a cigarette. Finally, get support. I got my biggest boost when my 10-year-old niece called to tell me how proud she was of me for quitting. That's when I realized that when it comes to smoking, quitters always win. Kathleen Clark Tonawanda Clinton was an inspiration to many who ran for office Hillary Clinton may have lost in the Electoral College, but she won something far bigger than that. She has started a wave of enlightenment for women, immigrants and minorities, who know now that they can change the rules if they work hard. Tammy Duckworth, a veteran who lost both her legs in the Iraq War, was elected a senator from Illinois. Ilhan Omar, a Muslim immigrant and mother of three from Minnesota, is the first Somali-American to be elected to the State Legislature. Kamala Harris of California is the first black politician to represent her state in the Senate and only the second black woman ever elected to the chamber. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada became the first Latina ever elected to the Senate. Pramila Jayapal of Washington, also an immigrant, became the first Indian-American woman elected to Congress. Now the GOP is ready to repeal every advancement made by Democrats over the years. Republicans, as a party and as individuals, will face the consequences of their actions. More voters favored Clinton and they will replace Republicans in Congress in the next elections. And despite what the media would have us believe, millions of people trusted, respected and truly liked Clinton. She's not gone, and she'll never be forgotten. The Hillary Movement has just begun. Janice Misuraca Lake View Another stunning upset in year of the supermoon In reference to the article regarding the supermoon last being so bright back in 1948, I'd like to offer this bit of trivia. I was 8 years old at that time, and I recall that the November election was an exciting one. Republican Thomas Dewey was predicted to win. In fact, a newspaper had anticipated this with the headline, “Dewey Wins!” Well, like this year's surprising election upset, Democrat Harry Truman won. The next day, there were pictures of Truman holding up that “Dewey Wins!” newspaper with a big smile on his face. It's amazing how history repeats itself with a little twist and turn. Maybe that's when our moon got its own smile. Delphine Levesque Lockport Viva Vivaldi concerts are a gift to community I attended the Viva Vivaldi concert on Sunday at the beautiful Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation. The church was full. The concert was wonderful. Most of the musicians play with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. The $12 admission was a bargain. Marylouise Nanna, who plays violin with the BPO, has for 38 years led the Ars Nova Musicians, conducting four concerts every year at Buffalo's unique churches. The fact that the Italian composer, Antonio Vivaldi, was a priest, makes the venues appropriate. The Buffalo Suzuki Strings, 14 local teenagers in red shirts, taught by Mary Cay Neal, joined the Ars Nova for a spectacular finale. Nanna is a great musician, a great woman and a great Buffalonian in organizing these special concerts for the enjoyment of thousands over the years. Her conducting is passionate and full of love for music and humanity. The last concert will be at 6:30 p.m. Sunday in First Presbyterian Church on Symphony Circle. What a gift Nanna and Neal give to our city! Donald Blank Buffalo"
An advertising campaign will begin soon to let Marlboro Lights smokers who bought the cigarettes in Arkansas during a nearly 39-year period know they can apply to join a 12-year-old lawsuit that accuses the manufacturer of deliberately exaggerating the safety of the brand. The suit has the potential to create Arkansas’ largest-ever plaintiffs pool, with possibly more than a million litigants who bought either Marlboro Lights, now known as Marlboro Gold, or Marlboro Ultra Lights, now Marlboro Silver, between November 1971 and June 2010. Plaintiffs attorney Marcus Bozeman with the Thrash Law Firm said the ads should begin “within a couple of months.” The lawyers say that tobacco company Philip Morris, now the tobacco division of Virginia-based Altria Group Inc., violated the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, deliberately misleading consumers by marketing the cigarettes as “safer, healthier and less addictive than regular cigarettes” when they were not, a fact that Philip Morris knew was not true. In reality, the lawyers say, Marlboro Lights, which featured added nicotine to boost users' addiction, were more cancer-causing and more dangerous than their traditional counterparts. Company attorneys dispute claims of deliberate deception and wrongdoing, arguing that light cigarettes did what they were advertised to do - deliver less tar and nicotine - if they were smoked correctly. The filters of light cigarettes were specially ventilated to reduce tar and nicotine, but smokers could get more by inhaling deeper or more often, company attorneys said. Smokers who used the cigarettes as they were designed got the promised benefit of reduced tar and nicotine, they said. Pulaski County Circuit Judge Tim Fox has scheduled a six-week trial to begin in August 2016 and has approved the plaintiffs' plan to notify possible plaintiffs - everyone who bought a pack of the cigarettes in Arkansas during the time period of 38 years, seven months and 22 days. The time frame stretches from Nov. 1, 1971, the day the Lights brand was first sold, through June 22, 2010, the day a federal law went into effect barring advertising from describing cigarettes as light or mild. With trial a little more than a year away, Bozeman said, the lawyers believe the advertising campaign will be able to reach most of the available potential plaintiffs in time for trial through Internet, TV, newspaper, magazine and radio ads nationwide, but primarily in Arkansas. “Given that this case has been pending since 2003, we’re very comfortable that that's enough time,” he said. The lawyers have consulted a nationally known firm that specializes in class-action notices to come up with the advertising plan. A news release about the effort will be issued to 9,900 media outlets across the country, and an ad will run in one national edition of People magazine. The ads will be designed to notify potential plaintiffs in neutral language about the case and how they can either join the litigation or decline to participate. The ads will include the basic nature of the allegations, the deadlines for applying and the procedures for opting out, according to court documents. The campaign also calls for an informational website to be established that will disseminate information about the lawsuit, with access to court documents and a tollfree phone number. The judge granted the lawsuit class-action status in October 2013, which led to an appeal to the Arkansas Supreme Court by the cigarette-maker. The status issue was resolved in February when the high court rejected the company's arguments and upheld the class-action certification. In the event of a successful jury verdict,
the monetary award would go into a special fund, and Lights customers would have to submit a sworn statement to be reimbursed from it. The lawsuit, part of a national trend of suing the cigarette-maker over its Lights advertising, was filed in 2003 but has been delayed while jurisdiction questions raised by the tobacco company have been settled, including the four years it took for the question to be resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court returned the lawsuit to the state court in 2007, but the proceedings were delayed another year after the company unsuccessfully sought to have the case transferred to federal court under a different law. According to the suit, the two plaintiffs, Wayne Miner of Franklin County and James Easley of Miller County, smoked about two packs of Lights a day until learning about the health allegations in early 2000. This article was published 05/24/2015

Source Title: News

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 1

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 410579

Article Title: Tobacco factory goes up in smoke as discarded cigarette causes fire - Mirror Online

Date: 4/1/2015

Article Content: VIEW GALLERY One of Britain’s oldest former tobacco factories has been destroyed by fire - caused from a discarded cigarette. The fire broke out on Monday on the site of the former Player’s factory in Nottingham which has been converted into student flats. Dozens of residents and university students were evacuated and re-homed for the night as more than 60 firefighters tackled the blaze. Fire investigators believe the blaze, which engulfed the building, may have been started from a cigarette. SWNS Firefighters tackle the flames at the former John Player’s building in Nottingham. One of Britain’s oldest former tobacco factories has been destroyed by fire caused from a discarded cigarette. High winds swept smoke into the city and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs reported a sharp rise in air pollution. Building manager Rebecca Snow, who was at the site when it caught fire, said there was speculation the blaze could have been started by a cigarette in one of the bedrooms. She said: “It’s just an assumption. I think there will be an investigation where we will find out what happened. “We could see a room number where it was coming from. “When I entered the corridor I could smell the smoke. I opened one of the doors and there was black and yellow smoke all over the room. “At that moment I called my supervisors and the fire service. I think everyone was here in about five minutes. “I was terrified - I had never seen anything like it before. Firefighters sealed the street off and we were waiting to see what was going on.” There were still nine fire engines at the scene battling to put out flames on the second and third floors. Firefighters tackle the flames at the former John Player’s building in Nottingham. One of Britain's oldest former tobacco factories has been destroyed by fire caused from a discarded cigarette. A spokeswoman for Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service said: “We are using three aerial platforms, three ground monitors, a high volume pump and cover jet. “We are currently in offensive mode.” Incident Commander David Stevenson added: “We suspect there is significant damage to the occupied part of the building. “We evacuated the terrace houses directly in front of the property and tenants. “We have structural engineers nearby - there’s always a risk when dealing with severe fire damage on the inside of the building of collapse.”
Article Title: Sofia Richie keeps it casual cool while puffing cigarette | Daily Mail Online

Date: 6/8/2017

Article Content: She's one of the most influential teens in fashion, boasting 2.5 million Instagram followers. But on Thursday, Sofia Richie stepped out displaying a smoking habit that parents of her millions of young fans won't their children to copy. The 18-year-old model and daughter of Lionel Richie wore a long pink checkered coat as she held a cigarette during a walk through New York City. Her blonde locks were styled in a short, wavy bob which she debuted earlier in the week and attributed to celebrity hairstylist Chase Kusero in a photo she posted on Instagram. Richie was covered up with a grey shirt and dark blue jeans, wearing a pair of studded grey heeled booties on her feet. After having breakfast with her friends in the city, the jet-setting star was off to another destination, posting a photo from an airplane on Instagram with the caption: 'Stay movin.' On Twitter, she added, 'Flying alone is so boring.' Sofia had been spending time in New York after a wild trip to France for the Cannes Film Festival where she was seen hanging out with Scott Disick. After rumors circulated that they hooked up during his wild vacation where he is believed to have bedded at least eight women, Richie took to Twitter to clear her name: 'Just so everyone can get their panties out of their butts scott and I are just homies. Relax.' She added: 'My dad tracks my phone once a day.' Awkwardly enough I get a notification every time. I think it's funny so I don't tell him I know.' The Eighties soft rock hitmaker - know for All Night Long and Endless Love - most likely is aware that she is aware as she posted the note for all to see. And if he's tracking her, he most likely read the note. In 2016, Sofia briefly dated Justin Bieber, which caused her to receive death threats by the crooner's obsessive fan base. He sent out a warning to fans 'I'm gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don't stop the hate this is getting out of hand, if you guys are really fans you wouldn't be so mean to people that I like.' His ex Selena Gomez reportedly weighed in, leaving a comment reading, 'If you can’t handle the hate then stop posting pictures of your girlfriend lol - it should be special between you two only.'

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 2

Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 794575

Article Title: Arsenal keeper Wojciech Szczesny slapped with £20,000 fine for SMOKING in showers - Mirror Online

Date: 1/5/2015

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 413365

Article Title: Arsenal keeper Wojciech Szczesny slapped with £20,000 fine for SMOKING in showers - Mirror Online"
Wojciech Szczesny has been fined £20,000 for smoking in the showers after a game. He was caught lighting up following Arsenal’s New Year’s Day defeat at Southampton – to the fury of boss Arsene Wenger, who was already raging over the keeper’s error-strewn horror show. Szczesny was dropped for the next game, the FA Cup tie with Hull, although Wenger was always intending to give David Ospina a run in the competition. But it remains to be seen whether Wenger will further punish Szczesny by dropping him from the team for Sunday’s clash with Stoke City. Action Images

Headache: Wenger’s men were soundly trounced at St Mary’s

Mirror Sport contacted Arsenal for comment on Monday but they failed to respond. Arsenal have denied other claims - aired by former midfielder John Jensen on Danish TV - that Szczesny has been punished after a dressing room row and won’t play for the club again. It was a miserable day for Szczesny as he made two mistakes which led to both Southampton’s goals. After the game, Wenger refused to discuss Szczesny’s performance. Wenger has been outspoken in the past after Jack Wilshere and former captain William Gallas were caught smoking while on nights out. They were both reminded of their responsibilities. But Szczesny smoking after a game was seen as a more serious offence. Left out - Arsenal 2-0 Hull City: VIEW GALLERY

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – MPM – Web 4

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 768805

Article Title: Tesco Extra offer cheeky alternative for giving up smoking | Daily Mail Online

Date: 3/3/2017

Article Content: Every little bit of hanky panky helps: Condoms stacked below 'smoking alternatives' sign in Tesco Extra sends Twitter into a frenzy Tesco Extra is Somerset offered condoms as part of their smoking alternatives section.Joel Belbin, 28, spotted the sign admitting he never considered it when he quitBy Rod Ardehali For Mailonline

Published: 15:06 EST, 3 March 2017 | Updated: 15:06 EST, 3 March 2017 Most people giving up cigarettes tends to opt for nicotine patches or gum. But one supermarket in Yeovil has suggested a risqué alternative to get rid of the bad habit.Tesco Extra in Somerset placed its condoms under the 'smoking alternatives' section.Joel Belbin, 28, spotted the sign which seems to encourage customers to swap one cigarettes for sex.Former jockey Joel uploaded the hilarious photo to social media, with the caption: 'Love a trip to Tesco #EveryLittleHelps.'He said: 'I was just going to buy some vitamins and just looked across and there was a smoking alternatives sign above some condoms.'If sex helps you stop smoking, I would have stopped a long time ago.'Joel gave up smoking after 14 years a few months ago but said he never tried condoms to help him quit.The photo of the sign in a Tesco in Yeovil, Somerset has sent become a Twitter hit. Share or comment on this article

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “tobnoecig_SOURCE_tindnorm” – “tobnoecigmpm_SOURCE_tindnorm”).
Topeka police seek man in child's hair being set on fire

DATELINE: TOPEKA, Kan. TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) - Topeka police are searching for a man suspected of lighting a 6-year-old girl's hair on fire while she was outside in her backyard. The child's uncle, George Hearne, tells WIBW-TV (http://bit.ly/1zFXALJ) that she suffered third-degree burns to her head and first- and second-degree burns to her hands in the Wednesday incident. Hearne says his niece and 5-year-old nephew were playing in the backyard when the boy rushed inside, saying his sister's head was on fire. The boy says a man came up to the fence and grabbed a cigarette out of his pocket, lighting it by his sister's hair. He says the man ran away after the girl's hair caught on fire. Hearne says Topeka officers found a lighter by the fence. An investigation is ongoing. Information from: WIBW-TV.

French ex-minister in court over tax fraud, money laundering

DATELINE: PARIS PARIS (AP) - Jerome Cahuzac was the face of France's fight against tax evaders - until he was forced to acknowledge that he himself was dodging taxes, hiding money in tax havens around the world. President Francois Hollande's onetime budget minister is now facing the prospect of prison as his trial - alongside that of his ex-wife and others with whom he had financial dealings - opened on Monday. The 63-year-old is accused of financing a lavish lifestyle by fraudulently concealing 687,000 euros ($765,000) of income from French tax authorities in 2009-2012 and laundering money in 2003-2013 through foreign bank accounts based in tax havens including Switzerland, Panama, the Seychelles and Singapore. Cahuzac, once considered a rising star in French politics, triggered the first political scandal under Hollande's administration. He faces up to seven years in prison and a 1 million-euro fine if he is convicted of tax fraud. The trial's opening day attracted demonstrators who arrived at the courthouse carrying nearly 200 chairs they say they took from banks they accuse of participating in tax evasion. Cahuzac's lawyers used the first hearing Monday afternoon to ask the court to postpone the trial, arguing a defendant shouldn't be under both a criminal and a tax procedure at the same time. The court will rule on the issue Wednesday morning. If it accepts Cahuzac's argument, the trial could be postponed for months. After strongly denying any fraud for months and publicly lying to Parliament, on television, to the French people and to his government colleagues, Cahuzac eventually admitted his wrongdoing in a statement in April 2013, saying he had been “trapped in a lying spiral” and that he was
“devastated by remorse.” On trial alongside Cahuzac are his former wife; a banker; a legal adviser; and bank Reyl, a respectable but little-known Swiss establishment, accused of tax fraud and/or money laundering. For his transactions with bank Reyl, Cahuzac used a codename, Birdie, in a nod to his passion for golf. His ex-wife, Patricia Menard, a 60-year-old dermatologist, is accused of hiding 2.5 million euros ($2.8 million) from the French tax authorities until 2013 and laundering money in the British tax haven of the Isle of Man and in Switzerland, allowing her to buy two London apartments estimated at around 3 million euros overall. Menard already paid 2.17 million euros in back taxes to the French tax authorities last year. Though Menard and Cahuzac divorced in November, they shared a kiss Monday when they met inside the courtroom. Before being appointed budget minister in the first Hollande government in May 2012, Cahuzac was the leading tax specialist for the Socialist Party. When press reports first revealed the scandal in December 2012, Cahuzac was sponsoring a bill to reinforce the fight against tax evasion and fraud. Considered an ambitious, self-assured and talented politician, he was forced to quit in March 2013 after only 10 months, and eventually to end his political career after being fired from the Socialist Party the following month. Known for his love of luxury watches, cigars and expensive vacations, Cahuzac built his wealth on his professional activities as a plastic surgeon in the hair transplantation clinic he operated with his ex-wife and as a consultant for big pharmaceutical laboratories. The Cahuzac scandal damaged Hollande's approval rating, which took a 13-point dive in the first quarter of 2013. It also had the effect of increasing the public's demand for probity and transparency by politicians. ____Associated Press writer Thomas Adamson in Paris contributed to this report."

Source Title: AP

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – BTN 1

Predicted Probability: 0.80

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 666381

Article Title: Midlife Friendship Key To A Longer, Healthier Life ANCHORS: Barbara Bradley Hagerty

Date: 3/16/2016

Article Content: RENEE MONTAGNE: At some point, most people feel lonely. But according to some surveys, the middle years are the loneliest period of life. Feeling isolated is also dangerous and it can be fatal. As journalist Barbara Bradley Hagerty found for our series on midlife, keeping up with friends at that point in life is one of the best things one can do to stay healthy, both mentally and physically.

BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: On a cold, wet Monday morning, my friend Cherie Harder and I arrive at the University of Virginia's neuroscience laboratory in Charlottesville, Va. Casey Brown, the project coordinator for the lab, leads us to the basement where a brain scanner is being prepped. She asks us to remove our socks and roll up a pant leg each. Then she clamps on anklets that will deliver electric shocks. It’s no big deal she says. CASEY BROWN: It's like walking across a carpet and touching a electronics device - just a basic static shot. It's meant to be unpleasant but not painful. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: We are risking bodily pain for a larger goal - to see what friendship looks like in my brain. The technician slides me into the brain scanner. UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Barb, can you hear me? BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: I can hear you. I gaze at the screen above. Whenever I see a red X, there's
a 1 in 5 chance that I'll receive an electric shock in the next few seconds. Whenever I see an O, that means I'm safe. The researchers want to see how my brain reacts to the prospect of pain, and in particular, whether it behaves differently whether I'm facing the threat alone, holding the hand of a stranger - one of the technicians - or the hand of Cherie, who's been a close friend for nearly 20 years.

CHERIE HARDER: (Laughter) Always an adventure with you, Barb (laughter). BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: You can't hear the zap of an electric shock because my recorder can't be near the scanner. But trust me, it hurts a lot. And after the first jolt, I feel a sort of panicked dread every time I see a red X. I am hugely relieved when the experiment ends. First, I want to say for the record that that was not like walking across a carpet and touching some piece of metal. It was a little bit traumatic. Psychology Professor James Coan has run the test on dozens of pairs. And he often sees the same neurological quirk. When a person is alone or holding a stranger's hand as she anticipates the shock, the regions of the brain that process danger, quote, “light up like a Christmas tree.” But when holding the hand of a trusted person, the brain grows quiet. JAMES COAN: And what we think happens is having a friend with you alters the perception of that threat. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: So I can take it because Cherie is here? JAMES COAN: Yeah. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: Coan says friends are key to our survival, not just emotionally but biologically. JAMES COAN: When we have friends, our brain says, phew, OK. Even if something really dangerous happens, we have a lot of help. So now, it's safe to take my resources and devote them to bodily maintenance. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: Piles of studies show that those with a network of friends live longer, recover faster from cancer and even preserve their memories better than those with few or no friends, which brings us to the dark flipside of friendship - loneliness. Now, please indulge me here. I couldn't find any isolated middle-agers to talk to because, well, they're isolated. But in Boston, I did find 85-year-old Teresa Santos Taylor. TERESA SANTOS TAYLOR: I just want to die. I want to just disappear. Every night I thought, OK, that's the last night. The next morning, I was still here and on and on. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: As her friends died and her family moved away, Taylor stopped taking her pills. She often forgot to eat. She retreated into her small apartment until one day Alexis Seubert called. ALEXIS SEUBERT: Yeah. There's a bit of dancing too. TERESA SANTOS TAYLOR: There's going to be dancing? ALEXIS SEUBERT: Yeah. There's a little bit of dance floor. TERESA SANTOS TAYLOR: Oh, my goodness. ALEXIS SEUBERT: (Laughter). BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: Suebert works for the Boston chapter of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly, a group that organizes visits and parties for older people. She calls loneliness a self-fulfilling prophecy. Later, in the apartment building stairwell, she says a lonely person unused to social interaction can become aggressive, alienating the people who are trying to reach out. ALEXIS SEUBERT: As this happens over and over, you develop this reputation. No one wants to come visit you because you're rude, you're mean, you're ungrateful. And then, you know, that person becomes even more suspicious. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: Loneliness afflicts a 50-year-old in the same debilitating way it assaults an 80-year-old and more often, says John Cacioppo, a psychology professor at the University of Chicago. In fact, his research for AARP found that those between 45 and 65 are the loneliest people in the United States. Why? Huge numbers of middle-aged adults are unmarried and because of the recession, find themselves freelancing or working alone. And Cacioppo says the Internet can intensify loneliness since lonely people may substitute Facebook friends for face-to-face relationships. JOHN CACIOPPO: If I'm spending all of my time trying to get more friends listed on Facebook and not interacting with anybody, that's using it in a way that's not getting at the core need that one has. It feels safe but it's not nutritious in the long term. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: That loneliness comes at a devastating price. JOHN CACIOPPO: It promotes social withdrawal. It promotes
hostility. It promotes increased anxiety. Suicides are associated with loneliness. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: So are homicides. Researchers say lonely people die earlier than people with friends. They are far more likely to suffer a heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, a compromised immune system. Studies show loneliness is as bad for you as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, being obese or drinking excessively. JOHN CACIOPO: Not to mention, it makes your life miserable. That would be sufficient reason to want to do something about it. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: One month after my trip to the University of Virginia, professor James Coan can show me what my friendship with Cherie looks like in my brain. JAMES COAN: OK. First thing's first, there is a picture of your brain. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: The scans show that when I faced the threat of an electric shock to my ankle, my brain lit up in fearful reaction, except when I held hands with Cherie. Then my brain quieted down dramatically. JAMES COAN: You're saying, you know, she is someone that I trust. We're friends. We're close friends. We will do things for each other. Your brain is assuming that part of the task that's involved with dealing with that threat, she will take on. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: Once again, The Beatles were spot on. (SOUNDBITE OF SONG, “WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS”) THE BEATLES: (Singing) Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends. BARBARA BRADLEY HAGERTY: For NPR News, this is Barbara Bradley Hagerty. (SOUNDBITE OF SONG, “WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS”) THE BEATLES: (Singing) Do you need anybody? I just need someone to love. Could it be anybody? I want somebody to love. Oh, I get by with a little help from my friends. Oh, going to try..."
King, we always enjoy having you on NEW DAY. Thanks so much for being here. KING: Thank you.
CAMEROTA: Chris. CHRIS CUOMO, CNN ANCHOR: All right, so this is the discussion. What would these candidates do that's different than what's being done now and would it make you more safe? Donald Trump says he can do that. It is wrong what's going on now and he can make it better. How does he plan to do it and are his plans constitutional? We're going to ask a Trump supporter in Congress, next. [07:35:10] CUOMO: Terror works on the campaign trail. We're seeing both candidates talk about it. Donald Trump is making big promises, saying that terror attacks will “go away” under his presidency. Trump seizing on bombings to bolster his call for tougher immigration laws and, what he calls, extreme vetting. What does that mean? What would this plan look like? Let's bring in a Trump supporter, Wisconsin Congressman Sean Duffy. It's great to have you, Congressman, as always. REP. SEAN DUFFY (R), WISCONSIN: Good to see you. CUOMO: So you look at this situation. People are afraid, no question about it. The fear is not backed up by the actual threat. Is that something that you accept as a premise? DUFFY: Well, I don't because I think the threat is real. I mean, whether you go back to 9/11 or you see these constant attacks month after month throughout the year, I think people feel it's real. And we used to look, again, to New York or L.A. or Orlando or Boston. It happens in big cities. But when it goes to St. Cloud, Minnesota, places in Middle America not far from where I live, I think you strike fear in all of Americans and American moms that this can come home to any small town mall throughout the country. So, I think it's -- it feels very real for Americans. CUOMO: Feels -- statistically, not such a big threat. Intelligence officials, as you well know -- DUFFY: Yes. CUOMO: -- put it very low on their list of priorities, but let's stick with the fear because it's real. And if you want to play to it in politics, that's fine, but you have to do something about it. So, Trump says, I will. This will go away under a Trump presidency. So you get to the obvious, how? Extreme vetting -- I'm going to -- extreme vetting. What does that mean, extreme vetting? DUFFY: So, let's get to that in one second. But first, I think, you want someone to fight for security and safety and I would just look to the president. And the fact that you're releasing prisoners from Gitmo -- very dangerous al Qaeda members. He's opening the doors and sending people out. The fact that we spent, Chris, $1.7 billion in cash to Iran, the lead sponsor of terror in the world. And then you look, yesterday, to the really unemotional response from the president to these attacks. I think people don't feel -- and back to that point -- they don't feel like they have a government, a president and a leader that's going to fight to keep them safe. Now, I think that this gets to be tough because you've kind of unleashed this movement with ISIS and al Qaeda that's inspiring people around the world. I think Trump is right when he says this makes sense that we take a pause. Why do we have to let all of these people into the country when we can't effectively vet them? I think my constituents -- they would say hey listen, Sean, I want you to fight for me. Fight for America. Look out for us first. And if you can keep us safe and you can bring people in who want to live the American dream, good on you because we're a country of immigrants. But if you can't guarantee me that your duty is, first, to me, not someone from Syria. CUOMO: You will never be able to guarantee any vetting from Ireland, from Italy, let alone -- DUFFY: No, no, we're not saying Ireland. Come on now. CUOMO: You will never be able to guarantee it, we both know that. What I'm saying is we have to separate the hype from the actual facts on the ground at this point. You know the money went back to Iran because it was Iran's money. It was part of the deal. It wasn't a gift. DUFFY: No, no, no, no, no, no. CUOMO: But even that's a distraction, though, Sean. I'm talking about how we -- he said I can stop this here. DUFFY: Yes. CUOMO: I'll do it with extreme vetting. The vetting that we do for Syrian refugees is better than any vetting we do for any other part of the system, and the proof is in the pudding. This Skittles comment that Donald, Jr. made -- if you want to put up his comment, you can. He said if I gave you a handful of
Skittles and I told you that three of them were going to kill you, would you eat that handful of Skittles? That's a powerful metaphor. The problem is it's also B.S. The numbers aren't anything like that. The risk is like one in over three billion you would -- "The Washington Post" wrote a piece about this. You would need two Olympic-sized swimming pools filled with Skittles to find three bad ones in it and that being the right ratio. You're dehumanizing these refugees. That's not what America's about. And your extreme vetting means what at the end of the day? How would you make it better than now except keeping everyone out, which is not what this country's about? DUFFY: But when you look at hot regions of the world and you look at the failures -- I mean, so first of all, we're saying we want to bring in refugees. But we've had migrants -- we had two migrants that did the attacks this weekend. So you had someone from Afghanistan in New York and someone from Somalia in Minnesota. So I think people see the connection of bringing folks in from hot regions. I think it makes sense to take a pause and the question becomes if I can't guarantee that you're going to want to live the American dream and you're not going to hurt my citizens, why do I let you in? I mean, I think that that's an American conversation you need to have.

CUOMO: But I'm saying that your system works really, really well, Sean, statistically. But the amount of crime that you get out of these -- if you wanted to create a rule like that to keep us safe, anyone who makes under $40,000 should -- DUFFY: No, no, no, no. CUOMO: -- be taken out of the country -- DUFFY: You -- no, no -- CUOMO: -- because they commit most of the crimes. DUFFY: But, look -- CUOMO: You wouldn't do that. It would be ridiculous. DUFFY: But look at hot regions. I mean, if you're looking at Syria and Afghanistan, and even Somalia, you have -- this is a radicalized region. [07:40:00] CUOMO: True.

DUFFY: Why bring people in from that region? CUOMO: Because when you follow through who you let in and what they do in this country -- DUFFY: But why are we letting them in? CUOMO: -- they commit less crime than everybody else. That's why. DUFFY: But when they commit crimes they're very dangerous. They're taking out -- CUOMO: No, they're often garden -- DUFFY: But there have been people -- CUOMO: Some, but less than the rest of the population, so why villainize them? DUFFY: But go back to this point of America wants you to keep them safe. CUOMO: Yes. DUFFY: They're your first responsibility. The responsibility isn't to anyone in Syria, the responsibility is to your citizens. CUOMO: Right. DUFFY: I think that's what Trump -- hold on -- CUOMO: Many of them are Syrians, by the way. DUFFY: I am going to be a president for the United States of America, not a global president. Back to Iran, we owed them $400 million. The president gave them $1.3 billion in interest -- which it wasn't clear that we owed them -- and he gave it in cash. That's a problem. We would usually send the money to a European bank and let them use it to buy legitimate things, whether it's grain or a truck or a plane. They got it in cash and we have prohibited cash payments to Iran. They went around the law. And when they have cash, that's the underworld of -- whether it's drugs and guns, the mob -- CUOMO: But it was a deal that was agreed to by both sides. DUFFY: It's a crappy deal. I mean, they're the least -- CUOMO: Plenty of Republicans were afraid -- or were in favor of the deal. DUFFY: No, they weren't. We thought it was a -- CUOMO: It got voted on. DUFFY: No, no, no, no, no. This is -- so there's -- the Iran deal is separate from the cash payments that the president made. The cash payment was a separate deal. There was an exchange for the hostages. We won't call it a ransom, they might disagree with me on that. But it's a lot of money -- CUOMO: The administration says that it's not true. It was negotiated decades ago about an arms deal. DUFFY: There was no -- CUOMO: Not about the hostages. DUFFY: No, it was a 400 -- there was $400 million that was owed that was being negotiated. But the payment was made in cash and the fact is you can use that to fund terrorism, and they do, and you can use it to buy technology that can be used for -- whether it's for missiles or for a nuclear program. People say, Mr. President, who are you looking out for? Why are you giving cash to the lead sponsor of terror, which makes us the lead funder
of terror? Why are you releasing people from Gitmo? And why are we bringing people in when we can't verify that they're going to keep us safe? And if you can't, the bottom line is we shouldn't bring them in until we can. CUOMO: Sean Duffy, thank you for making the case. Appreciate it, as always. DUFFY: Thank you. CUOMO: Alisyn. CAMEROTA: OK, Chris. The swift capture of the New York and New Jersey bombing suspect provided a treasure trove of clues and the capture was a result of those clues, in part. They were left at the scene. We'll talk about the role of surveillance cameras and cell phone notifications, and just good old-fashioned police work, next. [07:46:00] CAMEROTA: Police capturing the bombing suspect only four hours after releasing his name and photo to the public. Investigators using evidence left behind at the bombing sites, as well as surveillance video and a new phone notification system to nab their suspect. So let's discuss this with former Boston police commissioner Ed Davis. He was in charge of the investigation into the Boston Marathon bombing. Commissioner Davis, thanks so much for being here. ED DAVIS, FORMER COMMISSIONER, BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT: Thank you, Alisyn, good morning. CAMEROTA: Good morning. This series of bombings is being likened, on many levels, to what happened in Boston. The type of explosives that were used as well as some of the locations. This one also was at the scene in New Jersey of a foot race much like the Boston Marathon. So what are the similarities that you see in this investigation? DAVIS: Well, clearly, the motivation appears to be very similar. There was foreign travel just before these incidents occurred. The type of weapon was very similar -- pressure cooker bombs. There was a different level of sophistication in these devices, though. They had a trigger that was connected to a cellular phone and that's a step up. Also, the explosive material was much more dangerous to deal with and more sophisticated than the black powder that we saw in this attack. So I think that they're learning and we're learning. CAMEROTA: Yes. Much like in Boston, everyone is lauding the police work. They made such short order of this guy from the time that they figured out who he was. We were just showing there all of the different surveillance video of how this guy was caught. There were 8,000 -- there are 8,000, basically, surveillance cameras in New York. He was caught on several of them so that allowed them to -- along with his fingerprints on some of the bombs -- figure out very quickly who he was. Is that progress since Boston or did you rely on all of those surveillance videos? Did you have as much to work with in Boston? DAVIS: Quite frankly, we did not. We had some traffic cameras but they were not recording back at that time. New York City is well-known for its sophisticated network of cameras and also the retention of their data. They have information going back many years so they can go back and, retrospectively, look at an incident and develop information. I was with Commissioner O'Neill on Friday night, 24 hours before this happened. A tremendously well-respected and experienced police officer, as well as people like John Miller, who were in the terrorist unit. These guys did an unbelievable job. And I contacted them yesterday, a little upset that they'd broke our record. They broke it in half. They did a -- they were really, really fast with this one. CAMEROTA: Absolutely because it could -- it took you guys four hours and -- I mean, four days of an intense manhunt to get your guy in Boston. And they just -- here -- I mean, you're right, they cut it in half. But, you know, they've learned a lot from all of you. But also, Commissioner, I just want to say that with all of the high-tech developments that we've had there was also a real low-tech tool that they were able to use, and that was good old-fashioned television. You know, we put the guy's photo on T.V., as did all sorts of news outlets, and a bar owner saw his face. He was watching CNN, he saw the guy's face, and then he saw him across the street at his bar. And I have to tell you have gratifying it is to know that T.V., with all the eyes -- the millions of eyes watching -- it still works. DAVIS: You know, Alisyn, it's really the epitome of community policing. Police were formed around this idea that the public are the police and the police are the public. And this plays out in 2016 in the pursuit of a very dangerous bomber. We would not have
found him. With all of the resources that we had here in Boston, it was a man that went out for a **cigarette** in his backyard that actually located the suspect. So we live this every day. The community is central to what we do. [07:50:00] CAMEROTA: Absolutely. If you see something, say something. That really worked here and it worked there in Boston, as well. Hats off to all of the police here in New York, as well as Boston. Commissioner Ed Davis, thanks so much for being here. DAVIS: Thank you, Alisyn.

CAMEROTA: Let's get to Chris. CUOMO: The time is ticking down, the days to Election Day growing shorter. The campaigns now narrowing their focus to try and get the best bang for their buck out of the voters. What does that mean? Battleground states -- specifically, Florida. What is each campaign doing there? You need to know. CUOMO: Can you believe it? Forty-nine days until Election Day and this presidential race continues to tighten. Many battleground states now locked in a dead heat, including the state of Florida. That's where the latest “New York Times” poll shows Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in a virtual tie. Take a look at it for yourself. We have CNNs Boris Sanchez, live in Orlando, talking to voters in the Sunshine State about the choices. Boris, what did you learn? [07:55:00] BORIS SANCHEZ, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Hey, good morning, Chris. As we well know, the road to the White House often leads through Florida. The candidates certainly know that so they've been spending a lot of money and time here in the Sunshine State. Donald Trump had an event near Naples yesterday. Hillary Clinton has one tomorrow here in Orlando. And though they both covet Florida voters their approaches to getting them are somewhat different. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) SANCHEZ: A state that could make all the difference on the electoral map come election night is also one of the hardest to predict. Florida and its 29 electoral votes, yet again, a toss-up in 2016 with voters divided on the issues and the candidates. JOAN ESSENBERG, TRUMP SUPPORTER: Donald Trump was not my first, second, or third choice, but he is now. SANDRA CALIXTO, ANTI-TRUMP: Trump is a racist. He's discriminated against people with disability and I have a son that has a disability. And for me, he's cuckoo. SANCHEZ: There are 4.6 million registered Democrats in Florida and about 4.4 million registered Republicans. A razor-thin difference when you consider Florida's nearly three million unaffiliated voters. So both campaigns are throwing money at the middle, spending roughly $48 million on television ads since the start of the general election, according to ad-tracking firm, Kantar Media. (T.V. AD): In Hillary Clinton's America, the system stays rigged against Americans. SANCHEZ: Hillary Clinton and her super PACs have pummeled Donald Trump, outspending the Republican four times over. (T.V. AD) DAVID LETTERMAN, FORMER HOST, NBC's “LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN”: Your ties are made in China. SANCHEZ: Since early June, Clinton's team has spent $38.7 million on T.V. in the Sunshine State to Trump's $9.2 million. Despite the imbalance in spending, recent polls show Clinton and Trump are still in a tight race. SUSAN MACMANUS, POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR, USF: Flip a coin. It's now all about turnout. SANCHEZ: Really? MACMANUS: It's so close and it has been for some time. In Florida's last three elections -- its two governors races and the 2012 presidential -- the victor only won by one percent. SANCHEZ: There are a few areas that really illustrate why Florida is such a battleground better than the central part of the state. You've got retirement communities like The Villages, which happens to be older, less diverse, and a Trump stronghold. And only about 45 miles away you have the polar opposite, Orlando. It's much younger, much more ethnically diverse, and it skews toward Hillary Clinton. REBECCA: Hi, this is Rebecca calling from the Florida Democratic Party. How are you? SANCHEZ: To find an edge in central Florida, home to nearly 40 percent of the state population, Clinton is investing heavily in an expanded ground game. SIMONE WARD, STATE DIRECTOR, HILLARY FOR AMERICA: They've done an operation over several months that just can't be matched. It is the ground game that will make the difference in a state that is one percent. UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (SPEAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE). SANCHEZ: The Clinton camp is courting more
than a million Puerto Ricans living in Florida, about half of them in the Orlando area. WARD: She was talking to them about the things that matter to them about economic stability, offering jobs. SANCHEZ: The Trump campaign has been slow to build a ground game in Florida but thanks to a major boost from the RNC officials say they expect to have several dozen offices up and running soon, along with more than 200 people on staff and several thousand volunteers. SUSAN WILES, STATE DIRECTOR, DONALD TRUMP CAMPAIGN: We do have our offices open. There are 60 between the Republican National Committee, the Republican Party of Florida, the other candidates, and us, so there are plenty of places for volunteers to gather.

GOV. MIKE PENCE (R-IN), VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE: America can be strong, American can stand tall again. SANCHEZ: While Mike Pence energized Trump's base at The Villages on Saturday, state officials say their campaign is not focused on any specific demographic group. Their strategy is simply to get their candidates and message in front of as many Floridians as they can.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: We believe that if you meet him, you support him and you like him. (END VIDEOTAPE) SANCHEZ: Now, overseas ballots go out next week and early voting in person kicks off just about a month from now. It's something that both campaigns want voters to take advantage of. A spokesperson for the Clinton campaign here in Florida telling me they really want to target millennials with early voting, letting those that haven't voted before know that they have many options before Election Day -- Chris and Alisyn.

CAMEROTA: OK, Boris, thanks so much for that. All this week we'll be looking at these key battleground states, so tomorrow we're going to gauge how Pennsylvania voters are feeling about the race. All right, we're following a lot of developments -- new developments this morning about the bombings in New York and New Jersey, so let's get right to them. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

(Gunshots) HARINDER BAINS, BAR OWNER: I realized right away that OK, this is the guy. And then in 15, 20 seconds everything break loose. JIM SCUITTO, CNN CHIEF NATIONAL SECURITY CORRESPONDENT: The prime suspect in the New York and New Jersey bombings is in custody. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We are looking to see if this man has been operating alone. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: He was hiding in plain sight and you would have never known it. BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We do not, and never will, give in to fear. DONALD TRUMP (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: He will be taken care of by some of the best doctors in the world and he'll probably even have room service. GOV. ANDREW CUOMO (D), NEW YORK: Welcome to America. You have a right to counsel and you have a right to hospitalization. That is our system. HILLARY CLINTON (D), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: This is a sobering reminder that we need steady leadership in a dangerous world."

Source Title: BTN

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Newspaper 1
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 664553

Article Title: Back from brink of heroin abuse"

Date: 3/2/2016

Article Content: THE DAY HEAVEN Harkins' brother brought her back from the dead started out like so many they had shared. It was the Saturday of Easter weekend last year. Fresh out of rehab and drug-free for three months, Heaven, 21, and Jason, 24, drove from their family's comfortable suburban home to
“The Ave” in Philadelphia’s Kensington section, ground zero for dope’s lost souls. The siblings scored 14 bags of heroin for $120 and parked their black Ford Focus at the ShopRite on Aramingo Avenue in search of the euphoria she desperately missed and he knew just as well. Heaven pulled a couple of bags of white powder out of her bra, mixed the heroin with water, filled a syringe, and plunged the needle into her arm. Her eyes closed, her head slumped forward. “She just died,” Jason recently recalled. “Her face was white. Her lips were purple. She was like a body in a casket. I felt her heart. Nothing. She was dead.” Jason frantically called 9-1-1. The dispatcher told him to pull her out of the car, elevate her head, and do CPR. Jason, who hadn’t yet injected, carried his sister onto the pavement, tilted her head back, crossed his hands to pump her chest, and blew air into her mouth. “All of a sudden she let out a big gasp of air,” he said. Paramedics arrived and gave Heaven a dose of Narcan, an opioid overdose antidote, then took her to a hospital. Now alone in the car, Jason shot up before driving back to the hospital to get his sister. “As soon as I walked out the door, I got high again,” Heaven, now 22, recently recalled. “I was sick. I had no choice. If heroin was in my pocket, I was going to use.” No. 1 cause of ODs Opioid overdoses are now the No. 1 cause of accidental deaths in the state and the nation, killing more people each year than car accidents. Pennsylvania leads the nation in drug overdose death rates among young adult men - and Bucks County, where the Harkins family lives, ranks first in the state on that score. The death rate from overdoses in Bucks has more than doubled in the last 15 years. Unlike drug epidemics of the past, opioid abuse often starts in a suburban physician's office with a prescription for an opioid painkiller before escalating into street dealing of pills and then heroin. Another difference: More parents are talking about what once was taboo in hopes of reaching others who believe heroin could never claim their children. Eddie and Paula Harkins, both 48, describe Jason and Heaven as “perfect children,” driven high school students, constantly busy with activities and part-time jobs. Jason picked up the saxophone at age 3, playing in bands and Mummers parades when he wasn't playing football or softball or boxing. Heaven played softball, too, and loved ballet, jazz and tap. Both graduated from Bensalem High School and went on to Bucks County Community College. For both, the road to heroin started with Percocet, a prescription opiate, but it was a road they traveled separately. A doctor prescribed Percocets to Jason after he suffered a severe back injury from softball. Before long, Jason was hooked and needed more than the prescription provided. “One day I saw him buying some from someone and we realized we were both doing it,” said Heaven, who got her supply from friends. “Everybody in the neighborhood” would pop pills in the woods near the family’s charming 1752 home, with an inground pool and waterfall pond. After about 10 months, the siblings and their friends switched to heroin, first sniffing it, then shooting up. “The Percs got to be $30 a pill, and heroin was $10 a bag,” Jason said. Jason and Heaven got to know Kensington Avenue, a favorite haunt of heroin addicts. The newbies are easy to spot, with their wide eyes, clean clothes, and backpacks. The longer they stay, the more they deteriorate. Many are homeless and sleep on the streets, in alleys, or in what they call abandoninums. Paula and Eddie had no idea that their children were scoring drugs in the very neighborhood they had worked so hard to escape. Paula, who grew up in a rowhouse on F Street, got pregnant in high school and had her son Stephen when she was 17. She and Eddie married in 1989, and Eddie adopted Stephen. They moved to Bucks in the early ’90s and built a solid middle-class life. Eddie is now an information technology specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and Paula is a dealer at the Parx casino. Stephen, now 31, is in prison for selling marijuana and threatening the police officer who arrested him, they said. It didn't occur to them that Heaven and Jason could get in even more trouble. The first signs were subtle. “They were sleeping a lot and didn’t seem to want to do much,” Eddie recalled. “They hid it well.” But then cash started to go missing. Heaven and Jason pawned flat-screen TVs, phones, laptops,
stereos, a food processor, artwork, even Jason's beloved $4,000 saxophone. Anything for their next $10 hit. Once he got addicted, Jason said, he needed heroin just so he wouldn't feel sick. “To withdraw from heroin is hell on Earth,” he said as he stood in the kitchen on a recent Saturday, pacing and smoking cigarettes. “You feel like you’re going to die, like you want to rip your legs off and just end it.” Tried rehab and failed. The kids tried rehab and failed. They continued to steal. Their parents thought maybe tough love was needed. They kicked them out and dead-bolted the door. When they were at work, Jason and Heaven would sneak into the four-car garage and sleep on pool floats and outdoor cushions. Paula and Eddie kept their despair from family and friends. “I used to hide it from everyone and that eats you alive,” she said. “I didn’t understand why. Just why? What did I miss? Everything went to the kids. Did I spoil them? Did I give them too much? Where did I go wrong?” she asked. “I was just so scared they were going to die. All we did was worry.” Michael Armstrong, a family friend who works at Liberation Way, a Yardley drug treatment center, described the family as “remarkable, loving, very honest, and very genuine.” He praised their courage for sharing their story: “People would be naive to think that this couldn’t happen to their family. It can happen to any family.” Eddie Harkins said he once would have judged parents with two addicted children. “I was one of those people,” he said. “I would have blamed the parents. But then it happened to us. I’ve learned how bad it is for so many people. I can't believe the number of families who are going through this.” Desperate for money As Jason and Heaven grew more desperate for money, they rented their car to drug dealers. It wasn’t really even theirs to rent. Heaven made the $8,000 down payment, but then everything she had or stole went to heroin. Her parents took over the payments, and tried to hide the car or trap it behind their own vehicles to keep their daughter from driving. “But Heaven always found a way to steal it back,” her mother said. Then Jason, Heaven, and her former boyfriend swiped artwork that their parents had stored for the owner and pawned it for $2,800. They were charged with theft. Right after they left court on the case last Aug. 20, they headed to Kensington. Heaven shot up a bag of heroin and started babbling about the car registration. Jason tried to take the wheel, but she pulled out of the Walgreens parking lot onto Kensington Avenue under the El. Jason was looking down at his phone, so he didn’t notice that his sister had started to nod off and pass out. She slammed into a parked police cruiser. One cop was in a nearby store, the other was standing on the sidewalk and saw what happened. Heaven and Jason were arrested. Their father calls the crash “the best thing that ever happened to me. The car is gone. And for now, the kids are safe,” he said. Heaven, charged with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, and DUI, was sent to rehab. Now she lives in a halfway house in Port St. Lucie, Fla., and works at a treatment center in nearby Jensen Beach. “I’m never around drugs, and really it’s not hard at all,” she said with a confidence that she says she wouldn't have if she still lived where she used heroin. She wants to stay in Florida, go to school, and become a counselor. She came home recently for court on her aggravated assault case. The visit coincided with her 22nd birthday, so family and friends celebrated at home with pulled pork sandwiches, pasta salad, cookies, chips, and iced cakes. Jason has been in treatment at Liberation Way in Yardley since December. He is prescribed suboxone, a synthetic opioid that helps prevent heroin cravings, and he can come home for visits. Still suffering from the severe back pain that started him on Percocet, he chose to not sit in the kitchen, only to pace or stand, while taking several smoke breaks outside on the deck. “He’s grown up a lot in the last year,” his mom said. “I’m very proud of him.” Jason said he hasn’t used heroin since the August crash. “You have to want to get sober,” he said. Is it forever? “Never say never, right?” he responded. His mom looked down, her expression changing from pride to anguish. When his back pain is at its worst, he thinks of the relief that Percocets gave him. “My fear is that I will worry about this the rest of my life,” his father said. “I don't want...
someone showing up at my door with bad news. I don't want to bury my kid.” lakerb@phillynews.com 215-854-5933 @barbaralaker"
them and bothering them about it. Finally, when Lee Elder won a tournament in 1974, he was in.” Elder was here in person to celebrate Woods' victory yesterday. “I tried and Charlie tried and Jim Thorpe tried,” said Elder. “We were just a little before our time. Now, the time is right for a black man to win a major. The doors are all open. They've been open. Tiger is shutting them [as far as returning to the old ways]. I'm here to see him shut them.” Sifford and Elder were the pioneers, the ones who heard or read the hate words that Calvin Peete, Jim Dent, Pete Brown, Thorpe and Woods were mostly spared. “I wasn't heckled, but I received strong letters,” said Elder. “If I discussed them, they would have just continued. But I saved every one of them.” Woods' victory might have been for himself, but it was also for the black golfers who went before. It was for what they all might have done, if only they had gotten a chance. “The racism wasn't from the other players. It wasn't like what Jackie Robinson faced in baseball,” Sifford said. “It was from the fans. You couldn't ask Arnold Palmer or Jack Nicklaus to go out and say they would like to see Charlie Sifford play. What might the white people think? I was strong enough to stand up for my own rights. “I'm not a prejudiced man either. I have a white daughter-in-law. I'm not prejudiced at all.” Sifford said golf, with its wealthy, country-club mentality, is one of the last bastions of racism in sports. “Prejudice hasn't changed to this day, not in golf. Maybe in other sports. I still can't get [Senior Tour] exemptions. I wrote off for 12 and only two tournaments gave them to me,” said Sifford. “Tiger had the advantage of high school, college and a father who knew golf. I was self-taught. Blacks really won't play golf in great numbers until some of these basketball and football stars buy some golf courses where blacks can play.” Sifford used to send congratulatory telegrams to Nicklaus, Palmer and Ray Floyd after their victories in the tournament he could not compete in. Before the Masters began this year, he sent Woods a fax, telling him how to match their Masterpieces. “Play the golf course,” Sifford told him. “Don't listen to others. You know when to go for the pins and when not to go.” “He's done a man's job,” Sifford said. “He's playing the golf course the way it should be played, with knowledge, not just charging at the greens.” This year's Masters was a time when Woods redefined human possibilities. It was probably like this when Mickey Mantle started off in baseball and Wayne Gretzky in hockey. Sifford first met Woods four years ago. “He's like I was, determined to win,” said Sifford. “I chose him as my grandson. I treat Tiger that way. That's how I feel about him.”

Source Title: News

_Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 1_

Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 654365

Article Title: Olivia Palermo opts for a black coat and leather trousers at Barbara Bui PFW show | Daily Mail Online

Date: 3/4/2016

Article Content: She's a bona fide front row fashionista and is a leading member of the style elite. But Olivia Palermo decided to keep things simple as she attended the Barbara Bui a/w 2017 show during Paris Fashion Week on Thursday. Showing off her style prowess, the socialite, 30, opted for a classic all-black ensemble, adding some quirky touches to her outfit to ensure she would still make an
impression. Scroll down for video Back to black: She’s never been afraid to play around with patterns and prints. But Olivia Palermo decided to keep things simple as she attended the Barbara Bui show during Paris Fashion Week on Thursday. Slipping her long legs into a pair of black leather trousers, the socialite combined both style and practicality - showing off her toned pins whilst remaining warm in the chilly Parisian climes. Layering up, she donned a black pussybow blouse, leaving her neck-tie loose and trailing past a military style coat that she flung over her shoulders. Adding some height to her modelesque frame, she wore a pair of fringed black ankle boots as she teetered towards the front row. Looking hot in The City! Showing off her style prowess, the reality star, 30, opted for a classic all-black ensemble, adding some quirky touches to her outfit to ensure she would still make an impression. Injecting a subtle splash of colour to her ensemble she held a pop art style clutch, whilst she dangled a pair of sunglasses from her red manicured fingers. Wearing her honey coloured tresses in loose waves, she parted her glossy locks in a centre parting, the loose waves tumbling past her shoulders and framing her face. Accentuating her petite features, the American star wore a sweep of rosy blusher on her defined cheekbones, whilst illuminating her stunning complexion with carefully applied highlighting powder. French fancy: Layering up, she donned a black pussybow blouse, leaving her neck-tie loose and trailing past a military style coat that she bundled over her lithe frame as she stepped out on the Parisian cobbles. Balmain beauty! Making her way around the French capital, the blonde beauty also made an appearance at the Balmain show, uncharacteristically opting to wear the same outfit for both shows. Front row fashionista: Olivia joined a star-studded line-up at the Balmain show earlier in the day. Making her way around the French capital, the blonde beauty also made an appearance at the Balmain show at Hôtel Potocki, uncharacteristically opting to wear the same outfit for both shows. Clearly rushed off her feet during the show, Olivia then headed to her room to relax, and was greeted with a little treat from the staff. Clearly a regular guest at the luxury hotel, the dedicated workers had made a note of the star’s recent birthday on Sunday, and pulled out all the stops to ensure she could celebrate in style. Busy bee: On Thursday morning, Olivia put in another chic appearance at the Chloe Paris Fashion Week show. Furry nice: The socialite teamed a chic wool gilet with a ruby red blouse and patterned cigarette pants for her first show of the day. Posting a snap of her room on Instagram, Olivia was seen surrounded by bunches of flowers and clutching a balloon whilst a bottle of bubbly rested on the table. Still in her outfit from earlier - but swapping her heels for patterned black loafers - Olivia seemed overwhelmed with the gifts, beaming broadly down the lens. ‘What a welcome!’ she wrote. ‘There’s a reason @leroyalmonceau is my favorite hotel in Paris. Merci beaucoup for my birthday surprises! #LuckyGirl’ Lucky lady: Olivia was greeted with a little treat from the staff at her luxury Parisian hotel when staff made a note of the star’s recent birthday on Sunday and pulled out all the stops to ensure she could celebrate in style.

Source Title: Web

_Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 2_

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 415765

Article Title: Mum left with huge shard of glass piercing hand after dog knocked her over - Mirror Online

Date: 9/23/2015
A mum was left with a shard of glass penetrating her hand after her dog knocked her over in the garden and she fell into a glass door. Ayeshia Roberts, 26, was bowled over by her Staffordshire bull terrier after her kids had called for the family pet to go back inside the house. Buddy, the five-year-old muscular staffie, was beckoned inside by her two daughters Charlotte aged four and Elli aged six. SWNS Gruesome: This was the injury Ayeshia suffered when the glass shattered. But on his quick bolt to the house Buddy accidentally collided with Ayeshia and she went flying into the glass panelled back door of her old cottage on September 11. The stay at home mum from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, said: “It was really silly because I was just outside smoking and the dog ran straight past me to see my daughters. “Buddy accidentally knocked into me on his way in and I fell into the door. “I literally went into shock afterwards and tried not to look at the glass in my hand - it hurt so much I’d rather go through child birth again. I was being sick and everything when I did see it. “All my friends have said they can’t look at the picture of it because it looked so gross.” SWNS Smashed: This was the pane of glass the mum fell through Ayeshia was rushed to Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital where the glass was removed from her right hand after she had local anaesthetic and gas and air. She had to have six stitches underneath her hand, four on top and also butterfly stitches, called Steristrips. Ayeshia held her partner of 10 years' hand, Aaron, while nurses pulled the shard out, she added how she couldn't bear to watch but Aaron “doesn't mind stuff like that.” SWNS Family: Ayeshia with her kids Charlotte, 4 and Elli, 6 with their dog Buddy She said: “I was looking the other way when they removed it. I said to the nurse how it looked like something you would do for Halloween. “At the hospital they asked if I could move my little finger and every time I tried to move it, my little finger wouldn’t move but the piece of glass inside would - so that turned my stomach even more.” Luckily Ayeshia's little girls didn't see the aftermath of the fall and she has some friends who can replace the glass panel for her. SWNS Accident: Buddy the dog knocked his owner over to get to her daughters She said: “It's still really swollen and I can’t feel my little finger - it just feels like frostbite like it is about to drop off. “Apparently it's nerve damage, I don't know if the feeling will come back or not. I can move it I just can't feel the other side of my hand at all. “I have still got plasters over it now - you don't realise how much you use your hand, just brushing my teeth is effort. “I have passed on the job of washing up and hovering though which is good - milking it a bit.” University student almost dies from blood poisoning brought on by partying too hard
relationship. According to the paper, Stewart’s mother said: “She’s my daughter, I’m just her mom so she knows I would accept her choices. I’ve met Kristen’s new girlfriend, I like her. What’s not to accept? She’s a lovely girl.” We’re not sure how Stewart feels about her mum speaking about her love life to the press, but it’s great that she has support. Good news for us, too, that we’ll have to read less about her “gal pal”. Gal pal. It’s been clear for a while that Stewart sees sexuality as fluid – in particular because when asked this exact question by Harper’s Bazaar, she replied: “Absolutely, yes” – but this is the first acknowledgement of her relationship. But what’s coming out like for the rest of us? Well, first of all, we’re coming out all of the time – it’s not usually a one-off event. But here are some of the more usual reactions to that first time. The mourning mother It’s not that your mum isn’t happy for you; just that she’s devastated for herself. Ignoring the existence of adoption, surrogacy, artificial insemination, or just your choice to not start a family (which you haven’t even thought about yet) this mother weeps for the grandchild she always wanted (and will probably still have). Professing herself content with your life, she quietly signs up for an evening class in Photoshop and learns to blend your baby photos with those of the next door neighbour’s son/daughter, which is the way it was supposed to be. The typical dad Your dad is cool with this. Like, he honestly doesn’t care. But he’d rather not talk about emotions or sex and that. And look! There’s snooker on the TV. The parent who’s totally into it Your parents are supportive. Very supportive. Too supportive. They tag along to Pride, start cutting out articles featuring gay celebrities and sending them to you, and drop references to Orange is the New Black. Orange is the New Black, which joins The L Word as part of the lesbian survival kit. Photograph: Jojo Whilden/Netflix The hellfire response Pity the unfortunate mid-south 16-year-old who has to tell his evangelical parents that he layeth with man and, like, is really into it. Cue recitations of Leviticus 18:22, appointments for “corrective therapy” and exorcisms. Don’t believe us on that last bit? Read Jeanette Winterson’s Oranges are Not the Only Fruit. How do you have sex? Have you ever had straight sex? Mr Twenty Questions He’s harmless enough, but asks a lot of questions. When did you know? How did you know? Have you always known though? How do you have sex? Have you ever had straight sex? OK, but how do you have sex? What does bear mean? What does U-haul mean? ‘Yeah, we knew that’ It’s quite often the case that a person will spend months, years, their entire lives struggling with the decision to come out, only to be met with a shrug of indifference and a process of acknowledgement and acceptance that completes somewhere between the lighting of a cigarette and it being crushed underfoot, because literally everybody already knew. This isn’t an experience limited to those that fit gay and lesbian stereotypes – the tomboy girl, or the boy who steals his sister’s Barbies. Ingrid Nilson, a YouTuber famous for makeup tutorials came out in a moving video last week. Her friends told her they already knew, because she was “always staring at girls”. Well, shit. YouTube star, Ingrid Nilson, who came out in a video that has been watched more than 6m times. The right-on friend Anybody thought of as a minority – whether people of colour, trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, people who don’t like Oreos – has probably experienced what it’s like to be the equivalent of politically correct arm-candy. David Oyelowo recently said that he refused to play the “best black friend” character, and the minority friend as cultural cachet is a common trope. See GBFs (gay best friends). But hey, a positive reaction is a positive reaction. Damian, the gay best friend of Mean Girls. Photograph: Allstar/Paramount/Sportsphoto Ltd/Allstar The curious friend You come out. A day later you’re approached by a friend who is basically thinking along the same lines, but isn’t sure. Three Apple Sourz later and all these curious buddies have curious tongues. Plus, people slide into your DMs to ask for threesomes. The friend who assumes you fancy them Honestly: no. (Or, you know, yeah). Credit: Imgur. The overworked teacher Advice for younger people struggling with their sexuality often includes
talking to a supportive teacher. But unless this is The Truth About Jane, your teacher is probably horrified by the thought of having to print out reams of LGBT literature in between a ton of marking, putting his/her kids to bed and prep for PTA meetings. (Wait, I’m joking – do talk to your teachers. They will most likely be a great help. Or these guys). The BuzzFeed article Gold-standard coming-out stories feature rainbow-coloured cakes, heartwarming messages, all-singing YouTube videos, all collated into a feel-good listicle for BuzzFeed or Huffington Post. That’s the goal. Because if you come out and it doesn’t go viral, did you really come out at all?"

Source Title: Web

Tobacco (no ecig) Individual Norms – Tobacco (no ecig) – PM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 691014

Article Title: How this South African woman entrepreneur’s efforts are changing our world" 

Date: 5/31/2016

Article Content: Can you imagine smoking two packs of cigarettes a day in your car, with the window rolled up, and your kids in the back? I hope not! Here’s a public health problem not enough people are talking about: indoor air pollution, which kills between 3.5 and 4.3 million people a year, most of whom are women and infants. This is because about 3 billion people around the world--mostly in impoverished parts of Africa and Asia--still cook and heat the inside of their homes by burning coal, charcoal, dung, wood or plant residue, according to Vox. These homes often have poor ventilation, and the smoke can cause all sorts of respiratory diseases. Women and children pay the heaviest price from indoor air pollution, as they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood stoves than men. Researchers don't even have a full understanding of the extended effects of smoke inhalation on children, which is extremely scary. When I was in the Peace Corps, we cooked over wood inside, and I couldn't take the smoke in my eyes--or my lungs. Luckily, however, there are a few incredible products and initiatives combating this issue, one of which is Wonderbag, an insulated, non-electric bag that cooks food after it has been brought to a boil. It works like a slow cooker--continuously cooking food for hours and keeping it warm without needing fire. Sarah Collins, a South African native, came up with the idea in 2008 when widespread blackouts were affecting her nation. Sarah brought her first bag to a grandmother, who earned a meager living selling food that she cooked all day over a wood fire as a caretaker for nine orphans. Wonderbag changed their lives completely. Within three months, the children only needed to gather firewood once a week, and they were all in school. They had money for shoes, and it was a catalyst out of poverty for them, Sarah says. She knew she was on to something. Fast-forward to eight years later, and Sarah has traveled the world, meeting with leaders and distributing upwards of 700,000 Wonderbags across Africa, Europe, the Middle East and North America. Her goal is to sell 100 million Wonderbags worldwide. She's on her way to accomplishing that, mostly because she has the help of other women entrepreneurs, who are selling Wonderbags in their local markets. Sarah has turned a life-saving product into an entrepreneurial endeavor that has broad economic implications across the world. It goes back to the thinking that we can absolutely make money while saving lives. Through one simple product, Sarah is employing a global eligible workforce AND
improving the mortality rate. Wonderbag has been an incredible domino effect, and it's one that Dell supports through the Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network. It's absolutely brilliant when large corporations and organizations support initiatives like these, which might start small but have game-changing potential and impact society and business for the better. Dell has a long-term commitment to women entrepreneurs on any continent, and we are thrilled to offer women like Sarah the technology and the access to networks and markets to scale their businesses. Success stories like Sarah's are what inspired Dell to host its annual DWEN Summit in Cape Town, South Africa this June. Sarah is one woman creating a movement, shifting the winds of change in the right direction. We wanted to show women entrepreneurs, who are working toward adding that 600 million jobs our economy needs over the next 10 years, that innovation can come from anywhere in the world. Overall, Africa has become known as the world's largest source of untapped talent, leading in the number of women starting businesses, with almost equal levels of male and female entrepreneurs, according to our 2015 Global Women Entrepreneur Leaders Scorecard. Dell recently partnered with Harvard's Technology and Entrepreneurship Center (TECH) and IHS—a leading source of insight and analytics that shape today's business landscape—to launch first-of-its-kind, global research that will measure a city's ability to attract and support high-potential women entrepreneurs. The 25 cities in the ranking were chosen from the list of 50 global cities in the Dell Future-Ready Economies (FRE) Model in order to make comparisons between the two indices, with geographic diversity utilized as key criteria in city selection. The rankings will be announced on June 22 at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Palo Alto, California. I'm really looking forward to this year's DWEN Summit, considering how many entrepreneurs build businesses that change our world in incredible ways, just like Sarah has. Learn more about DWEN here and learn more about this year's DWEN Cape Town Summit here."

Source Title: Web

Ecig Individual Norms
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the code for Ecig Individual Norms within the database is “cindnormsecig1”.

E-cigarette Texts
More than Passing Mentions
Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is “ecigmpm_SOURCE_eindnorm”.

Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 665653

Article Title: Man burned by exploding e-cigarette sues maker, vendor"

Date: 2/12/2016
A New Hampshire man who was severely burned after the battery of an electric cigarette exploded in his pocket is suing the maker of the cigarette and the store that sold it to him. Matthew Gilson was hospitalized last month with second- and third-degree burns he received on his legs and hands after the battery of his e-cigarette combusted while he was at work in Tilton. WMUR-TV reports (http://bit.ly/1QZmpY8) the 26-year-old Moultonborough man’s lawyer filed a lawsuit Thursday against the Chinese company that made the cigarette and Smokers Haven in Laconia, where Gilson bought the device. Gilson’s attorney, Peter McGrath, says the public needs to be aware about the possible dangers involved with e-cigarettes and vaporizers. Smokers Haven didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment. Information from: WMUR-TV, http://wmur.com"

ECig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – AP 2
Predicted Probability: 0.83

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 796692

Article Title: Woman jumps from SUV after e-cigarette ignites inside car"

Date: 4/12/2017

Authorities say a woman suffered burns after an electronic cigarette caught fire in her lap as she was driving in Tempe. Police say the woman had been backing out a driveway on Tuesday when the e-cigarette ignited, causing her to jump out of the SUV. The vehicle continued moving, hopped a curb and then struck a tree. The unidentified woman was taken to a hospital for burns to her leg. The Tempe Fire Department says the fire was put out before crews arrived."

ECig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – BTN 1
Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 410298

Article Title: SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST First on CBS THIS MORNING, we have breaking news of an incredible treasure find."

Date: 8/19/2015

The story begins in the eighteenth century; eleven Spanish ships were destroyed in a hurricane off the coast of Florida. They were sailing from Havana, Cuba to Spain. MARK CARWARDINE (BBC Earth Unplugged): Looking at one of the world’s great hot spots for blue whales. I haven’t seen a thing. You know, they’re here. But it’s just jolly well can’t find them. Oh, look, there is one. GAYLE KING: Oh, look. CHARLIE ROSE: A perfect response. GAYLE KING: I’ll say. Does us that ever happen to you? Perfect comic timing you can say from a blue whale when Zoologist Mark Carwardine
explained how hard it can be to find the giant creatures. He was filming for a new TV show when the blue whale almost like right on cue surprised him by surfacing right behind him. Didn’t you love his reaction? CHARLIE ROSE: I did. CLARISSA WARD: Yeah. GAYLE KING: Oh, look. CHARLIE ROSE: Yes. There is one. GAYLE KING: There is one. CLARISSA WARD: There is one. GAYLE KING: Welcome back to CBS THIS MORNING. Oh, look. Coming up in this half hour, first on CBS, the dazzling results of a search that spanned centuries. Brent Brisben, that’s a cool name. Brent Brisben is in our Toyota Greenroom, but look what he’s brought with him. CHARLIE ROSE: Cool coins. GAYLE KING: Very cool coins. He shows us how he found a king’s treasure, no relation, and what it’s worth. CLARISSA WARD: The Des Moines Register reports on a little league softball controversy. On Tuesday, Iowa team beat a team from Washington State in a special game ordered by the tournament. Officials called for the game after the Washington team was accused of deliberately losing a game Monday to prevent Iowa from advancing. Washington’s loss eliminated them from the tournament. Iowa will not play for the world title but it will play in a third-place game today. GAYLE KING: New York’s Daily News reports on a computer glitch Bloomingdales. It caused a department store to accidentally issue a twenty-five thousand dollar gift card to a customer, so the man used it to buy ten thousand dollar earrings and a Louis Vuitton purse. Bloomingdales asked him to return the items, but he has not brought them back. CHARLIE ROSE: What would you do? GAYLE KING: I would bring them back. CHARLIE ROSE: Yeah. GAYLE KING: I would for sure. I know you would bring them back. CHARLIE ROSE: Right now, it’s time to show you some of this morning’s headlines from around the globe. The Wall Street Journal reports on nine-- ninth grade students who used electronic cigarettes. A new study found they were more likely to smoke cigarettes, cigars, or hookahs compared to piers who never tried e-cigarettes. The research may fuel call for more regulation of e-cigarettes. CLARISSA WARD: According to the Washington Post, they report on a new section on Yelp, where you can rate your experiences with the federal government. You can write reviews on everything from tourist destinations to motor vehicle agencies. Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina tweeted she reviewed the TSA and she gave it one star. She said body scanners have a ninety-six percent failure rate and that federal bureaucracies are inept. CLARISSA WARD: Rolling Stone reports on The Beatles first record contract up for auction. The paperwork was signed in 1961 when the band played the single “My Bonnie” with Tony Sheridan. It was signed by John, Paul, George, and then drummer Pete Best. The band was only played eighty dollars for the session. The contract is expected to sell for one hundred and fifty thousand dollars next month. GAYLE KING: And Britain’s Guardian says a professor is spending the next year acting like David Bowie. Will Brooker is his name. He says he wants to recapture all of Bowie’s looks in the game of research, so he’s dressing, reading and even eating like David does. WILL BROOKER (July 16th; ABC RN): You know, you can kind of get into Bowie’s head. You can see-- and sometimes quite a strange place, a dangerous place, a place you wouldn’t want to live too long. GAYLE KING: Brooker says he will not fully dress like Bowie while he’s teaching. A spokesman says the singer has no comment. CLARISSA WARD: This morning the world is remembering a superhero actress. Yvonne Craig played Batgirl on the original Batman television series. She died Monday at Los-- in her home in Los Angeles of complications from breast cancer. (Excerpt from Batman; 20th Century Fox Television) CLARISSA WARD: The actress fought crimes alongside the caped crusader in the 1960s series. She also had TV roles in Star Trek and The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Yvonne Craig was seventy-eight. CHARLIE
ROSE: Russian President Vladimir Putin took his public relations campaign to new depths. Putin boarded a submarine Tuesday to visit an eleventh century ship wreck off the coast of Crimea. Russia annexed the region from Ukraine last year. This is the latest in a series of stunts by the president to boost his image with the Russian public. CLARISSA WARD: First on CBS THIS MORNING, we have breaking news of an incredible treasure find. The story begins in the eighteenth century; eleven Spanish ships were destroyed in a hurricane off the coast of Florida. They were sailing from Havana, Cuba to Spain. (Excerpt from TBS/TBS-Vision) CLARISSA WARD: Last month, three hundred years to the day since the disaster, a Florida salvage company recovered three hundred and fifty sunken gold coins. They are worth four and a half million dollars. Brent Brisben is a co-founder of the company. One thousand seven hundred and--or 1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels. Excuse me. He joins us at the table with some of those rare coins. Brent, good morning. I’ve been so excited for this segment. BRENT BRISBEN (1715 Fleet-Queens Jewels Co-Founder): Good morning. GAYLE KING: Yes. CLARISSA WARD: I grew up on The Goonies, okay, treasure hunting. Tell us about this amazing discovery. BRENT BRISBEN: It’s incredible. As you said there was a fleet of eleven Spanish guys and sailing back to Spain on July 30th and 31st of 1715. They were hit with a hurricane on the East Coast of Florida and all eleven ships were lost. And so we salvaged the active remains of those shipwrecks to this day, and occasionally you come up with some pretty magnificent artifacts. CLARISSA WARD: How did you find out about this, though? How did you know they were there? BRENT BRISBEN: Well, it’s a well-documented story. These shipwrecks were first identified in the late fifties and early sixties by a gentleman named Kip Wagner. And so these shipwrecks have been known about, they’ve been salvaged for all these years. It was just kind of amazing that on the actual three hundredth anniversary they decided to tell a little bit more of their story. CHARLIE ROSE: So how does one, by law, divide up the spoils of these really wonderful discoveries? GAYLE KING: Can I have a coin? BRENT BRISBEN: Absolutely, yeah. I think we can help you out. Basically, the way the law works, these shipwrecks were governed by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and Judge James Lawrence King. So when we find these artifacts we have contractual obligations to the state of Florida, which entitles them to up to twenty percent of the artifacts that we recover. After that all of the artifacts belong to me and my crew, which consists of three guys--Jonah Martinez, Bill Bartlett, and Dan Beckingham--and we will all be the ones that share in this treasure. CHARLIE ROSE: So you give the state theirs and then the four of you divide the rest. BRENT BRISBEN: That’s correct. Yes. GAYLE KING: Yeah. And you were telling me in the Greenroom that one of those bigger ones is worth three hundred thousand dollars. BRENT BRISBEN: That’s correct. Would you like to hold one? GAYLE KING: Brent arrived here--yeah. We should hold them just to get us-- just so you can get a look at the size. Brent, by the way, arrived with security. So how did you guys actually discover it because it’s in shallow water and when did you know that this was a big deal? BRENT BRISBEN: Well, these royals are, you know, perfect specimens of the coinage of the time, and they were made on royal order for the king of Spain to be mostly given out as presentation pieces. So they’re truly perfect examples of the coinage. And on that day, July 30th, you know, Jonah, my co-captain, he picked the spot. GAYLE KING: It was great, excited. Yeah. BRENT BRISBEN: Yeah, yeah. And-- and it was just-- it was incredible. It’s very surreal, not only to have these incredible artifacts come up with their, you know, great value but to have it actually happen on the three hundredth anniversary is really something that I can’t articulate. It’s magical. CLARISSA WARD: So how-- CHARLIE ROSE: How deep down were the-- BRENT BRISBEN: As you can see from the video, they have a drone video, we’re in about six feet of water. We work extremely close to shore, which is surprising to most people. These shipwrecks were pushed by the hurricane in to the outer edges of the reefs and then they’re utterly destroyed by the wave actions. So pieces of these
ships have floated for miles all the way into the beach up into the dunes. People still find treasure as beach detectors to this day. CLARISSA WARD: I mean, so how does one go-- I mean, can anyone be a treasure hunter? Can I? I mean, not that I’m considering a career change just yet, but really I mean can anyone go and try to find-- (Cross-talking) BRENT BRISBEN: Yeah. Well, you’re welcome to come down, Clarissa. I’ll be happy to see you around. It’s-- the only way you can make me do it is to subcontractor through my organization. CLARISSA WARD: Yay. BRENT BRISBEN: We have the exclusive salvage ride-- CLARISSA WARD: All right. BRENT BRISBEN: --to this shipwreck. GAYLE KING: How convenient. All right. CHARLIE ROSE: An exclusive salvage rides to what? BRENT BRISBEN: To the remains of these shipwrecks, all adjudicated within the United States district court as I said. We are the district court’s custodian for the wreck. So we take all of these artifacts into our custody. At the end of the year, the state of Florida will come and review what we found, certain interest and certain artifacts for purposes of displaying in their museum. And then once we work that deal out, the federal court adjudicates legal title to my organization-- (Cross-talking) CHARLIE ROSE: What’s the total value of coins you have discovered? BRENT BRISBEN: Since I’ve been doing this since 2010. We’ve got close to six and half million dollars’ worth of treasure that we’ve-- CLARISSA WARD: Wow. BRENT BRISBEN: --recovered in that time. And we estimate that there’s another four hundred million dollars still left out there. CHARLIE ROSE: Wow. GAYLE KING: I was going to day, is there more left? You must have a very nice house. So can anybody-- are you-- are you looking for people to join your organization or guys all-- CLARISSA WARD: Do you taking interns? BRENT BRISBEN: I-- I absolutely, I do. I-- I-- inundated particularly after story like this-- GAYLE KING: I like that. BRENT BRISBEN: --with people wanting to do it. And so we vet them, but, yeah, I’m trying to give people the opportunity to live the dream. CLARISSA WARD: How did you get into it? BRENT BRISBEN: It was a-- it was my father. It was a passion of his and he-- I’m kind of fulfilling the dream for him. CHARLIE ROSE: What’s the greatest treasure that’s beneath the ocean that we don’t-- that has not been found? BRENT BRISBEN: You know, there are so many shipwrecks all over the world. The vast majority of them are just standard, the Steamers, that sort of thing. There are very few that were laden with treasure. And so, you know, to find a Virgin shipwreck or the Queen’s Jewels, which is something that’s on, on one of our ships, that’s kind of what we shoot for it. GAYLE KING: All right. Congratulations. (Cross-talking) BRENT BRISBEN: Thank you very much. GAYLE KING: Brent Brisben-- CLARISSA WARD: Charlie, put that coin back. GAYLE KING: Yeah. Brent, my new best friend. Thanks a lot. Pop artist Ciara is getting personal. She’s in our Toyota Greenroom this morning. Ahead, she opens up about being a single mom. She’s dating an NFL quarterback and she’s created her most emotional album yet, she says. But first--hi, Ciara--but first at eight-forty, a check of your local weather. (LOCAL WEATHER BREAK) (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"
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Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: The Kentucky County clerk locked up for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses says she has no remorse, and no intention of stepping down. Kim Davis, a devout Christian argues that her faith forbids her from complying with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing same-sex couples to legally wed ARWA DAMON, CNN SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Walking this far and they've been walking for eight, nine hours tonight. It's just so incredibly difficult. They decided to do this, because they could not take waiting out in that train station any longer. They could not take seeing their children sleeping in the streets like that, that life of limbo that they had, but also because they needed to take matters into their own hands, and they did not want to believe any longer and wait any longer for the Hungarian authorities, or even the German authorities to actually do something. You see here, people handing things out. This is one of the main organizers of all of this. He's really been working hard to rally everybody. He's got chocolate, a bit of bread, and water. Other volunteers were here at well handing out things like rain jackets because it might be raining. This family is from Aleppo, and -- she says they're exhausted, very, very tired. She says that yes, they will keep going the whole way. She says they will go all the way. And you see that sheer determination here in everybody. Nothing is going to stop them from reaching Western Europe and Germany. Nothing is going to stop them from that dream of a future, a future that these children do not have in their homelands. JAKE TAPPER, CNN HOST: Arwa Damon, thank you so much. Great reporting. In our National Lead, with several Republican presidential candidates rallying behind her one day in jail has seemingly made a Kentucky clerk refused to issue same-sex marriage licenses even more defiant. She is now vowing she will not quit her job, even if it means remaining behind bars. That story is next. [16:35:59] TAPPER: Welcome back to THE LEAD. I'm Jake Tapper. Topping our National Lead today, the Kentucky County clerk locked up for refusing to issue same-sex marriage licenses says she has no remorse, and no intention of stepping down. Kim Davis, a devout Christian argues that her faith forbids her from complying with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing same-sex couples to legally wed. Yesterday a federal judge sent Davis, an elected Democrat, to jail after finding her in contempt of court. While she remained behind bars, this morning several same-sex couples walked through throngs of supporters and protesters at the local courthouse and received their marriage licenses. Let's get right to CNN's Alexandra Field live outside the jail where Kim Davis is being held. Alex, how long is she prepared to stay in jail? ALEXANDRA FIELD, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Her attorneys are not putting a time frame on it. They that she is standing strong and then leaning on her convictions here and turning to her beliefs that she cannot authorize these licenses because of her religious beliefs and because of what she says is her conscience in this case. But that means that, yes, she could be holed up here for quite some time. Her attorney came by earlier today, spoke to Kim Davis, said that she was in relatively good spirits and here's how he described their conversation. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP) MATTHEW STAVER, LIBERTY COUNSEL FOUNDER: She never anticipated to be here in an orange jumpsuit treated like a prisoner in cell 151. But she's here and she accepts that. She doesn't know how long she is going to be here, but one thing she does know is she loves God. She loves people and loves her job, and cannot violate her conscience. If she's here for a longer period of time, she's prepared to be here. (END VIDEO CLIP) FIELD: Her attorney says that they will file an appeal, but you heard him say that she is prepared to be here for a period of time. She did have the opportunity to get out of jail. The federal judge asked five of her deputy clerks if they would follow his orders and issue these same-sex marriage licenses or marriage licenses, really, to same-sex couples. And then he asked if she would authorize that, if she would allow it, if she would agree not to interfere with it, but because her attorney could not agree to that, she remains in jail today
-- Jake. TAPPER: So as we noted earlier and as you just alluded to, marriage licenses have been granted now to same-sex couples by her deputy clerks. Has she had any reaction to the fact they've been carrying that out? FIELD: We asked her attorney about that today and she seemed to have no negative personal opinion to any of the deputy clerks who chose to do that, but there was a feeling that these clerks were brought to the stand, they were asked by the judge to do this, to follow the orders. She seems to be of the opinion along with her attorneys, and it's been expressed by some of the deputy clerks that issuing these licenses is maybe not something that they personally agree with, but people after seeing Kim Davis get taken to jail, are going to go ahead and follow the court's order. So they are issues they licenses, the licenses do not have Kim Davis' name on them. Kim Davis' attorneys have questioned whether the licenses are actually valid because they don't have the clerk's names on them, but the people that picked them up today believe these the real things, the things they've been fighting for. TAPPER: All right, Alexandra Field, in Kentucky, thank you so much. Let's bring in former Arkansas governor and current Republican presidential candidate, Governor Mike Huckabee to talk about this case and other news in politics. Sir, thanks for joining me today. A pleasure to see you as always. MIKE HUCKABEE (R), PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Great to be with you. TAPPER: So John Adams said we are a nation of laws, not of men. Why, in your view, does this clerk not have the obligation to follow the law? HUCKABEE: Because the Supreme Court cannot make a law. They can review a law, they can interpret a law, but they can't make one. This is what Jefferson was so clear in saying. Lincoln said it. Hamilton said it, that the courts don't have the constitutional authority to just create a law. They can interpret and say one is not appropriate, but then the people's elected representatives have to codify into law the specifics. That has not been done. [16:40:02] So what we end up having is the first example of the criminalization of a Christian for believing their traditional definition of marriage. It is very, very shocking to say the least. TAPPER: So, in other words, I know that you're a supporter of the Loving versus Virginia decision in 1967, which outlawed all bans on interracial marriages, I'm not questioning your position on that. But in your view, after that ban -- after all the bans were struck down by the Supreme Court, even though there might have been Mormons or adherence to Bob Jones, who at the time thought of blacks as inferior as taught by their religion. You would have said that the states still have to step in and make laws. It's not enough for the courts who have ruled? And if there were, Mormon or Bob Jones adherence, you would have said they have the legal right to defy the Supreme Court. HUCKABEE: It's not the same case. That was an interpretation of marriage, but it was still man/woman. This is a completely new, total redefinition of marriage, Jake. I think what's important is we have a county clerk not accommodated for her faith, but was jailed without bail. For God's wake, John Wayne Casey, the Boston strangler, they got bail, so did Jeffrey Dahmer. This is a county clerk not given any accommodation. Secondly if we're going to be this strict about it, I want to know, will Gavin Newsom be arrested, the lieutenant governor of California. Because when he was mayor, he performed same-sex weddings, even though it was blatantly illegal in his state. You have multiple examples of people who said well, I know what the law is, but I'm not going to follow it. Barack Obama said 23 times that he couldn't enact the Dream Act, it would be against the law then he turned around and did it. My question is, why is there a double standard, two sets of rules, one for politicians on the left, and another set of rules that is applied to a county clerk in Kentucky, who by the way, is a Democrat. TAPPER: That's right, an elected Democrat. I know you'll by having a rally on this on Tuesday in Kentucky, but I do want to move on to a couple other issues if that's OK with you, sir. HUCKABEE: Sure. TAPPER: Donald Trump struggled yesterday in an interview with Hugh Hewitt addressing some foreign policy questions. He seemed to confuse the Iranian Quds force with the Kurds fighting ISIS in Iraq, about the names of some terrorist
leaders. He says -- Trump says that Hugh Hewitt was asking gotcha questions and that he as president would hire people with expertise there. Do you agree with Trump or do you agree with Senator Santorum who said commander in chief is not an entry-level position, you need someone who understands these issues on day one. HUCKABEE: Rather than me get into the squabble between Donald Trump and Rick Santorum, let me say questions are fair, but I don't think you elect a president because he has encyclopedic knowledge of geography or of the personnel of countries, you elect them because of judgment. Sometimes I've been in interviews where someone springs something on me about, can you name the vice minister of education, you know in Bangladesh, and you know, the answer is probably not, but I'm not sure that's important. It is important to elect somebody with good judgment. I'm going to leave it to Donald Trump, to Rick Santorum and others. I'm going to focus my campaign on talking about the issues that I think are important. Donald Trump is getting all the attention he needs, Jake, on yours and every other network. I'll leave it at that. TAPPER: All right, Governor Mike Huckabee, thank you so much. I look forward to seeing you on September 16th on the debate stage. HUCKABEE: I'll see you then. Thanks. TAPPER: Coming up, a potential significant lead in the hunt for three suspected cop killers. Police saying they now have video from the area. Did it catch the three men as they fled? Plus teenagers getting high in class and teachers cannot prove it without a lab test. The CNN investigation coming up.

[16:48:03] TAPPER: Welcome back to THE LEAD. In national news, new details in the urgent manhunt for three alleged cop killers suspected in the shooting death of Lieutenant Joe Gliniewicz Tuesday morning about an hour north of Chicago. Officials in Fox Lake, Illinois say they're in possession of several videos that may help them identify those responsible for taking the life of the beloved veteran officer. Up until this point, investigators have only described the suspects as two white men and one black man. Let's get right to CNN's Rosa Flores live in Fox Lake, Illinois. Rosa, what are detectives hoping to see in this video? ROSA FLORES, CNN CORRESPONDENT: You know, the description that they have right now is so vague, Jake, that they're hoping that they can get a good picture of the suspects, but think about it, the videos are of the surrounding areas. They don't have videos of the actual acts. So it's like putting a puzzle together, knowing that some of the pieces are missing. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) FLORES (voice-over): Investigators have been tight-lipped about many of the details involving the killing of Lieutenant Joe Gliniewicz in Northern Illinois, but today new revelations authorities are calling golden nuggets, newly discovered surveillance videos from homes, businesses, and even the Department of Transportation. Police say they've seen three people on the videos they want to speak with. GEORGE FILENKO, LAKE COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE COMMANDER: They have intersection cameras. One of the things that we have historically known about those cameras is that they're usually recycled within a matter of several hours. They were astute enough to hear about this officer's slaying, and they've seen three people on the videos they want to speak with. FILENKO: I can confirm today that it was the officer's weapon that was recovered at the scene, a 40 caliber, which was found near his lifeless body. FILENKO: Yes, we know it's a holiday weekend, and yes, we know it's a partially -- a partial resort community, so we have put in place plans in those situations where people suspect somebody may have been in their home squatting, and we've taken it to the
extent of addressing even the issue of some of the boats that are docked, that they may have been used as some kind of a hiding spot or something just accessing that. (END VIDEOTAPE) FLORES: The FBI also pumping more resources into this case, a web site dedicated for this case, $50,000 in reward for tips that come in and lead to an arrest as well. Now, Jake, we are also learns more about the funeral for this beloved police officer. It’s scheduled for Monday. A briefing probably about an hour ago, we learned they’re expecting about 1,000 law enforcement from all around the country, and about 3,000 to 5,000 people descending on this community to pay respects and to honor this beloved police officer. TAPPER: Rosa Flores, thank you so much. Coming up next, teenagers doing drugs in plain sight in a way that teachers and parents, and even their doctors can’t necessarily detect. We’ll explain. Our CNN investigation next. [16:56:10] TAPPER: Welcome back to THE LEAD. Our Buried Lead today, a dangerous narcotic trend alarming law enforcement officials nationwide while helping to drive the sales of electronic cigarettes sky high. The colorful neon devices are marketed as a safe alternative to nicotine, but a CNN investigation takes a closer look at a disturbing trend. E-cigs also being used to high the use of serious and sometimes deadly street drugs. Our Sara Ganim filed this report. (BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) SARA GANIM, CNN CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): On any given afternoon, Broward County deputies come across this. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They told me $5 for that little bug. The high they get will last several hours. GANIM: This is flacka, just one of the inexpensive synthetic drugs ravaging South Florida, and there’s a new twist that’s making fighting these drugs even harder, e-cigarettes or vaporizer pens. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It's just a huge challenge. It's affecting our entire communities from prevention to rehabilitation. GANIM: Lieutenant Ozzie Teanga says vaping drugs is so discreet, teens can do it right in school. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There's no scent. They sit in the back of the room, think it's funny. What they're vaping, I cannot determine. GANIM (on camera): If you were trying to get high, it used to be you would smell. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Exactly. All of it has changed. GANIM (voice-over): And that same secrecy makes it tough for police to know what's inside the vape pen. They have to get it tested. (on camera): You can't determine what is in it right away? UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Not at all. In fact, these individuals can smoke it right in front of you. GANIM (voice-over): A recent study now found that e-cigarettes use more than triple among middle school and high school students in 2014. It’s not known how much of that is drug-related, but young users are posting videos of themselves getting high on YouTube. (VIDEO CLIP) GANIM: The Drug Enforcement Administration is so concerned because synthetics can be so dangerous no matter how they're ingested. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We've seen it time and time again they've overdosed and have died. There's significant number of overdoses that are occurring related to these types of drugs. GANIM: All of this is so new, no one's keeping track. No one knows just how many people have been injured or have died from vaping synthetic drugs. Already emergency rooms are seeing an increase, and the stories are disturbing. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I have had patients in my practice in the emergency room that I have walked in on that are actually vaping at the bedside. GANIM: This doctor says recently a patient was discharged after an overdose, and went into a hospital bathroom on his way out of the hospital, vaped more drugs and had to be taken back to the ER. UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think these devices do have a role in helping people get off of actual cigarettes. They may be proven safer in that case, but in the hands of teenagers and drug abusers, they definitely a very dangerous thing to have. (END VIDEOTAPE) GANIM: The thing to remember here, Jake, is these are not classified as drug paraphernalia, so there’s no federal age limit on who can buy them, though many states do have restrictions. These shops are popping up everywhere. Not to mention they can easily be bought on the internet. The industry says that vaping is a great thing for a lot of people. That it’s helping people to quit smoking, not helping people to start smoking. They of course say
everything is subject to abuse by drug addicts and of course, there's a study that shows many of these teens who are vaping, they have never smoked before. This is new to them. TAPPER: All right, Sara Ganim, thanks for that report. Don't miss this Sunday's “STATE OF THE UNION.” We'll be talking to DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz and former Republican vice presidential candidate, Sarah Palin. That's 9:00 a.m. and noon Eastern. That's it for THE LEAD. I'm Jake Tapper, turning you over now to Brianna Keilar in for Wolf Blitzer in “THE SITUATION ROOM.”

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Article Title: Latest survey; E-cigs draw 1 in 8 adults in 2014;

Date: 10/28/2015

Article Content: Twelve percent of American adults -- and 21 percent of those 18 to 24 -- puffed on an electronic cigarette at least once last year, according to the first federal data on use of the devices by adults. The report, which provides estimates based on a national survey, shows that 3.7 percent of adults were regular e-cigarette consumers and that many of those using electronic cigarettes also are still lighting up traditional smokes. Eighteen percent of U.S. adults -- more than 42 million -- smoke, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The popularity of e-cigarettes troubles many health experts, who emphasize that the unregulated devices are designed to appeal to children and young adults, who could be developing lifelong addictions. Data on the health effects of e-cigarettes is slim, and good large-scale evidence of the potential repercussions of using the devices is probably five to 10 years off, said Dr. Rob Crane, president of the Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation and a professor of family medicine at Ohio State University. It's folly to assume that the devices are safe, he said. “What we're talking about is a completely untested, uncontrolled, unregulated industry headquartered primarily in China,” Crane said. History has shown that attempts to create less-harmful tobacco products -- filters, low-tar cigarettes -- have been unsuccessful, he said. The new data on adult use comes six months after the CDC reported that e-cigarette use had tripled among middle- and high-school students in one year. The same report showed a doubling of hookah use. The Electronic cigarettes International Group, a leading manufacturer, had no one available on Tuesday for an interview, a spokesman said. The notion that e-cigarettes are a good alternative for smokers or that they will help smokers quit nicotine is flawed, said Erika Sward, assistant vice president for national advocacy for the American Lung Association. Rather, many smokers are using them as an alternative in situations where smoking isn't allowed or is frowned on, she said. The federal survey found that 16 percent of current smokers and 22 percent of recent former smokers said they used e-cigarettes. Numbers were much lower among those who hadn't smoked for a year or more (2.3 percent) or never smoked (0.4 percent). The Food and Drug Administration hasn't found e-cigarettes to be safe and effective as quit-smoking tools, nor has it imposed regulations on the manufacturers that were sought by the lung association and others, Sward said. Regulation is likely to be at least a couple of years off, she said. “Until FDA has the authority and acts on it, we're going to continue to see the repercussions of this wild,
wild West situation,” Sward said. Rates of use among young adults and the previously reported increases in use among children are a special concern to Sward and others who worry that use at a young age could lead to traditional cigarette use, a gateway theory that is not yet well-established. Kim Hehman, pulmonary manager at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital, said the trendiness of e-cigarettes is troublesome, and commercials claiming that they’re safer than smoking are without merit. “It’s a really difficult claim to make because we don’t know.” Hehman, a respiratory therapist, works with people who are trying to quit smoking, and she said she hasn’t seen a smoker successfully transition from cigarettes to e-cigarettes to not smoking at all. Gum, lozenges and patches are regulated and proven tools, she said. Hehman said she knows of physicians who recommend e-cigarettes, thinking they’re better than the alternative. Although e-cigarettes do contain fewer compounds, nobody can be certain what harm they could be doing, she said. Among her concerns: inflammation in the pulmonary system and cardiovascular side effects from high doses of nicotine. Crane said he’s concerned about the potential effects of the flavorings many people choose to add to the e-cigarettes. On top of that, the flavors make the products even more appealing to young people. “We fought so hard to get kids to stop smoking, and the industry has just found a way -- sort of whack-a-mole-ish -- to have another product crop up that is difficult to tax, difficult to regulate, difficult to control and, most importantly, it’s won the hearts and minds of kids.” mcrane@dispatch.com @MistiCrane

Source Title: News

Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – Newspaper 2

Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 11767

Article Title: Olathe looks at e-cigarettes"

Date: 11/24/2014

Article Content: The Olathe City Council is considering adding electronic cigarettes to the city's smoking ban. At its meeting Tuesday evening, the council attempted to include e-cigarettes in the city's Indoor Clean Air Ordinance, meaning the devices would be prohibited from being used in public places. E-cigarettes are electronic or battery-powered vaporizers that simulate tobacco smoking. The council voted 3-2 to make the inclusion. Later in the meeting, however, city staff informed the council that the change actually required at least four yes votes to be valid. In two weeks, the council will vote on the issue again. The upcoming vote is expected to include councilmen Wes McCoy and Jim Randall, who were absent from this week’s meeting. The council members who voted this week said they will remain firm on their stances. John Bacon and Larry Campbell were the two opposing voters. Both conducted extensive research online about whether there are second-hand health risks from e-cigarettes. Neither found anything conclusive. “When you compare e-cigarettes to actual cigarette smoke the difference is like night and day,” Bacon said. Campbell agreed. “Until I can conclusively know that it is harmful to others, I won’t support the change,” he said. Councilwoman Marge Vogt disagreed. “When you pull out an e-cigarette in public, people don’t know what it is, and that’s an issue,” she said. “I think it’s better to side with caution, because we don’t know the health risks yet. When cigarettes came out, people thought they were safe and guess what, they’re not.” Overland Park added e-cigarettes to its smoking
ban earlier this year, with only one council member voting no. Also during Olathe council meeting, a presentation on the upcoming changes to Olathe Medical Center was given to the council. The hospital campus, located at 151st Street and Interstate 35, will undergo a massive renovation next year. Mike Jensen, the vice president of marketing and external affairs at the center, told the council one of the biggest changes will be the construction of a new 105,000-square-foot patient room tower for a new OB/NICU unit. The hospital plans to add several more physicians to deliver babies, raise the level of care in the nursery, and add amenities, such as single-family rooms for NICU patients to make the center a comfortable place to deliver, he said. There will also be a construction of a new entrance and expansion to the kitchen and dining area, plus construction of a new comprehensive 25,000-square-foot cancer center."

Source Title: News

E cig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 393788

Article Title: The Ultimate Guide To Buying Your First Vape

Date: 7/7/2015

Article Content: “Vape” was named Oxford Dictionaries’ Word of the Year in 2014, and although these devices used to vaporize different cannabis products have gained in popularity, buying one can be confusing as hell. There are seemingly hundreds of different options, and if you aren’t properly educated before purchasing, you could end up spending a good chunk of change on a vape that you don’t even enjoy using. Let’s prevent that from happening by arming you with the information you need to find a vaporizer you’ll love! 4. Portable or desktop: Where will you be vaping? HBO If you’re planning to vape on the go, then you’ll definitely want to get a portable device. On the other hand, if you’ll likely be vaping at home most of the time, then you might want to go with a desktop unit. Keep in mind, however, that quality desktop vaporizers can be pricey, and although you can use a portable vape at home, you won’t be able to travel with it. So if you’re new to vaping, then you might want to start with a portable unit, then consider investing in a nicer desktop vape at a later date. 5. Flowers or concentrates: What do you usually smoke? Most vapes accommodate either flowers (aka dry herb or marijuana trees) or concentrates (oils, waxes, etc.). There are some portable units that accommodate both, and deluxe desktop models often feature oil attachments. But if you’re super loyal to flowers — or have never even heard of concentrates — then you may want to look for a vape that works with only dry herbs. If you’re a daily smoker, though, portable vapes may not deliver as strong of a medicated feeling as you may be used to. “The big difference is that with concentrates you’re going to get a more potent hit,” budtender Michael Caruso of SPARC told BuzzFeed. “With flowers you have a much lower potency, about 10 to 30% concentrated THC. With concentrates, so the waxes, taffies, shatters, and hashes, you’re getting 40% on up to 90 or 95% concentrated THC. So concentrates will require less medicine for you to vaporize, but it’s also going to be a more intense effect.” Wondering about the health effects of vaping flowers versus concentrates? Check out this guide for the health-conscious pothead. 6. $ or $$$: How much do you have to spend? You should try to settle on a budget before you start shopping for a vape. Why? Because
some of the nicer desktop models cost hundreds of dollars and it can be intimidating. But you definitely don’t need to break the bank in order to start vaping, there are plenty of options starting at significantly lower price points. “If you’re looking to vape on a budget and don’t want to spend a lot,” Caruso said, “then I’d steer you towards a concentrate pen. For about sixty bucks you can get set up with a cartridge and a battery.” Pre-filled concentrate pens are the easiest, and probably cheapest, option when it comes to vaping. Pen battery and charger packs usually sell for around $20, and concentrate cartridges sell for between $30 and $50. Though you’ll need to be in a state where medical or recreational marijuana use is legal in order to find them pre-filled with concentrate oils. “They’re extremely convenient,” Caruso said about cartridge pens. “I love them. The batteries will last a good three days of fairly constant use on a full charge. Oddly enough, they last a long time considering how small they are.” With a vape pen there are no buttons and no need to preheat. Just inhale, and as you draw air in through the mouthpiece the battery will heat up to release the hash oil vapor. Liquid cartridge vape pens are convenient, but there’s no denying the hash vapor has a bit of a funky flavor. 9. The pen with a touch of class: Cloud V Liquid ($30) If you’re looking for a little bit of a classier option, or live in a place where you can’t find pre-filled cartridges, then check out the Cloud V Liquid. It comes in black, white, and two shades of chrome, with a matching cartridge that you can fill on your own. Cloud V also sells solo pen batteries, which can typically be used with most pre-filled cartridges, as cartridges and pens are usually interchangeable. Quality portable devices that make for a decent on-the-go vape can be a little pricier than their concentrate counterparts. Expect to spend at least $100, possibly up to $300, depending on how durable of a device you need. Flower vapes are going to be less intimidating if you aren’t familiar with concentrates, as loading one is pretty similar to packing a traditional bowl in a pipe. Oh, and heads up, with most flower vapes you should never stuff the chamber full of herb. Only fill about halfway for an optimal vaping experience. It’s a little more expensive, but the Firefly Portable Vaporizer comes with a five-year warranty and will withstand frequent use. It heats up instantly with the push of a button and delivers a pure and smooth puff of herb vapor. It’s got a magnetic lid, which makes packing the Firefly surprisingly simple. 13. Our favorite portable for flowers: Pax 2 ($280) When it comes to portable vapes, it doesn’t get more beautiful than the Pax 2. Not only is it a quality vaporizing pen, but the device itself is simply stunning. “There are others that are cheaper, but they won’t last as long,” Caruso said. “The Pax 2 is going to last a long time. It’s definitely worth the cost.” “It’s my favorite portable vape,” he continued. “The flower vaporization element is amazing.” I’ve been able to try out the Pax 2 — as well the original Pax, which now sells for less than $200 — and can also attest to how well they work. If you’re looking for a reliable device for smoking flowers both on the go and at home, then I definitely recommend Pax vaporizers. Concentrate vapes are a bit cheaper than flower vaporizers (you can expect to spend between $50 and $100) but will require a little more knowledge about herbal concentrates. Loading a concentrate vape can seem intimidating, but it’s totally simple once you get the hang of handling waxes. I actually find concentrate to be a more convenient option if you’re vaping on the go, as you don’t need to grind up herb, which can be messy and time-consuming. Instead, just scoop in a bit of wax before you leave home, then push the button to vape when you’re ready. Super easy! 15. The affordable option: Dabstix Kit ($40) If you’re looking to get a low-priced portable vape for concentrates, then consider purchasing a Dabstix. They have a Dual Coil Standard Kit, which at less than $40 is definitely one of the most affordable concentrate vapes out there. They also sell a Trifecta Kit (pictured above) for about twice that price that comes with attachments for flowers and liquid concentrates. Keep in mind, however, that Dabstix batteries only come with a six-month warranty. 16. More reliable for a few dollars more: Dr. Dabber Ghost ($85) The Dr. Dabber Ghost is the self proclaimed “original low-heat
vaporizer pen.” Its titanium technology heats up slowly so that you don’t get a burnt taste in your mouth while vaping. The Ghost Kit comes with the necessary essentials to get you going, plus an indestructible ball for storing your concentrates. The Black Edition vaporizer from KandyPens gets my recommendation when it comes to portable concentrate vapes. The kit comes with the pen, a charger, a copper titanium coil atomizer (plus a backup), a dab skillet, a brush, and extra mouthpieces. The batteries have a lifetime warranty, but more importantly, vaping with KandyPens Black Edition is a reliably enjoyable experience! Desktop — or tabletop — vaporizers are sturdier, a little more expensive, and need to be plugged in. Making them not portable. But if you’re a stoner with some extra cash to spare, then a high-quality desktop vape could make for a rather enjoyable investment. 19. Vape at home like a pro: Volcano Classic ($479) Mathew Guiver / BuzzFeed If you’re looking for a sturdy vape that will withstand regular use, then consider a Volcano. Personally, I prefer the Volcano Classic Starter Set with a dial knob. It comes with everything you’ll need, including an orange grinder! For another $120 though, you could get a model with a digital temperature control. At SPARC they actually have the Digit models in their vape lounge, so I’ve been able to use both, and honestly it’s not worth the extra money IMO. “The VapeXhale is far and away one of the best vaporizers out there,” Caruso said. “It offers a water-filtrated vapor hit, so you can get a bubbler piece that goes on top of your vaporizer. It’s amazing. And it’s really unmatched in its ability to vaporize cold water hash. You get the flavor, you get the effect, and it’s a full draw. It’s wonderful.” VapeXhale makes premium vaporizers, and they definitely aren’t cheap. You can get a basic model for under $500, but if you’re going to splurge and buy a VapeXhale, I recommend going for the ShowerCap Starter Kit, which comes with a glass HydraTube and an essential oils attachment. It’s an expensive kit, but the VapeXhale makes for a great vaping experience! It’s refreshingly similar to that of a bong, but cleaner, and it delivers a smooth, more concentrated vape. Plus all of their products come with a 30-day satisfaction guarantee and a three-year warranty. 22. Do your research! Like with any decent-sized purchase, make sure to do your research. Things like multiyear warranties are pretty standard on legit vapes these days, but always check the fine print! Also, make sure to check shipping and handling fees. They can definitely add up. 23. Think about accessories. If you’re already making an order — and paying for shipping — then you might as well add on an accessory or two. For concentrate vapes, consider getting a few skillet tools if your vaporizer doesn’t come with any. “They’re essentially like little dental tools with plates on them,” Caruso said, “and they make it easier to work with the concentrate.” Another must? “A good grinder if you’re getting a flower vape. You want maximum surface area, definitely get a grinder if you don’t already have one. They aren’t that expensive.”

Source Title: Web

E cig Individual Norms – E cig – MPM – Web 2
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 648594

Article Title: Congressman vapes during hearing: ‘This is the future’

Date: 2/12/2016
Article Content: Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-California) vaped and spoke out against a ban on vaping devices during a House Transportation hearing. VPC

Source Title: Web

Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – Web 3
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 661365

Article Title: People react hilariously to 'Dora the Explorer' actress's vaping habit"

Date: 4/13/2016

Article Content: Vaper, no vaping! After the news broke today that Dora the Explorer voice actress Fátima Ptacek has been suspended from her high school for vaping, the Internet has been in a frenzy. The teen was supposedly caught “using a vapor pen to inhale caramel-flavored water,” according to The Associated Press. Now, all of Dora's friends seem to have a few things to say about their Spanish-speaking, adventure-loving leader, and her love of an e-cig. Which in this case, by the way, was not loaded with marijuana. Teens love caramel-flavored water more than weed, OK? Below are some of the funniest reactions to the news of the Dora actress' vaping. I wonder if Dora the Explorer ever rolled up and smoked the map. I bet Boots was hiding some primo shit in those gargantuan cloppers of his. S A W Y E R (@sawybawy) April 12, 2016 Have something to add to this story? Share it in the comments. 

Source Title: Web

Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – MPM – Web 4
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 418681

Article Title: Michelle Mone gives it a shot with golfer Stefan Soroka in GIRL ABOUT TOWN | Daily Mail Online"

Date: 10/10/2015

Article Content: GIRL ABOUT TOWN: Michelle gives it a shot with golf star By Charlotte Griffiths, Diary Editor For The Mail On Sunday Published: 18:10 EST, 10 October 2015 | Updated: 19:14 EST, 10 October 2015 Baroness Michelle Mone raised eyebrows when she pulled out of giving a talk at last week's Cheltenham Literary Festival, blaming 'unforeseen circumstances'. Perhaps those circumstances were related to the lingerie tycoon falling head over heels in love with golfer Stefan Soroka? I can reveal that the Ultimo bra boss has been secretly dating Stefan for a month and they went on a romantic holiday ahead of her 44th birthday last week. Scroll down for video I can reveal that Ultimo bra boss Michelle Mone has been secretly dating Stefan Soroka for a month and they went on a romantic holiday ahead of her 44th birthday last week Michelle has told pals that she has never felt so strongly about anyone before and things are getting serious She told pals that she has never felt so strongly about anyone
before and things are getting serious. Her secret was finally revealed when the pair were spotted strolling near a London park last week. Stefan is the golf professional at Sandy Lane, the exclusive five-star resort hotel in Barbados, where Michelle has been a frequent visitor. If you think your mother can be a bit embarrassing, spare a thought for Lady Alice Manners and her sister Lady Violet – their mother, the Duchess of Rutland, arrived at a party on horseback. The Duchess, rode to the launch party of her latest book – Capability Brown & Belvoir: Discovering A Lost Landscape – at Christie’s in London last week. If you think your mother can be a bit embarrassing, spare a thought for Lady Alice Manners and her sister Lady Violet – their mother, the Duchess of Rutland, arrived at a party on horseback. Alice and Violet cringed, with Violet commenting about her mother on Instagram: ‘Never one to miss a photo op.’ Meanwhile, news that the Duchess is seeing her Belvoir Castle estate manager Phil Burtt – and that they live under the same roof as her estranged husband – didn’t surprise me. I revealed last year that Phil had wooed the Duchess with his superb management skills at the Belvoir estate. Don't panic – Jonathan Ross’s pet cat hasn’t taken up smoking cigars, despite what it looks like in this Instagram photo from the star. When I bumped into Jonathan at the star-studded BFI Luminous Gala, he told me that he’s swapped his beloved smokes for e-cigars as part of his new healthy lifestyle – and that his cat now steals the real ones to play with. I barely recognised Wossy, who has lost a stone after giving up alcohol and carbs. Don't panic – Jonathan Ross’s pet cat hasn’t taken up smoking cigars, despite what it looks like in this Instagram photo from the star. Share or comment on this article.

Source Title: Web

Passing Mentions

Note: For analysts of the dataset, the variable name within the dataset is (“ecig_SOURCE_eindnorm” - “ecigmpm_SOURCE_eindnorm”).

E cig Individual Norms – Ecig – PM – AP 1
Predicted Probability: 0.84

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 3510

Article Title: Pelican killed in attack caught on surveillance video

Date: 2/5/2015

Article Content: DATELINE: FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - Wildlife officials say a group of teenagers killed a pelican in an attack that was caught on the security camera of an upscale Fort Lauderdale condominium complex. The attack occurred Jan. 16. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokeswoman Liz Barraco says a security guard told officials about the attack. Barraco told the South Florida Sun Sentinel (http://bit.ly/1Kub8te ) one teen held the bird down and blew fumes from an electronic cigarette into its beak and eyes. He then held the pelican's beak closed so it couldn't breathe, repeating the action multiple times until it died. The main suspect is charged with a violation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Barraco says he'll likely be placed in a juvenile diversion program. The names of the teenagers have not been released. Information from: Sun Sentinel, http://www.sun-sentinel.com
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - A U.S. passenger who placed a fake bomb in a restroom during an international flight - and then reported it to look like a hero - has avoided a prison term. Instead, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Mosman sentenced Sean Davies to five years on probation and ordered him to pay restitution to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Prosecutors recommended the sentence because the 23-year-old from coastal Oregon has no prior arrests, has been received treatment for alcoholism and also landed a steady job as a salesman at a jewelry store in a Portland suburb. "I do want you to understand that this arrest and this conviction really are an arrow in life pointing you to a terrible place," Mosman warned. "And only by your own actions can you get off that path." KLM Flight 569 was 3 ½ hours into a flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, when Davies told a member of the cabin crew there was a strange wire coming out of a cabinet in the restroom, leading to an electrical socket. The flight captain eventually inspected the miniature wine bottle with some cables attached to it and figured it was probably a prank. But after consulting with KLM security, the plane was diverted to Cairo, Egypt. The NL Times, which provides English-language news about the Netherlands, reported at the time of the October 2014 incident that 271 passengers were aboard the flight and there was no panic. Egyptian authorities interviewed Davies because the flight crew suspected him of planting the device. Davies denied involvement and he continued with the trip. Davies returned to the U.S. from Africa in December 2014. Dutch police interviewed him while he changed planes in Amsterdam. Davies told them he made frequent trips to the bathroom during the October flight because he is an alcoholic and has kidney stones, and that he no longer had his iPhone charger because it burst into flames while in Africa. The FBI and Port of Portland police met him when he returned to U.S. soil. He initially agreed to take a polygraph test and then declined. The polygrapher told him the test wasn't necessary, because it was obvious he was lying. Davies then confessed, saying he built the fake bomb with a wine bottle, an e-cigarette battery, water, soap, an iPhone charging cord and the earphones distributed on the flight. He said he had been feeling down about himself and wanted to appear heroic. Davies pleaded guilty in February to conveying false information concerning a device which could destroy or damage an aircraft. He apologized Thursday to the airline, the passengers, the U.S. Government and his family. Davies said he's no longer the irresponsible "boy" who committed that act. "They say you never learn if you don't make mistakes. While my mistakes have been a little larger than what I would like, I needed to have this kick so I could realize the path I was headed on." KLM calculated its losses from the incident to be $85,330. Davies has already paid half the money."
HIGHLIGHT: Police shot Jamar Clark, Sunday after they say he attacked his girlfriend and tried to stop paramedics from treating her and then he fought with officers. Witnesses say Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports two officers involved in the deadly shooting of a black suspect agreed to speak to state investigators. Police shot Jamar Clark, Sunday after they say he attacked his girlfriend and tried to stop paramedics from treating her and then he fought with officers. Witnesses say Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. The State Bureau of Criminal Apprehension superintendent says that claim is under investigation. DREW EVANS (BCA Superintendent): There was handcuffs at the scene at the time and they were still examining whether or not they were on Mister Clark or whether or not they were just at fallen at the scene. That`s what we`re trying to assert. ANNE-MARIE GREEN: The shooting led to days of protests including this one last night outside the city`s police department. And the New York Times reports two advisers to Ben Carson`s campaign say he`s struggling to master foreign policy. In the past week, Carson wrongly asserted that had China has intervened in Syria. He also failed to name the countries that could form a coalition to fight ISIS. One adviser, former CIA operative Duane Clarridge, expressed frustration about Carson`s lack of mastery. In a statement, the Carson campaign distanced itself. Mister Clarridge is an older man who had an amazing career. He is not our foreign policy adviser and he would have no personal knowledge of who or when Doctor Carson is briefed. And the Boston Herald reports on a drunk passenger who was restrained on a British Airways flight from London to Boston. The Polish woman is due in court today, charged with interfering with the flight crew. Police say she tried to open an exit door midflight during a violent outburst after she wasn`t allowed to smoke an e-cigarette on board. Well, up next, we will take you back to France where a massive raid overnight targeted the suspected mastermind in the Paris terror attacks. (ANNOUNCEMENTS)"

Source Title: BTN

Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – PM – BTN 2
Predicted Probability: 0.89

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 757844

Article Title: SHOW: CBS THIS MORNING 7:00 AM EST Well, the Trump campaign tells us that Melania Trump will speak for about twenty to twenty-five minutes today about her husband`s policies for women, families"

Date: 11/3/2016

Article Content: HIGHLIGHT: She will also talk about what kind of first lady she would be, a topic that`s been overshadowed since she delivered the now infamous address at this summer`s Republican
Convention. STEPHEN COLBERT (The Late Show, CBS): Trump has come up with a new way to encourage people to donate to his campaign. DONALD TRUMP (The Late Show, CBS): I want to show you something very special. I am dedicating this wall right here in Trump Tower to a select group of donors and supporters from my campaign. STEPHEN COLBERT: That`s right. Donald Trump is building a wall and making his donors pay for it. GAYLE KING: That`s one take on it on the wall conversation. Thank you, Stephen Colbert. Welcome back to CBS THIS MORNING. Coming up in this half hour, Melania Trump will deliver her first political speech today since that plagiarism scandal at the Republic National Convention. We`ll look at whether she could resonate with some voters better than her husband. NORAH O`DONNELL: Plus, finding a fix to overheating smartphone batteries. The government is investing millions in research. Ahead, we`re going to take you inside a lab that is testing safer solutions as Samsung faces new legal actions over its smartphones. CHARLIE ROSE: Time to show you some of this morning`s headlines from around the globe. Britain`s Guardian reports on a major blow for the British government over Brexit. A court ruled today that approval by parliament is needed to trigger the process. The country voted in June to leave the European Union. The ruling is likely to slow the pace of the departure. The British government plans to appeal. NORAH O`DONNELL: The U.K.`s Independent reports on the leader of ISIS rallying his fighters in the Iraqi city of Mosul. A group that monitors extremist`s activities online says Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi released an audio message. (Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi speaking foreign language; recording) NORAH O`DONNELL: Now it urges the militants to defend the city. The recording breaks a nearly year-long silence. The American-backed Iraqi military operation is advancing on Mosul from multiple directions. ISIS took control of the city more than two years ago. GAYLE KING: The Bismarck Tribune reports that a crowd protesting the Dakota Access pipeline was pepper sprayed. Police say that the protesters tried to enter private property. Native Americans tribes say the oil line will threaten their water supply and sacred lands. President Obama says government engineers are considering rerouting the pipeline. NORAH O`DONNELL: The Los Angeles Times reports on a new dispute in the Bill Cosby sexual assault case. A prosecutor says the defense wants to prevent thirteen women from testifying against Cosby by publicly identifying them. A judge must decide if they may testify at Cosby`s trial next June. Cosby`s lawyers say he can`t help in his defense because of his failing eyesight. CHARLIE ROSE: The New York Times reports on Gawkers` thirty-one-million-dollar settlement with Hulk Hogan. The gossip site filed for bankruptcy in June after the former wrestler won a one-hundred-and-forty-million-dollar in a privacy case. Gawker dropped its appeal of that judgment. The money would come from proceeds from Gawker sale to Univision. GAYLE KING: And USA Today says lawmakers are calling on Facebook to stop allowing advertisers to exclude racial and ethnic groups in targeted housing ads. On Tuesday, the Congressional Black Caucus wrote a letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The group said the ad customization feature is in direct violation of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Facebook says it`s “working to better understand these concerns.” CHARLIE ROSE: Surrogates for the presidential candidates are campaigning across the country this week, especially in must-win states. Hillary Clinton has President Obama stumping in Florida. Her running mate Tim Kaine is in Arizona, Bernie Sanders is in Iowa, former President Bill Clinton is in Nevada and daughter Chelsea is in Wisconsin. NORAH O`DONNELL: Donald Trump`s children are covering Colorado, Nevada, Michigan, New Hampshire and Wisconsin. Ted Cruz will join Trump`s running mate Mike Pence in Iowa and Michigan. Pence will also make a stop in Pennsylvania without Cruz. And Trump`s wife Melania is also in Pennsylvania to give her first speech since the Republican Convention in July. Julianna Goldman is in Washington with the unique role that Melania Trump has played in her husband`s presidential campaign. Julianna, good morning. JULIANNA GOLDMAN (CBS
News Correspondent): Good morning. Well, the Trump campaign tells us that Melania Trump will speak for about twenty to twenty-five minutes today about her husband’s policies for women, families and children. She will also talk about what kind of first lady she would be, a topic that’s been overshadowed since she delivered the now infamous address at this summer’s Republican Convention. (Begin VT) MELANIA TRUMP: You work hard for what you want in life. JULIANNA GOLDMAN: The last time Melania Trump stepped into the familiar role of a candidate’s spouse giving a speech, it turned out to be a little too familiar. MICHELLE OBAMA: You work hard for what you want in life. JULIANNA GOLDMAN: It quickly became clear some of the passages were lifted from First Lady Michelle Obama’s 2008 speech to the Democratic National Convention. MICHELLE OBAMA: That your word is your bond that you do what you say you’re going to do. MELANIA TRUMP: That your word is your bonds and you do what you say. JULIANNA GOLDMAN: From that point on, while Melania Trump accompanied her husband to debates, she largely stayed away from the campaign trail—MELANIA TRUMP: He created a movement. JULIANNA GOLDMAN:—until today, a fact that seemed to come as a surprise during a joint interview last week. MELANIA TRUMP (GMA): I might join him. We will see. DONALD TRUMP (GMA): She’s actually going to make two or three speeches. MELANIA TRUMP: Oh? JULIANNA GOLDMAN: Over the more than four months since she was panned for her speech at the RNC, Melania has slowly made her way back into the public’s eye. Her husband even made light of the incident at a recent charity dinner in New York City. DONALD TRUMP: Michelle Obama gives a speech and everyone loves it. It’s fantastic. They think she’s absolutely great. My wife Melania gives the exact same speech and people get on her case, and I don’t get it. JULIANNA GOLDMAN: And after Donald Trump was seen bragging about sexual assault on the 2005 Access Hollywood tape, she was deployed for damage control. MELANIA TRUMP: He was lead on, like, egged on from the host to say dirty and bad stuff. JULIANNA GOLDMAN: Former Republican strategist Rick Davis said Melania’s speech today will target the suburban housewife, a key demographic for Trump in final the days of the campaign. RICK DAVIS: If you want to win Pennsylvania, you have to be competitive in the Philadelphia suburbs. So having a woman there who can carry a message that’s softer and a little more kinder and gentler, as George Bush would have said— is as an advantage for the Trump campaign. (End VT) JULIANNA GOLDMAN: When it comes to the—those Philadelphia suburbs, white college educated women are key. And with polls showing Hillary Clinton’s lead in Pennsylvania shrinking, Donald Trump needs to make inroads with this group if he wants a shot at continuing to close the gap in these final days. It’s a tough climb. The latest CNN poll out of Pennsylvania shows Clinton only four points ahead in Pennsylvania but she’s running fifteen points ahead of Trump with women. And, Norah, for some added help today, we are told Melania Trump will be introduced by Mike—by Mike Pence’s wife Karen. NORAH O’DONNELL: All right. Julianna, thank you so much. GAYLE KING: Researchers are trying to develop smartphone batteries that will not catch fire after the Samsung Note 7 recall. Ahead, Jan Crawford takes us inside the Maryland lab looking at potential alternatives. And here’s an invitation, we hope you don’t refuse. We are inviting you personally to subscribe to our CBS THIS MORNING podcast. You’ll get the news of the day, extended interviews and, best of all, what do you get? NORAH O’DONNELL: Podcast originals. GAYLE KING: Podcast originals. NORAH O’DONNELL: Very good. GAYLE KING: O’Donnell, you can find them all on iTunes and Apple’s podcast app. NORAH O’DONNELL: We might even start our own behind the scenes podcast. GAYLE KING: That’s a good idea, I think. A lot happens behind the scene, don’t you think, Charlie? CHARLIE ROSE: Yes. NORAH O’DONNELL: The crew is laughing now at me. GAYLE KING: We’ll be right back. NORAH O’DONNELL: Stop laughing at me. CHARLIE ROSE: They thought it was their own. (ANNOUNCEMENTS) NORAH O’DONNELL: Surveillance video captured the moment the battery in an e-cigarette exploded in a man’s pocket. He was waiting
outside of a nightclub in France at the time. He suffered severe burns and says he plans to sue the manufacturer. GAYLE KING: Yeah. That looks like that hurts. NORAH O’DONNELL: Yeah. CHARLIE ROSE: Fire in the pot. GAYLE KING: Yeah. Note to self."

Source Title: BTN

Article Content: Most actors who dine in Hollywood restaurants don't talk to beret-clad strangers. And they're especially not likely to be taking in disquisitions from one of those strangers on wine. Yet there is Charlie Hunnam -- yes, gritty-as-dirt Jax from the FX biker series “Sons of Anarchy” -- at Greenblatt's, the Westside's promised land of whitefish and latkes, eagerly receiving oenophilic wisdom from an older man in colorful headgear. “I came back from being outside doing this,” the British actor said a moment later, pointing to a vaping implement, “and he was drinking wine right in the middle of the day. So I asked him some questions,” Hunnam added with a wouldn't-you-do-the-same? shrug. “He knew a lot -- it was really interesting.” Hunnam has long headed his own way. Since he started getting leading film roles in the early 2000s -- in “Nicholas Nickleby” and as a snarling ringleader in the 2005 soccer-fan drama “Green Street Hooligans” -- the actor, 37, has shown a maverick streak. A working-class Brit who as a kid devoured American films and literature. A heartthrob-in-waiting who eschews heartthrob roles. A Hollywood creature who openly criticizes the Hollywood machine. Hunnam is perhaps best known for the role he didn't play, the Christian Grey part in the erotic drama “Fifty Shades of Grey.” It was the type of 11th-hour exit one rarely sees -- a genuinely unexpected bucking of the Hollywood handbook that encapsulates his independence. But starting Friday, Hunnam's fame could take on a new dimension: He'll be on the big screen (really big, given the film's 35 mm format) as the doomed British explorer Percy Fawcett in James Gray's jungle-adventure “The Lost City of Z.” And next month, he'll appear as the lead in Guy Ritchie's “King Arthur: Legend of the Sword,” a stylish big-budget take on the 5th and 6th century English legend. The two will show more of the under-the-radar-actor to the world, or at least the same aspects to more of the world. At a time of glib soundbites and Twitter fronting, Hunnam offers a refreshingly different kind of personality, a candid and considered soul seemingly trapped in a Hollywood-actor body. In “Lost City,” he plays the real-life Fawcett with a thoughtful, at times sullen, seriousness. The former artillery soldier made repeated trips to the Amazon in search of a community he believed was the remnants of El Dorado, eventually disappearing there with his son in 1925. As Hunnam conjures him from David Grann's nonfiction bestseller, Fawcett was not the swashbuckling adventurer at the start of his quest, nor the stark-raving mad Kurtzian figure as it went on -- instead, he was beset by the kind of quiet preoccupation that destroys and nourishes in equal measure. “For me, Fawcett represents the search for meaning we all have -- that terrible and wonderful and ordained quest,” Hunnam said. “He wasn't finding any answers in society; he found life wholly unsatisfying. So it was this voice asking questions: 'What are we doing, and what is this desperate dark hole and how do I
fill it? Most of us fill it with total nonsense -- with consumerism. And he thought this quest would help quiet that voice.” Hunnam tends to answer questions with a pause, followed by a rush of words, an attempt to get across a truth unbothered by spin, as though by simply speaking quickly and eloquently he could ward off the dreaded curse of the talking point. He also evinces a dark view glinted -- slightly -- with humor. “I don't pay much attention to what's going on in the world. I really don't. I suppose where it comes from is a deep sense of pessimism,” he says. “All the challenges we're facing -- the lack of water, overpopulation, climate change, social media.” He waited the quickest poker-faced second to let the quip land, then continued, more gloomily: “I feel like we're rapidly galloping toward an apocalypse -- we've passed critical mass. I know it's a morbid viewpoint. But I'm not melancholy. It's just Trump or Brexit or whatever it is -- what difference does it make? It's hard to get invested in any of it.” Several times in the interview, he described feeling “existential and lost” at various life points. Hunnam, who now lives in L.A., spent his early childhood in Newcastle, then moved with his mother and brothers to the rural Lake District. His parents divorced when he was young, and he maintained a worshipful attitude toward his father, a feared figure who had amassed a fortune in the at-times shady scrap-metal business. Though no longer alive, the elder Hunnam looms large in the actor's psyche -- “a colossus who was incredibly well-respected and feared” in a place where popularity was measured by how much and how hard you fought. It was in part why young Charlie got into a lot of scraps as a teenager, even though he was interested in films more than fists. The hardscrabble place also informed him in more overt ways. “I was very conscious as a young man that people weren't bringing forth the force of their lives -- they weren't bringing the desire of all they wanted to be. And it really struck and stayed with me.” That class struggle also plays into Fawcett's narrative: Coming from humble beginnings, the explorer fought against a gentry suspicious of lower-class outsiders. “On my more confident days, I would draw parallels between his life and mine -- what he was running from and toward, and the determination and indomitability year after year. It struck me as a tragedy -- one could put in all that sacrifice and discipline and hope only to be awarded with failure. “Although I've enjoyed success in my career, I've also had to endure an enormous amount of failure too. Fawcett felt at home in the jungle because he didn't feel at home anywhere else, the same way I only feel really at home on set. And when I got this role, I saw the parallels and also renewed hope -- I realized it's the best opportunity I ever got.” Gray cast Hunnam after early attempts to place Brad Pitt and Benedict Cumberbatch in the film faltered. The director saw in Hunnam similarities to his out-to-prove-something character. “I couldn't help feeling his life and Fawcett's overlap,” Gray said. “You don't keep saying, 'This is a wonderful chance,' as Charlie did, unless you think you haven't had enough of them.” Hunnam has indeed turned down as much as he's accepted, and he even questions some of the movies he's been in -- perfectly respectable ones with top-flight directors, like Guillermo del Toro's “Pacific Rim.” “It wasn't something interesting creatively,” he said of the part. “I look back and can't justify it. I shouldn't have really been there.” He opted not to come back for the sequel. Of his withdrawal from “Fifty Shades,” he cites a desire to, well, go his own way. “I had a slight worry that my aspiration for the role would be too much of an uphill struggle, that it should have existed more within the context of the book,” he said of the project, on which author E.L. James wielded much influence. “I realized I was trying to reinvent Christian Grey a bit too much. So I stepped aside.” He's also willing to question what the film publicity machine is for, in a way that goes beyond just the general reluctance at salesman ship many actors cop to. He waves aside the idea, for instance, that “Lost City” was difficult to shoot. “There's this sense out [there] that this was hardship. The idea for this came about after 'The Revenant'; everyone wanted to tell that narrative. I think it's a P.R. move. It wasn't actually that hard.” He said this attitude comes from a childhood founded on
authenticity. “When I read ‘Catcher in the Rye’ as a kid, I was influenced by that idea of not wanting to be phony.” He gestured outside to a larger, wealth- and consumption-minded industry. “You wonder what kind of evisceration Holden Caulfield would have for all this.” Is there fallout from this career exactitude? Hunnam admits that some people have navigated “these [twin poles of art and commerce] more elegantly, Fassbender and Ryan Gosling and a million other examples.” Gray said these traits should only help him. “Charlie is someone who’s tried to clear his system of noise, and that’s a good thing.” Then again, the director has at times in his career himself traded commercial success for artistic integrity. Taylor Sheridan, the actor-turned-filmmaker who worked with Hunnam for years on “Anarchy,” said: “Charlie is kind of a throwback -- an egoless artist who just cares about the acting.” Hunnam appreciated the thought. “I wouldn’t compare my career to [that of] Daniel Day-Lewis -- I have no illusions of grandeur -- but I have always enjoyed how he approaches it: It’s all about the work, and when he’s not working, he disappears into obscurity.” Hunnam has been writing too -- historical scripts like “Vlad,” about Vlad the Impaler -- and Sheridan expects him behind the camera before too long. For now, salvation may lie in the right part. “Arthur,” for instance, which Hunnam said doesn't feel like a “Pacific Rim” redux. “The journey of that movie is someone who has to deal with internal demons at the same time as he does external challenges; he has to keep searching for meaning.” He stopped as he realized the connection. “It always comes down to meaning, doesn’t it?” -- steve.zeitchik@latimes.com

Source Title: News

Predicted Probability: 0.86

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 420083

Article Title: Losing His Home, Then His Compass as a Snake Beckons"

Date: 9/25/2015

Article Content: "Don't get emotional about real estate." That bit of wisdom -- among the mantras shared by a predatory broker named Rick Carver -- is both upheld and defied by "99 Homes," Ramin Bahrani's stunningly effective melodrama of flipped houses and mortgaged souls. While the film hardly endorses Rick's coldblooded, dog-eat-dog view of the world, it is too cleareyed to oppose his ruthlessness with soft, easy appeals to sentiment. The foreclosed properties Rick acquires and resells may be repositories of hopes, dreams and family memories, but they're also economic units, "boxes" to be emptied out, refilled and written down on a balance sheet. That's a fact of life, and also a tragic contradiction. Dennis Nash learns this lesson the hard way. A skilled construction worker idled by a sour economy -- "99 Homes" seems to take place around 2010, in the recessionary aftermath of the financial crisis -- Dennis (Andrew Garfield) is unable to keep up with his mortgage payments and so loses the modest house where he lives with his mother, Lynn (Laura Dern), and his young son, Connor (Noah Lomax). At the stroke of a pen, their world has come undone, and Mr. Bahrani captures the scene of his dispossession with almost unbearable precision, plunging the viewer into a storm of agonized feeling as Dennis struggles with rage, grief and shame at having been pulled, in front of his neighbors, into the ranks of society's losers. In contrast, Rick (played with tiger-shark ferocity by Michael Shannon), could conduct a self-help seminar on how to think, act and dress like a winner. With an e-cigarette clenched
between his teeth, a pistol strapped to his ankle and a cellphone glued to his ear, Rick may be heartless, but he certainly isn't dumb. His assessment of the brutalities of the housing market in Central Florida -- and of the Darwinian logic that underlies them -- is hard to dispute. The bubble has burst, and as homeowners like Dennis find themselves underwater, trapped in treacherous and complicated loans, Rick is on hand to clean up the mess, or at least to profit from it. Compassion is for suckers, and one man's misery is another's opportunity. He shows up on eviction day, backed up by sheriff's deputies and bank documents, to tell families that they are now trespassing on property they thought was theirs. The furniture goes out on the sidewalk and the residents enter a spiral of downward mobility. Some plead for more time, others wave papers and invoke lawyers, and a few threaten violence, but the result is always the same. Dennis, Connor and Lynn wind up sharing a room in a motel overflowing with families in similar circumstances. Maybe the game is rigged, or maybe the laws of nature just work that way. It hardly matters to Rick -- or to Dennis, whose passage from Rick's victim to his protégé forms the main axis of the film's narrative. Three of Mr. Bahrani's earlier features -- "Man Push Cart," "Chop Shop" and "Goodbye Solo" -- were exemplary works of American neo-neorealism, using mostly nonprofessional casts and a stripped-down shooting style to tell stories of economic striving and spiritual struggle. Like the original Italian neorealists (and like the Belgian filmmakers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, their most prominent present-day heirs), Mr. Bahrani is especially interested in how the material circumstances of his characters affect their moral decisions. The need for money, and for the security, dignity and status it brings, can force terrible choices on people, but hard times and systemic injustice don't absolve anyone of ethical responsibility. Mr. Bahrani went a bit astray with "At Any Price," an overplotted, overacted movie with Dennis Quaid and Zac Efron as a father and son trying to save their family farm. With "99 Homes," which he wrote with Amir Naderi, Mr. Bahrani has recovered his balance and sharpened his already formidable knack for concise, emotionally potent storytelling. True to its neorealist pedigree, the film works partly as a fable, an illustration of how impersonal forces shape individual human destinies. Its palette of feeling includes a bright streak of anger at the way banks, judges and politicians conspire to bully and bamboozle hard-working people like Dennis, and also at the way the pursuit of wealth has eclipsed all other sources of value in our lives. But if "99 Homes" is a scolding look at a society gone astray, it is also a minor masterpiece of suspense, as tightly wound as "Sicario," Denis Villeneuve's white-knuckle drug-war thriller, and almost as brutal. Not that there's much in the way of physical violence: fists are raised now and then, and weapons are sometimes brandished. But the threat of destruction is pervasive, and everything -- the hand-held camerawork, the swift editing, the anxious music by Antony Partos and Matteo Zingales -- contributes to an overpowering sense of danger. Mr. Garfield, who was an annoyingly needy Spider-Man, is entirely credible as a man risking his decency to protect himself and his loved ones. When Dennis starts carrying out evictions for Rick, his natural empathy proves to be an asset. He can give predatory capitalism a friendly human face. Mr. Shannon, though, is the film's center of gravity -- its supernova, its black hole, its avatar of cosmic disorder. Like Michael Douglas in "Wall Street" or Alec Baldwin in "Glengarry Glen Ross," he is the seductive embodiment of capitalist amorality, a handsome devil offering a small amount of cash for your house keys and slightly better terms for your immortal soul. Some of the suspense comes from the realization that Mr. Bahrani has taken a big risk of his own. As Dennis's inner conflict becomes unbearable, you may start to become aware of the traps "99 Homes" has set for itself, and to anticipate endings that seem too bleak, too soothing or too sensational to fulfill the film's promise. But the ending, if I may say so without giving anything away, is just right, absolutely consistent with Mr. Bahrani's acute, impassioned understanding of contemporary American reality. The final shot is at once perfectly clear and perfectly
ambiguous, a reminder that some contradictions are more easily understood than resolved. "99 Homes" is rated R (Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian). Economic horror. Class violence. Real estate porn. 99 Homes Opens on Friday Directed and edited by Ramin Bahrani; written by Mr. Bahrani and Amir Naderi, based on a story by Bahareh Azimi; director of photography, Bobby Bukowski; production design by Alex DiGerlando; costumes by Meghan Kasperlik; produced by Mr. Bahrani, Ashok Amritraj, Kevin Turen and Justin Nappi; released by Broad Green Pictures. Running time: 1 hour 52 minutes. WITH: Michael Shannon (Rick Carver), Andrew Garfield (Dennis Nash), Laura Dern (Lynn Nash) and Noah Lomax (Connor Nash). URL: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/25/movies/in-99-homes-a-man-buffeted-and-then-man-ipulated-in-floridas-foreclosure-disaster.html"

Source Title: News

E cig Individual Norms – E cig – PM – Web 1
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: No

ArticleID: 643517

Article Title: 25 Hysterical Tweets About The Lottery That'll Make You Laugh"

Date: 1/13/2016

Article Content: Your Post Has Been Launched! Fabulous! Don't forget to share with your friends on Twitter and Facebook. 25 Hysterical Tweets About The Lottery That'll Make You Laugh May the odds be ever in your favor. 2. [1 of 4 car accidents caused by texting & driving] PEOPLE: won't be me [1 in 292 million chance of winning powerball] PEOPLE: you never know — mark (@TheCatWhisprer) ID: 7758896 3. Things to do today: Get kids to school A bunch of other stuff Win Powerball, become Billionaire!!! Anybody else have the same plans today? — alyson hannigan (@alydenisof) ID: 7758884 4. I think I should be the first person to quit their job before winning the lottery — Flaco (@JWynn15) ID: 7759717 5. multiple news outlets have reported that the $900 million lottery winner has been found!!! — shrimp (@yaperboi) ID: 7759338 6. Things more likely than winning the lottery: -Becoming US president -Dying while purchasing your ticket -A **vaper** not telling you he **vape** — Jeff Leeson (@jleeson21) ID: 7759063 7. “If I win the lottery, I told your father I’m divorcing him, living in a mansion by myself and he can come visit me and have sex with me.” — Ian Carlos Crawford (@ianxcarlos) ID: 7759879 8. After I WIN the PowerBall today.. I’m gonna BUY Twitter. Just as a power move. — ICE T (@FINALLEVEL) ID: 7758889 9. if elected as powerball winner i pledge to make our national anthem the “boricua, morena” part at the end of “still not a player” — David Grossman (@davidgross_man) ID: 7758913 10. Me: Can I bet $20 on the Panthers to win the Super Bowl? Government: Sorry, no Me: Ok, can I buy 1k in powerball tickets? G: Lol, of course — Tim (@Playing_Dad) ID: 7758928 11. Hey Powerball-heads, like to take chances? Then you'll love Chipotle! — Mary Sasson (@marysasson) ID: 7758930 12. instead of wasting time buying a powerball ticket I’m just going to set $2 on fire — Jarry (@jarry) ID: 7759926 13. Rupert Murdoch and Jerry Hall are engaged. So congratulations to Jerry Hall on winning the Powerball — Eliza Bayne (@ElizaBayne) ID: 7758932 14. Can't wait to win the lottery 2nite. I plan to live-tweet my reaction here, but if I don't it'll probs be because I'm overcome with emotion — Leon Watson (@LeonWatson) ID: 7759915 15. I think I want to buy a lottery ticket but if I win it will be so corny like, “America's Twitter Sweetheart Hits The Jackpot” yikes!!! — Gabby Noone (@twelveocloclocke) ID: 7758934 16. A bunch of
little balls are struggling to open a jar. Power Ball bursts through the wall. “This looks like a job for Power Ball!” — Joanna Borns (@robotics) ID: 7759354 17. *wins lottery* *sorts price high to low* — John Jannuzzi (@johnjannuzzi) ID: 7758942 18. I might wake up early tomorrow and go for a run. I also might win the lottery. the odds are about the same 🤞 — b (@MOGirlProbs) ID: 7758970 19. I would like to know why Powerball’s website looks like it was made with Geocities. https://t.co/WjpfFFQHQh — Josh Barro (@jbarro) ID: 7759239 20. 5-year-old: Did you win the lottery. Me: Nope. Sorry. 5-year-old: Why are you bad at everything? — Exploding Unicorn (@XplodingUnicorn) ID: 7758983 21. Can you return lottery tickets? — Mezrahi, Samir (@samir) ID: 7759050 22. Dreamt that Paris Hilton won the lottery. We were all very pissed. #lottery — Donnie Martin (@Minorstream) ID: 7759030 23. The lottery winner will probably be someone in your extended LinkedIn network. — Farhad Manjoo (@fmanjoo) ID: 7759039 24. My dog refuses to talk to me until I buy him a Powerball ticket. This lottery is affecting everyone 😒💰💰 — Gabriel Iglesias (@fluffyguy) ID: 7759056 25. I just checked my PowerBall numbers. I came pretty close. I only missed six of them. — Exploding Unicorn (@XplodingUnicorn) ID: 7759024

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Source Title: Web

*Ecig Individual Norms – Ecig – PM – Web 2*
Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 727862

Article Title: Miley Cyrus Recalls Being the “Least Paid Person” on 'Hannah Montana' | Complex

Date: 9/28/2016

Article Content: Five years after Miley Cyrus took her last bow as Disney’s Hannah Montana, the actress/pop star/reality show judge reveals in a new interview with Elle that she was the “least paid” in the cast at one point. Since leaving the show, she’s gone on to be privately dissed by a vaping Leonardo DiCaprio and gotten publicly dismissed by Nicki Minaj.Cyrus starred as the titular Hannah Montana—regular teen by day and pop sensation by night—over four seasons from 2006 to 2011. The show spawned a movie, albums, and merchandise galore. But despite this, she told Elle that she was the least
paid “because I didn’t know any better.” “I just wanted to be on TV,” she said. “I mean, at one point—they’ll probably kill me for saying it—I was probably the least paid person on my [Hannah Montana] cast because I didn’t know any better. I was just like, I can be on Disney! Yeah, I want to do it!” Cyrus also explained how her family didn’t know any better than to let the show use (and thereby own) her real first name for her character. Eventually, her family figured things out, Cyrus continued: “My mom started understanding how many people take advantage of a child, so she hired smart people to protect me in that way. I’m happy that when I was younger, people protected me and put me in a position where I can now control my music.” Cyrus can currently be seen as a judge on The Voice. She’ll also be co-starring in Crisis in Six Scenes, a Woody Allen-directed series premiering on Amazon Sept. 30.”

Source Title: Web

Ecg Individual Norms – Ecg – PM – Web 3

Predicted Probability: 0.87

Hand-coded: Yes

ArticleID: 653104

Article Title: Cannabis 2.0: Are Terpenes The Secret To Customizable Highs?

Date: 2/25/2016

Article Content: BOULDER, Colorado — Humming to himself, Charles Jones makes his way up a muddy hiking trail snaking through the Colorado foothills on an unseasonably warm winter day, his colleagues Dave Georgis and David Lohndorf following close behind. Part of the way up the trail, with the city of Boulder stretched below, Jones stops and smiles at the others, then at me. “Should we do a mood?” he asks. Forty-five minutes earlier, the four of us had been sitting in the basement of Georgis’ Boulder bungalow, which doubles as the headquarters for Jones, Georgis and Lohndorf’s startup Chooze Corp. One by one, we had taken puffs from a tabletop vaporizer device, inhaling vapors from hemp pellets laced with equal amounts of pure THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana, and cannabidiol, or CBD, the part of the plant believed to be responsible for many of cannabis’ medical benefits. This was the first step in experiencing Chooze Corp.’s one and only product, LucidMood. When Georgis had handed the vaporizer’s glass mouthpiece to me, the vapor, free of all the usual ingredients that come with smoking or vaporizing marijuana buds, tasted smooth and a bit medicinal. It left me with a clear-headed high. Now, in the middle of our hike, we are ready to move on to the second step of the LucidMood experience. It was time for the “moods” — hemp pellets that, when vaporized, are designed to customize a user’s psychoactive experience, leaving the user energized, or relaxed or focused, depending on what sort of experience is desired. “We’re designing the high to match the activity you want to enhance, whether that be making love or going skiing,” Jones had told me earlier. Chooze is calling its tailor-made highs “Cannabis 2.0.” The product is based on terpenes, the organic compounds in marijuana and many other plants that are responsible for aromas. For years, marijuana producers have focused on maximizing THC, selectively breeding the plant to emphasize the psychoactive component over all others and developing cannabis concentrates free of other parts of the plant. But recently, many in the industry are starting to think marijuana’s psychoactive effects are shaped by its pungent terpenes, similarly to how aromatherapy works. Now marijuana websites are deconstructing the potential psychoactive properties of different terpenes: concentrate makers are championing pricey terpene-
packed “live resin” and “terp juice” extractions, and ebbu, a Colorado startup co-founded by a videogame designer, has attracted millions in funding by promising to deliver customizable highs based on specific formulations of terpenes and other cannabis components. But Chooze, in just 10 months and with a $100,000 investment, says it’s beating everyone to the punch. The company says it has developed consistent, made-to-order psychoactive experiences by lacing each of its different mood pellets with terpenes derived from non-cannabis sources. If that’s the case, when LucidMood products launch in the coming months, they could very well usher in a new era of cannabis consumption. But when so much about marijuana still remains unknown, could the secret to Cannabis 2.0 really be so simple? On the hiking trail, Georgis pulls out a plastic baggie filled with mood pellets and fires up a portable vaporizer. “I think I could go with ‘Contentment,’” says Jones, and Georgis pops a pellet into the device. Once Jones has inhaled the resulting vapor, Georgis goes for a ‘Relaxation’ pellet and Lohndorf opts for ‘Body Buzz.’ Then they hand me the vaporizer, loaded with ‘Contentment.’ I take a puff and wait to see what happens. Cracking the Terpene Code Tall and slim, with thin metal-rimmed glasses, Jones resembles a professor. That impression dissipates when he starts talking, ruminating on shared psychotropic experiences and meta-cognitive boosts and reminiscing about the life-changing impact of his first acid trip (which happened to coincide with his first Grateful Dead concert). He calls himself an independent cognitive scientist, noting, “My ability to reflect on my own cognition is extraordinary.” Growing up in West Virginia, he thought he wanted to be a brain surgeon, but ended up studying computer science in college and exploring Eastern religions as well as various mind-altering substances. He worked in software development until a dot-com he launched failed in 2001, and then became an executive coach and launched the Institute for Adaptive Mastery, which trains people in how to increase their emotional intelligence. Jones never tired of exploring cognition, however, including what his cognition was like on marijuana. When Colorado launched its legalized cannabis market in 2014, he became fascinated by the different effects of various marijuana strains, and he began researching the phenomenon. He stumbled upon terpenes, the 100 or so different aromatic compounds found in cannabis and other plants that function as natural pest control. The terpenes appeared to have therapeutic benefits and mood-altering effects—effects that seemed to be amplified when paired with THC. “Cannabis as it exists in North America almost always has high THC content, and yet consumers have always thought there are vast differences between one strain and another,” said Dr. Ethan Russo, medical director at the Los Angeles-based biotechnology firm Phyttecs, who has long studied cannabis compounds. “It couldn’t be simply due to the amount of THC in it, so it had to be something else. On their own, some of the effects of terpenes are subtle. But there seems to be these boosting effects when combined with THC.” Charles Jones began researching why marijuana highs can vary widely—and the search led him to compounds called terpenes. Photo: Joel Warner It’s why, in a rapidly expanding cannabis market where brands are eager to stand out, entrepreneurs are turning their attention to these overlooked compounds. “The whole area with terpenes is really exciting,” said Steve DeAngelo, president of the ArcView Group, a major marijuana industry investment firm. “What is becoming more and more clear every day is the particular psychoactive properties of cannabis are not solely dependent on the cannabinoid profile. There is a synergistic effect between the cannabinoids and terpenes.” At an ArcView event in Denver last summer, DeAngelo ended his presentation with advice to investors in the audience: “I am just going to give you one word. And that word is terpenes.” But so far, no one has been able to fully deliver on terpenes’ promise. While ebbu launched with major fanfare in 2014, so far the company has only released the sort of concentrates, vape pens (handheld vaporizers) and topical products already being produced by other cannabis companies. According to its website, its “ebbu Feelings” product line, which will use terpene
and cannabinoid formulations to produce specific feelings such as “Chill, Bliss, Energy, Giggle, and Create,” won’t be available until 2017. Jon Cooper, ebbu’s CEO, couldn’t be reached for comment. Jones, however, was determined to crack the terpene code. He recruited to his cause several like-minded colleagues: Georgis, a mechanical engineer with whom he’d bonded over a joint at a Furthur concert, and Lohndorf, a friend who first heard Jones’ plan for customizable highs while they were both pleasantly impaired at Frozen Dead Guy Days, an annual celebration in the nearby mountain town of Nederland. But how would Chooze, their new company, deliver its tailor-made highs? First they envisioned a desktop machine that, paired with a smartphone app, would emit different terpene-dominated products, like a Keurig machine for cannabis (not to be confused with CannaCloud, a Keurig-like cannabis machine designed by former Keurig executives). Then they considered different colored pills that resembled marijuana-filled Tic Tacs. They ended up going simple: THC and terpene-infused hemp pellets that consumers insert into the vaporizer of their choice. They had their first test run last April. With the help of an organic chemist they knew, they vaporized cannabis leaf pieces laced with THC and CBD, then repeated the process with leaves infused with what they thought was all the same terpene. Five minutes later, Georgis was lying on the carpet, watching contentedly while Jones and Lohndorf enthusiastically chatted back and forth. That’s when the chemist told them he’d secretly given them different terpenes. In their minds, the conclusion was clear: “It worked,” said Georgis. The Wikipedia approach to Getting High “Listen to this room,” said Jones. “This is not a pot party.” He’s standing off to the side of one of Chooze’s now-regular “tasting parties,” this one being held in a colorful marijuana-friendly vacation rental in downtown Boulder called Castle B. An hour into the event, there’s a lightly boisterous buzz among the 20 or so in attendance; folks talk energetically over the Sam Cook record playing on a turntable, while others mosey about sipping water, the only drink available. No one is slumped on the couch, too stoned to function. Jones credits the atmosphere to the table of vaporizers Lohndorf has been manning all night, providing attendees with LucidMood base pellets, and then offering up different mood pellets like a bartender serving various mixed drinks. “It’s really fun and very social,” said Christina, an older woman wearing stylish glasses and a deep red scarf. “I like this idea of not being stoned out of my gourd. I feel totally clear.” David Lohndorf, left, helps an attendee vaporize a “mood” at a LucidMood tasting party. Photo: Joel Warner Chooze has been running these sorts of social alpha-tests since last summer, inviting friends, colleagues and local marijuana industry insiders to events where everyone samples various terpenes and gives feedback on what they experience. (“I am really horny,” one woman who hadn’t smoked pot since college noted on a response form.) “You could do lots of double-blind studies, or you could put the tools out in this enthusiastic community and let them run the tests for you,” said Jones. “The former is the encyclopedic approach, but we’re taking the Wikipedia approach. We are open-sourcing terpene-mood discovery.” Thanks to that open-source approach, Jones says the team has locked down the effects of the four main terpenes that will be the basis of their first product line. They discovered that the terpene D-Limonene, which has a citrusy odor, seems to produce an energetic high, so that’s the main ingredient in the mood pellets Chooze will call “Momentum.” Beta-caryophyllene, which has a spicy aroma, appears to create blissful highs, so it’s the foundation of the company’s “Contentment” mood. Linalool, which apparently has soothing effects, is the key to Chooze’s “Relaxation” mood, while beta-myrcene, which they found to be both mentally relaxing and physically stimulating, will be called “Body Buzz.” The company also says people can combine moods to create unique highs, or do a second mood a little while after the first to shift effects midstream. Chooze aims to launch its first four moods and base pellets this spring in a handful of Boulder-based marijuana retailers. The product will be priced to compete with a glass of wine -- $3 for a base, 75 cents for each mood – and
will come in boxes that resemble the packaging for high-end teas. (“We are targeting the LOHAS market,” said Georgis, referring to the upscale “Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability” demographic that tends to shop at places like Whole Foods.) Eventually, Chooze plans to introduce additional moods based on other terpenes and terpene combinations, as well as expand to other states. Finally, the company’s open-source approach will extend to its website, where users will be able to post their favorite mood “recipes” for different activities, whether that be yoga or getting work done (Jones wrote the majority of Chooze’s business plan on a combination of “Relaxation” and “Momentum”). Some outsiders say what Chooze is doing -- using other plants’ terpenes to modify marijuana effects -- makes perfect sense. “This has been going on for a very long time,” said Dr. Kymron Decesare, chief research officer at Steep Hill marijuana testing and analytics company. “The ability for other terpenoids to modulate cannabis was noted over 2,000 years ago in Chinese pharmacopoeias, which suggested adding plants to cannabis. Now, as we put terpenes back in, we can rebuild these different profiles in psychoactivity.” But others are highly skeptical of Chooze’s claims. Marijuana’s effects seem to vary tremendously depending on the people and the situation, not to mention possibly on the user’s genetic makeup. And thanks to the federal prohibition on most marijuana research, the plant itself is still mostly a mystery; even the distinctions between sativa and indica, long thought to be the two main types of marijuana, have turned out to be largely arbitrary. So is anyone really ready to deliver predictable, consistent highs to all consumers? “It is way, way too premature to say we are going to deliver a tailor-made effect today,” said Jeff Raber, founder and president of the California-based marijuana testing lab Werc Shop. “To understand which components will deliver that and which people in the population will respond, we don’t know any of that yet. I believe you can get there. But it won’t be anytime soon.” The Power of Suggestion After we vaporize the different moods on the Boulder hiking trail, the effects seem to rapidly hit the Chooze team members. “Oh, wow, I can totally feel it,” said Georgis, who’d tried “Relaxation.” “Well, I definitely feel less committed to getting anything done than I did four minutes ago,” said Jones, who’d opted for “Contentment,” before launching into a rendition of a Lovin’ Spoonful song. I, however, don’t feel any different despite the “Contentment” vapor I’d inhaled. I’m as equally high as I was before, trying my best to concentrate on where I’m going as we navigate the winding trail. After a while, I ask to try a different mood, and Georgis hands me the vaporizer filled with a “Momentum” pellet. The vapor tastes slightly lemony, but still, there’s no accompanying boost of energy. Dave Georgis, left, and Charles Jones vaporize mood pellets during a hike in Boulder. Photo: Joel Warner The others, however, seem to be fully under the sway of their various moods. “I’m a little sloppy,” said Jones as we make our way back towards the trailhead. “I’m a little lackadaisical about where I plant my feet. I don’t think I would go hiking on this again. I kinda just want to sit on the couch.” I’m disappointed that I don’t feel anything, and it’s not simply because I feel left out. With the marijuana industry becoming increasing slick and corporate, Jones and his partners are the sort of quirky, passionate individuals you want to root for to succeed. And at a time when personal vape pens and other products are threatening to do away with the “pass-the-joint” social side of marijuana consumption, everything about Chooze, from Jones’ discussions on psychotropic experiences to its lively tasting parties, is authentically, appealingly fun, and that has to count for something. But are the specific effects that Jones and his partners promise from their products really due to individual terpenes, or are they due to the fact that they bring a lot of people together, get them high and then tell them they’re consuming something called “Contentment”? The Chooze team members say they’ve run blind taste tests on their mood pellets and have come up with consistent results. But have they tried switching the labels — calling a “Relaxation” pellet “Momentum,” for example — to see if users still feel the
appropriate effects? That, say Jones and his colleagues, is something they have yet to try. Still, they are confident they’ve developed Cannabis 2.0. “We know,” said Jones. “We have no doubt at all.” At one point during the hike, Georgis points to a nearby rock formation. “I’ve always thought that looks like the face of an Indian chief,” he said. Jones stops and looks. He doesn’t say whether he sees the face, but he smiles and nods thoughtfully. “The power of suggestion,” he said, before continuing on up the trail."

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Article Title: Katy Perry Gets Flirty At Golden Globes After Party With Orlando Bloom?"

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Article Content: Katy Perry was spotted getting flirty with a certain someone at the Golden Globes after-parties. The “Dark Horse” singer let it all hang out in a super sexy rose-quartz Prada dress, which she revealed a stylist pulled together on five days’ notice. According to an E! News report, Katy Perry, 31, and Orlando Bloom, 38, spent a lot of time getting to know each other in the VIP area of the Weinstein and Netflix parties. The two even danced to Justin Timberlake’s “Rock Your Body” as Perry mouthed along to the lyrics. In between dancing and flirting, Perry and Orlando were seen sharing a vape pen outside the event held at the Beverly Hills Hotel. BEVERLY HILLS, CA – JANUARY 10: Singer Katy Perry attends The Weinstein Company and Netflix Golden Globe Party, presented with DeLeon Tequila, Laura Mercier, Lindt Chocolate, Marie Claire and Hearts On Fire at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on January 10, 2016 in Beverly Hills, California. [Photo by Rich Polk/Getty Images for The Weinstein Company] Orlando Bloom and Katy Perry were reportedly flirting before leaving the Golden Globes after-parties together, multiple sources have said. The actor and the pop star were spotted having a heavy discussion at the Harvey Weinstein and Netflix’s Golden Globes after-party. Bloom was deeply entranced by Perry’s presence and at one point touched her back, an alleged spy told Page Six. “Katy and Orlando were standing in the back of the party drinking Moët and were aggressively flirting before leaving together. He wouldn’t stop staring at her cleavage — and she was very flirty and laid on the charm.” Another source confirmed to Us Weekly that the pair was seen flirting at that very same after party, saying, “He would lean in to whisper into her ear and touch the small of her back as they chatted.” The insider added that the hot new couple even kissed before leaving the party. apparently, Perry is on a break from her on-and-off relationship with musician John Mayer. Bloom broke up with supermodel Miranda Kerr back in 2013 and has been previously linked to Selena Gomez, who was also at the party. But Katy and Orlando weren’t planning to ignore the other guests. The entertainers entered the Fox after party together and mingled with the other guests, Golden Globe nominees, and fellow entertainers. They were also spotted dancing the night away at CAA’s 2016 Golden Globes after-party at the Sunset Tower on late Sunday night, according to Us Weekly. “Katy and Orlando Bloom had a total dance-off — it was the best part of the party. Katy literally dropped to the floor and was waving her booty around, beckoning Orlando.” Earlier that night, Katy Perry made her grand entrance to the 73rd Annual Golden
Globe Awards. The singer wore an actual Bumpit in her hair, as confirmed by Jennifer Lawrence on the red carpet. When Lawrence touched Perry’s hair at the pre-show, Perry described it as an “as-seen-on-TV Bumpit,” but People described Perry’s comment as a “joke.” But now some of Katy’s fans want to bring back the Bumpit so they can wear it for special occasions. The inventor of the Bumpit, Kelly Fitzpatrick-Bennett, told TMZ that the hair accessory will be returning to stores for the first time in three years. He also revealed that he will offer Katy a lifetime supply and make her the face of their product. 

BEVERLY HILLS, CA – JANUARY 10: Katy Perry attends the 2016 Weinstein Company and Netflix Golden Globe Awards After Party at The Beverly Hilton on January 10, 2016 in Los Angeles, California. [Photo by Randy Shropshire/Getty Images] Makes sense since Katy Perry already has an endorsement deal with CoverGirl and has her own line of faux eyelashes with Eylure. Not to mention, Perry released her latest perfume, Poison, early last year. But the most important question is: Were Katy Perry and Orlando Bloom really flirting at the Golden Globes after-parties? It seems like the British heartthrob would be her type since she loves guys with British accents (Russell Brand) and men with curly brown hair (John Mayer). What are your thoughts? Do you think Perry and Bloom are dating? [Photo by Randy Shropshire/Getty Images] "

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