Weekly news fragments

“In today’s ever changing world, you can’t meet the responsibilities of leadership unless you keep up with the times.”

Evidence wall

The Road Ahead
More different or Less different than the road behind
How much different? When?
What mental radar preparation? Action?
What’s permanent?
What does your life depend on?

Timeline

# 170 Awareness

Wisdom is about awareness.
If you know the road, life is easier.
If you can see the road, life is easier – The History of the World in Two Hours.
If you can discover new roads, life is richer.
If you know you have a choice of roads, life is richer.

# 171 Perception

Perception is not what the ‘eye’ sees but what the ‘brain’ sees. …

When you see a train pulling out of a railway station your perception is very different according to whether it is the train you have just missed or if that train had no relevance for you.

# 172 Broad

Cleverness is sharp focus, wisdom is wide angle.

Wisdom is largely about ‘broadening’ perception.

Most of the mistakes in thinking are mistakes in perception.

Seeing only part of the situation.

Jumping to conclusions.

Misinterpretation caused by feelings.

Helicopters that report back to local radio stations on traffic conditions at peak hours get a broad view of what is going on.

No motorist stuck in the traffic could possibly get this view.

With wisdom we seek to climb into a helicopter to get a broad overall view.

There are three types of ‘broad’.

The first type of broad is to do with ‘width’.

How widely do we see?

This means taking into account different factors, different people, different values and different needs.

This is the closest to the helicopter analogy.

We look around in all directions, not just where we are next going to place our feet.

The second type of broad is to do with ‘depth’.

This means looking forward and looking backwards.

We look backwards in time to seek explanations and reasons for what is before us.

We look backwards to examine past experiences, both our own and those of other people.
We look forward to see the consequences of what is before us. This might be prediction in terms of what may happen. It may also be looking for the consequences of any action we are contemplating. We look forward from the immediate consequences to the long-term consequences.

The third type of broad is to do with 'richness'. Here we open up alternatives and different ways of looking at things. We seek out the existing alternatives. We imagine the different viewpoints of other people. We make an effort to generate further alternatives. These are alternatives of perception and alternatives of action. We look for 'might be' and for 'possibly'. We go beyond 'what is'.

So the aim of wisdom is to end up with a perception that is wider, deeper and richer.

There is a considerable element of creativity in broadening perception.

We need creativity to direct our attention to areas we might have overlooked. We need creativity to generate alternatives. We need creativity to put things together in different ways. We need creativity to link up with past experiences which are not so obviously relevant. Creative perception is part of perception.

One shoe salesman reported back that there was no market because no one wore shoes. His companion reported back that it was a fantastic market because no one wore shoes.

More Wise about Wisdom

What do these areas of awareness, these work areas, and these potential horizons mean for me?

What unexpected event did I notice today? Add to ~/Dropbox/Private/MD-OPML-TP-TXT/Text/news/Blog topics.txt

Successful careers are not planned

The return on luck

"Your first and foremost job as a leader is to take charge of your own energy and then help to orchestrate the energy of those around you."
We collectively and individually can only work toward this readiness on our mental radar at a point in time.

"We are all in the same boat at the end of the turbulence; the transformations, the sudden upsurge, which have made this century one of the most veritable, violent, blood-stained in human history." - Peter Drucker

"The twenty-first century will surely be one of continuing social, economic, and political turmoil and change at least in nearly a decade. The age of Social Transformation is not over yet. And its challenges in every sector may be more serious and more daunting still than those posed by the social transformations that have already happened; the social transformations of the twentieth century." - Peter Drucker

For each thought fragment, concept, illustration, link, or text block you encounter ask yourself what does this mean for me? Also try a PMI, dense reading and dense listening, thinking broad and thinking detailed plus visualizing the operacy involved.
News Sources

▪ Instapaper groups
  ❖ CNN (CNN, NYT, Post Reports)
▪ DEVONthink To Go
  ❖ List of Articles.scriv
  ❖ List of other L4 (Articles still in DEVONthink Pro
  ❖ Little picture article titles
  ❖ Added this week
  ❖ Important article titles (L3+)
▪ Mailboxes
▪ Articles.scriv
▪ SnipNotes
▪ Day One
  ❖ Annual journals
  ❖ Thoughtscapes
  ❖ Travel
  ❖ Horizons
  ❖ New synopses
▪ Contents of iCloud Drive
▪ Castro
▪ Atlas Obscura
▪ iOS News apps
  ❖ Flipboard
  ❖ Quora
▪ The memo they don’t want you to read
▪ Thoughtscapes, brainroads, and brain addresses for navigating a changing world
▪ Supplemental PDFs
▪ Peter Drucker’s view of developmental directions
▪ Wise about wisdom

Weekly list

Monday, August 19, 2019 news

article-titles-daily

NPR

A suicide bombing at a wedding in Kabul killed 63.
The Islamic State in Afghanistan claimed responsibility.
This comes amid peace negotiations between the United States and the Taliban.
What does this mean for the security of Afghan citizens?
In California, the shooting of Stephon Clark last year led to widespread demonstrations.
Now, a new law there will raise the bar for when it is reasonable for the police to use deadly force.
Could it be adopted nationwide?
And there are changes coming for reproductive health clinics.
As of today, if they want federal money, they can’t refer patients to abortion providers.
What does this mean for the low-income women who rely on these clinics?

**Article titles**

- Health in Africa: 5 priorities for the G-7 Biarritz Summit
- A record 768 million US vacation days went to waste last year, a study says
- Make a habit/break a habit
- “What’s their phone number again?”
- How to re-create the magic of a hotel bed at home
- Buying a Home, No Matter the Market
- Remembering the Miracle of 1989
- How to Schedule IGTV Videos from Your Desktop in 9 Steps
- Europe Must Oppose Trump
- Forgetting Palestine
- How long can U.S. consumers hold up the world’s economy-
- Small Companies Play Big Role in Robocall Scourge, but Remedies Are Elusive
- The Danger of Climate Doomsayers
- An ‘Old-School Hacker’ Fights Cybercrime
- This is your brain on nature
- A lesson of the Trump, Tlaib, Omar, Netanyahu affair

**Articles**

**Remembering the Miracle of 1989**
Carl Bildt - Aug 19, 2019 at 8:16:18 AM
Thirty years ago this month, a series of peaceful demonstrations in Eastern Europe set off a chain of events that culminated in the collapse of the Soviet Union.
Looking back, it is now clear that Europe experienced a miracle in 1989: the story could have had a much darker and bloodier ending.

**The Danger of Climate Doomsayers**
Bjørn Lomborg - Aug 19, 2019 at 7:15:48 AM
We need to solve climate change, but we also need to make sure that the cure isn’t more painful than the disease.
Abandoning fossil fuels as quickly as possible, as many environmental activists demand, would slow the growth that has lifted billions of people out of poverty.

**Forgetting Palestine**
Shlomo Ben-Ami - Aug 19, 2019 at 6:52:18 AM
The two-state solution is virtually dead in the water, and the international community has largely abandoned the Palestinian cause.
At this point, there is little to stop Israel from cementing the one-state reality that its right-wing government has long sought, regardless of whether that leads to a permanent civil war.

**Europe Must Oppose Trump**
European leaders should recognize that a significant majority of Americans reject Trump's malignant narcissism. By opposing Trump and defending the international rule of law, Europeans and Americans together can strengthen world peace and transatlantic amity for generations to come.

How long can U.S. consumers hold up the world’s economy?

Buying a Home, No Matter the Market

An analysis of the top seller’s, buyer’s and second-home markets in the country, plus expert advice from real-estate agents and house hunters

Is luxury real estate up or down?

Hot or cold?

Buyer’s market or seller’s market?

These are questions that seem impossible to answer, given the old truism that all real estate is local.

The Wall Street Journal decided to crack the code, working with Realtor.com to identify the top 10 buyer’s, seller’s, and second-home luxury home markets around the country.

Active players in those markets – brokers, agents, buyers and sellers – offered their best strategies for buying smart.

The result is the first annual Buyer’s Guide, a supply of current insight into today’s chart-topping areas, as well as some examples of effective buying strategies to deploy in any market.

How to re-create the magic of a hotel bed at home

Between the Irish hospitality and the Irish whiskey that flows accordingly, it can take a miracle to wake up feeling well rested after having a big night out in Dublin.

But despite the good times, I awoke feeling rejuvenated at the Merrion Hotel there, and that was because they had one of the best hotel beds I’d ever crawled into.

I am not the only one blown away by the Merrion’s bed and its custom 500-thread count Egyptian cotton linens that are designed to be devastatingly soft.

It turns out, when a hotel bed is good – and I mean really, really good – it’s not uncommon for guests to request information about how to buy them from the hotels.

“A good indication of how popular the mattress is, is how much people ask to buy them from us,” says Peter McCann, general manager at the Merrion.

“It’s got to the point now where we refer them to the manufacturer.”

Small Companies Play Big Role in Robocall Scourge, but Remedies Are Elusive

‘Carriers that knowingly allow the origination of billions of illegal robocalls should be held accountable,’ says a robocall-tracing group

The billions of illegal robocalls inundating Americans are being facilitated largely by small telecom carriers that transmit calls over the internet, industry officials say, but authorities are at odds over what – if anything – they can do to stop them.
These telecom carriers typically charge fractions of a cent per call, making their money on huge volume.

Their outsize role in the robocall scourge has become apparent as large telecom companies get better at tracing robocalls to their source, spurring calls for regulators to hold them accountable.

“There are definitely repeat offenders who keep showing up as the sources of illegal robocalls,” said Patrick Halley, a senior vice

An ‘Old-School Hacker’ Fights Cybercrime

After five years in prison, Kevin Mitnick put on a ‘white hat.’

Now he has advice for companies – and for you – about staying safe online.

Las Vegas

You probably know better than to plug a USB flash drive from an unknown source into your computer.

It could infect your machine with malicious code.

But would you think twice about a cord?

You should.

Kevin Mitnick hands me an iPhone charging cable.

Like a magician, he asks me to inspect it.

It looks kosher.

He plugs it into a laptop.

Then he picks up a different computer and commandeers the laptop, including its web camera.

Unlike a magician, he shows me how he did it.

The USB end of the cable has been retrofitted with a tiny hardware implant.

With a Bluetooth transmitter in his hand, he injected keystrokes into the “victim’s” computer, which downloaded and installed malware from the internet.

This is your brain on nature

When we get closer to nature – be it untouched wilderness or a backyard tree – we do our overstressed brains a favor.

This story originally appeared in the January 2016 issue of National Geographic magazine.

When you head out to the desert, David Strayer is the kind of man you want behind the wheel.

He never texts or talks on the phone while driving.

He doesn’t even approve of eating in the car.

A cognitive psychologist at the University of Utah who specializes in attention, Strayer knows our brains are prone to mistakes, especially when we’re multitasking and dodging distractions.

Among other things, his research has shown that using a cell phone impairs most drivers as much as drinking alcohol does.
Strayer is in a unique position to understand what modern life does to us.

An avid backpacker, he thinks he knows the antidote: Nature.

**How long can U.S. consumers hold up the world’s economy?**

American consumers are increasingly propping up the global economy, an enduring source of strength that is helping keep the United States out of recession and drawing a sharp contrast with the rest of the world.

But as a number of signs point to a possible downturn in the United States, economists are growing more skeptical that consumers will continue to open up their wallets as freely.

A failure to do so could hasten the arrival of the first U.S. recession in a decade.

Low unemployment, rising wages and easy credit have given consumers the confidence and ability to spend in recent months.

That has proved crucial as spending by U.S. businesses has declined, U.S. manufacturing has fallen into a funk, and the economies of many other large countries, including Germany, have begun to shrink.

The strength of the consumer has convinced many business leaders that the U.S. economy won’t go into recession anytime soon, and it is the

**Buying a Home, No Matter the Market**

The result is the first annual Buyer’s Guide, a supply of current

**“What’s their phone number again?”**

*Seth Godin - Aug 19, 2019 at 3:38:39 PM*

For more than a decade, I’ve been working with the fine folks at 800 CEO READ (and yes, that’s their phone number, and yes, people have asked me how to reach them.)

It’s where I exclusively sell my book *What To Do When It’s Your Turn.*

It’s the place my project ChangeThis is still happily thriving.

And it’s the place that makes it easy to buy a big box of books for an event or organization.

If you need more than three copies of a title, give them a call and ask.

You already know the number.

I’ve never said ‘thank you’ to them here on the blog, so today’s a fine day to do that.

They’re changing their name and their website today: PorchlightBooks.

Thanks to the entire team for making the world of books a whole lot easier and more friendly

**Make a habit/break a habit**

*Seth Godin - Aug 19, 2019 at 8:53:25 AM*

If you’re trying to help yourself (or those you serve), the most effective thing you can do is create long-term habits.

They become unseen foundations of who we will become.
The goal of running a marathon in six weeks is audacious, but it’s not a habit. You might succeed, but with all that pressure, it’s more likely you’ll simply abandon the project.

On the other hand, the goal of running to the mailbox (at least) and back for 50 days in a row is the sort of habit that might stick.

The same goes for education (“we do flashcards every day” is very different from “I need to cram to learn quantum mechanics for the test.”)

And it goes double for our lifestyles.

If you can replace a bad habit with a good one, you’ll live with the benefits for decades.

The challenge is to set up systems that are likely to create habits, not sprints that lead to failure.

A record 768 million US vacation days went to waste last year, a study says

CNN · by Allen Kim · August 16, 2019

(CNN) – Workers in the United States left a record number of vacation days on the table last year, equating to billions in lost benefits, according to research from the U.S. Travel Association, Oxford Economics and Ipsos.

A total of 768 million days went unused in 2018, a 9% increase from 2017.

Of those, 236 million were completely forfeited, which comes out to $65.5 billion in lost benefits.

Related content

The most overworked cities in the US might surprise you

Fifty-five percent of workers reported that they did not use all of their vacation days.

If American workers used their time off to travel, the study says, the economic opportunity amounts to $151.5 billion in additional travel spending and would create 2 million American jobs.

One of the main culprits for the increase in unused vacation days is that the number of earned days off is increasing faster than workers are using them.

Workers did not use an average of

CNN Monday 8.19.19

It’s officially back-to-school time.

But it’s a tough time for the 5 million school children who don’t have money for supplies.

Here’s how you can help them. And here’s what else you need to know to Get Up to Speed and Out the Door.

Potential mass shootings arrests

Authorities in three states say they stopped three potential mass shootings over the past few days.

All three cases were brought to their attention thanks to tips from the public.
- In Connecticut, 22-year-old Brandon Wagshol was arrested after he allegedly expressed interest on Facebook of committing a mass shooting.

Authorities got a tip that he was trying to buy large capacity rifle magazines from another state and discovered he was trying to build his own rifle.

- In Florida, 25-year-old Tristan Scott Wix was arrested after he sent his ex-girlfriend disturbing text messages in which he allegedly threatened to commit a mass shooting, the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office said.

- In Ohio, 20-year-old James Patrick Reardon was arrested after he allegedly threatened to shoot up a Jewish community center in Youngstown. A video on a social media account belonging to Reardon showed a man firing a gun. The community center was tagged in the video.

**Afghanistan wedding attack**

Even in a place like Kabul, long-accustomed to such violence, this weekend’s suicide bomb attack on a wedding there was a shocker.

At least **63 people were killed** (and almost 200 injured) after someone detonated an explosive vest at a wedding hall.

ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack.

All this happens as the US tries to finalize a peace plan with the Taliban that could end America’s 18-year-war there.

On Sunday President Trump said he didn’t want Afghanistan to become a “laboratory for terror.”

**Hong Kong protests**

Another weekend, another massive protest in Hong Kong.

Hundreds of thousands of people marched through Hong Kong’s streets yesterday in the 11th straight weekend of mass anti-government demonstrations.

The protest movement has been tested as of late by police bans and threats from the Chinese government.

It rained during the marches, so much of the city center turned into a sea of slow moving umbrellas.

The protests, which began in June over a now-shelved extradition bill, has since expanded to include calls for greater democracy and government accountability.

**Brexit**

The dreaded no-deal Brexit is staring the UK right in the face – and a government report leaked to a newspaper predicts it **will be as disastrous as everyone fears.**

The report, printed in The Sunday Times, says the UK will face food, fuel and medicine shortages if it leaves the European Union without a trade deal.

It added that the public and businesses were unprepared for a no-deal Brexit.

A British official responsible for planning for a no-deal Brexit said the report represents the “worst-case scenario.”

The UK is due to leave the EU on October 31.
Climate crisis

It’s been a hot summer in Alaska. So hot that it’s killing large numbers of salmon. One scientist told CNN that she and a group of colleagues on an expedition along the Koyukuk River counted 850 dead salmon, although they estimated the total was likely four to 10 times larger.

None of the fish showed signs of lesions, parasites and infections, so the scientists concluded the die-off is connected with the heat wave.

*People are talking about these.

Fast and furious

If you want to roll through the streets of San Francisco like Steve McQueen, now’s your chance.

The 1968 Ford Mustang GT he drove in “Bullitt” is going up for auction.

The big chop

He grew his hair out for 15 years. But he cut it all off so he could enlist in the Army and serve his country.

‘Hotel of Doom’

Want to visit the world’s tallest unoccupied building? You’ll need to go to North Korea to look inside the Ryugyong Hotel.

Later, gator

Alligators swimming across roads and climbing fences? Maybe humanity should just leave the Sunshine State to those bad boys.

It’s a delicacy

If you happen to be in Cape Town, South Africa you can check out the pop-up restaurant that focuses on insect cuisine.

Yeah, you read that right.

Trial begins

The “Stand Your Ground” manslaughter trial, in a case involving a shooting that happened after a dispute over a handicap parking spot, starts today in Florida.

22

The number of hearses used to deliver thousands of flower arrangements to the makeshift memorial at the El Paso Walmart. Twenty-two people were killed there in a mass shooting earlier this month.

Greenland is not for sale.

Greenland is not Danish.

Greenland belongs to Greenland.

Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, reacting to President Trump’s interest in buying the autonomous Danish territory
Meet the Brazilian artist who makes monuments that melt away.

(NPR)

The Trump Administration insists that the U.S. economy is in great shape.

But the White House is exploring tax cuts – a move often used when an economy is struggling.

So why these cuts and what could they look like?

The U.S. has promised to continue its economic sanctions on Iran.

With no end to the sanctions in sight, how are U.S. pressure tactics effecting everyday life in Iran?

And Syrian opposition fighters are facing defeat in a key strategic town they’ve held for years.

This comes after a major offensive carried out by Assad’s government forces and backed by Russia.

What’s the humanitarian impact on civilians living there?

Article titles

- Bees Are Dropping Dead in Brazil and Sending a Message to Humans
- Apple Card vs Citi, Chase, and Capital One: Is Apple’s new credit card as good as it seems?
- Americans want federal action on election security ahead of 2020, per new Brookings survey
- This is the best-kept secret in air travel
- How Memphis, Tennessee is transforming its riverfront to work for all
- The diversity opportunity for new CEOs
- The Philly Fed’s Patrick Harker on the US Economy Today
- How Radical Self-Inquiry Can Create a Thriving Workplace
- The Trump vs. Obama economy – in 15 charts
- New Census Scientific Advisory Committee Members Announced
- Apple Card is now available – with even better rewards than we thought
- How to Use LinkedIn Live: The Complete Guide for Marketers
- Asia’s energy transition
- A Geoengineering Trojan Horse
- Widest common denominator
- People Are Celebrating The Work That Went Into This Woman’s Subway Selfie Photo Shoot HuffPost
- Chemicals manufacturing 2030 : More of the same…but different
- Latin America’s Missing Middles
- What Russia Thinks About Multilateralism
- Debate: Will delivery UAVs scale by 2030?
- The Real Obstacle to Climate Action
Five questions to ask yourself before you apply for an Apple Card
The human side of digital supply chains
Decoding digital transformation in construction
Shareholder Value is No Longer Everything, Top C.E.O.s Say
The Fall and Rise of Public Heroism
Hispanic Heritage Month 2019
Planetary Thinking
Ask a busy person
Is the Next Recession Looming?
Trump’s War on Evidence
Beating the Giants: Zhongliang’s Strategy for Growth
Don’t Bet on Trump Rescuing the Stock Market
What Will it Take for Uber to Become Profitable?
Historic Rise of College-Educated Women in Labor Force Changes Workplace
Innovating business models to support India’s economic growth
Inside the Hong Kong Protests
Is Britain Becoming a Failed State?
How to use Google Maps’ re-routing option on the iPhone
How to opt out of forced arbitration on the Apple Card
Best Apple Card alternatives: 5 existing credit cards that outdo the new kid
16 Free Facebook Ad Templates to Create the Perfect Ad in Minutes
Apple Arcade FAQ: Games, price, compatibility, and everything else you need to know

Articles

Beating the Giants: Zhongliang’s Strategy for Growth
Knowledge@Wharton - Aug 20, 2019 at 6:47:14 PM
Stories of success in China’s real estate market invariably come from the country’s largest firms.
But not always.
The stunning rise of China’s Zhongliang Group Limited is one such exception.
Its triumph is a reminder that strategy, not scale, anchors a firm’s competitiveness.
Zhongliang, founded in China’s entrepreneurial heartland of Wenzhou, experienced rapid national expansion

What Will it Take for Uber to Become Profitable?
Knowledge@Wharton - Aug 20, 2019 at 5:30:23 PM
Uber needs to ensure that its core business of ride-hailing is profitable before diversifying into areas like bike rentals, say experts.

Wharton’s Jeremy Siegel: Prepare for a Slowdown, Not a Recession
Knowledge@Wharton - Aug 20, 2019 at 4:58:29 PM
While many investors are concerned that the next recession is on the horizon, Wharton’s Jeremy Siegel says a slowdown is more likely in the short term.
Is the U.S. Economy Solid?

Ask the Philadelphia Fed’s Patrick Harker

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia president Patrick Harker discusses interest rate policies, recession fears and whether central banks are ready to introduce a stablecoin cryptocurrency, among other issues.

Why ‘Radical Self-inquiry’ Can Create a Thriving Workplace

Leaders should stop focusing on output and achievement alone, and work on building the maturity required to lift up others, not just themselves, notes the author of a new book.

Chemicals manufacturing 2030+: More of the same…but different

A decade from now, chemicals plants may look similar from the outside.

But the inside will be very different.

Debate: Will delivery UAVs scale by 2030?

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, are a hot topic of debate.

McKinsey asked two professionals close to the issue to weigh in on whether they believe UAVs will gain traction and claim a significant share of urban deliveries by 2030.

Decoding digital transformation in construction

Few engineering and construction companies have captured the full benefit of digital.

Five practices can help E&C companies move beyond isolated pilots and unlock digital’s value across their enterprises.

The human side of digital supply chains

On its own, technology won’t be enough to fix your supply chain.

The diversity opportunity for new CEOs

New McKinsey research has uncovered a fascinating correlation between gender diversity and corporate performance.

Asia’s energy transition

The future of the energy sector in Asia will likely be driven by renewables and innovative energy technology.

Innovating business models to boost India’s economy
Many Indian companies need to transition from being founder-led to more effectively implementing professional processes, improving corporate-governance standards, and devising new business models.

Latin America’s Missing Middles

Decades of weak growth in Latin America have left large parts of the population economically vulnerable. But by taking advantage of digital disruption, the region has a golden opportunity to nurture faster growth that benefits everyone.

The Real Obstacle to Climate Action

Distributional issues – not aggregate costs – are the real obstacle to the ambitious policies needed to avert possibly catastrophic climate change. Progressives everywhere must therefore unite in support of a rapid green transition that is feasible and desirable for all.

Is Britain Becoming a Failed State?

Failed states used to be largely the preserve of the developing world, where the institutions of democracy do not have deep roots. But given the extent to which the Brexit campaign has undermined Britain’s institutions through lies, it is reasonable to worry that the country will soon come to resemble a tinpot dictatorship.

Trump’s War on Evidence

US President Donald Trump has made no secret of his disdain for experts and evidence-based policymaking. Yet by attempting to gut the US Census Bureau and two key agencies within the Department of Agriculture, he is undercutting the data-gathering institutions upon which broad sectors of the US economy rely.

What Russia Thinks About Multilateralism

While many in the West wring their hands over the plight of the postwar rules-based international order, it is often assumed that Russia would welcome a new era of unilateralism and great-power politics. But in reality, the Russian leadership’s perspective on multilateralism is more complicated than that.

A Geoengineering Trojan Horse

Silvia Ribeiro - Aug 19, 2019 at 10:17:40 AM
For fossil-fuel companies, the promise of geoengineering is the ideal excuse to continue with business as usual.

Rather than allow the industry to continue to act in its own interest, the world must establish a strong, democratic regulatory mechanism, which includes the option to ban certain technologies outright.

Hispanic Heritage Month 2019

August 20, 2019 at 10:06:19 AM

September 1968: Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic Heritage Week.

New Census Scientific Advisory Committee Members Announced

August 19, 2019 at 3:08:29 PM

The U.S. Census Bureau named eight new members to the Census Bureau’s Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC).

Americans want federal action on election security ahead of 2020, per new Brookings survey

Darrell M. West - August 20, 2019 at 5:11:53 PM

By Darrell M. West

Election security has been a topic of considerable discussion given foreign interference in recent elections.

A U.S. Intelligence Committee report found that Russia gained illegal entry into numerous voter registration data bases in the American states.

In addition, Special Counsel Robert Mueller warned in testimony before Congress that Russia represented a major threat leading into the 2020 elections.

Despite these concerns, the U.S. Senate has not enacted any election security legislation.

There has been no vote on a bill already passed by the U.S. House, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has indicated having such a vote is a non-starter for him.

So far, he has delivered on that sentiment and no Senate votes on campaign security have taken place or been scheduled.

Apple Arcade FAQ: Games, price, compatibility, and everything else you need to know

Macworld · by Leif Johnson

Sega

Apple announced its new Apple Arcade gaming subscription service at its March 25 “It's show time” event, and it’ll launch sometime this fall.

It's basically Apple’s way of helping customers sort through the chaff in the App Store, as the highly curated service will feature premium games that are untainted by in-app purchases and ads.
If it works as well as it sounds, it could elevate the perception of mobile gaming in general.

Many questions remain, but fortunately we already have plenty of answers.

Here’s everything we know about Apple Arcade so far.

What is Apple Arcade?

Apple Arcade is a gaming subscription service for iOS, macOS, and tvOS.

Five questions to ask yourself before you apply for an Apple Card

The Apple Card is now available to tens of millions of U.S. consumers.

And it’s definitely getting plenty of hype.

With that slick white titanium card, the purchase tracking, the security features... it’s easy to understand why you might want it.

But it’s ultimately still a MasterCard credit card backed by a big multinational bank, and before you apply for it, you should really ask yourself these five questions.

Can you always pay it off?

Do you intend to fully pay off your Apple Card every month, or will you run a balance?

The Apple Card interest rate is between 12.99 and 23.99 percent, and that’s low for a cash back card, but it’s not at all low compared to

Apple Card vs Citi, Chase, and Capital One: Is Apple’s new credit card as good as it seems?

Apple might not be turning into a bank, but it wants to handle your money.

At its March announcement of Apple Card, we heard a lot about financial health, low interest rates, cash-back percentages, and zero fees.

Details were fairly light then, as Apple emphasized the card’s simplicity, security, and ease of use while taking broad digs at the competition.

Now that the card has launched, we finally have all the hard numbers, too.

Those final details let us stage a proper showdown between Apple and its most popular cash-back rivals, because formidable opponents do exist – as our dive into into the nitty-gritty details of cash-back percentages, interest rates, and fees shows.

Editor’s note: This article originally published March 26, 2019.

Best Apple Card alternatives: 5 existing credit cards that outdo the new kid

Your financial situation should dictate which credit card is right for you.
And the Apple Card — even with its tidy package of features — might not be it.

Sure, as a starter card, it’s hard to beat.

People mastering the basics of paying statement balances on time each month get a more generous deal than with a big bank: bigger rewards, a break on foreign transactions fees, and more leeway if they forget to pay on time.

But perhaps you’re only concerned about cash back, low interest rates, or a specific combination of benefits that the Apple Card just doesn’t nail.

You can do better, and I’ve sifted through multiple cards with no annual fees to find those best alternatives to the Apple Card — be

**How to opt out of forced arbitration on the Apple Card**

Should you apply for an Apple Card, one would hope that nothing will happen that leads you to want to sue Apple or Goldman Sachs.

Should that happen, however, the customer agreement mandates something called forced arbitration.

What’s that?

The customer agreement states that you “knowingly and voluntarily waive the right to be heard in court or have a jury trial on all Claims subject to this Agreement.”

Essentially, when you get an Apple Card you agree to have any agreements settled by arbitration rather than the courts.

Any disputes you have will be brought before an independent third-party panel (these are usually chosen by the companies to which you agreed to arbitration, in this case Apple and Goldman Sachs).

**Apple Card is now available – with even better rewards than we thought**

Macworld · by Jason Cross and Michael Simon

After a slow rollout over the past few couple of weeks, Apple Card is now available for any U.S. iPhone user who wants to apply.

You can find the application inside the Wallet app, where you’ll be able to begin the approval process.

While technically an Apple product, Apple Card is a MasterCard backed by Goldman Sachs.

Apple has given it a hefty dose of smarts and iOS integration, however, with an emphasis on privacy and security features, and cash-back rewards delivered daily into your Apple Pay Cash balance.

As a launch-day surprise, Apple has announced that Uber and Uber Eats can take advantage of the 3 percent rewards tier that was originally reserved solely for Apple purchases.

To apply for the Apple Card, you must be 18 or older and a U.S.

**This is the best-kept secret in air travel**

After a long-haul flight home from abroad, it is soul-crushing to see a long, snaking line to get through customs when you land at an American airport.
If you’re lucky, maybe it moves quickly.
If you’re smart, you have Mobile Passport downloaded on your phone.
I should not be telling you about Mobile Passport.
The app is a gift for frequent and infrequent fliers alike.
Telling more people about it will mean more people using the line-cutting service.
But I’m a fool and telling you anyway.
Although not new, Mobile Passport seems to be under the radar for many Americans traveling internationally.
The service gives travelers access to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection express lane, getting you through to baggage claim in minutes.
All you have to do is input your passport information, take a selfie and answer the same questions you’d encounter at the standard customs kiosk.
The service is fast,

Historic Rise of College-Educated Women in Labor Force

Changes Workplace

Companies are restructuring their compensation and benefits packages to attract these qualified women.
This year is shaping up to be the first year that women make up the majority of the college-educated labor force, a milestone that is already altering benefits packages offered by companies and one that could influence family sizes in the future.
Women make up only 46.6% of the overall labor force, but they first reached 45% of the college-educated labor force at the turn of the century.
Since 2013, the female share of college-educated workers has been around the 49% mark, with 2019 being the year that women cross into a very slight majority.
Nicole Smith, chief economist at Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, said this development overall is a positive one.

Don’t Bet on Trump Rescuing the Stock Market

If the president cares so much about the stock market, why is he pursuing trade policies that are anathema to Wall Street?
Should investors rely on Donald Trump underpinning the stock market by backing away from trade threats as stocks fall?
In short: not as much as they seem to.
Many market watchers believe the pattern of the administration announcing progress on trade talks after falls in the S&P 500 amounts to a “Trump put,” similar to a derivative that pays out when prices drop to a certain level.
The Trump put was on full display last week, when Mr. Trump delayed some tariffs due to be imposed on China next month, pushing up the S&P by 1.5%.
The move followed a tumble in stock prices that had briefly taken the S&P down more than 6%—although the fall was triggered by his own action in imposing those tariffs in the first place.
Ask a busy person

You might know one.

The busy person has a bias for action, the ability to ship, and a willingness to contribute more than is required.

The busy person is wrong more than most people (if you get up to bat more often, you’re going to have more hits and more strike outs, right?). Those errors are dwarfed by the impact they create.

Being a busy person is a choice.

It might not work for you, but you could try it out for a while.

We need more busy people.

Widest common denominator

If you’re creating something where widespread inputs, usage and adoption lead to significant benefits, it’s worth considering who you’re excluding.

The curb cut turned out not simply to be a boon for wheelchair users. At low cost, it opened the sidewalk to a significantly larger audience of strollers, delivery people and skateboarders, too.

Often, we make the mistake of focusing on too broad an audience. Obsessing about the minimum viable audience forces us to make something that’s truly better. But once we identify those we seek to serve, broadening access is a powerful way to add impact.

This isn’t a matter of high or low, more or less. It’s the power of thinking hard about who it’s for and what it’s for.

How to use Google Maps’ re-routing option on the iPhone

I use my phone constantly for directions, as I’m sure millions of drivers do.

And one of the primary situation I and others run into is that the chosen route turns out to be a bad one due to traffic, road closures, or accidents.

Apple Maps in iOS only lets you pick among possible routes when starting, although it will warn you and re-route while you’re underway.

Google Maps for iOS has an in-progress re-routing option that isn’t as obvious, based on reader email.

While you’re actively following a route, tap the icon at the bottom of Google Maps that looks like a fork in the road with the left path dotted and one right path in black.

It brings up an overview of the map showing alternatives and the estimated time difference compared to the current map.
These alternatives are highlighted in gray and using a thinner line compared to the blue (and traffic-colored) thicker main path.

Tap a gray path and it becomes your route

The Trump vs. Obama economy – in 15 charts

Is a recession coming in 2020 or 2021?

Experts continue to debate the conflicting signals (https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-bankingon-strong-economy-to-win-reelection-frets-over-a-possibledownturn/2019/08/15/04a85352-bf67-11e9-b873-63ace636af08_story.html), but an equally telling question might be: How does the “Trump economy” compare to Barack Obama’s?

President Trump constantly refers to the economy as “strong,” “terrific” and the “greatest in the history of our country (https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2018/09/07/president-trumpsrepeated-claim-greatest-economy-history-our-country/),” but a closer look at the data shows a mixed picture in terms of whether the economy is any better than it was in Obama’s final years.

The economy is growing at about the same pace as it did in Obama’s last years, and unemployment, while lower under Trump (https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/08/02/us-hiring-remainssolid-with-jobs-added-july-unemployment-rate-holds-steady-percent/), has continued a trend that began in 2011.

Shareholder Value is No Longer Everything, Top C. E.O.s Say

The New York Times · by David Yaffe-Bellany · August 19, 2019

Chief executives from the Business Roundtable, including the leaders of Apple and JPMorgan, argued that companies must invest in employees and deliver value to customers.

“The American dream is alive, but fraying,” said Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase and the chairman of Business Roundtable.

For major corporations, shareholders used to be everything.

No more.

A coalition of executives representing some of America’s largest companies issued a statement on Monday that redefines “the purpose of a corporation.”

No longer should the primary job of a corporation be to advance the interests of shareholders, the coalition, known as the Business Roundtable, said in a statement.

Now, companies must also invest in employees, deliver value to customers and deal fairly and ethically with suppliers.

The statement was signed by nearly 200 chief executives, including the leaders of Apple, American Airlines, Accenture, AT&T, Bank of America, Boeing and BlackRock.

“While each of our individual companies serves its own corporate purpose, we share a fundamental commitment to all of our stakeholders,” the statement said.

“We commit to deliver value to all of them, for the future success of our companies, our communities and our country.”

This article will be updated
The Fall and Rise of Public Heroism

Robert Skidelsky - Aug 21, 2019 at 9:25:37 AM

The value of heroism is again on the rise, especially in countries where undemocratic regimes can no longer be relied on to deliver economic prosperity.

The future may well lie not with politicians and diplomats, but with those men – and women – who are willing to die.

Inside the Hong Kong Protests

Sławomir Sierakowski - Aug 21, 2019 at 8:54:14 AM

The Communist Party of China would like the mainland Chinese population and the rest of the world to believe that the ongoing, sometimes violent protests in Hong Kong pose a threat of “terrorism.”

But the truth is that China has only itself to blame for pushing the city’s idealistic youth into the streets once again.

Planetary Thinking

Erik Berglöf - Aug 21, 2019 at 8:11:07 AM

As policymakers, academics, and activists prepare for next month’s United Nations climate summit in New York, they should consider precisely what it will take to build a truly sustainable global economy.

First and foremost, the world needs a new multidisciplinary approach that is broad enough to tackle the challenge.

How Memphis, Tennessee is transforming its riverfront to work for all

Carol Coletta - Aug 20, 2019 at 3:32:47 PM

By Carol Coletta

The storied Mississippi River is at its widest and wildest in Memphis.

Rising and falling 55 feet a year, the river is the city’s birth place.

It runs alongside the city’s historic downtown, serves as a global hub for trade and transportation, and connects residents to industry and opportunity.

But despite the many economic benefits the river brings, Memphis remains one of the nation’s poorest metropolitan areas, divided by significant racial and socioeconomic disparities.

And even with new investments and a real-estate rebirth in the riverfront city, significant barriers remain for Memphians living in high-poverty, segregated, and systematically devalued neighborhoods.

Given these inequities, developers in Memphis must remember that investing in the people of Memphis means investing in a community that is 63% African American.

There is no path to success for Memphis that doesn’t lift up black neighborhoods, black businesses, and black people.

And building a riverfront city that works for everyone has to be more than a slogan.

It’s a mandate.
Toward a riverfront that works for everyone

The most prominent 250 acres of riverfront property are managed by the Memphis River Parks Partnership, a nonprofit that works with and for the people of Memphis to harness the transformative power of the river.

In our role as place managers, we’re responsible for cleaning, maintaining, and activating the riverfront.

But most importantly, we’re tasked with planning and building a riverfront that brings economic and social gains for all Memphians.

**CNN Wednesday 08.21.19**

Ladies, listen up.

A panel of experts has recommended that more women should get tested for the harmful BRCA gene mutations that can increase the risk of certain cancers.

Here’s what else you need to know to Get Up to Speed and Out the Door.

**President Trump**

The President has canceled his trip to Denmark with less than two weeks to go because Denmark’s Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, will not entertain the idea of selling Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory, to the US.

Trump mentioned the non-negotiation as the reason for postponing the trip, though he called Denmark a “special country” and promised to reschedule.

Trump has brought up buying Greenland, and the White House counsel’s office has looked into it.

But Frederiksen called the idea “an absurd discussion” and told a local paper, “Greenland is not for sale.

Greenland is not Danish.

Greenland belongs to Greenland.”

Elsewhere in the world, Trump raised hackles yesterday after criticizing Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats, saying “it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty.”

The remark led critics to argue the President was politicizing anti-Semitism by flirting with the anti-Semitic trope of “dual loyalty,” which questions the loyalty of Jewish citizens.

**Italy**

Italy’s Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, has resigned after losing support from the country’s far-right leaders.

Conte has been involved in a feud with Interior Minister Matteo Salvini over how much power their movements hold in parliament.

Salvini is the leader of the far-right, hard-line anti-immigrant League party, and he has called for a new round of elections to re-establish a ruling party majority.

Their recent clashes have centered on a Spanish humanitarian ship carrying migrants that had been stranded off the coast of Italy for more than three weeks.

Salvini had refused to let the ship dock, despite a court ruling saying the boat should be allowed.
Yesterday, an Italian court seized the rescue vessel and ordered all the migrants to disembark after an investigation found health and sanitary conditions on the ship had deteriorated.

At least 10 people were reported to have jumped overboard as the vessel languished at sea.

Italy’s Transport Minister has blamed Spain for the situation, while Spain says Italy “failed to follow the law” in refusing to allow the ship to dock.

**China**

An employee of the British consulate in Hong Kong who’d been missing for almost two weeks has been detained in China.

Chinese officials said 28-year-old Simon Cheng has been put in administrative detention for 15 days for violating China’s Security Administration Punishment Law, which covers offenses deemed too minor to be crimes.

Cheng works for a British agency that promotes trade between Scotland and other countries, and is often required to go to mainland China for work.

He reportedly traveled from the special administration region of Hong Kong to a border city in mainland China while carrying out his duties.

Because he is a Hong Kong citizen, Chinese officials say this was a problem.

The situation has the potential to cause serious tension between the UK and China.

Top British diplomats they’re “extremely concerned” by Cheng’s detention and will help his family.

Chinese officials say that since Cheng is not a UK citizen, it is a purely Chinese matter.

**Immigration**

A series of developments could make life even harder for migrants in the US.

Trump is expected today to announce a new regulation that would allow migrant families to be detained beyond the 20-day limit for holding children.

Administration officials say the move aims to keep families from exploiting the loophole, since they know if they come into the US with children, they will be released sooner.

The decision would replace the so-called Flores agreement, which not only limits the detention time of a minor to 20 days but also outlines minimum standards of care for immigrants in detention centers.

Speaking of minimum standards of care, US Customs and Border Protection has confirmed it will not vaccinate detained migrants against the flu, even though three children who’d been in US custody died after contracting the flu.

**NRA**

There’s more turmoil brewing at the National Rifle Association.

Three more NRA leaders have stepped down in a growing exodus amid controversy over the group’s spending.

These are pretty famous faces, too: Country music singer and NRA board member Craig Morgan resigned this week, as did NASCAR team owner Richard Childress.

Also jumping ship is David Lehman, the deputy chief at the NRA’s political arm.
Over the last few months, several high-profile NRA leaders have left or been effectively forced out, including former NRA President Oliver North, chief political strategist Chris Cox, and recognizable media faces, like Dana Loesch.

Recently, it looked like President Trump may have broken rank with the organization by suggesting the possibility of more firearms background checks.

However, the President has seemed to cool on the idea of tighter gun legislation in the last few days.

*People are talking about these.

A little exotic kinkajou attacked a Florida man in his own home

Of course this would happen to a poor guy from Florida (I was born in Florida, so I’m allowed to say that).

A program to help prisoners learn horticulture skills will be renamed after Bob Ross

Inspiring people with happy little trees, even from the next life.

What a legend.

Life may have existed on warm, rainy ancient Mars before winter came

Sci-fi writers, here’s your next prompt.

Dozens of air mattresses blew away in Colorado after an ill-posed outdoor movie event

Horror writers, here’s your next prompt.

The internet is beefing over who has the best chicken sandwich, and it’s frankly exhausting

Great, now we’ll all be craving chicken sandwiches for a week.

78

The recommended Fahrenheit temperature, in degrees, at which you should keep your house in the summer, according to a new federal program for energy efficiency

As a fan of all 3 of these amazing women, I can’t wait to watch.

Brad Paisley, who was replaced as host of the Country Music Association Awards after 11 years in favor of Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton.

The two country legends will join Carrie Underwood, who has shared hosting duties with Paisley for years, for a special edition of the ceremony honoring women in the genre.

Boop. Boop … … … … … Boop!

This machine is completely useless, and yet it almost seems like it’s alive.

Pixar, here’s your next animated short.

(Click here to view.)

Thursday, August 22, 2019 news

article-titles-daily

NPR
More red ink is being predicted by congressional budget forecasters – nearly a trillion dollars this year alone.

What does the growing deficit tell us about the economy’s health?

The detention of migrant families and children has been one of the defining and most controversial policies of the Trump administration.

Now a new rule would end time limits on detentions.

Is this a shift toward holding migrant families indefinitely?

And NPR gains exclusive access to a lab in New York where researchers are zapping sperm.

What would lead them to do that in the name of science?

**Article titles**

- The evolution of healthcare-provider profit pools
- Punishing Denmark over Greenland shows Trump has defected to the autocrats
- Ex-RNC Chair Makes Ominous Prediction About Trump’s 2020 Tactics
- Getting beyond the myths: What Americans really think about mass shootings and gun legislation
- The change management mind-set: Getting personal
- Corruption and terrorism: The case of Kenya
- Parks make great places, but not enough Americans can reach them
- Turkish Democracy is Down, But Not Out
- How customs agencies can help special economic zones succeed
- Slavery, black history, DNA genealogy: Learnings from a trip to Africa
- Getting Attacked
- The Anatomy of the Coming Recession
- How Memphis, Tennessee is transforming the city through its riverfront
- Will Democracy Die Last?
- Google Lens, Augmented Reality, and the Future of Learning
- Digital in insurance distribution in Asia
- Sooner or later, the shark gets jumped
- Why the Middle East is Betting on China
- Managing the Next Gold Rush

**Articles**

How insurers should think about digital in distribution

Aug 21, 2019 at 12:00:00 PM

In this video, McKinsey partner Sumit Popli discusses the role bancassurance, digitization, and digital distribution have been playing in Asia and what this means for insurers.

How customs agencies can help special economic zones succeed

When agencies have a seat at the table and participate in areas such as governance and stakeholder relations, these zones have the best chance of promoting economic growth.

The evolution of healthcare-provider profit pools
Why nonhospital-provider segments are primed for growth – and why that matters.

**Getting personal about change**

The need to shift mind-sets is the biggest block to successful transformations.

The key lies in making the shift both individual and institutional – at the same time.

**Why the Middle East is Betting on China**

*Galip Dalay - Aug 22, 2019 at 10:55:33 AM*

Chinese foreign policy in the Middle East is highly transactional, focusing on energy and economics, and avoiding sensitive geopolitical issues.

In a region as volatile as the Middle East, however, the question is how long such an approach can be sustained.

**Turkish Democracy is Down, But Not Out**

*Javier Solana - Aug 22, 2019 at 10:20:55 AM*

Relations between Turkey and the West are damaged, but not irreparably, and the same is true of Turkish democracy.

Although President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan seems to believe that his country’s geostrategic importance gives him carte blanche, the fact is that Turkey needs the West, and the West needs Turkey.

**Will Democracy Die Last?**

*Dominique Moisi - Aug 22, 2019 at 9:53:42 AM*

These days, liberal democracy and authoritarianism seem to be engaged in a process of competitive decay, the outcome of which remains uncertain.

But it is never wise to write democracy off, much less act in ways that hasten its downfall.

**The Anatomy of the Coming Recession**

*Nouriel Roubini - Aug 22, 2019 at 9:33:52 AM*

Unlike the 2008 global financial crisis, which was mostly a large negative aggregate demand shock, the next recession is likely to be caused by permanent negative supply shocks from the Sino-American trade and technology war.

And trying to undo the damage through never-ending monetary and fiscal stimulus will not be an option.

**Managing the Next Gold Rush**

*Sharon E. Burke - Aug 22, 2019 at 4:21:51 AM*

The seafloor is rich in rare-earth elements and other sought-after minerals, but it also contains barely understood components of the global ecosystem.

In pursuing these precious resources, the international community must proceed with care, so as not to trigger an environmental catastrophe.

**Google Lens, Augmented Reality, and the Future of Learning**
Did you know that the painter Rockwell Kent, whose splendorous Afternoon on the Sea, Monhegan hangs in San Francisco’s de Young Museum, worked on murals and advertisements for General Electric and Rolls-Royce?

I did not, until I visited Gallery 29 on a recent Tuesday afternoon, phone in hand. Because the de Young’s curators worked with Google to turn some of the informational placards that hang next to paintings into virtual launchpads, any placard that includes an icon for Google Lens — the name of the company’s visual search software — is now a cue. Point the camera at the icon and a search result pops up, giving you more information about the work.

(You can access Google Lens on the iPhone within the Google search app for iOS or within the native camera app on Android phones.)

Slavery, black history, DNA genealogy: Learnings from a trip to Africa

Hundreds of thousands of Africans were enslaved in America. Wanda Tucker believes her relatives were the first

LUANDA, Angola - Wanda Tucker stepped off the plane to a sky so gray it blended into the tarmac.

She inhaled, balanced her new bag with the straw handle, then step-by-step-by-step made her way down the metal stairs.

It had been 40 hours since she left Virginia.

Her 61 years had caught up.

Something about flying over that wide, dark water, watching the low tin roofs rise to meet her, had brought home the reality of what she had come here to do.

The plane hissed.

The faces around her were brown like hers, but their words were a scramble of sound.

Ex-RNC Chair Makes Ominous Prediction About Trump’s 2020 Tactics

Former Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele has warned voters what to expect from President Donald Trump in the run-up to the 2020 election.

And in light of Trump’s controversial claim that Jewish Americans who vote for Democrats are disloyal or uninformed, Steele predicted the president’s tactics and rhetoric will be “in stark contrast to what we saw in 2016.”

“As abhorrent and disrespecting as it is, we need to just settle in because this is just the warmup of what will be a series of narratives created by the president around particular interest groups,” Steele said on Tuesday’s broadcast of MSNBC’s “Hardball with Chris Matthews.”

“When you sit down and you say this about the Jewish community, then what about African Americans, what about Hispanics, how they vote?” he
Getting Attacked by Robotexts?

Here’s What to Do

As if all unwanted robocalls weren’t bad enough, now there are spam texts to contend with.

The first text came through shortly before 7 a.m. Then another 15 minutes later.

And at around 11:30 a.m. And at 12:10 p.m. In a mere 30 hours, I’d qualified for a credit consultation, won some kind of contest, scored part-time flexible work and was alerted to the existence of a three-bedroom apartment I could own for $429 a month.

I was being attacked by robotexts.

Some were sent from legitimate-looking numbers and mentioned household names, like Amazon and Walmart.

Other messages could, at first glance, pass for someone merely texting the wrong person. (“This is the info I was telling you about last week.”) What most had in common were creepy-looking links, encouraging me to, for instance, track delivery of my “AMX” gift card.

Sooner or later, the shark gets jumped

Seth Godin - Aug 22, 2019 at 8:19:16 AM

Short-term thinking repeated again and again doesn’t lead to long-term thinking.

Rand Fishkin shares a thoughtful analysis about a trend that now affects just about everyone: Google is hoarding more and more traffic.

When I worked at Yahoo, there were 183 links on our home page.

The stated strategy of the company was to build more and more internal content and services (Yahoo mail, Yahooligans, Yahoo Finance) to keep as many surfers on their site for as long as they could.

The math was simple: if you’re getting paid by the impression, having someone stay for twenty or thirty clicks is way more profitable than encouraging them to leave and go to another site.

Google blew this status quo wide open.

Their model was very different: “come here on your way to somewhere else.”

There were only two links on their home page, because the only place they wanted to encourage you to go was wherever a good search led you.

If you were a company or an individual with something to say, this hub and spoke model

Parks make great places, but not enough Americans can reach them

Joseph Kane, Adie Tomer - Aug 21, 2019 at 6:34:57 PM

By Joseph Kane, Adie Tomer

Summer offers a time to relax and recharge, and that often includes a chance to connect with nature.
Getting outside in the warmer months reminds us how important green space is to our individual health and community well-being, especially for city and suburban residents who may be more detached from nature.

This is the vital role parks play in metropolitan America. They are one of the country’s most foundational civic assets, providing many environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Investments in parks – through improved infrastructure, community engagement, and other place-based strategies – can also address long-standing social and economic divides.

The fact that knowledge workers and young jobseekers want to live near parks only reaffirms the importance of these investments.

Park access should be a driver of more livable and equitable communities across the country, supporting common spaces for recreation, interaction, and trust.

But parks can only reach their peak potential if every household can access such green space, and that access shouldn’t be tied to a private vehicle or an unreasonable walking distance.

At the city level, researchers have long confirmed that park access is unequal.

The size and location of parks can vary greatly from place to place, and a third of Americans in the 100 largest cities are more than a 10-minute walk from a park.

City residents may also remain disconnected from parks depending on their income, education, and race.

By using park data organized by the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, we can see the share of residents living within half a mile of a park in metropolitan areas.

These regional analytics confirm unequal park access extends beyond city borders, creating another form of environmental injustice.

Among the 100 largest metro areas, almost 54% of residents live within half a mile of a park, but there is considerable range depending on the market.

On the high end are western metro areas such as Denver, Portland, Ore., and Provo, Utah, where more than two-thirds of residents live near abundant natural amenities.

Also ranking high are metro areas such as Washington and Minneapolis, both known for having extensive park systems.

On the low end are sprawling metro areas concentrated in the southeast, including Atlanta, Birmingham, Ala., and Knoxville, Tenn., where under a third of residents live close to parks.

There are several spatial and economic factors at play here, but these factors are highly specific to individual regions, in line with previous research on this topic.

Consider population density and age, for instance.

Regions with greater density foster closer civic connections and intensify the need for walkable access to nature.

As shown below, population-dense counties located in the urban core of the country’s largest metro areas tend to deliver the greatest park access (nearly 64%).

Access begins to decline in smaller metro areas and older suburbs, before dropping even further in the newest suburbs and exurbs.
Clearly, older and denser counties put people in closer proximity to parks. However, job-dense metro areas do not display the same consistency. As a recent Brookings report has shown, job concentration is increasing, especially in large metro areas, where there are nearly 26,000 jobs per square mile, up 30% since the early 2000s. Job-dense metro areas such as San Francisco (54,375 jobs per square mile), Chicago (42,428 jobs), and Seattle (35,122 jobs) all have high shares of residents with park access (over 70% each), but the same isn’t true in other job-dense metro areas such as Pittsburgh (46%) and New Haven, Conn. (48%).

Generally, there is a positive relationship between job density and park access, but the scatterplot below displays some of this variability across the country. Another potential trend: regions with lower park access tend to have higher poverty rates. Nearly 14% of residents in the 100 largest metro areas live in poverty, and many live far away from parks and remain disconnected from opportunity. In fact, the 10 metro areas with the lowest park access all have above-average poverty rates. McAllen, Texas has both the lowest park access (11%) and highest poverty rate (32%), but several other metro areas don’t fare much better, including Greenville, Ala., Jackson, Miss., and Scranton, Pa.

Still, there can be variability depending on the particular market, as demonstrated below. These examples only scratch the surface of how park access varies nationally, but the findings highlight the urgency to understand park access at the metropolitan scale. With suburbs once again growing faster than their city peers, and suburbs hosting the majority of people living in poverty, limited park access along the metropolitan fringe is a genuine barrier to household well-being for too many people.

In response, metropolitan areas need regional plans to bring parks closer to all residents. Fortunately, the shift toward placemaking principles offers a powerful solution. Increased walkability and urban connectivity, for instance, has jumpstarted planning efforts (and market demand) in dense, mixed-used neighborhoods. These kinds of neighborhoods tend to put residents in close proximity to parks. Moving forward, local planners and real estate developers can use placemaking principles to reduce spatial and economic barriers tied to park access. Parks should represent a bridge – not a gap – in supporting great places for everyone. Image credit: Selavie Photography

Getting beyond the myths: What Americans really think about mass shootings and gun legislation

William A. Galston, Clara Hendrickson - Aug 22, 2019 at 6:23:32 PM

By William A. Galston, Clara Hendrickson
The recent spate of mass shootings has propelled gun safety to the center of public concern, and the share of Americans demanding swift action has increased substantially.
But discussion of this issue has been pervaded by myths about what the American people want, and why, and these misperceptions have made an inherently divisive debate even more difficult to resolve.

Fortunately, recent survey research helps us clarify this murky issue.

In sum: Most Americans are dissatisfied with the status quo and want to do something about it.

Although they are divided as to the causes of gun violence and the ability of legislation to reduce it, they come together on a number of options for addressing it.

But they don’t expect Congress to act, no matter how urgent the need.

Here, in greater detail, are eight facts about the state of public sentiment on this life-and-death issue:

CNN Thursday 08.22.19

**Oh, no!** It looks like something went wrong with our e-mail delivery this morning.** If you missed today’s 5 Things, we sincerely apologize!

Here’s a copy.

We ironed out the kinks, so everything should be back to normal tomorrow.

Thank you for your understanding.

Here’s what else you need to know to Get Up to Speed and Out the Door.

President Trump

Donald Trump’s week of unusually controversial and contradictory statements rolls on.

The President yesterday told reporters he is “seriously” considering ending US birthright citizenship, even though such a move would face immediate legal challenge and is at odds with Supreme Court precedent and, well, the 14th Amendment.

This is far from the first time Trump has talked about ending the process by which babies born in the country automatically become citizens, and such hard-line anti-immigration proposals are popular with his base.

What might not play as well?

Using messianic language – about yourself. Speaking to reporters at the White House about trade relations with China, Trump paused and pointed to the heavens, saying, “I’m the chosen one.”

He’d earlier thanked a conspiracy theorist who described him as being like the King of Israel and said Jews “love him like the second coming of God.”

He also joked to a group of veterans about giving himself the Medal of Honor, which recognizes the highest levels of military valor.

Foiled mass shootings

The aftershocks of this month’s mass shootings in Dayton and El Paso continue to reverberate in frightening ways.

At least 28 people have been arrested over threats to commit mass attacks since the pair of shootings a few weeks ago.
A significant number of these threats have come from teenagers making violent promises from the perceived anonymity of the internet, and several more credible threats were racially motivated: A 35-year-old man was arrested in Seattle after threatening to kill people and calling for the “extermination” of Hispanics, and a self-described white nationalist threatened to attack an Ohio-area Jewish center.

After the two shootings in early August, the FBI announced it would ask agency offices nationwide to conduct new threat assessments to hopefully thwart more mass attacks.

The agency said in a statement it was concerned extremists would see the attacks as an opportunity to “engage in similar acts of violence.”

Rudy Giuliani

It appears Rudy Giuliani is still invested in getting the Ukrainian government to investigate President Trump’s political enemies.

The former New York City mayor said he spoke with a Ukrainian official about 2020 presidential candidate Joe Biden’s possible role in that government’s dismissal of a prosecutor who investigated Biden’s son.

Giuliani has directly pursued Ukrainian investigations into American politics for the better part of a year now, although he claims he hasn’t done so at Trump’s request.

As for how that relates to the Biden situation, Giuliani has long been pressuring Ukraine to investigate a 2016 call Biden made to remove a prosecutor who at one point had been investigating a Ukrainian natural gas company connected to Biden’s son, Hunter.

Officer shootings

In the last seven days, there have been several shootings of police spanning five states, from California to Pennsylvania.

Luckily, none was fatal, but the cases have caught national attention and demonstrate the range of dangers officers face.

The incidents unfolded in varying ways: a routine traffic stop in Texas, a deputy targeted by a sniper in California, a standoff in Missouri and a search warrant execution gone wrong in Illinois.

Last week, police serving a narcotics warrant in Philadelphia were ambushed by a barrage of gunfire that left six officers wounded and sparked an eight-hour standoff; the suspect was eventually arrested.

Wildfires

Forest fires are ravaging two very different parts of the world.

In Alaska, the McKinley Fire has now spread to more than 4,300 acres and destroyed at least 80 structures.

It’s one of more than 50 wildfires burning throughout the country right now (summer is peak wildfire season in the US.)

An even more ominous blaze is tearing through the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.

Fires are raging at a record rate in the region, and scientists warn that it could strike a devastating blow to the fight against climate change.

The Amazon is the largest rainforest on the planet and produces 20% of the oxygen in the Earth’s atmosphere.
As trees fall to the fires, so too does the source of that oxygen. The forest is also home to uncountable species of plants and animals, all threatened by the blaze.

There have been 72,843 fires in Brazil this year, with more than half in the Amazon region. That's more than 80% more than the same period last year.

*People are talking about these. **People are irked that ex-Trump press secretary Sean Spicer will be on ‘Dancing with the Stars’

Something tells us it's not because they're concerned about his foxtrot.

**Bird or bunny?**

Or at least, the part of the internet that definitely needs glasses. Don't bother sharing that message warning people about an Instagram privacy policy change. It's a hoax.

The XFL releases 8 new team names and logos

You could probably tell a lot about a person by which logo they pick as their favorite. (The Dragons, obviously!)

Crazy cat ladies are not actually a thing, says study

Don't listen to them, crazy cat ladies. You are real, and you are fabulous.

A New Hampshire town opened a 50-year-old time capsule to reveal absolutely nothing

Why is this headline so bleak yet so relatable?

$1 trillion

The federal budget deficit the Congressional Budget Office predicts Americans will be facing in the fiscal year 2020

Corporate leaders have a responsibility to protect their employees, their customers and their communities.

There should never be any misunderstanding again of what the intention is of someone who walks into Walmart with a gun.

Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action, encouraging companies like Walmart to stop allowing open carry of firearms in their stores

From guitars to goals in less than 3 days

Behold, a stadium’s incredible transformation – and the staggering number of people that are needed to pull it off.

(Click here to view.)

Friday, August 23, 2019 news
NPR

Brazil's indigenous women are marching. They’re fighting to protect the Amazon rainforest, which has been engulfed in flames. Who’s to blame for the fires?

France’s president Emanuel Macron is calling the Amazon fires an “international crisis”. He wants it to top the agenda at this weekend’s G–7 summit.

But will concerns over the global economy steal the limelight?

And we will go to the streets of Tehran where U.S. sanctions are hitting Iranians hard. In a country where free speech is normally stifled, we hear some candid talk from Iranians about who they blame for the sanctions.

Article titles

- Instead of bemoaning wealth work, make it better
- Unlocking access to the gene therapy market in the United States
- The federal-state disconnect in securing the 2016 election and how not to repeat it
- Charts of the Week: Recessions
- Make sure you save your data before deleting an Apple ID account Macworld
- Trump is doing what Obama couldn’t
- David Koch, billionaire businessman and influential GOP donor, dies
- Should Investors Fear The Inverted Yield Curve-
- What does it feel like when you say “later”?
- New Species of Stegosaurus Unearthed in Mountains of Morocco – Smithsonian Magazine
- The Power of Cash for Refugees
- Is Peace with the Taliban Possible?
- To succeed in the global economy, cities must invest in what makes them unique
- Reckless, fearless and generous
- Why Do Women Send Nudes? Why Do Men? It’s Complicated, A New Study Finds. – HuffPost
- Nashville
- GOP groups fundraising with T-shirts showing Greenland as part of America
- The Unsustainability of Inequality
- Whither Central Banking?
- Rethinking procurement in retail

Articles

Unlocking market access for gene therapies in the United States

Aug 22, 2019 at 12:00:00 PM

Gene therapy holds great promise for treating a variety of diseases, but without changes, today’s payment system could limit the number of patients who benefit.

Rethinking procurement in retail
For retailers, procurement is no longer solely a matter of negotiating “A” brands. Private labels and verticalization are trending. Advanced approaches and tools help get procurement in shape for the future.

Is Peace with the Taliban Possible?
Amin Saikal - Aug 23, 2019 at 10:10:44 AM
US President Donald Trump desperately wants to disentangle America from a seemingly unwinnable war in Afghanistan, preferably through a political settlement with the Taliban. But it is doubtful that the Taliban would be able to control other armed opposition groups or enlist the support of a cross-section of Afghanistan’s diverse population.

The Power of Cash for Refugees
David Beasley - Aug 23, 2019 at 7:07:08 AM
The delivery of cash assistance has already proved invaluable to Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. In particular, Turkey’s EU-funded Emergency Social Safety Net has enabled some 1.6 million refugees to meet their own essential needs and empowered them to participate in the local economy.

Whither Central Banking?
Lawrence H. Summers - Aug 23, 2019 at 6:19:31 AM
In an environment of secular stagnation in the developed economies, central bankers’ ingenuity in loosening monetary policy is exactly what is not needed. What is needed are admissions of impotence, in order to spur efforts by governments to promote demand through fiscal policies and other means.

The Unsustainability of Inequality
James K. Galbraith - Aug 23, 2019 at 5:47:47 AM
Rising inequality is symptomatic of a wide range of economic and political problems that are standing in the way of achieving a just and sustainable society. But for all the concern about the income and wealth gap within countries in recent years, there has been surprisingly little acknowledgement of the forces actually driving the trend.

Reckless, fearless and generous
Seth Godin - Aug 23, 2019 at 1:31:29 PM
I did a live QA and rant today at 10 am NY time. Topic: there’s a difference between reckless, fearless and generous, and once you see it, it’ll help you move forward. You can watch (and chime in) live, or see it once it’s archived (the insta version is only available for 24 hours).
You can follow me on Instagram (Check it out… Taylor and the team are working with me to do some innovative things in this medium) and we’ll be simulcasting on Facebook as well.

Also, as long as we’re talking about other places, don’t forget to check out my podcast Akimbo, now in its fifth season.

Here are some examples of favorite episodes.

Thanks for tuning in, wherever and however.

What does it feel like when you say “later”?

Seth Godin - Aug 23, 2019 at 8:22:47 AM

What does it sound like when you put something off?

All of us have a catalog of voices in our head.

We’ve got the one for feeling behind, the one for not feeling good enough, the one we use when we’re trying to avoid a sore spot.

There are good reasons to decide to wait until later.

Waiting for later keeps our options open.

Waiting for later helps us avoid the short-term hustle.

Waiting for later feels safer.

Too often, waiting for later also keeps us from leaping, from leading and from making a difference.

It keeps us from moving on, moving forward.

The feeling of “later” doesn’t go away. It actually gets harder and harder to leap as the time goes by.

It’s easy to turn waiting for later into a habit.

It’s a great way to hide from the work we truly care about, especially if it’s uncomfortable.

Should Investors Fear The Inverted Yield Curve?

Aug 22, 2019 at 4:00:00 PM

Plenty of investors focus on economic news.

They worry about where stocks are headed.

They want a quick heads-up so they can bob or weave in case stocks hit the skids.

But investors usually make more money if they do three things:

They invest every month.

They build diversified portfolios of low-cost index funds

They ignore investment news.

Warren Buffett says investing is simple, but it isn’t easy.

The toughest part might be ignoring economic news.

Consider the latest: Many are worried about the inverted yield curve.

On Wednesday, August 14th, the interest yield on 2-year U.S. treasury bonds inched higher than the interest yield on 10-year treasury bonds.
That rarely happens.

Usually, the yield on longer-term bonds is higher than the yield on short-term bonds.

After all, if people are going to park their money for a long period, they want to be compensated more for doing so.

Now here’s the part that gives investors chills.

In 2018,

**To succeed in the global economy, cities must invest in what makes them unique**

*Rachel Barker, Marek Gootman, Max Bouchet - Aug 22, 2019 at 7:26:36 PM*

*By Rachel Barker, Marek Gootman, Max Bouchet*

In a converted parking garage turned business incubator and accelerator in downtown Syracuse, N.Y., entrepreneurs and inventors from as far away as Italy and Switzerland are hard at work developing software applications, power systems, and imaging technology for the emerging unmanned systems industry.

The presence of these global innovators represents an early win in a regional strategy to establish the central New York region as a global industry hub, leveraging historic local advantages in electronics, sensors, and defense applications to meet the growing global demand for drones, “internet-of-things” platforms, and other data-driven technologies.

To prosper in the global economy, midsized city-regions are increasingly focused on establishing these distinctive, world-beating industry specializations that leverage local strengths.

This includes investing in these specializations, as well as the industrial

**Instead of bemoaning wealth work, make it better**

*Mark Muro, Robert Maxim, Jacob Whiton - Aug 23, 2019 at 3:35:18 PM*

*By Mark Muro, Robert Maxim, Jacob Whiton*

Last month we noted that in our current Gilded Age of inequality, catering to the wealthy – manicuring them, massaging them, feeding them, gardening for them – has become one of the fastest-growing sources of work in America’s “superstar” metro areas and resort towns.

For example, the number of manicurists and pedicurists doubled between 2010 and 2017, while the number of fitness trainers and dog walkers grew by two and three times the rate of the overall employment base, respectively.

Which is a sign of our times.

No wonder the resulting Twitter traffic from our piece made clear that many readers were concerned that some three million workers in many of America’s richest cities now earn a living by helping the well-off walk their dogs, clean their houses, cook their dinners, and stay fit.

**Why Do Women Send Nudes?**

*Why Do Men?*

*It's Complicated, A New Study Finds. – HuffPost*
A new study looks at the sexting habits of men and women.

Sexting is a universal language: Jeff Bezos does it (albeit awkwardly; remember that “I love you, alive girl” text?), Rihanna does it, teens do it (though it's a smaller percentage than you'd think, given the worried headlines).

The question of why we send dirty images and texts doesn't have an easy answer: Can it all be chalked up to sheer horniness, or is there some deeper ulterior motive that drives us to tap “send” on that nude?

In a new study, University of Arizona researcher Morgan Johnstonbaugh asked that very question: What motivates young people to send an explicit text in the first place — and does the motivation differ for

**New Species of Stegosaurus Unearthed in Mountains of Morocco — Smithsonian Magazine**

Stegosaurus is one of the most popular and well-known dinosaurs, identifiable by the diamond-shaped plates marching down its back from the base of its neck to the end of its spiky tail.

A new specimen unearthed in the mountains of Morocco shows that the prehistoric species is much older and more geographically wide-ranging than paleontologists previously believed.

The specimen, which is thought to represent a new species and genus of stegosaurs, was identified by a team led by Susannah Maidment of the Natural History Museum in London, reports the Press Association.

The fossils found in Morocco’s Middle Atlas Mountains only include a few vertebrae and an upper arm bone, but it was enough to identify the bones as belonging to one individual stegosaur.

The team has named the

**GOP groups fundraising with T-shirts showing Greenland as part of America**

WASHINGTON - The National Republican Congressional Committee, which is charged with helping elect and re-elect Republicans in the House, is fundraising with shirts that promote President Donald Trump's desire to buy Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

The limited-edition T-shirt features a map of the United States, showing Greenland as of part of the U.S., patterned with the American flag.

The caption supporting the promotion reads, “Support President Trump and his efforts to help America grow!”

As of Thursday evening, the NRCC was providing the shirts to anyone who donated $25 or more.

In initial media reports, it was not clear how serious Trump was in
Trump is doing what Obama couldn’t

CNN · by Analysis by John Blake, CNN

(CNN) Some Democratic voters are looking for a candidate who can restore the optimism of the Obama era.

But what if the progressive champion they’re looking for is already sitting in the White House?

Call it the audacity of President Trump: He is bringing more hope and change than Obama ever could.

I know, I know.

For some people, this is blasphemy.

Yet one of the biggest ironies of Trump’s presidency is that he has become a more effective catalyst for progressive social change than Obama.

He has discredited core conservative beliefs, boosted the popularity of left-wing causes and caused millions of Americans to face ugly truths about racism and bigotry that they used to deny.

I never thought I’d say this.

As an African-American man, I felt pride.

David Koch, billionaire businessman and influential GOP donor, dies

CNN · by Fredreka Schouten, CNN

Washington (CNN) Conservative billionaire David Koch, who became a household name through the policy and political empire he created with his older brother, Charles, has died.

He was 79.

Charles Koch, the CEO of the family’s industrial conglomerate Koch Industries, announced the death Friday.

“It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of my brother David.

Anyone who worked with David surely experienced his giant personality and passion for life,” the elder Koch said in a statement.

David Koch retired from the company and the Koch political operations in 2018, citing health reasons.

This story is breaking and will be updated.

Nashville

The world has discovered what locals knew all along: Nashville isn’t just a country music mecca – it’s a multifaceted jewel of great food, warm weather, affordable living and music that spans multiple genres.

Following an avalanche of “it”-city publicity in recent years, you probably already know that rockers like Jack White and the Black Keys join country stars in calling Music City home.

And there’s the fantastic fact that country-folk legend John Prine and outlaw-country wrecker Sturgill Simpson share a dingy basement office.
You may have even heard of our hot chicken.

“A big city that feels like a small town”: These days, that once-common local refrain is heard less frequently, but Nashville’s down-home Southern heart can still be found, especially in its neighborhoods.

So get off Lower Broadway, grab a bushwacker to wash down your meat-and-three lunch, and don’t be afraid to dive deep.

**CNN Friday 08.23.19**

Hop to it!

A new study shows higher levels of physical activity at any intensity *lowers the risk of early death in middle-age and older people*.

Here’s what else you need to know to **Get Up to Speed and Out the Door**.

**Ex-Overstock CEO**

Patrick Byrne, the CEO of online discount retailer Overstock, resigned yesterday after publishing a news release this week titled, “Comments on Deep State.”

In it, Byrne claimed he helped the FBI carry out “political espionage” and referred to an undefined entity called the “Men in Black.”

Unsurprisingly, Overstock shares plummeted after the bizarre missive, but just because Byrne is out doesn’t mean he’s done talking.

After his departure, the ex-CEO appeared on CNN and said the FBI directed him to pursue a “romantic relationship with Maria Butina” in the summer before the 2016 election.

Butina is the Russian woman who has been accused of seeking to win influence in powerful Republican circles at the direction of her country’s government.

None of this has been verified, and former FBI Director James Comey told CNN the claims are “ridiculous.”

**G7 Summit**

The G7 summit convenes this weekend in France, and all eyes, as usual, will be on President Trump.

Let’s start with the good: Though the US economy is not as strong as it has been, it’s still better off than most of the declining economies in Europe, so Trump is expected to do a little boasting about that.

But recent divisive comments could cause some discomfort among the world leaders.

The whole buying Greenland discussion and Denmark trip cancellation could sow some discord, as could Trump’s outspoken support of Brexit.

In fact, French President Emmanuel Macron has elected to forego the customary signing of an agreement by all the leaders at the end of the summit.

Trump refused to sign the deal at the end of last year’s summit in Canada and left the gathering early.

**Japan and South Korea**
The feud between Japan and South Korea is getting worse, and it looks like China and North Korea could come out as winners.

Japan and South Korea are engaged in a bitter trade dispute, and South Korea took the tension up a notch yesterday by scrapping its military intelligence-sharing agreement with Japan.

The conflict has threatened global tech manufacturers and important alliances, but China and North Korea have seen incidental benefits.

The breakdown of communication between Japan and South Korea means security cooperation and monitoring of North Korea has diminished.

It also alienates the US, which holds a strong military alliance with South Korea and Japan.

With those links weakened, China may move to increase its influence in the region.

**Nigerian scams**

Federal prosecutors have charged 80 people, most of them Nigerian, in a web of scams that the US claims has robbed millions of dollars from businesses and elderly people.

Seventeen so far have been arrested.

Two of the men indicted allegedly ran a romance scam out of California.

In this kind of scheme, scammers reach out to women online and start relationships via emails and messages.

Those usually escalate to outrageous claims of hardship and requests for money.

In one scam said to have been perpetrated by the men, a Japanese woman sent her online love interest — really a scammer — several payments to help him smuggle a bag of diamonds out of Syria.

US prosecutors estimate the suspects together have bilked $6 million.

All will face charges of conspiracy to commit fraud and to launder money, plus aggravated identity theft.

Some also will face fraud and money laundering charges.

**Rohingya**

This week marks the two-year anniversary of the campaign of violence started by Myanmar’s military against the Rohingya people, an ethnic Muslim minority.

In that time, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people have been left effectively stateless and many have had to seek refuge in camps along the border with Bangladesh.

The two countries yesterday were supposed to start repatriating about 3,450 of the Rohingya refugees, but there’s a problem: Some of the refugees don’t want to be repatriated for fear of further violence and oppression.

International human rights organizations have expressed concern about the planned repatriation, saying the Rohingya people would be walking right back into the persecution that drove them out in the first place.

*People are talking about these.*

**The first Titanic dive in 14 years shows how the ocean floor is swallowing up the wreck**

So … no movie sequel, then?
US travel to Canada is at its highest since 2007

We just love our northern neighbors (and readers!) so much!

Former US Rep. Mark Sanford calls Iowa ‘the Buckeye state’ ahead of a political visit

Ohio would like a word.

Apple advises people not to put its new credit card near denim, leather or loose change

Oh, the three things credit cards touch the most?

Got it.

Kim Kardashian gathers all 4 kids for ‘impossible photo’

Proving that all the money and fame in the world can’t convince a toddler to stand still.

**Quiz time!**

After a historic run, Lil Nas X’s hit song, “Old Town Road,” was knocked off the top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 chart this week by what song?

A. “Talk” by Khalid
B. “Truth Hurts” by Lizzo
C. “Senorita” by Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello
D. “Bad Guy” by Billie Eilish

Play “Total Recall,” CNN’s weekly news quiz, to see if your answer is correct.

54

The average number of hours American commuters spent stuck in traffic in 2017, according to a new report.

In some of the most congested areas of the country, that figure was more than double.

Our house is burning.

Literally.

The Amazon rainforest – the lungs of our planet which produces 20% of our oxygen – is on fire.

It is an international crisis.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who also encouraged leaders to take up the topic during this weekend’s G7 summit.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro called Macron’s claims “sensationalist” and said calling for G7 talks was “reminiscent of a colonial mindset.”

If I fits, I sits

It’s Friday, and I think we all deserve a classic cat video.

(Click here to view.)

Saturday, August 24, 2019 news
Articles

Is Data Privacy Real?

Don’t Bet on It

Knowledge@Wharton - Aug 23, 2019 at 7:10:09 PM

Companies often claim individuals’ data can be kept private if personally identifiable information remains hidden.

But being anonymous is not easy, say experts from Penn’s Warren Center for Network and Data Sciences.

How Can Hospitals Best Manage the Uneven Flow of Patients?

Knowledge@Wharton - Aug 23, 2019 at 6:05:56 PM

Wharton’s Hummy Song examines the common hospital practice of capacity pooling and whether it’s the best way to manage the mismatch between the number of patients and available beds.

Building agile capabilities: The fuel to power your agile ‘body’

Aug 23, 2019 at 12:00:00 PM

To move your organization from targeted experimentation to driving agility at scale, it’s crucial to focus on agile capability building.

The invisible hand: On the path to autonomous planning in food retail

It’s not news to food retailers: sometimes your stocks are too high, sometimes they’re too low.
Advanced planning now gives them entirely new options for solving the expensive problem – and cuts costs in the process.

**Biotech in Europe: A strong foundation for growth and innovation**

European companies have an opportunity to play a stronger role in the industry by focusing on three factors.

**What Makes People Charismatic, and How You Can Be, Too**

Simple tips to break through your social anxieties and make real, genuine connections with others.

Alex Kiesling

By Bryan Clark

Ask people to name someone they find charming and the answers are often predictable.

There’s James Bond, the fictional spy with a penchant for shaken martinis.

Maybe they’ll mention Oprah Winfrey, Bill Clinton or a historical figure, like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi.

Now ask the same people to describe, in just a few seconds, what makes these charmers so likable.

It’s here, in defining what exactly charisma is, that most hit a wall.

Instinctually, we know that we’re drawn to certain people more than others.

Quantifying why we like them is an entirely different exercise.

The ancient Greeks described charisma as a “gift of grace,” an apt descriptor

**Elizabeth Warren Has Spent Her Adult Life Repeating A Lie.**

I Want Her To Tell The Truth.

huffpost.com · August 23, 2019

Elizabeth Warren, apologizing to Native leaders on Monday, said, “I know I’ve made mistakes.

I am sorry for harm I have caused.”

For many people, that apology put the issue to rest.

But many Native advocates, myself included, were not satisfied.

Warren still has work to do, and demanding she do what’s left is beyond reasonable.

In all of her apologizing, Warren has never let go of her family story.

After spending her entire adult life repeating a lie, I simply want Warren to tell the truth.

In 1836, Warren’s great-great-great-grandfather, a white man named William Marsh, enlisted himself in a Tennessee militia to fight in the “Cherokee War,” an occupation of Cherokee land in the lead-up to the Trail of Tears.

Decades later, his grandson John Houston Crawford moved his family onto Indian Territory and squatted on Cherokee land in a move that, with no record of a permit, was almost certainly illegal.
The Crawfords were just some of the tens of thousands of white squatters who outnumbered others.

Doctors do too much - and too little - testing of emergency-room cardiac visits

When patients show up in the emergency room with symptoms that suggest they may be having a heart attack, are physicians conducting costly, invasive tests for the right cases?

Sendhil Mullainathan of University of Chicago Booth School of Business and Ziad Obermeyer of University of California at Berkeley investigate this question by using machine learning techniques on 20 million Medicare claims.

They find that many patients with the lowest risk are being unnecessarily tested while many patients with the highest risk are under-tested.

The untested high-risk group was twice as likely to suffer a heart attack and require additional intervention following an emergency room visit when compared to the sample average; 1.5% of them died within a month.

Using a conservative measure of the value of life, the authors find welfare gains from dropping tests for half the low-risk group and increasing tests of the high-risk group by 18%.

Foreign-owned multinationals in the US pay more than US-owned counterparts

Communities often go to great lengths to lure foreign firms.

Bradley Setzler and Felix Tintelnot of University of Chicago suggest the effort is generally worthwhile.

They find that foreign-owned multinational corporations operating in the US pay 25% higher wages than comparable US-owned firms in the same industry and location, much of that because they tend to hire more high-skilled workers.

Adjusting for that, the authors find that the same worker moving from a domestic to a foreign-owned firm earns 7% more.

They also find substantial indirect efforts – knowledge spillovers, competitive pressure, and increased efficiency of local suppliers – and find that increases in employment at foreign-owned firms significantly raises value added, employment, and wage bill at domestic firms in the same community.

Considering these direct and indirect effects, every additional job created by a foreign-owned company in a community is worth $16,000 per incumbent worker.

Barriers to moving prevents low-income families from moving to better neighborhoods

Recipients of government housing vouchers that allow them to move often don’t choose to move to high opportunity neighborhoods, those where their children are likely to do better.

In a randomized control trial in Seattle and King County, Wash., Peter Bergman of Columbia University and coauthors find that when low-income families are provided with assistance to navigate barriers to moving, such as customized housing search, landlord
engagement, and short-term financial aid, they tend to move to neighborhoods where upward mobility is greater.

The share of families who leased units in high-opportunity neighborhoods increased from 14 percent for the families who did not receive assistance to 54 percent for the families who did.

“These findings imply that most low-income families do not have a strong preference to stay in low-opportunity areas; instead, barriers in the housing search process are a central driver of residential segregation by income,” the authors conclude.

(For a short video on the paper by Harvard University's Raj Chetty, click here)

**Chart of the week: Women on track to be the majority of the college-educated labor force in 2019**

**Macroeconomic and structural sources of imbalances**

“Both [current-account] deficit and surplus countries should tackle the underlying macroeconomic and structural sources of imbalances rather than adopt ineffective, or even counterproductive, measures such as tariffs.

Deficit countries, like the U.S. and the U.K. should reduce budget deficits without sacrificing growth and strengthen the competitiveness of their export industries; options include investing more in skills of workers and encouraging old-age saving.

Surplus countries, like Germany and Korea, should use fiscal policy where possible to invest more in infrastructure and adopt reforms that encourage private investment....

(In) China... further structural reforms are needed to ensure a lasting external rebalancing, as it gradually addresses vulnerabilities from the high levels of private and public debt....” writes Gustavo Adler, Luis Cubeddu, and Gita Gopinath, economists at the International Monetary Fund

“[B]oth surplus and deficit countries must recognize that they share the responsibility to secure a stronger and more balanced global economy.

That means finding durable solutions to trade disputes to address concerns about export subsidies and weak intellectual property protection, while also modernizing the international trade system in

**A disturbance in the Force: President Trump, DOD’s JEDI procurement, and the Old Post Office**

*Dorothy Robyn - Aug 23, 2019 at 8:06:26 PM*

By Dorothy Robyn

President Trump’s animus toward Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos appears to have led the Department of Defense (DoD) to delay its $10 billion cloud computing procurement, in which Mr. Bezos’s Amazon is the front-runner.

Before the president upends the competition altogether, he should motorcade five blocks east on Pennsylvania Avenue to the Old Post Office-turned-Trump International Hotel.

This historic landmark bears his name precisely because of the insulation of federal procurement decisions from politics – a bedrock principle of U.S. governance and one that has helped us to combat cronyism and corruption around the world.
The Pentagon's potentially massive contract ($10 billion is the ceiling, not the floor) is designed to bring the military into the modern era of cloud-based data storage and analysis.

Named with a nod to the fictional heroes of “Star Wars,” the Joint Enterprise

For growth and well-being, climate crisis overshadows all else

Vinod Thomas - Aug 23, 2019 at 8:47:44 PM

By Vinod Thomas

As the G–7 members meet in Biarritz, France this weekend, the top concern for economic growth and people’s well-being – in developed and emerging countries alike – must be runaway climate change.

CO2 emissions, the main source of human contributions to global warming, continue to rise among the top emitters, China, the U.S., and India (in that order)– largely driven by emissions from fossil fuels.

And in Brazil, under the direction of President Jair Bolsonaro, there has been unprecedented deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, and an “international crisis” of devastating wildfires.

The crucial question is what the G–7 can do to arrest and reverse these trends as scientists warn that time is running out.

In Brazil, the global community should support and press for a change of course on the environment from within Brazil itself.

Brazilians must offset the efforts of their president who is bent on promoting deforestation to benefit mining, logging, and cattle ranching.

The entry point for a popular pushback is that Mr. Bolsonaro was elected – much like Donald Trump – on the false premise that reckless “deregulation” of the environment will boost economic growth.

Amazon rainforest fire a ‘crisis’, Macron says, but Brazil pushes back: What we know

USA Today - by Adrianna Rodriguez, USA TODAY

As the wildfires rage in the Amazon rainforest, growing global attention has ignited a bitter dispute about who is the blame for the threat to “the lungs of the planet.”

The fires have become a political debate as Brazil's government complained Thursday that it is being targeted in a smear campaign by critics and traded jabs on social media with international leaders.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the wildfires an “international crisis” and on Friday accused Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro of lying about his commitment to curbing climate change.

“Our house is burning.

Literally.

The Amazon rain forest – the lungs which produces 20% of our planet's oxygen – is on fire,” Macron tweeted Thursday, urging said the leaders of the Group of 7 nations to
The Burning Man gathering begins today in the Nevada desert.

It’s been called the world’s “biggest and most bizarre party,” with clothing sometimes optional.

Here’s what else you need to know to Start Your Week Smart.

▪ President Trump claims the “absolute right” to order US companies to stop doing business with China.

▪ Brazil plans to deploy the army to tackle wildfires raging in the Amazon rainforest.

▪ A Florida man said he was standing his ground when he killed Markeis McGlockton. A jury didn’t buy it.

▪ A California sheriff’s deputy said he was shot by a sniper.

▪ Now authorities say he made it all up.

▪ One of the NFL’s best quarterbacks called it quits at just 29. Andrew Luck blamed injuries.

The G7 summit continues in France

World leaders meet again today in Biarritz to discuss economic and global security. The biggest question going into the sessions was whether President Trump would bring his recent erratic mood to the gathering a year after he threw a tantrum and left it early. The meetings end Monday.

A ruling in the opioid lawsuit is expected

An Oklahoma judge reportedly is due to rule Monday on whether Johnson & Johnson must pay $17 billion for stoking the state’s opioid epidemic. The company argues its drugs didn’t cause the crisis and it’s been made a “scapegoat.” The case could lay a road map for other states and municipalities that want to hold drugmakers responsible for the opioid fallout.

Lori Loughlin is due in court

The “Full House” actress is expected Tuesday at a hearing related to the college admissions scandal. She and her husband, fashion designer Mossimo Giannulli, are among dozens of wealthy parents accused of using bribes to game the competitive college entrance process for their kids.

Dems must meet thresholds for the next debates

Wednesday is the deadline for Democratic candidates to qualify for the September 12 and 13 debates in Houston. Beyond reaching a high bar for donations, candidates must hit 2% in at least four party-approved polls.

A key economic forecast drops

Another estimate of second quarter gross domestic product is set to be revealed Thursday, as analysts warn of a looming global recession. The first GDP snapshot, released last month, indicated that consumers are powering the US economy, though growth was slower than in the first quarter.

POTUS and FLOTUS head to Poland
Donald and Melania Trump are set to take off Saturday for a visit to Warsaw memorial sites to mark 80 years since the start of World War II.

The first couple then was supposed to head to Denmark, but the President nixed that trip after the Prime Minister dismissed his interest in buying Greenland.

**Happy New Year!**

Muslims on Saturday evening are due to mark a new year, 1441 AH.

The calendar flip dates to when the prophet Mohammed fled from Mecca to Medina to escape religious persecution.

**Muharram Mubarak!**

‘They were all impressed with your Halston dress’

Ride the rise and fall of America's first superstar fashion designer.

“Halston,” executive produced by CNN Films, premieres at 9 ET/PT on CNN.

Democratic candidates hit the CNN town hall stage

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio step into the spotlight tonight at 6 and 7 ET, respectively.

Watch on CNN.

The VMAs honor music’s best

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello are the latest additions to a star-studded MTV Video Music Awards.

Monday’s event is also slated to feature Big Sean with A$AP Ferg, H. E.R., Normani and Ozuna.

Get the full list of nominees here.

Watch at 8 p.m. ET on MTV.

Go ahead. Take a binge day

Season 3 of “13 Reasons Why,” the controversial Netflix show, just released, with the kids of Liberty High still obsessed with the killing of Bryce Walker.

Also streaming is “This Way Up,” Hulu’s comedy about a woman rebounding from a nervous breakdown.

The US Open begins

North America's Grand Slam kicks off Monday, serving up two weeks of tennis thrills at Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

Watch this week on ESPN channels and the Tennis Channel.

College football Week 1 is here

The biggest games launching the season include Georgia Tech at Clemson on Thursday, and Auburn versus Oregon and Northwestern at Stanford on Saturday.

Here’s how to watch every NCAA matchup.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. gets back to the track

The NASCAR star plans to drive one of his favorite tracks Saturday when the Xfinity Series goes to Darlington Raceway in South Carolina.

Earnhardt this month survived a plane crash, along with his wife, his daughter and two pilots.
‘Nothing but a hound dog’

No shade to the King, but we’re gonna mark National Dog Day on Monday - which also happens to be Women’s Equality Day - with Big Mama Thornton’s version of the early rock classic.

(Click here to rock ‘n’ roll.)