

Defending The Republic



"A Republic...if you can keep it."
-Benjamin Franklin



February 23, 2024

Good News Friday

Dear Patriots,

All week we look for news that is uplifting, thought provoking and sometimes just fun.

Enjoy this week's collection.



1- Way below the radar, this keeps happening at USA colleges. We pray that these souls will be supported and nurtured in their faith.

Breitbart_

'God Heard Our Prayers!': Hundreds Baptized in Florida Party School's Fountain

QUOTE: Hundreds of college students at one of the largest party schools in America, Florida State University (FSU), dedicated their lives to God on Thursday. Christian author Jennie Allen shared news of the event on her social media pages. Photos and videos show the large

group of young people gathered at Wescott Fountain on the school's campus in Tallahassee, the Stream reported Saturday.

"God keeps doing it!! They confessed their sin. They came forward in droves tonight to trust Jesus. We baptized hundreds in a fountain usually used for partying and worse. And it's all just the beginning," Allen wrote in a post on Friday:

"It literally is everywhere I go right now. Revival is here. And there is no explaining it — when it's God! #FSU #baptisms," she added.

Facebook user Tonya Prewett said more than 400 decisions were made, and nearly 300 baptisms were performed during the event, Unite FSU.

"God is moving in mighty ways!" she concluded.



2- John Droz does it again with an amazing simple solution for all that is wrong with Congress. Some on our staff have spent years within the hallowed walls of a state legislature, we can vouch that Droz is right on the money here. Click over to his Substack to read the entire line of thinking and his unique solution.

John Droz at Critically Thinking on Substack Fixing Congress' Worst Problem And you've likely never even heard about it!

QUOTE: Do you know what is the worst fixable problem Congress has?

I'm willing to bet that I can tell you: 1) what Congress' most substantial problem is, and 2) have it be something they've never heard of (!), and 3) have a simple, low-cost, elegant solution for it!!! I suspect that some people would be willing to bet against me...

Since we are daily deluged with political news from hundreds of sources, is it possible that alert citizens are unaware of Congress' worst fixable problem? I say YES, so I could make good money if I went around making such a bet.

To appreciate the scope of the #1 Congressional problem, we need to understand how our representatives make decisions. In other words: how do they decide on what to vote for or against; how do they decide which issues to champion; how do they decide which laws to propose; how do they decide exactly what to say in any proposed law they put into the hopper; etc., etc. Do you know the answer (singular)? Consider:

Fact One: there are dozens of major issues (from election integrity to energy) clamoring for our representative's attention every day.

Fact Two: in our current society, almost every one of these issues is moderately or extremely complicated.

Fact Three: it is very rare that any member of Congress is a bonafide expert in even one of the dozens of issues on their plate.

Fact Four: each member of Congress is solicited every day by lobbyists giving them advice as to what to say or do about one or more of these numerous complex issues. What does a competent, conscientious representative do? Nearly 100% of the time, the answer is to rely on their aides. Every Congress person has a staff of aides, plus a Chief of Staff, etc. Let's take energy as an example, as

most members of Congress have an "Energy" aide. We'll call this their E-aide.

So what's the substantial problem?

The answer is: the aides. Who are these sources of knowledge, and how do they work? I'll keep it simple, only outlining some of the major problems with the current system.



3- Back in the Stone Age, let's say around 1975, in a prestigious School of Journalism in the Midwest, students were taught about Marshall McLuhan. He famously said, "The medium is the message." We can be certain this is not taught at today's J-Schools. However, it is a relevant topic as it is a concept that is still true. The Medium... the newspaper, the TV, the radio or the phone, are the change agents, the content within those, is not. The Medium is the vehicle that alters behavior. In this Substack piece, Jon Haidt teases an upcoming book, "The Anxious Generation", that will outline a movement that demands childhood be phone-less. He circles around to the idea that McLuhan offered almost six decades ago. Protecting children from harmful content is not the real issue. The actual phone (medium) is the issue.

We applaud this campaign, we pray for the brave people steering it and we will be watching its hopeful progression.

For more detail visit this link.

After Babel by Jon Haidt on Substack_

Marshall McLuhan on Why Content Moderation is a Red Herring

QUOTE: First the explanation: The Anxious Generation comes out in 5 weeks, on March 26, and there is so much we have to do. Gearing up for a campaign to end the phone-based childhood and reinvent the play-based childhood for the 21st century. In other words, we are getting ready to launch a movement to Free The Anxious Generation.

Quixotic, you say? No. Parents are fed up and ready to rise up. It just happened in the UK last week, where parents are spontaneously organizing behind anyone who will lead, and where the UK government is mandating that all schools in England develop policies to go phone-free. We can make that happen in the United States too. Now for that powerful idea:

Many things disturbed me while watching those recent U.S. Senate hearings on whether social media platforms are promoting or at least allowing sexual solicitation of minors, child porn, drug sales, bullying, and content promoting eating disorders and suicide. We saw parents holding up photographs of their dead children, some driven to suicide by mass shaming, or the fear of it when children are sextorted (that is, tricked into sending photographs of themselves fully or partially naked by criminals who then demand money, repeatedly, to not post the photographs online).

"How can you do this to our children?" the senators asked, in a variety of ways. The response from the social media executives was usually some version of "But Senator, we spend X billion dollars each year to create industry-leading tools to find and remove such content." That phrase, "industry-leading," was used six times during the hearing; five times by Mark Zuckerberg, and once by Shou Chew from TikTok.

But as I watched the hearing, I kept thinking about how content moderation is to some extent a red herring, a distraction from larger issues.

And then I came across a quote from the great media theorist Marshall McLuhan which brilliantly captured exactly why it is a red-herring to focus on content. In his 1964 book *Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man*, McLuhan tried to explain the profound transformation of society brought about by electric communication technologies, from the telegraph and telephone through radio and TV. Electric technologies gave us a very different world from the print-based world that began when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 1440s.

McLuhan tried to explain to his readers the ways that these technologies changed people's habits, minds, selves, and societies, but all people seemed able to think about was the explicit or implicit messages conveyed in television programs and advertisements. Does that advertisement contain a subliminal message about sex? Can't we just regulate the content of advertisements and shows better? No, said McLuhan, you're missing the point, because the medium is the message.



4- A Friday can not go by without news on the implosion of the once great Disney. Taken over by woke groomers, the product produced these days is not up to standards. The public continues to send a loud and clear message that we are not buying their garbage anymore.

spiked

Disney: a billion-dollar casualty of woke

QUOTE: The entertainment giant is paying a heavy price for trying to shove identity politics down our throats. The Walt Disney Company is in deep trouble. Its last four high-profile releases bombed at the box office, losing over \$1 billion between them. Once Hollywood's most successful film studio, Disney was dethroned last year by Universal Pictures.

The reason for Disney's decline? It has gone woke, to an almost comical degree. Last year, the company admitted to investors that there was a growing 'misalignment' between Disney's output and 'public and consumer tastes and preferences for entertainment'. 'Consumers' perceptions of our position on matters of public interest', it said, are risking the company's reputation and profits. Viewing figures and box-office sales spell this out clearly. Audiences are growing sick of the woke slop that Disney has been serving them. They are tired with scripts that are weighed down by clunky political messaging. They are fed up with storylines being mangled to fit

'progressive' narratives. They are irked by Disney's desire to lecture them instead of entertain them.

Time and again, Disney has gone out of its way to alienate and insult the core fanbases of its franchises.

The woes facing Disney illustrate the powerful hold wokeness now has on big corporations. It's as if Disney's leaders felt compelled to toe the line on the identitarian agenda. They were prepared to trash the company's reputation and alienate its fans, seemingly just to signal their allegiance to this new elite ideology.

Perhaps those billion-dollar losses will finally break the spell.



5- If you want matter-of-fact news and interpretation of the current scene, The War Room should be a daily listen. Do we agree with everything and everyone? Of course not. But there are few other places where hope is given that we might yet save the country. Keep your eye out for news this weekend of CPAC, it is a massive gathering of people from around the world who are planning and organizing.

The US Sun

Steve Bannon declares MAGA could 'rule for 50 years' in fiery CPAC opener with fans traveling 5,000 miles to see him

QUOTE: Donald Trump's former White House Chief of Staff Steve Bannon has declared "MAGA could rule for 50 years" at a fiery event on day one of this year's

Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, DC.

The 70-year-old former Hollywood scriptwriter-turned-political spin doctor was given a rockstar's reception as he entered the room packed with supporters - some of whom had traveled from as far away as Romania.

Bannon proudly declared all in attendance to be part of "a revolutionary group," describing them as the "vanguard of MAGA."

MAGA will govern the United States for 50 years and Trump will go down as the best president since Abraham Lincoln, said Steve Bannon.

Thousands have gathered just outside DC for the largest grassroots conservative event in the United States.



6- We read headlines like this and have to fight back the urge to scream: DUH!

But, here we are. We will celebrate each and every victory during this war.

Breitbart

Appeals Court Upholds Ruling Striking Down NYC Voting Rights for Foreigners

QUOTE: A New York appeals court upheld a prior ruling that struck down a New York City law giving local voting rights to nearly a million foreign nationals.

As Breitbart News chronicled, Democrats on the 51-member New York City Council approved a plan in January 2022 that gave more than 800,000 foreign nationals with green cards, visas, and work permits the

opportunity to vote in citywide elections so long as they have resided in the city for at least 30 consecutive days. Black New Yorkers, along with naturalized American citizens, the New York State Republican Party, the Republican National Committee (RNC), and Democrat officials like Councilman Robert Holden subsequently sued Mayor Eric Adams (D) and the city's Board of Elections.

In June 2022, the New York Supreme Court ruled that giving local voting rights to foreign nationals violated the state's constitution, which explicitly reserves voting for American "citizens."

On Wednesday, the New York Appellate Division upheld that decision.



7- Well, it's a start.

NYPOST

100+ Yale professors sign up to protect free speech – and save school from being a hot mess

QUOTE: Elite higher education is a hot mess. But at least someone in the belly of the beast is trying to change that.

As campuses explode with bigotry and illiberalism, Yale professors are banding together to form a coalition defending academic freedom and free speech.

They're the latest to join a growing movement across the country. Faculty at Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and the University of Chicago have all formed similar groups over the past year.

The latest initiative out of New Haven, called Faculty for Yale, has garnered the signatures of more than 100 professors who agree that "Yale must rededicate itself to its fundamental mission: to preserve, produce, and transmit knowledge."

The group is calling for a reaffirmation of free speech principles, greater transparency from the administration and institutional neutrality.

"Faculty for Yale insist on the primacy of teaching, learning and research as distinct from advocacy and activism," their website declares.

As public faith in higher education craters, professors taking a stand in defense of liberal education might be the only way to reverse the trend. Where administrators and university presidents fail, it's incumbent upon faculty to reorient colleges in the pursuit of truth and free expression.



8- We would hope for more judge who look at these kinds of situations with fairness and logic.

Yahoo

Judges clears charges against alleged white supremacists, says there's a bias against the far right

QUOTE: An Orange County federal judge has dismissed criminal charges for the second time in five years against accused members of a Southern California white supremacist group suspected of inciting brawls at political rallies throughout the state.

U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney on Wednesday dismissed charges against Robert Rundo — who was extradited from Romania last year — and Robert Boman of Torrance. The two were charged with conspiracy to violate the Anti-Riot Act and rioting.

In his decision, Carney granted the defendants' motion to dismiss, agreeing that Rundo and Boman were being selectively prosecuted, while "far-left extremist groups, such as Antifa" were not.

"Prosecuting only members of the far right and ignoring members of the far left leads to the troubling conclusion that the government believes it is permissible to physically assault and injure Trump supporters to silence speech," Carney wrote in his order.

"There seems to be little doubt that Defendants, or at least some members of RAM, engaged in criminal violence. But they cannot be selected for prosecution because of their repugnant speech and beliefs over those who committed the same violence with the goal of disrupting political events."



9- Make it harder to be spied on. John Stossel offers some suggestions.

John Stossel at Townhall

Our Sneaky Phones

QUOTE: The government and private companies spy on us. My former employee, Naomi Brockwell, has become a privacy specialist. She advises people on how to protect their privacy. She tells me I should delete most of my apps on my phone.

I push back. I like that Google knows where I am and can recommend a "restaurant near me. I like that my Shell app lets me buy gas (almost) without getting out of the car."

I don't like that government gathers information about me via my phone, but so far, so what? Brockwell tells me I'm being dumb because I don't know which government will get that data in the future.

Looking at my phone, she tells me, "You've given location permission, microphone permission. You have so many apps!" She says I should delete most of them, starting with Google Chrome. "This is a terrible app for privacy. Google Chrome is notorious for collecting every single thing that they can about you ... (and) broadcasting that to thousands of people ... auctioning off your eyeballs. It's not just advertisers collecting this information.

Thousands of shell companies, shady companies of data brokers also collect it and in turn sell it."

Instead of Google, she recommends using a browser called Brave. It's just as good, she says, but it doesn't collect all the information that Chrome does. It's slightly faster, too, because it doesn't slow down to load ads. Then she says, "Delete Google Maps." "But I need Google Maps!"

"You don't." She replies, "You have an iPhone. You have Apple Maps ... Apple is better when it comes to privacy ... Apple at least tries to anonymize your data."

Instead of Gmail, she recommends more private alternatives, like Proton Mail or Tuta



10- If you need an entertaining break from news and politics, we recommend a read or a listen of a book by Mike Rowe titled "The Way I Heard It". Each chapter is a well told story about people and events you may have heard about, but, you may not know the rest of the story.

The Audible version is narrated by Mike Rowe, who has a great voice for the job. [_](#)

Amazon

