

Subject: Utah Policy: Boulder shootings, county commission candidates and telling the stories of Utah's WWII fallen

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The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - March 23, 2021

Hello there Tuesday. Such sad news of a [mass shooting](#) in a Boulder, Colorado grocery store. Ten people are dead, including the first police officer on the scene. The suspect is in custody.

At the [rural bill signings](#) at SUU yesterday, Governor Spencer Cox gave a little lesson on the [proper use of titles](#). When he is not present, it is appropriate to call the second-in-command "Governor." (And not by her first name.)

Since Tanner Ainge announced he was resigning as Utah County Commissioner, three candidate have announced they are running: Current Utah County Clerk/Auditor [Amelia Powers Gardner](#), Highland Mayor [Rod Mann](#) and former commission candidate Christopher Forbush. Expect more to jump in before filing closes this week.

If you only have time for one thing today: Check out this true labor of love: [Telling the stories of Utah's fallen WWII veterans](#). All of them. Beginning in July 2020, 125 volunteers from Utah, and more than a dozen other states, took on the challenge of writing the stories of all 2,100 Utah WWII fallen. Six months later, *all of these stories* are accounted for. In the near future a smartphone app will allow anyone to visit the graves and memorials of these fallen, scan their names and read their stories. Here's a taste: *Despite being relocated to an internment camp with his family, [Fred Yamamoto](#) still volunteered to serve his country and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star after fighting to rescue American troops cut off by the Germans. Marine [Tyndale Llyod](#) was a Salt Lake Tribune sports reporter before the war. As a Marine he earned the Bronze Star and fought at Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima where he died on the second day of the battle.*

Countdown

22 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

32 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)

38 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

39 days until the Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)

172 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Tweets of the day: Gabby Giffords weighs in on Boulder shooting, Romney weighs in on sanctions](#)

By Holly Richardson

Another mass shooting, sanctions for China, a volcanic eruption and a million pounds of food.

[Romney and carbon tax, Sidney Powell says no reasonable person should have believed her and Project Iceworm](#)

By Holly Richardson

Romney and carbon tax - Senator Mitt Romney might not be ready to introduce a bill - or sign on to a current proposal - but he is seriously considering and reviewing the merits of a carbon tax that would return the revenue to taxpayers.

[Guest opinion: Vanita Gupta is being unfairly maligned and should be confirmed](#)

By Scott Howell

Vanita Gupta, President Biden's nominee for Associate Attorney General, is a classic American success story. The daughter of Indian immigrants Mrs. Gupta obtained a B.A. magna cum laude from Yale University and then graduated at the top of her class from the New York University School of Law. Rather than pursuing a lucrative career in private practice Mrs. Gupta dedicated her life to serving others. In her work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the ACLU Mrs. Gupta protected the rights of some of the most vulnerable in our society.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [A Christian survival guide for a secular age](#) - America offers robust religious freedom protections. But that doesn't mean people of faith shouldn't be concerned about the future.
- [Utah Gov. Cox signs inland port 'infrastructure banks' bill despite calls for veto](#) - Legislative leaders said they intend for that bank to help provide loans for rural "satellite" project areas for the port.
- [The 'long-haul' effect of COVID-19 on our communities and economy](#) - Societal inequalities and national debt, issues that were serious pre-pandemic, were exacerbated by COVID-19.
- [Bridal Veil Falls: Will it be a monument or a state park? State study considers options](#) - The future of Bridal Veil Falls is in the hands of the Utah Department of Parks and Recreation.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Increased oversight is coming to Utah's 'troubled-teen' industry](#) - Gov. Spencer Cox on Monday signed a bill that will put more regulations in place at youth residential treatment centers.
- [Access, influence and pardons: how a set of allies shaped Trump's choices](#) - The efforts to seek clemency for these wealthy or well-connected people benefited from their social, political or financial ties to a loose collection of lawyers, lobbyists, activists and Orthodox Jewish leaders who had worked with Trump administration officials on criminal justice legislation championed by Jared Kushner.
- [Now Utah uranium mill plans to export rare earth materials to Estonia](#) - A permit request to import radioactive material from the same Eastern European plant is pending.
- [How close is Utah to having the coronavirus 'under control?'](#) - From herd immunity to test positivity rates, experts are looking at these benchmarks next.

Other

- [Utah officials give word on April 10 mask mandate lift](#) (ABC 4 Utah) - "Even though COVID-19 numbers have dropped and are continuing to drop significantly over the last few months, mask-wearing is still vital, we are not done."
- [Man offers to buy historic 'Utah Theater' from Salt Lake City](#) (FOX 13) - There's a snag. Salt Lake City already agreed to sell it to a firm called Hines and the LaSalle Group, who plan to demolish the theater to build a 31-story residential skyscraper.
- [Governor Cox signs bills to boost rural Utah](#) (FOX 13) - Appearing with a group of lawmakers at SUU, where he has opened an office specifically focused on rural issues, the governor touted resolutions and bills passed by the legislature with an eye toward advancing rural interests.
- [Kane County commissioners say masks no longer required; state disagrees](#) (KSL) - State officials reiterated the mask mandate still remains in effect for all of Utah for now, including Kane County.

COVID Corner

- [Utah confirms lowest daily COVID-19 case count since May, but 1st case of Brazilian variant reported](#) (Deseret News) - While the numbers bring optimism, Utah also reported its first case of the more-contagious COVID-19 variant that first cropped up in South America on Monday.
 - [Utah vaccine coordinator's biggest worries: Supply now and demand later](#) (FOX 13) - Problem number two isn't the kind of thing you can manufacture or plan your way out of - demand.
 - [Americans wait for COVID-19 vaccines as US commits millions of doses for Mexico, Canada](#) (Fox News) - US plans to send 2.5M doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine to Mexico, and 1.5M doses to Canada.
 - [Long-term Covid can affect multiple organ systems, highlighting treatment challenges](#) (NBC News) - A new review details the wide-ranging impact the virus can have on the body.
 - [Fully vaccinated people can visit unvaccinated family and friends, but one household at a time, CDC official says](#) (CNN) - There are two important exceptions: One is if any of the unvaccinated people are at increased risk of severe Covid-19, such as older adults, pregnant women, or people with Down Syndrome, among others. The other would be if more than two unvaccinated households are mixing.
 - [Sen. Tim Kaine describes 'weird' COVID-19 symptoms a year later](#) (Deseret News) - I have these weird, neurological symptoms one year later," Kaine said. "They're not debilitating, they're not painful, but they're weird and they're 24/7." They include tingling and "hot spots."
 - [Will the New York virus variant lead to more outbreaks?](#) (Deseret News) - There's a potential the New York variant of the coronavirus could create more cases.
 - [You can get free Krispy Kreme donuts for getting the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Deseret News) - Krispy Kreme said Monday it will give a free doughnut to those who can show a valid COVID-19 vaccination card at the company's locations across the country.
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National Headlines

- [Senate confirms Boston Mayor Marty Walsh to lead Labor Department](#) (Politico) - He will be tasked with implementing the Biden administration's agenda at the department, which includes stricter workplace safety enforcement.
 - [Speedy House vs. slower Senate: Dems struggle to balance on Biden agenda](#) (Politico) - Senate Democrats welcome the House's progress but are not interested in taking cues from their counterparts on the filibuster's future.
 - [With Marijuana Departures, the White House Wages Its Own Culture War](#) (New York Times) - The tradition of treating past cannabis use as a terminable offense leaves the Biden administration out of step with public opinion.
 - [White House aides prep \\$3 trillion jobs package for Biden](#) (CNN) - The proposal, which Biden's top advisers have been deliberating over for weeks, would be segmented into two separate parts -- one focused on infrastructure and clean energy, and a second focused on what's being termed the "care economy" with a focus zeroed in on key domestic economic issues.
 - [Biden dispatches top officials to Mexico, Central America as border crisis grows](#) (NBC News) - Separately, a bipartisan pair of border-state senators sent a letter urging the White House to act swiftly to address the influx of migrants.
 - [U.S. Joins EU In Sanctions Against China Over Treatment Of Uyghur Muslims](#) (NPR) -The EU and U.S., along with Australia, New Zealand, and Canada released a joint statement saying, "We will continue to stand together to shine a spotlight on China's human rights violations. We stand united and call for justice for those suffering in Xinjiang."
 - [Trump: Ending the filibuster would be 'catastrophic' for Republican Party](#) (The Hill) - Trump has been critical of GOP leadership since his 2020 election loss, painting McConnell as "weak" and saying the party should seek new leadership more supportive of his policies.
 - [A second House Democrat objects to overturning Iowa congressional election GOP won by six votes](#) (Fox News) - "This election result was certified by the State of Iowa and Rep. Miller-Meeks was sworn in nearly three months ago," said Rep. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire. "As I said when Republicans challenged the Electoral College votes on January 6th, the election is over and it's time to move on."
 - [Rep. Tom Reed has apologized over sexual misconduct allegations. Here's what happened](#) (Deseret News) - Republican New York Rep. Tom Reed has issued an apology and declared he won't be running for office in 2022 due to new allegations against him of sexual misconduct.
 - [Analysis: More Republicans than Democrats are quitting Congress, and their retirements are shaping the party](#) (Deseret News) -The establishment wing is clearly moving out. You're starting to see a lot more Trump-friendly Republicans take over the Republican conference as he's remade the Republican Party to a significant degree."
 - [Is the future of social media partisan? Trump says he's starting his own 'platform'](#) (Deseret News) - Trump advisor Jason Miller said it would be "the hottest ticket in social media, it's going to completely redefine the game."
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Policy News

Sen. Lee reintroduces Protecting American Jobs Act

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) today reintroduced the *Protecting American Jobs Act*, a bill that would strip the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) of its power to prosecute and adjudicate labor disputes.

Rep. Stewart on the Fairness for All Act

Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT) penned an op-ed in Roll Call on the Fairness for All Act: "Americans are overwhelmingly in agreement that every person deserves their chance at the American Dream, regardless of their race, religion or sexuality. I recently reintroduced a bill that would move Congress - and America - toward greater unity and bipartisanship."

Rep. Stewart's statement on the EU's coordinated sanctions on China

Today, the United States, Canada, Britain, and the European Union announced coordinated sanctions on China for its genocidal campaign against Uyghur Muslims. Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT) released the following statement:

Utah Taxpayers Association asks US Treasury Secretary for formal guidance

The Utah Taxpayers Association and 16 other state taxpayer associations sent a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on March 17 asking for guidelines to clarify provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act the federal COVID-relief law that includes a provision restricting tax reductions by states that accept relief funds.

SLCo GOP Chairman Scott Miller seeks to become Chair of the Utah GOP

After a tremendously successful 2020 election year, SLCo GOP Chairman Scott Miller is determined to apply his winning formula state-wide. Chairman Miller stated, "Salt Lake County is the largest, most diverse County in the State of Utah. Every candidate that worked directly with our County election team from start to finish won their respective race!"

Business Headlines

- [Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey sells NFT of first tweet for \\$2.9M](#) (Associated Press) - The 15-year old post was sold as a non-fungible token, or NFT - a digital certificate of authenticity that confirms an item is real and one of a kind by recording the details on a blockchain digital ledger. The proceeds were given to the nonprofit GiveDirectly's Africa Response.
 - [David Solomon commits to Saturdays off for Goldman Sachs bankers](#) (Financial Times) - CEO's response comes after junior analysts complained about workload.
 - [Stocks rise as tech rallies amid falling yields, Nasdaq closes more than 1% higher](#) (CNBC) -U.S. stocks jumped on Monday led by technology shares as investors flocked back into growth names amid declining bond yields.
 - [Microsoft in Talks to Buy Discord for More Than \\$10 Billion](#) (Bloomberg) - Discord is a video game community chat app.
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On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1775** - Patrick Henry gives an impassioned speech wherein he proclaims "Give me liberty or give me death!"
 - **1839** - "OK" enters the national vernacular. Boomer comes later.
 - **1857** - Elisha Otis installs the first public elevator in New York City
 - **1875** - The British survey ship, H.M.S. Challenger discovers the deepest known region of the Earth's oceans when it made its first sounding of the Mariana Trench.
 - **1882** - The Edmunds (Anti-Polygamy) Act is adopted by the US Senate and aimed squarely at the Utah Territory. 1300 men are later imprisoned under the act.
 - **1884** - [Florence Ellinwood Allen](#) is born in Salt Lake City. She became the first woman to serve on a state supreme court (Ohio) and later became the first woman to serve as a United States federal judge when FDR appointed her to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.
 - **1981** - The US Supreme Court decides in *Kirchberg v Feenstra* that Louisiana's 'head and master' law stipulating that marital property was under the control of the husband was, in fact, unconstitutional. In 1981.
 - **1983** - 112 days after becoming the world's first recipient of a permanent artificial heart, Barney Clark dies at the University of Utah Medical Center.
 - **2011** - Elizabeth Taylor dies at age 79
-

Wise Words

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

~Patrick Henry

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

"Things got so out of hand that on Saturday, the city was forced to declare a state of emergency and an 8 p.m. curfew. And, surprise, it didn't work. Hot tip for Miami authorities: If you want young people to stop partying, don't instate a curfew, just invite a few dads."

- *STEPHEN COLBERT*

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Subject: Utah Policy: Suez canal, Tolkien Reading Day and the speech a president could deliver
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 7:26:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time
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Situational Analysis - March 25, 2021

It's Thursday, March 25 and snow is in the forecast, Just another spring day in Utah. It's also [National Tolkien Reading Day](#), a day to spend some time with the Lord of the Rings (or any of his 30-some books). This particular date was chosen because March 25 is the day that Sauron fell after the One Ring was destroyed in the fires of Mt. Doom.

5 things you need to know

1. The state GOP Organizing convention is just over a month away. So far, there are two people who have filed to run for chair: Scott Miller, current SL County GOP chair and Stewart Peay, current Utah County GOP Chair. Two have also filed for vice-chair: Jordan Hess and Austin Cox, who is running with Peay. The filing deadline is next Thursday, April 1 at 5 pm.
2. Utah Rep. Jon Hawkins had to relearn how to swallow, walk, talk, eat and breathe after COVID-19 almost killed him. Watch his story [here](#).
3. The Boulder, Colorado shooting suspect appears in court for the first time today. You [can watch it](#) if you want to.
4. Brazil is in [rough shape](#) with COVID-19 raging. And, it's [young people](#) who are now getting severely ill and dying.
5. There's a giant ship [blocking the Suez Canal](#), snarling global shipping and spawning all manner of memes. Here's just one example. There are so, so many more.

Suez meme

Countdown

20 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)
30 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)
36 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)
37 days until the Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)
170 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Tweets of the day](#)

By Holly Richardson

Harmful toxins in the Virgin River, national jobless claims down, reproductive problems and super bugs

Commentary: A speech I wish a new president would deliver

By LaVarr Webb

"As I begin my new administration, I pledge to address the challenges facing our nation. For that reason, today I'm announcing an historic federalism summit. I invite the nation's governors and top legislative leaders from every state to meet with me and the leaders of Congress so that we can forge a close partnership to jointly solve America's most difficult problems.

Letter to the editor: GA killings not racially motivated

By Lt. Colonel Raymond Takashi Swenson

As a Japanese American, I frankly do not see the massage parlors that were attacked recently by a violent wacko as in any way representative of the Asian American community. I was a prosecutor for five years in the Air Force, including three years in Japan, and I roundly condemn murder of any human being. But trying to use that murderer's actions as a reason to indict other Americans, to claim that he is somehow a thought leader for a movement of Americans who hate people of Asian descent, is disgusting and engenders hatred toward the vast number of honest and good Americans.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Religious disaffiliation is rising. Is there a path back to the fold?](#) - What's driving religiously unaffiliated Americans away from organized religion? And what can bring them back?
- [We can't talk about shootings without tackling our void in values](#) - Change will only be brought about when the values of acceptance, understanding, self-control, empathy and valuing the differences in others become part of the moral fabric of our society.
- [Salt Lake County mayor in 'wait-and-see' mode on continuing mask mandate](#) - 'What I don't want to do is stir things up,' Mayor Jenny Wilson says.
- [National surveys suggest Americans are having less sex. Here's why - or if - it matters to the future](#) - A U professor says there's not a long enough timeline on the available data, which "should lead us to hold on a second before we make pronouncements about the death of sex."
- [You're vaccinated. So can you travel for spring break?](#) - The "CDC recommends that you do not travel at this time. Delay travel and stay home to protect yourself and others from COVID-19," the agency suggests on its website.
- [Salt Lake family seeking asylum has been in its own type of quarantine for three years](#) - Vicky Chavez is suing U.S. immigration officials, along with three other women in Ohio, Texas and Virginia.
- [Mitt Romney: Science, not teachers unions, should dictate schools reopening](#) - The data is in - k-12 schools are not super-spreaders. Schools that can re-open safely should do so.
- [Striped vs. solid crosswalk lines: Knowing the difference could save you a ticket](#) - A crosswalk that has a pattern of wide striped lines running from curb to curb - like a ladder - is a designated school crosswalk. According to state law, a motorist must wait for a pedestrian to walk all the way across the street to the opposite sidewalk before proceeding, whether school is in session or not.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Utah's statewide mask mandate will end April 10 after Gov. Spencer Cox signed pandemic 'endgame' bill](#) - He vetoed a proposal that would add new requirements for issuing public health orders pertaining to schools.
- [Utah ranch for 'troubled teens' could lose its license for subjecting kids to forced labor, 'repetitive walking'](#) - Sorenson's Ranch School must retrain its staff and abide by state rules or close.
- [Quoting Brigham Young, James Huntsman sues LDS Church, seeks to recover millions in tithing](#) - Federal fraud case - which quotes Brigham Young - claims Utah-based faith misled members to solicit money for charitable work but instead used it for commercial purposes, points to \$100 billion reserve fund.
- [The Salt Lake Tribune is pioneering one path forward for local news. See its playbook here](#) - In 2019, The Tribune became the country's first nonprofit metro news organization.
- [A look into Utah's sheriffs last-ditch - and misleading - campaign to get bail reform repealed](#) - Utah's sheriffs launched an aggressive last-ditch campaign, publicizing dangerous people they say were let loose because of a flawed bail reform law.
- [Burgess Owens got campaign donations from Capitol riot suspect](#) - The Kentucky man said he didn't commit any acts of violence.
- [Utah Gov. Spencer Cox vetoes controversial social media legislation](#) - The issue is almost sure to return to the Legislature next year.
- [Utah health, human services agencies to merge next year](#) - The move has caused consternation among some Utahns concerned that public health could lose stature if it doesn't have its own agency.

Other

- [As COVID-19 vaccinations open up to all Utah adults, Salt Lake County doesn't want you 'vaccine shopping'](#) (KSL) - "The problem that it creates for us is many of those individuals who are 'shopping' do not cancel their appointment."
- [SL County Council to consider new mask mandate ahead of COVID-19 'endgame' bill](#) (FOX 13) - Mayor Wilson urged people to still wear masks in public until health experts say it is safe to remove them and when the state reaches a herd immunity through vaccination.
- [Taylor Swift, Utah theme park drop lawsuits over 'Evermore' trademark](#) (FOX 13) - "As a resolution of both lawsuits, the parties will drop and dismiss their respective suits without monetary settlement."
- [Doctors warn against waiting to get COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (FOX 13) - It is becoming a race between the new COVID-19 variants and the vaccine.
- [Ogden School District to become first in Utah to offer International Baccalaureate to all grades starting in fall](#) (Standard Examiner) - The district will now move on to the next step in taking IB to Mount Ogden Junior High School and T.O. Smith Elementary School.

COVID Corner

- [AstraZeneca used 'outdated and potentially misleading data' that overstated the effectiveness of its vaccine, independent panel says](#) (Washington Post) - The data "they chose to release was the most favorable for the study as opposed to the most recent and most complete. Decisions like this are what erode public trust in the scientific process."
- [AstraZeneca revises Covid vaccine data with lower efficacy rate after accuracy questions](#) (CNBC) - The company now says its vaccine is 76% effective in protecting against symptomatic cases of virus. A release issued on Monday reported a symptomatic efficacy rate of 79%.
- [Former Trump vaccine czar fired over substantiated sexual harassment claim](#) (Ars Technica) - Moncef Slaoui has been fired from his position as chair of a biomedical company's board of directors after an internal investigation substantiated allegations of sexual harassment against him.
- [The do's and don'ts after getting vaccinated for COVID-19](#) (WXYZ)
- [We Must Start Planning For a Permanent Pandemic](#) (Bloomberg) - With coronavirus mutations pitted against vaccinations in a global arms race, we may never go back to normal.
- [Why is the AstraZeneca vaccine linked to blood clots? Scientists may have found the answer](#) (Deseret News) - AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine "could trigger an autoimmune disorder causing blood to clot in the brain" in a tiny percentage of recipients.
- [These COVID-19 symptoms could cause a 'really serious problem' for people](#) (Deseret News) - About 85% of those with long-COVID-19 face long-term symptoms, including neurologic symptoms.
- [Wait, are they making a COVID-19 vaccine pill?](#) (Deseret News) - The company Oravax announced this week that it is working on a COVID-19 vaccine that would be swallowed by pill without the need for an injection.

National Headlines

- [Newsom swats away Democratic challengers. Will his party live to regret it?](#) (Politico) - Gov. Gavin Newsom's camp has one message for Democrats considering a California recall bid: Don't even think about it.
- [Biden's closest Senate ally emerges as a shadow secretary of state](#) (Politico) - The president dispatched Sen. Chris Coons to Ethiopia recently for an urgent diplomatic mission.
- [North Korea launched two ballistic missiles, U.S., Japanese officials say](#) (NBC News) - News of the launch comes after it was reported that the country fired at least one missile over the weekend, an action the U.S. downplayed.
- [White House Weighs Executive Orders on Gun Control](#) (New York Times) - A day after President Biden called on Congress to pass a new assault weapons ban and tougher background checks, the administration was considering steps it could take without legislation.
- [Top health officials told to prioritize COVID testing for Cuomo's relatives](#) (Albany Times Union) - High-level associates also benefited from program in early days of pandemic.
- [Colorado Democrats Consider Ban On Assault Weapons After Mass Shooting](#) (NPR) - "There's no question that the real solution has to come from the federal government. A patchwork of laws is better than nothing, but clearly,

if someone is intent on causing harm and we have strict regulations in Colorado, somebody can drive an hour and a half to Wyoming.

- [Biden taps Harris to handle border crisis](#) (Washington Post) - "It's not her full-responsibility job, but she is leading the effort because I think the best thing to do is to put someone who, when he or she speaks, they don't have to wonder about, is that where the president is," Biden said. "When she speaks, she speaks for me."
- [Rob Bonta nominated to be California attorney general, would be first Filipino in role](#) (NBC News) - His nomination comes amid push for more Asian American and Pacific Islander representation in positions of power in the wake of racist incidents.
- [Rachel Levine, Biden's pick for health post, is first openly transgender official to be confirmed by Senate](#) (New York Times) - Two Republicans, Senators Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, crossed party lines to vote for Dr. Levine.
- [Cuomo's Family Is Said to Have Received Special Access to Virus Tests](#) (New York Times) - Top health officials tested Chris Cuomo, the governor's brother, when testing was not widely available, two people with knowledge of the matter said.
- [Democrats Begin Push for Biggest Expansion of Voting Since 1960s](#) (New York Times) - Democrats characterized the far-reaching elections overhaul as the civil rights battle of modern times. Republicans called it a power grab that would put their party at a permanent disadvantage.
- [Republicans Aim to Seize More Power Over How Elections Are Run](#) (New York Times) - G.O.P. lawmakers in at least eight states controlled by the party are trying to gain broad influence over the mechanics of voting, in an effort that could further undermine the country's democratic norms.
- [Biden faces a flurry of new challenges ahead of first White House news conference](#) (Washington Post) - Nine days are often more like dog years in the life of a president, and somewhere between planning and execution, reality intruded.
- [Prosecutors allege 'alliance' between Proud Boys and Oath Keepers on Jan. 6](#) (Washington Post) - Investigators say members of the two groups coordinated beforehand, preparing for violence.
- [House Democrats express alarm over slow stimulus checks](#) (The Hill) - Many people who are elderly, disabled or veterans are facing delays in receiving the \$1,400 stimulus checks as part of the most recent COVID-19 relief package.

Policy News

[Utah Foundation: Measuring the miles - road usage charges in Utah](#)

Utah has joined about a dozen states in exploring a new kind of revenue for road maintenance that charges drivers for miles driven, rather than fuel consumed. While many states have conducted research and pilot projects on road usage charges, Utah and Oregon are the only two states with currently operating programs.

[Sen. Lee, colleagues introduce US-UK free trade resolution](#)

Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), James Lankford (R-Okla.), Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) today introduced a resolution recognizing the mutual history and special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom, and expressing the Sense of the Senate that the United States President should lay the groundwork for a mutually advantageous future trade agreement between the U.S. and the U.K.

[Utah County Chair Stewart Peay, Austin Cox announce campaign for Utah Republican Party Chair, Vice Chair](#)

Today, Utah County Republican Party Chair Stewart Peay announced his intent to run for Chair of the Utah Republican Party, while Republican campaign strategist Austin Cox announced he would run to serve as Peay's Vice Chair.

[Romney, colleagues condemn China's human rights abuses against Uyghurs](#)

U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT), Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, today joined Senators Chris Coons (D-DE), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Edward Markey (D-MA), Bill Hagerty (R-TN), and Tim Kaine (D-VA), in introducing a resolution condemning the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) for its treatment of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang and calling for an international investigation into the abuses and crimes committed there.

Utah Dept of Human Services names Nate Checketts and David Litvack as Deputy Directors

The Utah Department of Human Services (DHS) Executive Director Tracy Gruber announced the appointment of two new Deputy Directors, Nate Checketts and David Litvack. They will both assume their new roles April 5. These appointments come during a broader period of transition for the department, with a new executive director appointed in January by Governor Spencer Cox, and passage of House Bill 365 directing the consolidation of the Department of Human Services and the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) by July of 2022.

Business Headlines

- [GameStop Stock Is Tumbling Because Its Earnings Report Mattered After All](#) (Barron's) - GameStop stock was falling fast on Wednesday after the company's fiscal fourth-quarter results disappointed analysts. There's also another elephant in the room: The company is considering selling more stock, which could dilute its shares.
 - [Congress set to grill Facebook, Google and Twitter CEOs on extremist content, misinformation](#) (Deseret News) - Less than 48 hours after Utah Gov. Spencer Cox vetoed a controversial bill aiming to impose new moderation regulations on social media platforms, a U.S. House joint committee will take up some of the same issues in a Thursday hearing that will include the CEOs of Facebook, Google and Twitter.
 - [Amazon exec jabs Sanders, touts company's progressive policies ahead of union vote](#) (Fox Business) - Amazon was one of the first companies to raise its minimum wage to \$15 per hour after Sanders pressure campaign.
 - [Billionaire Mark Cuban launches digital art gallery called Lazy.com to display NFTs](#) (The Hill) - Non-fungible tokens (NFT) are unique identifiers tied to blockchain technology, a decentralized database of records, and increasingly used by digital artists.
 - [CDC won't allow cruise companies to return to business in July](#) (Atlanta Journal Constitution) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has rejected a request by the cruise industry to immediately lift a no-sail order that would have allowed ships to resume business in U.S. waters by July, months ahead of a previously announced November return date.
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On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1634** - The first colonists arrive at Maryland's western shore and establish the first settlement of St. Mary's. Last week, archeologists announced that they had [found the ruins](#) of St. Mary's.
 - **1807** - The British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act making the slave trade illegal in the British colonies. However, trade continued in the Caribbean until 1811. Watch the 2007 movie [Amazing Grace](#) for a look at the work William Wilberforce put into the effort.
 - **1862** - [George Sutherland](#) is born. He was a Utah Senator, a U.S. Senator and the only Supreme Court Justice to come from Utah. He was a strong proponent of women's political rights for his entire life. Conservative Utah think tank [Sutherland Institute](#) is named for George.
 - **1911** - The Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory sweatshop in New York City burns down, killing 146 workers, almost all of them women.
 - **1931** - Ida B. Wells Barnett dies of kidney failure at age 68.
 - **1934** - Gloria Steinem is born.
 - **1949** - Lillian E. Fishburne is born. She became the first African-American female to hold the rank of Rear Admiral (RDML) in the United States Navy (1998).
 - **1967** - Debi Thomas is born. In 1988, she became the first Black athlete to ever win a medal in the Olympic Winter Games when she won the bronze in figure skating.
-

Wise Words

"To my mind the right of women to vote is as obvious as my own right."

~George Sutherland

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

"Do you know how stressful it is to parallel-park when there's someone behind you? Imagine blocking a whole hemisphere."

- JIMMY FALLON

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Subject: Utah Policy: Salt Lake County GOP chair resigns, Utah needs a 'rural renaissance,' the boat is afloat
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 at 7:27:30 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>
To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

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The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - March 29, 2021

Happy Monday! A big drop in temperature is coming today. My daffodils are whimpering at the weather whiplash. Today is [World Piano Day](#) - the 88th day of the year. Clever.

Also, chag sameach to all our friends observing Passover this week.

5 things you need to know

1. The Salt Lake County GOP chair [resigned](#) Sunday morning..
2. The military and police forces in Myanmar [continue to kill](#) protestors.
3. Iran and China signed a [strategic cooperation agreement](#) outlining their economic, political and trade relations for the next 25 years.
4. Fox News was hit with a [\\$1.6 B defamation lawsuit](#) from Dominion Voting, arguing that Fox "sold a false story of election fraud in order to serve its own commercial purposes."
5. [The boat is afloat](#). The bow has been dislodged and engineers are hopeful that the Suez Canal will reopen to other traffic today.

Countdown

16 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

26 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)

32 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

33 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)

166 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Tweets of the day: Weekend SLCo GOP roundup](#)

By Holly Richardson

A lot happened on Twitter over the weekend. Here's a recap.

[What happened in the Salt Lake County GOP over the weekend??](#)

By Holly Richardson

What happened in the Salt Lake County GOP this weekend?? Here's a brief timeline:

Utah's economy needs a 'rural renaissance'

By Holly Richardson

Originally published in the Deseret News While regular attention is paid to Utah's cityscapes, including recent recognition of three of the top 10 economic metro areas in the country, the state has much to offer with its rural opportunity and talent. That talent is already on display with our new Sanpete County-born-and-bred governor, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. I believe the private sector, working with community leaders, can help usher in a rural renaissance for our state and the Intermountain region.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Why would Christians embrace conspiracy theories?](#) - The Rev. Fugitt agrees that religious Americans turn to conspiracy theories out of fear. They arrive to QAnon and associated ideas "because they are searching" for comfort, he said.
- [American families need to find more common ground to heal political polarization](#) - Through their citizen-led nonprofit, the Common Ground Committee, Bruce Bond and Erik Olsen's work focuses on creating opportunities for people to engage in productive conversations that lead to finding or building common ground over polarizing topics.
- [This young Utah lawmaker almost died from COVID-19 - now he's sharing his story](#) - 'This is real!' Rep. Jon Hawkins urges Utahns to recognize COVID-19's physical, emotional toll.
- ['I agonized over the decision': More moms opt for home births amid pandemic restrictions](#) - Before 2020, Utah and the nation were already seeing a rise in deliveries at home or birth centers. Now, many women who say they hadn't considered giving birth anywhere other than a hospital have changed their plans, opting to deliver where loved ones can be there to welcome the child.
- [Salt Lake County GOP chairman resigns amid backlash over 'bullying' within party](#) - Chairman Scott Miller apologizes for 'mistake with how I handled the complaints' from Republican women.
- [Here's what Utah is doing now to address 'tsunami' of mental health needs](#) - Due to stress on first responders, Rapaport said the institute is rolling out a SafeUT specifically for them.
- [The difficult race to vaccinate Utah's homeless against COVID-19](#) - About 1,000 shots have gone into homeless Utahns' arms; distrust aggravates an already difficult task.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [State leaders have known for decades that Utah kids could die in unsafe schools during an earthquake. They've taken little action.](#) - Without state support, districts have moved slowly to fix or rebuild schools and inequities persist.
- [In wake of temple mural removals, question arises: How is the LDS Church doing in preserving its past?](#) - Retired architect Allen Roberts, a leader in preservation, points to significant saves and lamentable losses.
- [Republican women say they experienced a toxic environment in the Salt Lake County GOP](#) - Gov. Spencer Cox and Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson condemn County GOP Chairman Scott Miller's emailed criticism of the women coming forward with allegations.
- [Salt Lake City Council discusses whether to participate in ranked choice voting pilot program](#) - Salt Lake County is interested in offering a ranked choice voting option to cities.
- [Sen. Mike Lee calls migrant camps at southern border 'unacceptable'](#) - Says he encountered smugglers and cartel members yelling at him and other senators across the border.

Other

- [Salt Lake County GOP chair resigns following backlash over letter](#) (KSL) - Miller's departure comes after Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson released a statement Saturday calling for him to apologize and calling his letter "reprehensible."
- [Utah political community responds after SL Co. GOP controversy, resignation](#) (Fox 13) - "We had our party chair who was enabling someone to take advantage of women in powerless situations where they were called terrible names and manipulated," Aimee Winder Newton said in a video. "I stood up for them last fall and paid a heavy price for the last six months I've been harassed and bullied as well."
- [Utah researchers take the first step towards charging batteries faster](#) (Fox 13) - The goal is to charge smartphones and cars to 80% in 10 minutes.

COVID Corner

- [Redfield says he thinks COVID-19 began spreading in Wuhan in September or October](#) (The Hill) - The former CDC director went on to say that he thinks COVID-19 emerged from a lab in China, a theory a World Health Organization official has called "extremely unlikely."
- [What the Covid-19 war was really like in Trump's White House](#) (CNN) - No longer working under the Trump administration, six leading US health officials now reveal to CNN the real challenges they faced during the nation's fight against Covid-19 over the past year: death threats, mixed messages and in some cases, being kept from sharing information with national audiences.
- [Birx says COVID death toll in U.S. would have been mitigated with earlier action](#) (Reuters) - Birx became sidelined in the final months of Trump's administration, and White House briefings about the pandemic largely ceased.
- ['I can't believe this is happening': Travelers recount tales of getting stuck in Mexico after positive COVID-19 tests](#) (USA Today) - Some travelers have few complaints about how the hotel handled the situation but don't recommend taking the risk of testing positive on an international trip.
- [Birx recalls 'very difficult' call with Trump, says hundreds of thousands of Covid deaths were preventable](#) (NBC News) - "I look at it this way: The first time, we have an excuse," Birx said about the initial surge of deaths. "All of the rest of them, in my mind, could have been mitigated or decreased substantially."
- [Getting to Yes: A Nursing Home's Mission to Vaccinate Its Hesitant Staff](#) (New York Times) - "Beliefs change with time or new knowledge, so we have to ride it out. Listen hard, don't judge and let them move at their own pace."
- [COVID-19 rates of infection surge in New Jersey, New York](#) (Axios) - In New Jersey, the number of new infections over the past month has risen by 37%, according to AP.
- [Luck is essential for any successful coronavirus variant, study shows](#) (Medical Xpress) - There are a lot of narrow windows and a lot of high hurdles, and the likelihood that a new variant will clear all of those obstacles is actually pretty slim, the researchers concluded. And that should offer humans a bit of hope. But then there's reality: At least five new "variants of concern" have apparently overcome these forbidding odds in the span of about six months.
- [Amish community may have reached COVID 'herd immunity,' health official says](#) (New York Post) - Some experts are more skeptical that a large outbreak has led to widespread immunity in the community.
- [Coronavirus Cases Are on the Rise Again](#) (Slate) - Over the past week, the U.S. has reported an average of 61,583 new COVID-19 cases a day, which represents a 12% increase from two weeks ago.
- [Dr. Scott Gottlieb: Vaccinating One-Fourth Of US Will Be Virus Backstop](#) (Newsmax) - "What we're seeing around the nation right now, which is worrisome, are outbreaks in certain states...I think what we need to do is try to continue to vaccinate, surge vaccine into those parts of the country... that look hot right now."

National Headlines

- [A Republican strategist says GOP voting reform bills are about 'providing cotton candy' to the Trump-obsessed wing of the party](#) (Business Insider) - "These 20 some voter reform laws being proposed in all of these states are all about providing cotton candy to the far-right base that believed the Donald Trump big lie about the election being fraudulent," Cardenas, the leader of the American Conservative Union from 2011 to 2014, said.
 - [Georgia Republicans made two big mistakes when they attacked voting rights](#) (CNN) - By attacking voting rights Georgia Republicans have abandoned a GOP political strategy that helped them win close elections. And they have angered a powerful bloc of Black voters in Georgia who have already mobilized against them.
 - [Biden says he's optimistic about passing gun control through divided Senate](#) (New York Post) - The impetus for more gun control was raised in the last few weeks as two separate mass shootings took place at Atlanta-area spas and a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado.
 - [Fauci says he and Birx had 'bad cop,' 'good cop' roles on Trump coronavirus task force](#) (The Hill) - "I was the bad cop," Fauci responded. "She was the good cop."
 - [The Biden do-over: Democrats get a chance to try again on Obama defeats](#) (Washington Post) - During his first formal news conference Thursday, Biden repeatedly returned to a theme of getting things done, approaching the office almost like a general contractor on a construction project.
 - [Biden to unveil major new spending plans as Democrats eye bigger role for government](#) (Washington Post) - The president is set to tout key components of an infrastructure overhaul and the early contours of his 2022 budget.
 - [How 2 Legislative Tacticians Scored Big Wins on Child Poverty in the Stimulus](#) (New York Times) - After working for decades on the issue, Senator Patty Murray and Representative Rosa DeLauro teamed up to ensure that the stimulus law included a lifeline to the nation's poorest families.
 - [N.Y. congressman: Border crisis due to decades of bad U.S. behavior](#) (Politico) - "We have disrupted the political, social, and economic systems in Central America for over a century," Rep. Jamaal Bowman said.
 - [Buttigieg charms Washington with his accessibility](#) (The Hill) - As the only millennial serving in Biden's Cabinet, Buttigieg has continued to be the young, reliable and sharp advocate for the administration.
-

Policy News

Sens. Lee, Crapo, and Risch introduce MORE PILT Act

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on Thursday introduced the Making Obligations Right by Enlarging Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act, or MORE PILT Act. Sens. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho) joined as original cosponsors of the bill.

Sen. Lee, colleagues urge HHS to expand ethical sources of fetal tissue

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on Friday led 15 of his colleagues in sending a letter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) requesting that the agency evaluate its ability to expand the existing organ donation network to include preterm and stillborn infant donors, so as to provide an ethical alternative to aborted fetal tissue. Under no circumstance should scientific research and experimentation use cells or tissues derived from abortion.

Sen. Lee reintroduces Poverty Improvement Act

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) today reintroduced the Poverty Measurement Improvement Act, a bill that would improve the accuracy of poverty measurement in the United States by requiring the Census Bureau to supplement its existing poverty data with additional data from other federal agencies.

2020 a standout year for home sale price escalation

Utah Foundation's 2020 Utah Priorities Project found that housing affordability is a top issue to Utah voters. This is due in part to increasing housing prices. Based on data collected by Redfin (a real estate brokerage that publishes national housing data), Utah's housing prices skyrocketed in 2020.

Citizens' Climate Lobby holding virtual townhall Mon. March 29

All faiths, all ages, and people all across the political spectrum are invited to an online Town Hall with Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Monday March 29th from 6-7:30pm. We'll be continuing discussions about local solutions to our clean air problems here in Utah. You will hear presentations from local leaders including BYU Professor Ben Abbott, Representatives Kera Bierkeland (HD 53) and Mike Kohler (HD 54), Mayor Celeste Johnson of Midway, and Mayor Kelleen Potter of Heber City. Our panel will be moderated by Utah high school and college students.

Business Headlines

- [6 Words From Pfizer's CEO That Mean Trouble for Moderna and BioNTech](#) (Motley Fool) - It looks like the proprietary technology that led to the first COVID-19 vaccines isn't very difficult to replicate.
 - [Biden to push infrastructure before health and family care in next phase of economic plan](#) (CNBC) - Biden will unveil the first part of his plan, focusing on items like rebuilding roads and railways, on Wednesday. The second part of Biden's plan will include child-care and health-care reforms - aspects of what is sometimes called social infrastructure - and will be released in a couple of weeks.
 - [Gen Xer Cox has new economic vision aiming to turbocharge post-vaccination Utah](#) (Deseret News) - New governor says state's economic development needs a revamp, including focus on continued growth - but not at any cost.
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](https://www.history.com))

- **1806** - Construction is authorized for the Great National Pike, better known as the Cumberland Road, which became the first United States federal highway.
- **1848** - Niagara Falls stops flowing for 30 hours due to an ice jam

- **1865** - Appomattox, the final campaign in the Civil War, begins.
 - **1885** - [Frances Bolton](#) is born. She created an endowment to build a school of nursing at [Case Western Reserve](#) in 1923 after working with the Visiting Nurse Association and seeing the homes of the desperately poor. She helped remove color lines in nursing, and as a Republican Congresswoman from Ohio, she worked for racial equality and equal pay. She also is the only woman to have served in Congress simultaneously with her son, who represented a district to the east of his mother's.
 - **1929** - President Herbert Hoover has a phone installed at his desk in the Oval Office of the White House, the first president to do so.
 - **1951** - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage for their role in passing atomic secrets to the Soviets. They were executed on June 19, 1953 in Sing Sing Prison in New York. Both maintained their innocence to the end.
 - **1973** - The last US soldiers leave Vietnam.
 - **1974** - Chinese farmers discover the Terracotta Army near Xi'an, 8,000 clay warrior statues buried to guard the tomb of China's 1st emperor, Qin Shi Huang.
 - **1993** - Catherine Callbeck becomes the first woman in Canada to be elected as premier.
-

Wise Words

"Prejudice [must be put down] wherever it raises its head, whether we are victims or not. [An] attack on any group endangers everyone's freedom."

~Congresswoman Frances Bolton in an address before the UN General Assembly regarding the practices of apartheid in South Africa.

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

Spring cleaning never killed anyone but why take a chance??

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Subject: Utah Policy: Gender equality rankings, more anti-Asian hate
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 7:15:14 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>
To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

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Situational Analysis - March 30, 2021

Hello Tuesday. Today is [National Take a Walk in the Park Day](#). If you go, you might want to take a coat! It's also [National Pencil Day](#). Hymen Lipman received the first patent for attaching an eraser to the end of a pencil on this day in 1858. Before that time, pencils and erasers existed separately. Did you know that during World War II, the Cumberland Pencil Company out of Kenswick, England produced pencils that contained secret maps? The pencils were designed to work but they were hollow with graphite on the ends. Between the graphite, the makers had stowed maps to aid captured military personnel in their escape to freedom. At night, when the factory closed, workers would assemble them under secrecy. The miniature maps detailed escape routes from prisoner of war camps and also included a miniature compass. Throughout the war, these small tools were issued to members of the Royal Airforce and sent to POW camps. Now you know.

5 more things you need to know

1. Former SLCounty GOP chair who resigned on Sunday is [still running for state GOP chair](#).
2. CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky had to fight back tears as she warns of ['impending doom'](#) with new COVID-19 surge.
3. The [trial of Derek Chauvin](#) began yesterday. He is the police officer who kept his knee on George Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds.
4. President Biden's approval rating on the [COVID-19 response hits 72%](#).
5. [Beverly Cleary died](#) over the weekend, just shy of her 105th birthday.

Countdown

15 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)
25 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)
31 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)
32 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)
165 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

More anti-Asian hate. When will it be enough?

By Holly Richardson

Last week, my son who is Asian and who was adopted from Kazakhstan as a toddler, was driving home from work when a white man in a big truck pulled alongside him, pulled on the corners of his eyes, called my son a racial slur and told him to "go back where he came from." Nice. The anti-Asian hate is not subsiding.

Tweets of the day

By Holly Richardson

All three police officers are gone from Mantua, The Point holds a board meeting and rural Utah gets a boost in more ways than one.

Commentary: Gender 'equality' rankings often don't include key factors

By LaVarr Webb

I saw another reference the other day from a liberal group noting that Utah is the "worst state in the nation for women's equality." We see frequent news stories, opinion essays and rankings from various organizations portraying Utah very negatively on women's issues. In one frequently-cited study by WalletHub, for example, Utah ranked dead last in the nation for "women's rights."

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Why does the U.S. have so much gun violence? These experts weigh in](#) - In the aftermath of mass shootings in Boulder, Colo., and Atlanta, Ga., America is grappling with solutions on gun violence.
- [Many Utah 'mom and pop' businesses are on the road to pandemic recovery](#) - The U.S. Census Bureau's latest Small Business Pulse Survey indicated 22% of small businesses expect to return to normal within six months, with 3 in 5 Utah small businesses reporting they have already fully recovered or expect to be fully recovered by September.
- [Another general conference of firsts this Easter weekend](#) - Rapid expansion of broadcast partners in dozens of new nations brings more of conference to more Latter-day Saints worldwide
- [What Mitt Romney thinks of Biden administration so far, and where GOP is headed](#) - Hit and miss for Biden, and, Trump's influence will be felt for a longtime in today's GOP.
- [Utah commemorates National Vietnam Veterans Day in this Photo of the Day](#) - March 29th is National Vietnam Veterans Day because it was the day in 1973 that the last US troops left Vietnam.
- [Meet 3 little-known Utah women who've changed our state for good](#) - These women used their power to make changes on behalf of the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Just-resigned Salt Lake County GOP chairman says he is still in the race to become head of Utah Republican Party](#) - Scott Miller stepped down from the Salt Lake County GOP on Sunday after allegations of harassment and bullying behavior from more than a half dozen Republican women.
- [Three old streams bring one sparkling new attraction to Salt Lake City's west side](#) - Three Creeks Confluence Park showcases Red Butte, Emigration and Parleys waterways near the Jordan River Parkway Trail.
- [Exclusive: Utah's power brokers helped Draper pharmacist with customs holdup on drug import](#) - State officials including Senate President Stuart Adams wanted to make the antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine available to Utahns as an off-label treatment for COVID-19.
- [Utah Sen. Mitt Romney said he will not vote for new federal gun laws](#) - The Utah senator argues that firearm policies should be developed at the state level.
- [These are the safest cities in Utah](#) - In order, the top ten are, #1, Spanish Fork, then Syracuse, Kaysville, Bountiful, North Ogden, Pleasant Grove, Clinton, Springville, Farmington, and Saratoga Springs.
- [What questions do you have for Mayor Erin Mendenhall?](#) - Readers can submit questions for the mayor here. The Editorial Board will bring a few of them to her during Tuesday's Editorial Board meeting.
- [Sen. Mike Lee calls migrant camps at southern border 'unacceptable'](#) - Says he encountered smugglers and cartel members yelling at him and other senators across the border.

Other

- [Harassment claims weren't ignored, Salt Lake County GOP chair says](#) (KUTV) - "The executive committee took immediate action that we thought would remedy the situation," said acting chair Scott Rosenbush. Any action taken by the committee was invisible to the multiple women who have made harassment allegations against the party.
- [Weber County considers whether to issue a new mask mandate after the COVID-19 'endgame'](#) (FOX 13) - Counties across Utah contemplate new mask orders.
- [FEMA gives Utah another \\$1.8 million for COVID-19 response](#) (FOX 13) - According to a FEMA news release, the most recent round of funding will go to University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics for the purchase of personal protective equipment to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at hospitals.
- [Top Hill AFB official fired, under investigation by Air Force](#) (Standard Examiner) - Col. Chris Boring was recently relieved of his duties as commander of Hill 309th Aircraft Maintenance Group and is under investigation by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, whose main functions are criminal investigations and counterintelligence services.
- [Enoch 4th-grader organizes fundraiser to help families in need](#) (St. George News) - Briley Orton, 10, is spearheading a fundraising drive to help families struggling with cancer and other medical challenges.

COVID Corner

- [Former US Surgeon General defends Birx in tweets following CNN special report](#) (CNN) - "Fascinating to see zero support for Birx- the lone female doc in the room- even among women. In fact, women seem to be the most critical of her. It took more courage for her to stay than to leave, and people who weren't there have no clue how much worse it could've been w/o her," tweeted Dr. Jerome Adams.
- [Vaccine passports: New details on how they would work](#) (FOX 8) - According to reports, the passport would come as a scannable code that users could easily bring up on their smartphone. Printable paper copies would also be available to those without that technology.
- [One dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines was 80% effective in preventing Covid in CDC study of health workers](#) (CNBC) - Two doses are better than one, the CDC said, adding that the vaccines' effectiveness jumped to 90% two weeks after the second dose.
- [Coronavirus likely came from animal, not a lab, WHO draft report finds](#) (CNN) - Survey of experts in relevant fields concludes that new variants could arise in countries with low vaccine coverage.
- [New Covid vaccines needed globally within a year, say scientists](#) (The Guardian) - Survey of experts in relevant fields concludes that new variants could arise in countries with low vaccine coverage.
- [My BMI qualified me for the coronavirus vaccine. Why did I hesitate to schedule an appointment?](#) (CNN) - "At first, I thought that I would not sign up for a vaccine appointment because there is nothing wrong with me. I didn't want to take a slot from someone who actually needed it."
- [Biden, health officials sound alarm as signs of covid surge proliferate](#) (Washington Post) - Daily case counts are rising, younger people replaced seniors in some U.S. hospitals, and the United States moved beyond the milestone of 30 million cases since the outbreak began.

National Headlines

- [Biden handed Harris a political grenade. Can she defuse it?](#) (Politico) - The VP is being asked to solve the riddle on the southern border. She has a vision. The question is: can she make it work?
- [Biden Pushes Mask Mandate as C.D.C. Director Warns of 'Impending Doom'](#) (New York Times) - The administration is stepping up the pace of vaccinations and expanding access to shots, but it remains in a race against a virus on the upswing.
- [Kamala Harris will play 'diplomatic' role in migration crisis, White House says](#) (Fox News) - Vice president to be 'focused on addressing root causes in the region,' Psaki says.
- [US ratchets up pressure on Myanmar's military after its bloodiest weekend since the coup](#) (Vox) - Reports indicate Myanmar's junta killed about 140 people over the weekend. The Biden administration is responding with trade restrictions.
- [White House dramatically increased tax proposal as it sought to address tensions over next big spending plan](#)

(Washington Post) - Biden aides see next major legislative effort as comparable to LBJ's Great Society but face divisions among key allies.

- [Biden administration launches major push to expand offshore wind power](#) (Washington Post) - Initiative by Commerce, Energy, Interior and Transportation departments aims to tackle climate change while boosting union jobs.
 - [Biden's Lesson From Past Green Stimulus Failures: Go Even Bigger](#) (New York Times) - As vice president, Joe Biden oversaw a "green jobs" stimulus package that produced notable failures. This time, with more money and more demand for clean technology, will be different, Democrats say.
 - [Trump launches 'the official website of the 45th President'](#) (The Hill) - The website, [45office.com](#), is meant to allow supporters to request their participation in events, submit letters and ask for personalized greetings.
 - ['Active and dangerous scene': Mount Rushmore closed, 400 homes evacuated as multiple wildfires spread in South Dakota](#) (USA Today) - The fires are burning timber with very high potential for spread due to elevated winds.
-

Policy News

[Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs highlights stories of women community health workers](#)

In Utah, across the country, and throughout history, Community Health Workers have been at the forefront of public health emergencies, much like the Coronavirus pandemic. They advocate for change, improve access to the quality of care, and increase cultural awareness of services delivered. A Community Health Worker's role is intersectional and known by many names. They can be health educators, resource connectors, liaisons, trainers, interpreters, but at their core, they are effective advocates for a community's needs, because often, they come from the communities they serve.

[In honor of Women's History Month, here is LG Henderson's inaugural address](#)

Lt. Governor Henderson recently tweeted: In honor of #WomensHistoryMonth I'm posting my inaugural address. We're all better off when voices of men and women are heard in the public square. I'm grateful for those who paved paths so the journeys of so many of us would be a little smoother.

[Sen. Lee visits US-Mexico border, calls for end to crisis](#)

Last week, Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) joined a congressional delegation trip with 17 of his colleagues to help shed light on the humanitarian crisis caused by the recent surges in illegal immigration along the U.S.-Mexico border. The senators toured immigration processing facilities along the border, attended a roundtable with local leaders, and heard firsthand accounts of the journeys of migrant men, women, and children.

[Sens. Lee, Crapo, and Risch introduce MORE PILT Act](#)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) on Thursday introduced the Making Obligations Right by Enlarging Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act, or MORE PILT Act. Sens. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho) joined as original cosponsors of the bill.

[Sen. Lee, colleagues urge HHS to expand ethical sources of fetal tissue](#)

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Business Headlines

- [T-Mobile shuts down TVision live TV service, partners with YouTube TV and Philo](#) (CNET) - The wireless carrier's service launched just five months ago.
 - [Nike Is Suing The Maker Of Lil Nas X's Satan Shoes](#) (BuzzFeed News) - "Nike has not and does not approve or authorize MSCHF's customized Satan Shoes," the company said in a court filing.
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1839** - [Mary Elizabeth Bowser](#) is born. A former slave, Bowser served as an undercover agent for Ulysses S. Grant by working as a servant in the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Because of the racial prejudice of the day, the assumption that slaves were illiterate and not intelligent, and the way slave servants were trained to seem invisible, Mary was able to glean considerable military intelligence by simply doing her job.
 - **1867** - US buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000 (\$109 million in 2018), roughly 2 cents an acre. At the time, it was mocked as "[Seward's Folly](#)." It's not mocked anymore.
 - **1870** - The 15th Amendment to the US Constitution is adopted, guaranteeing men the right to vote regardless of race. In the late 1870s, however, the Southern Republican Party vanished with the end of Reconstruction, and Southern state governments effectively nullified the 14th and 15th Amendments, stripping Southern African Americans of the right to vote for another century.
 - **1981** - Ronald Reagan is shot and wounded in an assassination attempt by John Hinckley.
-

Wise Words

"To the lover of wilderness, Alaska is one of the most wonderful countries in the world."

~John Muir

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

What do you get when you dump your Easter eggs on a hill?

A spring roll!

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Subject: Utah Policy: Lt Governor Henderson's 'Returnship' Initiative, rural news roundup and good policy making looks at all angles

Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 at 7:30:19 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - April 2, 2021

Welcome to Friday. Today is [Good Friday](#) for most of the world's Christians and thus, Easter is on Sunday. The weather should be just about perfect.

5 things you need to know

1. Two out of three Utahns [favor universal background checks](#) before being allowed to purchase a gun.
2. In Utah, [women lost twice the number of jobs](#) as men as the pandemic shutdown unfolded.
3. [Preliminary CDC data](#) shows that the number of suicides in the United States declined 5.6 percent from 2019 to 2020. It was the third consecutive year of decline.
4. [Arabic coins minted in 1693](#) showed up in Rhode Island, potentially solving a centuries-old mystery of murderous pirate Capt. Henry Every.
5. Taiwan's [worst train crash in decades](#) kills 51, injures hundreds Friday morning.

Countdown

12 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

22 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)

28 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

29 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)

162 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Lt. Gov. Henderson announces her first initiative - a "Returnship" program](#)

By Holly Richardson

Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson announced her first initiative as Lt. Governor, a plan to expand Utah's returnship opportunities. Returnships are internships for adults looking to re-enter the workforce after an extended absence. They are designed as a back-to-work program that provides the experience, training, skills, and mentoring that an individual needs to return to the workforce without starting from the bottom of the career ladder. Returnships can last anywhere from a few weeks to a few months. While all are eligible, this program is likely to be a real boost to women who took a number of years off the educational or career track to raise their families.

Rural news round-up

By Holly Richardson

Today's stories from around the state include a rural budget crisis, an effort to increase diversity in school staff, a Pearl Harbor sailor's remains are finally identified and are coming home, Farmers feeding Utah were in Kanab, San Juan County expecting "hordes of visitors," Logan welcomes a new Encircle facility and the St. George City Council really likes the name 'Dixie'.

Commentary: Listen to the experts, but make policy based on all factors

By LaVarr Webb

Health experts appear to be fighting a losing battle to get politicians to enforce mask mandates and lockdowns to prevent a fourth COVID-19 surge. With virus cases and hospitalization rising in many states, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recently issued an emotional and dire warning, saying she is scared and has a "recurring feeling . . . of impending doom."

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Yes, the Utah County 'power grab' is the epitome of hypocrisy](#) - On Wednesday, Utah County Commissioners granted themselves additional power over the county budget.
- [Fireworks fly in Utah County over commission's 'power grab' of budgetary oversight](#) - High-ranking state officials as well as local leaders from Utah County are seething at a Wednesday vote by county commissioners to sweep budget oversight away from the county's independently elected clerk/auditor and place it solely under the commission.
- [What's a 'returnship' and how can it boost Utah's businesses?](#) - It's an initiative to expand opportunities for individuals returning to work following an extended absence.
- [Is society stronger and life better with faith in it?](#) - Faith and religious activity are not the only answer to what ails society, but they create valuable connections.
- [Sarah Everard and the Atlanta shooting are reminders that women are not safe](#) - Women's History Month in March was meant to be a celebration of women's accomplishments and contributions. But it's hard to feel celebratory each week when the headlines cover a story that put a glaring spotlight on dangers for women.
- [Have Republicans lost their moral authority on national debt?](#) - Today's unabashed embrace of overspending now encompasses both political parties.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Latter-day Saint leaders issue new warning about survivalism and affinity fraud](#) - Updated handbook also urges members to be vaccinated.
- [Utah women lost the most jobs during COVID-19. 'Returnships' aim to help them 'level up,' get back to work.](#) - Lt. Governor says the new state program will help people who have gaps on their resumes after being out of the workforce.
- [Utah moves against invasive insect population](#) - Efforts to contain the Japanese beetle could save the state millions of dollars.
- [Leonardo exhibit grapples with a tricky question: What should be done with historical but racially insensitive objects?](#) - Stereotypical depictions of people of color "create biases that exist today," says executive director of the Utah Black Chamber.
- [Teenage snowboarder dies at Park City Mountain Resort](#) - Visitor from Kentucky went off the trail and hit a tree.

Other

- ["Returnship" program seeks to get adult women back in Utah's workforce](#) (ABC4) - "The goal of a returnship

program is to help experienced adults re-enter the workforce without starting at the bottom of the career ladder," said Lt. Governor Henderson.

- [Candidates for Utah GOP chair include fmr. chair accused of mishandling harassment claims](#) (KUTV) - The five candidates are Brad Baker, a Weber State University student; Tina Cannon, a former member of the Morgan County Council; Carson Jorgensen, a rancher and small business owner; Scott Miller, former Salt Lake County Republican Party chair; and Stewart Peay, an attorney and current chair of the Utah County Republican Party.
- [Utah's sentencing for child pornography is so light, offenders are out in less than a year](#) (KUTV) - Thousands of potential charges are reduced to save time. Then, defendants plead guilty to just a handful while the remainder are dismissed.
- [Stress can be good for you, and here's why](#) (KSL) - The researchers concluded that it wasn't stress that was killing people. It was the combination of stress and the belief that stress is harmful.
- [Uintah Basin Narcotics Strike Force completes 2 drug busts, seizes \\$74K worth of narcotics](#) (KSL) - The joint operation between Basin Narcotics and DEA agents began on Mar. 12 when a residence in Vernal was suspected as being a place of drug dealing. Police said the team discovered methamphetamine, heroin, LSD, ecstasy and drug paraphernalia there.

COVID Corner

- [Cox says masks still necessary for students, but some parents planning protests](#) (Deseret News) - According to the Utah Parents United Facebook page, some parents across Utah will be walking their children into their schools without masks and declare their child will not wear a mask "as a mass rejection of the K-12 mask mandate. The time is NOW to end our children's suffering!"
- [COVID-19 vaccine side effects include ... dreams of space?](#) (Deseret News) - CBS4 Medical Editor Dr. Dave Hnida said he's heard of a number of side effects to the vaccine that include weird dreams
- [More than half a million Utahns are fully vaccinated against COVID-19](#) (Salt Lake Tribune) - A whopping 46,011 Utahns received coronavirus vaccinations on Thursday, as the state blew past the half-million mark in those fully vaccinated. A total of more than 1.4 million doses have been administered.
- [Davis County Health Department to open Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination clinic](#) (ABC4) - The new clinic will be located inside the Davis Conference Center in Layton beginning Wednesday, April 7.
- [Intermountain Healthcare doctors: Experience with COVID-19 in New York hospitals proved invaluable in Utah's fight against the virus](#) (ABC4) - "We were able to sound the alarm and get people ready. So, we did not see anything like what they had experience in New York," Dr. Dixie Harris said. "So, we're very grateful."
- [None of Utah is in a 'high risk' area for COVID-19 right now](#) (Fox 13) - All counties are now in moderate or low transmission indices.
- [FDA authorizes rapid, non-prescription COVID-19 tests](#) (ABC News) - The move could benefit schools and businesses eyeing reopening
- [Plant that ruined vaccine doses had prior FDA violations](#) (Washington Post) - A federal investigator's report last year detailed problems he found at Emergent BioSolutions' Baltimore facility, including deficiencies in a measure intended to "prevent contamination or mix-ups."

National Headlines

- [Police: California office attack that killed 4 wasn't random](#) (AP) - A gunman who killed four people, including a 9-year-old boy, knew all the victims and his motive may have involved personal or business relationships, police said.
- [Myanmar cuts wireless internet service amid coup protests](#) (AP) - The military on Friday shut all access to mobile networks and all wireless - the less costly options used by most people in the developing country - was blocked.
- [At 1st Cabinet meeting, Biden says team 'looks like America'](#) (AP) - President Joe Biden's first Cabinet meeting looked and felt different from those of his predecessor.
- [Analysis: Millennials and global consumers push U.S. companies to get political](#) (Reuters) - A push to attract young and diverse talent and global consumers is behind some of corporate America's willingness to speak out on politically charged issues like Georgia's new voting law, executives and corporate governance experts said.

- [No new gas taxes: White House rejects corporate ask on infrastructure funding](#) (Reuters) - The US Chamber of commerce and some right-leaning think tanks, said taxes should instead be raised on motorists
- [Panic Rooms, Birth Certificates and the Birth of GOP Paranoia](#) (Politico) - How America's center-right party started to lose its mind, as told by the man who tried to keep it sane: John Boehner.
- [McConnell rules out GOP support for Biden spending plan](#) (Politico) - Senate Democrats are already signaling they may set up the infrastructure bill to pass along party lines
- [Republicans don't think Biden really wants to work with them](#) (The Hill) - Senate Republican aides say it's "highly unlikely" that any GOP senators will vote for Biden's plan.
- [Lack of cyber funds in Biden infrastructure plan raises eyebrows](#) (The Hill) - President Biden's \$2.25 trillion infrastructure plan does not include any funds to protect critical infrastructure against cyberattacks, even as the threat grows against targets like the electric grid.
- [The reason many Guatemalans are coming to the border? A profound hunger crisis.](#) (Washington Post) - Chronic childhood malnutrition doubled in Guatemala in 2020. In areas from which migrants are coming, the rates are higher than anywhere in the world.
- [Venezuelan military offensive sends thousands fleeing, recharging one of the world's worst refugee crises](#) (Washington Post) - The sudden outflow is amplifying a renewed wave of Venezuelan refugees and migrants - the world's second-largest group of internationally displaced people - from the broken socialist state.
- [The Pandemic Hit the Working Class Hard. The Colleges That Serve Them Are Hurting, Too.](#) (New York Times) - The community colleges largely serving low-income, Black and Latino students are reeling, and experts worry that inequality in education will increase.
- [Justice Dept. Inquiry Into Matt Gaetz Said to Be Focused on Cash Paid to Women](#) (New York Times) - The congressman and a former official in Florida sent money to the women using cash apps, receipts showed.
- [Gaetz showed nude photos of women he said he'd slept with to lawmakers, sources tell CNN](#) (CNN) - Gaetz gained a reputation in Congress over his relationships with women and bragging about his sexual escapades to his colleagues. Gaetz allegedly showed off to other lawmakers photos and videos of nude women he said he had slept with, the sources, including two people directly shown the material.

Policy News

[Candidates for Utah GOP statewide leadership](#)

The following individuals have filed to run for leadership positions within the Utah Republican Party. They are listed in alphabetical order. The election will be held at the UTGOP Organizing Convention on May 1, 2021.

[Utah Democrats apologize to victims of sexual harassment within the party](#)

Utah Democrats have decided to re-examine the manner in which the party handled allegations of sexual harassment several years ago, in light of the allegations made against members of the Salt Lake County Republican Party. After examination, it is the belief of the Utah Democratic Party that the several women who came forward years ago with allegations were not treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. The party did not give the women involved an opportunity to speak, and therefore failed to complete an investigation.

[Sen. Lee, Rep. Buck question big tech CEOs on actions against Parler](#)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.) on Wednesday sent a letter to the CEOs of Google, Apple, and Amazon questioning a series of actions their companies took against Parler.

[Rep. Stewart's statement on President Biden's \\$2.3 trillion spending plan](#)

Yesterday, President Biden outlined his \$2.3 trillion spending plan. Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT) released the following statement:

[Better Utah publishes legislative progress report](#)

Today, Alliance for a Better Utah published its annual Progress Report for the 2021 General Legislative Session. This year, lawmakers were graded for their votes on 66 important bills organized into four categories: Strong Communities, Equal Rights, Good Government, and Sustainable Future. All 104 legislators received overall grades, as well as grades in each of the four categories.

Business Headlines

- [Robust U.S. employment growth expected in March, jobs deficit remains large](#) (Reuters) - The Labor Department's closely watched employment report on Friday is also expected to show people, mostly women, wading back into the labor market.

- [Wall Street Weekahead: High-flying market to take cues from infrastructure plans, upcoming earnings](#) (Reuters) - U.S. President Joe Biden's massive infrastructure proposal and the upcoming corporate earnings season could offer investors fresh insight on the sustainability of a rally that has taken stocks to all-time highs.
 - [American Airlines rebukes Texas voting restrictions](#) (The Hill) - "Earlier this morning, the Texas state Senate passed legislation with provisions that limit voting access. To make American's stance clear: We are strongly opposed to this bill and others like it," the airline, which is based in Fort Worth, Texas, wrote in a statement on Thursday.
 - [Exclusive: Apple's Tim Cook says voting "ought to be easier than ever"](#) (Axios) - Cook, an Alabama native with a lifelong interest in civil rights, joins condemnations of Georgia's new voting law. "The right to vote is fundamental in a democracy. American history is the story of expanding the right to vote to all citizens, and Black people, in particular, have had to march, struggle and even give their lives for more than a century to defend that right."
 - [We moved our company culture online \(and it worked!\)](#) (Utah Business) - Due to the stresses of the pandemic and stay-at-home orders, the employees at eLearning Brothers needed to feel connected and supported at work more than ever. They had to find alternatives - and they did!
 - [Surprise jump pushes weekly jobless claims back above 700,000](#) (Washington Post) - The Labor Department's weekly unemployment tally wasn't the dip economists expected
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1917** - Jeannette Pickering Rankin, the first woman ever elected to Congress, takes her seat in the U.S. Capitol as a representative from Montana.
 - **1931** - 17-year-old Jackie Mitchell, the second woman to play baseball in the all-male minor leagues, pitches an exhibition game against the N.Y. Yankees and strikes out both Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. The next day, the Baseball Commissioner voided her contract, claiming baseball was too strenuous for women. The ban was not overturned until 1992
 - **2005** - Pope John Paul II dies
-

Wise Words

"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."

~Pope John Paul II

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Subject: Paris Hilton celebrates Utah's new "troubled teen" law
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 6:46:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: The Rundown | The Salt Lake Tribune <newsletters@sltrib.com>
To: Reader <tanidowning@utah.gov>

The Rundown brings you the day's must-read political news every weekday morning, helping you understand what's happening and what it means for you.

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Wednesday, April 7

By Bryan Schott
with an assist from Karina Andrew

Good Wednesday morning Utah!

Expect lots of sun in northern Utah today with highs in the mid-60s. Sun and wind is on tap for southern Utah, with highs reaching the lower 80s.

Talk to me! Got a news tip? Some feedback or a suggestion for this newsletter? [Drop me a line](#). I read every single email.

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Battleground Utah

Last November, the Utah airwaves were inundated with ads in Utah's hotly-contested 4th Congressional District. Get ready for a repeat in 2022.

[Politico's Ally Mutnik reports](#) the [DCCC](#) (the campaign arm of Congressional

Democrats) has freshman Rep. Burgess Owens in their sights, as UT-04 is on the list of congressional districts they think are "in play" next year. You can probably expect a vigorous defense of the seat by national Republicans.

Outside groups [poured \\$14 million](#) into the race between Owens and Democrat Ben McAdams in 2020. Prepare for a similar flood of cash next year.

Leah Hogsten / The Salt Lake Tribune

Here's what you need to know for Wednesday

Welcome changes. Paris Hilton was on hand for a ceremonial bill signing for Utah's new law establishing more oversight to the state's troubled-teen treatment industry [[Tribune](#)].

Party politics. Former congressional candidate Kathleen Anderson jumped into the race to lead the Salt Lake County GOP. She's the only woman in the race to replace Scott Miller, who resigned following allegations of a toxic culture within the party [[Tribune](#)].

Mask up. Salt Lake County officials are considering whether to implement a mask mandate once the statewide order expires on Saturday [[Tribune](#)].

Safe space. The Weber County Commission passed a resolution Tuesday declaring the county a "Second Amendment Sanctuary" [[Tribune](#)].

What changed? A new law ends Utah's requirement for a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public, but did anything really change? [[Tribune](#)].

"Sin of racism." A black faculty member at Brigham Young University said during a devotional talk on Tuesday that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints should work to fight racism [[Tribune](#)].

Pardon me? Florida Republican Matt Gaetz reportedly sought a pre-emptive blanket pardon from former President Donald Trump in the final days of his

administration. It's unknown whether Gaetz knew he was under investigation for alleged sex trafficking when he asked for the pardon [[NYT](#)].

Shut up and donate. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell says corporations should stay out of politics unless they're donating money to politicians [[WaPo](#)].

Virus surge. Just 5 states are responsible for nearly half of the new coronavirus infections in the U.S. [[Yahoo! News](#)].

Booming. The U.S. economy is growing at its fastest pace since 1984. President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion stimulus package is a major driver of that growth [[CNN](#)].

You're hired. The number of job openings in the U.S. hit a two-year high in February as companies are scrambling to find workers [[Reuters](#)].

Making progress. U.S. and Iranian officials are meeting in Vienna to discuss reviving the nuclear deal that was abandoned by the Trump administration [[WaPo](#)].

That was fast. Shortly after Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson vetoed a controversial transgender health bill, the legislature overturned that veto [[Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#)].

No thank you. The U.S. State Department denied reports they were discussing a boycott of the 2022 Beijing Olympics to protest China's human rights abuses [[CNBC](#)].

Dropout. North Korea pulled out of this summer's Tokyo Olympics due to the coronavirus pandemic [[AP](#)].

Bagley Cartoon: Senate Buy Laws

Wednesday's Utah news roundup

Local government

Salt Lake City commission issues recommendations on school-to-prison pipeline, youth racial equity - [Tribune](#)

Salt Lake City's Downtown Ambassador Program extends to North Temple - [Tribune](#)

Utah

Gov. Cox lowers flags in honor of Congressman Alcee Hastings - [ABC4](#)

April declared Utah Dark Sky Month by Gov. Cox - [ABC4](#)

Legislature

Utah mental health services to get boost under new laws - [FOX 13](#)

COVID

Utah gets \$30 million to help vaccinate communities of color - [Tribune](#)

More than 1.5 million COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered in Utah - [Tribune](#)

Environment & development

Sorry, environmentalists, that pavement can stay on Utah's scenic Burr Trail - [Tribune](#)

On the opinion pages

Robert Gehrke: It's unfathomable that we're still sending kids to schools that could collapse in an earthquake. It's time to do better - [Tribune](#)

Raymond A. Hult: Mike Lee rants against voting rights for Americans - [Tribune](#)

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Subject: Mike Lee rips mask mandates for young kids
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:34:14 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: The Rundown | The Salt Lake Tribune <newsletters@sltrib.com>
To: Reader <tanidowning@utah.gov>

The Rundown brings you the day's must-read political news every weekday morning, helping you understand what's happening and what it means for you.

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Monday, April 26

By Bryan Schott

with an assist from Karina Andrew

Good Monday morning Utah! Thanks for reading "The Rundown."

Don't forget your umbrella today. We're expecting rain across Utah today with highs in the upper 40s in the north and lower 60s in the south.

Talk to me! Got a news tip or some political gossip? Or do you want to share your thoughts on politics? [Send me an email](#) or [find me on Twitter](#).

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Lee: Mask mandates for young children reflect "real hubris"

Sen. Mike Lee teed off on the CDC guidance that children as young as two years old wear masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, saying whoever

came up with the mandate has not spent much time with children.

“We have these guidance documents in place directing people to put masks on children when our peer nations all over the world have set it much, much higher,” said Lee on Fox News.

Lee noted that other nations have suggested masks for children around 11 or 12 years old, and even the World Health Organization is not as aggressive as the CDC, recommending masks for five years old.

“To set it at two and up in the United States reflects some real hubris,” said Lee. “It reflects what happens when somebody issuing the guidance documents doesn’t spend a lot of time with two-year-olds.”

Lee said he sent a letter to the director of the CDC asking for the reasoning behind the guidance he finds objectionable.

“We know that children of that age have a lower rate of infection. We have reason to believe that they have a tendency to spread the virus less. So I want to know what their scientific evidence is that we need to have children as young as two being forced to wear a mask,” he said.

Here's what you need to know for Monday morning

- Utah will get more than \$1.5 billion in federal money from the latest COVID relief bill. Here’s how lawmakers are thinking about spending those funds [\[Tribune\]](#).
- Former Salt Lake County GOP Chair Scott Miller, who resigned after several women complained of a toxic culture within the party, is recanting his apology and is claiming he’s being “Kavanaughed” by false allegations [\[Tribune\]](#).
- Freshman Rep. Blake Moore was elected as co-leader of the Congressional Future Caucus which aims to reduce partisan rancor in Washington [\[Tribune\]](#).

- Utah still allows medical marijuana users buy firearms, but it's still a legal gray area as the substance is still illegal under federal law [\[Tribune\]](#).
 - President Joe Biden will hit his 100th day in office this week. Here's where he stands on fulfilling some of his key campaign promises [\[AP\]](#).
 - 53% of Americans approve of Biden's job performance, which is 13% higher than former President Donald Trump at the same point in his term, but behind Barack Obama and George W. Bush [\[NBC News\]](#).
 - House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy repeatedly refused to answer questions about his reported phone call with Trump during the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol [\[Daily Beast\]](#).
 - Republican members of Congress are holding strategy meetings in Florida this week [\[Politico\]](#).
 - The wave of gun violence in March pushed demand from first-time gun buyers to record levels. The FBI conducted 4.7 million background checks for firearm purchases last month [\[NPR\]](#).
 - India's coronavirus crisis continues unabated, recording another record number of cases. Several countries, including the U.S., are sending urgent medical aid [\[Reuters\]](#).
 - The European Union will let U.S. citizens who have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus visit this summer [\[NYT\]](#).
 - The U.S. military begins withdrawing the final troops from Afghanistan [\[NYT\]](#).
 - A new vaccine against malaria is showing more than 75% efficacy against the disease [\[CNN\]](#).
-

Bagley Cartoon: The Kavanaugh Doctrine

Monday's Utah news roundup

Washington

- Led by Mitt Romney, lawmakers complain Utah's share of money to improve public lands is 'shockingly low' - [Tribune](#)
- How social media and 'attention economy' politics are redefining power in Washington - [Deseret News](#)

Utah

- Utah survivor of military sexual assault says more needs to be done to stop sexual trauma - [KUTV](#)

Legislature

- Utah lawmakers question school mask mandate for K-12 kids - [KSL](#)

COVID

- LDS Church embraces the U.N., but some members see the global group as 'satanic' - [Tribune](#)
- Utah's coronavirus percentage rate continues to climb slightly - [Tribune](#)

Environment & development

- If a Bears Ears monument, larger or smaller, won't guarantee cultural sites aren't trashed, what will? - [Tribune](#)

Local government

- Amelia Powers Gardner elected to fill Utah County Commission vacancy - [Daily Herald](#)

On the opinion pages

- Robert Gehrke: The only solution to the toxic tone of social media is for each of us to try to be better [[Tribune](#)].

ICYMI

- Utah Politics podcast: Can Utah ignore new federal gun laws? - [Tribune](#)
- LDS Church makes a push for all its missionaries to get a COVID-19 vaccine - [Tribune](#)
- Clinic turns to personal relationships to overcome vaccine delays and hesitation among Hispanic Utahns - [Tribune](#)



You say it's your birthday?!!

Happy birthday to former Utah Senate President and current State Tax Commission Chairman John Valentine, and happy belated birthday over the weekend to former state Rep. and current SLC mayoral adviser David Litvack.

If you have a birthday you'd like us to add to our calendar, [send us an email](#).

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Subject: Utah Policy: Amelia Powers Gardner to join the Utah County Commission, Armenian genocide officially recognized

Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:23:58 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - April 26, 2021

Hello Monday. Enjoy the rain as you begin the last week of April. Today is [National Dissertation Day](#), an annual reminder that the best dissertation is a done dissertation.

News you need to know

1. [Amelia Powers Gardner](#) won the special election to replace Tanner Ainge as Utah County Commissioner. She is the first woman to do so. Her win sets up another special election for clerk/auditor.
2. President [Joe Biden](#) officially recognized the [mass killings](#) of 1.5 million Armenians as a genocide. [Turkey was not happy](#), but then again, virtually no countries raise their hands and say "Hey! We wiped out an entire population! Feel free to call it the genocide it is!" The declaration [is a big deal](#) and 100+ years in the making.
3. Former Salt Lake County GOP chair Scott Miller says he's being "Kavanaughed" and has [rescinded his resignation](#) (note: that's not actually a thing). Since he cannot, in fact, rescind his resignation, he [has rescinded his apology](#). A "high-ranking elected official" had persuaded him to "apologize and move on." ["I didn't want to do it," Miller said.](#) "I acquiesced to the experience of that elected official. And I shouldn't have. I shouldn't have listened to him."
4. U.S. health officials [lifted an 11-day pause on COVID-19 vaccinations using Johnson & Johnson's](#) single-dose shot on Friday, after scientific advisers decided its benefits outweigh a rare risk of blood clot. The government uncovered 15 vaccine recipients who developed a highly unusual kind of blood clot out of nearly 8 million people given the J&J shot. All were women, most under age 50. The vaccine will now come with a warning.
5. A cheerleader's Snapchat rant leads to ['momentous' Supreme Court case on student speech](#). The dispute could determine how First Amendment protections apply to the off-campus activities of 50 million public school students. Stay tuned.

Countdown

4 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

5 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)

61 days until the Utah Democrat party organizing convention (06/26/21)

138 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Cross the ocean, cross the street or cross the room: We all can serve](#)

By Holly Richardson

Originally published in the Deseret News Photo Credit: Steven Wood "A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal." - Steve Maraboli

Katharine and Robert Garff to be honored as 42nd "Giant in Our City"

By SL Chamber

The Salt Lake Chamber today announced that Katharine and Robert Garff will be honored with the 42nd Giant in our City award. The award recognizes those with exceptional and distinguished service, as well as extraordinary professional achievement, and is widely known as the most prestigious business award given in Utah.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Politicians, the new social media influencers](#) - Today's political rising stars are harnessing the power of posting to drive their own news cycles and build fan bases for themselves online.
- [Who deserves the credit for Utah's booming economy?](#) - Mel S. Lavitt, former chair of the board for the Governor's Office of Economic Development, deserves as much praise as anyone.
- How U2's [The Edge and Utah's quest for nuclear power](#) are related - Ireland's famous guitarist says nuclear energy is a must
- New Salt Lake investigations chief hopes to be ['role model for everyone'](#) - Joe Tarver becomes one of few African Americans at the upper ranks of law enforcement in the Beehive State
- [What does Gen Z want](#) when they grow up? Similarity to their parents may surprise you
- [How an infrastructure bill can help rural communities](#) in the West - Communities across the rural West have a long list of infrastructure needs. Will the Biden administration's or a GOP counterproposal, make the difference?
- [Meet the 7 members](#) of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Yacht Club preparing to do the 'seemingly impossible' - paddle 70 miles in 48 hours in a self-built boat in race on Puget Sound in June

Salt Lake Tribune

- [LDS Church embraces the U.N.](#), but some members see the global group as 'satanic'
- If a Bears Ears monument, larger or smaller, [won't guarantee cultural sites aren't trashed](#), what will?
- [Islamophobia on the rise](#) around the world, including the United States, according to United Nations report
- Elizabeth Smart launches a [new self-defense training course](#) in SLC
- Advocates concerned about [southern Utah road extension](#) through a corner of the Warner Ridge Fort Pearce Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
- [LDS Church makes a push for all its missionaries](#) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Missionaries who choose not to be vaccinated will serve in their home countries.
- [Women may soon be the majority](#) on the Utah alcohol commission if the Senate approves the Governor's latest nominees.

Other Utah News Sources

- [Thieves Steal More Than \\$4,000 Worth Of Donations](#) From SLC Nonprofit Oulesseboungou Alliance (KSL)
- [Armenians In Utah Gather](#) To Honor Genocide Anniversary (KSL)
- [Utah survivor of military sexual assault](#), Paul Lloyd, says more needs to be done to stop sexual trauma (KUTV)
- ['Even if it's your own'](#): No more parking near driveways, WVC issues new ordinance (ABC4)
- [The hidden crime of human trafficking](#) in Utah (Fox13)
- [Attempted child abduction](#) rattles South Ogden neighborhood (Fox13)
- [Degree for Life](#): UVU grad Djiba Soumaoro advances from poverty to paying it forward (Daily Herald)
- Utah County Clerk/Auditor [Amelia Powers Gardner has been elected](#) to fill a vacancy on the Utah County Commission, becoming the first woman to be elected to the county governing body. (Daily Herald)
- Continuum of Care: [What is Housing First](#) and is it important? (Daily Herald)
- [Weber County law enforcement leaders](#): Defusing tense situations not always feasible (Standard Examiner)
- [Shadow Valley Elementary in Ogden](#) recognized as top environmental education school (Standard Examiner)

COVID Corner

- [Indian hospitals swamped](#) by coronavirus as countries promise aid (Reuters)
- CEO of vaccine maker [sold \\$10 million in stock](#) before company ruined Johnson & Johnson doses (Washington Post)
- [Alaska lawmaker blasted airline](#) for 'mask tyranny.' Now she's banned from the only flights to the capital. (Washington Post)
- As India breaks another global Covid-19 record and hospitals run out of oxygen, [countries pledge assistance and aid](#) (CNN)
- [What you need to know](#) about the coronavirus right now (Yahoo News)
- [India sets Covid-19 infection record](#) for fourth straight day with hospitals desperate for oxygen (CNN)
- [U.S. to give India raw materials](#) for vaccines, medical supplies to help fight Covid surge (CNBC)
- Millions Are [Skipping Their Second Doses](#) of Covid Vaccines (New York Times)
- European Union will let [vaccinated Americans](#) visit this summer (Fox News)
- [Fauci on Johnson & Johnson vaccine temporary pause](#): 'We take safety very seriously' (Yahoo News)
- One dose of Pfizer, AstraZeneca vaccines [protect for at least 10 weeks](#), study says (Deseret News)
- US Covid-19 vaccination efforts [may start to slow](#) now, official says. Here's why. (CNN)
- Covid-19 Live Updates: [A Billion Shots](#), but Global Cases Keep Rising (New York Times)
- A Man In Spain Was Arrested [After Allegedly Infecting 22 People](#) With The Coronavirus (Buzzfeed)

National Headlines

- [GOP worries fiscal conservatism losing](#) its rallying cry (The Hill)
- [McCarthy defends Trump response](#) to deadly Jan. 6 riot (The Hill)
- [Biden's first 100 days](#): Where he stands on key promises (AP)
- This week: [Biden to pitch Congress](#) ahead of 100-day mark (The Hill)
- [Biden expanding summer food program](#) for 34M schoolchildren (AP)
- For many U.S. college Republicans, [time to 'move on'](#) from Trump (Reuters)
- Gross. Study finds [Lyme-carrying ticks next to beaches](#) and 'pretty much wherever we looked' (Washington Post)
- [Head-kicking attack](#) in New York leaves Asian man, 61, in coma, sparks hate-crime investigation (Washington Post)
- [Breaking Point](#): How Mark Zuckerberg and Tim Cook Became Foes (New York Times)
- [The Biology of Grief](#) - Scientists know that the intense stress of grieving can affect the body in various ways, but much remains a mystery. (New York Times)
- [Anti-Trump conservative group](#) to grade GOP lawmakers on whether they uphold (or undermine) democracy (CNN)
- McCarthy slams Biden's first 100 days as ['bait and switch'](#) after promises of bipartisanship (Fox News)
- Democrat [Manchin praises GOP infrastructure proposal](#), backs targeted approach (CNBC)
- [Supreme Court Eyes Rich Activists](#), Their Anonymous Donations And Tax Breaks (NPR)
- Civil Rights Group Calls On Justice Dept. To [Suspend Local Police Grants](#) (NPR)
- ['We compromise, we die'](#): Rep. Cori Bush says she won't support qualified immunity compromise in policing bill talks (CNN)
- Black Democrats, [Conflicted on a Voting Rights Push](#), Fear It's Too Late (New York Times)
- Michigan GOP congressman: 'I would say [my goal is to not be a hypocrite](#)' - Peter Meijer remains a target for voting to impeach Donald Trump. (Politico)
- ['Look after my babies'](#): In Ethiopia, a Tigray family's quest (AP)

Policy News

[GREENbike offers \\$1 annual pass for essential workers in 2021](#)

GREENbike, Salt Lake City's nonprofit bike-share program, is now offering a discounted \$1 annual pass (reduced from \$75) to all essential workers in 2021. For its 2021 discount, the bike-share program has expanded the categories of workers eligible for the pass to include those who lost their job in 2020 due to COVID-19.

[Sen. Lee, Rep. Smith Lead Letter to CDC on Face Mask Guidance for Kids](#)

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) led 30 of their colleagues in sending a bicameral letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requesting information on how the agency determined its guidance for children aged two years and older to wear face masks to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Members of Congress wrote in part:

[Sen. Romney Joins Colleagues in Introducing Legislation to Advance U.S. Strategic Competitiveness with China](#)

U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) joined Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Todd Young (R-IN)

in introducing the Endless Frontier Act, legislation to advance and solidify the United States' leadership in scientific and technological innovation through increased investments in the discovery, creation, and manufacturing of technology critical to U.S. national security and economic competitiveness.

Center for Methane Emissions Solutions Launches Ad Campaign Urging Senator Romney to Vote to Restore Rules that Cut Methane Waste

Today, the Center for Methane Emissions Solutions (CMES) launched a digital ad campaign in the Salt Lake Tribune. The ads are aimed at Senator Mitt Romney, urging him to restore rules to cut methane pollution and support Senate Joint Resolution 14.

Romney, Colleagues Propose Bill to Support Role Agricultural Community Plays in Confronting Climate Change

U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) joined Senators Mike Braun (R-IN), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) in introducing the bipartisan Growing Climate Solutions Act, legislation to break down barriers to farmers and foresters interested in participating in carbon markets so they can be rewarded for climate-smart practices. The bill has garnered broad, bipartisan support from over 60 leading agricultural and environmental organizations.

Business Headlines

- [Utah dominates](#) list of best small cities to start a business. WalletHub.com says St. George is the best small city in the nation to start a business. (Salt Lake Tribune)
 - As U.S. capital gains tax hike looms, [wealthy look for ways to soften the blow](#) (Reuters)
 - [U.S. auto dealers are winners](#) as chip shortage lifts vehicle profits (Reuters)
 - [Asia Pacific Hong Kong, Singapore to start long-delayed travel bubble](#) next month (Reuters)
 - [Menstrual leave](#): South Korea airline ex-CEO fined for refusing time off (BBC)
 - Finding Your Way To A [\(High-Paying\) Trade Job](#) - Without College (NPR)
 - Federal [Aid to Renters Moves Slowly](#), Leaving Many at Risk (New York Times)
 - A New Benefit Raises an Old Question: [Which Mothers Should Work?](#) (New York Times)
 - New home sales surge as [lumber prices skyrocket](#) (Axios)
 - Investors are struggling to time [2021's magic stock market](#) (Axios)
 - [Facebook v Apple](#): The ad tracking row heats up (BBC)
 - To Be Tracked or Not? [Apple Is Now Giving Us the Choice](#). (New York Times)
 - A Viral Tweet Promised [A Battle Between People Named Josh](#) And It Actually Happened (Buzzfeed)
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1777** - Sybil Ludington rides 40 miles on horseback through the night to alert American militia of British attack.
 - **1927** - Anne McLaren is born. She became a leading figure in developmental biology and became a pioneer in human IVF (in vitro fertilization).
 - **1933** - Carol Burnett is born.
 - **1954** - Polio vaccine trials begin, involving 1.8 million children.
 - **1984** - President Reagan visits China.
 - **1986** - A test gone wrong triggers the world's worst nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.
 - **1989** - Lucille Ball dies at age 78.
-

Wise Words

"Comedy is tragedy plus time."

~Carol Burnett

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

"H&M added a section for sustainable items, Lowe's offered a free garden-to-go kit and Subway recycled last week's tuna."

~Jimmy Fallon, on companies observing Earth Day

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Subject: Today's Headlines: Israel Ground Forces Shell Gaza as Fighting Intensifies

Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 at 2:01:01 AM Mountain Daylight Time

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Friday, May 14, 2021

Top News

Israel Ground Forces Shell Gaza as Fighting Intensifies

By Declan Walsh

The surge in fighting left Israel in an unprecedented position — fighting Palestinian militants on its southern flank as it sought to head off its worst civil unrest in decades.

Vaccinated Americans May Go Without Masks in Most Places, Federal Officials Say

By Roni Caryn Rabin, Apoorva Mandavilli and Noah Weiland

Fully vaccinated people do not have to wear masks or maintain social distance indoors or outdoors, with some exceptions, the C.D.C. advised.

Activists and Ex-Spy Said to Have Plotted to Discredit Trump 'Enemies' in Government

By Adam Goldman and Mark Mazzetti

The campaign included planned operations against President Trump's national security adviser at the time, H.R. McMaster, and F.B.I. employees, according to documents and interviews.



For more top news, go to [NYTimes.com](#) »

Editors' Picks

WORLD

In Mixed Israel Cities Proud of Good Relations, a Sudden, Explosive Division

By Isabel Kershner

Not even during the intifadas, the mass Palestinian uprisings of the past, did Israel experience such a surge of both Arab and Jewish mob violence.

OPINION

Who Should Lead New York City?

Here are the mayoral candidates in their own words, so voters can make up their own minds.

Today's Videos

Video VIDEO: Biden Celebrates New C.D.C. Mask

Guidance

By Reuters

President Biden applauded new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that allows Americans who are fully vaccinated to stop wearing masks for most indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Video VIDEO: Tensions Remain High Between Arabs and Jews in Israel

By The Associated Press

Fighting has broken out in the streets between Israeli Jews and members of the Arab minority with warnings from Israeli leaders that the conflict risks spiraling out of control.

Video VIDEO: U.S. Begins Vaccine Rollout for Children Ages 12 to 15

By Reuters

Children across the country began receiving the coronavirus vaccine on Thursday, after the federal government recommended making the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine available to those aged 12 to 15. The U.S. is the first in the world to launch a mass vaccination campaign for children.

World

AFGHANISTAN DISPATCH

A City Under Siege: What the War Looks Like on Afghanistan's Front Line

As bullets from a Taliban machine gun ricocheted through the street below, an Afghan soldier wearing an "I Heart Kabul" T-shirt took a brief rest. "There has been fighting day and night."

Showing Little Contrition, David Cameron Faces U.K. Parliament in Lobbying Scandal

By Stephen Castle

The former prime minister's frenetic work for a failing finance company cast a harsh glare on both his character and ethics in British public life.

Cameroon Sentences Transgender Women to 5 Years in Prison

By Elian Peltier

Human rights groups and lawyers said the sentences are the latest examples of a crackdown on homosexual and transgender people in Cameroon.

For more world news, go to [NYTimes.com/World](https://www.nytimes.com/world) »

U.S.

Colonial Pipeline Paid Roughly \$5 Million in Ransom to Hackers

By Michael D. Shear, Nicole Perleth and Clifford Krauss

The payment clears the way for gas to begin flowing again, but it risks emboldening other criminal groups to take American companies hostage by seizing control of their computers.

'Get People Off': Shutdown Ordered for Cracked Bridge in Memphis

By Rick Rojas

The Interstate 40 bridge over the Mississippi River could be closed for weeks, if not longer, because of damage that could have led to "a catastrophic event."

Judge Delays Trial for Other Officers Charged in Killing of George Floyd

By Matt Furber

The delay in the trial of three former officers who are charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder allows for a separate federal case against them to move forward.

For more U.S. news, go to [NYTimes.com/US](https://www.nytimes.com/US) »

ADVERTISEMENT

Politics

‘A Perpetual Motion Machine’: How Disinformation Drives Voting Laws

By Maggie Astor

After former President Donald J. Trump undermined public confidence in elections, Republican lawmakers are defending voting restrictions by citing a lack of public confidence.

As Trillions Flow Out the Door, Stimulus Oversight Faces Challenges

By Alan Rappeport and Glenn Thrush

A sprawling system meant to police trillions of dollars is showing signs of strain as watchdogs warn of waste, fraud and abuse.

Republicans Rewrite History of the Capitol Riot, Hampering an Inquiry

By Luke Broadwater

Republicans in Congress are insisting that any investigation into the Jan. 6 attack include an examination of left-wing violence.



For more political news, go to [NYTimes.com/Politics](https://www.nytimes.com/Politics) »

Business

The Gateses' Public Split Spotlights a Secretive Fortune

By Nicholas Kulish, David Gelles, Anupreeta Das and Kate Kelly

Their marital estate is enormous and complex, containing assets as varied as stocks and farmland. Divvying it up could have implications for philanthropy.

McDonald's to Increase Wages as Job Market Tightens

By Julie Creswell

The fast-food company is raising wages at company-owned restaurants, but the move still falls short of demands for a minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

Inflation Is Here. What Now?

By Neil Irwin

Prices are rising fast, in ways that seem temporary, yet this could change expectations in ways that are self-reinforcing.

For more business news, go to [NYTimes.com/Business](https://www.nytimes.com/Business) »

Technology

He's a Dogecoin Millionaire. And He's Not Selling.

By Kevin Roose

Glauber Contessoto went looking for something that could change his fortunes overnight. He found it in a joke cryptocurrency.

Pipeline Hack Points to Growing Cybersecurity Risk for Energy System

By Brad Plumer

Energy infrastructure has increasingly come under assault, and analysts said the attack that cut off fuel supplies this week should be a "wake-up call."

Boeing Says F.A.A. Has Approved New Fix for 737 Max

By Mike Ives and Niraj Chokshi

The troubled jet resumed flying commercially in the United States late last year. But Boeing asked airlines last month to stop flying some of the planes because of a potential electrical problem.

For more technology news, go to [NYTimes.com/Technology](https://www.nytimes.com/Technology) »

Sports

Shohei Ohtani Unleashed

By Scott Miller

With the so-called Ohtani rules junked, the Angels' "super freak" is dominating as a hitter and a pitcher. "There are things that he can do on a baseball field that other people can't."

ON BASEBALL

58 Strikeouts Without a Walk. Then Ball Four.

By Tyler Kepner

Two years ago, Corbin Burnes had an 8.82 E.R.A. On Thursday he came off the Covid-19 injured list and set two major league strikeout records.

ON HORSE RACING

Winning Always Wins. Will Integrity Place, or Even Show?

By Joe Drape

Ahead of the Preakness, with horse racing's best-known trainer mired in controversy, it seems the sport's credibility is going down to the wire.

For more sports news, go to [NYTimes.com/Sports](https://www.nytimes.com/Sports) »

Arts

CRITIC'S PICK

Review: 'The Underground Railroad' Weaves an Epic Vision

By James Poniewozik

In Barry Jenkins's dreamlike adaptation of the Colson Whitehead novel, the railway is real and so is the pain.



As Broadway Plans Its Return, ‘Hamilton’ Will Require Vaccines Backstage

By Michael Paulson

With 23 shows setting Broadway reopening dates, audiences can expect full crowds, masks and flexible ticketing policies. But not lower prices.

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

From David Hammons, a Tribute to Pier 52 and Lastingness

By Holland Cotter

Their artistic paths crossed like ships in the night. But in “Day’s End,” Hammons creates an immortalizing homage to Gordon Matta-Clark and art history.

For more arts news, go to [NYTimes.com/Arts](https://www.nytimes.com/arts) »

Movies

CRITIC'S PICK

‘Those Who Wish Me Dead’ Review: A Desperate Scramble to Survive

By Ben Kenigsberg

This thriller starring Angelina Jolie takes its time but doesn’t waste any time.

CRITIC'S PICK

‘Oxygen’ Review: The Thrill of Claustrophobia

By Lena Wilson

Trapped in a cryogenic chamber with oxygen levels dwindling, a woman must learn how to team up with the machine in order to escape.

CRITIC'S PICK

‘La Piscine’ Review: Pretty, Rich People Behaving Poorly

By Glenn Kenny

Alain Delon, Romy Schneider and Jane Birkin are among the reasons this restoration of a French thriller is worth watching.

New York

Trump's 'Fringe Benefits' for Employees Are Under Scrutiny

By Jonah E. Bromwich, Ben Protess and William K. Rashbaum

The investigation into the former president has led prosecutors to subpoena records from a New York City private school.

Candidates Clash Over Future of New York in First Mayoral Debate

By Katie Glueck

The eight Democrats competing to win the June 22 primary presented divergent views on how to lead the city in a sometimes acerbic debate.

N.Y.P.D. Officer Is Shot While Responding to Gunfire

By Neil Vigdor, Azi Paybarah and Derrick Bryson Taylor

The officer was expected to recover, and a suspect was in custody. The confrontation came after an earlier shooting in which a man was killed.

For more New York news, go to [NYTimes.com/NewYork](https://www.nytimes.com/NewYork) »

Media & Advertising

As Ethiopia Fights in Tigray Region, a Crackdown on Journalists

By Abdi Latif Dahir and Declan Walsh

Authorities have detained journalists without charges and revoked the accreditation of a reporter for The New York Times.

Oprah Winfrey, Keanu Reeves to Participate in New Book Show

By Elizabeth A. Harris

The U.S. Book Show hopes to fill the void left by BookExpo, an annual convention that attracted thousands of booksellers, librarians and publishing professionals.



TIMES INSIDER

When Sources Stand Together: Reporting on the Willows Inn

By Katie Van Syckle

A Times food journalist who revealed accusations of misconduct at the restaurant in Washington State discusses how employees came to tell their story.

For more media & advertising news, go to [NYTimes.com/Media](https://www.nytimes.com/media) »

Science

Coronavirus Vaccines Protect Pregnant Women, Another Study Suggests

By Emily Anthes

The shots may also have benefits for infants and do not seem to damage the placenta, according to the latest research.

Another Group of Scientists Calls for Further Inquiry Into Origins of the Coronavirus

By James Gorman and Carl Zimmer

Researchers urge an open mind, saying lack of evidence leaves theories of natural spillover and laboratory leak both viable.

Extraterrestrial Plutonium Atoms Turn Up on Ocean Bottom

By William J. Broad

The rare form of the element found on the Pacific seabed points to its violent birth in colliding stars.

For more science news, go to [NYTimes.com/Science](https://www.nytimes.com/science) »

Obituaries

Ed Ward, Rock Critic and Historian, Is Dead at 72

By Richard Sandomir

His reviews for Crawdaddy, Rolling Stone and Creem were admired. But his tough criticism at The Austin American-Statesman inspired a “Dump Ed Ward” movement.



Eugene Webb, Leading Harlem Real Estate Broker, Dies at 102

By Sam Roberts

Raised in Alabama, he made his fortune in New York and became a banker, civic leader and developer.

For more Obituaries, go to [NYTimes.com/Obituaries](https://www.nytimes.com/obituaries) »

Opinion

MICHELLE GOLDBERG

How Republicans Could Steal the 2024 Election

By Michelle Goldberg

Liz Cheney's ouster showed that the G.O.P. is still at war with democracy.

BRET STEPHENS

For the Sake of Peace, Israel Must Rout Hamas

By Bret Stephens

The goal of U.S. policy is to support Israel's efforts to defang, deflate and ultimately disempower the terrorist group.

PAUL KRUGMAN

What Do Used Car Prices Say About Biden's Agenda?

By Paul Krugman

What did we learn from April's inflation report? Not much.

GUEST ESSAY

Ellen's Relatability Was Her Downfall

By Amil Niazi

The widening gulf between the talk show host's approachable shtick and her actual self created an impossible cognitive dissonance.

GUEST ESSAY

The Anti-Abortion Movement Can't Use This Myth Anymore

By Jessica Valenti

Covid-19 may end up inadvertently speeding up abortion progress in America — and exposing conservative hypocrisy along the way.

GUEST ESSAY

How India Can Survive the Virus

By Shahid Jameel

Vaccines alone won't save the country.

For more Opinion, go to [NYTimes.com/Opinion](https://www.nytimes.com/opinion) »

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Subject: Utah Policy: "End the sin of racism," UNICEF thanks LDS Charities for vaccine help and Secretary Haaland is in Utah

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:35:54 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - April 8, 2021

Hello Thursday! Today is [National Zoo Lovers Day](#). Did you know that the Vienna Zoo is the oldest existing zoo and was opened to the public in 1765. The United State's first public zoo, Central Park Zoo, opened in 1874 in New York, more than a century later. If you head off to Hogle Zoo today, remember that [they still require masks](#).

6 things you need to know

1. [Ryan Gabriel](#), a Black sociology professor at BYU, asked students [at a Tuesday devotional](#) to help "end the sin of racism" - and to stop trying to not see race. "To pretend that race is unimportant by saying, 'I don't see race' - or to falsely diminish the impacts of racism on the lives of Heavenly Father's children - does nothing to stop racism."
2. The seven female Cabinet heads in the Cox-Henderson administration weigh in on why having [women in leadership matters](#). "We are here because our governor believes that improving outcomes across this great state requires inclusion and diversity of all voices. We are respected for our skills and talents first." When women are "purposefully at the table,...performance improves."
3. Thom Carter, the governor's energy advisor, writes that "keeping it in the ground" [isn't really an option](#). "All power, whether traditional or renewable, is impacted by what comes out of the ground. Advocating for renewable energy sources also means maintaining, if not expanding, our mining infrastructure."
4. Mitch McConnell said on Tuesday that it was ["quite stupid"](#) for corporations to weigh in on the Georgia voting law, but clarified ["I'm not talking about political contributions..."](#) That's fine. It's legal. It's appropriate. I support that."
5. US Interior Secretary Deb Haaland [is in Utah](#), meeting with tribal members and elected officials as she tours [Bears Ears](#) and Escalante Grand Staircase to discuss the potential restoration of two national monuments. It seems like there has to be a better way to deal with national monuments than [the whiplash of conflicting executive orders](#).
6. [In a new video](#), UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore thanks Latter-day Saint Charities for [its \\$20 million donation](#). The grant contributes to UNICEF's historic efforts in leading the procurement and supply of 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines for nearly 200 participating COVAX countries and economies by the end of 2021.

Countdown

6 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)
16 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)
22 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)
23 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)
156 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

Tweets of the day

By Holly Richardson

Dark Skies, handcuffing babies, Daily Universe to stop printing weekly paper, the Utah County Commission "reconsiders" and Secretary Haaland is in town.

Women in government

By Holly Richardson

Kaysville councilmember Tamara Tran gets profiled in a national publication and Utah's female cabinet members speak up about the importance of diversity in representation.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Evan McMullin is back, and he's ready to remake American politics](#) - Never Trump conservatives like McMullin and Miles Taylor helped elect Joe Biden. Where do they go now?
- [The water that couldn't save](#) - Will the Great Salt Lake go up in dust?
- [National Association of Broadcasters CEO Gordon Smith announces he's stepping down](#) - The former U.S. senator's announcement comes following a landmark Supreme Court ruling on ownership of television, radio and newspaper media.
- [COVID-19 stimulus fatigue? Utahns say they'll take the money, but they don't really need it](#) - Data from a new Deseret News-Hinckley Institute of Politics poll shows over half of residents don't consider the latest, and most generous, round of stimulus checks to be that big a deal.
- [Salt Lake City extends mask mandate beyond April 10 end date set by lawmakers](#) - Salt Lake County declines to extend the order.
- [Parents push back on ongoing mask mandate in schools as statewide requirement nears end](#) - Statewide mandate ends April 10, but K-12 school requirement remains in place until June 15.
- [What do Utahns think about businesses requiring masks after mandate ends?](#) - More than 70% of residents say they're OK with that, according to a new poll.
- [Lawmaker wants voters to decide on time limits for raising old claims of sex abuse](#) - Advocates and others call attention to legislative measures addressing sexual assault during month of awareness.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Amid complaints of a toxic culture for women within the Salt Lake County GOP, Kathleen Anderson jumps into race for chair](#) - The former congressional candidate joins Chris Null, a longtime party insider, and Andrew Langford, a political newcomer, in bid to shake up leadership and set a new tone for the county's Republican Party.
- [In apparent defiance of state law, Mayor Erin Mendenhall says mask mandate will continue in Salt Lake City](#) - Business owners plead with residents, visitors to respect their front-line workers.
- [Provo native Junior Bounous, 95, may have broken world record with Wasatch heliski trip](#) - The first director of Snowbird's Mountain School is believed to have almost a year on current record-holder.
- [After Thursday's Bears Ears tour, Deb Haaland will visit Grand Staircase on Friday](#) - The state's political leaders oppose the monument's restoration, while the tribes want to see it redesignated to cover the entire 1.9 million acres they had initially proposed.
- [Utah lawmakers ended a requirement for a permit to carry a concealed weapon. Has anything really changed?](#) - "Nothing really has changed in how people can behave with a gun," says St. George Republican Rep. Walt Brooks, who was the bill's sponsor. "If you're not legally allowed to have a firearm, then this doesn't change anything."
- [Salt Lake City commission issues recommendations on school-to-prison pipeline, youth racial equity](#) - City Council's racial equity in policing advisers asks for improved funding and consistency to help at-risk students.

Other

- [The "Real" Housewives of Salt Lake City Gets Real About What it is Like to Lose Good Standing With the LDS Church](#) (Utah Stories) - Justin Rose said, "I received a letter from the Church saying that I was no longer in good standing. "When you grow up Mormon it is the worst letter you can get."
- [Iron County Sheriff signs group letter to Biden regarding Southern border](#) (FOX 13) - The letter titled, 'Help America's Sheriffs Keep Our Neighborhoods and Communities Safe by Halting Illegal Immigration,' asks President Biden "to reverse course and help us protect our communities by securing the southern border."
- [FOX 13 Investigates: 326 educators across Utah accidentally hired without full background checks](#) (FOX 13) - The mistakes took place over a span of more than thirty years.
- [St. George man charged with breaking into U.S Capitol on Jan. 6](#) (FOX 13) - Brady Knowlton made his initial appearance in federal court Wednesday.

COVID Corner

- [More than 1 million Utahns have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Salt Lake Tribune) - That represents about 44% the eligible population over the age of 16.
- [Most Utah business owners say they'll still require masks](#) (FOX 13) - Individual businesses have the right to decide whether or not masks are required despite lack of mandates from counties.
- [U.S. begins study assessing allergic reactions to Pfizer and Moderna Covid vaccines](#) (CNBC) - Most of the rare, severe allergic reactions to these vaccines have occurred in people with a history of allergies, public health officials have said.
- [CDC: Do not travel to Canada, even if you are vaccinated](#) (Bring Me The News) - The CDC rates COVID-19 travel advisories from Level 1 (low) to Level 4 (very high), and it has labeled Canada a Level 4 danger zone.
- [UK variant is now the dominant coronavirus strain in the US, says CDC chief](#) (CNN) - The country's daily rate of new cases rose over most of the last four weeks. Part of that is due to the spread of B.1.1.7 and other concerning variants, Walensky said this week.
- [AstraZeneca vaccine linked to rare blood clots, EU regulators conclude](#) (Ars Technica) - Link throws fate of AZ's vaccine into question-and casts dark shadow over J&J's vaccine.
- [Average US COVID-19 death toll plunges even as new cases rise](#) (New York Post) - The average daily COVID-19 death toll plunged by nearly 20 percent in the US over the past week - even as the average number of new cases and hospitalizations went up.
- [CDC says there's no major risk of getting COVID-19 from surfaces](#) (Deseret News) - CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said "disinfection is only recommended in indoor-setting schools and homes where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, within the last 24 hours."
- [One-third of COVID-19 survivors face this troubling disease](#) (Deseret News) - 24% of COVID-19 survivors were diagnosed with neurological or psychological conditions within six months of infections.
- [Scientists want to make an ideal COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what that would look like](#) (Deseret News) - the perfect COVID-19 vaccine would be "administered in a single shot, be room temperature stable, work in all demographics and, even pushed beyond that, ideally be self-administered."

National Headlines

- [Manchin sees 'no circumstance' for voting to kill filibuster](#) (Politico) - The moderate Democrat drew a hard line amid talk about limiting Senate Republicans' power to hold up President Joe Biden's agenda.
- [Biden to unveil 6 executive actions to curb gun violence, nominate a permanent ATF director](#) (USA Today) - The president also is expected to announce his nomination of David Chipman as the director of the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, according to senior administration officials. Chipman is an ATF veteran who currently serves as an adviser for the gun control advocacy group named for former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.
- [This is a *major* warning sign for Republicans](#) (CNN) - Just 25% of the public calls themselves Republicans -- close to the lowest (22%) that Gallup has ever measured since it started doing telephone-based polling.
- [Biden's Tax Plan Aims to Raise \\$2.5 Trillion and End Profit-Shifting](#) (The New York Times) - The plan detailed by the Treasury Department would make it harder for companies to avoid paying taxes on both U.S. income and

profits stashed abroad.

- [Texas Gov. Abbott blames Biden as allegations emerge of sexual assault at child migrant facility](#) (Fox News) - 'The Biden administration is now presiding over the abuse of children,' Abbott said.
- [Task Force Investigates Whether Trump Separated Families Earlier Than Known](#) (NPR) - The task force uncovered 5,600 files from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement from Jan. 20, 2017, the day Donald Trump was sworn in as president, to July 2017.
- [Matt Gaetz trip to Bahamas is part of federal probe into sex trafficking, sources say](#) (CBS News) - Gaetz was on that trip with a marijuana entrepreneur and hand surgeon named Jason Pirozzolo, who allegedly paid for the travel expenses, accommodations, and female escorts.
- [U.S. prepared to lift sanctions inconsistent with Iran nuclear deal](#) (Reuters) - "We are prepared to take the steps necessary to return to compliance with the JCPOA."
- [Congressional Democrats call on Biden administration to demand Saudi Arabia lift blockade on Yemen](#) (CNN) - In an interview with CNN's Becky Anderson on Monday, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud denied the blockade existed

Policy News

[Startup Summit coming May 13th](#)

Join Utah Business and In The Event on May 13th, 2021 for three exclusive panel discussions on everything startups; from early-stage to funding and growth, industry experts from Limitless Flight, Kickstart Fund, Album VC, VentureCapital.org, and Chatbooks will share their secrets to success in three live-streamed panels and a special VIP in-person (but social distanced!) networking event later that evening from 6:00 8:00 pm. The keynote speaker is Brock Blake, founder and CEO of Lendio. Register here for your free tickets to the summit.

[Smith's associates remove 140,000 plastic bags from the environment during one day event](#)

In honor of Earth Month, Smith's Food & Drug, a division of The Kroger Co., are encouraging customers to return thin-filter plastic materials to their local store to be recycled into park benches for the local community. Smith's associates in 141 stores will engage with customers, during an in-store volunteer event on April 7, to explain the importance of recycling plastic and bring awareness to the recycling service available.

[ChamberWest to hold Women in Business spring conference](#)

ChamberWest is holding its annual Women in Business Spring Conference on Tuesday, April 13. The in-person option is sold out but online registration is still available.

[Grand County keeping mask mandate until June 15](#)

The Southeast Utah Public Health Department, in conjunction with the Grand County Council issued the following press release:

Business Headlines

- [Amazon union drive in Alabama sees 55% voter turnout](#) (CNBC) - More than 3,200 Amazon employees cast ballots in the Alabama union drive.
- [Biden Tax Plan Targets Fossil Fuel Subsidies Worth \\$35 Billion](#) (Bloomberg) - The plan is likely to meet stiff resistance from the oil and gas industry and its supporters on Capitol Hill.
- [Inside The World's Billionaires List: The Richest In 2021](#) (Forbes) - The number of billionaires on Forbes' 35th annual list of the world's wealthiest exploded to an unprecedented 2,755--660 more than a year ago.

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **573** - Buddhists celebrate birth of Gautama Buddha.
- **1820** - The famous ancient Greek statue, Venus de Milo is discovered on the Aegean island of Milos.
- **1918** - Betty Bloomer Ford is born.
- **1935** - FDR signs Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, authorizing work-relief programs.
- **1974** - Hank Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's all-time home run record.
- **1990** - 18-year-old Ryan White, national symbol of the AIDS crisis, dies.
- **1993** - Astronaut Ellen Ochoa becomes the first Hispanic woman in space.
- **2013** - Margaret Thatcher, Britain's Iron Lady, dies at age 87.

Wise Words

"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman."

`Margaret Thatcher

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

"The pardon request [from Matt Gaetz] was reportedly seen as a nonstarter at the White House, which is - that's saying a lot, considering Donald Trump once wanted to nuke a hurricane."

- JIMMY KIMMEL

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Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:43:30 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: The Rundown | The Salt Lake Tribune <newsletters@sltrib.com>
To: Reader <tanidowning@utah.gov>

The Rundown brings you the day's must-read political news every weekday morning, helping you understand what's happening and what it means for you.

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Wednesday, April 28

By Bryan Schott
with an assist from Karina Andrew

Good morning Utah. Thanks for reading "The Rundown."

There will be lots of sunshine across Utah today. Highs will range from the mid-60s in the north to the upper 70s in the south.

I want to hear from you! Got a news tip or some hot political gossip? Let me know! [Send me an email](#) or [find me on Twitter](#).

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Not on the list

The Salt Lake County Republican Party has a rule that any elected official who lives in the county is automatically a delegate to the county and state convention. Unfortunately, the party did not follow its own rules, and two

members of Congress are now out in the cold.

The Salt Lake County GOP did not include Sen. Mitt Romney and Rep. Burgess Owens' names on the official list of 950 delegates submitted to the state party ahead of this weekend's state convention. Neither gets to vote Saturday on who will lead the party for the next two years.

Whether it was an oversight or on purpose is the subject of some debate.

Newly elected party chair Chris Null admitted Romney and Owens were omitted from the delegate list, saying the error went unnoticed until after the April 22 deadline for submitting delegate lists.

"The Salt Lake County Republican Party apologizes to Senator Romney and Representative Owens. We support our elected officials and appreciate their service and involvement in the Party. We will make every effort to ensure this does not happen again," said Null in an email.

Null added that they'd make sure to give Romney and Owens delegate status as soon as they can, but that probably won't be until next year.

However, several county party members said privately Romney was left off the list as punishment for his votes to convict former President Donald Trump in both of his impeachment trials. They said Owens was also left off the list intentionally, but for unexplained reasons.

There may be a movement on Saturday morning to add Owens as a delegate, which also could include Romney.

Stay tuned.

Here's what you need to know for Wednesday morning

- Rep. Burgess Owens falsely claimed during a TV interview Salt Lake City "defunded" police by \$5 million and murders went up by 40%. The city's

murder rate did jump to 33%, but there were only four more murders last year [[Tribune](#)].

- Utah's housing market is so tight that some buyers are offering \$100k over the asking price. Average prices jumped 17% to 23% in Salt Lake County [[Tribune](#)].
- Utah First Lady Abby Cox is proposing several measures to help combat what she sees as an "empathy crisis" [[Tribune](#)].
- The independent redistricting commission is grappling with how to redraw Utah's political boundaries while maintaining public trust. Former Rep. Rob Bishop complained that the just-released 2020 Census data is already out of date [[Tribune](#)].
- President Joe Biden will address a joint session of Congress this evening to mark his first 100 days in office. Only 200 people will be in attendance [[NYT](#)].
- Biden will present another \$1 trillion+ spending package tonight. The proposal will offer Americans two years of universal preschool and two years of free community college regardless of income status [[Axios](#)].
- The Republican response will be given by South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott [[WaPo](#)].
- Must-watch interview. D.C. police officer Michael Fanone, who suffered a heart attack while defending the U.S. Capitol from a mob trying to stop the certification of the 2020 election, described in vivid detail the terror he experienced on January 6. He also called out Republican officials who have tried to whitewash those events while defending former President Donald Trump's role in the violence [[CNN](#)].
- Top White House officials have been quietly meeting with Republican senators who crafted an offer to Biden's infrastructure spending plan [[Axios](#)].
- A new poll puts Biden's favorability rating at 58%. 85% of Democrats give

him an “A” or “B” for his first 100 days in office. 44% of independents gave him the same grades [[Politico](#)].

- The CDC says masks no longer have to be worn outdoors except in crowded places. Unvaccinated people are still urged to wear masks [[NYT](#)].
 - The U.S. economy looks set to soar. Consumer confidence hit a 14-month high in April as more businesses reopened as pandemic restrictions loosened [[Reuters](#)].
 - Gasoline may be difficult to find this summer, but not because of a supply shortage. There are not enough tanker truck drivers needed to deliver the gas [[CNN](#)].
 - JPMorgan Chase expects its employees to return to the office on a rotating basis by July [[CNBC](#)].
 - Idaho passed a “heartbeat” abortion ban, which prohibits all abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected [[CNN](#)].
 - India’s COVID-19 outbreak continues to rage. The country has reported more than 17 million cases, but experts fear the real number could be 30 times greater [[CNN](#)].
 - Florida officials are releasing close to a billion genetically modified mosquitoes to eradicate a type of mosquito that carries several diseases [[Daily Mail](#)].
 - The Burning Man festival has been canceled for the second year in a row due to the pandemic [[NYT](#)].
-

Bagley Cartoon: Gull-ible

Wednesday's Utah news roundup

Utah

- Utah Gov. Spencer Cox names acting state treasurer - [Tribune](#)
- Most Utahns, including Salt Lake County residents, say they're ready to return to theaters, restaurants and festivals this summer - [Tribune](#)
- Fourth Utahn charged after allegedly storming the U.S. Capitol - [Tribune](#)

Washington

- Utahns in Congress say Taiwan can teach the world how to handle COVID-19 - [Deseret News](#)

COVID

- Utah has administered 2.073 million COVID-19 vaccines - [Tribune](#)

Environment & development

- Cottonwood Heights neighbors ask LDS Church to preserve small park instead of selling it for development - [Tribune](#)
- Big chunk of SLC's Main Street will close to cars — maybe permanently - [FOX 13](#)

Local government

- Density debate: Taylorsville residents oppose apartments, city says they're out of room - [KUTV](#)
- Park City consultancy deal includes \$185-per-hour rate for former City

Hall staffer - [Park Record](#)

On the opinion pages

- Nick Huey: Fellow Republicans, let's get off the menu - [Tribune](#)
 - Gordon S. Jones: Private investment was key for COVID-19 vaccine - [Tribune](#)
 - Jason Keith: As Utah faces extreme drought, it's time for common-sense climate solutions - [Tribune](#)
-

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Subject: Utah Policy: Pope Francis on the state of the world, lessons from Jan. 6 and Friday fun tweets
Date: Friday, February 12, 2021 at 7:39:57 AM Mountain Standard Time
From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>
To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

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Situational Analysis - February 12, 2021

Happy Friday and welcome to a long weekend! The Utah legislature is taking Monday off for President's Day, so Utah Policy will as well. We will be back in your inboxes Tuesday morning.

As we head into Valentine's Day weekend, here's a bit of trivia for you. It was on February 14th that history says Saint Valentine was beheaded in Rome. His crime? Continuing to perform weddings after Claudius the Cruel, Emperor of Rome, outlawed marriages so more men would be willing to become fodder for his war machine. Also on Feb. 14, 1931, The original *Dracula* film starring Bela Lugosi is released. How romantic. (Hot tip: Your Valentine will probably be more impressed if you DON'T take him or her to watch death by blood sucking monsters. Although the *Twilight* movies might be ok....)

Also this weekend: Trump's defense lawyers will present their case to the Senate.

If you only have time for one thing today: [Read and heed](#) the warnings from the National Weather Service: Avalanche danger is high in the mountains. Both human-triggered and natural avalanches are likely "and can be up to 5 feet deep, several hundred feet wide **and likely unsurvivable.**" Be safe out there.

Countdown

21 days to the end of the 2021 Utah Legislature (3/5/21)

61 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

77 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Pope Francis on the state of the world, QANon's true believers and infrastructure attacks](#)

By Holly Richardson

The world is seriously ill - Pope Francis spoke earlier this week in his annual address to the Holy See diplomatic corps about a world that is "seriously ill." "The pandemic shed light on the risks and consequences inherent in a way of life dominated by selfishness and a culture of waste, and it set before us a choice: either to continue on the road we have followed until now, or to set out on a new path," Francis said.

Commentary: Nation's top politicians experienced a violent riot; Will they learn a key lesson from it?

By LaVarr Webb

The tragic events of Jan. 6, when rioters invaded the U.S. Capitol, were poignantly captured in edited videos played by House impeachment prosecutors this week. The footage showing what happened was emotional and harrowing. The breaking glass, the smashed doors, the mob's running battles with Capitol police. Many of the nation's top politicians were terrified, cowering in their offices and other locations, fearful for their lives. Reporters covering the impeachment trial described the footage as "visceral," "shocking," "horrible," "dark," "haunting," "packing enormous emotional punch."

Tweets of the day: Friday fun

By Holly Richardson

This Friday, we mark the start of the Lunar New Year, see a VERY talented 6-year-old, have a couple of tweets about puppets - and a cat, a dance party, a VERY cool attic find, a Park City-ite shines in Finland and some serious generosity.

Utah Headlines

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Provo hospital trying to give out 1,900 doses of COVID-19 vaccine by Friday](#) The doses of the Pfizer vaccine won't go to waste, a Utah County Health department spokeswoman said.
- [Mike Lee meets privately with Trump's lawyers, even though he acts as juror in impeachment trial](#) - Sen. Lee, along with Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, met with Trump's lawyers on Thursday afternoon after Democratic House managers rested their case.
- [Utah House Speaker Brad Wilson forgot to register his truck for months. He wasn't alone.](#) - Rep. Scott Chew, R-Jensen, distributed a photo that truly grabbed the attention of fellow lawmakers as he pushed for the state to restore its old practice of sending postcards to remind vehicle owners when their registration is due. It pictured a truck with expired stickers that is familiar to most House members - it belongs to House Speaker Brad Wilson.
- [Alleged organizers of illegal Halloween party ask the public to help pay their fines](#) - The two event companies are trying to raise \$76,345 to cover their fees and "fight to protect the right to gather" during the pandemic.
- [Controversial 'porn filter' bill squeaks past House committee by one vote](#) - Proposal would require new mobile devices and tablets sold in Utah to have filters blocking adult content turned on by default.
- [Digital archive will save memories of the doomed Utah Theater, but preservationists would rather save the playhouse itself](#) - First-class repository at U. library will include virtual reality tours, but advocates lament loss of the real thing.

Deseret News

- [The past and future of church-state partnerships](#) - President Joe Biden has promised to heal a suffering country. To do so, he'll have to look to religious organizations for help.
- [Is empathy the key to national security? Former national security adviser H.R. McMaster says yes](#) - "Strategic empathy is not to be confused with sympathy. It is really viewing complex challenges, as well as opportunities, from the perspective of the other side - especially of rivals, adversaries, or enemies."
- [What the author of a book on Mark Hofmann had to say about 'Murder Among the Mormons'](#) - "It seemed like a very serious kind of filmmaking," said Rick Turley, who previously served as the assistant church historian, recorder and head of Church Public Affairs.
- [Utah transgender athlete bill: A 'fair playing field' or discrimination and harmful?](#) - After hearing emotional testimony of both LGBTQ advocates and cisgender female athletes, a Utah House panel recommended 6-4 a bill that would bar transgender athletes at public schools from participating in girls sports.
- [Gov. Cox makes cameo in impeachment trial: Lee meets with Trump lawyers](#) - House impeachment manager Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., showed a Jan. 11 clip of Cox on "Good Morning America," saying, "People have to be held accountable, and yes, that includes the president."
- [How many Salt Lake high schoolers tested positive for COVID-19 before returning to school? The number may surprise you](#) - Just four of 2,800 Salt Lake City School District high school students who underwent COVID-19 testing prior to the resumption of in-person learning this week tested positive, according to district officials.
- ['We're going to need you': Governor asks Utahns to volunteer help with COVID-19 vaccinations](#) - Doctors and medical professionals are being sought to administer shots at mass vaccination sites expected to open next month as the state's allotment of vaccines from the federal government continues to climb, as well as Utahns who can provide traffic control, administrative assistance and other needs.
- [Utah's bizarre connections to late pornographer Larry Flynt](#) - Utah declared pornography a public health crisis in 2016, prompting the late Larry Flynt to send every member of the state Legislature a copy of his Hustler magazine.
- [Is minimum wage the best way to lift the poor?](#) - Americans can't really begin a serious discussion about the minimum wage without first recognizing that its 330 million people are scattered among different, sometimes widely varying markets.

Other

- [Facebook data center in Eagle Mountain announces expansion](#) (Daily Herald) - 900,000 square feet with two new buildings.
- [Sen. Romney's 'Family Security Act' proposal gives payments to parents](#) (Fox 13) - "This is a family program that has anti-poverty benefits," said Sam Hammond, Director of Poverty and Welfare Policy at right-leaning think tank, Niskanen.
- [More fixes coming to Utah's medical cannabis program](#) (Fox 13) Senate Escamilla, D-Salt Lake City, and Rep. Ray Ward, R-Bountiful, have introduced a bill that would allow more health care providers to recommend cannabis for up to 15 patients.
- ['Real threat' to Utah's Silicon Slopes, outgoing US attorney warns](#) (KUTV) - Utah's Silicon Slopes are facing a major cyber threat from China, according to outgoing U.S. Attorney for Utah John Huber.

COVID Corner

- [Biden Announces Deal For 200 Million More COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (NPR) - "We've now purchased enough vaccine supplies to vaccinate all Americans," Biden said. "Now we're working to get those vaccines into the arms of millions of people."
- ['Stop killing us': Attacks on Asian Americans highlight rise in hate incidents amid COVID-19](#) (USA Today) - A series of violent crimes against Asians and Asian Americans has prompted activists and experts to warn that racist rhetoric about the coronavirus pandemic may be fueling a rise in hate incidents.
- [Trump's Covid-19 condition was so concerning that doctors considered putting him on a ventilator, source confirms](#) (CNN) - The detail raises questions about whether the former President's condition was worse than officials were willing to publicly acknowledge.
- [Can I gather with friends and family after getting the COVID-19 vaccine? Can I travel? Here are what health experts say.](#) (USA Today) - Not just yet, experts say.
- [Answering COVID-19 vaccine questions: Will drinking too much water dilute the vaccine? When will the general public be vaccinated?](#) (Click on Detroit) - Drinking water has no impact on the vaccine.
- [Dr. Anthony Fauci says April will be 'open season' to get the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Deseret News) - "The number of available doses will allow for much more of a mass vaccination approach which is really much more accelerated than what you're seeing now."
- [Here's what you need to know about double-masking](#) (Deseret News) - The CDC said you shouldn't combine two disposable masks if you're going to double up. Neither are designed to fit tightly so it wouldn't help and you also should not combine a KN95 mask with any other masks.

National Headlines

- [Tuberville says he informed Trump of Pence's evacuation before rioters reached Senate](#) (Politico) - Sen. Tommy Tuberville revealed late Wednesday that he spoke to Donald Trump on Jan. 6, just as a violent mob closed in on the the Senate, and informed the then-president directly that Vice President Mike Pence had just been evacuated from the chamber.
- [Three GOP senators meet with Trump's lawyers on eve of impeachment defense presentation](#) (CNN) Mike Lee, Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz meet with Trump's legal team. Cruz said the meeting was an opportunity for "sharing our thoughts" about their legal strategy.
- [Schumer leaves door open to 14th Amendment measure to bar Trump from office](#) (Fox News) - Senator Kaine is talking about is a censure resolution that would also specifically include the elements of the 14th Amendment that lead to disqualification from future office.
- [Opinion: If Republican senators acquit Trump, they will own the violence that follows](#) (Washington Post) - It has been five years since Trump marveled at his own ability to incite. "I bring rage out," he told The Post's Bob Woodward and Robert Costa. "I always have." If Trumps runs again, his followers will still be raging.
- [Max Burns: Trump impeachment trial video means GOP can't pretend the former president is innocent](#) (NBC

News) - Republicans are criticizing Democrats for playing politics with a trial they know will end in acquittal. But the proceedings' importance goes beyond the outcome.

- [Rep. Stefanik demands prosecution of Cuomo, aides after bombshell report on COVID nursing home deaths](#) (Fox News) - Stefanik's fiery statement followed a bombshell New York Post report alleging that a top Cuomo aide apologized to political damage Democrats suffered over the coronavirus' nursing home death toll by appearing to blame the delayed release of data, in part, on the Trump administration.
 - [Managers seek to make GOP think twice about Trump acquittal](#) (The Hill) - The long and haunting narrative was designed to sway public opinion and the history books as much as the Senate jurors. No more than five or six Senate Republicans are expected to vote to convict the former president.
 - [Missouri newspaper hammers Hawley and Blunt](#) (The Hill) - The St. Louis Post-Dispatch blasted GOP Missouri Sens. Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley Thursday over their handling of former President Trump's impeachment trial, calling it an "embarrassment to the state."
 - [Mounting evidence suggests Trump knew of danger to Pence when he attacked him as lacking 'courage' amid Capitol siege](#) (Washington Post) - Trump's decision to tweet that Pence lacked "courage" came 11 minutes after live coverage showed Pence being rushed off the floor and after Trump's conversation with Tuberville.
 - [Impeachment offers Republicans grace. They don't want it.](#) (NY Times) - House managers are treating Trump's enablers as his victims.
-

Policy News

[Rep. Stewart op-ed: How to turn down the heat on future presidential elections](#)

Rep. Chris Stewart penned an op-ed for the St. George News on turning down the heat on presidential elections "Day-to-day life in this country should not drastically change every time we have an election. Restoring the proper balance between the branches would be like a pressure relief valve on our national discourse." Rep. Chris Stewart

[Rep. Curtis: The left should not dominate the conversation on climate change](#)

Congressman John Curtis penned a joint op-ed with UK Member of Parliament Alicia Kearns. The two members argue that Conservatives should be taking the lead in tackling the greatest environmental challenge of our time- with the opportunity to forge effective and durable climate policies in both of our countries, determine how those solutions can be scaled globally, and drown out the voices of extremism that threaten people's livelihoods and our economies.

[Carvana bringing jobs to Tooele](#)

The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) is pleased to announce that Carvana plans to open an Inspection and Reconditioning Center in Tooele, planning to add nearly 200 new jobs in the state in the next seven years. "Carvana has changed the car-buying experience, especially during a worldwide pandemic," said Dan Hemmert, GOED's executive director. "This expansion will allow the company to serve the state and the Southwest region better as well as create almost 200 jobs. We wish Carvana the best success as they continue to grow."

[Route to expand its Utah headquarters](#)

The Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) is pleased to announce that Route App, Inc. will expand its Utah location, adding up to 3,353 new high-paying jobs in the state in the next 11 years. "This is a big win for Utah, and we couldn't be more excited for this expansion and the number of high-paying jobs that will be created over the next 11 years," said Dan Hemmert, GOED's executive director. "For a company that was founded in 2018, we are amazed at the growth and the opportunities Route will bring to Utahns."

[Business community responds to executive order restricting energy leases](#)

The Salt Lake Chamber has issued the following statement regarding the executive order placing a moratorium on new oil and gas development leases on federal lands: "The Biden Administration's recent action to impose an open ended moratorium on new federal oil and gas leasing will have negative consequences for Utah's economy. Now is not the time to stall job creation or energy production during a pandemic and the Chamber calls for a better, more deliberate and inclusive process to reach these decisions."

Business Headlines

- [Whitney Wolfe Herd took Bumble public as the youngest female CEO to ever IPO](#) (Business Insider) - 31 yr-old Wolfe Herd, a Utah native, created the "female-first" dating app in 2014 to combat rampant sexual harassment on other dating platforms. The app's shares surged on opening day, giving Bumble a market cap of over \$8 billion and making Wolfe Herd a billionaire.
 - [Disney+ is adding up for the Magic Kingdom as service blows by subscriber projections](#) (Fox Business) - Streaming service's numbers boost other divisions hurt by the pandemic
 - [Government agencies begin investigating Robinhood, Reddit over GameStop stock](#) (CNET) - The Department of Justice's fraud section and the San Francisco US attorney's office are seeking information about the trading frenzy from social media companies and trading platforms
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1789** - Founding Father Ethan Allen dies of a stroke at age 52.
 - **1793** - First Fugitive Slave law passed by Congress. This Act authorized local governments to seize and return escapees to their owners and imposed penalties on anyone who aided in their flight.
 - **1809** - Abraham Lincoln is born. So is Charles Darwin.
 - **1865** - Born a slave, Pastor Henry Highland Garnet became the first Black person to speak in the U.S. Capitol when he delivered a sermon on the abolition of slavery to the House of Representatives.
 - **1870** - Utah's acting territorial governor signed the suffrage bill into law. Woot!
 - **1884** - Alice Roosevelt Longworth, "Princess Alice," is born. When her father Theodore Roosevelt was asked why he could not discipline her, he explained that he do that or rule the country but he couldn't do both.
 - **1909** - The NAACP is founded.
 - **1912** - The last emperor of China abdicates.
 - **1930** - In Tuskegee, Alabama, the Rosenwald Fund made grants to the Alabama State Board of Health to help meet the cost of a study of syphilis in Black men - and the women they infected - living in rural Georgia and Alabama. Over 400 men were allowed to carry the disease without medical treatment for nearly 40 years.
 - **1938** - Judy Blume is born.
 - **1948** - First Lt. Nancy C. Leutenant became the first Black nurse accepted in the regular Army Nursing Corps.
 - **1956** - Arsenio Hall is born. He grew up to become the nation's first Black late-night talk show host.
 - **1973** - The release of US POWs from Hanoi begins.
 - **1999** - President Bill Clinton acquitted on both articles of impeachment.
 - **2000** - Charles Schultz dies at age 77 from colon cancer.
 - **2002** - Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic goes on trial for war crimes.
 - **2007** - Gunman kills 5 people at Trolley Square
-

Wise Words

"There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law."

~Abraham Lincoln

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

Of no use to one, yet absolute bliss to two. The small boy gets it for nothing. The baby's right, the lover's privilege, the hypocrite's mask. To the young girl, faith; to the married woman, hope; to the old maid, charity. What am I?

A kiss.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Subject: Utah Policy: Bill updates, fun tweets and money makes the difference

Date: Friday, February 26, 2021 at 7:28:08 AM Mountain Standard Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - February 26, 2021

We've made it to Friday and I owe you an apology. I missed a big milestone yesterday! Sean Astin turned 50! I mean, I don't know about you, but the thought that Samwise Gamgee is 50 is mind-boggling.

Breaking news this morning: Latter-day Saint Charities is [donating \\$20 million to support COVAX](#), a global campaign to provide 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines to low and middle-income countries. It is the biggest private sector donation to the largest immunization campaign in history.

If you only have time for one thing today: Read this [inspiring story](#) about aerospace engineer Diana Trujillo who was a flight director on the landing of the Perseverance rover. Her dreams of reaching space and wanting to understand the universe came as a young person in Cali, Colombia. Her parents were divorcing and as 17-year-old, she decided to go to the United States, arriving with only \$300 and not speaking any English. She worked housekeeping jobs to pay for her studies and later joined NASA in 2007. *"I wanted my - especially the males of my own family - to recognize that women add value,"* she said, adding, *"it came from wanting to prove to them that we matter."*

Countdown

7 days to the end of the 2021 Utah Legislature (3/5/21)

47 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

63 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Bill update, voter access, innovative teens and yikes!](#)

By Holly Richardson

An update on some Utah bills, Navajo Nation voting access, smart kids and an oh-my-gosh story.

[Tweets of the day: Friday fun](#)

By Holly Richardson

Some pictures that will make you go hmm, or wow!

Commentary: In states vs. federal government, money makes the difference

By LaVarr Webb

News item: A group called Invest in America Action says Utah will lose \$2.5 billion in federal aid if the Biden Administration's \$2 trillion COVID relief package fails in the U.S. Senate. I believe (as I've written many times) that one of the nation's biggest problems is that the federal government has gotten too large, too expensive, and is attempting to do far more, in every aspect of society and life, than it is capable of doing effectively.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [From Reagan to Romney, a brief history of Republican thinking on the minimum wage](#) - Economist Milton Friedman inspired a generation of conservatives resistant to government-set wages.
- [Confessions of a gun enthusiast: Doing away with safety requirements could hurt women and children](#) - The link between gun violence and domestic violence is undeniable.
- [\(Still\) in this together](#) - Despite a flood of hardships for families, some teens have found a silver lining a year after the COVID-19 pandemic began.
- [Bill targets how police use info showing where you've been and what internet searches you make](#) - HB251 would create some new law enforcement boundaries where none previously existed when it comes to the scope of location data searches.
- [Massive \\$2.26B transportation proposal would be biggest in Utah's history](#) - House Majority Leader Mike Schultz, R-Hooper, is sponsoring HB433, which would authorize the issuance of \$1.4 billion in bonds for transportation and transit projects, plus nearly \$823 million in one-time general fund revenues.
- [Apple, Utah Jazz, Imagine Dragons rally to launch groundbreaking LGBTQ youth program](#) - Tim Cook, Ryan Smith and Dan Reynolds pledge \$4M to establish eight new Encircle homes in four states.
- [The House has passed the Equality Act, but religious freedom concerns remain](#) - The Equality Act would add sexual orientation and gender identity-based protections to federal civil rights law.
- [Salt Lake NAACP president: The name 'Dixie' is racist and must go](#) - For well over 15 years, the NAACP has fought to remove confederate symbols from Dixie State University and to change its name. The opportunity for the state of Utah to support HB278, sponsored by Sen. Michael K. McKell, is now.
- [Taylor Swift countersues Utah's Evermore Park for using songs without permission](#) -
- Pleasant Grove theme park leveled similar allegations against Swift earlier this month.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Utah Senate kills then resurrects bill to eliminate signature-gathering path for candidates](#) - Some worry the bill would lead to a referendum effort to do away with Utah's convention system. A valid worry, since this bill violates the compromise agreed to in 2014.
- [New generation of Utahns finds power and pride through 'breaking' and hip hop culture](#) - Created by Black and Latino youths in the 1970s on NYC streets, break dancing has its own history in Utah - and is now an Olympic sport.
- [Utah House committee refuses to hear bill filed in wake of Reyes' pro-Trump actions](#) - The legislation would've required the state attorney general to consult with the governor before intervening in certain legal actions.
- [SUWA can sue over Zinke's secret meetings with Utah county commissioners over monuments](#) - State's high court also removes hefty fines as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase are the focal point of yet another legal tussle.
- [Health department investigating SLC party over possible violations of COVID-19 restrictions](#) - An organizer for the event at Sky SLC says the high schoolers were not allowed inside without a mask but social media posts show hundreds of kids without masks and not social distancing.
- [Plan to combine Utah health, human services agencies gains ground in Legislature](#) - Proponents of the merger say it will improve efficiency and information-sharing.
- [Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson says 2021 will be a year of 'rebuilding'](#) - In State of the County address she says priorities remain public health, public spaces and equity.
- [Mitt Romney says if schools want pandemic aid, they need to offer in-person classes](#) - The Utah Republican claims - as do many in the GOP - that schools halting in-person classes has had more to do with pressure from teacher unions than from any scientific evidence of increased threats from COVID-19 through in-person teaching.

Other

- [How to schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments in Salt Lake County under Feb. 25 eligibility](#) (ABC 4) - To schedule an appointment, visit SaltLakeHealth.org and click "COVID Vaccine Information." Health officials say you may also call 385-468-7468.
- [Salt Lake County to reopen performing arts venues March 25](#) (KSL) - Abravanel Hall, Capitol Theatre, Eccles Theater, and the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center will reopen with COVID-19 measures in place. The venues will require face coverings, distancing between parties and reduced capacities.
- [Google Fiber coming to South Salt Lake](#) (ABC 4) - Mayor Cherie Wood made the announcement during a City Council meeting, explaining that the agreement allows Google Fiber to begin building its fiber-to-the-home network in South Salt Lake.
- ['It hit me so hard': Utah ICU nurse battling COVID-19 released from hospital after double lung transplant](#) (KSL) - After spending months in the hospital sick with COVID-19 and eventually undergoing a double lung transplant, Jill Holker, a Utah intensive care nurse has finally been discharged.

COVID Corner

- [BLM launches Survival Fund amid federal COVID-19 relief wait](#) (AP) - The Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation is formally expanding a \$3 million financial relief fund that it quietly launched earlier this month, to help people struggling to make ends meet during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.
- [Utah expanding list of who can now get their COVID-19 vaccines, governor announces](#) (Deseret News) - Utahns 16 and older with certain medical conditions can now be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- [Pfizer director Dr. Scott Gottlieb explains how a third Covid shot may protect against variants](#) (CNBC) - Dr. Scott Gottlieb told CNBC on Thursday that Pfizer is researching two distinct methods to try providing vaccine protection against new coronavirus variants - a booster, or a new shot.
- [Dozens got coronavirus from high-intensity workouts in gyms. The CDC warns that masks, better ventilation are a must.](#) (Washington Post) - Fifty-five of 81 people who attended high-intensity classes at a facility between Aug. 24 and Sept. 1 would eventually test positive.
- [New coronavirus variant in NYC has vaccine-evading mutation](#) (LiveScience) - This latest coronavirus variant, dubbed B.1.526, first emerged in New York in November 2020, and it now accounts for about 25% of coronavirus genomes that were sequenced from New York in February.
- [Most COVID-19 survivors can weather risk of reinfection, study says](#) (Axios) - COVID-19 survivors tend to have a roughly tenfold increase in protection against the virus, according to a government-funded study published Wednesday.
- [Amid COVID pandemic, flu has disappeared in the US](#) (New York Post) - Experts say that measures put in place to fend off the coronavirus - mask wearing, social distancing and virtual schooling - were a big factor in preventing a "twindemic" of flu and COVID-19.
- [COVID-19 vaccines not believed to have impact on fertility, expert says](#) (Yahoo! News) - The myth that COVID-19 vaccines may negatively impact fertility has been spread largely on social media.
- [Study says you're less likely to catch COVID-19 if you wear these](#) (BGR): Eyeglasses
- [New study reveals new ways COVID-19 symptoms impact children](#) (Deseret News) - There are major differences in the two ways children become severely ill from COVID-19. About half the patients had COVID-19 similar to adults. The other half had multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children or MIS-C.
- [This new ad campaign will call for you to get the COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Deseret News) - The ads will be featured on Pandora and Spotify, as well as other platforms.
- [Traumatized and tired, nurses are quitting due to the pandemic](#) (CNN) - "The mental-health impact this is going to have on nurses ... I don't think we've even scratched the surface of it yet."

National Headlines

- [U.S. Airstrikes in Syria Target Iran-Backed Militias That Rocketed American Troops in Iraq](#) (New York Times) - President Biden ordered retaliatory strikes against the militias whose attacks in Erbil this month killed one civilian contractor and wounded a U.S. service member.
- [US carries out air strikes in Syria targeting Iranian backed militias](#) (CNN) - Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said

the strikes took place "at President Biden's direction" and were authorized not just to respond to the recent attacks against American and coalition forces but also to deal with "ongoing threats to those personnel."

- [McConnell says he'll 'absolutely' support Trump in 2024 if he's the GOP nominee](#) (CNN) - The Kentucky Republican's comments come just weeks after he delivered a pointed rebuke of Trump on the Senate floor for fomenting the deadly US Capitol insurrection.
- [Republican legislators around the country seek to strip governors and officials of emergency election powers](#) (CNN) - As of this month, state legislators in 43 states had introduced 253 bills to restrict voting access, according to an updated tally by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.
- [Acting Capitol Police chief tells lawmakers militia groups seek to 'blow up the Capitol,' targeting Biden speech](#) (USA Today) - The continued threats made it "prudent" for the Capitol Police to maintain their increased level of security at the Capitol.
- [Marjorie Taylor Greene faces backlash after attacking congresswoman with transgender daughter](#) (USA Today) - Newman talked about the importance of the Equality Act for transgender individuals such as her daughter. Greene then posted a tweet denying her daughter's gender identity. "Your biological son does NOT belong in my daughters' bathrooms, locker rooms, and sports teams," Greene said.
- [Senate Can't Vote On \\$15 Minimum Wage, Parliamentary Rules](#) (NPR) - The Senate parliamentarian ruled that a plan to gradually increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025 does not fit the complicated rules that govern budget bills in the Senate.
- [Cuomo's sexual harassment accusations prompt Time's Up to call for 'independent investigation'](#) (Fox News) - Time's Up is an organization dedicated to combatting harassment, assault and discrimination of women in the workplace.
- [At conservative gathering, there's just one litmus test: Loyalty to Trump](#) (Los Angeles Times) - Throughout the weekend, loyalty tests will be everywhere - panels touting Trump's false claims of election fraud, speeches from Republican hopefuls who will compete to praise him, and a straw poll designed to show him as the favorite for the party's 2024 presidential nomination.
- [A Judge Blocked Biden's Big Pause On Deportations, But ICE Says It Will Continue To Focus Only On Certain Immigrants](#) (BuzzFeed News) - Despite the legal setback, ICE officers were told to remain focused on immigrants who pose national security or other public safety threats, along with people who arrived in the US after Nov. 1.
- ['Horrible': Witnesses recall massacre in Ethiopian holy city](#) (AP) - Bodies with gunshot wounds lay in the streets for days in Ethiopia's holiest city. At night, residents listened in horror as hyenas fed on the corpses of people they knew. But they were forbidden from burying their dead by the invading Eritrean soldiers.

Policy News

[State Auditor releases analysis of NCAA athletics revenue subsidization for Utah's degree-granting public colleges and universities](#)

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today released its Analysis Report on NCAA Athletics Revenue Subsidization for Utah's Degree-Granting Public Colleges and Universities. This report covers fiscal years ended June 30, 2012 through June 30, 2020.

[Rep. Owens delivered remarks in response to the Equality Act](#)

Today, U.S. Rep. Burgess Owens (UT-04) delivered the following statement, as prepared for delivery, on the House Floor in opposition to the Equality Act. "I rise today in opposition to the Equality Act. The issues discussed as part of the Equality Act are important amending the Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation would be a historic step. Unfortunately, without explicit religious exemptions, many questions arise.

[Percentage of Utah students taking and passing AP exams increases over 10 years](#)

In 2020 a total of 14,271 Utah high school seniors took at least one Advanced Placement (AP) course at some point in their secondary education, up from 13,903 in 2019, according to data released by College Board. That means 37 percent of the graduating class took an AP course, up from 30.5 percent in 2010. And 25.3 percent of seniors or 9,756 students earned college credit by scoring 3 or better on the end-of-course exams, up from 20.7 percent in 2010, College Board noted. Nationally, 38.3 percent of students took an AP course with 24.4 percent earning college credit.

[Rep. Stewart proposed plan to address national debt](#)

Today, Congressman Chris Stewart (UT-02) introduced the Debt Control Through Budget Reconciliation Act of 2021. This legislation establishes annual debt-to-GDP targets that would gradually reduce the public debt over the next 30 years to approximately 50 percent of GDP (the average annual debt-to-GDP level over the past 30 years).

Sens. Lee, Moran and Braun introduce PROMISE Act to hold Big Tech accountable

Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), and Mike Braun (R-Ind.) yesterday introduced the Promoting Responsibility Over Moderation In the Social Media Environment (PROMISE) Act, a bill designed to hold Big Tech companies accountable for their promises to not operate their social media platforms with political bias. "The billionaires who own our nation's Big Tech companies have every right to be partisan political actors," Sen. Lee said. "They do not have the right to tell consumers that they will provide unbiased platforms, and then use those same platforms to discriminate against Americans with opposing religious, philosophical, or political viewpoints."

Business Headlines

- [Minimum wage hike can't be part of COVID relief bill, Senate official rules](#) (New York Post) - Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough's decision dealt a blow to progressives, who had been pushing to include such a provision in the bill.
 - [Manhattan Prosecutor Receives Trump Tax Returns After Lengthy Legal Battle](#) (NPR) - A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. confirmed to NPR over email that his office obtained the records on Monday.
 - [What Investors Are Watching After the Spike in Treasury Yields](#) (Bloomberg) - Fed intervention, yields too high, buying opportunities.
 - [GameStop short-sellers have lost \\$1.9 billion in just 2 days amid the stock's latest spike](#) (Business Insider) - Nearly one month after GameStop's leap to record highs, Reddit traders are boosting the meme stock all over again.
 - [Airbnb and DoorDash went public at the same time but see very different paths post-pandemic](#) (CNBC) - For now, both companies continue to face challenges.
 - [TikTok To Pay \\$92 Million To Settle Class-Action Suit Over 'Theft' Of Personal Data](#) (NPR) - A TikTok spokesperson said while the company disagrees with the assertions in the lawsuit, the company decided settling the case was in its best interest.
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1802** - Victor Hugo is born.
 - **1829** - Levi Strauss is born.
 - **1852** - John Kellogg, of cereal fame, is born.
 - **1859** - Louise DeKoven Bowen is born. She was a philanthropist, civic leader, social reformer and suffragist. For public administration aficionados, she was a key funder of and fundraiser for "Hull House," one of the nation's first settlement houses.
 - **1869** - The 15th Amendment, guaranteeing the right for men to vote, is sent to the states for ratification.
 - **1919** - Grand Canyon National Park is established.
 - **1921** - Wilma Heide is born. An educator and women's studies pioneer, she served as president of National Organization for Women from 1971-72, and spearheaded gender discrimination charges against AT&T.
 - **1929** - Grand Teton National Park is established.
 - **1932** - Johnny Cash is born.
 - **1935** - Hitler signs a secret decree authorizing the founding of the Reich Luftwaffe.
 - **1944** - Sue Dauser, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, became the first female Captain in the U.S. Navy.
 - **1958** - Susan Helms is born. In 2001, she became the first military woman in space and performed the longest spacewalk with astronaut James Voss.
 - **1962** - US Supreme court disallows race separation on public transportation
 - **1965** - Jimmie Lee Jackson, civil rights activist, dies of injuries inflicted by officers in Marion, Alabama.
 - **1970** - National Public Radio files articles of incorporation with the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds. The organization's membership is comprised of independent, private, public U.S. radio stations.
 - **1986** - Robert Pen Warren is named the nation's first Poet Laureate.
 - **1993** - World Trade Center is bombed.
 - **1995** - Selena Quintanilla, "Queen of Tejano Music," performs her last televised concert. She was murdered a few weeks later by the president of her fan club.
 - **2012** - 17-year old Trayvon Martin is shot and killed while wearing a hoodie.
 - **2020** - Ramona Hood becomes FedEx's first Black female president and CEO.
-

Wise Words

"It is our human right to develop and contribute our talents whatever our race, sex, religion, ancestry, age. Human rights are indivisible! The hand that rocks the cradle should also rock the boat. The pedestal is immobilizing and subtly insulting whether or not some women yet realize it."

~Wilma Heide

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

Getting a job in the Arctic in the winter is great! Why?

When the days get short, you only have to work a 30 minute work week.

Q: Why do seals swim in salt water?

A: Because pepper water makes them sneeze!

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Subject: Utah Policy: It's Women's History Month and the last week of the Utah legislature.

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:19:58 AM Mountain Standard Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

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The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - March 1, 2021

Hello and welcome to March! It's the beginning of [Women's History Month](#) in the US. The theme for Women's History Month in 2021 captures the spirit of these challenging times. Since many of the women's suffrage centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "**Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced.**" To learn more about the history of remarkable Utah women, be sure to check out [Better Days 2020](#) and their companion site, [Utah Women's History](#).

It is also the last week of the 2021 legislative session, which adjourns sine die no later than midnight on Friday. Oh, and the US House passed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan at about 3:30 am on Saturday. The legislation will now move to the Senate.

If you only have time for one thing today: This op-ed on "[The true message of Black History Month: Hope never dies](#)" by Theresa Dear is inspiring. Ms. Dear is a strategist at The Human Capital Strategy Group and a national board member of the NAACP and has this to say: "*While the story of Black people in America is replete with egregious treatment, prejudice and discrimination, it's also rich with stories of Black innovators, leaders, scholars, allies and mentors who prevailed against injunctions, indignities and injustice. They overcame barriers, elusive opportunities, contrived defeats, overt opposition, saboteurs and obstructionists. Their capacity to persevere reminds us that hope never dies.*" We can all benefit from her inspiring message as we work to eliminate the chains of racism in this country.

Countdown

4 days to the end of the 2021 Utah Legislature (3/5/21)

44 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

60 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Bills on the docket today on Utah's Capitol Hill](#)

By Holly Richardson

Two more days of committee hearings for this year's legislative session. Bills were still being released on Friday. Chance of them passing this year? Not so good. Here are some bills on the docket today:

Tweets of the day: #utleg roundup

By Holly Richardson

Food insecurity task force, how are legislators addressing the pink recession, the LG weighs in on a BYU report on racism, targeted racism in Draper, federal funding for a highly controversial "school," rural grants and can they do that?!

(Short answer: yes.)

Rep. Stewart reintroduces Fairness for All Act

By Holly Richardson

Today, Congressman Chris Stewart (UT-02) reintroduced the Fairness for All Act (FFA). This legislation aims to protect everyone's dignity in public spaces. It harmonizes religious freedom and LGBT rights by amending the Civil Rights Act, protecting religious freedom in the workplace, protecting the rights of LGBT individuals, and preserving 1st amendment rights.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Caregiver stories show love, duty and the need for some help](#) - Experts says caregiving is especially hard for those juggling work with need to care for ill or disabled loved ones
- [Woman launches project to tell the stories of Black life in the Beehive State](#) - The goal of Danielle Rowe's project is to highlight the faces of people who make the Beehive State their home and to learn about their experiences being a small but strong minority in a place of increasing diversity.
- [The changes, the losses and the silver linings of a pandemic turning 1 year old](#) (Deseret News) - Utah's top health official, a school principal, a funeral home owner, a restaurant owner and a pastor find hope.
- [Mayor Jenny Wilson: The Biden administration is taking the right steps on immigrant inclusion](#) - Today, more than 44 million newcomers contribute daily to the prosperity and diversity of our country, and more than 12% of Salt Lake County's population is foreign-born.
- [State's first COVID-19 patient reflects on 1 year since he landed in Utah hospital](#) - Mark Jorgensen and his wife contracted the virus while on a cruise ship in Asia, along with dozens of others - before the now-rampant disease made it to the states.
- [Utah lawmakers mostly behind a passel of personal privacy bills, but time's running short](#) - With only 5 days left in the legislative session, it is unlikely that all of them will make it through the process.
- [Enthusiasts raising funds to keep picking at 9-ton Utah rock chock full of dinosaur bones](#) - Geologists have concluded that the slab full of bones was originally a puddle of quicksand 136 million years ago. It appears that some unlucky plant-eating dinosaur got stuck in the quicksand and a pack of Utahraptors moved in on him for dinner.
- [Is merging Department of Health with Department of Human Services wise in pandemic?](#) - Supporters say it will streamline services for those most in need while some worry about how this merger will actually improve efficiency, and the potential for unintended consequences.
- [Can pollution regulations help an industry's bottom line?](#) - Utah study shows it's possible.
- [Ronald Reagan spoke at the first CPAC gathering in 1974. Here's what he said](#) - Before he was a twice-elected president, then-California Gov. Ronald Regan spoke to the inaugural Conservative Political Action Conference about unity and American's divine charge.
- [370K Utahns have some college, no degree; this proposal aims to help some finish what they started](#) - Rep. Lowry Snow is sponsoring legislation that would create a state-funded grant program for adult learners to make it easier for them to complete those college degrees and certificate programs.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Navajo Nation teachers doing homework with students through car windows, over phone during pandemic](#) - Poor internet access has made at-home schooling on the reservation difficult, but kids seem to be adapting.

- [How a tiny Utah community fought off an LDS Church housing project and lost a temple](#) - Erda residents balked at plans for a high-density development, and the faith ended up relocating and renaming a planned temple to neighboring Tooele.
- [Robert Gehrke: In a mind-boggling vote to allow DIY rape kits, Utah's Republican legislators condoned exploiting victims](#) - In nearly two decades of covering the Utah Legislature, not much shocks me, but Wednesday's vote to kill Rep. Angela Romero's bill banning these pseudo-rape kits was simply jaw-dropping.
- [One year later, Utah's first COVID-19 patient recalls 'surreal' experience](#) - Mark Jorgensen says he may have some long-term effects from the disease, but doesn't regret going on the cruise where he likely caught the coronavirus.
- [The left is out to 'devalue' womanhood and manhood and destroy kids, Utah Rep. Burgess Owens says](#) - The freshman Republican blasts Democrats and Black Lives Matter, while lamenting the loss of God and Limbaugh.
- [Will Utahns wait their turn in line once vaccines open up for those with underlying conditions?](#) - The state will rely on the honor system for coronavirus protection, with no proof required that someone meets the new requirements for underlying conditions.
- [Robert Gehrke: Utah lawmakers opted for a tax break for the well-off instead of helping the working-class](#) - More than 70% of the tax relief on the Social Security piece would go to households making more than \$91,000 a year.
- [BYU released a report saying its students of color feel 'isolated and unsafe' due to racism on campus](#) - A committee recommends that school leaders take immediate action to address the concerns.
- [Utah's minority communities disproportionately affected by food insecurity](#) - A proposed state task force would aim to resolve the current barriers of food accessibility.
- [Chris Stewart reintroduces bill he says will protect both LGBTQ and religious rights](#) - Civil rights groups say it will permit discrimination in the name of religion against gays.

Other

- [J&J COVID-19 vaccine to arrive in Utah Wednesday; Health care providers call it a 'game changer' for rural areas](#) (FOX 13) - The newly approved vaccine only requires one dose and does not require special storage, which is a game changer for rural areas.
- [Protest planned to keep Dixie State name ahead of critical hearing](#) (FOX 13) - The protest will take place at 11:30 at the clock tower on the Dixie State campus in St. George just hours before a key Utah State Senate committee hearing on the issue.
- [Utah Senate poised to pass bill to block 'party raiding' ahead of elections](#) (KSL) - HB197 co-sponsor Sen. Curt Bramble, R-Provo, noted that over 79,000 Utahns switched their party affiliation to vote in the 2020 Republican primary. (The data shows that they were mostly unaffiliated voters, not Democrats.)
- [Officials apologize for vaccination registration error Saturday](#) (ABC 4) - Approximately 7,200 people who do not meet eligibility requirements were able to make appointments. These appointments will be canceled over the next 24 hours."
- [2 Utah teachers selected as NASA ambassadors Sunday](#) (ABC 4) - The SETI Institute has selected 30 teachers from 10 states as 2021 NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassadors (AAA), Sunday and two of the thirty teachers are from Utah.

COVID Corner

- [Utah coronavirus cases continue to fall, but deaths on the rise](#) (Salt Lake Tribune) - There has been an increase of more than 20 deaths due to COVID-19 in the past week.
- [CDC signs off on Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine](#) (Fox Business) - The initial supply of 3.9 million doses is expected to be delivered as early as Tuesday
- [More than 20 million in Britain get first COVID-19 vaccine dose](#) (Reuters) - Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the milestone represented "a huge national achievement and he paid testament to the country's health, workers, volunteers and armed forces.
- [Yes, there are big shows in Utah this year \(for now\), even with COVID-19. Here's a look](#) (Deseret News) - Big concerts this year include Marie Osmond, Kristin Chenoweth, Celine Dion, Justin Bieber, Backstreet Boys, Colbie Caillat, Maroon 5 and more.
- [This May Be Most Dangerous COVID-19 Variant, Experts Say](#) (MSN.com) - Recently, a new variant emerged in California. There is much worry that it is extremely deadly.
- [If you get vaccinated, can you hang with your vaccinated friends?](#) (Deseret News) - "You can start getting together as individual people, even though the risk is not zero, the risk becomes extremely low when you have both parties vaccinated," Dr. Fauci said.
- [There's some real world data about the Pfizer vaccine, and the results look good](#) (Deseret News) - Data from Israel - which vaccinated its elderly population - has found that mass vaccinations have helped stop severe COVID-19.
- [What COVID-19 has revealed about the nursing profession](#) (Deseret News) - During the past three months, we talked with 35 Utah nurses from the four major health care systems in Utah and across 15 hospitals, about working in a pandemic.

National Headlines

- [House passes Biden's \\$1.9 trillion coronavirus aid package](#) (Politico) - All but two Democrats voted for the bill - Rep. Kurt Schrader and Rep. Jared Golden. No Republicans voted for the bill.
- [The golden Trump statue is the talk of CPAC. It was made in Mexico.](#) (Slate) - A golden statue of former President Donald Trump has turned into the talk of the Conservative Political Action Conference taking place in Orlando.
- [Trump slams 'establishment' Republicans McConnell, Cheney and others in CPAC speech as some deny GOP civil war](#) (Fox News) - "I am announcing that I will be actively working to elect strong, smart and tough Republican leaders," Trump said. "We want Republican leaders who are loyal to the voters and who will vote proudly for the vision that I've laid out today."
- [Trump teases 2024 presidential run in lie-filled CPAC speech](#) (CNN) - During a lengthy speech in which he baselessly claimed he won in November, that the US has a "very sick and corrupt electoral process" and the Supreme Court failed to "have the courage" to overturn the election on his behalf, he called for a new round of voting restrictions.
- [Trump has captured the Republican party and that's great news for Biden](#) (The Guardian) - As the Trump party takes over the GOP, anti-Trump Republicans are abandoning the party in droves thereby weakening it for general elections
- [Cuomo says he was 'being playful,' but admits he 'may have been insensitive' amid sexual harassment claims](#) (Fox News) - "I never intended to offend anyone or cause any harm. I spend most of my life at work and colleagues are often also personal friends."
- [Trump railed against the 'deep state,' but he also built his own. Biden is trying to dismantle it.](#) (NBC News) - >From high-level agencies to low-level boards, Biden's administration is trying to rid the broader federal bureaucracy of Trump loyalists.
- [Iran rejects informal nuke talks with U.S. and EU, insists Biden drop sanctions first](#) (CNBC) - In 2018, then-President Donald Trump kept a campaign promise and withdrew the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) calling it the "worst deal ever."
- [Senior Democrats abandon backup plan on \\$15 minimum wage](#) (Washington Post) - Lawmakers are backing off a Plan B to raise pay for workers through tax penalties on corporations.
- [Pompeo: Release of Khashoggi report by Biden admin 'reckless'](#) (The Hill) - "It was political. It was aimed at harming a relationship with the kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the use of intelligence in a way that, as a former CIA director, I would have never stood for," Pompeo said, adding, "So I regret that they chose to do this. It was a political stunt."
- [Why Republicans Are Moving To Fix Elections That Weren't Broken](#) (NPR) - The Brennan Center, a nonprofit that tracks voting laws, says that 43 states - including key swing states - are considering 253 bills that would raise barriers to voting.
- [Biden expresses support for Amazon union vote in Alabama: 'Make your voice heard'](#) (CNBC) - Without calling out Amazon, President Joe Biden on Sunday expressed support for workers "in Alabama and all across America" who are moving to unionize.

Policy News

[Sen. Romney continues effort to reauthorize Secure Rural Schools program](#)

U.S. Senator Romney (R-UT) this week joined his colleagues, led by Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Jim Risch (R-ID) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR), in introducing legislation to ensure counties do not lose out on essential services due to federal land ownership by reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program through September 2022. The SRS program, which helps fund essential services in rural communities home to federal land, expired in September 2020; the last payment under the current authorization is scheduled for April 2021. Full text of the bill can be found [here](#).

[Bipartisan Curtis amendment for land study passes House with Lands Bill](#)

On Friday, Representative John Curtis (R-UT), member of the Western Caucus, advocated for his amendment to the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act on the House Floor. The Congressman's amendment would require a study of any land impacted by the legislation to determine if these areas contain geothermal resources or minerals needed for battery storage, renewable energy technology, or electric vehicles. The amendment passed with a 221-205 vote, 205 Republicans and 16 Democrats in support.

Sen. Lee statement on Syria airstrike

Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) issued the following statement in response to the Biden administration's airstrike in Syria last night: "The decision to launch an airstrike in Syria without authorization from Congress is concerning, but frankly not surprising. In recent history, presidents of both political parties have shown little restraint in using military force despite the Constitution's explicit delegation of the war-making power to Congress."

Rep. Owens statement opposing Democrats' relief bill

U.S. Rep. Burgess Owens (UT-04) released the following statement outlining his opposition to Nancy Pelosi's \$1.9 trillion payoff to progressives: "The American Rescue Plan is a trillion-dollar wish list filled with special interest buyouts, progressive spending priorities, and misplaced assistance masquerading as pandemic relief. This bill showcases the worst of Washington funding special interest groups, incentivizing harmful lockdowns, and destroying quality jobs at the expense of American families. My constituents in the Fourth District deserve better "relief" than this."

State Auditor releases analysis of NCAA athletics revenue subsidization for Utah's degree-granting public colleges and universities

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today released its Analysis Report on NCAA Athletics Revenue Subsidization for Utah's Degree-Granting Public Colleges and Universities. This report covers fiscal years ended June 30, 2012 through June 30, 2020.

Business Headlines

- [Goldman Consumer Head Is Leaving to Run Walmart Fintech](#) (Wall Street Journal) - Omer Ismail, who helped build Goldman's consumer-banking business from scratch, will take on a similar task at Walmart
 - [\\$1,400, \\$600, \\$1,200 stimulus checks: The biggest differences compared](#) (CNET) - The goal of the third check is the same: Get stimulus money into people's pockets as soon as possible. But Congress is taking a different route accomplish that aim.
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1565** - Rio de Janeiro is founded.
- **1642** - Georgeana (York) in Maine becomes the first incorporated American city.
- **1692** - Salem Witch Hunt begins
- **1780** - Pennsylvania becomes the first US state to abolish slavery (for newborns only).
- **1781** - Articles of Confederation are (finally!) ratified after nearly four years of wrangling.
- **1790** - First US census authorized.
- **1803** - Ohio becomes the 17th state in the Union
- **1845** - President John Tyler signs a resolution annexing the Republic of Texas.
- **1864** - Rebecca Lee becomes the first Black woman in the US to receive a medical degree.
- **1872** - Yellowstone Park established
- **1875** - A Civil Rights bill is enacted by Congress, giving Blacks the right to equal treatment in "inns, public conveyances, theaters and other places of public amusement." It is overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1883.
- **1879** - The telephone makes it to Utah.
- **1880** - Gillette Hayden, a pioneering dentist and periodontist, is born. She founded the American Academy of Periodontology and served as its president.

- **1896** - 80,000 Ethiopians destroy 20,000 Italians in Ethiopia, killing two generals and capturing General Matteo Albertone in the Battle of Adowa.
- **1910** - Two trains are swept into a canyon by an avalanche in Wellington, Washington, killing 96 people.
- **1924** - Harry Belafonte is born.
- **1932** - Lindbergh baby kidnapped.
- **1941** - Captain America created by cartoonists Joe Simon and Jack Kirby is first published by Timely Comics.
- **1954** - US explodes Castle Bravo, a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll, which accidentally became the most powerful nuclear device ever detonated by the US.
- **1960** - San Antonio, Texas, becomes the first major Southern city to integrate lunch counters.
- **1961** - President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps with Executive Order #10924
- **1966** - Soviet probe crashes into Venus
- **1967** - U.S. House expels Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Civil rights leaders say Powell was ousted because of his race.
- **1971** - Bomb explodes in US Capitol building.
- **1973** - Pink Floyd release their album "Dark Side of the Moon", since sold over 45 million copies.
- **1987** - Congress passes a resolution designating March as Women's History Month.
- **2020** - Turkey launches major offensive against Syrian government in northern Syria after 36 Turkish soldiers killed in air and artillery strikes 3 days earlier

Wise Words

"Each time a woman stands up for herself, she stands up for all women."

~Maya Angelou

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

How excited was the gardener about spring?

So excited he wet his plants.

Does February like March?

No, but April May

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Subject: Utah Policy: COVID-19 updates, 2 M women out of the workforce, the right way to boycott Beijing Olympics
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:57:07 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>
To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - March 15, 2021

It's Monday, the Ides of March. Today is also [National Napping Day](#), the day after Daylight Savings time returns. Naps can make you feel better and improve your mood. Numerous studies have shown that 10-20 minutes naps are most effective for midday fatigue. Zzzzzzz.

Over the weekend, Utah topped 1 million COVID-19 vaccines administered. At least 75% of Utahns 75 and older have gotten at least their first dose of the vaccine and 52% of Utahns between the ages of 65-69 have received at least one dose.

[Gov Cox tweet](#)

If you only have time for one thing: Read "These Precious Days" by writer Ann Patchett as she writes about her pandemic year with her house guest, Sooki. Sooki worked for Tom Hanks and was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2019. She ended up with the Patchett's for much of 2020. *"How other people live is pretty much all I think about. Curiosity is the rock upon which fiction is built. But for all the times people have wanted to tell me their story because they think it would make a wonderful novel, it pretty much never works out. People are not characters, no matter how often we tell them they are; conversations are not dialogue; and the actions of our days don't add up to a plot."* This is a beautiful, moving piece.

Countdown

30 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

46 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

180 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Romney: The right way to boycott the Beijing Olympics](#)

By Holly Richardson

As the Beijing Olympic Games approach, it is increasingly clear that China, under the control of the Chinese Communist Party does not deserve an Olympic showcase. Because it is too late to move the Winter Games scheduled for Beijing next February, some have proposed, understandably, that the United States boycott the Games.

Looking back on a 'decade' of a year, pandemic w/in a pandemic, EU countries headed to lock-down and more

images/new/Covid.png

By Holly Richardson

Looking back on the "decade" that was last year - We've learned that the United State has some deep fault lines - they were there before the pandemic, but this virus uncovered them in unprecedented ways.

Tweets of the day

By Holly Richardson

Sisters earn their Eagle Scout, a mistake = \$15,000 fine, 2 million women have dropped out of the workforce, avalanche survivors rescued in Utah, Arizona lawmaker says that not everybody should be voting and Rhode Islanders aske "Where's the beef?!"

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [What a decade this last year has been](#) - Sometimes, a total reset can be a gift (after it stops being awful).
- [What does education in Utah look like, post-pandemic?](#) - More virtual schooling, changes in attendance policies.
- [Americans drank more during the pandemic. So why did 'dry' bars and businesses survive?](#) - Despite an uptick in alcohol sales, the demand for alcohol-free cocktails and beer appears to be growing.
- [No, Donald Trump probably won't replace Rush Limbaugh. But here's who might](#) - Podcaster Ben Shapiro is a possibility, as is Brett Winterble and others.
- [Mental health experts warn of '2nd pandemic' stemming from COVID-19](#) - The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health has likely not been fully realized yet, but studies are already showing concerning trends, including increases of anxiety, depression and substance abuse in the state and nationwide.
- [Modern-day Noah creates 'Photo Ark' to save species from extinction](#) - For one veteran wildlife photographer, animal portraits - not plain old cute photos - could be a key to "saving the planet."
- [Preserving dreams: Utah bill will allow Medicaid to cover fertility treatments for cancer patients](#) - The bill would direct the Utah Department of Health to apply for a Medicaid waiver to cover fertility preservation treatments. The bill awaits Gov. Spencer Cox's signature before becoming law.
- [Utah's place in pandemic nation](#) - As the Utah Legislature put finishing touches on the state's more than \$23 billion budget, state leaders repeatedly glowed over what they believe it says about Utah's standing in a nation that has been gripped by COVID-19 for the past year.
- [Utah's Doctor: 'I think we're winning' ... knock on wood](#) - Exactly one year since the lockdown, Utah state epidemiologist Dr. Angela Dunn looks at the data and thinks the future looks bright.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Advocates urge Utah's governor to veto tax cut to make sure the state doesn't lose COVID-19 relief funds](#) - Voices for Utah Children also wants state lawmakers to refrain from considering further cuts.
- [These Utah Republicans haven't given up punishing Mitt Romney for his impeachment vote](#) - Group seeks a special meeting of party leaders to censure the Utah senator.
- [Utah's Burgess Owens says Biden is stealing credit from Trump for COVID vaccine](#) - He also says Biden's speech last week showed a "weak" president.
- [Outbreak linked to hundreds of bird deaths comes to Utah](#) - If you have bird feeders or baths in your yard, clean them thoroughly or put them away for now.
- [Utah cases plateau as state reaches milestone of 1 million COVID-19 vaccines administered](#) - One possible reason for the plateau could lie in the rise of several coronavirus variants that have made their way to the United States in recent months, fueling questions from state officials on how to react to them.
- ['Gentrification has arrived in Salt Lake City,' and it's wreaking havoc](#) - As officials seek new ways to boost housing, projects are pricing out longtime residents in neighborhood after neighborhood.

Other

- [West Valley no-appointment vaccine clinic runs out of doses](#) (FOX 13) - All available vaccines had been distributed by 1:22 PM Sunday.
- [Elizabeth Smart remembers gaining her freedom from kidnappers 18 years ago](#) (KUTV) - "Because of this one day I will never lose my faith in the goodness of humanity and in miracles. I am forever grateful."

COVID Corner

- [States Are Finding More Unreported Covid-19 Deaths](#) (Wall Street Journal) - Backlogs can temporarily raise daily death tolls; 'Nobody likes surprises..'
- [Chile becomes Latin America's COVID-19 vaccination champion](#) (Associated Press) - After being among the world's hardest-hit nations with COVID-19, Chile is now near the top among countries at vaccinating its population against the virus.
- [Coronavirus relief bill is false advertising: Sen. John Barrasso](#) (ABC News) - Despite Democrats' claims of success on the COVID-19 relief bill, only a portion of the funds go to stopping the spread of the virus, Barrasso, the Senate Republican conference chair, told George Stephanopoulos.
- [New York's vaccine czar called county officials to gauge their loyalty to Cuomo amid sexual harassment investigation](#) (Washington Post) - One Democratic county executive was so unsettled by the outreach from Larry Schwartz, head of the state's vaccine rollout, that the executive on Friday filed notice of an impending ethics complaint with the public integrity unit of the state attorney general's office.
- ['Vaccine Passports': Will They Be Available in the U.S. in Time for Summer?](#) (NBC) - Vaccine passports that could determine what people can and can't do come loaded with ethical considerations.
- [Pfizer vaccine shots actually stop asymptomatic transmission, too](#) (Deseret News) - Israel's Ministry of Health and Pfizer/BioNTech revealed real-world findings of Pfizer's vaccine.
- [Allergies or COVID-19? Here's how to tell the difference](#) (Deseret News) - Some coronavirus symptoms are similar to those of bronchitis, the common cold, the flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), this year it is likely that a test will be necessary to tell the difference.
- [No link between blood clots and Oxford-AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, WHO says](#) (Deseret News) - Per The Washington Post, "no causal link had been established" between the vaccine and blood clots.
- [These 5 COVID-19 symptoms predict whether you're a long-hauler or not](#) (Deseret News) - A new study in the journal Nature Medicine revealed symptoms of 'long-COVID': Fatigue, headaches, hoarse voice, muscle pain, difficulty breathing.
- [Clergy Preach Faith in the Covid Vaccine to Doubters](#) (New York Times) - With widespread immunity essential to ending the pandemic, priests, imams, rabbis and swamis are successfully urging their congregations to get the shots. Many people trust them more than they trust health officials.
- [Fauci says Trump should push supporters to get covid vaccine after 'disturbing' poll results show they won't](#) (Washington Post) - Nearly half of Republican men and 47 percent of those who supported Trump in the 2020 election said they would not choose to be vaccinated
- [A border community, ICE at odds over release of detainees with covid](#) (Washington Post) - Advocates and county officials say they had no idea ICE was dropping detainees with covid off at the bus stop, while ICE says it is the agency's protocol to notify local authorities ahead of time.

National Headlines

- [Biden eyes Gene Sperling to serve as Covid rescue plan czar](#) (Politico) - Sperling served on the economic teams in both the Obama and Clinton administrations.
 - [Biden breaks his silence on Cuomo sexual harassment scandal, declines to call for his resignation](#) (Fox News) - New York Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer joined New York Democratic Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jerry Nadler on Friday in calling for their state's governor to leave his position as allegations of inappropriate conduct continue to emerge.
 - [Pelosi declines to call on Cuomo to resign despite having 'zero tolerance' for sexual harassment](#) (Fox News) - House speaker sticks with Cuomo talking point that investigation should be completed.
 - [More than 4,000 unaccompanied migrant children in CBP custody](#) (CNN) - The accelerated pace at which children are arriving is adding greater stress to the system.
 - [Georgia's GOP lieutenant governor rules out Senate run but says 'Trump's divisive tone and strategy is unwinnable' for the future of the Republican party](#) (Business Insider) - Geoff Duncan, the lieutenant governor of Georgia, called Trump's strategy "unwinnable" going forward.
 - [Massive Facebook study on users' doubt in vaccines finds a small group appears to play a big role in pushing the skepticism](#) (Washington Post) - Internal study finds a QAnon connection and that content that doesn't break the rules may be causing 'substantial' harm.
 - [White House Weighs New Cybersecurity Approach After Failure to Detect Hacks](#) (New York Times) - The intelligence agencies missed massive intrusions by Russia and China, forcing the administration and Congress to look for solutions, including closer partnership with private industry.
 - [As Cuomo Reels, Pleas for Political Support Come From His Vaccine Czar](#) (New York Times)
 - [Vaccine brawl riles House](#) (Axios) - Larry Schwartz, whom Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo put in charge of the state's vaccination efforts, called some county executives about support for the governor.
-

Policy News

United Utah Party to hold convention on April 24

All Uniters are invited to participate in our conventions as delegates (registration required). Our conventions are also open to observers. However, we do ask that you RSVP so that we can accommodate all who would like to attend. This year, our state convention will be held virtually via Zoom. Please RSVP and register no later than April 10th. Call for Candidates for Party Office As part of our state organizing convention, we will elect our state party officers of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. We invite any qualified Uniter interested in running for these positions to apply no later than April 10th.

Clear the Air Challenge winners announced

Fidelity Investments and Dell Technologies-Utah took top honors in the 12th annual Clear the Air Challenge, sponsored by the Salt Lake Chamber, TravelWise and UCAIR. Numerous companies participated in the annual competition to show their commitment to environmental stewardship and improving our public health through cleaner air.

Free FDA conference March 30-31 for oncology therapy start-ups

Attention academic entrepreneurs and founders of small start-up oncology companies! Oncology Therapy Development Workshop: Pivotal Steps and Avoiding Pitfalls for Start-ups - REGISTER

Sens. Lee, Tillis and Paul introduce Mens Rea Reform Act

Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) yesterday introduced the Mens Rea Reform Act of 2021, a bill that aims to reduce overcriminalization, rein in excessive regulation, and curb overzealous prosecutions.

Rep. Stewart's statement on legislation to protect gun rights

Senator Hyde-Smith (R-MS) and U.S. Representative Paul Gosar (R-AZ) introduced the Gun-owner Registration Information Protection Act (GRIP Act) on March 11, 2021. Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT) released the following statement:

Business Headlines

- [Where is my third stimulus check? IRS updates 'Get My Payment' tool with information on new COVID payments](#) (USA Today) - The IRS updated the "Get My Payment" tool. Check for your status at www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment.
 - [Wells Fargo, JPMorgan See Ire Over Timing of Stimulus Checks](#) (Bloomberg) - Customers unhappy checks won't arrive until March 17.
 - [World stocks inch up on increasing bets on faster economic recovery](#) (Reuters) - World shares inched higher while U.S. bond yields hovered near a 13-month peak on Monday on bets economic growth would accelerate.
 - [Google must face \\$5 billion lawsuit over Chrome incognito mode tracking complaints](#) (9to5 Google) - The class action lawsuit seeks damages to the tune of at least \$5 billion.
 - [Stripe is now valued at \\$95 billion](#) (Axios) - This makes Stripe the most highly-valued U.S. "unicorn," topping SpaceX. It's also a massive increase over the \$36 billion valuation Stripe secured last April.
-

On This Day In History

(From History.com)

- **44 BC** - Julius Caesar is stabbed to death by 60 conspirators, led by Marcus Junius Brutus.
 - **1767** - Andrew Jackson is born.
 - **1838** - Alice Cunningham Fletcher is born. She immersed herself in Native American cultures and pioneered ethnological study.
 - **1896** - Marion Cuthbert is born. She helped found the National Association of College Women to fight discrimination in higher education and was secretary of the National Board of YWCA and member of NAACP and numerous peace and human rights boards.
 - **1913** - The first presidential press conference is held in the Oval Office with President Woodrow Wilson.
 - **1933** - Ruth Bader Ginsburg is born.
 - **1946** - Eleanor Roosevelt is appointed US representative to the United Nations.
 - **1965** - LBJ calls for equal voting rights in an address before a joint session of Congress.
-

Wise Words

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

L.R. Knost

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?

It lost its petals.

What did the big flower say to the little one?

You're really growing, bud!

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Subject: Utah Policy: Rounding out Women's History Month and fixing America's civics crisis

Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 7:20:37 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Utah Policy <info@utahpolicy.com>

To: Tani <tanidowning@utah.gov>

[utah policy logo](#)

The UtahPolicy.com daily newsletter gets you up to speed on the top local and national news about politics and public policy. Send news tips or feedback to editor@utahpolicy.com

Situational Analysis - March 31, 2021

It's Wednesday, the last day of March and that means it's [National Crayon Day](#), [National Tater Day](#) and [National Clams on the Half Shell Day](#). Taters for dinner it is. Boil them, mash them, stick them in a stew...

5 things you need to know

1. [G. Gordon Liddy](#), a former FBI agent, Army veteran and the mastermind behind the Watergate burglary, died Tuesday at age 90.
2. Rep. Matt Gaetz is [under investigation](#) for an alleged sexual relationship with a minor which may have violated federal sex-trafficking laws. In 2017, he was the only member of Congress to vote against a law that gave the federal government more power and money to fight human trafficking.
3. The two remaining Utah County commissioners want to move the [entire budget office](#) out from under the clerk/auditor's office and put it under their control. They forgot to ask current clerk/auditor Amelia Powers Gardner what she thought of the plan.
4. Two ~~three~~ wildfires are [already burning in Utah](#) - and it's not even April.
5. [Jen Shah](#), from the "Real Housewives of Salt Lake City" was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and telemarketing and wire fraud.

Countdown

14 days until the end of the Cox/Henderson administration's first 100 days (04/14/2021)

24 days until the [United Utah Party Organizing Convention](#) (04/24/2021)

30 days until the Biden/Harris administration's first 100 days are up (04/30/2021)

31 days until the in-person Utah [GOP Organizing Convention](#) (05/01/2021)

164 days until half-way through the Cox/Henderson's administration's 500-day plan (09/11/2021)

Today At Utah Policy

[Tweets of the day](#)

By Holly Richardson

Donald Trump is being sued by Capitol Police officer and a former contestant on "The Apprentice," online haters score high in this, Boeing and Utah, lessons learned in a year of shutdown and gender parity set back an entire generation.

[Rounding out Women's History Month with some of Utah's remarkable women](#)

By Holly Richardson

A woman who made a career change in her 50's, three women working on behalf of the Shoshone Nation, Tech-Moms help women in or rejoining the workforce, postpartum mood disorders and four women profiled by ABC4.

Orrin Hatch: America is facing a civics crisis. Here's how we fix it.

By Orrin G. Hatch

Originally published in the Washington Times At the close of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, when asked what form of government the convention had provided for our new nation, Benjamin Franklin replied, "A republic - if you can keep it." Can we keep it? This question is more relevant today than ever before.

Utah Headlines

Deseret News

- [Mitt Romney says Chinese students welcome - if they're not here to steal American technology](#) - "I would welcome an influx of people from Asian nations to come to our country because I know they would create a stronger economy for us. It's just a reality. America is going to shrink unless we have some legal immigration."
- [Education Department clears way for \\$1.3 billion in student debt forgiven for disabled Americans](#) - The Biden administration has now canceled \$2.3 billion in student loans, little more than 0.01% in the nation's total college debt
- [Former BYU students join lawsuit challenging religious schools' access to federal funds](#) - A federal lawsuit filed Monday argues that some religiously affiliated schools should lose access to government funds over policies on LGBTQ rights
- [County GOP volunteer at center of bullying allegations says he wasn't given 'fair process'](#) - He said he began hearing rumors against himself in January, but did not learn of the specific allegations until last week. Salt Lake County Councilwoman Laurie Stringham said during Tuesday's County Council meeting that after a first incident was reported in September "following the appropriate process," the harassment didn't stop.

Salt Lake Tribune

- [Judge rules the LDS Church didn't meddle in Utah death penalty case](#) - The judge also rejected the argument that Doug Lovell's public defender didn't do his job during a 2015 trial.
- [The lavish life of 'Real Housewives' star Jen Shah was funded by fraud, federal authorities allege](#) - She and her assistant/partner allegedly generated and sold "lists of innocent individuals for other members of their scheme to repeatedly scam."
- [Former editor of Salt Lake City Weekly sues, says the newspaper owes him thousands in unpaid wages](#) - Enrique Limn says he wasn't paid for several stories he wrote for the alternative publication.
- [Utah Jazz eventually make their way to Memphis after first charter flight is damaged by flock of birds](#) - The team's Wednesday afternoon flight had to return to Salt Lake City after an engine was shut down
- [Latter-day Saint youths soon can return to Utah temples to perform baptisms for the dead](#) - All 15 operating temples in the Beehive State - along with dozens of others - will reopen their baptistries next month.

Other

- [Virtual driver's license? Pilot program to start in Utah](#) (ABC4) - According to the Driver License Division, Utah's mobile driver's license will be the first in the nation and "will incorporate the industry standards established for privacy, security, interoperability, and authenticity."
- [Utah Food for Families to distribute food boxes every Tuesday](#) (ABC4) - Officials say over 500 boxes were distributed in 2 hours yesterday. The boxes were packed with fresh meats, milk, yogurt, cheese, potatoes, vegetables and fruit.
- [Utah Federation of Republican Women issues statement on 'ignored' sexual harassment claims](#) (KUTV) - UFRW says they are "deeply disappointed and saddened to hear of the harassment and abuse that was aimed at Republican women in the 2020 election cycle; both candidates and campaign professionals."
- [2 BYU mental health studies show how stress before age 5 impacts children as they grow up](#) (KSL) - Traumatic childhood events may shape girls' delinquency behaviors and parenting practices by fathers, according to two new mental health studies from Brigham Young University.

COVID Corner

- [Lifting mask mandates so soon will make someone look foolish in the end](#) (Deseret News) - Either all those politicians who thought they could negotiate matters of science, or all those health officials warning of another surge - or the wide swath of American people who can't make even the smallest of sacrifices for public health.
- [Salt Lake County senior centers, closed for COVID-19, set to reopen in April](#) (Deseret News) - Services put in place after the centers were shut down at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic a year ago will still be offered.
- [COVID-19 variant identified in Britain found on Utah Navajo Nation](#) (KUTV) - The person who tested positive for the variant on the Navajo Nation had been fully vaccinated.
- [Canceled, duplicate appointments could be clogging up vaccine scheduling in Logan](#) (KUTV) - Some residents around Logan say they had a hard time scheduling second dose appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Bear River Health Department says the appointments are there, it just might not look like it.
- [2021 Tour of Utah, normally a jammed day in Park City, canceled based on coronavirus worries](#) (Park Record) - The decision is more evidence that the economic impact of pandemic will stretch well into 2021.
- [French President Macron under pressure to lock down as Covid-19 hospitalizations soar](#) (CNN) - Today, more than 28,000 people are being treated in hospital for Covid-19 in France, including 5,072 in intensive care units (ICU), according to French health ministry data. It's the first time since April last year that ICU patient numbers have surpassed 5,000.
- [Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines may block infection as well as disease](#) (Science News) - Studies suggest fully vaccinated people pose a low risk for transmitting the coronavirus
- [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine safe and effective in children as young as 12, say companies](#) (Washington Post) - The vaccine was 100 percent effective at preventing symptomatic illness within the trial and it triggered immune responses that were even more robust than those seen in young adults
- [At least 19 states report rise in Covid hospitalizations](#) (NBC) - Amid growing concern over a fourth wave, states from New York to Washington are now reporting a rise in hospitalizations. Many of the infections are being seen in young people.

National Headlines

- [Biden senses public shift with infrastructure plan](#) (CNN) - At no time since the 1980s has unchained capitalism seemed so threatened. Biden sees a chance to act now.
 - [Rep. Matt Gaetz faces Justice Dept. investigation over alleged relationship with teen girl](#) (Washington Post) - The investigation into Gaetz began some time last year, when Trump was still in office, after a criminal case against a different Florida politician led investigators to allegations that the congressman had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old girl and paid for her travel.
 - [Rep. Matt Gaetz denies relationship with 17-year-old and claims extortion attempt](#) (CNN) - The Florida Republican said that the claims were being pushed by people who are targets of an "ongoing extortion investigation" and that his father has been wearing a wire to "catch these criminals."
 - [Scoop: Matt Gaetz eyes early retirement to take job at Newsmax](#) (Axios) - Many Republicans turned to the network after Fox News called Arizona early for President Biden. Some critics now say Fox is not conservative enough for their tastes.
 - [White House unveils \\$2 trillion infrastructure and climate plan, setting up giant battle over role of government](#) (Washington Post) - Ahead of speech in Pittsburgh, Biden administration releases sprawling effort to revamp U.S. transit, broadband, housing and more
 - [Young witnesses to George Floyd's death testify they felt helpless as they watched him die and feared Derek Chauvin](#) (Washington Post) - In deeply emotional testimony, Darnella Frazier, who was just 17 when she came across Floyd being restrained by the police, testified of the lingering anxiety and guilt she feels about Floyd's death and not doing more to intervene.
 - [Two Capitol Police Officers Sue Trump Over January Riot](#) (New York Times) - Former President Donald J. Trump "inflamed, encouraged, incited, directed, and aided and abetted" the Capitol Riot on Jan. 6, the officers' lawsuit said.
 - [Supreme Court Arguments May Be Turning Point for N.C.A.A.](#) (New York Times) - The justices will consider whether limits on payments to student-athletes violate antitrust laws.
 - [New York police arrest man over attack on Asian woman in hate crime case](#) (Reuters) - Police identified the suspect as Brandon Elliot, 38, who was already on lifetime parole for murdering his mother.
 - [Capitol riot suspect wore 'I Was There' shirt when arrested](#) (AP) - Garret Miller's shirt had a photograph of former President Donald Trump, and it said "Take America Back" and "I Was There, Washington D.C., January 6, 2021," federal prosecutors noted in a court filing Monday.
 - [Some Capitol riot suspects apologize as consequences sink in](#) (AP) - Confronted with compelling video and photographic evidence in court, dozens of rioters have apologized and expressed regret as the consequences of their actions have started to sink in. The ramifications include potential job losses, financial ruin and possible time behind bars.
 - [TikTok star on cellphone with fiancée as tree limb kills her](#) (AP) - Rochelle Hager, 31, of Waterville, Maine, was an executive chef who posted popular TikTok videos and was engaged to be married this fall.
-

Policy News

State Auditor announces the release of a review of Banjo, Inc. and its public safety application

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announces the release of its review of the State's contract with Banjo, Inc. (Banjo). Attorney General Reyes requested the Office review the contract for Banjo's public safety application Live Time. The circumstances surrounding Live Time posed several complex technical and social issues, including concerns regarding privacy and potential algorithmic bias. We recognize the compelling law enforcement interests underlying the associated procurement, particularly the possibility of leveraging technology to accelerate the safe rescue of abducted children.

Rep. Curtis, Sen. Romney introduce bill to advance the Bonneville Shoreline Trail

Today, Representative John Curtis (R-UT) and Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) released the following statements about their legislation to enable the construction of high priority sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) to enhance recreation opportunities near Utah's most urban areas. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act, also supported by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT), Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT), and Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT) will adjust management boundaries to allow the advancement of the BST while also designating nearby U.S. Forest Service land for permanent protection.

Business Headlines

- [Volkswagen hoaxes media with fake statement on name change](#) (AP) - Volkswagen of America said it would change its brand name to "Votswagen," to stress its commitment to electric vehicles, only to reverse course Tuesday and admit that the supposed name change was a joke.
 - [S&P futures flat ahead of funding details on Biden's infrastructure plan](#) (Reuters) - Meanwhile, Wall Street headed for its fourth straight quarterly gain on signs of a strong economic rebound.
 - [Exclusive: A billion dollars for every chip-maker who 'makes in India'](#) (Reuters) - "The government will give cash incentives of more than \$1 billion to each company which will set up chip fabrication units," a senior government official said.
 - [Black Executives Call on Corporations to Fight Restrictive Voting Laws](#) (New York Times) - Dozens responded after companies in Georgia said little against state legislation that put strict rules in place.
 - [Turing Award Goes to Creators of Computer Programming Building Blocks](#) - (New York Times) - Jeffrey Ullman and Alfred Aho developed many of the fundamental concepts that researchers use when they build new software.
 - [They Were on Equal Footing. Then the Ground Shifted.](#) (New York Times) - A year of pandemic restrictions has meant some friends are flush and others foundering.
-

On This Day In History

(From [History.com](#))

- **1776** - Abigail Adams writes to her husband John who is helping to frame the Declaration of Independence and cautions, "Remember the ladies"
 - **1888** - The National Council of Women of the U.S. is organized by Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sojourner Truth, among others, the oldest non-sectarian women's organization in the U.S.
 - **1889** - Eiffel Tower is completed. Parisians did not love it.
 - **1918** - The first daylight saving time begins in the United States. This is where the madness started
 - **1927** - Cesar Chavez is born. A former migrant farmworker, Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association. The organization would later become the United Farm Workers of America and under Chavez's guidance, it would gain higher wages and benefits for workers.
 - **1980** - Jesse Owens, four-time Olympic Gold Medalist, dies of lung cancer at age 66.
 - **1998** - American politician Bella Abzug dies.
 - **1998** - Toni Morrison wins the Pulitzer prize for her novel, *Beloved*.
-

Wise Words

"Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be

tyrants if they could."

~Abigail Adams

Lighter Side

Lighter Side

Now that the rush to free the Ever Given has succeeded, the blame game can commence. The boat's shipping company, Taiwan-based Evergreen Marine, has blamed a strong gust of wind, but Jimmy Kimmel was skeptical "they finished this canal in 1869, in 150 years this is the first time they had wind?"

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From: JD Supra <connect@jdsupra.com>

To: Tani Downing <tanidowning@utah.gov>

JD Supra

Your Daily Brief

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DATA COLLECTION

Financial Daily Dose 4.12.2021 | Top Story: Chinese Regulators Hit Alibaba With \$2.8B Antitrust Fine

by Michael Reif | Robins Kaplan LLP

Alibaba, Amazon Marketplace, Ameriprise Financial, Antitrust Violations, Big Tech, Boeing, China, Enforcement Actions, Environmental Social & Governance (ESG), Google, Labor Relations, Newspapers, Pharmaceutical Industry, SEC, Unions

Illinois Employers Must Report Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Compensation Data and Practices

by Christy Phanthavong | Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

Corporations Code, EEO-1, EEOC, Employer Responsibilities, Equal Pay, Ethnicity, Gender-Based Pay Discrimination, Pay Data, Race Discrimination, Reporting Requirements, State Labor Laws

[See More »](#)

DATA PRIVACY

Status Of Proposed CCPA-Like State Privacy Legislation As Of April 12, 2021

by David Stauss | Husch Blackwell LLP

California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), Consumer Privacy Rights, Corporate Counsel, Cybersecurity, Data Collection, Data Protection, Personal Data, Personally Identifiable Information, Privacy Laws, Proposed Legislation

Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Legislative Updates

by Krishna Jani | Flaster Greenberg PC

California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), CDPA, Consumer Privacy Rights, Corporate Counsel, Cybersecurity, Data Collection, Sensitive Personal Information

As Pandemic Enters 2nd Year, CISOs Face Ongoing Telework, Telemedicine Challenges

by Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA)

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Coronavirus/COVID-19, Cyber Attacks, Cyber Threats, Cybersecurity, Data Protection, Data Security, Health Care Providers, Hospitals, Physicians, Remote Working, Telemedicine

Infected! How Cybercriminals Are Taking Advantage of an Industry Focused on the Pandemic

by James (Jay) Darrah | Pessin Katz Law, P.A.

Cyber Attacks, Cyber Threats, Cybersecurity, Data Protection, Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI), Hackers, Health Care Providers, HIPAA, HITECH Act, Phishing Scams

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DATA PROTECTION

States' Safe Harbor Defense For Data Security Breaches Signals Possible Trend

by Kathleen McGee | Lowenstein Sandler LLP

Cybersecurity, Data Breach, GLBA Privacy, HIPAA, NIST, PCI, Personally Identifiable Information, Safe Harbors

NY Department of Financial Services Enforces First-in-the-Nation Cybersecurity Rules and Fines Mortgage Lender \$1.5 Million for Failure to Comply

by Andrea Roberts, Diana Eng | Blank Rome LLP

Cybersecurity, Data Breach, Mortgage Lenders, NYDFS

Protecting Information While Working from Home – One Year Later

by Blake Dillion | Payne & Fears

California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), Cybersecurity, Data Breach, IBM, Personally Identifiable Information, Remote Working

[See More »](#)

DATA SECURITY

[Webinar] Risky Business – Protecting Your Data From Hackers? - April 21st, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm CDT

by Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists (ACEDS)

Cyber Attacks, Cybersecurity, Data Breach, Data Collection, Data Protection, Electronically Stored Information, Hackers, Smart Devices, Webinars

As Reliance On IoT Grows, Are You Prepared For The Risks?

by John Boruvka | Iron Mountain

Artificial Intelligence, Intellectual Property Protection, Internet of Things, Software, Startups, Technology Escrow Accounts

Case Study: A Law Firm Discusses Software Escrow & Verification Services

by Iron Mountain

Intellectual Property Protection, Risk Mitigation, Software, Software Developers, Software Licenses, Technology Escrow Accounts

The State Of Health Data For Vulnerable Populations, Why Cybercriminals Target Children, The Elderly, and the Dead

by Jessica Sganga, Kenneth Wang | Knobbe Martens

Cyber Attacks, Cyber Crimes, Cybersecurity, Data Breach, Electronic Medical Records, Financial Institutions, HIPAA

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STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Florida Legislature Provides COVID-19 Liability Protection for Health Care Providers

by Chris Morrison, Robert (Bob) Hearn | Epstein Becker & Green

Coronavirus/COVID-19, Governor DeSantis, Health Care Providers, Liability, State Legislatures

State license boards warn doctors of consequences for sexual misbehavior

by Patrick Malone & Associates P.C. | DC Injury Lawyers

Hospitals, Patient Safety, Physicians, Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault, Sexual Conduct, Sexual Harassment

New York State Budget Agreement Includes a Pass-Through Entity Tax as a SALT Workaround

by Barry Herzog, Nathan Gusdorf, Pamela Capps | Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Corporate Taxes, Franchise Taxes, High Net-Worth, Income Taxes, Pass-Through Entities, SALT, State Taxes, Tax Planning

California Moves Toward Reopening, But Employers Will Still Have COVID-19 Obligations

by Benjamin Tulis, Cecile Read, Jonathan Siegel, ... | Jackson Lewis P.C.

ADA, California, Coronavirus/COVID-19, DFEH, Employer Responsibilities, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), FDA, Hazard Pay, Health and Safety, Paid Sick Leave, Re-Opening Guidelines, Vaccinations, Wage and Hour, Workplace Safety

UPDATE: Proposed Taxes on Mezzanine and Preferred Equity Financing and "Pied-à-Terre" Taxes Not Included in Final New York Budget Bill

by Scott Hovanyetz, Scott Vetri | Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

New Legislation, New York, Second Homes, Tax Reform

Bouncing Back (and Forth): Statewide Reopening and Mitigation Steps (UPDATED)

by Littler

Coronavirus/COVID-19, Critical Infrastructure Sectors, Employer Liability Issues, Employer Responsibilities, Health and Safety, Infectious Diseases, Re-Opening Guidelines, Risk Mitigation, Workplace Safety

Iowa 2021 Legislative Report - Week 13

by Sydney Gangestad, Timothy Coonan | Dentons Davis Brown

Appropriation, Broadband, Constitutional Amendment, Coronavirus/COVID-19, Diversity, Legislative Agendas, Property Tax, Redistricting, State Budgets, State Constitutions, State Legislatures, Tax Reform

New York's Cannabis Law Legalizes Adult Recreational Use but Permits Local Governments to Ban Retail Sales and On-Site Consumption

by Anthony Guardino | Farrell Fritz, P.C.

Agribusiness, Decriminalization of Marijuana, Dispensaries, Marijuana, Marijuana Cultivation, Marijuana Related Businesses, Medical Marijuana, Municipalities, Recreational Use, Retail

West Virginia Enacts Legislation to Clarify Worker Classification

by Constance Weber, Lindsay Gainer | Littler

Employee Definition, Employer Liability Issues, Freelance Workers, Gig Economy, Hiring & Firing, Independent Contractors, Labor Regulations, Misclassification, New Legislation, State Labor Laws, Wage and Hour

Taxes are Going Up: Highlights from the NYS 2021-2022 Budget

by Andrew Wright, Ariele Doolittle, Catherine Eberl, ... | Hodgson Russ LLP

Corporate Taxes, High Net-Worth, Income Taxes, Pass-Through Entities, SALT, State Taxes, Tax Planning, Tax Reform

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PRIVACY

FEATURED

Beware Dark Patterns – What are They and What Should Your Business Do About Them?

by Brian Lam | Mintz - Privacy & Cybersecurity Viewpoints

California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA), Consumer Privacy Rights, Cybersecurity, Data Privacy, Data Protection, Data Security, FTC, Personal Information, Privacy-By-Design

FCPA Compliance Report- Quyen Truong on the Direction of the CFPB under the Biden Administration ☐

by Compliance Evangelist

GAO Urges Changes As Weapon Systems Cybersecurity Continues To Lag

by Daniel Graham, Devika Kornbacher, Funmi Anifowoshe Manning, ... | Vinson & Elkins LLP

Army, Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity Framework, Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC), Department of Defense (DOD), DFARS, Federal Contractors, GAO, Marine Corps, NIST, Subcontractors, U.S. Navy

Late Breach Notice In Europe Leads To Nearly €500K Fine

by Boris Segalis, Federica De Santis, Gretchen Scott | Goodwin

Booking.com, Corporate Counsel, Cyber Incident Reporting, Cybersecurity, Data Breach, Data Protection Authority, Failure to Notify, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Incident Response Plans

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**Stories from Wednesday,
April 14th, 2021**

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Techdirt Daily Newsbrief

Lying NYPD Narcotics Detective Just Cost Prosecutors Nearly 100 Convictions

from the *War-on-Drugs-can't-be-slowed-down-by-facts* dept

by Tim Cushing - April 14th @ 7:55pm

Welcome once again to America's [War on Drugs](#), already in progress.

In the name of "protecting" us from the overstated ravages of drug addiction, the government engages in [violence](#), [rights violations](#), overzealous prosecutions, millions of [interactions](#) with the criminal justice system, and periodic bouts of performative lawmaking.

And what have we gotten in return? Drug users are [the real winners here](#). The more money we throw at the Drug War, the more easily accessible and cheap drugs are. While politicians and [government agencies claim](#) they want to save people from violence and corruption, violent and corrupt law enforcement officers are doing all they can [to be worse](#) than the problem they're supposed to be solving.

When there's not enough drug activity to sustain local Drug Wars, the cops will create it. We saw this happen in [Houston, Texas](#), where a botched drug raid, predicated on multiple levels of bullshit, resulted in cops killing two residents who had never engaged in the drug sales activity cited on the warrant request. Houston cops are, fortunately, feeling the pain. They may still be alive but they're facing a host of [criminal charges](#).

If there aren't enough drug war combatants to engage with, cops on [drug task forces](#) aren't above [creating their own](#). The botched raid in Houston was predicated on a statement from a nonexistent informant and [drugs pulled](#) from a cop's cruiser.

In New York City, it's more of the same. And it's going to [cost city residents millions of](#)

dollars before this is all sorted out.

Over nearly two decades as a police officer and narcotics detective, Joseph E. Franco made thousands of arrests, many for the possession and sale of drugs. Mr. Franco often worked undercover, and his testimony secured convictions for prosecutors around the city.

But officials who once relied on Mr. Franco are questioning his accounts. After he was accused of lying about drug sales that videos showed never happened, Mr. Franco was charged with perjury in Manhattan in 2019.

Now, the fallout over Mr. Franco's police work is spreading: As many as 90 convictions that he helped secure in Brooklyn will be thrown out, prosecutors plan to announce Wednesday. Many more cases in other boroughs could follow — a reckoning that lawyers said appears larger than any in the city's legal system in recent history.

Cops lie. And their lies are swallowed by those who are supposed to be overseeing them. Turning drugs (and dealers) into cartoonish supervillains has paid off for law enforcement agencies. Billions of tax dollars finance efforts that have done nothing but ensure Americans can buy purer drugs at lower prices. When it's a cop's word against some drug fiend/dealer, everyone always believes the cop. Right up until they can't. Then the fallout begins.

Problems that could have been caught **months or years** ago seem to only be addressed once they become too big to ignore. Detective Franco worked for the NYPD for nearly 20 years before being rung up on criminal charges. This says nothing good about the NYPD's internal oversight or **internal culture** that this went on for this long before it was discovered and addressed.

Welcome to the criminal justice system, Detective Liar:

Mr. Franco was charged in 2019 with 26 criminal counts, including perjury and official misconduct, after investigators in the Manhattan district attorney's office said that he had testified to witnessing several drug buys that video footage showed did not happen or that he could not have seen.

A whole bunch of "wins" for local prosecutors are now vanishing. And, if what we've seen elsewhere in the country is any indication, this will likely end up affecting far more than the ~90 convictions identified by prosecutors. Detective Franco has tainted the entire Narcotics Division. Any involvement of his is now presumably suspect.

Blame the deference given to cops by everyone from prosecutors to courts to the press. Without this reputational free pass, stuff like this would have been spotted prior to it becoming a potentially 20-year problem.

In one episode on the Lower East Side, a man was arrested in February 2017 after Mr. Franco said he witnessed the man selling drugs inside the lobby of a building. But prosecutors said security video showed the transaction never took place — and Mr. Franco had never even entered the building.

In a similar arrest four months later, Mr. Franco said he saw a woman selling drugs in a building's vestibule on Madison Street. He had not gone into the vestibule, however, and was too far from the woman to observe any sale, prosecutors said after reviewing security footage.

If a detective is this comfortable lying, it's because they've had years of practice and zero pushback from supervisors or other officers on the scene. This is the sort of thing that happens when accountability is nearly nonexistent. Better late than never, for sure. But if the nation's law enforcement agencies want to win back the public's trust, they need to address the internal rot they've ignored or tolerated for years.

[8 Comments »](#)

Content Moderation Case Study: Lyft Blocks Users >From Using Their Real Names To Sign Up (2019)

from the *scunthorpe-again?* dept

by Copia Institute - April 14th @ 3:33pm

Summary: Users attempting to sign up for a new ride-sharing program ran into a problem from the earliest days of content moderation. The "[Scunthorpe problem](#)" dates back to 1996, when AOL refused to let residents of Scunthorpe, England register accounts with the online service. The service's blocklist of "offensive" words picked out four of the first five letters of the town's name and served up a blanket ban to residents.

Flash forward twenty-three years and services still aren't much closer to solving this problem.

Users attempting to sign up for Lyft [found themselves booted from the service for "violating community guidelines"](#) simply for attempting to create accounts using their real names. Some of the users affected were Nicole Cumming, Cara Dick, Dick DeBartolo, and Candace Poon.

These users were asked to "update their names," as though such a thing were even possible to do with a service that ties names to payment systems and internal efforts to ensure driver and passenger safety.

Decisions to be made by Lyft:

- Should names triggering Community Guidelines violations be reviewed by human moderators, rather than automatically rejected?
- Is the cross-verification process enough to deter pranksters and trolls from activating accounts with actually offensive names?

Questions and policy implications to consider:

- Considering the identification system is backstopped by credit cards and payment services that require real names, does deploying a blocklist actually serve any useful purpose?
- Given that potential users are likely to abandon a service that generates too much friction at sign up, does a blocklist like this do damage to company growth?
- Does global growth create a larger problem by adding other languages and possible names that will trigger rejections of more potential users? Can this be mitigated by backstopping more automatic processes with human moderators?

Resolution: The users affected by Lyft's blocklist were reinstated. Lyft apologized for the rejections, pointing a finger at automated moderation efforts designed to keep people from creating offensive content using nothing more than the First Name/Last Name fields.

Unfortunately, the problem still hasn't been solved. Candace Poon -- whose first attempt to sign up for Lyft was rejected -- [just ran into the same issue attempting to create an account for new social media platform, Clubhouse.](#)

Originally posted to the [Trust & Safety Foundation](#) website.

[5 Comments](#) »

I Guess They're Not All On The Same Side: Cops Brutalize Soldier For [Checks Notes] Leading Them To A Well-Lit Area

from the [whatever-doesn't-kill-you-makes-you-more-of-an-asshole](#) dept

by Tim Cushing - April 14th @ 1:38pm

[But for video.](#)

The twist? This time the cops brought their own damnation to the party.

Cops like to pretend they and the boys in actual camouflage uniforms [are BFFs](#), united against the constant threat of evil. Cops [think they're soldiers](#). It's unclear whether soldiers think they're cops, but the people sending them orders certainly think they are. I mean, we don't go from zero to "[Team USA America: World Police](#)" without [some nudges](#) from those on and off the battlefield.

Here's where this all intersects: [two Windsor \(VA\) officers decided the best response](#) to what appears to be a routine traffic stop was a whole lot of violence, both physical and mental. The body cam video shows just how much at least one officer overreacted to a man who just wanted to survive the unexpected interaction with law enforcement.

[\[Click to view this post on Techdirt with embedded content. \]](#)

This is what happened to Caron Nazario -- an Army medic. He bought a new car. And, as everyone knows ([including the cops](#) who pulled him over) new cars don't have rear plates. They have temporary paper tags located inside the rear window where they won't be destroyed by, say, any weather whatsoever.

Despite this being common knowledge, these officers (Joe Gutierrez, Daniel Crocker) effected a traffic stop. Things were unnecessarily escalated because Nazario chose to do something everyone -- even cops -- say is a good idea. From the [lawsuit \[PDF\]](#):

On or around December 5, 2020, at approximately 18:34, Defendant Crocker initiated a traffic stop of Lt. Nazario on US 460 westbound in the Town of Windsor, near the Food Lion, where the speed limit is 35 miles per hour, by activating his emergency lights. The traffic stop was ostensibly for the lack of a rear license plate⁴, though the temporary tags were affixed to the back of the vehicle and visible to Crocker during the pursuit. Defendant Gutierrez then joined in the pursuit.

Within seconds, Lt. Nazario submitted to Defendant Crocker's display of authority and began to slow down. Lt. Nazario also activated his turn signal, to signal his compliance with Crocker's implied directive to pull over. Crocker admits in real time that Lt. Nazario was complying, by relaying to dispatch that Lt. Nazario was slowing down. Gutierrez, who was listening to Crocker over the radio, was aware of both the reasons for the stop as well as Lt. Nazario's compliance with Crocker's signal to slow down and pull over.

It was dark, however, and it appeared to Lt. Nazario that there was no good location in the immediate vicinity to stop safely. So, for the benefit of the officer's safety and his own, Lt. Nazario continued slowly down US 460, below the posted speed limit, for less than under a mile, until he spotted a well-lighted BP gas station. He pulled over in the parking lot. From the time that Defendant Crocker initiated the traffic stop until the time Lt. Nazario pulled over into the BP parking lot, approximately 1 minute and 40 seconds elapsed and Lt. Nazario had traveled less than a mile.

That's how long it takes for cops to take things to the next level. No one wants to stop

on a dark street. Cops who are concerned about their safety don't want to perform traffic stops on dark streets. And cops who are concerned about their safety [make the rules](#). (See also: a shitload of qualified immunity decisions.) So, to make sure everyone was safe, Lt. Nazario found the nearest well-lit area and stopped.

I guess that was the wrong decision. According to police spokespeople, Nazario's careful move towards a lighted area turned this into a felony stop: one that justified whatever paranoia the officers engaged in. There was no pursuit. There was less than two minutes of activated lights before Nazario pulled over and *attempted* to comply with the officers' shouted commands.

If you paid attention to the videos, you may have noticed (several) concerning details. First, the cops rolled up like they were dealing with a dangerous criminal -- one who led them at *low speed* to a *well-lit, heavily-trafficked area*. Then they told him to do things that would endanger his life.

They told him to exit the vehicle. They also told him to keep his hands outside of his vehicle. Lt. Nazario's seatbelt was still fastened. His door was locked. Complying with one order (exit the vehicle) would result in a violation of other orders (keep your hands outside of the vehicle).

You can't win, as Lt. Nazario suspected. He pointed this out.

One officer said non-compliance of the conflicting orders would result in Nazario "riding the lightning," presumably referring to the officer's Taser. (But it also could refer to an instant death sentence, as being [strapped into the electric chair](#) is also referred to as "riding the lightning." But we'll stick with the "less lethal" option because we're being overly charitable here.)

Then there's the other comment made by the same officer. Nazario -- recognizing the situation he'd been forced into by an officer who saw fit to escalate before having any facts in hand -- said: "I'm honestly afraid to get out."

He received this response:

"You should be."

So, faced with these limited facts, he stayed in his car. For that, he was pepper sprayed and tased. And for that, these officers were sued.

["Command control,"](#) will say any officer worth their suddenly-jeopardized pension. That's why cops charge into scenes with guns drawn and repeated shouts of contradictory commands. What options did Lt. Nazario have? Lower his hands to unlock the door? Move his hands out of the officers' sight to undo his seatbelt? He did all he could to avoid being shot. And, [saints be praised](#), he wasn't. But he was brutalized because Lt. Nazario failed to handcuff himself and teleport into the backseat of the nearest cruiser.

This is American policing. It happens every day. Sometimes, it gets captured on camera. And it shows the cops treat everyone -- even those they consider to be comrades in arms in the fight against universal evil -- to be nothing more than criminals who haven't been convicted yet.

A citizen concerned about their own well-being will make officers safer. Instead of recognizing how everyone benefited from moving the stop to well-lit area, the officers chose to view it as a "felony stop" and reacted as though someone was leading them into danger. But the only person they put in peril was a guy just trying to drive his new car home. Hopefully, the court will see through any assertions about "training and experience" or "officer safety" and send these cops back to face a jury.

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Donald Trump Caused The Techlash

from the 2016-election-was-the-tipping-point dept

by Nirit Weiss-Blatt - April 14th @ 12:05pm

In October 2016, I pitched USC a research proposal about the tech coverage's non-investigative nature and the influence of corporate PR. I thought that at the end of this project, I'd have indictive documentation of how the tech media is too promotional and not tough enough. When I sat down to analyze a full year of tech coverage, the data presented quite the opposite. 2017 was suddenly full of tech scandals and mounting scrutiny. The flattering stories about consumer products evolved into investigative pieces on business practices, which caught the tech companies and their communications teams off guard.

Like any good startup, I needed to pivot. I changed my research entirely and focused on this new type of backlash against Big Tech. The research was based on an AI-media monitoring tool (by MIT and Harvard), content analysis, and in-depth interviews. I had amazing interviewees: senior tech PR executives and leading tech journalists from *BuzzFeed News*, *CNET*, *Recode*, *Reuters News*, *TechCrunch*, *Techdirt*, *The Atlantic*, *The Information*, *The New York Times*, *The Verge*, and *Wired* magazine. Together, they illuminated the power dynamics between the media and the tech giants it covers. Here are some of the conclusions regarding the roots of the shift in coverage and the tech companies' crisis responses.

The election of Donald Trump

After the U.K.'s Brexit referendum in June 2016, and specifically, after Donald Trump became the president at the end of 2016, the media blamed the tech platforms for widespread misinformation and disinformation. The most influential article, from November 2016, was *BuzzFeed's* piece entitled, "[This analysis shows how viral fake election news stories outperformed real news on Facebook.](#)" It was the first domino to topple.

When I asked what was the story that formed the Techlash, all the interviewees answered, in one way or the other, that it was the election of Donald Trump. "Even though it wasn't the story that people wrote about the most, it was the underlying theme." Then, new revelations regarding the Russian interference with the U.S. election evolved into a bigger story. On November 1, 2017, Facebook, Google, and Twitter, testified in front of the U.S. Congress. The alarming effect was from combining the three testimonies together.

In the tech sector, there's a sentence that you hear a lot: "change happens gradually then suddenly." There were years and years of "build-up" for the flip, but the flip itself was in the pivotal moment of Donald Trump's victory and the post-presidential election reckoning that followed it. The main discussion was the role of social media in helping him win the election.

If Hillary Clinton had been elected in November 2016, the Techlash might have been much smaller. "We would not have seen the amount of negative coverage. It is not just because almost every tech journalist is reflectively anti-Donald Trump; it is that almost every tech person is anti-Donald Trump." As a result, Silicon Valley began to regret the foundational elements of its own success. The most dire warnings started to come from inside the industry as more sources spoke up and exposed misdeeds.

Then, in 2018, the Cambridge Analytica scandal unlocked larger concerns about social media's influence and the careless approach toward user privacy. It also shed light on the fact that technology is progressing faster than consumers' ability to process it and faster than the government's ability to regulate it.

The companies' bigness and scandals around fake news, data breaches, and sexual harassment

There were more factors at play here. It was also the tech companies' scale and bigness, being too big to fail. All the tech giants are at a place where they are getting scrutiny, if nothing else, because of how big and powerful they are. On the one hand, growth-at-all-cost is a mandate. On the other, there are unforeseen consequences of that same growth.

According to the tech journalists, those unintended consequences are due to the companies' profound lack of foresight. They were blind, and this blindness came back to bite them. Thus, it's the companies' fault for not listening to the journalists' concerns.

However, the big data analytics and content analysis showed that focusing only on the post-election reckoning or the tech platforms' growing power won't fully explain the Techlash. A large number of events in a variety of issues shaped it. Their combination led to the "It's enough" feeling, the mounting calls for tougher regulation, and the #BreakUpBigTech proposition.

We had cases of extremist content and hate speech, and misinformation/disinformation, like the fake news after the Las Vegas shooting; privacy and data security issues, following major cyber-attacks, like "WannaCry" or data breaches, like Equifax, but also at Facebook, Uber, and Yahoo, which raised the alarm about data privacy and data protection challenges; and also allegations of an anti-diversity, sexual harassment, and discrimination culture. It was in February 2017 that Susan Fowler published her revelations against Uber (prior to the #MeToo movement). It symbolized the toxicity in Silicon Valley. All of those time-bombs started to detonate at once.

The tech companies' responses didn't help

When I analyzed the tech companies' crisis responses, I had different companies and a variety of negative stories, and yet the responses were very much alike. It created what I call "The Tech PR Template for Crises." The companies rolled out the same playbook, over and over again. It was clear; big tech got used to resting on their laurels and was not ready to give real answers to tough questions. Instead, they published the responses they kept under "open in case of emergency."

One strategy was "The Victim-Villain framing": "We've built something good, with good intentions/ previous good deeds and great policies -but- our product/ platform was manipulated/ misused by bad/malicious actors."

The second was pseudo-apologies: Many responses included messages of "we apologize," "deeply regret," and "ask for forgiveness." They were usually intertwined with "we need to do better." This message typically comes in this order: "While we've made steady progress ... we have much more work to do, and ... we know we need to do better." Every tech reporter heard this specific combination a million times by now.

They said, "sorry," so why pseudo-apologies? Well, because they repeatedly tried to reduce their responsibility, with all the elements identified in number one: reminder strategy (past good work), excuse strategy (good intention), victimization (basically saying, "We are the victim of the crisis"), scapegoating (blaming others). They emphasized their suffering since they were "an unfair victim of some malicious, outside entity."

The third thing was to state that they are proactive: "We are currently working on those immediate actions to fix this. Looking forward, we are working on those steps for improvements, minimizing the chances that it will happen again." It's Crisis Communication 101. But then, they added, "But our work will never be done." I think those seven words encapsulate everything. Is the work never done because, by now, the problems are too big to fix?

It is the art of avoiding responsibility

One way to look at the companies' PR template is to say: "Well, of course, that this is their messaging. They are being asked to stop big, difficult societal problems, and that is an impossible request."

In reality, all of those Techlash responses backlashed. Tech companies should know (as Spider-Man fans already know) that "with great power comes great responsibility."

Since they tried to reduce their responsibility, the critics claimed that tech companies need to stop taking the role of the victim and stop blaming others. The apology tours received comments such as "don't ask for forgiveness, ask for permission." The critics also said that "actions should follow words." Even after the companies specified their corrective actions, the critics claimed the companies "ignore the system" because they have no incentive for dramatic changes, like their business models. In such cases, where the media push for fundamental changes, PR can't fix it.

The Techlash coverage is deterministic

On the one hand, there's the theme of: "We are at a point where the baby is being thrown out with the bathwater. There was a perhaps ridiculous utopianism. But it has become just as ridiculous - if not more so - on the flip side now, of being dystopian. The pendulum has swung too far" (Evil List articles, for example). On the other hand, there's the theme of "Journalism's role is to hold power to account. We are just doing our job, speak truth to power, reveal wrongdoing, and put a stop to it. Whoever is saying that the media is over-correcting doesn't understand journalism at all."

While I articulated both themes in the book, one of the concepts that helped me organize my thoughts was 'technological determinism.' In a nutshell, some argue that technology is deterministic: the state of technological advancement is the determining factor of society. Others dispute that view, claiming the opposite: social forces shape and design technology, and thus, it is the society that affects technology. I realized that we could describe the Techlash coverage as deterministic: technology drives society in bad directions. Period.

Then, perhaps what the few tech advocates are pointing out is that this narrative doesn't consider the social context or human agency. A good example was the Social Dilemma. The tech critics targeted the scare tactics used to enrage people in a documentary filled with scare tactics used to enrage people. And they didn't even notice the irony. Sadly, since they exaggerated and the arguments were too simplistic, they made it easier to dismiss the claims, even though they were extremely important. My fear here is that the exaggerations overshadow the real concerns, and the companies become even more tone-deaf. So, perhaps, we deserve a more nuanced discussion.

“It’s cool -- it’s evil” “saviors -- threats”

From the glorious days and the dot-com bubble to today’s Techlash, there were two pendulum swings; the first between “It’s cool” and “It’s evil,” the second between “saviors” and “threats.” Moving forward, I would suggest dropping them altogether. Tech is not an evil threat, nor our ultimate savior. The reality is not those extremes, but somewhere in the middle.

Dr. Nirit Weiss-Blatt is the author of [The Techlash and Tech Crisis Communication](#)

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Deconstructing Justice Thomas' Pro-Censorship Statement

from the *not-how-any-of-this-works* dept

by Eric Goldman - April 14th @ 10:48am

Last week, we had a post about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas' [very weird statement](#) in a concurrence on mooted an unrelated case, in which he seemed to attack free speech and Section 230. Law professor Eric Goldman has written up an incredibly thorough response to Thomas' statement that we thought the Techdirt community might appreciate, and so we're reposting in here.

Last week, the Supreme Court vacated the [Second Circuit's Knight v. Trump](#) ruling. The Second Circuit held that Trump violated the First Amendment when he blocked other Twitter users from engaging with his @realDonaldTrump account. [Other courts](#) are holding that government officials can't block social media users from their official accounts, but they can freely block from personal or campaign accounts. Vacating the Second Circuit opinion probably won't materially change that caselaw.

That outcome was overshadowed by [a concurring statement](#) from Justice Thomas wherein he again embraced censorship. I [blogged a similar statement](#) from Justice Thomas from the October 2020 cert denial of [Enigma v. Malwarebytes](#). That time, Justice Thomas criticized Section 230 by addressing topics he wasn't briefed on and clearly did not understand. This time, his statement is even more unhinged and disconnected from the case at issue. It's clear Justice Thomas feels free to publish whatever thoughts are on his mind. This is what bloggers do. I think he, and all of us, would benefit if he moved his musings to a personal blog, instead of misusing our tax dollars to issue official government statements.

Justice Thomas' statement ends (emphasis added):

As Twitter made clear, the right to cut off speech lies most powerfully in the hands of private digital platforms. The extent to which that power matters for purposes of the First Amendment and the extent to which

that power could lawfully be modified raise interesting and important questions. This petition, unfortunately, affords us no opportunity to confront them.

So Justice Thomas acknowledges he wasn't briefed on any of the interesting topics he wanted to discuss. He's just making stuff up. This isn't what Supreme Court justices do, or should do. I'm a little surprised that his colleagues haven't publicly rebuked him for writing free-association statements. Such statements hurt the court's credibility and abuse the privilege afforded Supreme Court justices.

Justice Thomas starts with an apparent contradiction he positions as a gotcha. The Second Circuit said that Trump created a public forum on Twitter, so Justice Thomas wonders how that could be when Twitter could unilaterally shut down that public forum. He says public forums are "government-controlled spaces," but any "control Mr. Trump exercised over the account greatly paled in comparison to Twitter's authority." Still, Justice Thomas himself acknowledges that if the government rents private real property and uses it to create a public forum, it's still a public forum even when a private landlord has the unilateral right to terminate the lease and evict the government. So....where's the gotcha?

Having failed to define that problem, Justice Thomas manufactures a strawman. He says: "If part of the problem is private, concentrated control over online content and platforms available to the public, then part of the solution may be found in doctrines that limit the right of a private company to exclude." Notice the conditional grammar to assume a problem without proving it. This is the foundation for a discussion about hypothetical solutions to hypothesized problems.

The two doctrines that "limit the right of a private company to exclude" are common carriage and public accommodations. That leads to this bone-chilling declaration:

Internet platforms of course have their own First Amendment interests, but regulations that might affect speech are valid if they would have been permissible at the time of the founding. See United States v. Stevens, 559 U. S. 460, 468 (2010). The long history in this country and in England of restricting the exclusion right of common carriers and places of public accommodation may save similar regulations today from triggering heightened scrutiny—especially where a restriction would not prohibit the company from speaking or force the company to endorse the speech. See Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. FCC, 512 U. S. 622, 684 (1994) (O'Connor, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part); PruneYard Shopping Center v. Robins, 447 U. S. 74, 88 (1980). There is a fair argument that some digital platforms are sufficiently akin to common carriers or places of accommodation to be regulated in this manner.

[Freeze frame and record scratch...] What did he just say?

First, notice how far Justice Thomas has strayed from the case before him. Somehow he's talking about common carriage and public accommodations when neither doctrine had anything to do with Trump's management of his Twitter account.

Second, did Justice Thomas just favorably cite *Pruneyard*? Most "conservatives" view *Pruneyard* skeptically because of its dramatic incursion into private property ownership. It's also on the wane as precedent. Courts have been reluctant to extend it to new facts. The *Pruneyard* decision may be a low-water mark for private property ownership rights, not the foundation of expanded censorship. (There is also the standard Internet exceptionalism problem with applying an offline analogy like physical-space shopping malls to online media venues).

Third, he is about to make a "fair argument" that "some digital platforms are sufficiently akin to common carriers or places of accommodation." OK, but are there any counterarguments to that "fair" argument? Normally an opposing litigant would be aggressively telling its side of the story, and other Supreme Court justices would be pointing out the weaknesses in Justice Thomas' "fair" arguments. Without these tempering forces, Justice Thomas is engaging in personal advocacy, not judicial analysis.

Regarding common carriers, Justice Thomas claims:

In many ways, digital platforms that hold themselves out to the public resemble traditional common carriers. Though digital instead of physical, they are at bottom communications networks, and they "carry" information from one user to another...unlike newspapers, digital platforms hold themselves out as organizations that focus on distributing the speech of the broader public.

It should not matter how an editorial publication sources the content it publishes. I remember Zagat, which tried to faithfully mirror the opinions of ordinary restaurant consumers. Did "distributing the speech of the broader public" make Zagat a common carrier? Of course not, because Zagat layered substantial editorial value on top of the consumer comments. But so does Twitter, which enforces its house rules and performs many crucial curatorial functions. Justice Thomas ignores those value-added editorial functions.

Justice Thomas then links common carriage to network effects:

The analogy to common carriers is even clearer for digital platforms that have dominant market share. Similar to utilities, today's dominant digital platforms derive much of their value from network size....The Facebook suite of apps is valuable largely because 3 billion people use it. Google search—at 90% of the market share—is valuable relative to other

search engines because more people use it, creating data that Google's algorithm uses to refine and improve search results. These network effects entrench these companies. Ordinarily, the astronomical profit margins of these platforms—last year, Google brought in \$182.5 billion total, \$40.3 billion in net income—would induce new entrants into the market. That these companies have no comparable competitors highlights that the industries may have substantial barriers to entry....

It changes nothing that these platforms are not the sole means for distributing speech or information. A person always could choose to avoid the toll bridge or train and instead swim the Charles River or hike the Oregon Trail. But in assessing whether a company exercises substantial market power, what matters is whether the alternatives are comparable. For many of today's digital platforms, nothing is.

The companies Justice Thomas disparages would hotly contest his assessment. But they weren't in his courtroom to explain themselves.

More generally, normally common carriage redresses natural monopolies, where it would be socially wasteful to build duplicative infrastructure. Assuming Facebook and Google in fact benefit from network effects, they still lack that key attribute of natural monopolists. In particular, competitors can and will successfully compete by providing non-identical orthogonal solutions.

Justice Thomas continues smearing non-litigants:

Much like with a communications utility, this concentration gives some digital platforms enormous control over speech. When a user does not already know exactly where to find something on the Internet—and users rarely do—Google is the gatekeeper between that user and the speech of others 90% of the time. It can suppress content by deindexing or downlisting a search result or by steering users away from certain content by manually altering autocomplete results. Grind, Schechner, McMillan, & West, How Google Interferes With Its Search Algorithms and Changes Your Results, Wall Street Journal, Nov. 15, 2019. Facebook and Twitter can greatly narrow a person's information flow through similar means. And, as the distributor of the clear majority of e-books and about half of all physical books, Amazon can impose cataclysmic consequences on authors by, among other things, blocking a listing.

Is Justice Thomas suggesting all of these services—including Amazon's book retailing—should be treated like common carriers? Where does that stop?

Also, media industry consolidation is ubiquitous in every media niche. For example, there are 3 major record labels, and Disney has eaten a huge chunk of the movie

business. Does that make them common carriers? In the 1970s and 1980s, there was a single daily newspaper in each metro area. Should they have been deemed common carriers because of that? Recall Florida tried to do that in [Miami Herald v. Tornillo](#) (though it didn't use the term "common carrier"). The Supreme Court held that the Miami Herald newspaper's local market dominance did not reduce the newspaper's constitutional protection.

With respect to public accommodations, Justice Thomas says "a company ordinarily is a place of public accommodation if it provides 'lodging, food, entertainment, or other services to the public . . . in general.' Twitter and other digital platforms bear resemblance to that definition." Every business will bear some "resemblance" to that definition because they offer goods or services to their customers, but not every business is a place of public accommodation. Justice Thomas closes the thought by saying "no party has identified any public accommodation restriction that applies here." That's because IT WASN'T RELEVANT TO THE CASE.

Justice Thomas cheerleads the #MAGA legislators around the country working on censorial bills:

The similarities between some digital platforms and common carriers or places of public accommodation may give legislators strong arguments for similarly regulating digital platforms. "[I]t stands to reason that if Congress may demand that telephone companies operate as common carriers, it can ask the same of" digital platforms. Turner, 512 U. S., at 684 (opinion of O'Connor, J.). That is especially true because the space constraints on digital platforms are practically nonexistent (unlike on cable companies), so a regulation restricting a digital platform's right to exclude might not appreciably impede the platform from speaking.

Justice Thomas somehow overlooked [Reno v. ACLU](#) (1997), which came out after Turner and Denver Area. The Supreme Court said that, unlike broadcasting and telecom, there was no basis for qualifying the First Amendment scrutiny applied to Internet content regulations. This is 100% responsive to his invocation of O'Connor's language from Turner.

Justice Thomas then says "plaintiffs might have colorable claims against a digital platform if it took adverse action against them in response to government threats." [Not this again](#). It's a true statement with respect to "government threats," but general censorial exhortations by government officials aren't "threats." In a footnote, he adds:

Threats directed at digital platforms can be especially problematic in the light of 47 U. S. C. §230, which some courts have misconstrued to give digital platforms immunity for bad-faith removal of third-party content. Malwarebytes, Inc. v. Enigma Software Group USA, LLC, 592 U. S. ___,

____-____ (2020) (THOMAS, J., *statement respecting denial of certiorari*) (slip op., at 7-8). *This immunity eliminates the biggest deterrent—a private lawsuit—against caving to an unconstitutional government threat.*

Wait, who is the villain in that story? My vote: *The government making unconstitutional threats*. Section 230 doesn't prevent lawsuits directly against the government for issuing these threats. Nevertheless, Justice Thomas apparently thinks that Internet services, receiving unconstitutional demands from government officials, should be sued by individual users for honoring those demands. Yet, an Internet service's content removal in response to a government threat usually would be considered a "good faith" removal and thus satisfy the statutory requirements of Section 230(c)(2), so I don't understand why Justice Thomas thinks his Enigma statement is relevant. And if Section 230 didn't protect the Internet service's removal, is Justice Thomas saying that the Internet services should be compelled to carry potentially illegal content even if the government executes its threat? Here's a better idea: we should all work together to stop the government from issuing unconstitutional threats. And the first government threat I think we should stop? I nominate Justice Thomas' threat to impose must-carry obligations.

Justice Thomas, citing Prof. Volokh, speculates that maybe Section 230 is itself unconstitutional:

some commentators have suggested that immunity provisions like §230 could potentially violate the First Amendment to the extent those provisions pre-empt state laws that protect speech from private censorship

As I've said before, the phrase "private censorship" is an oxymoron. Only governments censor. Private entities exercise editorial control.

More generally, I do not see how Section 230(c)(1) is unconstitutional. [It's a speech-enhancing statute that supplements the First Amendment](#). Section 230(c)(2) is more colorable because it does make distinctions between different content categories. However, so long as courts read the "otherwise objectionable" exclusion broadly, that phrase basically applies to all content equally. Note that various Section 230(c)(2) reforms propose to remove or modify the "otherwise objectionable" language, and those changes could create a constitutional problem where none currently exists.

Justice Thomas says the threats he's talking about have nothing to do with the case at hand:

But no threat is alleged here...no party has sued Twitter. The question facing the courts below involved only whether a government actor violated the First Amendment by blocking another Twitter user.

I agree. So why is Justice Thomas discussing any of this?

Justice Thomas' statement concludes:

The Second Circuit feared that then-President Trump cut off speech by using the features that Twitter made available to him. But if the aim is to ensure that speech is not smothered, then the more glaring concern must perforce be the dominant digital platforms themselves. As Twitter made clear, the right to cut off speech lies most powerfully in the hands of private digital platforms.

I strongly disagree about the MOST “glaring concern” here. Twitter lacks the power to order drone killings, separate parents from their children at the border, put a knee on the neck of a suspect for 9 minutes, incarcerate people, impose taxes, garnish people’s wages, or engage in the thousands of other ways that governments can deprive people of their assets, liberty, or life. Compared to the government’s vast power to squelch speech, the power of the “dominant digital platforms” seems puny. Justice Thomas betrays his extraordinary degree of privilege. Due to that privilege, he doesn’t recognize how the truly glaring concern is that the government, fueled by his words, will use its “dominance” to “smother” far more speech than any Internet service ever could.

Implications

I hope Justice Thomas’ colleagues do not share his views and this statement is just idle musings. But even if the statement doesn’t lead to changes at the Supreme Court, it will nevertheless contribute to three unfortunate dynamics.

First, plaintiffs will improperly cite the statement as if it is binding law (which they did with his prior statement: 1, 2). They will especially like the discussion about government threats.

Second, plaintiffs will appeal more censorial cases to the Supreme Court, knowing that Justice Thomas is a reliable vote to grant the cert petition and vote in their favor.

Third, state legislators will view this opinion as permission to pursue unconstitutional must-carry obligations. There are so many proposals percolating in the state legislatures right now, and odds are good that at least one will get enacted and the battle will shift to the court challenges of those laws. The future of the Internet rests on those coming court battles, and I feel less secure about the Internet’s fate knowing that Justice Thomas is one of the final 9 votes.

Finally, remember that Trump’s Twitter account was government speech. The thrust of Justice Thomas’ statement would require Twitter to carry government speech it doesn’t want to carry. That isn’t garden-variety censorship. Justice Thomas seemingly wants private media operations to become government mouthpieces. Forcing media outlets to distribute government propaganda is a hallmark of repressive and autocratic

countries. I don't know what it means to be a "conservative," but I know it shouldn't include that.

BONUS: Justice Thomas isn't trying to hide his antipathy towards Google. See this passage from his dissent in [Google v. Oracle](#), No. 18-956 (U.S. Sup. Ct. April 5, 2021):

If the majority is going to speculate about what Oracle might do, it at least should consider what Google has done. The majority expresses concern that Oracle might abuse its copyright protection (on outdated Android versions) and “attempt to monopolize the market.” Ante, at 34-35. But it is Google that recently was fined a record \$5 billion for abusing Android to violate antitrust laws. Case AT.40099, Google Android, July 18, 2018 (Eur. Comm’n-Competition); European Comm’n Press Release, Commission Fines Google €4.34 Billion for Illegal Practices Regarding Android Mobile Devices to Strengthen Dominance of Google’s Search Engine, July 18, 2018. Google controls the most widely used mobile operating system in the world. And if companies may now freely copy libraries of declaring code whenever it is more convenient than writing their own, others will likely hesitate to spend the resources Oracle did to create intuitive, well-organized libraries that attract programmers and could compete with Android. If the majority is worried about monopolization, it ought to consider whether Google is the greater threat.

Originally posted to [Eric Goldman's Technology & Marketing Law Blog](#).

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Daily Deal: Babbel Language Learning

from the *good-deals-on-cool-stuff* dept

by Daily Deal - April 14th @ 10:45am

Learn Spanish, French, Italian, German, and many more languages with [Babbel](#). Developed by over 100 expert linguists, Babbel is helping millions of people speak a new language quickly and with confidence. After just one month, you will be able to speak confidently about practical topics, such as transportation, dining, shopping, directions, making friends, and much more! This bundle includes two full access, lifetime subscriptions and it's on sale for \$358.

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Sens. Cruz, Hawley & Lee Show How To Take A Good Bill Idea And Make It Blatantly Unconstitutional

from the *seriously-guys?* dept

by Mike Masnick - April 14th @ 9:34am

Senators Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, and Mike Lee, all hold themselves out to be "constitutional" lawyers. All graduated from law schools and went on to clerk for Supreme Court Justices (Cruz clerked for Rehnquist, Hawley for Roberts, and Lee for Alito -- though before he moved to the Supreme Court). And yet, all three have shown that their support for the Constitution they swore to uphold and protect is a little wishy washy when they can build a culture war around it and get some silly press attention. The latest move is their [new bill to strip Major League Baseball's antitrust exemption](#).

Now, I've explained this before, but let me be explicit about it here, because it's the part that people keep getting tripped up on: **I think this is a good idea**. It's silly that Major League Baseball has an antitrust exemption and it should be gotten rid of. There's no need for it and it's bad policy that it exists. And if Senators Cruz, Hawley and Lee had simply introduced such a bill, I might even cheer it on.

But... that's not what they did. They announced it in a manner that makes it blatantly unconstitutional, because they **flat out admit that they're doing it to punish MLB** for MLB's political expression (namely moving the All-Star Game out of Atlanta to protest Georgia's new voting law). And the Senators don't even try to hide this or come up with some Potemkin-style façade. They just out and out: [admit that they're doing this for unconstitutional reasons](#):

Following Major League Baseball's (MLB) decision to relocate the All-Star game from the state of Georgia, U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Mike Lee (R-Utah), and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) will hold a press conference today outlining their legislation to end MLB's special immunity from antitrust laws.

Here's the thing that many people are missing: you can do constitutional things for unconstitutional reasons, and it makes the things you do... unconstitutional. In this case, Cruz, Lee, and Hawley are *actually* making it **more difficult** to remove MLB's antitrust exemption, because they've just handed MLB an easy response should this bill go anywhere. They can run to court and say that this was clearly vindictive behavior by Congress in response to protected 1st Amendment speech.

So even if you support removing MLB's antitrust exemption, you should be against this. Because this action, in this way, simply guarantees that if it got traction, it would get tied up in court for years solely due to the statements of Hawley, Cruz, and Lee.

It's quite likely that none of the three actually care, of course. They're all just grandstanding for an ignorant base who wants these Senators to embrace "cancelling" Major League Baseball for daring to... care about voting rights. And, in doing so, these three Senators show (yet again) that they're not interested in actually doing what's right, or what's constitutional. They're only interested in frothing up some grist for an ignorant base who revels in the politics of petty grievances.

[57 Comments »](#)

Cable Giant Charter Fined \$19 Million For Lying About Competitors Going Out Of Business

from the *just-another-day-in-US-telecom* dept

by Karl Bode - April 14th @ 5:18am

When last we checked in on cable giant Charter Communications (Spectrum), the company was busy [using the Boys and Girl's Club of America](#) as a prop to try and kill helpful conditions affixed to its megamerger with Time Warner Cable. This week, the company's under fire after it circulated advertising telling customers (falsely) that one of its competitors (Windstream Communications) was going out of business. While Windstream had [filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection](#), it very much remains in business. Yet Charter's advertising to customers informed them the company would likely be shuttering its doors soon.

This week Judge Robert Drain of US Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York [ruled \(pdf\)](#) that Charter must now pay Windstream \$19 million for [spreading false claims about the company](#):

"Charter's goal with the mailings 'was to induce the Debtors' customers to terminate their contracts and switch to Charter by sending them literally false and intentionally misleading information about the Debtors' bankruptcy cases and financial wherewithal,' the ruling said. Charter premised its ad campaign 'on false assertions regarding the Debtors' bankruptcy cases,' the ruling said."

Charter's lawyers had, as they do every time they're in court, tried to argue that lying about a competitor was protected speech, something the Judge didn't look to kindly on:

"Charter claimed that punishment for its 'literally false and intentionally

misleading advertising campaign would violate their First Amendment right to free speech," the judge wrote. But First Amendment rights are not absolute and do not protect Charter's false statements about Windstream's bankruptcy proceedings and financial wherewithal, he wrote. "Such commercial speech is properly curtailed by precluding such wrongful conduct," he wrote."

All of that said, Charter, hand in hand with Comcast, is securing itself an ever larger monopoly over broadband access in countless US markets, especially at faster speeds. Cable giants now enjoy a [70% market share and growing](#) over fixed broadband access, thanks in large part to regional phone companies that were too lazy, cheap, or heavily indebted (usually from "growth for growth's sake" megamergers) to actually upgrade aging DSL lines. In fact, many of these companies are literally just [letting their networks fall apart](#) and refusing to repair customer lines on a timely basis.

As such the irony is that Charter didn't really even need to lie, since most frustrated telco DSL subscribers likely would have eventually headed their direction anyway. But when you're a natural monopoly in a market that's neither competitive nor competently or consistently regulated, you tend to operate as if there's no repercussions for your actions -- because there usually aren't.

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