

INTRO

- IT'S THURSDAY; JULY 16; 2020
- YOU'RE GOING DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE WITH JOE AND BRIAN

DRINKS

BLOCK A

Quinnipiac Poll: Biden Takes Double-Digit National Lead over Trump

A Quinnipiac Poll released Wednesday showed Joe Biden (D) leading President Trump nationally by double-digits, widening his lead over the last month.

The survey showed the former vice president leading Trump 52 percent to 37 percent — up from the eight-point lead he saw in Quinnipiac's June 18 poll.

SCOTUS

Ruth Bader Ginsburg hospitalized for infection — ‘Fever and chills’

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was taken to Johns Hopkins Medical Center this morning and doctors are treating her for a “possible infection.” She is reportedly resting comfortably and will undergo intravenous antibiotic treatment over the next several days.

This is the second time the Supreme Court Justice has landed in the hospital. She was taken to Johns Hopkins Medical Center in May following a gallbladder infection.

TAXES

["Tax Us. Tax Us. Tax Us" - Millionaires Pen Open Letter Virtue-Signaling That "Humanity's More Important Than Money"](#)

Scheming virtue-signaling elites around the world, some of which pay very little income tax as it is, are begging governments to tax them and other wealthy individuals to support responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, that has wrecked the global economy.

"Today, we, the undersigned millionaires, ask our governments to raise taxes on people like us. Immediately. Substantially. Permanently," a letter addressed to global citizens said, signed under the name "Millionaires for Humanity."

Walt Disney Co.'s Abigail and Tim Disney were among the dozens of wealthy elites that have signed the open letter to "immediately" and "permanently" tax the rich to support low-income citizens through the virus-induced economic crash.

"The impact of this crisis will last for decades. It could push half a billion more people into poverty. Hundreds of millions of people will lose their jobs as businesses close, some permanently. Already, there are nearly a billion children out of school, many with no access to the resources they need to continue their learning. And of course, the absence of hospital

beds, protective masks, and ventilators is a painful, daily reminder of the inadequate investment made in public health systems across the world," the letter said.

The millionaires said the socio-economic problems "caused by, and revealed by" the virus pandemic "can't be solved with charity, no matter how generous."

"Government leaders must take responsibility for raising the funds we need and spending them fairly. We can ensure we adequately fund our health systems, schools, and security through a permanent tax increase on the wealthiest people on the planet, people like us," they wrote.

The millionaires concluded by saying: "Tax us. Tax us. Tax us. It is the right choice. It is the only choice."

This letter is indeed odd for millionaires to craft in these challenging times - unless we know the backdrop of how wealth inequality was already at dangerous levels before the pandemic - now at crisis levels as the virus-induced downturn has wiped out tens of millions of folks who will one day find out that government and Federal Reserve bailouts overwhelmingly favored wealth elites in the latest recession, leaving ordinary people with lousy Trump checks, similar to what happened a decade ago in the GFC.

Today's socio-economic implosion had caused alarm with wealthy elites, as this downturn has a social unrest component to it, unseen a decade ago during the GFC. Recently, protesters swarmed wealthy neighborhoods of Beverly Hills, holding signs that read "eat the rich."

COVID-19

[Florida hospital admits its COVID positivity rate is 10x lower than first reported](#)

(justthenews.com)

Positivity rates have been skyrocketing at various Florida labs, raising concerns of misreporting.

A Florida hospital handling COVID-19 tests confirmed to media this week that its near-100% positivity rate was overstated by a factor of 10, raising already-heightened concerns that numerous labs are over reporting the number of confirmed infections.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management posts a daily coronavirus update on its website, which features a list of the positivity rates of every COVID testing facility in the state. Hundreds of labs and hospitals throughout Florida are regularly testing state residents for the coronavirus.

In recent days, numerous facilities have begun reporting 100% positivity rates, figures significantly higher than the statewide average of around 15%. Many of those labs claim to have tested only one patient, though others with 100% rates report testing dozens and sometimes hundreds of patients.

Orlando news station Fox 35 said on Monday that it undertook an investigation of those "astronomical figures," after which several medical facilities confirmed that their actual positive rates were much lower than those reported to the state government.

BLOCK B

BIG PHARMA

*** 9Gag anecdote ***

[Pfizer tops list of biggest pharma advertisers in 2018](#)

Advertising spending by the pharma industry rose 3% last year to \$6.4 billion, according to Nielsen.

The lion's share of that amount went to TV ads, which made up \$5.1 billion, or nearly 80%, of overall spending. TV ad expenditures were followed by magazines at \$1 billion and digital at \$197 million. Pharma spending on digital ads dropped by 18% last year, compared with 2017, while TV ad spending jumped 8.5%.

Newspaper ads, after a slight bump in 2017, experienced the biggest decline last year with a 38% decrease. The industry's spending on cinema ads tripled in 2018, reaching \$11 million and overtaking pharma's bill for outdoor ads.

The top five advertisers were Pfizer, AbbVie, Eli Lilly, Amgen, and AstraZeneca. Pfizer took the top spot with \$1.1 billion in ad spending, double the amount that the second-biggest advertiser, AbbVie, spent in 2018.

Lilly diabetes treatment Trulicity was the top brand by spending, followed by Chantix, Otezla, Keytruda, and Xeljanz. Smoking-cessation drug Chantix and arthritis treatment Xeljanz are both owned by Pfizer. Psoriasis drug Otezla is made by Celgene and immunotherapy Keytruda is made by Merck.

Lilly spent more than \$243 million on Trulicity advertising in 2018. This year, Trulicity was the first drug for which Lilly began running TV ads that directed patients to price information.

What is Chantix (Varenicline)?

Chantix is the brand name for the drug varenicline, which is used to help people quit smoking.

Chantix blocks certain receptors in the brain so that nicotine cannot bind to them and trigger your desire to smoke.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Chantix in 2006. Pfizer, Inc. manufactures the drug.

Chantix Warnings

The FDA requires a black-box warning for Chantix because the drug increases the risk of serious mental health problems, such as suicidal thoughts.

In addition, some people taking Chantix find their moods changing and they become depressed, irritable, and hostile.

People who already have mood problems, including depression, or who might have attempted suicide in the past may notice these symptoms worsening while taking Chantix

The prescribing information now includes several precautions. For instance, there is a caution to avoid drinking alcohol, since its intoxicating effects may increase.

Additionally, seizures have occurred in people who take Chantix.

People who are allergic to Chantix or any other ingredient found in the medication, or who are under the age of 18, shouldn't take Chantix.

In 2012, the FDA released an update warning that Chantix increases the risk of heart conditions.

Ask your doctor about whether the benefits of Chantix outweigh its risks if you have:

- Kidney problems
- Seizures, either now or in the past
- Heart disease
- Use alcohol on a regular basis
- Mood problems, either now or in the past
- Chantix Dreams

Many people who take Chantix notice their dreams have become very vivid and unusual.

According to anecdotal reports, some people taking the drug have nightmares or dreams so vivid that it's hard for them to know if they're dreaming, hallucinating, or experiencing some sort of euphoria.

SEX TRAFFICKING

The FBI arrested Jeffrey Epstein's long-time friend Ghislaine Maxwell in New Hampshire on Thursday on federal charges of conspiring with him to sexually abuse children as young as 14, and for lying about her alleged conduct as his procurer.

Here's Your 3-Minute Explainer On That Wild Wayfair Child Sex Trafficking Conspiracy Theory

Bust out your tin foil hats because there's a wild child trafficking conspiracy theory straight out of the r/conspiracy subreddit and hoo boy, there's a lot to unpack here.

The theory was first started by Reddit user u/PrincessPeach1987 yesterday, who asked "is it possible Wayfair [is] involved in human trafficking with their WFX Utility collection? Or are these just extremely overpriced cabinets?"

For those unfamiliar, Wayfair is a homeware and furnishings website based in the US.

In less than 24 hours, the post has gone viral, with "Wayfair" trending on Twitter in the US and the theory likely already being shared amongst your tin foil hat-wearing mates on social media.

Before we get started, it's important to note that you shouldn't blindly believe anything you read on the internet – especially child trafficking conspiracies on Reddit. In no way are we suggesting that Wayfair is involved in child trafficking (or anything of that nature). But hey, it's a gloomy Melbourne day in lockdown, so why not investigate it a little?

For starters, let's take a look at the prices of some of these cabinets – they're bloody astronomical. Sure, we're a bunch of millennials/zoomers who buy all of our furniture in the form of flat-packs from IKEA, but I'm fairly certain even a fancy metal storage cabinet isn't going to set you back *checks notes* \$14,899.99USD.

From my research (a quick Bunnings search), a lockable metal storage cabinet will usually set you back between \$150-\$650AUD depending on the dimensions and features. So, it's a little sketchy that Wayfair is slinging utility cabinets for upwards of \$20,000. But the price is just one piece of this conspiracy puzzle.

The reason this theory really took off online is the cabinets names, which include "Neriah," Yaritza," Samiyah," and "Alyvia", among others. While they may just sound like interesting product names, they also happen to coincide with a list of missing children.

However, it is important to note that some of these missing people, including Samiyah Mumin, have since been found and are therefore not involved in an alleged child sex trafficking ring.

To put it simply, the conspiracy theory suggests that the cabinets are a front for the sale of missing children, which would explain the hefty price tag.

The cabinets were all promptly removed from Wayfair.com shortly after the theory started to spread, which only further fuelled the conspiracy fire.

"I can not believe my eyes that they've deleted those cabinets off the site," one Reddit user wrote.

But it's not just the cabinets on the Wayfair site that have wild price tags, with fans quickly pointing out that a number of products including a throw pillow for \$10,045.99USD and a vase for a staggering \$196,999.99USD.

BLOCK C

OUTRO

KEEP IT QUICK!!!