

Mike Berman's

WASHINGTON POLITICAL WATCH

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November 8, 2019

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Bistro Arcasio

Wild Tomato

Roadkill Cafe

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*Any statements in this issue of the Watch which are not sourced are mine and identified by “WW”.

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State of the Nation

54% of Americans say the country is on the wrong track, including 52% of men and 56% of women.

34% of Americans say the country is headed in the right direction. This includes 37% of men and 31% of women. [Econ/YouGov 10/29/19]

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Employment

The official BLS seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2019 is 3.6%, only slightly higher than the 3.7% of September and lower than the 3.8% of a year ago.

If one considers the total number of unemployed + those marginally attached to the labor force + those working part-time who want full-time work, the unemployment rate in October is 7.0%, down from 7.5% a year ago.

128,000 jobs were created in October, about the same as in September. The average monthly growth so far this year is about 167,000 jobs. [A year ago, 277,000 jobs were created in October.]

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for October is 63.3%, up a touch from 63.2% in August and September. [BLS 11/1/19]

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The Demographics of Unemployment for October 2019

Unemployment by Gender (20 years and older)

Women – 2.9% (same as last month)

Men – 3.0% (up slightly since last month)

Unemployment by Race

- White – 3.2% (same as last month)
- Black – 5.4% (down slightly since last month)
- Hispanic – 4.1% (up from last month)
- Asian – 2.9% (up from last month)

Unemployment by Education (25 years & over)

- Less than high school – 5.6% (increased since last month)
- High School – 3.7% (up slightly since last month)
- Some college – 2.9% (same as last month)
- Bachelor’s Degree or higher – 2.1% (up slightly since last month)

In September 2019, 3 states had the same unemployment rate as the national average; 26 states had unemployment rates below the national average; 21 states, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico, had unemployment rates that were above the national average.

Alaska, at 6.2%, had the highest unemployment rate in the country. (Puerto Rico at 7.6% was higher.) Mississippi and D.C. had unemployment rates of 5.4%. 13 states had unemployment rates that were 4.0% or greater but less than 5.0%. [Bureau of Labor Statistics]

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Current U.S population on 11/1/19 is 329,715,997. [Worldometers.info]

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There has been little change in general public attitudes toward abortion between 2014 and 2018.

	<u>Legal in all or most cases</u>	<u>Illegal in most cases or all cases</u>
2014	55%	41%
2018	54%	40%

Over this time period, Republican support of abortion being “legal in most or all cases” has dropped from 39% to 34% and Democratic support for the same thing has grown from 67% to 70%. [PRRI staff 8/13/19]

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The abortion rate has been dropping in the United States. After the Supreme Court’s 1973 ruling in Roe v. Wade, abortions in the United States increased steadily until it topped off at 1.6 million abortions in 1992.

In 2011 there were 1.1 million abortions and in 2014 there were 926,320 abortions in the United States. By 2017 the number of abortions had fallen to 862,320. About 339,640 of the abortions in 2017 were medical abortions as opposed to surgical abortions. This data does not include self-managed abortions. [WP and Cheat Sheet 9/18/19]

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San Francisco will restrict its city employees from traveling (at government expense) to the now 22 states with “restrictive abortion laws” which have been added to its “blacklist” of states and other places. The list includes businesses which are headquartered in those places. The ban goes into effect on January 1, 2020 and does not retroactively impact existing contracts with businesses in banned states. The city has a \$12 billion+ budget. [San Francisco Chronicle 10/22/19]

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The median average white family in the U.S. has approximately \$171,000 in net worth, while the median African American family has approximately \$17,000. [Brookings/Axios 11/1/19]

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The following percentages reflect the changes in the total tax rate of all taxes paid to the federal, state and local governments – everything from sales and excise taxes to property taxes – from 1962 to 2018.

Bottom 50% of Americans	22.5% up to 24.2%
Next 40%	25.1% up to 27.6%
Top 10%	33.2% down to 29.0%
Top 1%	43.1% down to 30.1%
Top 0.1%	51.1% down to 31.4%
Top 0.01%	53.6% down to 23.0%

Each of the wealthiest 400 adults has, on average, the same wealth as 1,308,440 average adults in the bottom 50%. [NYT 10/13/19]

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Two of three finance officers in large cities are predicting a recession as soon as 2020. For the first time in seven years, cities expect revenues to decline as they close the books on the 2019 fiscal year. [Axios AM 10/23/19]

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The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip.

The number of people who identify as Christians has dropped from 77% to 65% of adults over the last decade. Over the same time period the number of religiously unaffiliated has grown from 17% to 26%.

Those who identify as Protestant dropped from 51% to 43% while those who describe themselves as Catholic has dropped from 23% to 20%. [PEW 10/17/19]

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There are 500,000 homeless people in America. 40% of them live in California and New York. (Some studies suggest the number of homeless on a given night is 550,000 and there may be as many as 200,000 who are missed that are living outdoors.)

Homelessness has decreased by 6.1% in the last five years.

The top 10 states for homelessness per 100,000 people are: D.C. New York, Hawaii, Oregon, California, Washington, Massachusetts, Alaska, Nevada and Vermont.

D.C ranks No.1 with 995 homeless per 100,000 people. Mississippi has the lowest homeless rate at 45.3 per 100,000. [Security.org] [WP 9/22/19]

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The death rate increased 82% from 11.9 to 21.7 deaths per 100,000 people between 2007 and 2017.

Health care expenditures added up to nearly \$3 trillion in 2017, almost a 4% increase from 2016.

11% of Americans said they took five or more prescriptions within 30 days in 2016.

1.5% of students in grades 9-12 used e-cigarettes in 2011. In 2018 it was 20.8%.

The number of live births in the U.S. per 1,000 females aged 15-44 has fallen 10 out of the last 11 years.

[Centers for Disease Control/Center for Health Statistics]

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Wages for blue-collar workers in the auto industry peaked (after adjusting for inflation) at \$30.90 per hour in 2002. This was 44% more than the average of all jobs across the economy. Today, these jobs pay \$23.48 per hour, 10 cents less than what a typical worker makes across the economy.

Since 2000, motor vehicle production in the U.S. has dropped from 12.8 million cars and light trucks per year to 11.3 million of those vehicles. Output from Mexico has grown from 1.9 million vehicles per year to 4.1 million vehicles per year. [Steve Rattner 9/24/19]

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By 2020 there will be 1.4 million computer-science related jobs and only 400,000 computer science graduates with the skills to do the jobs. [WP 10/22/19]

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Since 1950, expanded trade has delivered about \$2.1 trillion in annual income to the U.S. or about \$18,000 benefit per household, mostly from better, more innovative and affordable imported goods like cars, TVs, clothing and food.

As for exports, America sold \$2.3 trillion of goods and services abroad in 2017, which supported over 10 million domestic jobs, including 271,000 in Michigan, 176,500 in Pennsylvania and 111,100 in Wisconsin. [Fred Hochberg, former chairman and president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank from 2009-2017]

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In 1980 there were 14.8 million Latinos in the United States representing 6.5% of the total U.S. population. By 2017 there were nearly 60 million Latinos in the U.S. representing 18% of the population.

Three states are home for 90% of the Latino population. 26 million live in California, 19 million live in Texas and 9 million live in Florida. 67% were born in the United States. 79% are U.S. citizens. [PEW 9/21/19]

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The budget deficit was \$665 billion in fiscal year 2017; in fiscal year 2018 the deficit was \$804 billion and in 2019 the deficit is \$984 billion. Interest on the debt cost the government \$380 billion. [WP 10/25/19]

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This and That

38% of adults say climate change is a crisis while another 38% say it is a major problem but not a crisis.

37% say that reducing the negative effects of global warming will require major sacrifices while 48% say it will only require minor sacrifices.

When it comes to funding climate policies, 68% support raising taxes on wealthy households and 60% support raising taxes on companies that burn fossil fuels even if they lead to increased electricity and transportations prices.

On the other hand, a majority oppose a \$2 monthly tax on U.S. residential electric bills, adding to the national debt, increasing federal gas tax by 10 cents/gallon or 25 cents/gallon, or a \$10 monthly tax on residential electric bills. [WP – Kaiser Family Poll/WP 9/14/19]

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18% of U.S. adults say they personally know someone who prefers that others use a gender-neutral pronoun when referring to them.

22% of U.S. adults say they have heard a lot about gender-neutral pronouns. An additional 38% have heard a little.

Not surprisingly, younger Americans are more likely than older Americans to have heard of people preferring gender-neutral pronouns and to know someone who goes by these pronouns.

There is a decided difference between the comfort of Democrats and Republicans if asked to refer to someone by a gender-neutral pronoun. 64% of Republicans say they would be uncomfortable while only 33% of Democrats say they would be uncomfortable. [PEW 9/5/19]

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In 2012, 94% of cellphone users had used their cellphones to speak to someone in the prior week. In the spring of 2019, only 45% of cellphone users

reported using the cellphone to speak to someone in the previous week. In fact, it had fallen to be the least popular use, behind texting, emailing, posting to social media and using chat apps. [WSJ 10/19-20/19]

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Have you ever wanted to determine the number of days between one date and another? WW has discovered that you can Google it.

This issue of WW is dated November 8, 2019 and election day 2020 is November 3, 2020. In the search line of Google, type in “number of days between November 8, 2019 and November 3, 2020”. And the answer is, 361.

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At a recent visit with one of my doctors, before he came into the exam room in which I was waiting, I heard him talking to someone about facts relative to my status and treatment.

Then the doctor came in and began his examination and treatment and I realized that he had been talking into his Apple watch, which he did throughout our visit rather than making written notes after our previous visits.

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Notwithstanding the fact that Amazon just lost a large DOD contract to Microsoft, it is a special service. Recently I decided to test the speed and economics of the service.

6:00 a.m. September 22 – I decided that I needed a numbered set of three-ring notebook dividers. I am sitting at my desk in our home in N.W. Washington.

6:04 a.m. September 22 – I logged into Amazon, searched under office supplies and scoured through dozens of options for three-ring dividers and eventually found exactly what I was looking for – and ordered it. The cost was \$15.63, including delivery scheduled for the next day, September 23.

Later on September 22 – I received confirmation that it had been shipped.

6:11 p.m. September 23 – The package arrived and was logged in at the front desk of our condo building having been shipped from the Amazon fulfillment service center in Lexington, KY.

Next, I went to the website of The Office Depot. I found the same product for \$9.99. Next day delivery for purchases under \$45 is \$9.95. The total cost to have it delivered was \$19.94.

Thus, I got the dividers I needed for \$4.31 cents less from Amazon than from Office Depot.

(Debbie pointed out that if I had gotten in my car and driven to The Office Depot about a mile and a half from our home, parked the car and gone in and then driven home, it would have been cheaper. But the way I did it was so much easier.)

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The average sales prices of a dozen eggs fell to about 92 cents, 30% lower than a year earlier. The reason? Too many overly productive hens, resulting in an oversupply in the market. [FiveThirtyEight.com 10/1/19]

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A new National Labor Relations Board rule would block research assistants and graduate students who are teaching, from forming unions on the basis that they do not qualify as employees. [Public Policy 360 9/20/19]

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Portrayal of tobacco use in PG-13 movies – when characters are smoking cigarettes or other tobacco products – increased by 120% between 2010-2018. [Shraddha Chakradhar/StatNews.com 10/31/19]

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59% of Americans say that the ideal number of pre-show trailers is one to three, while most cinemas screen five to eight trailers ahead of a feature. [Hollywood Report/Numlock News 9/17/19]

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Every woman, man, child, sister, brother, mother, father, grandfather who died by gun fire at El Paso, Dayton, Parkland, Tree of Life, Las Vegas, Aurora, Sutherland Springs, Charleston, is important to someone. Until such time as one or

more of the people who dies by gunfire are important to public leaders who oppose various forms of gun control...nothing will happen. [WW]

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Quotes

“Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel.”

-- Samuel Johnson

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“Don’t ever take down a fence, until you know the reason why it was put up.”

-- John F. Kennedy

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“You can’t always get what you want...But if you try sometime, you just might find, you get what you need.”

-- Rolling Stones

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“An ineffectual attempt to put an elusive ball into an obscure hole with implements ill-adapted to the purpose.”

-- President Wilson

[Thanks to Joel J. for most of the items above]

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President Trump

As of October 30, an ABC/WP survey found that 39% of registered voters approve of the job that President Trump is doing as president while 59% disapprove. In another survey taken at the same time, the NBC/WSJ survey found 45% approving of the job Trump is doing while 53% disapproved.

On October 28, a Politico/Morning Consult polls found that 43% of registered voters approve of the job the President is doing while 54% disapprove. Those approving include 46% of men and 40% of women. Those disapproving include 51% of men and 57% of women. Among Hispanics, 41% approve and 53% disapprove. Among African Americans, 11% approve and 80% disapprove.

69% of Americans dislike Trump personally regardless of their feelings about his policy agenda. 25% say they like Trump personally and also approve of his policy agenda. [NBC/WSJ 9/16/19]

73% of Americans wish Trump’s speech and behavior “were more consistent with past presidents”. This view is held by 46% of Republicans, 74% of Independents and 88% of Democrats.

65% of Americans say that Trump has damaged the dignity of the presidency, including 72% of Independents and 92% of Democrats. On the other hand, 35%, including 76% of Republicans say he has not damaged the dignity of the presidency. [PRRI 10/28/19]

Gallup now does monthly or semi-monthly surveys. WW will include a periodic polling summary—Registered and Likely Voters—by FiveThirtyEight.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Gallup (All Adults)</u>		<u>FiveThirtyEight (Reg/Likely voters)</u>	
	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Disapproval</u>
10/31/19	41%	57%	42%	53.9%
9/30/19	40%	56%	42.1%	53.8%
8/30/19	39%	57%	41.3%	54.2%
7/31/19	42%	54%	42.5%	52.9%
6/16/19	43%	55%	42.6%	53.0%
5/12/19	42%	51%	42.4%	52.4%
4/9/19	45%	51%	42%	52.7%
3/10/19	39%	57%	41.8%	53.4%
2/10/19	44%	52%	40.2%	55.1%
1/27/19	37%	59%	40.4%	55.6%
12/22/18	39%	55%	42.2%	52.8%
9/30/18	42%	53%	41.5%	52.7%
7/1/18	42%	53%	41.8%	52.3%
1/14/18	38%	57%	--	--

The following are some additional looks at the President’s job performance. The numbers below are of registered voters unless followed by an “A” which means “all voters” or “L” which means “likely voters”.

<u>Date</u>	<u>NBC/WSJ</u>	<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>CBS</u>	<u>FOX</u>
OCT'19	45/53	(-- subsequent surveys --)			42/57
OCT'19	43/53A	38/58A	42/57	xxx	43/55
SEPT'19	45/53	38/56A	39/56A	xxx	45/54
AUG'19	43/55A	xxx	41/54	xxx	43/56
JUL'19	45/52	47/50	xxx	xxx	46/51
JAN '19	43/54A	38/58	37/57A	36/59A	43/54
DEC '18	43/54A	xxx	39/52	xxx	46/52
JAN '18	39/57A	38/58	43/53	37/58A	45/53
DEC '17	41/56	xxx	36/59	36/57A	xxx
JAN '17	xxx	xxx	44/53	40/48A	xxx

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The following are job approval numbers from Gallup for nine of the last twelve presidents roughly 34 months into their first term. Since Gallup is no longer providing a steady stream of approval ratings, WW will use various other surveys to provide approval numbers on the current president.

Eisenhower	78% (11/55)
Kennedy	58% (11/63)
GHW Bush	56% (11/91)
GW Bush	54% (11/03)
Clinton	52% (11/95)
Reagan	53% (11/83)
Nixon	49% (11/71)
Trump	43% (11/19) – RCP Average
Obama	43% (11/11)
Carter	32% (11/79)

On economic policy, Trump's approval ratings continue to be on a positive track.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
10/22/19	49%	45%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
9/9/19	48%	48%	CNN (RV)
7/23/19	52%	41%	Fox News (RV)
6/11/19	53%	43%	Econ/Yougov (RV)
5/14/19	48%	46%	Fox News (RV)
4/16/19	47%	46%	Reuters/Ipsos (A)

3/26/19	50%	45%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
2/2/19	49%	45%	CNN (RV)
1/1/19	47%	46%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
1/16/18	46%	49%	NBC/WSJ

On foreign policy, Trump’s approval ratings remain in negative territory.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
10/22/19	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov(RV)
9/9/19	40%	55%	CNN (RV)
7/30/19	41%	51%	Economist (RV)
6/11/19	46%	50%	Econ/YouGov I
5/14/19	43%	49%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
4/16/19	39%	52%	Reuters (A)
3/26/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
2/19/19	44%	50%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
1/1/19	42%	51%	Econ/YouGov (RV)
7/18/18	38%	45%	NBC/WSJ
1/16/18	36%	60%	NBC/WSJ

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81% of Americans say it is “not okay” for political candidates to ask for assistance from foreign governments in their election campaigns. This includes 81% of Republicans, 85% of evangelicals, and 87% of rural dwellers. [Grinnell College/Selzer National Poll 10/23/19]

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As of October 16th, Trump has been president for 1,000 days. According to the Washington Post, he has made more than 13,435 false or misleading claims. [Fact Checker WP]

The president has spent 310 days at Trump-branded properties and 237 days at Trump-branded golf properties. [MSNBC 10/16/19]

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Given the President’s agitation with the New York Times and the Washington Post, the White House has announced that it will not be renewing its subscriptions to both newspapers and subsequently instructed the other agencies of the executive branch to do the same. [Politico]

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The Trump organization is considering selling the lease (as long as 100 years) to the Trump International Hotel. [WP 10/25/19]

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President Trump is changing his official residence and that of his wife from New York to Florida. Could it be that it is because New York has a state income tax of 12.5% and the state of Florida has none. This all comes after the President presented and signed a tax bill that places severe limits on the amount of state and local taxes that can be deducted from taxable income for federal income tax purposes.

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Refugee admissions to the United States have declined precipitously during the Trump presidency.

Fiscal years 1990-1995 – An average of 116,000 refugees arrived in U.S. each year.

Refugee admissions dropped off following September 11 terrorist attacks.

FY 2008-2015—An average of 67,100 refugees arrived each year.
FY 2016 – Roughly 85,000 refugees admitted
FY 2017 – 53,700 refugees admitted – Trump ordered temporary freeze
FY 2018 – Ceiling of 45,000 set and ultimately 22,500 admitted
FY 2019 – Ceiling of 30,000 set and as of August 31- 28,100 admitted
FY 2020 – Ceiling of 18,000 refugees set.

[PEW 9/27/19]

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Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

Because the U.S. Senate remains in Republican hands and the filibuster is no more, the President can continue unchecked his goal of remaking the federal judiciary.

Judges Nominated and Confirmed to Date

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Supreme Ct</u>	<u>Appeals Ct</u>	<u>District Ct</u>
Trump – thru 10/24/19	157	2	43	110
Obama – 8 years	329	2	55	268
GW Bush – 8 years	327	2	62	261

Clinton – 8 years	378	2	66	305
GHW Bush – 4 years	193	2	42	148
Reagan – 8 years	383	3	83	290
Carter -- 4 years	262	0	56	203

There are currently several nominations awaiting Senate action: 8 seats on the Courts of Appeals and 39 seats on the District Courts.

There are currently four vacancies on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 88 vacancies on the U.S. District Courts and two vacancies on the U.S. Court of International Trade. [USCourts/Wikipedia/List of federal judges appointed by Donald Trump]

As of October 24, Trump has nominated eight people who are rated “not qualified” by the American Bar Association. Four have been confirmed and two nominations are pending. Looking back, Bill Clinton nominated four people who were deemed “not qualified”, three of whom were confirmed. George W Bush nominated eight people who were deemed “not qualified” and five were confirmed. [ABA website]

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Disassembling

Effective November 3, those seeking immigrant visas face rejection if they can’t prove they can pay for health care. More broadly there is a companion effort to make it harder for low-income, legal immigrants who receive food stamps or other taxpayer funded assistance to stay in the country. [NBC News 10/5/19]

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President Trump ordered a reversal of the longstanding limits on tree cutting in the Tongass National Forest at the request of Alaska’s governor and other top elected officials. Critics raise the concern that this change in rules is important to protecting lucrative salmon fishery and tourism operations. [WP 10/15/19]

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About 500,000 students stand to lose access to free school lunches under a Trump administration proposal to limit the number of people who qualify for food stamps. [WP 9/25/19]

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The U.S. Treasury intends to issue regulations to significantly pull back three-year-old rules that were designed to prevent foreign companies from shifting taxable income out of the country through using internal debt. [Public Policy Law 360 10/31/10]

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The Department of Health and Human Services will no longer require organizations that get billions of dollars in federal grants to comply with rules that ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and religion. [WSJ 11/2/19]

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The EPA is to relax rules that govern how power plants store waste from burning coal and release water containing toxic metals into nearby waterways. [WP 11/3/19]

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The Trump administration has begun the formal process of withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement, the historic global deal to cut climate-changing emissions. [HuffPost Politics 11/4/19]

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2020

The 59th presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020, 361 days from today.

In 2008, Democratic voting, often in urban districts, encompassed 38% of U.S. landmass as compared to Republican districts which contained 61% of the landmass. Ten years later the Democratic share of landmass has dropped to 20% of the map while the Republican share has jumped to 80%.

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For the record, as of October 28, 2019, 916 people have filed presidential campaign committees with the Federal Election Commission; including 286 as Democrats, 134 as Republicans, 42 as Libertarians and 18 as Green Party candidates. [Ballotpedia]

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83% of Republicans give Democrats a “cold rating” on a “feeling thermometer” while 79% of Democrats rate Republicans the same way.

Among Republicans, 64% say Democrats are close-minded and 63% say Democrats are unpatriotic. Conversely among Democrats, 75% say Republicans are close-minded but only 23% of Democrats see Republicans as unpatriotic.

73% of most Republican and Democratic voters say that not only do they disagree over plans and policies with the members of the other party, but also, they cannot agree on basic facts.

61% of Americans say that the Democratic party “is too extreme in its positions” while 63% say that same thing about the Republican party. [PEW 10/10/19]

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Running in the Democratic Primary

26 individuals announced they were seeking the Democratic nomination for president and now there are 16. As of November 1, 2019, ten have decided to end their candidacies or have taken no discernable actions toward election.

Michael Bennet (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54
Joe Biden (D) – former Vice President, former U.S. Senator – Age 76
Cory Booker (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 49
Steve Bullock (D) – Governor of Montana – Age 53
Pete Buttigieg (D) – Mayor of South Bend, Indiana – Age 37
Julian Castro (D) – former HUD Secretary – Age 44
John Delaney (D) – former U.S. Representative – Age 55
Tulsi Gabbard (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 37
Kamala Harris (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 54
Amy Klobuchar (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 58
Bernie Sanders (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 77
Tom Steyer (D) – Entrepreneur – Age 62
Joe Sestak (D) – former U.S. Representative – 67
Elizabeth Warren (D) – U.S. Senator – Age 69
Marianne Williamson – Spiritualist, teacher – Age 66
Andrew Yang – Entrepreneur – Age 44

Have Left the Field

~~Mike Gravel (D) – former U.S. Senator – Age 88~~
~~Eric Swalwell (D) – U.S. Representative – Age 39~~
~~John Hickenlooper (D) – Governor of Colorado – Age 67~~

~~Jay Inslee (D) — Governor of Washington — Age 68~~
~~Seth Moulton (D) — U.S. Representative — 40~~
~~Kirsten Gillibrand (D) — U.S. Senator — Age 52~~
~~Bill DeBlasio (D) — Mayor of New York, New York — Age 58~~
~~Wayne Messam (D) — Mayor of Miramar, Florida — Age 44~~
~~—— [Has taken no actions that are identifiable except announcing]~~
~~Tim Ryan (D) — U.S. Representative — Age 45~~
~~Beto O'Rourke (D) — former U.S. Representative — Age 46~~

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86 days from today, the primary/caucus season will begin starting with the Iowa caucuses on February 3, 2020 and continuing thru the New Hampshire Primary, the Nevada caucuses and the South Carolina Primary on February 29th.

The next round starts on March 3rd when 14 primaries will be held. California is the largest state in that group.

Iowa		New Hamp.		Nevada	
<u>11/1/19</u>		<u>10/29/18</u>		<u>9/26/19</u>	
Warren	22%	Sanders	21%	Biden	22%
Sanders	19%	Warren	18%	Sanders	22%
Buttigieg	18%	Biden	15%	Warren	18%
Biden	17%	Buttigieg	10%	Buttigieg	4%

South Carolina		California	
<u>10/21/19</u>		<u>10/18/19</u>	
Biden	30%	Warren	28%
Warren	19%	Sanders	24%
Sanders	13%	Biden	19%
Buttigieg	11%	Buttigieg	9%

* * * * *

Looking at the “national mood” in the Democratic nomination contest, Joe Biden remains at the top of the heap. Elizabeth Warren has a strong hold on second place and Bernie Sanders is in third. Buttigieg has moved into fourth place. (These lists below do not include anyone who receives less than 5% in one of the current national polls.)

<u>ABC/WP</u> <u>10/30 RV</u>		<u>NBC/WSJ</u> <u>10/30 RV</u>		<u>FOX NEWS</u> <u>10/30 RV</u>		<u>RCP Average</u> <u>10/31</u>	
Biden	28	Biden	27	Biden	31	Biden	29.1
Warren	23	Warren	23	Warren	21	Warren	20.3
Sanders	17	Sanders	19	Sanders	19	Sanders	17.1
Buttigieg	9	Buttigieg	6	Buttigieg	7	Buttigieg	7.1
		Klobuchar	5				

* * * * *

Below are the fundraising and spending totals and cash on hand through September 30, 2019, which is the last day for which fund raising and expenditure totals had to be filed with the Federal Election Commission. The next filing period closes on December 31, 2019. These results are then matched with the end of October general standing.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Raised</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Spent</u>	<u>Cash on</u> <u>Hand</u>	<u>RCP</u> <u>Average</u> 10/31/19	<u>Morning</u> <u>Consult</u> 10/28/31
Sanders	\$74.4M	\$40.6M	\$33.7M	17.1	20.0
Warren	60.3	34.6	25.7	20.3	20.0
Buttigieg	51.5	28.2	23.4	7.1	7.0
*Steyer	49.6	47.0	2.6	.9	1.0
Biden	37.8	28.8	9.0	29.1	32.0
Harris	36.9	26.4	10.5	3.9	6.0
*Delaney	21.4	20.8	10.6	----	1.0
Booker	18.5	14.3	4.2	2.0	2.0
Klobuchar	17.5	13.8	3.7	2.6	2.0
Yang	14.5	8.2	6.4	2.7	3.0
Gabbard	8.6	6.5	2.1	2.0	2.0
Castro	7.4	8.9	1.1	----	1.0
Williamson	6.1	5.4	0.7	----	1.0
Bennet	5.6	3.8	1.9	.7	1.0
Bullock	4.4	3.0	1.4	----	0
Sestak	0.4	0.2	0.3	----	----

*Steyer and Delaney are primarily if not completely, self-funding.

* * * * *

Every election season brings something new. This season there is a new phenomenon made possible by the internet. Rather than making a single contribution and then being done for the season, individuals are making dozens if not hundreds of small contributions.

For example, one of Bernie Sanders supporters had contributed 850 times by the end of June without reaching the maximum contribution limit. That particular contributor has made as many as 20 contributions in a single day.

Federal Election Commission data shows that at least 1,900 people have contributed 50 times or more to a single candidate. More than half of the 1900 donors are Sanders contributors. Even the Trump campaign has at least 250 of these multiple givers. [WSJ 10/25/19]

* * * * *

50% of registered voters, including 49% of men and 51% of women, think this country is “definitely/probably” ready for a gay or lesbian president. On the other hand, 37% of registered voters, including 39% of men and 34% of women, say this country is “definitely/probably” not ready for a gay or lesbian president.

68% of Democrats, 52% of Independents and 29% of Republicans are “definitely/probably” ready for a gay or lesbian president.

The country is ready for a female president. 73% of registered voters, including 72% of women and 75% of men, are “definitely/probably” ready for a female president. Only 18% of registered voters are “definitely/probably not” ready for a female president. [POLITICO/Morning Consult 10/28/19]

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What are the odds?

Here are the odds for who is likely to win the 2020 Democratic nominating fight as of 11/1/2019.

Elizabeth Warren +100 (1/1)
Joe Biden +400 (4/1)
Bernie Sanders +800 (8/1)
Pete Buttigieg +800 (8/1)

Andrew Yang +1000 (10/1)
Tom Steyer +2200 (22/1)
Kamala Harris +2500 (25/1)
Tulsi Gabbard +2500 (25/1)
Amy Klobuchar +5000 (50/1)
Cory Booker +5000 (50/1)
Beto O'Rourke +6600 (66/1)

If you want to get on Scott's mailing list, you can email him at scott@coolmediapr.com.

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Democratic Debates of the 2020 Nomination Season

5th Debate – Tyler Perry Studios, Atlanta, GA – November 20, 2019

- Hosted by MSNBC and The Washington Post
- For the first time, the 4 moderators are women: Ashley Parker, Kristen Welker, Rachel Maddow, and Andrea Mitchell
- 10 candidates have qualified
- Candidates can qualify up to November 13
- To qualify, a candidate is required to have:
 - at least 165,000 unique donors with a minimum of 600 unique donors per state in at least 20 states
 - 3% support or more in at least 4 DNC approved polls nationally or in early voting states
 - 5% or more in two DNC approved early-state polls

6th Debate – UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, CA – December 19, 2019

- Hosted by POLITICO and PBS Newshour
- Moderators to be named
- Live on PBS, Streamed online on Politico and PBS Newshour digital platform
- Candidates can qualify up to December 12
- To qualify, a candidate is required to have:
 - At least 200,000 unique donors with a minimum of 800 unique donors per state in at least 20 states

- 4% support or more in at least 4 DNC approved polls nationally or in early states
- 6% or more in two DNC approved early-state polls

7th-12th Debates – Locations TBD

- The 7th Debate is likely to be held prior to the Iowa Caucuses
- The 8th Debate – ABC/New Hampshire WMUR-TV – likely on February 11, 2020

Audience size

- 1st Debate – Miami – June 26 – 15,300,000 viewers
June 27 – 18,000,000 viewers
- 2nd Debate – Detroit – July 30 – 8,700,000 viewers
July 31 – 10,720,000 viewers
- 3rd Debate – Houston – September 12 – 14,000,000+ viewers
- 4th Debate – Westerville – October 15 – 8,300,000 viewers
- 5th Debate – Tyler Perry Studios – Atlanta, GA – November 20 – TBD
- 6th Debate – UCLA – Los Angeles, CA – December 19 – TBD

* * * * *

Since 1972, every Democratic presidential nominee won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in the Iowa Caucus and 1st or 2nd in the New Hampshire primary.

In Iowa, the eventual nominee has been the 1st place finisher 7 times, 2nd place finisher one time and 3rd place finisher two times. [Charlie Cook]

In New Hampshire, the eventual nominee has been the 1st place finisher 5 times and 2nd place finisher 5 times. [Charlie Cook]

* * * * *

The Democratic primary schedule is front loaded. (Charlie Cook)

- In February 2020 – 193 delegates will be selected.
- On Super Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 1683 delegates will be selected.
- On March 10, 2020 – 402 delegates will be selected.

By March 10, 2020, 2278 delegates will have been selected. This is slightly more than half of the 4,532 total delegates at the convention.

The Democratic nominating convention is scheduled for July 13-16, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

* * * * *

Republican Primary

Announced/Running

Donald Trump – President – Age 72

William Weld I – former Governor of Massachusetts – Age 73

Joe Walsh – former one-term GOP member of Congress from Illinois – Age 57

Mark Sanford – former Governor of South Carolina, former member of Congress – Age 59

As of October 10th, at least five states have announced that they are canceling their Republican primaries or caucuses in 2020 to “save money”: Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Nevada and South Carolina.

There will be no debates.

The Republican nominating convention is scheduled for August 24-27, 2020 in Charlotte, NC.

* * * * *

The General Election

The following are the results of general election surveys taken 12 months before the election.

(Note the differences in the surveys from WP/ABC and FOX surveys of registered voters which were taken at the same time.)

	<u>WP/ABC</u>		<u>FOX</u>			<u>WP/ABC</u>	<u>FOX</u>
	<u>10/30/19</u>		<u>10/30/19</u>				
	T	Dem	T	Dem			
Trump vs Biden	39%	56%	39%	51%	Biden	+17	+12
Trump vs Sanders	41%	55%	41%	49%	Sanders	+14	+8
Trump vs Warren	40%	55%	41%	46%	Warren	+15	+5
Trump vs Buttigieg	41%	52%	41%	41%	Buttigieg	+11	+0

	CNN <u>10/20/19</u>		Survey USA <u>10/16/19</u>	
	T	Dem	T	Dem
Trump vs Biden	43%	53%	40%	55%
Trump vs Sanders	43%	53%	44%	50%
Trump vs Warren	44%	52%	44%	48%
Trump vs Buttigieg	44%	50%	43%	44%

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Congress

Impeachment

The House of Representatives has initiated impeachment proceedings only 64 times since 1789. Only 19 of those proceedings resulted in the House passage of Articles of Impeachment. Of those, only eight resulted in removal from office (all federal judges).

Two Presidents have been impeached. Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998; neither was convicted by the Senate.

The vote in the Senate for the Johnson impeachment effort was 35 to convict and 19 to acquit. One vote short of the necessary 36 votes to convict. (2/3 of those present and voting are required for conviction.) There were votes on several additional Articles of Impeachment and the vote was the same on each.

The vote in the Senate for the Clinton impeachment effort was 45 votes for conviction and 55 votes for acquittal. And so, the effort failed.

If the current impeachment effort results in a Senate trial, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court John Roberts will preside. Roberts was a law clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist when he presided over the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton in 1998-1999.

Note: The Constitution mandates that removal from office requires the vote of two-thirds of senators present for the proceedings. Consider that.

* * * * *

53% of registered voters approve of the impeachment inquiry that is being conducted to determine if there is enough evidence to remove the president from office. 44% do not believe the inquiry should go forward.

49% of registered voters believes the Congress should impeach Trump and remove him from office. 46% say the Congress should not impeach Trump and he should remain in office. [NBC/WSJ 10/30/19]

* * * * *

42% of Americans believe the President should be impeached and removed from office – 83% of Democrats, 62% of those who have no religious preference, and 57% of suburban woman. On the other hand, 44% say he should not be impeached – 87% of Republicans, 74% of white men with no college degree, and 63% of rural dwellers. [Grinnell – Selzer 10/23/19]

* * * * *

In the recent ABC/WP survey, 49% of Americans thought the Congress should impeach the president while 47% believe they should not impeach him.

On the central issue of whether Trump committed an impeachable act, 55% believe he did something wrong in his dealings with Ukraine while 35% believe he did nothing wrong.

When asked whether Democrats are mainly interested in upholding the constitution or hurting Trump, 43% of respondents say they are trying to uphold the constitution and 51% say they are interested in hurting Trump politically.

Conversely, respondents believe that 55% of Republicans are most interested in helping Trump politically while 36% believe they are interested in upholding the constitution. [ABC/WP 10/30/19]

* * * * *

39% of U.S. adults say that members of Congress admit mistakes or take responsibility “none” of the time and another 44% of adults say they admit mistakes or take responsibility “only a little.”

4% of U.S. adults believe that members of Congress fulfill key aspects of their missions “all of the time”. An additional 39% say they fulfill their missions “some of the time”.

17% of adults believe that members of Congress act unethically “all or most of the time” and an additional 64% say they behave unethically “some of the time”.
 [PEW 9/19/19]

* * * * *

Approval of the Congress generally remains quite bleak although there has been a modest upsurge in the last month or so.

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>
Real Clear Pol. 10/29/19	23.0%	64.8%
Real Clear Pol. 9/10/19	16.6%	71.4%
Real Clear Pol. 8/6/19	17.2%	71.4%
Real Clear Pol. 6/11/19	20.0%	69.8%
Real Clear Pol. 5/14/19	22.0%	66.2%
Real Clear Pol. 4/2/19	22.8%	66.8%
Real Clear Pol. 3/26/19	20.8%	68.8%
Real Clear Pol. 2/26/19	19.4%	70.0%
Real Clear Pol. 1/1/19	19.6%	69.3%
Real Clear Pol. 1/4/18	15.8%	72.6%

* * * * *

Two out of three recent surveys show Democrats leading Republicans in a generic congressional ballot.

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Economist/YouGov 10/29	47%	41%
Politico/Morning Consult 10/28	46%	38%
USAToday/Suffolk 10/26	46%	46%

* * * * *

[WW uses David Wasserman and the Cook Political Report for the House chart below.]

As of November 6, 2019, 27 incumbent members of the House are not seeking re-election – 8 Democrats and 19 Republicans.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2020

Democrats 235
 Republicans 199
 Vacancies 1

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
Safe in 2020	182	160
Likely	18	22
Lean	17	12
	<u>Toss Up</u>	
	18	5

* * * * *

THE SENATE

[WW uses Jennifer E. Duffy of the Cook Political Report and Inside Elections for the Senate chart below. When those two organizations do not agree, WW uses Sabato as a tie breaker.]

In 2020, Republicans will be defending 23 seats while Democrats will be defending 12 seats. It is unlikely that the Republicans will lose control of the Senate in this election. There are a number of changes in the chart below since the last edition of the Watch. Jones has moved from Democratic “Toss Up” to “Lean Republican”. Ernst has moved from “Likely Republican” to “Lean Republican”. Tillis has moved from “Lean Republican” to “Toss Up”. Purdue has moved from “Lean Republican” to “Likely Republican” and a second Georgia seat has opened up with Isakson’s resignation at the end of the year.

Republicans	53
Democrats	45
Independents	2

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independent</u>
Seats not up in 2020	33	30	2
Safe in 2020	7	13	
	Coons	Sullivan	
	Durbin	Cotton	
	Markey	Risch	

	Warner Booker Merkley Reed	Cassidy Daines Sasse Inhofe Graham Rounds Moore Capito WY (Enzi) Tennessee (Alexander) Hyde-Smith
Likely	3 Smith Shaheen NM (Udall)	5 McConnell Cornyn Kansas (Roberts) Purdue GA (Open)
Lean	1 Peters	2 Ernst Jones
Toss Up	0	4 McSally Gardner Collins Tillis

* * * * *

Women Will Get It Done

It has been 41 years since the first woman was elected president of the Harvard Law Review – Susan Estrich.

It has been 27 years since the first black man was elected president of the Harvard Law Review – Barack Obama.

After 130 years, for the first time, the president who will issue Volume 131 of the Harvard Law Review is a black woman – Imlime Umana. [NYTimes-GenderAvenger Blog 9/18/19]

* * * * *

The University of Texas will retire the jersey of basketball player Kamie Ethridge, who wore No. 33. This is the first time the University has retired the jersey of a female athlete. Ethridge lead Texas to the 1986 NCAA Championship and won a gold medal for the U.S. at the 1988 Olympics. Her jersey was retired during halftime at a football game between Texas and LSU. [AP/WYOP 9/18/19]

* * * * *

Only 11% of the art acquired by the 26 top museums in the United States in the last decade were works by women. Only 29,247 works by female artists were acquired by institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art out of 260,470 total works. Data shows that the peak number of acquisitions by female artists occurred in 2009 and has been relatively stagnant since then. [NYT, 538.com 9/26/19]

* * * * *

Over the past year, women started an average of 1,817 new businesses per day in the U.S. That now represents 42% of nearly 13 million businesses overall, which employ 9.4 million workers and generate revenue of \$1.9 trillion. Women of color make up the biggest portion of these businesses according to the annual State of Women-owned Business Report. [Fast Company/GenderAvenger Blog. 9/28/19]

* * * * *

When Laura Meyer won the World Pizza Championship for pan pizza in Parma, Italy, the Italian judges called her the male word for champion. Despite her first-place victory, she was the only winner who didn't get a trophy that day. Hers was mailed a year later. "They basically refused to acknowledge that a woman had won," she said, recently recalling the snub. She was the first woman to win – and the first American. That was in 2013. [NPR/GenderAvenger blog 10/25/19]

* * * * *

Simone Biles, at the age of 22, has won more world gymnastics medals—25—than any female or male in history. [WP 10/14/19]

* * * * *

MIT economics professor Esther Duflo, one of this year's three winners of the Nobel prize for economics, is only the second woman to win the prize since its inception in 1969, and the youngest recipient at age of 46. Duflo was awarded the prize, along with her husband Abhijit Banerjee, and Harvard University professor Michael Kremer, for their work on effective investments for fighting poverty in India and Africa. Duflo said she hoped her win would inspire many other women to continue working "and many other men to give them the respect that they deserve like every single human being." [BBC News]

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According to the American Trucking Association, the number of women in the trucking industry has grown by 68 percent between 2010 and 2018. While women represent only 6.6 percent of the industry's total workforce, there is no gender distinction when it comes to pay. Other reasons for the increase in female truckers include continued growth in e-commerce as well as a tight labor market. [Wall Street Journal]

* * * * *

Restaurants

Bistro Aracosia
5100 MacArthur Blvd
Washington, D.C. 20016
202-363-0400
info@bistroaracosia

I went to Bistro Aracosia in the Palisades neighborhood of D.C. with Bob and Rita and Bev and Brady.

The restaurant describes itself as an "Authentic Afghan Gourmet + Chop House", and who am I to argue with that description?

If the address sounds familiar, that's because it was previously Listrani's Italian, which was particularly known for great pizza.

As you enter the restaurant there is a greeter near the front door to direct you to a table. Straight ahead there is a bar with seven stools and to the right there are a number of tables, 2s, 4s and a couple that are round and larger.

There is a second dining room to the right at the end of the bar. In the second room there are various tables and on the far wall there is a banquette running the length of the room which can work as 2s, 4s or larger.

The restaurant, including the bar, can seat up to 109 people. When the rooms are full of guests, the tables—at least in the front room—are quite close.

The décor is bright and decorative, large pictures and various draping.

A reservation is recommended although the restaurant takes walk-ins if there is room. At noon on a Sunday in August reservations online for 2 or 4 people were available throughout the evening.

At the outset, we ordered (or the restaurant provided) a basket of Lavash Bread and a variety of chutneys. The basket was refilled at least a couple of times during the evening, accompanied by fresh quantities of chutney.

Rita and Bob each started with Cucumber and yogurt soup. Rita followed with the Lamb Chop Duo which is a combination of two frenched rack rib chops and shoulder chops with basmati rice. Bob opted for the Chicken Shish-ka-bob with saffron rice.

Bev ordered Carrot Slaw and Pumpkin Dumplings for the table. She followed that by ordering Chicken Lawaan which is boneless chicken cooked in a yogurt-based stew. Brady ordered French Rack of Lamb, rack of lamb marinated overnight and then char broiled.

I was delighted to see tongue on the menu. It is my favorite meat, and this is the first time I found it in D.C. other than at the delis. It is served in a yogurt-based stew. I followed that with Saffron Chicken. I also imbibed in a non-alcoholic fruit drink containing Cranberry, Lemonade, Pomegranate, Sour Cheery and Orange Juice.

For dessert Bev ordered Baklava for the table and I ordered Cardamom Ice Cream for myself.

The portions were ample to say the least.

The service was excellent and our principal server who had only been there for two months, did very well. He, along with others who assisted us, were

knowledgeable about the various dishes on the extensive menu and very attentive. Given that the restaurant was full the night we were there, the attentiveness was particularly appreciated.

There is one thing about the restaurant that is a bit unusual; in fact, I don't recall having seen it before. There are three menus; a Kids Menu with six items, an Adventurous Kids Menu with nine items and the regular menu.

Speaking of the menus, there is a substantial Vegetarian section on the regular menu.

The restaurant serves dinner seven days a week and lunch every day except Monday.

I decided not to work my way to the restroom. Bob did and reported it was not unusual and clean.

* * * * *

Wild Tomato
7945 MacArthur Blvd
Cabin John, MD 20818
301-229-0680
Wildtomatorestaurant.com

I went to Wild Tomato with Diane, John, Sherry and Mike.

The restaurant seats about 80 people including some 10 seats outside which are available when weather permits, as it did the night we were there. There is also an outdoor bar with six high seats.

The restaurant does not take reservations but based on their experience Mike and Sherry knew that at about 7 p.m. tables from the first seating of the evening begin to open up. On the night we were there we were seated as soon as we arrived.

There is a wooden bench that runs the length of one wall of the restaurant. I got the impression that it is not the most comfortable. The remainder of the restaurant is composed of 2-tops that can be arranged to meet the needs of the groups. In our case, putting two 2-tops together provided an ample table for the

five of us and we could have accommodated one more. All the tables are made of heavy wood.

Sherry and Mike are regulars at Wild Tomato and have gotten to know Olga, usually the bartender, who on this evening was our server. Olga has worked at the restaurant for six years at least 4 days a week while also attending a local college. Beginning next year, she will be attending the University of Maryland.

Diane and John started by sharing a Caesar salad. Then Diane had the special for the night, lamb chops and French fries. John opted for the pasta and meatballs.

Sherry ordered the Greek salad and added grilled shrimp. Mike went for the Stuffed Fish Soft Tacos which he asked to be “severely blackened.”

I ordered the Wedge Salad and Chicken Wings, to be delivered at the same time. As suggested, I ordered half the wings (3) to be done with a spicy teriyaki sauce and the other half with honey BBQ.

Portions were ample. In fact, I could not finish what I had ordered, either the wings or the salad. I noticed that the gentleman at the next table ordered exactly the same dishes that I did and finished it down to the last morsel.

I had a second visit to Wild Tomato. This time with Debbie, James and, no surprise, Sherry and Mike. Again, we had little wait for a table.

We started the meal by sharing two orders of the Chicken wings. Mike and James followed with the Stuffed Fish Soft Tacos “severely blackened.” Sherry selected the Greek Salad with pulled chicken. Debbie and I chose the Grilled Romaine Hearts, Debbie with Chicken and me with Shrimp. I was the only one who had dessert – ice cream of course.

Frankly this visit did not live up to our first visit. The service was not as attentive and I did not find the grilled romaine as well prepared, although the shrimp was fine. Olga did stop by, but she was busy elsewhere.

Notwithstanding the hiccups on this visit, I am looking forward to my next visit and plan to try the beef and the veggie burgers which look particularly inviting.

Two restrooms are down a long corridor. The sign on the men's room is a colored drawing that has written in large letters "Wild Boys." While there is a lock on the door it does not seem to work. No one tried to get in while I was in there. The floor is covered with very large rectangular tan tiles. The walls up to about 4 feet are covered with small square tiles. The walls are painted a tan color above the wall tiles.

As you enter there is a double set of low black frame shelves on which one finds extra toilet paper and paper towels. Against the far wall there is a low white ceramic commode. A few steps away on the same wall there is a white ceramic wall hanging urinal. There are appropriate wall bars designed for those who need a little help moving on an off the commode. The room is clean but for some used paper towels on the floor which seemed to have missed the waste container located under the washbasin.

A sign in the restroom reads, "Don't flush more than once it will overflow."

* * * * *

Roadkill Café
633 Crooked Run Road
Artemas, Pennsylvania
814-784-0031

[For the first time in its history, WW is publishing a review done by someone other than me. Bob Barnett, a regular reader of WW, graciously offered to do this review since the chances of my getting to the Roadkill Café are low.]

* * * * *

On the way to a law firm retreat in Western Pennsylvania, we got caught in a traffic jam on I-68. After spending an hour going one mile, it was lunchtime. Rita checked the internet and found The Roadkill Cafe ("You Kill It, We Grill It") in Artemis, Pennsylvania. Ever up for a new adventure (Not!!!!), we decided to try it.

After navigating several narrow roads, we reached 633 Crooked Run Road. What we saw was a gas station and a restaurant with a handmade sign. It's not

fancy. It's not beautiful. We won't comment on the bathrooms. (Sorry, Michael). But the food is great.

Here's the story. During hunting season of 1984, Barbara Snider decided to go into business in Artemis. According to the menu, she had a building constructed, gasoline pumps installed, and opened a grocery and gas station facility "where she saw a need for just such a place". "She has always accommodated the hunters, even their hours, and has therefore been known to open her store in the wee hours of the morning so that they would set off with a hot meal under their belts". We can attest, the place is very popular with hunters. We were among the very few without fluorescent vests.

In 1995, she built an actual restaurant and named it "The Roadkill Cafe". It can seat about eighty people. Again, according to the menu, "[O]n any given Thursday, her 'big' day, she estimates that they serve about five hundred customers". Over the last couple of years, she has added cabins and campsites which "are always full to capacity during hunting season or whenever a big local construction project is underway, like the gas company work". (We did not stay.)

When one sees the first menu they give you, one might become concerned.

Examples of dishes:

Center Line Bovine "Tastes real good, straight from the hood". (\$4.95)

The Chicken "That didn't cross the road". (\$3.95)

Chunk of Skunk; Smidgen of Pigeon; Rigor Morris Tortoise; Poodles 'N Noodles; Collie Hit by a Trolley; and German Shepard Pie. (Priced from \$1.95 for Pit Bull Pot Pie to \$5.95 for Poodles 'N Noodles)

Also, Rack of Raccoon; Awesome Possum; and Smear of Deer. (The last three "served fresh each night after dark")

But then, you get the real menu. The Roadkill Cafe serves a full list of normal breakfast selections — eggs, pancakes, French toast, waffles, omelets, sausage, etc. But it is the lunch and dinner menus that bring in the customers.

Rita and I had the famous ham and bean soup (\$2.95). Rita had the tossed salad (\$2.95). Bob had the open-faced hot turkey sandwich with gravy, homemade

apple sauce (Delicious), and homemade coleslaw (Delicious) (\$7.95). We had a lot of fun guessing what Debbie and Michael might have had.

Some of the other specialties that we saw being consumed around the room were: Onion rings (\$4.50); “Animal Droppings (Appetizer Sampler)” (\$6.95); jalapeño poppers (\$4.50); honey dipped chicken (\$7.95); country fried steak (\$7.25); butterflied shrimp (\$7.50); and pork BBQ (\$3.95). (We were unable to determine why some things are \$X.25, some things were \$X.50, and some things were \$X.95, but the top price was \$7.95, unless you want a large pizza for \$13.95.)

The “Loaded Fries” deserve a special mention. The menu describes them as “Fresh cut fries smothered with steak, bacon, cheese & sour cream”. Or, in DC-speak, “A shot of cholesterol straight to the heart”. (\$7.50)

But, despite all these attractive options, the pies were the highlight. There were about a dozen varieties. Rita had chocolate pie. Bob had lemon meringue (\$2.50). According to the menu, Barbara “is well known for her homemade pies, which causes her to stay up all hours on every Wednesday to bake fresh and have ready for her Thursday menu . . .”

If you are in the area, do stop by. As the menu proudly states, “Folks travel long distances for a meal at the Roadkill!”

WW note: There are at least two other Roadkill Cafes: one in Seligman, Arizona (It has the same motto “you kill it we grill it.”). The other is in Elberta, Alabama. As far as WW and Barnett know, there is no connection between the three restaurants.

Mike

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