DONKEY TRACKS

NOVEMBER, 2026

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www.womensdemo.com

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County

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Dr. Ouida Brown
Inspirationalist



Thank You
For Your Service





President's Message

Congratulations to all our candidates. Each of you had the courage to throw your hat in the ring. Thank you for helping to make our State more compassionate and stronger. It takes a village and we hope you know Women's Demo has your back!

The holiday season is just around the corner. This year again we will be taking up a collection to help support Three Square. We can accept your cash donation or check donation (made out to Three Square) at our November meeting or at our Holiday Party. Last year, we donated Eight Hundred Dollars ($800.00) to feed our Community. I'd like to thank you, in advance, for your kindness this year. I look forward to seeing you at our party and enjoying the festivities and friendships we share.

Our Holiday Party will be on December 12th at the home of Mayor Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehrner. Please watch for your email invite and RSVP to attend and bring a pot luck item!

Caren Wolfson

Election Wrap-Up



MIDTERM ELECTIONS

★ ★ ★



Speaker:
Jon Ralston

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elevator

Extra Parking In Back Lot

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration; Noon Luncheon/Program

Members = $35 * Non-Members = $40

Pay Online HERE

If You Plan To Pay At Door

RSVP HERE

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend

Women's Democratic Club of Clark County's

Annual Holiday Party

Potluck

At the Home of Mayor Shelley Berkley and Dr. Larry Lehrner

Saturday, December 12, 2026
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Turkey and ham will be provided. Please bring a main dish, appetizer, side dish, de-sert, tor bottle of wine, to share! Sign up **here**.

Please Go Online to our website:
www.womensdemo.com
To RSVP and Record What You Are Bringing
And Use This **LINK** to RSVP and You will Receive The Location

Due to the current political climate in our country, we must take extra precautions to ensure everyone's safety. **Your name must be listed on our RSVP list in order to be admitted through the guard gate.**

Security personnel will be present on the grounds, and valet parking will be available for all guests. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to provide a safe and enjoyable event for everyone.

There's Nothing Better Than A Home Filled With Democrats!

Socialize With Old And New Friends!

Join Us!

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for North Las Vegas

MAYOR

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Alex will stand up to Donald Trump, ICE, Joe Lombardo, and stop corporate handouts

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Make corporations pay their fair share and stop energy companies like NV Energy from price gouging

Affordable Housing
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FOR NV Assembly District 29

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Primary Election Day
JUNE 9th

VOTE BY MAIL OR IN-PERSON

Early Voting
MAY 23rd-JUNE 5th

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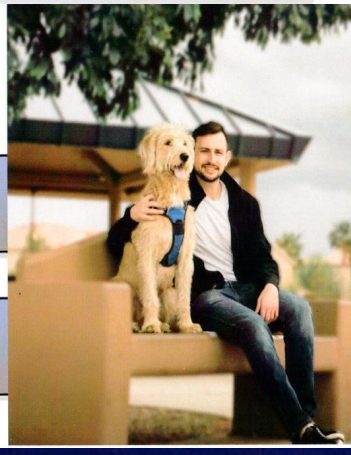

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McLeod

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 31

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Alexandra Beth
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Memos From Morgan
By Morgan St. James

NOW BILLIONS OF DOLLARS BUY ELECTIONS



When did elections become decided in many cases by who had the biggest war chest to finance the most media?

This is the year America celebrates her 250th birthday. Back in the early days candidates mostly relied on their own personal wealth to finance campaigns. By the early 20th century, corporate contributions to political campaigns were banned. But, special interest groups formed political action committees, or PACs, so they could raise money for the candidates they supported. Until 2010 they could only accept a limited amount from each donor, which is how it should have remained. As if that wasn't enough to cause undue influence to elections, after Citizens United Super PACs came into play it got much worse.

The Supreme Court's 5–4 majority concluded that government limits on independent political spending by corporations and other entities were unconstitutional. That ruling overturned decades of campaign finance restrictions, including portions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. It rejected the idea that such expenditures posed a grave risk of corruption if disclosed promptly, and we are seeing how wrong that rejection was now.

But in 2010 when the Supreme Court released its landmark Citizens United decision, it meant corporations could give unlimited amounts of money to campaigns, and because of that decision everything changed. There was a difference between the Super PACs and traditional PACs. Although they can't donate directly to candidates, they can accept unlimited amounts of money from donors and then spend it on advertising for the races and issues they support and against those they don't. There doesn't seem to be much regulation if any relative to what that advertising can say. With the advent of AI, digital Avatars seem real, facts in many cases are skewed or non-existent, and the Avatars literally vomit what Kellyanne Conway called "alternate facts."

Although these Super PACs are supposed to be regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC), it is obvious the FEC has been pretty ineffective at policing them. Instead we have seen the increasing trend since 2010 of candidates frequently working in alignment with these Super PACs to generate millions and millions of dollars for their campaigns. They are allowed to spend unlimited amounts of money and resources in support of their favored candidate or in opposition to an opponent. This has financed a never-ending cycle of emails, text messages, advertorials and more begging for contributions. We are bombarded from every direction with pleas to help favored candidates.

The net result in so many races now is that qualifications take a back seat. Corruption doesn't seem to matter if there are enough dollars to present these "alternate facts." And that is the disaster. Highly qualified candidates fall by the wayside because they don't have the purchasing power of these Super PACs. Attack ads, true or not, permeate the media. The candidates with the smaller war chests go on talk shows, generate as much media as they can, try to combat attack ads, but in many cases it just isn't enough. There are too many gullible voters who believe what they see in print, TV or their

phones or computers. Not enough of them invest the time to investigate the truth behind these claims, and in so many cases have no desire to.

Just taking a look at what running a campaign costs these days, the figures are staggering. Money that could go to so many worthwhile causes instead is buying the election of certain candidates. For example, a candidate who won an election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990 spent on average $407,600, equal to a little over $1 millioin in 2026, while the winner in 2022 spent on average $2.79 million, equal to $6.9 million in 2026. It was higher in the Senate. These figures are approximate from data available. Other current estimates are all over the place.

A national coalition of hundreds of endorsing organizations and over one half-million supporters, was launched on January 21, 2010; the same day that the Supreme Court ruled on the *Citizens United v FEC* decision that expanded the constitutional rights of corporations and wealthy individuals to spend money to influence elections. The ruling, widely regarded as one of the most detrimental rulings in American history, has resulted in an unprecedented flood of special interest money from corporate entities and the ultra-wealthy in both parties into political campaigns, fundamentally altering the landscape of U.S. elections and politics.

Unfortunately, for an actual reversal of Citizens United, the Supreme Court would need to conclude that the earlier constitutional reasoning should no longer control contributions. That outcome would depend on the justices' views of the First Amendment, campaign-finance precedent, and the facts of a case—not on a vote in Congress alone.

With the current Supreme Court, the outcome is anyone's guess.



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the Revenge is Fun series, stand-alone novels, the Writers' Tricks of the Trade book and short stories in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle and Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels.

www.morganstjames-author.com

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District Court Judge, Dept. 31



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Department 28

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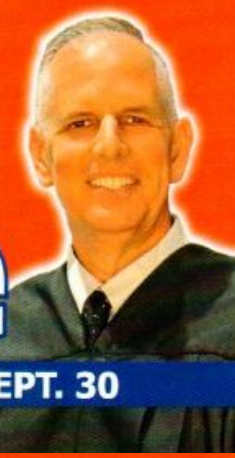
Judge Jerry Wiese



DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPT. 30

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Erica is a first-generation college graduate, a former teacher and the daughter of a Filipino immigrant. She is:

- INVESTING IN EDUCATION by passing the largest education budget in the state's history and increasing teacher pay.
- PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE IN NEVADA from extremist attacks.
- LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.
- FIGHTING FOR EXPANDED HOUSING OPTIONS in East Las Vegas and throughout our state.
- WORKING TO INCREASE LANGUAGE ACCESS, including more options for multilingual ballots as well as prescription drug labels being provided in a patient's language of preference.

"I want to hear from you! Please contact me anytime and about any issue at ERICAMOSCA14@GMAIL.COM."
Erica

ERICA MOSCA
FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14

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FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14

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I'm working to help our community year-round. Check out my website to learn more!



Judge Jerry Wiese

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OPINION: Trump's Needless Chaos At USDA Is Nothing To Moo About

By John L. Smith



Ground beef from a foreign source rushed to market? What could possibly go wrong?



With the embers of another barbecue season burning low, Americans seeking to fire up the Weber one more time received some less than reassuring news. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) just announced the recall of 167,000 pounds of beef, pork and goat after it was discovered to be carrying false inspection labels.

But that's a foodie footnote compared to the late August announcement by President Donald Trump that 300,000 metric tons — 661 million pounds — of "beef trimmings" were pouring into the American market from Brazil and Argentina. To no great surprise, there's a sleazy component to the beef story, first reported by *The Wall Street Journal.* The company involved is co-owned by the son of corrupt former Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro. The JBS meatpacking company had promised to discount its suspicious shipment 25 percent in exchange as part of a 90-day tariff reprieve by the Trump administration.

Reaction to the announcement was swift, with National Cattlemen's Beef Association Chief Executive Officer Colin Woodall issuing a statement expressing the group's "disappointment" and adding, "While America's cattle producers share the goal of keeping groceries affordable for consumers, flooding the market with government-subsidized, below-market beef is not the way to rebuild the American cattle herd."
In making much of the Brazilian beef trimmings deal, the president downplayed the fact that the mountain of meat in question had already been rejected by the European Union.
Ground beef from a foreign source rushed to market? What could possibly go wrong? Look for it soon in a supermarket near you.

That last barbecue of the season is starting to sound a lot less inviting.

In direct response to the criticism he received from a conservative constituency in the wake of the dirty meat deal, in early September Trump signed an executive order seeking to roll back regulations at the USDA and "streamline processes," which raises further questions about future inspections. The order gives Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins 60 days to submit a plan "identifying remaining statutory or regulatory barriers to greater interstate market access." Somehow, I don't think increasing regulatory rigor at the USDA — already reeling from cutbacks — will be high on her list of things to do.

Further adding to the confusion is what's been called the "process your own food" mandate that would encourage ranchers to find ways to slaughter and process their beef and sell directly to consumers. The order leaves open the possibility, even likelihood, of fewer USDA safety inspections.

It is another of a growing list of oddities associated with the Trump administration's treatment of the American meat industry that adds uncertainty and confusion in the name of lowering prices for consumers.
It's taken generations for the American meatpacking industry to build credibility with the public. Far beyond juicy marketing campaigns — remember "Beef: It's what's for dinner?" — the industry has relied on the USDA to literally provide its seal of approval on its products.

There is a morsel of good news that comes not from your local supermarket, but from a courtroom, where federal employee unions won a round in their legal fight to prevent the USDA from implementing further worker cuts, closing offices and forcing other employees to relocate under the administration's "USDA reorganization plan." But it's only temporary.

The big meat scrap score is made to order for the president's image as America's Don-in-Chief. Those of us who have studied organized crime will recall that for many years the underworld maintained shadowy connections in part of the meatpacking industry, some of its related unions and the trucking companies that moved the product to market.
One of my favorite meat mobster stories is the tale of the trailer load of tainted meat that Charles "Charlie Callahan" Anselmo needed to find a home for. A New York member of the Bonanno crime family, in the 1960s Anselmo had his hands in many rackets, few as malodorous as this one.

Despite its stench and discoloration, which formaldehyde and other products not meant for human consumption could only partially mask, Anselmo found an associate willing to make a deal. An inspector could smell the problem from here to Pittsburgh.

At one point, as recounted in Jonathan Kwitney's *Vicious Circles: The Mafia in the Marketplace,* Anselmo's associate asked him a simple question about the meat's provenance: "Does it moo?"

Anselmo replied, "Well, some of it moos, and some of it don't moo."

Some of it don't moo, because some of it was putrid horse meat.

Everyone who knows the history of the American meat business understands there's always someone willing to put their thumb on the scale.

I just never imagined that person would occupy the White House.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters *and* Desert Companion, *among others*.

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Who Delivers for Us



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FOR ASSEMBLYMAN DISTRICT SIX

EARLY VOTE: MAY 23–JUNE 5 • Primary Election: June 9

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Who Fights for All Nevadans

JOVAN DELIVERS. Jovan has voted to address affordability, create new high-paying jobs and address criminal justice reform. We can count on him to continue to stand up to Trump and MAGA extremists who attack our families and our rights.

Jovan's 5 Priority Pillars

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2. **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM** to remove barriers for formerly incarcerated people so they can access housing, jobs, and education.
3. **ENSURING BASIC NEEDS ARE MET** through programs that provide senior support, food assistance, and access to health care.
4. **FREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE,** including establishing free crisis and long-term mental health services so that people can get real help before tragedies occur.
5. **PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM** by investing in mental health responders, social workers, and crisis intervention teams as well as by fighting for immigration enforcement reforms that protect families.

Vote **DEMOCRAT JOVAN JACKSON**

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 6 · PRIMARY ELECTION JUNE 9

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Chair, Democratic Association of Secretaries of State.

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Rebecca Solnit, Author/activist
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AUGUST 12, 2026

AT 1:00 PM PDT

JOIN FROM ANYWHERE
@ZOOM

Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein



We are in countdown mode to General Election Day, and the stakes could not be higher!
We have left nothing on the field! Our message—and the messages of Democrats across the nation—has been consistent: We are fighting to save our democracy and protect our Constitution! Every right we have fought for as Americans has been part of our ongoing effort to build a stronger, fairer country. This election is truly one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime, and we must meet this moment with determination and purpose.

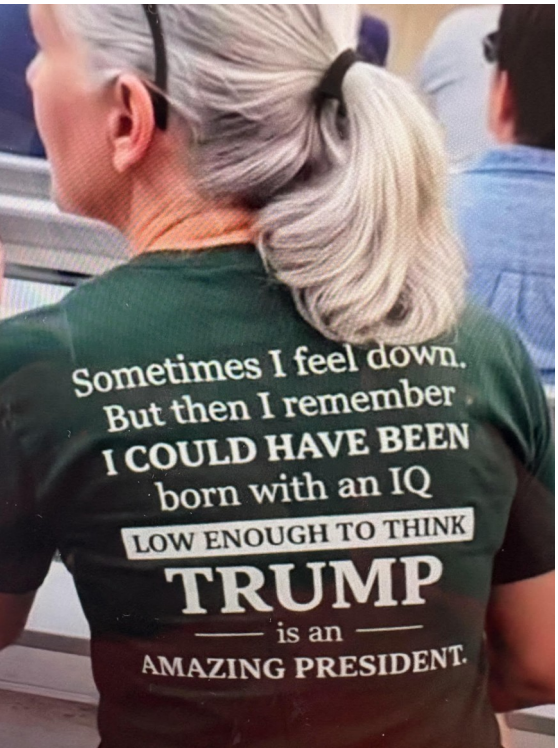
It is time to take our country back from those who threaten our democratic institutions and the rights we hold dear. We need a Senate and Congress that will restore the checks and balances essential to our system of government and hold the Executive Branch accountable. We have witnessed an America that is increasingly unaffordable for hard-working families and a troubling shift away from democratic principles toward authoritarianism. We cannot stand by and allow this to continue. We have a responsibility to act, and that responsibility begins at the ballot box!

Please make your plan to vote. If you have received your ballot, complete it, sign it, and return it promptly. You may also deliver it to an authorized ballot drop-off location. Every vote matters, and every vote brings us closer to the future we want for our country.



We have welcomed many national leaders to Las Vegas to speak on behalf of our candidates and endorse their campaigns. We extend a special thank-you to Dr. Ouida Brown for representing our Club at the Senator Elizabeth Warren event hosted by the Nevada State Democratic Party. We appreciate her continued commitment and support.

I also wanted to share a photo of one of the T-shirts worn on No Kings Day—a reminder that our voices matter and that our democracy belongs to the people!
Our November meeting will feature Jon Ralston, who will share his insights into the election, the results, and what they mean for Nevada and our nation. Start preparing your questions! You know Jon will have plenty to say about this election, and we look forward to an informative and engaging discussion.



I want to commend every single member of Women's Demo for making this year so memorable. You showed up, you volunteered, you encouraged others, and you supported our candidates. Your dedication has made a real difference!

I am especially proud to share that our Club wrote 44 checks to candidates during this election cycle, totaling $45,000! Each candidate was grateful for our endorsement and financial support. This is what our mission—LEAD, EMPOWER, ADVOCATE—looks like in action.

Because of you, we can support individuals who have the courage to step forward, run for office, and fight for the values we share. We thank every candidate and their families for the sacrifices they make in the name of public service. Running for office requires extraordinary commitment, hard work, and personal sacrifice. To everyone who stepped forward to serve: We appreciate you, we thank you, and we are proud to stand with you.

Please join us for our November 12 meeting, featuring Jon Ralston. We will also hold our election of officers, an important opportunity to help shape the future of our Club.

In December, we will gather for our Annual Holiday Party at the home of Mayor Shelley Berkley. This year's celebration will be a potluck, with online sign-ups so everyone can contribute. Security and valet parking will be provided. We look forward to celebrating the season, enjoying one another's company, and recognizing the strength of our Women's Demo family.

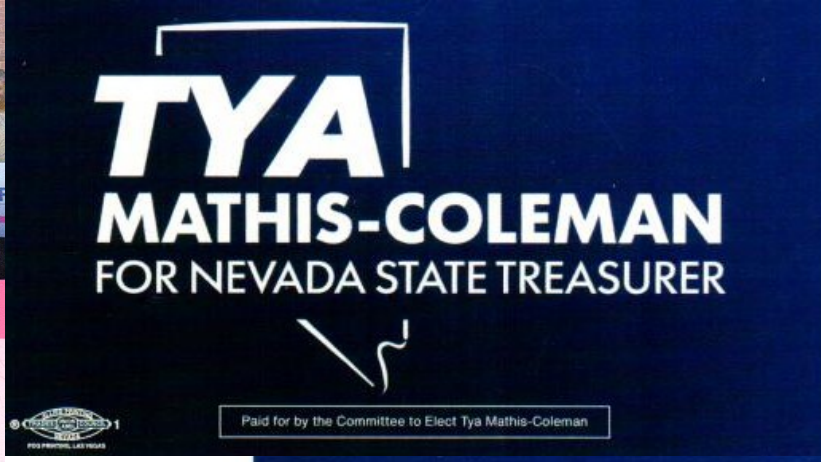
As we approach Election Day, let us remain united, energized, and committed to the work ahead. We have come too far to turn back now. Together, we can make our voices heard, protect our democracy, and help build a better tomorrow.

Stand together. Vote together. Keep fighting for our democracy!















A FIGHTER FOR SOUTHERN NEVADA

DINA TITUS

for Congress



Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



A blockbuster story in the *Wall Street Journal* tonight by Alexander Ward, Natalie Andrews, and Josh Dawsey says that it was billionaire Elon Musk who ordered Space X to slow down its service in Ukraine, rendering some drones that stopped incoming missiles and others aimed at Russian targets useless.

The reporters say it is unclear if Musk operated without input from White House officials. Some of their sources say he did; others say he coordinated with multiple senior officials, including Trump.

According to Jennifer Jacobs of CBS News, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth appeared to try to dismiss the slowdown as a business decision: "We haven't pulled anything back. There are terms of service that ultimately need to be complied to. And that's where Starlink has the option to make those decisions, but nothing's changed from our view. We haven't made any directives or anything like that." He added: "[W]e wish the Ukrainians, obviously, success."

After the slowdown caused a public uproar, the *Wall Street Journal* reporters write, representatives from SpaceX, the parent company of Starlink, called the White House to coordinate messaging to say that Starlink and the administration had agreed to the slowdown ahead of time.

Musk's decision to change the course of a war with "a seeming flick of a switch," taking it upon himself, with or without the complicity of White House officials, to reverse the foreign policy of the United States of America for the benefit of Russia's president Vladimir Putin, is a stunning assumption of power reminiscent of Revolutionary War general Benedict Arnold's weakening of the Americans' defenses and draining of supplies at the strategic fort at West Point to enable the British to capture it before he was discovered and defected to the British Army.

Another lens through which to see this story is the apparent eagerness of White House officials to turn Musk into a scapegoat for a decision they were happy to endorse until it blew up in their faces.

A *New York Times* story by Tyler Pager suggests a different leak from the White House. Pager relates that billionaire Venezuelan banker Julio Herrera Velutini wanted a presidential pardon. His family hired Alina Habba, a former Trump lawyer who at the time was working at the Justice Department, as general counsel at a company, Concord Partners, that was launched by Herrera's daughter, has no public profile and whose business is unclear. Habba's contract is worth more than $50 million over four years. Just weeks after she began to work for Concord Partners, Trump granted Herrera a full pardon.

Habba denied having any role in the pardon and refused to describe her work for Concord Partners, but Pager reports that "[p]eople familiar with Ms. Habba's contract said they believed that she was brought in to help with Mr. Herrera's push for a pardon and expressed surprise at the scale of the compensation."

Thomas Frank at *Politico* received a recording of a speech Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Cameron Hamilton gave today at a private conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, in which he said the Trump administration plans to shift responsibility for disaster management to the states.

Hamilton's speech built on an internal memo from October 15, which Frank also covered, that said the administration seeks to turn disaster response over to local and state government, thereby "reducing federal dependency." "Federal dollars should be building greater capability, not creating greater dependency," Hamilton said today.

Today Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan of the *New York Times* reported that sources have told them that Trump wants to move the press out of the White House and that Bill Pulte, the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency who has pushed to go after Trump's political opponents for mortgage fraud, is one of those pushing the idea of restoring the press briefing room to its original form as a swimming pool. Another is Boris Epshteyn, the lawyer who has pushed the lawsuits the president has launched against journalists.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had the pool installed because swimming helped strengthen his muscles, weakened by polio. President Richard Nixon had it covered over and turned into a briefing room to accommodate the growing White House Press Corps. Haberman and Swan note that forcing the press out of the White House would be "highly symbolic. The proximity of the media to the seat of U.S. executive power has long been an acknowledgment of the importance of a free press in a constitutional democracy."

These four stories, just from today, encapsulate the administration's betrayal of U.S. national security, its corruption, and its disregard for the welfare of Americans. It's not a great record to run on, and the leaks from the administration show that at least some insiders are aware of how unpopular and dangerous that record is.

And so, Trump is pulling out all the stops to keep Democrats from winning control of Congress in the upcoming midterm elections.

In what appears to be a transparent attempt to shore up wavering support from a constituency that until recently was one of his most loyal, Trump announced yesterday that the Agriculture Department would provide $8 billion to help farmers slammed by the high cost of diesel. Kevin Draper of the *New York Times* reported that rates of payment will be announced next month, and the money will come no sooner than late November or early December, well after the election.

Trump announced the prospective payments at an event for Republican senator Roger Marshall of Kansas, whose reelection campaign is facing a strong challenge from Democrat Adam Hamilton. Meredith Lee Hill and Grace Yarrow of *Politico* report that Marshall had asked Trump for the program. Republicans like Marshall are hoping Trump's announcement will help stop the flow of voters away from the Republicans and toward the Democrats in the farm states. Representative Derrick Van Orden of Wisconsin, whose reelection is uncertain given the strength of his Democratic challenger Rebecca Cooke, said: "This will go a long way to making sure the folks that feed us have it a bit

easier when they most need it."

But Trump officials told Hill and Yarrow that the fund Trump intends to use for the payments—a taxpayer-funded account in the Department of Agriculture—doesn't have enough money in it to make the payments. Either Congress will have to add more to it, or the administration will have to take the money from a different program.

Top agricultural groups say farmers need at least $50 billion to make up for the impact of tariffs, disasters caused by weather, and the high cost of fuel and fertilizer caused by the war on Iran.

Trump told the Kansas audience at the announcement that if they reelect Marshall, he will also allow year-round sales of gasoline containing 15% ethanol, a big deal for corn growers. But, he added, "if Adam Hamilton is in, I'm not doing it."

Still, Democrats are not letting the White House change the subject from its betrayal of Ukraine. This morning, Representative Jim Himes (D-CT) posted a video, saying he had just gotten off a phone call with Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky and a number of other representatives and senators.

"I was just appalled by what I learned," he said. "The president said that Starlink—Starshield—has been throttled so that the Ukrainians can no longer intercept most of the Russian drones that are wreaking havoc at schools and hospitals and civilian centers. He said that they are completely out of missile interceptors. And make no mistake: that's our fault.

"More significantly, that's the fault of Donald Trump, who has now shown his hand as an ally of Vladimir Putin and Elon Musk. We can't really get straight answers about whether it's Elon or Donald Trump, but at the end of the day, because they throttled Starlink, Ukrainians are dying.

"In the call, I made the point to some of my colleagues, which is, it's time to accept that Donald Trump is rooting for a Russian victory here. And that the Congress needs to step up and actually pass veto-proof legislation. Enough dilly-dallying with the secretary of state in the Oval Office. We need to step up and pass veto-proof legislation that will provide assistance, military aid, and access to Starlink for the Ukrainians. That's the only way this is gonna get done, and it needs to get done now.

"Ukrainians are dying, and Putin will win this if Donald Trump has his way," Himes said, "[W]e're going to act as a Congress and override this president's desire to see Vladimir Putin win."

OPINION: A Notable No-Show At A Rural Nevada ‘Debate’ Hints The Ground Is Shifting In CD2

By John L. Smith



David Flippo is showing pure partisan cynicism in dodging debates and interviews, but the tactic is starting to backfire.



GARDNERVILLE — Maybe it's best that clumsy congressional candidate David Flippo ducked Thursday night's debate at the community center here. At the rate he's going, he might have fallen off the stage.

Had Flippo bothered to show up, he would have found a room full of voters eager to hear candidates offer their views. But he also would have had some explaining to do. And as we're learning, offering credible explanations isn't the Republican's strong suit. I'm beginning to wonder what is.

Flippo's flipoff of a conservative small town located in the heart of a congressional district that's never elected a Democrat is a sign that he's either extremely confident or running scared. Whether arrogance or fear, neither is a good look for a fellow who leads with his military service.

You can be sure plenty of veterans were in attendance Thursday. And all they witnessed in the 2nd Congressional District "debate" was an energetic and informed performance by Democrat Teresa Benitez-Thompson. The 44-year Northern Nevada resident and former state legislator wove an impressive knowledge of policy with a love of community and family as she answered Douglas County District Judge Tod Young's questions to an increasingly appreciative audience.

People came at the dinner hour from down the street and across the county to hear the candidates discuss some of the important matters facing Nevadans and the nation. With high gas prices, a costly war and threats to Social Security among the clouds hanging over the country, it's little wonder the community center hall was filled.

It's a guarantee many of those seats were filled with conservative voters, the kind who normally wouldn't have been keen to hear what Benitez-Thompson had to say. But, with polls showing conservatives are tiring of President Donald Trump's reckless rhetoric and souring on his cratering policies, these aren't normal times.

Benitez-Thompson called out the Trump administration's tariff-and-trade war chaos, brought well-thought views on water and public lands issues, defended Social Security and promised to work to claw back some of the millions the state lost during the federal ransacking by the short-lived Department of Government Efficiency. She also pushed back against the administration's SAVE Act, countering that Nevada already has belt-and-suspenders election laws.

She did it all while reminding the audience of her Northern Nevada bona fides.

"I love this community. This is my home. Northern Nevada is where I'm going to spend the rest of my life. I'm not just here to try to campaign."

They went home with something to think about — a fresh face in the 2nd District. In a campaign to replace retiring eight-term Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV), the energetic Benitez-Thompson and the AWOL Flippo are making maintaining the status quo in 2nd District less certain.

With no political resumé to speak of beyond boasting of his Trump endorsement, Flippo went from announcing his candidacy for Southern Nevada's 4th District to racing to Reno in time for the 2nd District primary. Trump won the district by 14 points in 2024, but I'm not sure how much that means in a time of $6-a-gallon diesel.

Flippo thoroughly smeared former state Sen. James Settelmeyer (R-Minden) before prevailing against the respected conservative rancher and former director of the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. In the process, Flippo also made an enemy of the easygoing Amodei.

"You run an absolutely scurrilous campaign against a guy who's one of the nicest guys around," Amodei said of Flippo to host Sam Shad on *Nevada Newsmakers*. "The voters are never wrong, but guess what? Mark Amodei's not endorsing him."

The August interview got worse, and at one point the mild-mannered Shad acknowledged that Flippo, through his campaign, had rebuffed requests to appear on the program. Instead, Shad was offered interviews with surrogates to do the talking. He politely declined.

Amodei wasn't as understanding: "That's an interesting style. Oh, by the way, I find it incredibly interesting that you're asking people for a vote, but you're saying, my campaign professionals — or whatever they are — they'll go on the record for me. Wow."

For the record, Shad was told the candidate would be available after he's elected to Congress. Now that's arrogant.

Speaking of no-shows, Flippo's foot-dragging in submitting a standard U.S. House financial disclosure might be easily forgotten in a Congress gone off the rails. But it's not a small oversight — nor is it isolated. Such disclosures are required, and he failed to submit one in his failed 2024 4th District run.

What voters are unlikely to forget is Flippo's overhyping of the Bronze Star for meritorious service that he received in the Iraq War. By giving the appearance he had been awarded a Bronze Star for valor, a designation reserved for bravery in combat, he's managed to tarnish one of the things he's most proud of. His campaign signs feature him in his dress uniform.

Flippo apologized for the error, and initially blamed the mistake on a staffer. Good help is hard to find, but he was the one wearing a cap sporting double Vs and a replica of a Bronze Star. He then appeared to pass the responsibility for the cap decoration on to his grandchildren.

Oh, those kids — always giving grandad more credit than he deserves. But you have to admit their sense of political timing is uncanny. The eyebrow-raising, ahem, clarification wound up spicing a story on *National Public Radio*. Maybe it's better if the guy doesn't talk too much.

These days, the collar on Flippo's old uniform might be getting a little tight. In the wake of the Bronze Star snafu, The *Reno Gazette-Journal* reported Flippo was fired from his duty as aircraft maintenance squadron commander in 2008 at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. His superior at the time described the decision as a "loss of confidence in his ability to command."

Who knows whether any of this would have surfaced if Flippo's brain trust had bothered to submit his financial disclosure and thoroughly vet his military career. No campaign is perfect, but this one is suffering from self-inflicted wounds. With millions flowing into the 2nd District from conservative PACs to stanch the bleeding and a built-in voter registration advantage, Flippo's stumblebum campaign can survive despite his cowardly invisible man routine.

In politics, victory trumps valor every time, but something that the outgoing Amodei said bears repeating: "The job isn't going to allow you to serve only under circumstances which you control."

Stick that in your cap, colonel.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters *and* Desert Companion, *among others*.



13 Days Left. Big Tech Is Silencing The Facts

By Lincoln Square Media

Mets, Musk, and Ellison are gatekeeping the truth and funneling millions into lies right before the midterm elections.

We are **13 days away** from the most critical midterm election of our lives. Right now, pro-democracy, independent media is being systematically drowned out and suppressed at the exact moment Americans need facts most.

While Lincoln Square fights tirelessly for the truth, we are up against millions in dark money and MAGA-enabling tech oligarchs controlling access to information.

Look at what is happening right now:

- **Meta Silenced NoKings:** Meta temporarily suspended the official NoKings Instagram account during nationwide protests, blocking millions from seeing why Americans took to the streets, and enabling the regime to ignore the millions of people who are standing up against Trump's authoritarian policies and unprecedented self-dealing and corruption.
- **Lincoln Square Censored:** Our team was blocked from uploading real-time protest footage and shadowbanned across TikTok, Instagram, and X. Our previous protest coverage hit **16 million impressions**—our October 17th content received **under 100,000**.
- **Corporate News Consolidation:** The Skydance merger under David Ellison—with Bari Weiss leading CBS News—consolidates influence across CBS, CNN, Paramount+, HBO Max, and Warner Bros. Discovery. Legacy networks are becoming propaganda arms, laundering half-truths and burying administration corruption.
- **Elon Musk Throttled Starshield:** Musk restricted Starshield speeds used by Ukrainian forces, disabling interceptor drones in a direct attempt to weaken our allies and aid Putin's imperialist goals.
- **Fox News Ignores Corruption:** Fox News has refused to report on White House corruption, choosing partisan power over public truth.
-

When oligarchs can control what information we can access, we lose our sovereignty, our elections, and our fundamental freedoms.

WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CLARK COUNTY

LEAD ★ EMPOWER ★ ADVOCATE

2026 NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Our Club!

January

Ashley Delobel
J. Ken Diaz
Claudia Fabian
Attorney General Aaron Ford
Harriet Goldstein
Lance Hendron
Amanda Klein
Matt Lay
Amanda Pellizzari
Staci Walters
Dr. Glynda White
Denise Wright

February

Marilyn Caston
Nancy Downey
Judge Tara Clark-Newberrt
Pam Jones
Carol Nerby

March

Sunshine Arterburn
Riva Lantaya
Elizabeth Lilly
Melissa Martinet
Tya Mathis-Coleman
Karmen La'Shaun Miller
Virginia "Ginny" Okawa
Judge Jennifer Schwartz

April

Minddie Lloyd
Michelle Sklar

May

Eileen Eady
Amy Reagan
Elaina Smith

June

Shenea Booth
Stephanie Ltkin Goodman
Judge Kerri Maxey
Alex Quagge
Calvin Sandoval
Janet Tweed
Judge Jerry Wiese

July

Brenda Ingariola
Gregory Mitchell
Joyce Patterson Rodgers

August

Assembly Member Hanadi Nadeem
Barbie O'Quinn
Hardeep Dee Sull
Esmeralda Villeda

September

Sec. of State Cisco Aguilar
Austin Beaumont
Kamilah Bywaters
Judge Bill Henderson
Marsha Meachem Williams
Assembly Member Duy Nguyen
Andy Rubinberg
Ninja Tan
Katie Tice
Judge Jerry Wiese
Minja Yan

October

LanaCroft
Judge Bill Henderson
Stephanie Hughes
Tamicka Washington

November

December

★ Together We Make a Difference ★

Happy BIRTHDAY



NOVEMBER

Barbara Aupperle
Kamilah Bywaters
Tom Edwards
Hon. Carolyn Ellsworth
Sara Evans
Judge Bill Henderson
Marsha Meacham Williams
Debbie T. Mitchell
Carol Nerby
Barbie O'Quinn
Lani Paz
Amanda Swartz
Danielle Tarmu
Janet Tweed
Linda Ward Smith
Judge Jerry Wiese
Donna West

DECEMBER

Judge Anna Albertson
Dr. Tricia Braxton, State Board of Education
Mindy Caprioglio
Linda Cavazos, CCSD Trustee
Mary Chandler
Judge Amy Chelini
Gloria Cherchio
Lesley Cohen
Paul DePietro
Dan Kruger
Commissioner Tick Segerblom
Judge Dawn Throne
Carol Tipton
Ann Underdahl
John Wanderer
Mindy Woodhead

A Shifting Standard

By Michael C. Bender

Cornell has a process for complaints like the one from Jane Doe, the pseudonymous former Cornell student who says seven men raped her at a frat party. All universities do. It's called a Title IX investigation, and its purpose is to figure out whether and how much to punish the accused.

That might surprise people who know Title IX for something else — building up women's sports in the United States. And now Trump's vision for the law, too, has expanded beyond athletics and sexual misconduct. His administration is using it to prevent the government from recognizing genders besides men and women.

Title IX is just one provision in a 1972 education law. The provision was not the main concern of the lawmakers who passed the bill. President Richard Nixon, who enacted the measure, didn't even mention Title IX when he signed the law.

Yet its enforcement has reshaped education — and also changed drastically based on the politics of the time.

A twisting history

The law took years to fully take shape.

Origins. Initially, Title IX forced universities to dismantle sex-based admission caps and expand women's sports. Many credit the strength of U.S. women's sports today to the pipeline created by this measure, which forced schools to spend the same amount on athletics for men and women.

A new view. In 1975, though, an instructor at Cornell, Lin Farley, coined the phrase "sexual harassment" to describe how female students and staff members were being fired, demoted or forced to quit because of unwanted advances from male bosses and co-workers. Soon, federal courts started allowing cases of sexual harassment under Title IX. For the next three decades, Republican and Democratic administrations told schools that Title IX banned sexual harassment.

Enforcement. But activists increasingly complained that federal oversight was so lax it jeopardized women's access to education. So in 2011, the Obama administration told schools they needed a system to file complaints, an official to coordinate Title IX compliance and sexual harassment training programs. It also told schools to judge cases based on a "preponderance of evidence" (more likely than not that sexual harassment had occurred) instead of, say, "beyond a reasonable doubt" (the criminal standard).

The Education Department's top civil rights lawyer, Catherine Lhamon, threatened to strip federal funding from schools that failed to adequately respond to sexual misconduct allegations. University officials told me she threatened to wield a "huge hammer" to enforce compliance. (I asked her about it: "That sounds exactly like me," Lhamon replied.)

Backlash. At the same time, legal scholars, civil liberties groups and faculty associations warned that accused students were being punished without the due process they'd normally receive in the criminal justice system. From 2011 to 2020, students filed more than 700 lawsuits claiming universities had mishandled cases that accused them of sexual misconduct, according to a database maintained by an advocacy group that thought things had gone too far.

Reversal. Trump rescinded the guidance from the Obama administration, and his administration also rewrote — and codified — Title IX rules, which made them harder to change. The result was a 554-page addition to the Federal Register that provided more protections for the accused. It replaced administrative reviews with courtroom-style proceedings that required live hearings in which the accused and the accuser could see and hear each other. Lawyers for both sides could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A court stopped President Joe Biden from overhauling the rules again.

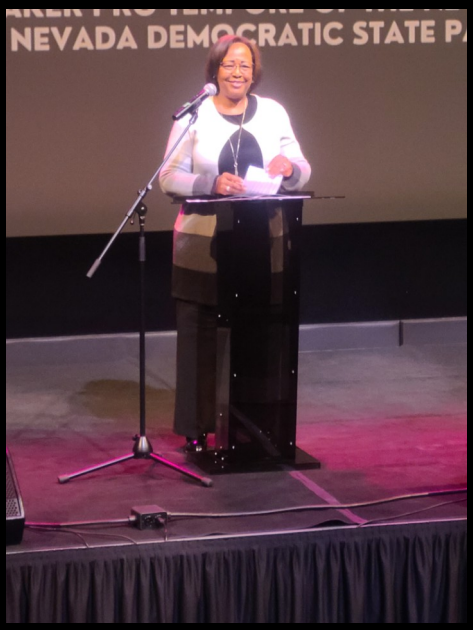
A swinging pendulum

The broad language of Title IX has let successive presidents reinterpret its scope — and rewrite enforcement guidelines — with each shift in the cultural landscape, including the #MeToo movement and the aftermath. But college officials say the swinging pendulum of federal enforcement creates confusion on campuses, sowing doubt among students considering whether to report incidents.

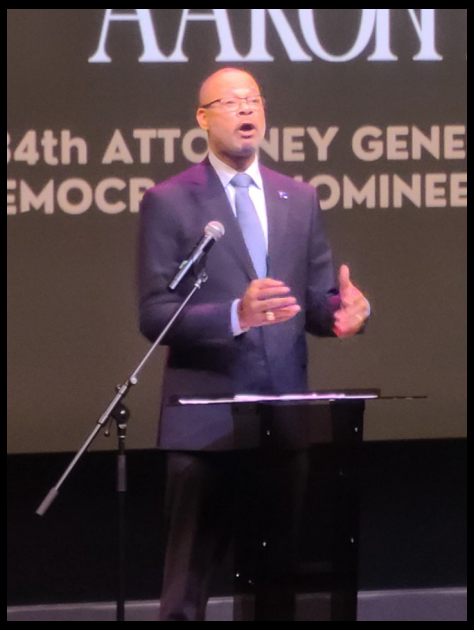
That won't change anytime soon. Trump is pulling back the Education Department's focus away from sexual misconduct. Now it plans to use Title IX to formalize his order that male and female are the only sexes.











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Share your skills with us:_____

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I affirm that I am registered to vote with the Democratic Party in the State of Nevada: Yes [ ]
(0nly a registered Democrat can be a member)

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Past WDC Presidents and Current Students: $15Annual Dues Paid By: Check [ ] Money Order [ ] Cash [ ]

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