

In Episode 57D HQ 1 Poland Portugal and Romania Elections Centrists win over Far Right Nationalists which include at least one Trumpist 2 United States Trump Budget Bill progress in the House of Representatives cutting Medicaid and Green Subsidies in order to fund tax breaks for the rich 3 United States Biden has stage four prostate cancer 4 Romania A Trumpist Nationalist loses an election 5 United States Congress Get it done Democrats want Trump to eliminate Wall Street tax break he has long targeted 6 Under Trump the U S is alone in its climate denial 7 In Eastern Europe Centrists Hold Off 2 Nationalist Challenges Presidential elections on Sunday in Romania and Poland halted or at least slowed hard right breakthroughs that many liberals had feared But discontent with mainstream parties lingers 8 Thirteen Ways to Save Health and Science 9 Republican Hypocrisy Reaches Into the Countryside 10 Why We are Rooting for Merz the Conservative Chancellor of Germany 11 The Portugal Center Right Wins Election but Falls Short of Majority 12 The Trump Push to Defund Harvard Prompts Clash Over Veteran Suicide Research 13 Britain and E U Strike Landmark Post Brexit Reset Deal 14 United States House of Representatives Key House Panel Approves The Trump Megabill After Conservatives Relent 15 United States House of Representatives Letters to the Editor The Surprising Plea of Republican Senator Josh Hawley for Medicaid Readers respond to the argument of the Missouri for protecting Medicaid from cuts 16 The F D A Approves the Novavax Covid Vaccine With Stricter New Conditions The agency narrowed who can get the shot and added new study requirements that could cost the company tens of millions 17 One Thing Helping The Trump Approval Rating Some People Are Not Paying Attention 18 Minnesota The Miners Who Lost Their Jobs but Not Their Faith in The Trump Tariffs 20 The Public Broadcasting Service P B S in America Can She Keep PBS on the Air? Paula Kerger the chief executive of PBS is used to fights over funding for the public broadcaster 21 The G O P Tax Bill May Hurt the Lowest Earners and Help the Richest Even though most Americans may see lower taxes the spending cuts of the Republicans could outweigh those benefits and leave some worse off 22 Trump Cannot Escape Political Gravity 3 Writers on The Trump Polling 23 RFK Junior The Health Secretary Says Not to Take Medical Advice From Him 24 Which Podcasts Rule YouTube? A New List Comes With Surprises YouTube now the most popular platform for consuming podcasts is introducing a chart ranking shows by watch time 25 Cooking the books? Fears Trump could target statisticians if data disappoints Proposed rule change could pave way for president to fire economists whose figures prove politically inconvenient Main Content

1 Poland Portugal and Romania Elections Centrists win over Far Right Nationalists which include at least one Trumpist On May 18 2025 Liberal Poland Civic Platform PO Party leader Rafal Trzaskowski and Center Right Democratic Alliance AD Portugal leader Luis Montenegro and Centrist Pro European Union Romania Nicusor Dan won presidential elections against conservative Poland right wing Pis Party leader Karol Nawocki and against Portugal right wing Chega Party leader André Ventura and against Romania right wing Nationalist leader George Simion who admires Trump However in Poland because Rafal Trzaskowski did not win with 50 percent of the vote there will be a run off between Rafal Trzaskowski and Karol Nawocki on June 1 2025 And in Portugal votes from abroad which will be counted in the coming days could still put the Chega Party in second place which would be the first time in almost 40 years that the Socialists do not finish in the top two spots in the Polish government 19 South Korea It is All About The Trump Tariffs Asia Flocks to U S Trade Official

2 United States Trump Budget Bill progress in the House of Representatives cutting Medicaid and Green Subsidies in order to fund tax breaks for the rich Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization



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Romanian presidential candidate Nicusor Dan greeting supporters after exit poll

Substack Letters from an American Heathen Cox Richardson May 18 2025 Tonight late on a Sunday night the House Budget Committee passed what Republicans are calling their Big Beautiful Bill to enact the Trump agenda although it had failed on Friday when far right Republicans voted against it complaining it did not make deep enough cuts to social programs The vote tonight was a strict party line vote with 16 Democrats voting against the measure 17 Republicans voting for it and 4 far right Republicans voting present House speaker Mike Johnson R LA said there would be minor modifications to the measure Representative Chip Roy R TX wrote on X that those changes include **new work requirements for Medicaid** and **cuts to green energy subsidies** And so the bill moves forward **Republicans are in a tearing hurry** to push that Big Beautiful Bill through Congress before most of us can get a handle on what is in it Just a week ago there was still no specific language in the measure **Republican leaders did not release the piece of the massive bill that would cut Medicaid until last Sunday night** and then announced the Committee on Energy and Commerce would take it up not even a full two days later on Tuesday before the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office could produce a detailed analysis of the cost of the proposals The committee markup happened in a 26 hour marathon in which the parts about Medicaid happened in the middle of the night And now the bill moves forward in an **unusual meeting late on a Sunday night** Medicaid cuts are extremely unpopular and **the Republicans hope to jam those cuts through by claiming they are cutting waste fraud and abuse** without leaving enough time for scrutiny If they are truly interested in savings they could turn instead to the privatized part of Medicare which is Medicare Advantage The Congressional Budget Office estimates that cutting overpayments to Medicare Advantage when private insurers upcode care to place patients in a higher risk bracket could save more than \$1 trillion over the next decade Instead of saving money the Big Beautiful Bill actually blows the budget deficit wide open by extending the **2017 tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that those extensions would cost at least \$4 point 6 trillion over the next ten years And while the tax cuts would go into effect immediately **the cuts to Medicaid are currently scheduled not to hit until 2029** enabling the Republicans to avoid voter fury over them in the midterms and the 2028 election **The prospect of that debt explosion led Moodys on Friday to downgrade U S credit for the first time since 1917** following Fitch which downgraded the U S rating in 2023 and Standard & Poors which did so back in 2011 If the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is extended which is our base case Moodys explained it will add around \$4 trillion to the federal fiscal primary excluding interest payments deficit over the next decade As a result we expect federal deficits to widen reaching nearly 9% of GDP by 2035 up from 6 point 4% in 2024 driven mainly by increased interest payments on debt rising entitlement spending and relatively low revenue generation On the Sunday talk shows this morning Treasury Secretary **Scott Bessent dismissed the downgrade** saying it reflected conditions already in the market although Moodys explicitly said it was concerned about the potential passage of the Republican Big Beautiful Bill House speaker Mike Johnson said that the credit downgrade just proved the need for the measure with its historic spending cuts to pass although Moodys named that bill as its reason for the downgrade The continuing **Republican insistence that spending is out of control does not reflect reality** In fact discretionary spending has fallen more than 40% in the past 50 years as a percentage of gross domestic product from 11% to 6 point 3% What has driven rising deficits are the **George W Bush and Trump tax cuts** which had added \$8 trillion and \$1 point 7 trillion respectively to the debt by the end of the 2023 fiscal year But rather than permit those tax cuts to expire or even to roll them back the Republicans continue to insist Americans are overtaxed In fact the U S is far below the average of the 37 other nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD an intergovernmental forum of democracies with market economies in its tax levies According to a report by the Center for American Progress in 2023 if the U S taxed at the average OECD level over ten years it would have an additional \$26 trillion in revenue If the U S taxed at the average of European Union nations it



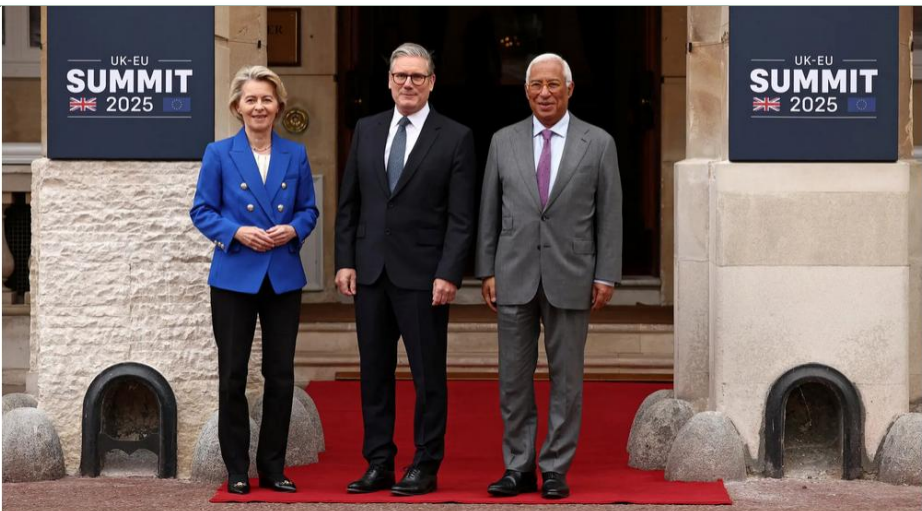
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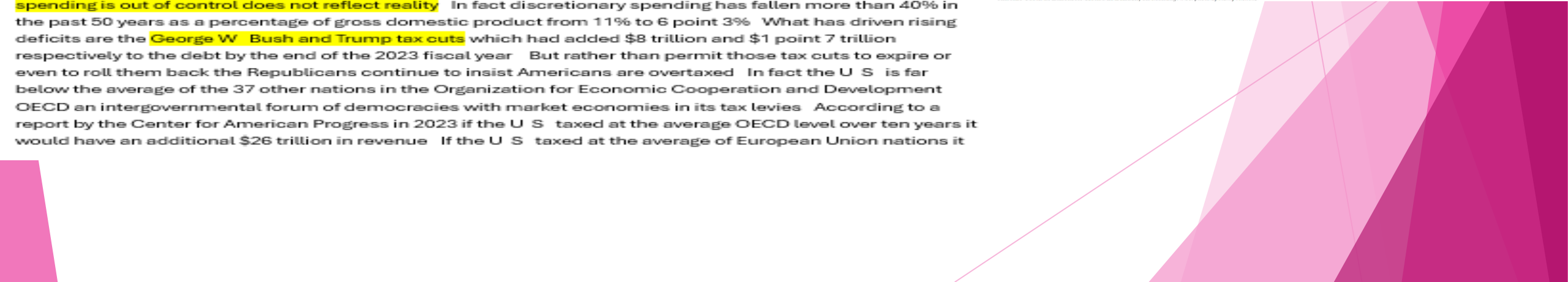
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Prime Minister Keir Starmer, center, with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa at Lancaster House in London, on Monday. Pool photo by Henry Nicholls



would have an additional \$36 trillion. But instead of considering taxes to address the deficit in the 2024 campaign Trump insisted that foreign countries would pay for further tax cuts through tariffs no matter how often economists said that tariffs are passed on to consumers. In October 2024 when editor in chief of Bloomberg News John Micklethwait **corrected the Trump misunderstanding of the way tariffs work** in an interview at the Economic Club of Chicago Trump replied It must be hard for you to you know spend 25 years talking about tariffs as being negative and then have somebody explain to you that you are totally wrong Referring to analysis that his plans would explode the national debt including analysis by the Wall Street Journal hardly a left wing outlet. Trump replied What does the Wall Street Journal know? They have been wrong about everything. So have you by the way. You have been wrong about everything. You have been wrong all your life on this stuff. The Walmart suggestion that it will have to raise prices because of tariffs is forcing the administration to try to manage reality. We are wired for everyday low prices but the magnitude of these increases is more than any retailer can absorb the Walmart chief financial officer John David Rainey during an interview with CNBC on Thursday. Rainey predicted higher prices by June. In response Trump appeared to agree that tariffs are paid by consumers posting that Walmart should EAT THE TARIFFS and not charge valued customers ANYTHING. I will be watching and so will your customers!!! Today Bessent reassured Americans that he had spoken to the CEO of Walmart Doug McMillon who had agreed that Walmart would in fact eat some of the tariffs. So with the current Big Beautiful Bill we are looking at a massive transfer of wealth from ordinary Americans to those at the top of American society. The **Democratic Womens Caucus has dubbed the measure the Big Bad Billionaire Bill**. Lest there be any confusion about who will benefit from this Big Beautiful Bill one of the many pieces tucked into it is a **prohibition on any state laws to regulate artificial intelligence for the next ten years**. Despite its gargantuan energy demands **harm to the environment** and threats to privacy the administration is pushing AI hard and leading AI entrepreneurs in the U S including Elon Musk Sam Altman of OpenAI Jensen Huang of Nvidia Ruth Porat of the Google parent company Alphabet and Andy Jassy of Amazon all traveled with Trump to Saudi Arabia last week. The Saudis are looking to diversify their oil dependent economy and are now the largest investors in artificial intelligence in the world. Speaker Johnson hopes to pass the bill through the House of Representatives by this Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

3 United States Biden has stage four prostate cancer. In other news today the office of former president Joe Biden announced he is battling an aggressive form of prostate cancer. As vice president and president **Biden was a fierce advocate for cancer research** with the goal of reducing the death rate from cancer by at least 50 percent by 2047 preventing more than 4 million deaths from cancer and improving the experience of individuals and families living with and surviving cancer.

4 Romania A Trumpist Nationalist loses an election. And in international news **Romanian** voters today rejected a far right nationalist who deliberately styled his behavior after Trump and whose victory until recently was being treated as a foregone conclusion. Instead voters elected the centrist mayor of Bucharest Nicușor Dan. Even before the election the opponent of Dan insisted the election was illegitimate claimed that he was the new leader and called for his supporters to protest in favor of his election. But in the end the 8 point victory of Dan was too much to overcome and he conceded. This is your victory Dan told his supporters. It is the victory of thousands and thousands of people who campaigned [and] believed that Romania can change in the correct direction.

5 United States Congress Get it done Democrats want Trump to eliminate Wall Street tax break he has long targeted. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood**



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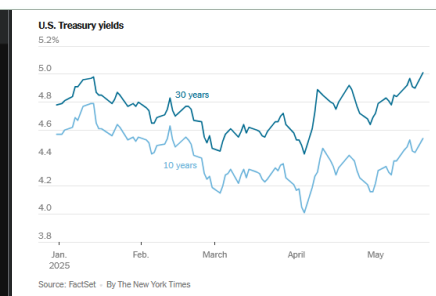
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May 10 at 8:00 PM · 📍

The US has 1,001 measles cases and 11 states with active outbreaks. If you haven't gotten your kids vaccinated, start now. The MMR vaccine is proven safe and effective.



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Air pollution and its role in the rising burden of type 2 diabetes in India: urgent call for action - Environmental Science and Polluti...

India is rapidly becoming the global epicenter of type 2 diabetes (T2D), a complex disease influenced by multiple factors including diet, lifestyle, urbanization, genetics, and environmental exposures such as air pollution. The rapid pace of urbanization, coupled with growing population density, exa...

Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization USA Today May 19 2025 WASHINGTON A group of Democratic senators are calling on Trump to push congressional Republicans to end a Wall Street tax break he has long had in his sights In a letter sent to Trump on May 18 and first obtained by USA TODAY ten Democratic senators highlighted the Trump longstanding interest in eliminating what is known as the carried interest loophole It is a tax break that allows venture capital private equity and hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate for certain earnings than they would if it was taxed as regular income Investment fund managers pay 23 point 8% tax on carried interest which is the profits they make from assets like stocks and bonds Even though it makes up most of their earnings it is currently treated as a return on investment rather than typical income which is taxed at 37% for the top earners in America Trump campaigned on eliminating the tax break in 2016 telling CBS News that the financiers are getting away with murder A lot of them it is like they are paper pushers They make a fortune they pay no tax It is ridiculous he said at the time Trump along with Vice President JD Vance and Peter Mandelson British Ambassador to the United States address reporters in the Oval Office at the White House on May 8 2025 in Washington DC But Trump could not get the change included in his 2017 economic legislation the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act amid an intense lobbying campaign from the industry and some GOP lawmakers to protect the break Wall Street voices say the provision allows them to support more jobs and makes them more competitive around the world Now that Republicans in Congress are crafting a new sweeping tax and spending package Trump is again pushing congressional leaders to eliminate the carried interest advantage In the initial version of the bill released on May 12 House lawmakers left it out meaning the loophole would survive It is clear that the private equity industry has fought hard to retain these extraordinary tax giveaways the Democratic senators wrote in the letter to Trump What is less clear is whether you will allow your party to deviate from your commitments bow to industry demands and fail to close the loophole for a second time The letter led by Sens Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin was also signed by Sens Chris Van Hollen D Maryland Sheldon Whitehouse D Rhode Island Jeff Merkley D Oregon Ron Wyden D Oregon Amy Klobuchar D Minnesota Jack Reed D Rhode Island Peter Welch D Vermont and Bernie Sanders I Vermont The senators wrote that the tax writing committee of the House defied your wishes by advancing legislation that does not eliminate the loophole So Trump will you get it done? they asked The letter prods at a rare point of overlap between Trump and some of the most progressive congressional Democrats and a break between Trump and Republicans in Congress In addition to leaving out the carried interest provision lawmakers have not adopted the Trump proposal of raising taxes on some of the wealthiest Americans to offset lost revenue from his other tax cuts

6 Under Trump the U S is alone in its climate denial **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times Climate Forward Newsletter May 19 2025 At the 2025 United Nations climate conference China is expected to set a very ambitious goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions India recently overtook Germany to become the third largest generator of renewable power in the world The European Union where greenhouse gas emissions have been falling is now generating 11 percent of its electricity from solar power, surpassing coal for the first time And the United States? Under Trump the largest economy in the world is rolling back emissions regulations ramping up the production of fossil fuels and dismantling federal efforts to monitor and respond to climate change As I report in a new article the United States now stands virtually alone on the world stage in its disregard for the growing threats posed by a rapidly warming world even as global temperatures reach record highs and extreme weather causes more death and destruction But the Trump administration is turning a blind eye to the reality that climate change is a major threat to countries around the world including the United States More than that the White House is



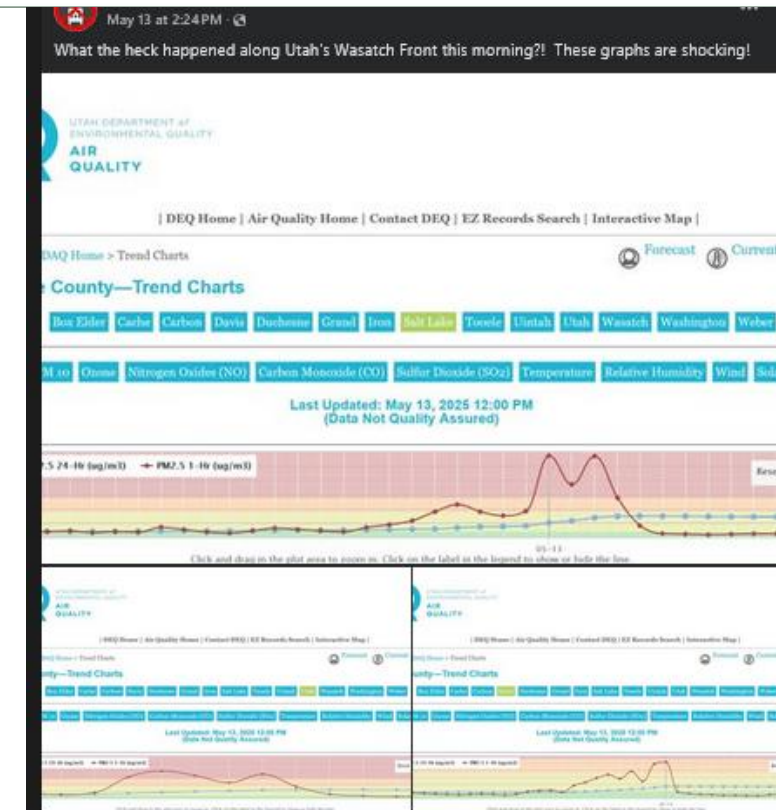
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undermining the capacity of the United States to understand the science of a warming planet and to prepare for the consequences. The administration is firing scientists shuttering long running research projects that monitor our changing atmosphere and canceling major reports that detail how a hotter planet will impact the economy. It is also scaling back its efforts to help when disaster strikes closing programs that were designed to make communities more resilient to extreme weather and denying requests for assistance after deadly storms. Taken together these moves are poised to leave the country less prepared and over time more polluted. They are also set to complicate the global climate talks that begin this November in Brazil. The Trump administration has not indicated if it is planning to send a delegation to the gathering known as COP30. But the White House has so far shown no appetite to engage with the rest of the world on the issue of global warming. On the Trump first day in office he signed an executive order that would make the United States the only country to withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

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7 [In Eastern Europe Centrists Hold Off 2 Nationalist Challenges](#) Presidential elections on Sunday in Romania and Poland halted or at least slowed hard right breakthroughs that many liberals had feared. But discontent with mainstream parties lingers. [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization](#) [The New York Times](#) May 19 2025. The political center eroded by nationalist forces aligned with Trump held in the end. But only just. Presidential elections on Sunday in Romania and Poland the two most populous countries on the European formerly communist eastern fringe halted or at least slowed a hard right breakthrough that many liberals had feared. But they also pointed to growing discontent with established political parties no matter their ideological tilt a trend that is likely to generate future turbulence as old and predictable loyalties fade. In Romania a centrist mayor who campaigned as an independent untainted by close ties to two long dominant mainstream parties widely viewed as corrupt defeated another outsider a hard line nationalist who aligned himself with Trump and had been seen as the front runner. Nicusor Dan the mayor of the Romanian capital Bucharest won a decisive victory over George Simion in a runoff for the Romanian presidency confounding expectations of a sharp turn to the right. He won 54 percent of the vote boosted by an unusually high turnout of 64 percent. The result Sunday delighted mainstream political leaders across Europe and also the executive arm in Brussels of the European Union whose president Ursula von der Leyen congratulated voters for having



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US EPA PM2.5 AQI

On May 13th, 2025, 8:04:24 PM GMT+0800

Real-time US EPA PM2.5 (AQI) is **186** now

151-200: Some members of the general public may experience health effects with 24 hours of exposure; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.

Time	15 Min	30 Min	1 Hr	4 Hr	1 Day	Week
Now	190	181	152	123	61	38
12:00						

Sensor: Swanbourne

A B ✓100% PA-B 7.02

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On May 13th, 2025, 8:41:51 PM GMT+0800

Real-time US EPA PM2.5 (AQI) is **206** now

201-300: Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone with 24 hours of exposure.

Time	15 Min	30 Min	1 Hr	4 Hr	1 Day	Week
Now	208	165	130	89	55	30
12:00						

Sensor: Cannington

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Become a community scientist. Get your own outdoor sensor just like this one.

Sam Papanoum Fire & Biodiversity Western Australia (FaBWA)

May 13 at 7:46 AM

Recent stats from today, how is this even ok? The general public seems to not take any issue to how bad the air quality is in this city! I don't remember air quality and burn offs ever being this bad. This is about as bad as the smoke got when there were full blown bushfires nearby.

chosen the promise of an open prosperous Romania in a strong Europe. Simion who on Sunday responded to early results that showed him losing with cries of fraud and Trump like vows to stop the steal curbed his fury early Monday conceding defeat and dropping complaints of irregularities in a somber video address. Poland delivered a far less emphatic rebuff to E.U. skeptic nationalism with hard right candidates including a pugnacious anti Semite taking second third and fourth places in the first round of a closely watched presidential race. Rafal Trzaskowski the liberal mayor of Warsaw and an ally of Prime Minister Donald Tusk still came in first. That secured him a slot in a runoff on June 1 against the second place finisher Karol Nawrocki a nationalist historian backed by the previous governing party of Poland the Law and Justice Party. But the margin of his victory 31 point 3 percent of the vote to the 29 point 5 percent of Nawrocki according to the official count was so small and support for hard right candidates so strong that a repeat win for Trzaskowski in the runoff is far from certain. Like Simion in Romania Nawrocki positioned himself during the campaign as part of an unstoppable global movement visiting Washington in early May for a meeting in the White House with Trump who gave him a thumbs up. Tusk and other members of his government have yet to be received by Trump. Nawrocki also joined forces with Simion receiving the Romanian nationalist candidate at a campaign event this month in the Polish town of Zabrze. The two main parties of Poland secured slots in the runoff but their share of the vote around 60 percent was unusually small. Trzaskowski and Nawrocki had only received support from their core electorates. This is the worst result ever for the two leading parties.

8 Thirteen Ways to Save Health and Science Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 19 2025 The early months of Trump have brought sweeping changes to the American scientific and medical landscape. Deep cuts to research funding and widespread layoffs have threatened progress in medicine energy climate science and other key fields areas where the United States has long been a global leader. The future is uncertain but decline is not inevitable. Times Opinion asked experts across disciplines to share concrete ways that individuals organizations and local leaders can keep science and health efforts moving forward. Here are their ideas. 1 Protect vaccination. Dr. Margaret Hamburg former Food and Drug Administration commissioner. As the Trump administration moves to halt areas of vaccine research drops funding for vaccine clinics and deletes vaccine information from government websites it is crucial to find ways to ensure that vaccine availability and use remains grounded in the best available science. The Vaccine Integrity Project is a new initiative that will be making recommendations about how to continue vaccination programs to avert death disability and hospitalizations from preventable diseases. We see it as a precaution against potential threats including the politicization of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine advisory committee an unchecked expansion of the measles and whooping cough outbreaks or the loss of state and local immunization program support. 2 Get creative with state policies. Josh Green governor of Hawaii. In May Hawaii became the first state to pass a climate impact fee that will enable us to protect ourselves against future climate related disasters like the devastating Maui fires. A small 0 point 75 percent increase in the hotel tax for all travelers to Hawaii will generate \$100 million per year which may also be used to bond \$1 billion annually. These resources will fund new research development and deployment of strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change such as reducing carbon emissions protecting and restoring ecosystems and building climate resilient infrastructure and communities. This is just one example of how state and local governments can take control of their own fates and survive harsh federal cuts. 3 Get mad in public. Scientists are trained to support conclusions with evidence not emotion. But rational arguments cannot stop irrational decisions. The people firing scientists and erasing data will tell you coal is clean the climate is not changing and weather forecasting is unimportant. They are lying. In



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Forest Fire Management Victoria please take a moment and read what you are doing to your citizens - this is absolutely appalling and inexcusable.

 , this year has been worse than ever I feel. Neither my kids we are all wheezing and it's not an infection as there is not ph ly hurt and I can't afford to go stay elsewhere. rstand how this is legal. None of this stopped Black Saturday argument. I was in CFA too so I know this is feeling is from sm ot a virus

ere was a burn off in Glenburn and I woke up in Kinglake litera nd from the amount of smoke in my room from an open wind with it I actually got out of bed as I thought my property was rning I felt awful as if I had smoke a pack of cigarettes overni was tainted so badly we couldn't drink the water and if smelled power in

response scientists can tell the truth Not just in papers and talks but in the media in our communities and on the streets The fear of retaliation is real and not everyone can speak up But those of us who can should get angry get loud and show that mad scientists are a force to be reckoned with4 File a lawsuit Days after the Trump administration purged thousands of pages from federal public health agency websites Doctors for America an advocacy organization of over 27000 physicians and medical students filed a lawsuit to restore and protect these essential sources The websites contain critical resources for treating patients data to improve medical practices and public health and guidance to ensure that clinical trials for new treatments are designed to reflect demographics in the real world We were successfully granted a temporary restraining order that has led to the restoration of several of these websites and we continue to fight in court for access to them 5 Lean on other scientists Scientific societies professional organizations that represent researchers in specific fields have a long history of stepping in when politics interferes with research After the Trump administration suspended work in April on the U S government flagship report on the impacts of climate change the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society partnered with plans to publish some of the research so the public can still access the findings As the government terminates studies on environmental risks we are helping local communities do the work themselves 6 Donate effectively 7 Create a mini N I H Propose the creation of the American Research Collaborative a kind of mini National Institutes of Health that could provide funding for universities The A R C would be led by a governing board elected by member organizations like the American Heart Association the American Cancer Society and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute 8 Use opioid settlement funds for addiction care 9 Support patient led research Early in the Covid 19 pandemic a strained health care system and confusing messages left those of us developing long Covid without guidance So we built our own resources and infrastructure The Body Politic Covid 19 support group grew to over 14000 members in over 30 countries Peer to peer support is always important but it becomes vital during new disease outbreaks 10 Join a humanitarian aid organization Doctors Without Borders Even if our government will not show up we still can 11 Build new alliances United by Nature will have a governing body advisers and partners independent peer review and extensive public engagement It is a phoenix rising from the ashes a new alliance of scientists engineers economists health experts policy experts funders businesses conservation organizations and artists all determined to deliver what the federal government should be doing but is not 12 Replace research into vulnerable groups 13 Call your senator Really Federal budget cuts to this infrastructure cannot be replaced by the private sector and will also encourage a brain drain of scientists and researchers We will be relegated to importing blockbuster medications from other countries This is preventable if Congress refuses to accept these devastating cuts Americans must directly implore their representatives and senators to take action These calls make a difference

9 Republican Hypocrisy Reaches Into the Countryside Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 17 2025 Trump won his second term in office with the overwhelming support of rural America Not only was overall turnout up in the rural counties in America but Trump won many of those areas by more than two to one And while it is a little too much to say that the Trump dominance with rural voters delivered him the White House it is true that without this over performance his path to victory would have been harder Given the importance of rural voters to his political coalition you might assume that Trump would prioritize the interests of rural voters Not so for Trump and his Republican allies in Congress If anything their agenda is calibrated to devastate rural America Consider the budget proposal now making its way through the House of Representatives To pay for their \$3 point 8 trillion tax plan which includes possibly



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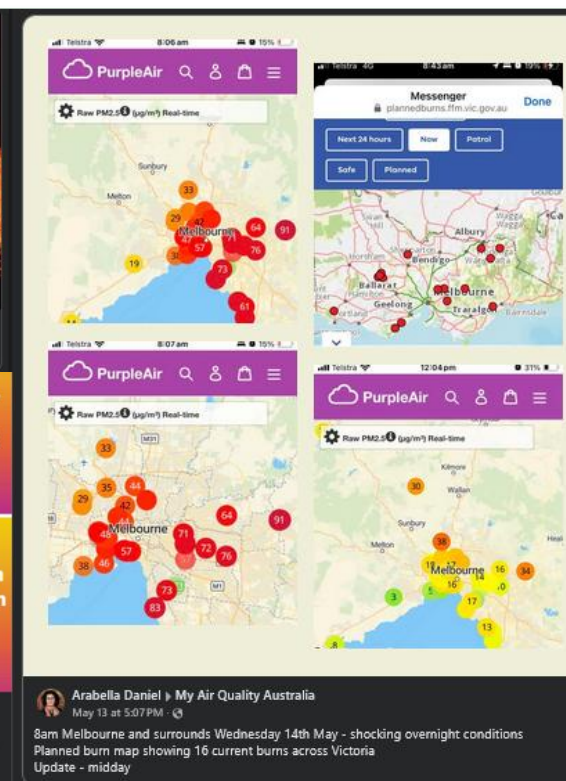


"it's inexcusable, unacceptable, so last century, medieval fire management & frankly it's got to stop"

"you're more likely to die from respiratory complications, than you are to die in a wildfire"

-Prof David Lindenmayer

Arabella Daniel > My Air Quality Australia
MUST WATCH WEBINAR RECORDING: 'Disturbance-stimulated flammability - links between logging, previous fire and wildfire risk' -with Prof David Lindenmayer
If you missed this, or even if you've heard Prof Lindenmayer speak before, this is worth your time to hear the latest, damning scientific evidence on how prescribed burning increases flammability of forests, and why we should instead be focusing on early detection and suppression of fires
Watch here: <https://www.victorianforestsalliance.org.au/recording...>



trillions in tax cuts and extensions for the wealthiest Americans Republicans want to cut \$700 billion from Medicaid and other federal health programs If passed into law these cuts some which come in the form of work requirements for Medicaid could cause as many as 8 point 6 million Americans to lose their health insurance as the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities notes rural areas in particular depend on Medicaid spending Nearly half of all children in rural areas 47 percent receive health insurance through Medicaid Rural hospitals which have struggled to stay afloat in the face of broad and overlapping challenges also rely on Medicaid to stay open and provide needed services to isolated areas House Republicans also want to slash the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program SNAP to reduce so called waste fraud and abuse these cuts which will effectively pay for tax benefits for people with higher incomes will most likely hit children and other vulnerable populations hardest And as with the proposed Medicaid cuts this will hit hard for rural areas where roughly one in seven households receives SNAP benefits Rural residents are also older on average than nonrural residents and older adults can face particular challenges maintaining steady employment including health challenges And this is all on top of the Trump trade wars which threaten to upend rural producers of agricultural goods as well as his unilateral moves to try to slash funding for rural broadband and to try to roll back the production of clean energy at one point freezing grants for farmers and rural business owners who purchased renewables such as solar panels The policy agenda of the Republican Party is hostile to the economic interests of the millions of Americans who live in rural areas But no one seems to want to ask Republicans or Trump for that matter to explain the yawning distance between what they promise for rural Americans and what they actually do for rural Americans If Trump and the Republican Party can successfully cut Medicaid and SNAP to pay for upper income tax cuts they will almost certainly plunge millions of people including many of their supporters into poverty possibly made worse by the economic disruption of the Trump trade agenda

10 Why We are Rooting for Merz the Conservative Chancellor of Germany **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 17 2025 The Alternative for Germany a far right political party is among the most extreme major parties in the world It echoes Nazi messaging It has ties to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and it traffics in anti Muslim and antisemitic language The party known as the AfD an abbreviation of Alternative für Deutschland is so extreme that Marine Le Pen the leader of the French far right broke with it The AfD is also alarmingly popular It finished second in the 2025 parliamentary elections and first among voters younger than 45 As many Germans have become frustrated with the German direction especially its struggling economy and surging immigration they have blamed the mainstream parties that have been in charge for decades These voters have looked for an alternative and the very name of AfD appeals to their discontent For all these reasons we are rooting for the success of the new chancellor of Germany Friedrich Merz He is a 69 year old lawyer who leads the German center right Christian Democrats the only group to finish ahead of the AfD in the February elections Merz has a tough job ahead of him He sits atop an unwieldy governing coalition that includes the center left Social Democratic Party which finished third The necessity of that grand coalition reflects the popularity of the AfD It won so many votes that neither the center right nor the center left could form a government without the other The breadth of the coalition has the potential to be its undoing If it cannot agree on policies and slides into dysfunction it will give voters more reason to reject mainstream parties in favor of the AfD In the best case scenario the recent debt agreement in Germany can become a model for the Merz coalition government The deal included priorities of both the left and the right Their lingering differences did not prevent the bill from passing There will probably be tougher negotiations ahead But fear can play a useful role in overcoming future disagreements If the



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mainstream parties descend into bickering and fail to make tangible progress on the problems in Germany the likely result is ominous Even more voters will turn to an extremist hate filled alternative Merz and his governing partners have an opportunity to show that the political establishment can still deliver results Their success matters for Germany and for liberal democracy

11 The Portugal Center Right Wins Election but Falls Short of Majority The hard right Chega party surged in the snap election securing its status as a powerful political contender Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 19 2025 The Portugal governing center right coalition won a snap election on Sunday but failed to secure a majority amid a surge in votes for the hard right Chega party While the results are likely to produce little change in the Portugal leadership they cement the evolution of Chega from a onetime protest movement to a powerful political contender in a country that unlike others in Europe had until recently largely shunned the hard right The snap election the third in as many years was called after the Portugal Parliament ousted the year old center right government in a vote of no confidence in March That government led by Montenegro had been on a shaky footing from the start given that it controlled far less than a majority in the Parliament but it was tarnished by a controversy over his business dealings Chega which means enough in Portuguese is the first hard right party to gain ground in the Portugal political scene since 1974 and the end of the nationalist dictatorship of António de Oliveira Salazar In the last election a year ago it secured 18 percent of the vote Analysts say the party has succeeded in part by capitalizing on anti immigration sentiment and economic resentments

12 The Trump Push to Defund Harvard Prompts Clash Over Veteran Suicide Research The proposed termination of medical research funded by the V A is part of the Trump broader pressure campaign against the university Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 16 2025 The Trump move to cancel an array of federal contracts at Harvard University has set off an internal clash over the impact on medical research intended to help veterans including projects involving suicide prevention toxic particle exposure and prostate cancer screening The dispute among officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs has focused in part on a collaboration with Harvard Medical School to develop a predictive model to help V A emergency room physicians decide whether suicidal veterans should be hospitalized according to the records Canceling that contract would result in more veteran suicides that could have been prevented an official in the V A Office of Research and Development wrote in a May 8 email asking leaders at the agency to reverse their decision But a longtime private industry health care executive and a senior adviser to Doug Collins the veterans affairs secretary said that researchers at other institutions could do the work instead

13 Britain and E U Strike Landmark Post Brexit Reset Deal The agreement includes a new defense partnership and reduced checks on food and drink removing some trade barriers after months of negotiations Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 19 2025 Britain and the European Union on Monday struck a landmark deal aimed at boosting security cooperation while removing some of the barriers to trade introduced by Brexit The agreement is designed to help the two sides work more closely together as the United States has signaled it is reducing its commitment to European security But it also underscores the ambition of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for a reset of ties with the 27 nation bloc almost nine years after Britons voted by a narrow margin to leave the European Union It is time to look forward Starmer said in a statement to move on from the stale old debates and political fights to find



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Good question!

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Why do we not see 'air pollution' on death certificates, if it causes premature mortality?
 At the European Environment Agency (EEA), we are regularly asked this question, particularly when we publish annual data on the health impacts of air pollution in Europe. Our answer usually explains our working methods...

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Glossy black cockatoos pushed towards extinction in Victoria if FFMV planned burns of 13,000 hectares of forest go ahead. The VIC government is being urged to abandon t... See more

The Guardian
 THEGUARDIAN.COM
 Glossy black cockatoos could be pushed towards extinction in Victoria if burns go ahead, experts warn

common sense practical solutions. We are ready to work with partners if it means we can improve the lives of people here at home. Under the deal British people will be allowed to use electronic gates in Europe when crossing borders and traveling with pets will be easier too. The sale of some British meat products in the European Union, the biggest trading partner in Britain, will be possible again and some border checks on animal and plant products will end. The agreement is politically contentious for Starmer and has involved months of difficult negotiations. One of the most delicate issues in the trade talks was an extension of the right of European trawlers to fish in British territorial waters in exchange for reduced trade barriers for British food products entering the E U giant single economic zone. After discussions that continued until almost the last minute the two sides agreed that they would allow European boats access to U K fishing waters until June 30 2038. Worried about a potential backlash among Brexit hard liners, Starmer had already ruled out joining the E U single market or customs union, two measures that would have jolted economic growth. But more limited concessions were required to reach the deal on food exports requiring Britain to stick to European standards. Starmer will be hoping that concrete benefits to consumers and travelers will outweigh the objections of Brexit supporters. The deal includes plans for a new program to allow young Europeans to travel and work in Britain and vice versa. The war in Ukraine and President the Trump approach to European security have changed the climate and increased the sense of urgency for cooperation. At the same time Britain is pushing for some of its companies to participate in a 150 billion euro loan program to fund joint defense procurement. This deal could be an early step toward that inclusion.

Headlines **The New York Times** May 18 2025 Centrist wins the Romanian presidential race over hard right nationalist NPR Romanian liberal mayor Nicusor Dan wins tense race for presidency Centre right party wins Portuguese election as far right makes record gains Portugal The Guardian Poland election Rafal Trzaskowski the Warsaw liberal mayor leads after first round Nicusor Dan Beats George Simion in the Romanian Presidential Election The New York Times Centrist Dan defeats nationalist Simion in the Romanian presidential election The Washington Post **Trump Live Updates** **Key House Panel Approves The Trump Megabill After Conservatives Relent** The New York Times Russia Unleashes One of Its Largest Drone Barrages of the Ukraine War The New York Times Poland Election Trzaskowski Wins Critical Vote for President The New York Times **Opinion** **The Surprising Plea of Republican Senator Josh Hawley for Medicaid** The New York Times A Ministroke Can Have Major Consequences The New York Times Democrats Who Championed the Biden Re election Bid Now Seek Atonement The New York Times **FDA Approves Novavax Covid Vaccine With Stricter New Conditions** The New York Times Moodys Downgrades U S Credit Rating Below Triple A The New York Times A Reality Show Where Immigrants Compete for U S Citizenship D H S Is Considering It The New York Times Surgeons Perform First Human Bladder Transplant The New York Times Why Buttigieg Walz Beshear and Other Democrats Are Already Teasing 2028 Bids The New York Times Above the Law Is Where Lawyers Mock Firms Bowing to Trump The New York Times **One Thing Helping The Trump Approval Rating** **Some People Are Not Paying Attention** The New York Times Trump Live Updates Budget Bill Vote Tariffs and Ukraine Peace Talks The New York Times Suspect in Palm Springs Bombing Is Said to Have Died in Blast The New York Times Gimme A Word That Explains the Trump Worldview The New York Times Energized by RFK Jr Texas mad Moms Are Chipping Away at Vaccine Mandates The New York Times **Minnesota Iron Miners Lost Their Jobs But Not Their Faith in The Trump Tariffs** The New York Times Rare Chicago Dust Storm Turns Day Into Night The New York Times JD Vance and Pope Leo The Backdrop to an Inauguration The New York Times **Opinion** **Europe Built Trains America Built Highways and Regret** The New York Times Zelensky Meets With Pope Leo After Inaugural Mass The New York Times Opinion Trump Is Destroying a Core American Value The World Will Notice The New York Times



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14 United States House of Representatives Key House Panel Approves The Trump Megabill After Conservatives Relent **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 18 2025 The House Budget Committee late Sunday night revived the Trump stalled bill to cut taxes and spending after a handful of fiscally conservative Republicans relented and allowed it to advance even as they continued to press for deeper reductions to health and environmental programs The House Freedom Caucus said in a new statement that its members agree with the ultraconservatives on the Budget Committee many of whom are members of the hard right caucus themselves and say the bill does not yet meet the moment As written the bill continues increased deficits in the near term with possible savings years down the road that may never materialize the statement reads It is a sign that conservative dissatisfaction with the legislation reaches far beyond just the four members on the Budget panel This matters because G O P leaders can only lose 3 House Republicans in a vote on the floor Asked to confirm the Representative Chip Roy assertion that House Republican leaders agreed to move up the timeline for imposing work requirements on Medicaid recipients Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters they were going to make it happen sooner as soon as possible The conservative holdouts who tanked the legislation from advancing out of committee on Friday appear to be voting present now That vote will allow the bill to move out of committee but it signals they have not reached any substantive agreements with Republican leadership to win their full support The vote was 17 for the bill and 16 against and 4 present

15 United States House of Representatives Letters to the Editor The Surprising Plea of Republican Senator Josh Hawley for Medicaid Readers respond to the argument of the Missouri for protecting Medicaid from cuts **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 18 2025 A pair of scissors poised to snip the cord of a stethoscope To the Editor Regarding The G O P Is Having Our Own Identity Crisis by Josh Hawley a Republican senator from Missouri Opinion guest essay May 14 2025 To my surprise I found myself respecting the Senator Hawley advocacy for his constituents He openly acknowledges that stagnant wages delayed family formation due to financial insecurity and skyrocketing housing costs are failures of both Democrats and Republicans More important despite Republican dominance in Congress and the Supreme Court and a Republican president governing largely by executive order he is still considering how to deliver real results to his voters If more Democrats took this approach prioritizing action over rhetoric they might regain the trust of frustrated voters I may never agree with Senator Hawley on most issues but I respect any leaders willing to hold their own party accountable for the good of the people This is true leadership and our country needs more of it A woman from Shaker Heights Ohio To the Editor The Josh Hawley recognition that cuts to Medicaid are not in the interest of working class people is a truth many of us recognize and his analysis of why that is true is sound How does he propose to continue the programs? How about leaving the tax law from the Trump first term alone allowing tax cuts for rich people to expire? If rich Americans have any sense of patriotism they will recognize that these and other steps to reduce inequality should be taken by Congress to preserve a decent society to preserve our government by the people and to preserve a system that has clearly worked in their own interest If things are as bad as Senator Hawley claims it would be a failure of our basic decency to deprive needy people of basic care because of money A way can be found Senator Hawley understands the plight of Medicaid patients and now needs to lead his colleagues to a responsible resolution to the very real financial issues presented A man from Carlisle Massachusetts

16 The F D A Approves the Novavax Covid Vaccine With Stricter New Conditions The agency narrowed who can get the shot and added new study requirements that could cost the company tens of millions **Excerpts**



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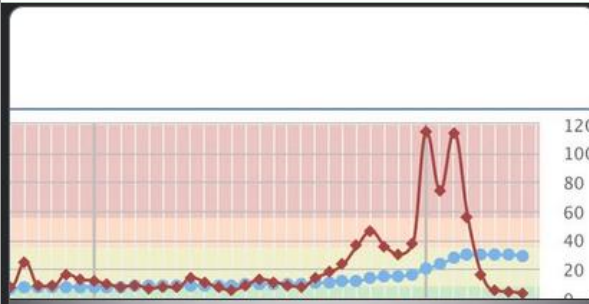
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Communities Against Woodsmoke
Wednesday at 4:00 AM



Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
May 13 at 10:43 AM

Over the weekend we had several consecutive days of significant wind blowing dust over the Wasatch Front. And last night, when no one could see the dust, we had the highest level of PM 2.5 recorded in the last several years. This was a perfect example of why we need to save Great Salt Lake. Any pollution inhaled, including dust, can still be inside your body for months afterwards. And the inflammatory chemicals only slowly dissipate after the exposure ends. UPHE is committed to not allowing state officials to continue ignoring this looming catastrophe.

edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission

Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The New York Times May 17 2025 The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the Novavax Covid 19 vaccine but only for older adults and for others over age 12 who have at least one medical condition that puts them at high risk from Covid The new restriction will sharply limit access to the Novavax vaccine for people under 65 who are in good health The vaccine had previously been authorized under emergency use Covid vaccines developed by Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna which are more widely used by Americans were granted full approval in 2022 However the companies are working on updated shots for the fall and the new restrictions on the Novavax shot portend a more restrictive approach from the F D A The F D A new restrictions also appeared to reflect the high degree of skepticism about vaccines from Robert F Kennedy Jr the health secretary More on Covid 19 Efforts to Thwart NA Therapies The therapies a key to Covid vaccines hold great potential in treating several diseases but some lawmakers want to ban them and the government is cutting funding We asked experts about how the technology works its safety and its potential in medicine The Novavax Covid shot was the last to become available during the pandemic because of unexpected manufacturing problems It has been offered under emergency authorization since July 2022 On Thursday Dr Marty Makary who leads the F D A said the agency would soon release a new framework for evaluating Covid shots A meeting is scheduled for this coming Thursday to select the version of the virus that the fall Covid shots will cover Nuvaxovid is based on a more traditional vaccine platform and is generally thought to have fewer side effects It has served as an attractive alternative for those who are wary of the newer technology used in the NA vaccines made by Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna I have been recommending this vaccine for everyone who is NA vaccine reluctant a woman doctor said She said she and her two sons all opted for Novavax last fall but none of them would qualify under the new criteria

17 One Thing Helping The Trump Approval Rating Some People Are Not Paying Attention Voters were more likely to approve of the Trump job performance if they had not been following some of the major news stories of his first 100 days in office a recent New York Times Siena College poll found **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 18 2025 The Trump strategy to flood the zone may be working to keep his approval rating from sinking even lower Voters who have not heard much about some of the many major news events from the first 100 days of the Trump second term have a higher opinion of the job he is doing according to the latest New York Times Siena College poll A little under half of the 42 percent of voters who approved of the job Trump is doing as president said they had not heard much about at least some of the ups and downs of Trump decisions Voters who said they had not heard much about recent news events had one thing in common They were much more likely to get their news from social media There is some evidence that the Trump approval ratings may be falling among voters who pay little attention to the news It is harder to know whether that drop is more because they are unhappy with current economic conditions and blaming the new administration or because they are dissatisfied with the news that has filtered through 18 Minnesota The Miners Who Lost Their Jobs but Not Their Faith in The Trump Tariffs With demand for steel down and a trade war underway miners in the Iron Range of Minnesota are feeling the hit But they hope better times are ahead **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 18 2025 Demand for cars and other big ticket metal filled items slumped in 2024 a rough year for the industry The steel manufacturer Cleveland Cliffs which owns the mine where Bird works reported a \$483 million loss for the first three months of 2025 which meant jobs were on the line including his When Bird 33



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NO Northern Incinerator Wollert
May 15 at 6:33 AM · 🌐

What's just as disturbing as a waste-to-energy incinerator in Wollert?
The disposal of its highly toxic, concentrated ash just 7 km away, right next to wollert and close to Findon Creek.
Heidelberg Materials, the operator of the Wollert landfill, has submitted an application to accept this hazardous ash and other Grade B waste.
Submit your feedback by 20th May via the Engage Victoria survey, and register your opposition to this application.
Submit your survey here: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/heidelberg-materials-australia...>

found out that he was being laid off he learned about it in a breaking news segment on the local television station on one of his days off Some 1200 Cleveland Cliffs employees were affected 600 them in Minnesota Yet one thing currently uniting Cleveland Cliffs and Bird a member of the United Steelworkers union is support for the Trump tariffs a 25 percent tax on steel and aluminum imports along with a 25 percent tariff on all imported cars A wide range of economists think that the Trump global tariff campaign could hasten an economic downturn A prolonged downturn or mere slowdown could further dampen demand for steel products Both the steel companies and the union of steelworkers however believe that tariffs can help protect and even revitalize domestic production over the long run Fending off consistently lower priced Chinese steel produced with cheaper labor and state subsidies is a stated aim of the White House Bird said that he did not get why Trump wanted to tax everything from coffee to mangoes but that steel tariffs made sense to him because of the availability even a current surplus of homegrown ore The potential for more domestic shipbuilding could mean a greater market for American made steel The mere possibility of that shift has excited plenty of members in the United Steelworkers union

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#WoodSmokeFacts

“

...wood smoke resembles environmental tobacco smoke, for which numerous studies have shown deleterious effects on the respiratory health of children.”

Koenig, et al. Pulmonary function changes in children associated with fine particulate matter.

www.dsawsp.org

Doctors + Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution

May 16 at 10:48 AM · 🌐

It's been known for a long time that wood smoke is similar to cigarette smoke and that it harms children. The study this quote is taken from, for instance, was published in 1993. (It found that fine particle pollution from wood burning makes breathing more difficult for young asthmatic children.)

We no longer think smoking cigarettes should take priority over a child's ability to breathe. Why should we think differently about wood burning? Smoke is smoke. <https://www.dsawsp.org/health/children-and-wood-smoke>

and one of the two main negotiators who reached an agreement for a temporary truce on tariffs with China last weekend Under the agreement the United States reduced tariffs on Chinese imports to 30 percent from 145 percent and China cut levies on American goods to 10 percent from 125 percent The reprieve is set to expire in early August Trade tensions between the United States and China the two largest economies in the world loomed large over the meeting APEC slashed its economic outlook for the region from projections made two months earlier before Trump announced the reciprocal tariffs which affect more than half of the 21 members of APEC The group which accounts for around half of global trade and about 60 percent of economic output cut its forecast for growth this year to 2 point 6 percent from its previous projection of 3 point 3 percent It cited trade frictions and policy uncertainty The U S is the largest market and the largest economy so it represents a very significant percentage of the global economy It will be hard to find a way to replace all these opportunities 20 The Public Broadcasting Service P B S in America Can She Keep PBS on the Air? Paula Kerger the chief executive of PBS is used to fights over funding for the public broadcaster But to her the latest threats feel like all out effort to take us out **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 16 2025 Every couple of years the long serving chief executive of PBS faces pushback from Congress It often comes from Republicans who argue that public broadcasters like PBS and NPR are biased and not deserving of the money of taxpayers Ms Kerger 67 has a playbook for how to handle that We would just fight on the merits Ms Kerger said in an interview this week spelling out the mission audience spending priorities and results of the broadcaster That is an argument we know how to do But this year she said feels very different Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene called the hearing Anti American Airwaves Then this month Trump signed an executive order seeking to end all federal funding for PBS and NPR With the country more connected than ever digitally? Is there still a place for PBS when Netflix YouTube and so many other options exist? 21 The G O P Tax Bill May Hurt the Lowest Earners and Help the Richest Even though most Americans may see lower taxes the spending cuts of the Republicans could outweigh those benefits and leave some worse off **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 16 2025 The Republican tax plan may offer only modest gains to everyday workers according to a wide range of tax experts and some taxpayers may actually be left in worse financial shape if the bill becomes law The latest assessment arrived Friday from the Penn Wharton Budget Model a nonpartisan scorekeeper closely watched on Capitol Hill Economists found that many Americans who make less than \$51000 a year would see their after tax income fall as a result of the Republican proposal beginning in 2026 The Penn Wharton estimate sought to analyze the full scope of the Republican tax package computing the effects of the tax cuts as well as the plan to pay for them by slashing federal spending on other programs including Medicaid and food stamps Combined those policies could fall disproportionately on the poorest including those near or below the poverty line the economists found People making between about \$51000 and \$17000 could lose about \$700 on average in after tax income beginning in 2026 according to the analysis when factoring in both wages and federal aid That reduction would worsen over the next eight years People reporting less than \$17000 in income would see a reduction closer to \$1000 on average also increasing over time a shortfall that underscores their reliance on federal benefits By contrast the top 0 point 1 percent including those with incomes over \$4 point 3 million would gain on average more than \$389000 in after tax income in 2026 the data show At one point Trump did call for raising taxes on the wealthy particularly by creating a new tax bracket for people making more than \$2 point 5 million a year But the president later backed away from that push as he faced an onslaught of criticism from members of his own party Even Trump later admitted the idea would be very disruptive The Bill is GREAT the president posted on Truth Social this week as House Republicans



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Communities Against Woodsmoke

May 15 at 4:00 AM · 🌐

Woodsmoke contains the same chemicals as tobacco smoke but in much greater quantities. Firepits pollute the air for everyone. We should all be able to enjoy our gardens and outdoor spaces at any time of the year without coming to harm from smoke pollution from a neighbour's firepit.

<https://www.dsawsp.org/sources/public-places>

began to advance key portions of his tax agenda adding The Golden Age of America will soon be upon us 22 Trump Cannot Escape Political Gravity 3 Writers on The Trump Polling Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 16 2025 As Trump approached 100 days he saw a steep decline in his approval rating with numbers unusually low for an American president in his first months But they were still within the normal range for Trump despite the autocratic orders the tariff roulette and Elon Musk And then over the past two weeks an uptick so that the average of recent polls gives Trump an approval disapproval split of about 45 percent to 51 percent All said should he and his allies be panicked Just shy of 10 percent of people who voted for Trump now seem to have regrets according to the latest Times Siena poll You can pretty clearly attribute most of this to the tariffs which also produced some of the lowest consumer confidence numbers since the 2008 recession Finally who is the single most effective Democratic communicator right now? Ocasio Cortez is totally underestimated by Republicans and I think it is a mistake to underestimate her I am bullish on our populist moment sticking around and she is well positioned to channel it for a new generation Bernie Sanders I guess? The crowds he is getting sometimes in conjunction with Ocasio Cortez are pretty impressive He would probably be the front runner for the nomination if he were 10 years younger 23 RFK Junior The Health Secretary Says Not to Take Medical Advice From Him Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 14 2025 Robert F Kennedy Jr the health secretary and vaccine skeptic who has used his position to amplify discredited health theories and promote unconventional medical treatments ducked questions during a congressional hearing on Wednesday about whether children should be vaccinated for measles chickenpox or polio He said people should not rely on him for medical advice The issue came up when Representative Mark Pocan a Wisconsin Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee asked Kennedy if he would vaccinate his own child for measles For measles? Probably for measles I Kennedy began to answer before stopping himself You know what I would say is my opinions about vaccines are irrelevant I do not want to seem like I am being evasive but I do not think people should be taking medical advice from me he said But Kennedy who oversees several agencies whose mandate is to give advice and make policy on public health has repeatedly used his position to weigh in on health topics including vaccination He has urged parents of newborns to do your own research on vaccines and suggested the measles vaccine might be unsafe Kennedy punted saying that he did not want to give advice about the vaccines He did however misleadingly claim that in Europe they do not use the chickenpox vaccine specifically A 2022 article in Clinical and Experimental Pediatrics stated that 28 European countries use chickenpox vaccines of which 16 use combination vaccines for chickenpox mumps measles and rubella Many European countries have also introduced national chickenpox vaccination programs in the last 10 years 24 Which Podcasts Rule YouTube? A New List Comes With Surprises YouTube now the most popular platform for consuming podcasts is introducing a chart ranking shows by watch time Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The New York Times May 15 2025 For the first time YouTube has published its ranking of top podcasts in the United States offering a fresh perspective on a sprawling landscape There Kill Tony is ranked Number 2 just below the reigning king of podcasts Joe Rogan There were familiar names on the YouTube list including MeidasTouch in the top 10 But when compared with the existing charts the YouTube version sometimes seems like a fun house mirror While the hit podcast Dateline NBC for example was absent it does not regularly upload episodes to YouTube the CBS true crime newsmagazine 48 Hours appeared at Number 4 Despite its roots in video YouTube has come to dominate podcasting It is the preferred service for one third of weekly podcast listeners in the United States capturing



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<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4433/16/5/605>

Taiwan Air Quality Monitoring Database (TAQMD)

Excluded under 18 years of age, or without related medical records.

MDPI.COM
The Risk of Developing Aphasia and Exposure to Air Pollution in Taiwan
(1) Background: The relationship between air pollution and the risk of developing aphasia is sti...

SMOKE ALERT

Smoke may reduce visibility on roads and motorists should take care.

For current warnings visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au

Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA
May 15 at 8:22 PM

Current smoke alerts as of 05:55 PM, 16 May 2025.

- Smoke Alert for HODDYS WELL, MORANGUP and BAKERS HILL in the SHIRE OF TOODYAY and the SHIRE OF NORTHAM
- Smoke Alert for COWARAMUP, MARGARET RIVER and surrounding areas in the SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER.
- Smoke Alert for ROCKINGHAM, JARRAHDALE and surrounding areas in the CITY OF ROCKINGHAM and SHIRE OF SERPENTINE JARRAHDALE.
- Smoke Alert for areas between MANDURAH, COLLIE and BUNBURY including HARVEY, YARLOOP and COOKERNUP in the SOUTH WEST and PEEL regions.
- Smoke Alert for TWO ROCKS and surrounding areas in the CITY OF WANNEROO.
- Smoke Alert for YARLOOP, HARVEY, COOKERNUP, MYALUP, PRESTON BEACH and surrounds in the lower PEEL REGION.
- Smoke Alert for the areas between COLLIE, BUNBURY and MANDURAH in the Shires of COLLIE, HARVEY and WAROONA.

No further updates will be published to Facebook for this alert. For the latest information visit emergency.wa.gov.au or the Emergency WA app.

more users than Spotify or Apple Podcasts saw something other people did not in video said Brett Meiselas a founder of MeidasTouch comparing YouTube against the other platforms which are now trying to attract more video creators and viewers Meiselas who said the chart was a long time coming was pleased but not entirely surprised by the Number 5 spot of his show It means our work is getting out there As podcasts broadly continue to rise in influence helping to sell products find voters and spread hot button ideas The YouTube chart represents another tool for understanding who holds sway with American consumers For some podcasts this may require a deeper investment in video or at the very least ensuring their videos are correctly organized into YouTube playlists which is critical to the ranking Kylie Kelce was among podcast hosts to temporarily unseat Joe Rogan at the top of the charts Platforms benefit when new names rise to the top They do not want to see Joe Rogan at Number 1 every single week forever she said Discovery drives more listening hours Sometimes that discovery applies to household names too The YouTube top 50 included podcasts from legacy television brands such as NBC Nightly News 60 Minutes and Late Night With Seth Meyers Feldman characterized the chart where Gen Z social media stars sit alongside cable figures who rose to prominence in the 1990s like Nancy Grace or Tucker Carlson as a good testament to how those worlds can coexist and hopefully thrive together

Headlines The Guardian May 18 2025 Are we hardwired to fall for autocrats Evolution The Guardian Biden destroyed Harris bid by staying in race too long top adviser says in book Joe Biden The Guardian **Cooking the books Fears Trump could target statisticians if data disappoints Trump The Guardian** 25 Cooking the books? Fears Trump could target statisticians if data disappoints Proposed rule change could pave way for president to fire economists whose figures prove politically inconvenient **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian May 18 2025 Summarizing his befuddlement with numbers Mark Twain observed that there were lies damned lies and statistics The acerbic phrase later become so deeply embedded in popular consciousness that it once formed the title to an episode of The West Wing the NBC portrayal of a fictitious US president played by Martin Sheen Now professional economists and number crunchers fear the aphorism could become a White House theme in real life Buffeted by global markets and public opinion both of which show a wary skepticism of the Trump affinity for trade wars the president may be about to turn his renowned hostility to truths at odds with what he believes towards public servants charged with producing accurate information A proposed rule change making it easier to fire civil servants deemed to be intentionally subverting presidential directives could pave the way for the White House to fire statisticians employed to produce objective data on the economy but whose figures prove politically inconvenient experts warn Statistics released by agencies such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics BLS and the Bureau of Economic Analysis BEA are used by the Federal Reserve Bank to set inflation policy and interest rates They also form the basis on which businesses and investors take decisions We should view attacks on government data collection as hand in glove with attacks on journalism Undermining data collection and casting doubt on data that is released is part of a program of undermining the ability of the public to learn the truth Even a temporary interruption of the established data collecting capacity of the U S would be a real tragedy and lead to a permanent loss of knowledge You cannot go back and fix it If you have a data series stretching back 50 years then it gets cut for two or three years you no longer have that 50 year data series You have lost knowledge forever Users of government statistics should object to the proposed civil service changes before a 30 day window expires on May 23 2025 The fate of US democracy could hinge on the continued production of accurate figures In a democracy you want to be feeding people the right information so they will make the right choices But if the goal is to destroy democracy you would want to control the statistics to fit your story You want to be promoting your own version of reality



Youtube QR



Spotify QR



Website QR

04 NEWS Geelong Advertiser | Saturday May 17, 2025

Lara MP fires up on waste furnace

Will Keoch

State Lara MP Ella George has again voiced her opposition to a proposed incinerator in her electorate as her government continues to sit on a decision over the proposal.

Speaking during Tuesday's parliamentary sitting, Ms George again put on the record the region's staunch opposition to the proposed facility.

"I have spoken about the proposed incinerator before in this chamber, but I am raising it again today because it is incredibly important to the community that I represent," she said.

"The Lara community has some very reasonable concerns about this project, and these are concerns that I share."

The project, first proposed in 2020, aims to process 400,000 tonnes of waste annually at a site on McManus Rd, Lara.

It has faced significant op-



Ella George

position from residents, local businesses and the City of Greater Geelong.

Despite the bipartisan resistance and repeated pleas from Labor MPs, the state-level approval process has continued with the Environment Protection Authority issuing a development licence in December 2023.

Ms George highlighted key

community concerns, including safety issues, proximity to homes and schools, and potential impacts on air quality and noise pollution.

She said the project lacked "social licence", citing hundreds of objections from residents.

"While I have had hundreds of residents raising these concerns with me, I am yet to have anyone contact me or speak to me about their support for this project," she said.

Ms George's comments come as Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny continues to deliberate on the crucial planning permit, a decision that has been pending for almost four years.

While Ms George and her colleagues, including Bellarine MP Alison Marchant, Geelong MP Christine Cosgrave, and Federal Corio MP Richard Marles, have spoken out against the project, their opposition has yet to result in a definitive outcome.

A City of Greater Geelong push to reclaim decision-making authority over projects such as the incinerator within its boundaries was rejected by the minister.

Ms Kilkenny refused to elaborate on the project when in Geelong last week.

Ms George thanked local campaigners, including long-time advocate Charles Street, for their efforts in fighting the project.

"They have been fighting this since 2021, and I commend their efforts," she said.

"I am proud to support them, and I will always stand with the community against this proposal."

Ms George said in a social media video she was "working hard" behind the scenes to ensure the relevant ministers know the extent of community opposition.

"To date, there has been no decision made to approve this application," Ms George said.

Say NO to Lara Big Incinerator › Say NO to Lara Big Incinerator
May 16 at 6:44 PM · 🌐

"Lara MP fires up on waste furnace" - Geelong Advertiser

We are grateful for the ongoing and vigorous support of our local member of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Ella George MP.

Ella has been working hard to have the Lara Big incinerator project stopped, for the protection of our community and environment from toxic incinerator pollution.

We note with thanks, that the newly re-elected Member for Corio Hon. Richard Marles MP is also supporting the community similarly.

Let's get the job finished.

MUMS LUNGS



#FireplaceFlip

Mums for Lungs
May 16 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

Claire from South London read her fireplace the riot act when she stopped burning a few years ago! She's shared her story with us:

"When I first found out about wood burning and the pollution it causes, I wanted to ignore it. I love a fire! But it's very hard to do something that you know is killing you and your family, so after a few more fires I stopped, and I haven't looked back."

They were actually a huge pain. Chimney sweeps, getting rid of the ashes, burning too quickly and heating the coffee table rather than the room. Now we just rely on the radiator.

Less aesthetic, but won't raise your chances of getting lung cancer by 43%, unlike occasional wood burning!"

If you've decided not to burn too, please get in touch so that we can inspire others with your #FireplaceFlip! 🌱❤️