

Episode 57DHWP June 16 2025 V A doctors can refuse to treat Democrats and unmarried veterans

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1 Republican MAGA Trump voter assassinates Democratic Minnesota Senate Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband in their home in what Minnesota Governor Tim Walz terms a political assassination **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson June 15 2025 Yesterday began with the horrific news that a gunman had shot two Minnesota lawmakers and their spouses in what Minnesota governor Tim Walz said appeared to be a politically motivated assassination State representative Melissa Hortman who was the top Democrat in the Minnesota House and her husband Mark both died in the attack at their home in Brooklyn Park a city near Minneapolis The gunman also shot Democratic Minnesota state senator John Hoffman nine times and his wife Yvette eight at their home in Champlin The hospital reports they are in stable condition after surgery Law enforcement officers encountered the suspected gunman 57 year old Vance Boelter coming out of the Hortman house He was dressed as a police officer Officers exchanged gunfire with him before he fled leaving behind his vehicle which looked much like a police car In it was a list of dozens of people he wanted to kill They were mostly Democrats or people connected to abortion rights efforts Law enforcement officers captured Boelter tonight MAGA Republicans are working hard to identify Boelter with what Senator Mike Lee R UT called Marxism and Senator Bernie Moreno R OH called the extreme left but public databases show Boelter was in the past a registered Republican His evangelical religion and his anti LGBTQ and anti abortion stances reflect MAGA positions A roommate of Boelter told reporters that Boelter was a strong supporter of Trump Senator Chris Murphy D CT noted that MAGA has been bathed in political violence for the last five years The Trump pardoning of the January 6 rioters including those convicted of extreme violence became a clear endorsement of violence committed in his name Trump has encouraged violence and cozied up to brutal dictators while MAGA has fetishized guns When he celebrates violence unhinged people listen Murphy points out that while people of all political persuasions commit violence no Democratic leader encourages violence as a political norm the way Trump and MAGA have done citing a straight line from January 6 to the pardons to the assault on Senator Padilla to Minnesota The entire Minnesota delegation to the U S Congress issued a joint statement on politically motivated shootings Democrats and Republicans together wrote

Today we speak with one voice to express our outrage grief and condemnation of this horrible attack on public servants There is no place in our democracy for politically motivated violence We are praying for the recovery of John and Yvette and we grieve the loss of Melissa and Mark with their family colleagues and Minnesotans across the state We are grateful for the swift response of law enforcement to the situation and continued efforts After that start to the day the country turned to the No Kings protests In a dramatic rejection of the Trump consolidation of power at least five million Americans turned out for peaceful protests across the country Cities turned out huge numbers of protesters at more than 2000 planned events and small towns including those in Republican dominated states also boasted rallies The mood was festive as people held signs with anti Trump and pro American images and slogans and sang the Woody Guthrie famous American anthem This Land Is Your Land American flags were everywhere The rejection Trump faced yesterday was a big tub of rock salt poured on his wounds of lifelong insecurity That profound injury to the Trump sense of self braced observers for a lashing out of epic proportions as he tries to demonstrate that he is in fact powerful We got that anger and fear in a social media post at eight forty three p m tonight In a post almost certainly not written by Trump his account account then declared war on Democrats The day after a gunman shot two Democratic lawmakers and their spouses in their homes the Trump account posted that Only 27% of registered voters support the budget reconciliation bill of Republicans while 53% oppose it As for Trump himself a Quinnipiac Poll from June 11 showed that 38% of registered voters approve of the way he is handling the job of the presidency while 54% disapprove Only 30% of registered voters approved strongly of the way he is handling the job while 49% strongly disapprove While Trump and his loyalists are trying to project an image of invincibility their actual power seems to be faltering Ten years ago tomorrow on June 16 2015 Trump rode down the escalator at Trump Tower to a lobby filled with extras to announce he was running for president One reporter called his speech in 2015 eccentric

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2B Headlines The New York Times June 14 2025 7 Air Pollution from Wood Burning Wildfire Smoke California Opens Investigation Into State Farm The New York Times Human Interest Instagram Wants

Gen Z What Does Gen Z Want From Instagram The New York Times [8 Medicine and Science Many Older People Embrace Vaccines Research Is Proving Them Right The New York Times](#) Trump Actions Trump Incorporated Filings Show Staff Profited From Being in the Trump Orbit The New York Times Trump Actions How Amy Coney Barrett Is Confounding the Right and the Left The New York Times Trump Actions Justice Barrett In Her Own Words The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts How Retirees Can Manage RMDs in a Volatile Market The New York Times Trump Budget Cuts Opinion Millions of Americans Like Trump Better in Theory Than in Practice The New York Times Trump and Europe Anti Tourism Protests in Italy Portugal and Spain Draw Attention to Quality of Life Issues The New York Times Trump and Europe Traveling to Europe Here is What to Expect From Tourism Protests on June 15 The New York Times Trump Tariffs Local Malls Are Sitting Empty and Becoming a Headache for Small Towns The New York Times [2C Other Media](#) Wisconsin Democrats pick Devin Remiker as successor to party leader Ben Wikler [2D Headlines The Guardian June 16 2025](#) [9 Medicine and Science](#) Extremely disturbing and unethical new rules allow VA doctors to refuse to treat Democrats unmarried veterans Trump administration The Guardian Minnesota Suspect in Minnesota lawmaker killing visited other homes of legislators prosecutors say live [10 New York and Air Pollution](#) Congestion pricing has transformed New York City streets – but can it survive Trump New York The Guardian Trump Actions This is the looting of America Trump and Company and the extraordinary conflicts of interest in his second term Trump administration The Guardian Trump and Europe and the World European leaders at G7 trying to bring Iran back to negotiating table G7 The Guardian

[3](#) Artificial Intelligence AI Is Poised to Rewrite History Literally The ability to read and summarize text by AI is already making it a useful tool for scholarship How will it change the stories we tell about the past? [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 June 16 2025 During my 25 years as a magazine editor my favorite part of the job has always been helping writers figure out what the story is where to start it where to end it what is important and new about it To figure it out a historian had loaded some of his sources into NotebookLM an app for researchers and writers that he himself helped build after becoming the editorial director of the Google Labs division three years ago Unlike most other AI tools which draw their answers to questions from the mind boggling infinitude of data they were trained on NotebookLM draws only from files selected by the user on the premise that most forms of research benefit from thoughtfully curating your source material Since the worldwide release last year Google and Johnson have been promoting its utility for all manner of tasks whether it is auto generating minutes and takeaways from an audio recording of a meeting or encouraging a more licit use of AI among college students The NotebookLM most viral capability is an auto generated podcast which in a matter of a couple of minutes will spit out a detailed conversation between two freakishly realistic voices drawing out the key concepts of the source material But as an occasional author of history books myself I was most interested in how AI one of whose many superpowers is the ability to inhale large amounts of text in an instant and offer credible summaries of it might transform the way history is written What if e books of history came enhanced with a NotebookLM like interface? Imagine he went on that there is a linear version of the story with chapters but then the primary materials the author used to write the book also come bundled with it That way instead of just a bibliography you have a live collection of all the original sources for a chatbot to explore delivering timelines mind maps explanations of key themes anything you can think to ask It is perhaps the most brain breaking vision of

A I history in which an intelligent agent helps you write a book about the past and then stays attached to that book into the indefinite future forever helping your audience to interpret it From the perspective of human knowledge is that utopia or dystopia? Who is to say?

4 To Protest Budget Cuts Young Scientists Try Letters to the Editor Hundreds of graduate students are writing to their hometown newspapers to defend their research as the Trump administration drastically reduces science funding **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 June 16 2025 As a scientist the focus of one researcher is cerebral literally She studies the brain investigating the interplay of memory and stress But when she was a graduate student at the University of California Los Angeles she sat down to compose a letter in defense of science and she decided to write from the heart Her heart is attached to a pacemaker implanted a few years ago to manage an atrioventricular block that made her pulse stutter Science saved my life the researcher wrote in a letter to the editor that was published this month in The Marietta Daily Journal a Georgia newspaper My happy ending would not have been possible without decades of U S research she added The woman researcher aged 24 from Powder Springs Georgia is one of hundreds of people who wrote to their hometown newspapers as part of a national campaign spearheaded this spring by graduate students and scientists who are just starting their careers They wanted to draw attention to the research funding cuts by Trump that are scuttling grants shrinking science labs and stopping postdoctoral studies Trump officials have pointed to the importance of cost saving and attributed many of the budget cuts to changing scientific priorities The White House has moved to cancel research in specific areas like climate science and described some research efforts as wasteful spending The researcher wrote that the federal funding cuts could threaten the nearby James J Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory In interviews they and other graduate students noted the difficulties of writing around an uncertain future How do you defend research projects whose benefits can take so many years to materialize? It took centuries for scientists to understand the role of electricity in the human heart Bit by bit their discoveries paved the way for pacemakers like the one that saved the woman researcher from Georgia She had been considering a career in the federal government perhaps in the National Institutes of Health Now she is not so sure I just feel like that is being gutted and decimated right now she said

5 It is Not Just You The Tick Situation Is Getting Worse As temperatures rise ticks of all kinds are flourishing in ways that threaten the health of people **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 June 16 2025 There are unwelcome visitors at an office in the Hudson Valley of New York The unwelcome guests are ticks crawling up the building and trying to get through doors This is kind of alarming said a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies who studies the arachnids and the pathogens they carry As winters get warmer ticks of several kinds are flourishing Deer ticks known for transmitting Lyme disease are moving farther north The longhorned tick which came from overseas has gained a foothold on the East Coast and begun moving west Gulf Coast ticks have made it to states like Connecticut and Indiana The lone star tick which can make people allergic to red meat is fanning out from the South and has been found as far as Canada Why is this happening and how can you protect yourself? We asked the experts What changes are researchers seeing? A single tick may become more likely to carry multiple pathogens meaning someone could get Lyme disease and

receive treatment without their doctor realizing they also need treatment for say babesiosis. A researcher had been working with Defense Department funding to develop one test for numerous tick borne illnesses but the Trump administration halted her grant. How can you protect yourself? Try to prevent bites and keep in mind that ticks do not only live in the woods. While deer ticks tend to favor wooded areas they and other species also frequent parks and lawns and some even approach buildings. Health authorities recommend wearing long pants and long sleeves when you might be exposed and tucking your shirt into your pants and your pants into socks or boots. Repellents containing DEET are effective on skin and permethrin on clothing. Once you get indoors check yourself carefully and check children and pets as well said a scientist at the Canadian National Collaborating Center for Environmental Health. Ticks may bite anywhere but they are often drawn to warm damp areas such as the backs of knees and the groin underarms ears and scalp. If you find a tick remove it. Companies sell many removal devices but tweezers work fine. Grasp the tick where it meets the skin and pull steadily without jerking or twisting. Then disinfect the area and wash your hands. Most tick borne diseases including Lyme offer a grace period. You can prevent transmission if you remove the tick within a certain number of hours. But this may not be true for all diseases. So if you have any unusual symptoms see a doctor.

6 The Bureaucrat and the Billionaire Inside the DOGE Chaotic Takeover of Social Security 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 June 16 2025 Leland Dudek plucked from a midlevel job only six weeks earlier to run Social Security because of his willingness to cooperate with the Musk Department of Government Efficiency got an angry call from the White House according to several people familiar with the exchange. The number is 40 percent insisted Katie Miller a top administration aide who was working closely with Musk according to one of the people familiar with the April 1 call. Trump believed Musk she said. Do not contradict Trump. Throughout the early months of this Trump presidency Musk and his allies systematically built a false narrative of widespread fraud at the Social Security Administration based on misinterpreted data using their claims to justify an aggressive effort to gain access to personal information on millions of Americans. Their work has led to the departures of thousands of employees thinning an already overstretched work force and setting off a wave of public anxiety over the state of an agency administering politically sacrosanct retirement benefits that Trump has vowed to protect. Musk has left Washington amid a blowup with Trump and some of his top aides at DOGE have also departed leaving federal workers and the public to assess what the Musk tornadolike path through Washington yielded. At Social Security The Musk efforts amount to a case study in what happened when his team of government novices ran a critical government agency through misinformation and social media blasts. Musk became fixated on the program in early February after members of his team misread government spending data a pivotal and previously unreported moment that DOGE believed had exposed massive fraud inside the agency. In response The Musk team mobilized dozens of Social Security employees to affirm their views about fraud and began a project to ensure dead people were properly classified so they were not mistakenly paid even though DOGE officials acknowledged in an internal memo that payments were not being made in those cases. The number of people visiting field offices to change their banking information still rose sharply compared with the previous year according to internal agency statistics. The higher traffic was poorly timed. At least three dozen field offices were estimated to be losing more than a quarter of their staff.

agency data shows During one of his last weeks in charge Dudek drove around the Midwest by himself visiting offices that had been hit especially hard by cuts At a Milwaukee field office Dudek stopped a woman driving out of the parking lot a moment witnessed by a reporter Were we able to take care of your needs today? he asked Not at all the woman replied Dudek apologized as she drove away

7 California Opens Investigation Into State Farm The insurance regulator of California says the volume of complaints against the company following the 2025 catastrophic wildfires in Los Angeles prompted the inquiry **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 June 12 2025 The California Insurance Commissioner announced a formal investigation into State Farm on Thursday as complaints continue to mount about the handling of claims by the insurer from the catastrophic wildfires in Los Angeles The so called market conduct examination is a tool used when there is evidence of broad consumer complaints according to a spokesman for the department It is the fourth time that State Farm General Insurance Company the largest insurer in California which covers one out of every five homes in California has been the subject of such an investigation since 2014 said Michael Soller a deputy insurance commissioner Some troubling patterns that my staff will investigate include the frequent reassignment of multiple adjusters with little continuity in communication inconsistent management of similar claims and inadequate record keeping Lara said in a statement These issues create unnecessary stress prolong recovery and erode trust The multiple fires that erupted on January 7 in Eaton Canyon and on a hillside in Pacific Palisades have left a burn zone unlike almost any other over 16000 homes businesses and other structures were obliterated and many others were damaged by toxic smoke State Farm has already paid nearly 4 billion dollars to its customers in California following the recent wildfires he said This is the fourth time State Farm will be the subject of a review in just over a decade The past reviews included regular examinations conducted for all insurance companies operating in the state as well as targeted investigations such as the one announced on Thursday said Soller Past inquiries have resulted in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars in claims for survivors Soller said and companies have been required to improve claims practices When systemic issues are identified Soller said that they can prompt regulatory or legislative action If State Farm is wrongfully denying my neighbors coverage we need to know why plain and simple **8** Many Older People Embrace Vaccines Research Is Proving Them Right Newer formulations are even more effective at preventing illnesses that commonly afflict seniors perhaps even dementia **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 June 14 2025 An insurance agent in Victoria Texas had seen friends suffer so badly from shingles that she wanted to receive the first approved shingles vaccine as soon as it became available even if she had to pay for it out of pocket Her doctor and several pharmacies turned her down because she was below the recommended age at the time which was 60 So in 2016 she celebrated her 60th birthday at her local CVS In the United States where a more potent vaccine Shingrix became available in 2017 and supplanted Zostavax Oxford investigators found an even stronger effect By matching almost 104000 older Americans who received a first dose of the new vaccine full immunization requires two with a group that had received the earlier formulation they found delayed onset of dementia in the Shingrix group How a shingles vaccine might reduce dementia remains unexplained Scientists have suggested that viruses themselves may contribute to dementia so suppressing them could protect the brain Perhaps the vaccine revs up the immune system

in general or affects inflammation Shingrix now recommended for adults over 50 is 90 percent effective in preventing shingles and the lingering nerve pain that can result In 2021 however only 41 percent of older Americans had received one dose of either shingles vaccine A connection to dementia will require further research and a doctor is trying to raise philanthropic funding for a clinical trial And if you needed another reason to get this vaccine here it is **9** Extremely disturbing and unethical New rules allow V A doctors to refuse to treat Democrats unmarried veterans Department of Veterans Affairs says the changes come in response to a Trump executive order defending women **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization** The Guardian June 16 2025 Doctors at Department of Veterans Affairs V A hospitals nationwide could refuse to treat unmarried veterans and Democrats under new hospital guidelines imposed following an executive order by Trump The new rules also apply to psychologists dentists and a host of other occupations They have already gone into effect in at least some V A medical centers Medical staff are still required to treat veterans regardless of race color religion and sex and all veterans remain entitled to treatment But individual workers are now free to decline to care for patients based on personal characteristics not explicitly prohibited by federal law Language requiring healthcare professionals to care for veterans regardless of their politics and marital status has been explicitly eliminated Doctors and other medical staff can also be barred from working at V A hospitals based on their marital status political party affiliation or union activity The changes also affect chiropractors certified nurse practitioners optometrists podiatrists licensed clinical social workers and speech therapists In making the changes V A officials cite the Trump 30 January executive order titled Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government Medical experts said the implications of rule changes uncovered by the Guardian could be far reaching They seem to open the door to discrimination on the basis of anything that is not legally protected said the V A top healthcare official during the Clinton administration He said the changes open up the possibility that doctors could refuse to treat veterans based on their reason for seeking care including allegations of rape and sexual assault current or past political party affiliation or political activity and personal behavior such as alcohol or marijuana use The Department of Veterans Affairs is the largest integrated hospital system in the nation with more than 170 hospitals and more than 1000 clinics It employs 26000 doctors and serves 9 million patients annually In an emailed response to questions the V A press secretary Peter Kasperowicz did not dispute that the new rules allowed doctors to refuse to treat veteran patients based on their beliefs or that physicians could be dismissed based on their marital status or political affiliation but said all eligible veterans will always be welcome at V A and will always receive the benefits and services they have earned under the law He said the rule changes were nothing more than a formality but confirmed that they were made to comply with the Trump executive order The changes are part of a larger attack on the independence of medicine and science by the Trump administration which has included restrictions and cuts at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Robert F Kennedy Jr last week fired every member of a key panel that advises the government on vaccines A V A edict was recently promulgated forbidding agency researchers from publishing in scientific journals without clearance from the V A political appointees **10** New York Congestion pricing has transformed New York City streets But can it survive Trump? **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission**

Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization

The Guardian June 16 2025 Every week a man drives across lower Manhattan moving bikes between the two NYC Velo shops he has managed for the last 15 years What used to be a grinding crawl through some of the worst traffic in the world is noticeably less painful lately It is like night and day he said The transformed commute is the result of the most ambitious policy to hit New York in recent memory Starting January 5 2025 drivers entering lower Manhattan began paying a 9 dollar congestion toll aimed at deterring drivers and raising desperately needed funds for the deteriorating public transit system of New York City The man does not mind being charged for his newly gained time As a motorist it is like the price of gas goes up The cost to be in the city goes up For decades New York lawmakers have proposed plans for a congestion zone where drivers would have to pay a fee to enter the busiest parts of Manhattan as a means of funding public transit The idea was first floated in 1952 but it was not until 2007 that then mayor Michael Bloomberg took a plan to Albany where it was rejected by state legislators At every turn the attempts to introduce congestion pricing have been met with acrimony both sweeping and strange accusations that congestion pricing is a tax on plumbers and on blue collar workers that was not democratically decided a cynical cash grab by a mismanaged Metropolitan Transportation Authority MTA or a scheme that will flood outer borough streets with displaced traffic Critics have warned of economic fallout calling the toll elitist Despite these objections the program finally received federal approval in 2023 under the New York governor Kathy Hochul It seemed as though congestion pricing might finally happen However just days before the program was set to begin in June 2024 Hochul paused implementation fearing a political fallout She quickly reinstated the policy after the November 2024 election with the toll reduced from 15 dollars to 9 dollars Six months since the tolls switched on the early results suggest congestion pricing works Yet the policy 75 years in the making almost never happened and is still being threatened by a Trump administration eager to terminate the program and to exert control over the Trump home town A boon for public transit The aim of congestion pricing is twofold to reduce the number of cars on the road easing traffic and pollution and to raise sorely needed funds for the New York City ailing public transit network Manhattan boasts the densest transit network in the western hemisphere but its subway signals are nearly a century old and its dedicated bus lanes relatively scarce Millions rely on public transit daily yet over 25% of trains and buses are delayed and the system remains short of legally mandated elevators at dozens of stations The congestion toll is expected to raise 500 million dollars annually funds earmarked for long overdue upgrades So far revenue is on target While it will take time for these investments to reach riders they are expected to make daily commutes faster and more reliable for residents across the city And in the long term easing congestion on the streets of Manhattan could pave the way for new bike lanes expanded pedestrian zones and dedicated bus corridors that could transform how New Yorkers get around The Trump most recent salvo to gut the program has been blocked by a temporary injunction from a court In the meantime New York still faces a slew of lawsuits from outside the city and in New Jersey For now the MTA is successfully fighting them off Congestion pricing is not just surviving it is thriving It is been a success It is not going to be taken out without a lot of people complaining There are lives that have been saved and people who did not get injured there is property that did not get damaged there are lungs that did not get polluted All of those things are benefits that we are reaping from this