

RIKERS AND ROOSEVELT: THE UNCONTROLLED HUMAN EXPERIMENT OCCURRING WITH ESSENTIAL WORKERS (AND THEIR WARDS)

Trump wants to reopen the economy. But it's clear from the limited data and anecdotal reporting from essential workplaces that basic things – starting with masks – still aren't in place to limit workplace exposure. And because these men and women haven't had the protective equipment or other workplace protections they need, many have needlessly died.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING: DELAYED CRANES AND PIGS EDITION

I'm grateful for Michigan's bounty. Unless we start doing something about the climate emergency, it may not be there very long.

GIVING THANKS

Thanks for the bounty!

THE QUEEN OF SOUL THANKSGIVING TRASH TALK

She is NOT dead yet. Aretha is alive and well.

Aretha Franklin has a few choice words for those who think she's on her deathbed.

"I'm doing well generally, all test have come back good," the 75-year-old Queen of Soul told Us Weekly. "I've lost a lot of weight due to side effects of medicine, it affects your weight... Thanxxxx for your concern."

On Tuesday, the internet ran wild after a fake Twitter account erroneously announced her death.

I am one of the people briefly snookered by the hoax. So Marcy thought Turkey Trash ought feature the Queen. And so it will!

It is appropriate because Motown Lions always play on Turkey Day. And it is the first game on tap today. The Vikings come on over for the tradition at Ford Field. Has the makings on an uncommonly good Detroit Thanksgiving game. They are not always this, errrr, promising. Not sure the Vikes are all that, but give them their due, Case Keenum and the Norske handed the on a roll LA Rams their ass last weekend. It is a pick em, and I am really looking forward to this game.

Second up is Bolts at 'Boys on CBS. Jerry Jones is a cartoon character straight out of the Simpsons villain set. Just look at his jawline and picture The Simpsons. Dallas deserves all the bad news they get. What whiny assholes. Interesting that Tony Romo will be on the call. Romo is a little relentless on his color

commentary, but has been generally very good so far. Today ought be interesting. This game has nowhere near the actual playoff interest as Lions/Vikes, and no idea where it will go. The Bolts have been extremely uneven this year, but Phil Rivers is still dangerous. Probably gonna regret this, but rooting for the Bolts in an upset.

Last meat on the table is Giants at Skins. Hard to believe this is the grand finale on such a storied NFL day. Yuck. NBC must be dying that this is the dreck they were left with as America goes into an L-Tryptophan snooze. Someone will win. Theoretically anyway. At this point, Kirk Cousins is a far better QB than the Really Bad Eli. So, I'll take the Skins.

So, today's Trash is fueled by Queen Aretha. Could have gone with any number of songs, including Respect or, of course, Chain of Fools. But Ain't No Way is an under appreciated favorite, so that was the choice. Happy Thanksgiving folks.

GRATITUDE

Helping my mom move out of her apartment made me grateful for far more than just turkey this year.

GIVING THANKS AND OTHER THANKSGIVING TRASH

Happy Thanksgiving denizens of the Wheelhouse. This is, by my groggy count, our tenth together

as the Emptywheel Blog. The first five were at Firedoglake, and the last five here as a standalone. All of the contributors here – Marcy, bmaz, Rayne, Jim White, Ed “Masaccio” Walker, and our special assignment Roving Reporter Rosalind – have been around each other for even longer than that, in one status or another, going back to The Next Hurrah. It has been a long and wonderful, if not sometimes strange, trip. And it continues to be so daily. For that, we give thanks to you. Some of you have been around with us since The Next Hurrah, many are newer. You are all valued, and thank you for reading, joining us and sharing your thoughts.

Usually there is a big food post on Thanksgiving, but for extraneous travel reasons, I am not sure there will be this year. In that vein here is some food talk to make sure there is space here in this post to discuss at length what we are all gorging on. Mrs. bmaz HATES cooking traditional Thanksgiving dinners with all the fixins etc. She is Italian by descent, and insists on making giant pots of homemade spaghetti with meatballs and sausage. It is very good, but I very much miss the traditional meal. Daughter of bmaz is cooking a blueberry pie though, so we still have that going for us. What are you all up to as to food and cooking today?

Then there is football. Thanksgiving NFL is a tradition dating back to the mid 1930’s, although the TV tradition of it all really grew in the 1960’s. And grow it has done. There are three full games on the tube today, and, for once, all teams participating have winning records and are in playoff contention. Now THAT is a change for the better!

First up on the docket is Minnesota versus Detroit. Detroit always plays on Thanksgiving, and for so many years that is why Thanksgiving Day games sucked. But Detroit is good this year. Both the Lions and the Vikes are 6-4 and, given how bad the Packers have been this year, this game is for sole possession of first place in

the NFC Norse. The Vikings have a clearly better defense, but the Lions are far more prolific on offense, and have been playing as a team much better than Minnesota of late (horrible offensive line play is killing Sam Bradford). I'll take the Kittehs at home.

Next up is Washington at Dallas. Kirk Cousins is on a roll again, and the Skins are really playing decent football. But the Cowboys at 9-1 have the best record in the NFL and are clicking on all cylinders. Dak Prescott is even opening up downfield a little, which was not the case early in the year. Ezekial Elliott is playing like the second coming of Emmitt Smith and all the receivers, not just Dez Bryant, are getting in on the action. But as decent as they have been, the Dallas defense is neither great nor particularly deep. The question is whether Cousins and the Skins 0 can outscore the Boys. I don't think so in Dallas.

Last game is Pittsburgh at Indianapolis. The QB matchup you've been waiting for: Big Ben Roethlisberger versus Scott Tolzein. Yeah, Andrew Luck is out with a concussion. That spells disaster to a Colts team that would already be a home underdog even with Luck. Both teams are 5-5, but one of them won't be after today!

So, there you have it folks. Good times and good eats today. Dessert today is some Savoy Truffle from the Lads from Liverpool.

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

Whew.



I've already conceded defeat and the Detroit Lions don't start playing for another hour.

Happy Thanksgiving all! It's been a busy morning here at Chez Emptywheel, in part because our awesome meat farmers can't seem to raise turkeys that, after slaughter, weigh under 20 pounds. (The pic from the right is from 2011; I visited our turkey when it was growing this year when our farmers married each other after Love Won this year, but I didn't take pictures of things like growing turkeys...)

So I conceded to cooking the stuffing outside the bird, something I rarely do. I just wasn't sure I could get the whole damn thing cooked any other way.

Hopefully the Lions will prove better able to face adversity today than I was.

Please provide your favorite leftover turkey recipe in comments!

As old-timers likely know, my schtick at Thanksgiving is to try, as much as possible, to serve only MI products, which is surprisingly easy to do. Our turkey and bacon (for more on that read this post) comes from Crane Dance. Our sugar comes from MI beet farmers. Our veggies come from the Hams and about 4 other farmers who are regularly at the Farmer's Market. Our milk comes from Hillhof (though I also already lost out on the weekly scramble for their all-too-rare cream). Our wine comes from 2 Lads and other Northern Michigan wineries (though several years of weird weather is making things really tough up there).

But I was at a bit of a loss on flour for my pumpkin pie crust. I might have just used the organic all purpose flour (from MN) I normally use for pies and all else, but I'm overdue a trip to Ann Arbor to get a 50 pound bag and even that's running low. I kept thinking longingly of the stone ground wheat pastry flour I bought years ago from Nashville, MI, but I had looked months ago and they seemed to be defunct. So boy was I pleased when, a week ago, the Jennings Bros showed back up at the Market out of the blue, with meat, but also with that stone ground organic flour I used years ago. Only it's no longer the "Jennings Brothers," but in fact a daughter, taking over the flour business. She told me she and her parents had had a long discussion about how much to charge because they didn't remember; when asked I wasn't sure either (but she gave me a deal for being a return customer!) The flour is a bit tough to work with (yes, stone ground pastry flour is almost a contradiction of terms). But it all worked out, and if past pies are any indication, the whole wheat of the crust will add a wonderful nuttiness to the pumpkin.

It's been an increasingly crazy time in the scary wide world. So today is a great time to relax with family and remember what matters.

Thanks to you all for joining in the emptywheel community. And may you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

**THANKS BE FOR
MICHIGAN'S BOUNTY —
BETTER LOAD UP FOR**

ANOTHER TOUGH WINTER

Yesterday,
Michael
Whitney linked
to a
flawed Thanksg
iving quiz, as
it seemed to
be missing the
correct answer
on
most questions
. My answers,
if given a
choice, would
read:



1: What time do you start eating dinner?

A: Around 2, when you start
panicking about the Kitties losing and
so stress-eat all the bacon off the top
of the turkey.

2: How much do you eat during the day
leading up to dinner. A: See answer to
#1.

3: Do you believe in eating appetizers
before dinner? A: See answer to #1 and
#2.

6: To baste or not to baste? A: Bacon.

11: What's your take on turkey? A:
Bacon.

An explanation for those of you who aren't
familiar with my family's tradition: rather than
wrestling with brine or basting with whatever
one bastes with, we just load the whole thing up
with bacon when we put the bird in the oven and
pick it off after a few hours, which leaves the
bird nicely seasoned and ready to brown. And
it's not even a new thing: my family has been

doing this for generations, apparently. Though that fancy weave look in the picture is a newfangled approach my brother used on his turkey last year.

My own personal Thanksgiving tradition is to attempt to eat all Michigan products for Thanksgiving (generally allowing exceptions for citrus and spice, though this year I forgot to get MI-milled flour), and post thanks to some of the ones either you should know about or to whom I am particularly grateful.

The last several years of my tribute to MI posts have focused on the extent crazy weather is already challenging the farmers who bring us our food. While last fall brought a generous harvest, the year before everyone was struggling with drought. This year, farmers seem to be dreading what is expected to be another really cold winter. One of new favorite MI wineries, 2 Lads, made only two wines this year (the Polar Vortex Vintage), preferring not to overharvest given predictions of another harsh winter. Most



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one of two fruit farmers I used to buy from lost everything and decided to retire (the other lost their peach harvest for the season). And our meat farmers spent most of last winter concocting up things to feed their cattle (like molasses) to get their metabolism up high enough to stay warm though last year's frigid temperatures.

We'll be having 2 Lads Pinot Noir D. Cuvée and Verterra Unoaked Chardonnay (the latter of which we haven't tried though we've become hooked on

their cool weather whites). The 2 lads of the name, by the way, are (as several of Michigan's winemakers are) South Africans and both ruggers, so they've named all their wine vessels after rugby positions. My first year of rugby I was a fullback, just like the vat of Pinot Noir in the picture.

Both the turkey and the bacon come from Crane Dance Farm. We've been buying most of our meat and eggs – when the hens aren't taking the winter off, which they did early this year – from Crane Dance Farm since we got to W MI. When my large animal vet father-in-law visited from Ireland, Jill and Mary showed him around the farm so I could convince him that not all American meat is grown in horrible industrial conditions. He came away thinking they'd find the Irish farms he used to work with industrial scale by comparison.

We've
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the
Ham
Family
Farm
almost



as long. Charlie Ham showed up at the market the other day – a sign of winter, since he sends the local kids during the growing season – and it was like a rock star with everyone greeting him.

Two big changes in the Grand Rapids foodie scene this year. First, so many people have grown addicted to Hilhof dairy products that on every Thursday (delivery day) folks scramble to buy up what cream is available from the 3 stores in the neighborhood that carry it. Also, Downtown Market opened last year. Not only do we finally have a great fishmonger now (the Fish Lads), but we stole one of Zingerman's bakers, who now runs

Field and Fire. My bread stuffing came from stale leftovers from the latter.

The big new addition to my Thanksgiving table are my very own Jerusalem artichokes. I've been using them in my stuffing for years (because they're a damn sight easier to work with than chestnuts and have a similar taste and texture). So this spring I threw a few in the ground. Hooboy, I hope I don't grow to regret this! After chopping down the 10' plants I discovered I had grown a sink full of the things. Let's hope my sand storage technique keeps the rest through the winter.

It's snowing pretty heavily, the sidewalks are icy, but I'm just going to batten down and watch some football.

Thanks to all of you for sharing our work over the last year.

HAPPY FOURTH!

I'm
headin
g out
to Ann
Arbor
for
festiv
ities
today,
and I
may
well



leave the laptop home...

I was going to wax politic about our Constitution. And oh, what the heck – why not quote from the end of John Roberts' decision in *Riley v. California* (even if he doesn't believe the Fourth Amendment extends to women's uteri) – for a reminder of how we got here.

Our cases have recognized that the Fourth Amendment was the founding generation's response to the reviled "general warrants" and "writs of assistance" of the colonial era, which allowed British officers to rummage through homes in an unrestrained search for evidence of criminal activity. Opposition to such searches was in fact one of the driving forces behind the Revolution itself. In 1761, the patriot James Otis delivered a speech in Boston denouncing the use of writs of assistance. A young John Adams was there, and he would later write that "[e]very man of a crowded audience appeared to me to go away, as I did, ready to take arms against writs of assistance." 10 Works of John Adams 247–248 (C. Adams ed. 1856). According to Adams, Otis's speech was "the first scene of the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born." Id., at 248 (quoted in *Boyd v. United States*, 116 U. S. 616, 625 (1886)).

May we renew James Otis' fight as we go forward.

But I wanted instead to express my gratitude to several people, who have already made my Fourth. First, the guy collecting cans for deposits who I often see as I walk McCaffrey the MilleniaLab in the early morning. He was the first to wish me a – shouting across the street, in joyous whoops – a Happy Fourth this morning, which gave me great joy. This day belongs to all Americans – may we remember that common purpose and start serving it for all to benefit.

And I especially want to thank the West Michigan farmers who made it to the Farmer's Market this morning. Not only does that mean we'll be having strawberry-rhubarb and (the first of the season) cherry pies at our barbecue this evening. But the farmers who picked their first crop of

blueberries last night to have them for today
will make the kids at the barbecue very happy.

A safe and joyous Fourth to all emptywheel's
readers!

WERE THE 58-61,000 INTERNET TARGETS PART OF NSA'S 73,000 TARGETS?

As I noted, Google, Yahoo, and Microsoft all
released transparency reports today.

During the second half of 2012, Microsoft had
FISA requests affecting 16,000-16,999 accounts,
Google had 12,000 – 12,999. We don't have
Yahoo's numbers for that period, but for the
following six month period they had requests
affecting 30,000 – 30,999 accounts; given that
numbers for the other two providers dropped
during this six month period, it's likely
Yahoo's did too, so the 30,000 is conservative
for the earlier period. So the range for the big
3 email providers in that period is likely
around **58,000 – 60,997**. [Update: Adding FaceBook
would bring it to 62,000 – 64,996. h/t CNet]

I'd like to compare what they report with what
this report on FISA Amendments Act compliance
shows. I **think** pages 23 through 26 of the report
show that NSA had an average of **73,103** selectors
selected via NSA targeting on any given day
during the period from June 1, 2012 to November
30, 2012. That's because the notification delays
from the period (212 – see page 26) should be
.29% of the average daily selectors (see amount
on 23 less amount without the notification
delays on page 34).

But remember: these are not the same

measurement. The government report number is based on average daily selectors, so it reflects the total of selectors tasked on any given day. Whereas the providers are (I think the numbers must therefore show) the total number of customer selectors affected across the entire 6-month period, and they almost certainly weren't all tasked across the entire 6 month period (though some surely were).

There's one possible (gigantic) flaw in this logic. The discussion of the FBI targeting is largely redacted in the government memo. And there have been hints – pretty significant ones – that the FBI takes the lead with the PRISM providers. if so, these numbers are totally unrelated.

Also remember, there are at least two other kinds of 702 targeting: the upstream collection that makes up about 9% of the volume of 702 collection, and phone collection, which is going up again.

This would sure be a lot easier if the government actually backed its claims to transparency.