

# **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE EMPTYWHEEL BLOG: A YEAR TO REMEMBER, A YEAR TO FORGET AND AN OPEN FORUM FOR COOKING, TRASH AND OTHER TALK**

What a long strange trip 2021 has been. January 6 is still less than a year ago. Joe Biden's Presidency is only eleven months old. The DOJ and 1/6 Committee are working away nicely on an unprecedented case that is multitudes more complicated and difficult than most all seem to comprehend (although we have been warning of that here from the start). So, as we reach this tumultuous Christmas and New Years' season, amid the sudden (but quite predictable in spite of anything Biden and Harris say) emergence of Omicron, let's chill a bit and take stock of it all.

First off, and I used to do this yearly on or about Christmas Eve, a remembrance of our dearly departed friend and colleague, Mary. Mary Perdue was not just a colleague, but a friend to both me, Marcy and most all of our contributors here. Mary left us on Christmas Eve 2011. Our long time regulars know this story, but there are a lot of new people here that should know, because this is the epitome of who we are at Emptywheel and what we have done and stood for from our beginning. I used to copy and repost the entire *in memoriam*, but will just link today for brevity. If you are new here, check it out.

Okay, on to the food! Because Mrs. bmaz is Italian at root, we always have, like at Thanksgiving, ridiculously awesome homemade spaghetti, meatballs, sausage and sauce instead of the traditional turkey and fixings. We will

again. As much as I hate pumpkin pie, our daughter simply loves it, so there will be that too. That will be Christmas Day though, for Christmas Eve, probably steak, or homemade pizza, in the Ooni pizza oven. So, what are all of you eating, from where, and how? Marcy taught me long ago to seek out local and fresh ingredients, whether meat, vegetables or other, and we try to do that. Holiday food is fun!

And, now, for a bit of Trash Talk. Last night the Titans beat the 49ers and all but clinched a playoff spot and division title. Niners are still alive, but a little wounded. The Saturday game of Colts at Cardinals has all kinds of playoff implications. Both would likely still make the playoffs, but the seeding is absolutely critical. The other Christmas Day game of Cleveland at Green Bay is kind of a throwaway, hard to see the banged up and sinking Brownies going the Pack a game at Lambeau. There are too many permutations after the Sunday slate is played to go through here, but ESPN has a nice synopsis.

There is so much more going on, and let's talk about it. In closing, I'd just like to say thank you for being part of this community, it means everything to all of us here. So, to all of you and yours, have the happiest of holidays and New Year.

This year's holiday music is "Don't Shoot Me Santa Claus" by the incomparable Killers. It is really a great tune. I do suggest you click on the full screen button to embiggen it.

And for Eureka, Scribe and all our Pennsylvania friends:



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## **HOW TO (NOT) HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE COVID-19**

Given the last study results, there's simply no good reason for Trump's plugging hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 drug therapy except to harm and kill Americans.

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## **WHERE'S THE BEEF? REPUBLICANS DON'T UNDERSTAND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPLY CHAINS**

As we reopen without having taken the opportunity created by the shutdown to figure out how to keep workplaces safe, what happened in the meatpacking industry will happen in other parts of the economy.

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# **LONG OVERDUE POLICIES THAT LOOK OBVIOUS IN THE AGE OF PANDEMIC**

With the crisis of COVID, policies that long made sense but were considered too radical have become necessary.

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## **ON MOUNTAINS, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, AND COVID-19**

The language of mountains is all over the COVID-19 coverage, from the talk of “reaching the peak” of infections to the euphoria of “hitting the plateau.” But here’s the thing: we’re still on the mountain, and the descent is much more dangerous than the climb.

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## **TRUMP PUTS HIS RASPUTIN GUY, MICHAEL CAPUTO, AT DEPARTMENT OF**

# **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DURING A PANDEMIC**

Trump's decision to hire Michael Caputo as spokesperson at HHS raises questions about what happened to the investigation into Caputo's Project Rasputin that was ongoing as recently as February 3.

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## **RESEARCH MISINFO/DISINFO: OFF-LABEL COVID-19 THERAPY HAS NO PROOF**

We're so desperate we're grabbing at any kind of research, peer-reviewed and not, to find a way to shut down this fire hose of death. This leaves us vulnerable to fraud and gross misinformation.

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## **MASKED UP, READY TO GO (NOWHERE)**

After the U.S. Surgeon General got all shouty-caps in Twitter demanding the public not wear masks, now the CDC is encouraging mask-wearing. What to do?

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## **THREE THINGS: SHIT GOT REAL WITH FAMILY AND COVID-19**

Right now some parent or parents are experiencing the nightmare I have hoped and still hope I won't have to face. Others are struggling and need our help.

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## **DISPATCH FROM THE WAR ON COVID-19 [UPDATE-1]**

Two foot soldiers offer testimony of the action from the front lines on the war against COVID-19 here in my home state, Michigan.