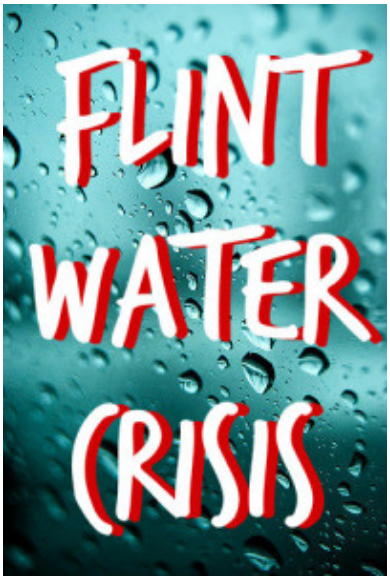
THURSDAY MORNING: A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS



[image (mod): LeAnn E. Crowe via Flickr]

Happy St. Patrick's Day to those of you who observe this opportunity to drink beer (tinted green or otherwise) and eat boiled dinner and wear green! We'll know the hardcore among you tomorrow by your hangovers.

Folks overseas don't understand how St. Patrick's Day blew up to the same proportions as other holidays like Halloween, blaming it on American commercialization. But the holiday as observed in the U.S., like Halloween, has roots in immigration. Four to five million Irish immigrated to the U.S.; their descendants here are nearly 40 million today, roughly seven times the number of actual Irish in Ireland now. With this many Irish-Americans, even a tepid observation of St. Patrick's Day here would be visible abroad.

In addition to all things green, we'll be watching this week's second #FlintWaterCrisis

hearing. Representatives Chaffetz and Cummings can go all shouty on Michigan's OneLawyeredUpNerd Governor Rick Snyder and EPA's Gina McCarthy though I have my doubts anything new will emerge. (And you'll see me get really angry if Rep. SlackerForMichigan Tim Walberg shows up to merely make face on camera. Useless helicoptering.)

Unlike Tuesday, I hope like hell somebody brings up Legionnaire's cases and deaths in Flint after the cut-over of Flint's water to Flint River. Thousands of children may have been permanently poisoned by lead, but people sickened and died because of this complete failure of government-as-a-business.

I can't stress this enough: **There were fatalities in Flint because of the water.**

Hearing details – set a reminder now:

> **Thursday 17-MAR – 9:00 AM – Gov. Snyder (R-MI) & EPA Head McCarthy: House Hearing on Flint, MI Water Crisis** (est 3 hours, on C-SPAN3) Link to House Oversight Committee calendar entry

You can find my timeline on Flint's water here – as noted Tuesday, it's a work in progress and still needs more entries.

Moving on…

Apple leaves Amazon for Google's cloud service
Wait, what?! File under 'Wow, I didn't know!' because I really though Apple housed all its cloud services under its own roof. I mean, I've written about data farms before, pointed to a new Apple location. I didn't know Apple had outsourced some of its iCloud to Amazon.

Which makes Senator Ron Wyden's remarks about asking the NSA with regard to the San Bernardino shooter's iPhone even more interesting.

No wonder Apple is moving to Google, considering Amazon's relationship with certain government agencies as a cloud service provider. Some of Apple's data will remain with Amazon for now; we

might wonder if this is content like iTunes versus users' data. Keep your eyes open for future Apple cloud migrations.

US Navy sailors' electronic devices combed for data by Iran

Gee, encrypted devices and communications sure are handy when members of the military are taken into custody by other countries. Too bad the Navy's devices weren't as secure as desired when Iran's navy detained an American vessel in January this year. To be fair, we don't know what all was obtained, if any of the data was usable. But if the devices were fully encrypted, Iran probably wouldn't have said anything.

American Express' customers' data breached – in 2013

Looks like a select number of AmEx customers will receive a data breach notice with this explanation:

> We became aware that a third party service provider engaged by numerous merchants experienced unauthorized access to its system. Account information of some of our Card Members, including some of your account information, may have been involved. It is important to note that American Express owned or controlled systems were not compromised by this incident, and we are providing this notice to you as a precautionary measure.

The breach happened on December 7, 2013, well into the Christmas shopping season, but we're just finding out now? "Third party service" means "not our fault" – which may explain why AmEx shareholders (NASDAQ:AXP) haven't been notified of a potential risk to stock value as yet. Who/what was the third party service? Where's their notification to public and shareholders?

I need to brew some coffee and limber up before the hearing on Flint, track down my foam

footballs and baseballs to throw at the TV while Gov. Snyder goes on about how sorry he is and how he’s going to fix Flint’s water crisis. Oh, and find an emesis basin. See you here tomorrow morning!