

Justice Dept. Steps In to Aid Trump in Suit

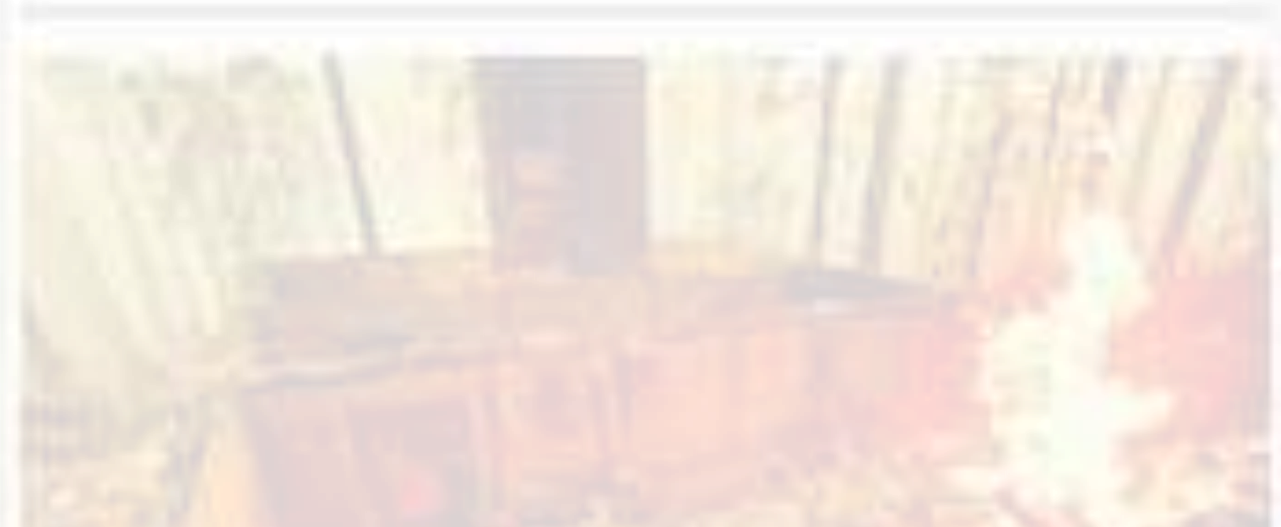
Starting Veterans Didn't Work in 2018, Will It Now?

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has stepped in to help Donald Trump in a lawsuit against a former aide, a move that has drawn criticism from some legal experts. The department's involvement is seen as an attempt to influence the outcome of the case, which is ongoing in federal court.

Meanwhile, a report from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has found that starting veterans did not work in 2018. The report, which is part of a larger study on the VA's workforce, suggests that the VA may need to re-evaluate its hiring practices for this group of veterans.

The Justice Department's involvement in the lawsuit is a significant departure from its traditional role as a neutral party. Legal experts argue that this could set a precedent for future cases involving high-profile individuals. The VA's findings on starting veterans are also a cause for concern, as they highlight the challenges the VA faces in providing services to a diverse population of veterans.

The VA's report on starting veterans is one of many indicators that suggest the VA is struggling to meet the needs of its veterans. The department has faced numerous challenges in recent years, including budget cuts and a decline in public trust. The VA's ability to provide quality care to its veterans is at risk, and it is clear that significant reforms are needed.



How Do You Spot Fake News?

What is Fake News?

- “An attempt to deliberately spread inaccurate or false information in order to mislead others, presenting it in a way that makes people likely to believe it to be true.”
- *Cindy L. Otis former CIA intelligence analyst.*





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Steps In to Aid
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Starting Veterans Didn't Work in 2018, Will It Now?

Business Week Has
GOP Message May
Bring Its Journalist

Fake news is not something you disagree with. Mainstream media is not Fake News, even if what they report ultimately turns out to be wrong.



Keys to detect fake news

- What is the source for the story
- Who is the author
- Is the publisher credible
- Who is behind the story
- Why has this story been written
- Examine the evidence
- Spelling and grammar errors



Where do you get your news?

- In 2019 55% of American adults said they got their news from social media at least sometimes or often.

Pew Media Center Oct 2, 2019



Read beyond the headline

- “Seventy percent of people don't read beyond the headline on articles they share,”
Emily Bell, founding director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University
- Reporters don't usually write their own headlines. Headlines are written by editors to grab your attention



Music World Will Miss Bob

livebeingwell.com

Morning Story

Oh no, Dylan died

Facebook ad headline
but the story is:

Gifted artist,
philanthropist, and
musical genius Bob
Dylan made headlines
after revealing his new
CBD line on Live TV

Is this news available elsewhere?

- If it is only available on one site it is probably not really news. Any legitimate news will be reported by many sites.



Separate news from opinion.

- Legitimate sites will separate their news from opinion pieces.

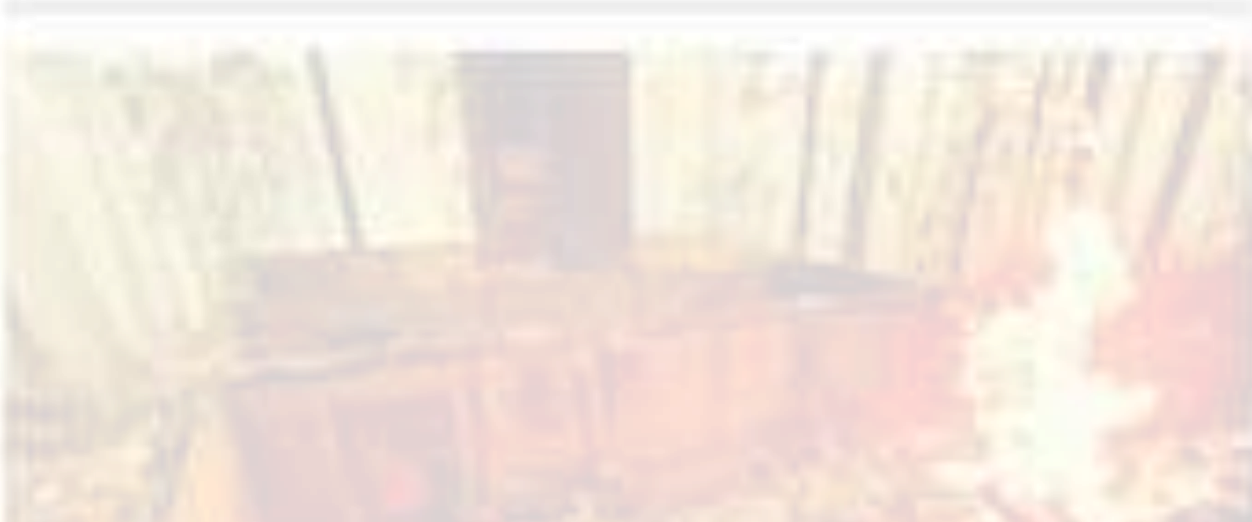
The Post's View • Opinion


Why Montgomery County residents should reject these four ballot initiatives

- Most of the evening programs on news networks (Fox, CNN, MSNBC) are opinion which may or may not be factually accurate.

Beware of fake videos, photos and audio.

- Deep fakes are becoming increasingly believable
- Editing out of context is also common.
- Photos can be checked for their source using tools such as Google Image search



 @TheVidgeo

LIVE

TRUMP
PENCE
MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!



Did she/he really say that?

- Juxtaposing sentences which were not actually said together can mislead as can remarks which were shortened.
- By “interpreting” what was said it can greatly alter what was actually said.

Joe Biden “I do not believe federal dollars should go to police departments”

Donald Trump “And Biden wants to defund the police.” July 17 interview with Chris Wallace on Fox

Joe Biden :“While I do not believe federal dollars should go to police departments violating people’s rights or turning to violence as the first resort, I do not support defunding police,” June 10, 2020 USAToday

Does using unnamed sources invalidate a story?

- Many media outlets use “unnamed sources” for their stories. This does not necessarily call into question their accuracy. Many people will only talk to the press if their anonymity is assured for fear they will lose their job or suffer other retribution.
- Quality news sources will not use information gained in this way unless they can confirm it with additional sources. They will also add context to the source such as “a congressional aid”
- Be suspicious of an unnamed source with no details.

Social media is not a reliable source of news

- Posts to social media have almost no fact checking behind them. People will post stories to try to get a reaction from the readers.
- Before you repost something from social media be sure it is factual.
- Ads are not necessarily true.



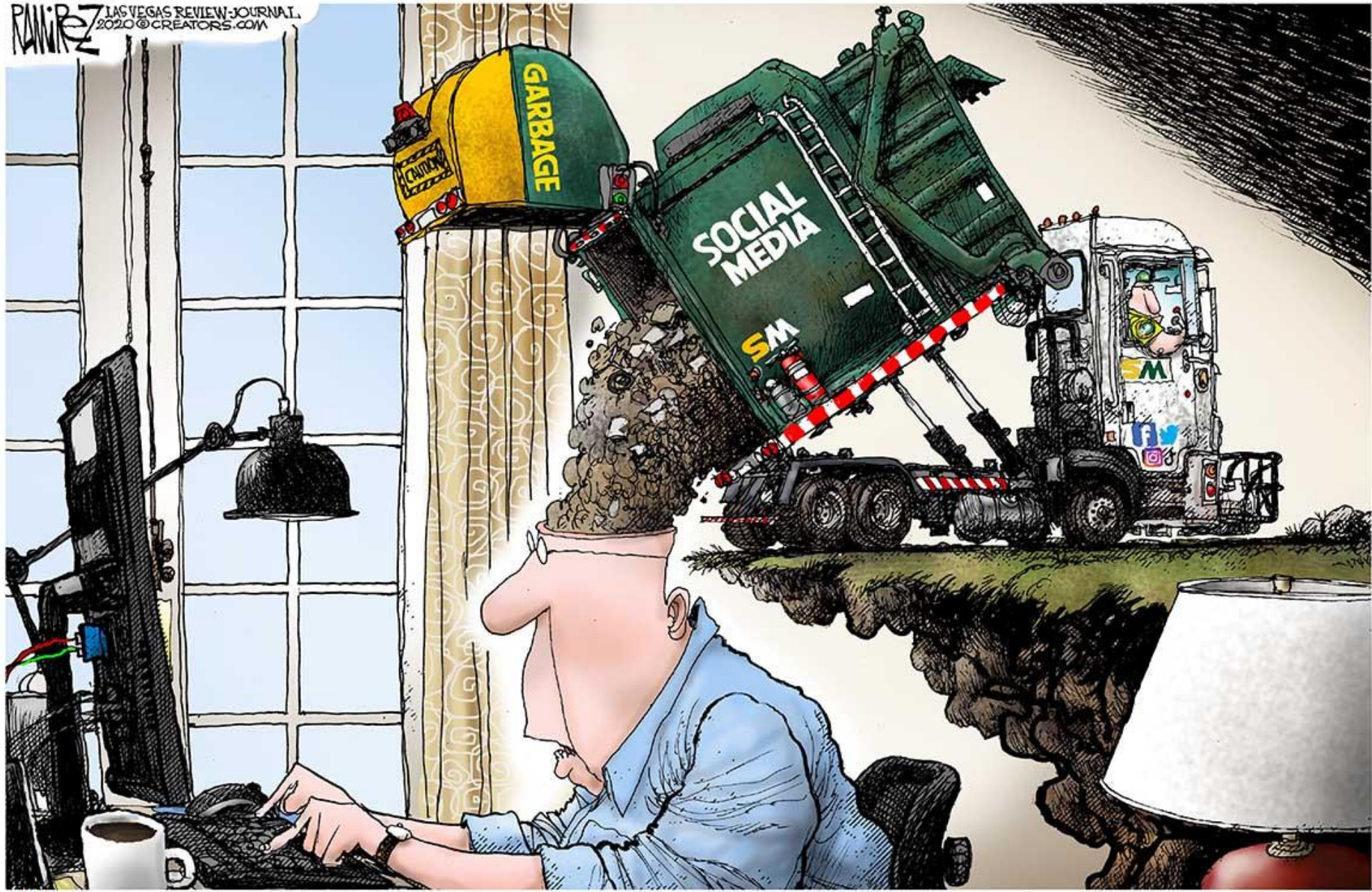
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**EVANGELICALS
-FOR TRUMP-**

2020

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November 3, 2020 Tweet



Donald J. Trump 

@realDonaldTrump



JUST HEARD BIDEN WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH A MASSIVE STROKE AND DOCTORS DON'T EXPECT HIM TO LIVE. VERY BAD.

7:50 AM · Nov 3, 2020



Don't just accept claims of fact.

- “People or groups using fake news to influence public opinion will often claim that what they say is the truth, and that every other source of information is lying.”

Cindy L. Otis former CIA intelligence analyst.

- Take time to check the validity of any story which seems to be questionable.

Fact checking sites

- www.PolitiFact.com
- www.FactCheck.org
- www.Snopes.com
- www.LeadStories.com
- www.ScienceFeedback.co
- www.CheckYourFact.com
- www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker
- Poynter Institute maintains a list of verified fact checking organizations

Resources

- Mediawise for Seniors offers classes on spotting fake news <https://www.poynter.org/mediawise-for-seniors/>
- How You Can Spot Inaccurate News article from AARP <https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/government-elections/info-2020/how-to-spot-fake-news.html>
It's also on our website www.sonic.net/wscug
- AARP Fact Tracker lessons <https://learn.aarp.org/fact-or-fiction?CMP=RDRCT-CSN-OTHER-FACT-FICTION-060820>
- Can you tell the difference <https://get.checkology.org/> has classes aimed at students and teachers but will soon add general public.

- Daily Dot list of Fake News Sites

<https://www.dailydot.com/debug/fake-news-sites-list-facebook/>

- Book **“True or False – A CIA Analysts Guide to Spotting Fake News”** by Cindy L. Otis

