

# **HERMIT HERALD**

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### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY**

**“What people believe prevails over the truth.”  
Sophocles.**

### **PERCEPTION IS KING; TRUTH IS NADA**

**Perception, or self confirmation of what you want to believe has to be paramount to the “truth” today. Truth is in quotes because nobody knows what is true any more. According to a recent Monmouth University poll, 60 % of Americans think the election was fair, but 77% of Trump supporters say Biden is winning due to Fraud. In fact, 44% of all Americans, “think we do not have enough information about the vote count to know who won the election.” There are now more than 30 lawsuits that seek to stop certification of presidential election results.**

**In Michigan, last Tuesday, “two Republican members of the Wayne county canvassing board initially refused to certify the county’s election results- a move that could have disenfranchised hundreds of thousands of voters, including every voter in Detroit- before backing down after an outcry from local voters and officials.” Since then, however, they have disavowed their backing down and are reiterating their refusal to certify.**

**The protests and challenges continue. In Wisconsin, you only get a free challenge recount if the results are very close. In Milwaukee County and Dane County, the most important in the state and heavily Democratic, Biden is way ahead, but the Trump team has decided, at a cost of \$2.7 million, to challenge those results. In Milwaukee County, Biden leads 317,000 to 134,000 and in Dane County, Biden leads 260,000 to 78,800. Speak about tilting at wind- mills. Got to wonder what the ROI on that \$2.7 million will amount to.**

**Using the defining word, “happy”, as part of their polling, Monmouth found that one third**

**of Americans are, “happy” Trump lost and only one quarter are, “happy” about Biden winning. It strikes me as puzzling that this mushiness of support for both candidates has neighbors at each other’s throats like nothing since the Civil War. I guess some might respond to my puzzlement by saying, “It has nothing to do with the candidates, it’s the ideology, dummy.”**

**Giuliani’s latest ploy is to announce that, “There’s enough evidence to overturn the election, and result in states being unable to certify their states’ totals in the required time.” As John Turley, a law professor from Georgetown University opined, “If that happens there would be ‘open warfare’ in Congress.” He also goes on to say that regardless the outcome of all these challenges, at the very least, the Administration should be allowing the start transition activities and proper briefings for Mr. Biden.**

**Some samples of what the Trump legal team has been saying: In a Pennsylvania courtroom last Tuesday Giuliani demanded that a federal judge invalidate nearly 7 million votes in the state because of what he called, “widespread**

**nationwide voter fraud.” Subsequently, Giuliani pivoted dramatically. He said, “This is not a fraud case.” Say wha??**

**Into the fray steps another Trump legal team member, Ms. Sidney Powell, citing nefarious software issues. “President Trump won by not just hundreds of thousands of votes, but by millions of votes that were shifted by this software that was designed expressly for that purpose. We have so much evidence, I feel like its coming through a fire hose.”**

**To make certain her listeners understand the gravity of the situation, Ms. Powell adds, “What we are really dealing with here is the massive influence of communist money through Venezuela, Cuba and, likely, China and the interference with our elections here in the United States.” Jeez!! And that’s not just your scribe talking. As of this morning, the Administration threw her over board.**

**Still a Republican, but no longer a Trump fan, John Bolton, president Trump’s third National Security adviser, said, “Their basic argument is**

**that this was a conspiracy so vast and so successful that there's no evidence of it."**

**On a news show yesterday, Alan Dershowitz, had some words of advice for the Trump challenges. "Forget the retail and focus on the wholesale," which is to say - stop insisting on recounts, they get zipco results- perfect example being Georgia where a hand recount saw the president gaining barely a thousand votes and still losing by 12,284. Instead, Dershowitz sees the only chance the president has as being on the macro issues, as in Pennsylvania, where the Administration seeks to invalidate millions of votes. The judge has dismissed that suit, but Giuliani welcomes the dismissal saying, "it would allow us to get to the U.S. Supreme court more quickly." That's pretty optimistic as many believe the Supreme Court would decline to hear the case.**

**This may all come to an end sooner rather than later as states will all have to certify their individual totals very soon. There are some dramatic efforts going on to try to get Republican workers to deny certification and throw the whole process into an ugly fight in**

**the Congress. Political pundits conclude that this ploy will be totally ineffective.**

**A Sunday news show had an interactive survey. 95% of the respondents said Trump would not ever concede. It can only be conjectured that if he doesn't concede, he still will turn over the keys to the White House in lieu of having to be escorted out. Many of his supporters are encouraging the president to now focus on the two Senate races in Georgia. Your scribe's estimate of the cost of those races was ridiculous, having predicted \$200 Million. In the first week, it is already \$225 million. Revised estimate - \$450 Million. Some of president Trump's supporters fear that, "if he continues stonewalling without hope of prevailing, he could undermine GOP chances in the two Georgia election run-offs.**

**"STOP THE STEAL."**

**This is the banner under which there are now numerous rallies being held throughout the country, the participants having avidly accepted the "truth" of how the election has been stolen. Their perception of the "truth"**

**has been encouraged by the arch Trump loyalists, and is at odds with all established facts. It is all just plainly unhelpful to ending this whole impasse in a proper manner. Your scribe watches shows of all dimensions and views – yes- FOX, CNN and many others. In my mind, one of the fairest – most level-headed broadcasters- is Michael Smerconish on CNN. On Saturday he made the point about how disgusted he was when a large number of Democrats refused to take part in president Trump’s inauguration in 2016 – how important it is that the country come together to support the installation of a new leader – and how he wished that on this coming January 20<sup>th</sup>, Trump not repeat the reprehensible behavior of the Democrats in 2016.**

## **COVID – 19 EFFICACY VS EFFECTIVENESS**

**First off- more good news- Because of big push by Dr. Fauci and others, a dramatic increase in the number of Americans who say they will be willing to take the vaccine. 59% now say they will and millions are being spent to convince more of the effectiveness of the vaccine.**

**Efficacy is a measure of how the vaccine measures up in clinical trials. Effectiveness is how well it works out in the real world. With efficacy of Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines both at about 95%, it is anticipated that effectiveness will be close to the same. That would put both of these vaccines at an effectiveness level very close to that of the measles vaccine, the most effective ever developed.**

## **PET HERO OF THE YEAR**

**So, Richard Wilbanks, 74, is walking, cigar in mouth, with Gunner, his King Charles Spaniel puppy (no leash), near the lake in Estero, Florida. Like a "missile" a five foot alligator jumps from the lake, grabs Gunner and dives back in the lake. Richard dives in after the gator, grabs it with the dog in its mouth, drags it to shore, pries open the gators mouth and frees the dog who suffers only superficial wounds. Richard is unhurt, but he has never dropped his cigar- probably needs a relight-my hero!!**

**Your faithful scribe, PB**



