

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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Volume VII

## Impeachment, Israel, and Presidential Age

### The West

Public impeachment hearings began on Monday in the House, although Republicans have continued their backlash against the process. Despite the polarization, and perhaps defying expectations, it seems that most Americans just want to hear what both sides have to say.

### The Middle East

Tensions materialized between Israel and Islamic Jihad this week after the Israeli military killed a senior Islamic Jihad official. Hamas and the group criticized the attack and began a fresh round of rocket fire on Tuesday.

### Focus: Presidential Age

The top four candidates in the 2020 race are 70, 73, 76, and 78 years old. Bloomberg, who is still eyeing a run, is 77. How old is too old for a president? An excellent article in the Atlantic on this topic is linked below.

### Quick Take

More strong numbers from the Fed and government suggest that the economy is still traveling at full speed with no recession in sight. The numbers indicate that we're in for a strong holiday spending season and could mean that 2020 will start off on a positive note. Away from the economy, public impeachment hearings started this week and Israel found itself embroiled in another conflict with Islamic Jihad. There is also an excellent article from the Atlantic in "further reading" below discussing the importance of age when considering a president.

Finally, we have a delightfully simple recipe for cranberries. While they're from a can, they take about 10 minutes to make and could provide a perfect snack for any Friendsgiving.



Some delicious whoopie pies, as inspired by the *The Week* Vol. V. Although they took a bit longer to bake than expected, they were delicious (if I do say so myself).

### Finance & Markets

October's retail sales number, out this morning, jumped 0.3% from September, in line with recent strength in consumer spending.<sup>1</sup> While global tensions continue to rise and a trade war threatens some parts of the US economy, strong spending indicates that consumers are not only not worried about a

recession but are actively betting against one. This is further supported by the amount of household debt held by Americans, which currently stands at \$13.95 trillion, according to the Fed.<sup>2</sup>

Stocks climbed on Friday as we head into the weekend, supported by strong earnings from a number of businesses this week as well as positive trade headlines. The dollar fell against major currencies as traders offloaded it for other assets.

One indication of a strong economy might come from the decline in cryptocurrency prices this week. Cryptos fell against the dollar even as the dollar weakened against other currencies, suggesting that a number of investors pulled their money for other uses. One suggestion is what seems to be the beginning of the end of the trade war: Beijing relaxed some of its restrictions earlier this week.

## The Big Headlines

### *Impeachment*

Public hearings for impeachment began this week in the House, with confirmed details of Trump's interactions with the Ukraine becoming public. While the White House has forbidden certain staffers from testifying, some officials have ignored the order anyway, prompting a standoff between the two branches of government. The polarized battle has prompted multiple media outlets to go on the offensive.

One interesting piece in the NY Times shows that despite the divided nature of the government and media, most Americans just want to learn more about the president's conduct and make their own decisions.<sup>3</sup> As more politicians try to shape the discussion, Americans are just looking to think for themselves.



### Something Delicious

We had an excellent Friendsgiving this past week, and there was a ton of fantastically tasty food. One of my favorites was the cranberries: they were absolutely delicious and are historically my favorite Thanksgiving treat. However, there is always debate between 'real' and canned cranberries: I'm in favor of the 'real' ones, but my mind can be changed. This [simple recipe](#) from the NY Times could do just that.

#### Ingredients

- 2 cans of jellied cranberry sauce
- 2 tangerines, oranges, or blood oranges, peeled and sliced (ideally with seeds removed)
- 0.5 red onion, sliced
- 1 lemon
- 0.5 cup of mint or parsley

#### Directions

1. Open the cans of jellied cranberries and slice the cylinders into 1/2-inch-thick rounds.
2. Scatter the rounds on a large platter, and top with citrus slices and a little thinly sliced red onion. Squeeze lemon juice over everything, and sprinkle with flaky salt, black pepper and mint, if using.

## *Tensions Flare in Gaza*

The Palestinian group Islamic Jihad, in coordination with Hamas, began firing rockets into Gaza early Tuesday morning in retaliation for Israel's killing of Baha Abu Al-Ata, a senior Islamic Jihad leader.<sup>4</sup> This marks the second time this year Israel and Islamic Jihad go head-to-head. [continued below]

While the killing was supported by both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his rival Benny Gantz, the tensions are making it harder for either political group to form a coalition with Arab parties.

## What's Up this Weekend?

What	Where	When
<b><u>Cooking class with Chef Jerry</u></b>	Hilton Garden Inn 206 E52nd St	Saturday, 1pm
<b><u>Shamilton</u></b>	UCBT Hells Kitchen 555 W42nd St	Saturday, 10:30pm
<b><u>Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, and Bryce Dessner</u></b>	David Geffen Hall 10 Lincoln Center	Friday & Saturday, 8pm
<b><u>Yayoi Kusama: Every Day I Pray for Love</u></b>	537 West 20th Street, New York	Through Dec 14
<b><u>Christmas Tree and Neapolitan Baroque Crèche</u></b>	The Met, Gallery 305 1000 5th Ave, New York, NY	Through January 7

### *Selected Descriptions*

#### **Cooking Class with Chef Jerry**

*Hilton Garden Inn, 206 E 52nd St 1st Floor, New York, NY*

"In this fun and hands-on class, you will be guided step-by-step in recreating this classic known for its diverse flavour profile of sweet, salty, sour and spicy. You will learn basic knife skills, how to properly prepare the traditional noodles used in this dish and build the flavour profile of an authentic Pad Thai sauce." -*Cocusocial.com*

#### **Shamilton**

*555 W42nd St, New York, NY*

"Baby Wants Candy presents "Shamilton!", the hit Hamilton inspired hip hop musical created in 2016 at UCBLA, developed in Chicago, sold-out at DCM...and now returning to UCB!" -*UCBtheatre.com*

#### **Yayoi Kusama: EVERY DAY I PRAY FOR LOVE**

*537 West 20th Street, New York*

“An exhibition of entirely new work by Yayoi Kusama—including paintings, sculptures, and a new Infinity Mirror Room—is on view at the gallery’s 537 West 20th Street location in New York.”

*-davidzwirner.com*

## Further Reading

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-google-interferes-with-its-search-algorithms-and-changes-your-results-11573823753?mod=business\\_lead\\_pos5](https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-google-interferes-with-its-search-algorithms-and-changes-your-results-11573823753?mod=business_lead_pos5)

- ✦ A WSJ investigation into how Google manipulates its search results.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/11/kings-speech/602050/>

- ✦ Some thoughts from The Atlantic on presidential aging. How old is too old for a president?

## Citations

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-retail-sales-rebounded-in-october-11573824926>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.newyorkfed.org/microeconomics/hhdc.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/15/us/politics/trump-impeachment-swing-states.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.wsj.com/articles/gaza-rocket-attacks-on-israel-resume-risking-wider-conflict-11573650898?emailToken=e9cf5d646613ae087eae90b2b08eef165E9twrZn/AIHUBeVkvXskC+8ShqGRN5MzMO+1pHMCIZ6QBiGYqLw5VSu4/YbuZymFNwKPTvlATmthA9gFhdUEd2tu5MxtlBDJZUIpUrFRsJ9RS0V1UafokjFans1rtXB&reflink=article\\_copyURL\\_share](https://www.wsj.com/articles/gaza-rocket-attacks-on-israel-resume-risking-wider-conflict-11573650898?emailToken=e9cf5d646613ae087eae90b2b08eef165E9twrZn/AIHUBeVkvXskC+8ShqGRN5MzMO+1pHMCIZ6QBiGYqLw5VSu4/YbuZymFNwKPTvlATmthA9gFhdUEd2tu5MxtlBDJZUIpUrFRsJ9RS0V1UafokjFans1rtXB&reflink=article_copyURL_share)