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Executive Summary

Topic	This Week	A Look Ahead
Election 2012	Twenty-seven years separate Vice President Joe Biden and Paul Ryan. But in Kentucky on Thursday night, they'll be just a few feet apart on stage in a vice presidential debate that may be more important than those in years past.	Biden has some ground to make up after Obama's poor showing last week. Ryan, whose wonkishness could pay off in a debate, is untested on a national stage. At stake: momentum in a campaign that is *extremely* close.

Election 2012	Mitt Romney, riding a post-debate bounce, caught up to President Obama this week in opinion surveys, rattling Democrats, though the numbers continue to fluctuate daily and most are still well within the margin of error.	Romney's strong debate performance, and the president's weak one, conspired with the normal rhythms of a campaign to close the gap. Whether Romney can sustain the momentum is more important, a question that likely turns on the coming debates and what happens in between them.
Budget	Speaker John Boehner threw cold water this week on the prospect of a deal in the lame-duck session that would avert the fiscal cliff looming in the new year.	Much of the lame duck's outcome will hinge on the elections, and which power center's hand will be strengthened or weakened as a result. Until then, much of the current rhetoric is posturing.
Foreign Policy	Romney laid down markers on Monday with a speech striking at Obama's handling of global affairs, keying on the unfolding tension in the Middle East.	Voters' focus on economic matters makes this election unlikely to swing on what happens abroad. But Romney's attack helped reinforce the broader GOP theme of Obama as a weak leader. While the administration is vulnerable on its handling of Libya, Obama's national-security credentials are, overall, still solid.
Foreign Policy	Giving Romney's Monday remarks credence has been the administration's constantly evolving explanations of the attacks that killed four Americans at a U.S. consulate in Libya last month. House Republicans on Wednesday grilled administration officials over the Benghazi incident.	Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the administration has been on defense, and looks likely to remain that way. The administration's handling of Libya presents an area of vulnerability for Obama, whose national-security credentials are otherwise solid.
Election 2012	A campaign season littered with straw men has veered into the dimension of puppets, as the Obama team this week hammered Romney over his intention to cut funding for PBS and, by extension, Big Bird.	Republicans and some Democrats blamed the Big Bird line of attack on growing desperation from the Obama camp, which nonetheless continued its *Sesame Street* strategy.
Congress	House Republicans will hold leadership elections the week following next month's elections, with little movement expected among the top spots.	The more interesting interplay will be among House Democrats, who will be watching longtime Leader Nancy Pelosi for hints of her intentions.
Battleground	Until 2008, Virginia had voted Republican in every presidential election since 1964, but Obama's candidacy changed all that.	The Old Dominion is one of a select few battleground states viewed as crucial by both parties, and has received heavy attention by the campaigns as a result. Expect more.

Biden, Ryan Set for Tilt in Kentucky in First (And Only) VP Debate

When Vice President Joe Biden and Republican vice presidential nominee Rep. Paul Ryan meet Thursday night in Danville, Ky., it will be evident to viewers that, among their policy and personality differences, Biden and Ryan are on opposite sides of a yawning, 27-year generational gap.

When Biden took office in the Senate in 1973, Ryan was 2 years old.

But Biden's vigor frequently belies the fact that he is 69 years old, and Ryan's adept grasp of policy often obscures the fact that he is a youthful 42. Instead, the two will most likely clash over their starkly different visions of policy. As *National Journal*''s George E. Condon Jr. notes, they grew up on opposite sides of the baby boom, with dueling visions of the purpose of government. Biden tracks more in the lunchpail-liberal camp, while Ryan has offered in his budget proposal a dramatic rethinking of the benefits the federal government can provide.

But debates, as President Obama learned last week, are often about style and comportment, and both Biden and Ryan will be watched closely on those scores. Biden has a deficit to close after his boss's lackluster performance, while Ryan is untested in a national-debate setting. While vice presidential debates rarely leverage elections, this race's volatility place an added importance to Thursday's showdown.

Romney Catches Obama in Polls

The first batch of polls conducted and released following last week's presidential debate show a remarkable surge for Mitt Romney, but President Obama continues to hold leads in important battleground states.

In a poll of likely voters from the Pew Research Center, the GOP nominee enjoyed a 12-point swing and took a four-point lead over President Obama. One poll, from Gallup, showed Romney at one point drawing even with Obama.

Up until last week, polling had suggested a widening lead for Obama—both nationally and in crucial swing states. But much of Obama's lead has evaporated following his widely panned debate performance.

The results prompted blogger and longtime Obama supporter Andrew Sullivan to accuse Obama of "throw[ing] in the towel" with his debate performance, noting that according to Pew, Obama's 18-point lead among women before the debate had been completely erased.

New York Times blogger Nate Silver writes that the Pew results are significant, in that they are a "strong polling firm" and had a large sample size in their survey. He also notes that Romney's postdebate bounce may have faded somewhat, but this week's polling shows Romney improving in four tracking polls. "[I]f his bounce started out at 5 or 6 points and has now settled in at 3 or 4, that would still reflect an extremely profound swing in the race," Silver writes.

Some pointed to a Gallup poll that had shown Obama and Romney virtually tied, postdebate, but then showed Obama pulling ahead in a broader, multiday survey, 50 percent to 45 percent. And later in the week, Romney pulled ahead of Obama in a Gallup survey that was the first to poll "likely" voters.

More crucially, polls in what had been strongly leaning Obama states such as Michigan and Pennsylvania show a tighter race than a week ago, though the president is still ahead by a healthy margin in those two states. Still, Obama holds a lead in all-important Ohio. As *National Journal*''s Steven Shepard writes, among several states polled, "there has been little relative movement from surveys conducted prior to the debate."

Cook Political Report's Charlie Cook points to Romney's big turnaround in favorability ratings as a good sign for the GOP standard bearer, and takes note of renewed enthusiasm among Republican voters. He suggests that by week's end we should have a better idea of just how far Romney has come back.

BUDGET

Parties Stake Out Positions Ahead of Fiscal Cliff

Both sides of the aisle are carefully staking out their positions ahead of the so-called fiscal cliff that is set to hit come January.

For starters, this week House Speaker John Boehner seemed to throw cold water on any kind of grand bargain happening during the lame duck.

"I think that's difficult to do," the Ohio Republican told *Politico* this week when asked about the prospects for a large-scale deficit deal in November and December. "You know, and frankly, I'm not sure it's the right thing to do—have a lot of retiring members and defeated members voting on really big bills. Eh, probably not the appropriate way to handle the lame duck."

Informal talks among Democrats and Republicans have been ongoing, but both sides appear to be far apart.

Later in the week, Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., seemed to stake out a different position from his Democratic colleagues on taxes—apparently rejecting the Simpson-Bowles model of "broadening the base"—by saying that taxes for the rich need to go up. Schumer also said that a Republican (and Romney) idea being bandied about in Congress to eliminate deductions and loopholes would not achieve revenue neutrality—or that the middle class would be plucked.

If you're looking for good news on the situation, here's something: Though many have warned that allowing the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts and automatic budget cuts to take affect would have enormously negative impacts on the economy, some analysts said this week that the effects of sequestration would not be felt immediately, and indeed would be more of a "fiscal hill" or "fiscal slope," as *The New York Times* puts it.

The Wall Street Journal has a handy guide detailing many of the political players' positions on the issue.

FOREIGN POLICY

Romney Asserts Obama Weakness on Foreign Policy

Mitt Romney on Monday delivered what his campaign billed as his major foreign-policy address, largely a takedown of President Obama's management of global affairs but still light on the specifics of what Romney would change.

Romney tapped all the Republican talking points against Obama's foreign policy, including a rebuke of Obama's relationship with Israel and a reinforcement of the GOP attacks on how the administration handled the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi last month that claimed four American lives.

That incident also served up fodder for Republicans at a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on Wednesday. The administration has offered multiple, evolving explanations of what occurred in Benghazi, rotating from the assertion that protests overwhelmed the U.S. officials to acknowledgement that it was a terrorist attack timed to the anniversary of 9/11.

Romney's address, at the Virginia Military Institute, insisted that "hope is not a strategy" and was pleasing to the Republican base. But Romney continues to grapple with his own party's widely disparate views of foreign policy, vestiges of President George W. Bush's administration and its fallout. On one wing of the Republican Party, a strongly isolationist streak has risen. On the other, including among many in Romney's inner circles, the more hawkish, neocon strains remain dominant.

The election is unlikely to swing on events abroad; the economy remains too salient. But Romney's speech served as a marker for his two remaining debates with Obama, providing more ammunition for the standard Romney attack on Obama's purported weaknesses.

ELECTION 2012

Who Will Be in the Next Administration—You Tell Us

The election is still a month away, but Washington is already playing everyone's favorite parlor game, "Who's going to be in the next administration?"

Later this month, *National Journal* magazine will have a full report on the players who could fill more than 20 key administration posts. And we want your input, too.

Please take a minute to tell us who's in—or should be in—the running for jobs ranging from White House chief of staff to Cabinet secretaries. Click here to put an Obama dream team together or click here to build Romney's all-star administration.

FOREIGN POLICY

More Contradictions, Questions on Libya Attack

The administration's constantly shifting explanation of what happened during the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi last month was subjected to congressional scrutiny this week, and new information that contradicts the administration's earlier claims came to light as a result.

Perhaps the most explosive news to come out were reports that State Department officials said that no protests had been taking place outside the mission in Benghazi in the lead-up to the attacks, and anonymous officials further stated of the since-retracted claim that an anti-Islam video had prompted the ”spontaneous” attack: “That was not our conclusion.” Officials say that U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice had been relying on intelligence reports, not State Department information.

Charlene Lamb, a deputy assistant secretary of state, said in prepared testimony that dozens of attackers “launched a full-scale assault that was unprecedented in its size and intensity.”

In addition, a witness who appeared before the politically charged House Oversight Committee on Wednesday said that the State Department withdrew security in the country despite increasing violence from militias.

“The security in Benghazi was a struggle and remained a struggle throughout my time there,” Lt. Col. Andrew Wood told the committee. Republicans suggested that the administration tried to paint a picture of improved security at the expense of the safety of Americans.

Democrats had charged that Republicans were hiding witnesses and concealing a fact-finding trip to Libya ahead of the hearing.

In a strange aside, *The Washington Post's* Dana Milbank wondered whether lawmakers at the hearing accidentally revealed information about CIA activities in the country.

ELECTION 2012

Election Aimed at Main Street Veers onto Sesame Street

Less than a month until Election Day and the biggest name in presidential politics this week was Big Bird.

The friendly fowl was being featured in a new attack ad from the Obama campaign, which airs on national cable. The ad quoted Mitt Romney during the first presidential debate when he called for an end to federal funding for PBS.

Romney spokesman Kevin Madden called the ad “troubling,” while Romney said “you have to scratch your head” at the Obama campaign's strategy. Team Obama says it speaks to a broader issue.

“The point that we're making here is that when Mitt Romney was given the opportunity to lay out how he would address the deficit … his first offering was to cut funding for Big Bird,” Obama spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Tuesday.

Although *Sesame Street* asked that it be left out of political advertising, the Obama campaign has stood by the ad, saying it would look into the complaint. Senior adviser Robert Gibbs on Wednesday said he was unaware of plans to pull the ad.

Medicare: The Hard Issue Just Around the Corner

The debate over Medicare, which simmered quietly during much of September as the campaigns focused on taxes, is about to reemerge in the presidential campaign, *National Journal's* Alex Roarty reports.

Earlier this week, the Obama campaign released a new ad focused on it, its first since August, and the president and Romney tangled over the subject during their first debate. The future of Medicare also will likely play a major role on Thursday night during the sole debate between Vice President Joe Biden and Ryan, whose eponymous budget proposal – including its transformation of Medicare into a voucher program – has been embraced by the Republican mainstream.

"I really think Biden, or I would hope, is absolutely going to go after Ryan very specifically," said Jay Campbell, a Democratic strategist. "Ryan knows his stuff and can push back very well, but the vice presidential debate is a fantastic opportunity for the Obama campaign to restart the campaign against the Ryan Medicare plan."

How the debate plays out in the race's final month, and which side undecided voters will ultimately choose, could make a difference in closely fought, senior-heavy swing states like Florida, Iowa and Nevada, which has lately seen a surge in its older population.

So far, each campaign can claim the argument has broken in its favor.

Traditionally on the defensive on entitlements, Republicans have aggressively confronted Obama and the Democratic Party over Medicare in the campaign. The main attack, one Romney echoed effectively in last week's debate with Obama, focused on the argument that the president's health care bill weakened the program for current beneficiaries.

"I can't understand how you can cut Medicare $716 billion for current recipients in Medicare," the former Massachusetts governor said. "Now, you point out, 'Well, we're putting some back, we're going to give a better prescription program.' That's $1 for every $15 you've cut. They're smart enough to know that's not a good trade.

"The idea of cutting $716 billion from Medicare to be able to balance the additional cost of Obamacare is, in my opinion, a mistake."

Though fact-checkers have some problems with it, that argument seems to have been internalized among many Republican-leaning seniors.

It's doubtful the Romney campaign wants to bring up a subject on which, polls show, voters still trust Obama more. But a détente, as seemed to exist for much of September in the presidential race, would be a victory for a party typically on the losing end of the entitlement debate.

Of course, the Obama campaign's new Medicare ad — paired with a spot that criticized Romney's plan to convert Medicaid, a program that funds long-term care for seniors, into block grants to the states — suggests they still see room to attack. The spot is a smart move because of its resonance

with seniors, according to the Democratic operative Campbell. That group, particularly white seniors, leans heavily toward the GOP: 58 percent of them backed presidential nominee John McCain in 2008. But Medicare is the one issue on which they appear to trust Obama more than his Republican counterpart.

"It's seniors he needs, not to win, but to make inroads into Romney's totals," said Campbell, who called Medicare a "still potent" issue. "They're less happy going forward if they're going to make major changes to program like Medicare."

HOUSE LEADERSHIP

House GOP Leadership Looks Stable, Questions Face Dems

House Republicans will hold leadership elections the week following the November elections, a top GOP House leadership aide told *National Journal*, and, assuming Republicans hold onto the majority as expected, the top spots will likely remain unchanged. Less certain are the results of the House Democratic elections, tentatively set for the week of Nov. 11.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi is staying mum on her plans amid speculation that the California Democrat and fundraising powerhouse might retire next spring. A retirement could shake up the entire leadership lineup. Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md., Budget Committee ranking member Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., and Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., are all in the mix for the top spot, the latter two needing to leapfrog not only Hoyer but the No. 3 Democrat, Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn, D-S.C.

The only leadership post certain to be opening up is Democratic Caucus chairman, where Rep. John Larson, D-Conn., is term limited, and Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., looks poised to move up. Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., appears likely to succeed Becerra in the vice chairman's spot.

On the other side of the aisle, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., will likely keep their jobs, an aide said. Up for grabs are chair, vice chair and secretary of the House Republican Conference, chair of the Republican Study Committee and chair of the Republican Policy Committee.

BATTLEGROUND STATES

Virginia, Once Safely Red, Now Calls to Both Candidates

Mitt Romney spent Tuesday in Virginia, his second trip there in five days, sandwiching President Obama's own trip to the state last Friday. The Old Dominion has emerged as one of the most prized of the battleground states. Along with Florida and Ohio, Virginia is the select among the select.

Until recently, Virginia has been anything but a swing state. Until Obama beat Sen. John McCain there in 2008, no Democrat had won the state since Lyndon Johnson's dominant victory in 1964. But demographic evolutions have put Virginia squarely in play for both parties. Northern Virginia has liberalized and, according to the 2010 U.S. Census, the state population is now 17 percent Hispanic.

Adding to the spice this year is a razor-thin Senate election between two political titans. Former governor and senator George Allen and former governor and Democratic National Committee head Tim Kaine are knotted in a tight battle to take the seat being vacated by Democratic Sen. James

Webb. In a *Wall Street Journal*/NBC/Marist poll released last week, Kaine held a 5-point lead, after the survey had shown the two deadlocked a month earlier.

Virginia is a not a must-win for either Romney or Obama, but a victory in the state makes the arithmetic to 270 Electoral College votes significantly easier for both. The same poll gave Obama a 2-point edge, but was taken before both Obama's widely panned debate performance and last Friday's upward-tilting jobs report.

ELECTION 2012

Obama and Allies Approach $1 Billion in Fundraising

The Obama campaign and its allies are within reach of raising $1 billion to reelect the president, after posting a record fundraising total in September.

The campaign announced that it brought in $181 million in September, its best month yet. Mitt Romney's campaign has yet to release its fundraising totals, which will not be made public at the Federal Election Commission until later this month.

The Obama campaign, the Democratic National Committee, the Obama Victory Fund, and the Swing State Victory Fund have raised a combined total of roughly $923 million during the general election. How much the Obama campaign had in the bank at the end of September will not be clear until FEC reports are filed.

What is clear is that fundraising is still in full swing—Obama raised roughly $9.5 million at fundraisers in California last weekend, Politico reported—and that Obama and his allies are likely to surpass the $1 billion mark before Election Day.

The performance stands in stark contrast to the pleading solicitation the Obama campaign has sent to supporters in recent months. "We do not and will not have a billion-dollar war chest," campaign manager Jim Messina wrote in a fundraising e-mail in December.

Obama stands as the most prolific fundraiser in presidential history after his campaign raised roughly $745 million in the 2008 race.

FOREIGN POLICY

Pentagon Sends Troops to Jordan

The United States sent troops to the border between Jordan and Syria this week after the 19-month-old Syrian conflict escalated into shelling between Turkey and Syria, signaling that what had previously been internal strife could spill across borders.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta said on Wednesday that the U.S. had been working with Jordan to monitor Syria's chemical- and biological-weapons development, and that troops were working to build headquarters along the border and helping to deal with Syrian refugees.

Domestically, the political risks are high for President Obama. Mitt Romney has pounded him over his handling of Middle Eastern affairs, blaming him for insufficient aggression, but the public has wearied of overseas entanglements.

"As we've said before, we have been planning for various contingencies, both unilaterally and with our regional partners," Pentagon press secretary George Little said in a written statement. "There are various scenarios in which the Assad regime's reprehensible actions could affect our partners in the region. For this reason and many others, we are always working on our contingency planning, for which we consult with our friends."

ENERGY

Commerce Backs Tariffs on Chinese Solar Imports

The Commerce Department on Wednesday issued its final ruling in a case charging Chinese solar-panel firms with illegal trade practices, slapping Chinese producers with hefty countervailing, or anti-subsidy, tariffs from 14.78 to 15.97 percent and anti-dumping tariffs from 18.32 to 250 percent, *National Journal's* Olga Belogolova reports.

The anti-subsidy tariffs represent a significant increase from preliminary duties announced in March ranging from 2.9 to 4.73 percent. The anti-dumping tariffs, however, remained largely the same as preliminary determinations issued in late May, which ranged from 31 to 250 percent. The anti-dumping duties went down for Chinese solar firm Trina Solar and were specified at 25.96 percent for other companies that requested individual duty determinations.

Although Commerce finalized the tariffs, it did not expand the scope of the duties to include products manufactured in other countries but made with Chinese materials. Petitioners in the case, which included domestic manufacturers, as well as several Democratic lawmakers had been hoping that Commerce would close what they call a "loophole" for Chinese solar firms. In late September, eight Democratic senators and representatives led by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and House Ways and Means Committee ranking member Sander Levin, D-Mich., asked the Commerce Department to expand the scope of its duties, writing that the purpose of the trade enforcement laws "will be thwarted if foreign producers can simply outsource a small part of their production in third countries to avoid duties."

Although Commerce has now issued its final ruling, the U.S. International Trade Commission has the ultimate say on whether the tariffs will take effect. The ITC is expected to decide in November—very likely after the Nov. 6 election—whether Chinese imports are indeed harming U.S. manufacturers. But many expect the ITC's decision to fall in line with a preliminary ruling last year, when the six-member commission unanimously agreed that Chinese practices are materially injuring the domestic solar manufacturing industry.

TECHNOLOGY

Committee Blasts Chinese Telecom Firms; Firms Fight Back

The Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei lashed out on Monday over a congressional report that accused Chinese companies of undermining American cybersecurity, *National Journal's* Josh Smith wrote.

Huawei executive William Plummer called the House Intelligence Committee's investigation a "political distraction" and the subsequent report a "tired rehash of innuendo" that "willfully ignored" technical and commercial realities.

"While the report that was issued today is quite strong on rhetoric it is utterly lacking in substance," he said on a conference call with reporters on Monday. "Huawei unequivocally denies the allegations in the report."

House Intelligence Chairman Michael Mike Rogers, R-Mich., said on Monday that investigators could come to no other conclusion than that Chinese telecommunications companies like Huawei and ZTE pose threats to national security and should be avoided by American companies and government agencies alike.

Rogers and the committee's ranking member, Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md., formally unveiled the report on Monday that accuses the two companies of hiding their links to the Chinese government and potentially undermining the security of U.S. computer and communications networks.

As reported on Sunday, the unclassified report stops short of specifically identifying examples of cyber espionage by the companies, but Rogers said Huawei and ZTE were unable or unwilling to prove that their products and services wouldn't be used to spy on or attack U.S. networks.

"As this report shows, we have serious concerns about Huawei and ZTE, and their connection to the communist government of China," Rogers said. "China is known to be the major perpetrator of cyberespionage, and Huawei and ZTE failed to alleviate serious concerns throughout this important investigation."

Must-Read Stories This Week ...

A weekly collection of noteworthy articles.

The Patent, Used as a Sword
Last year, Google and Apple spent more on purchasing patents and fighting patent lawsuits than on research and development. The current patent system is better suited to Edison's light bulb than Apple's iPhone, report *The New York Times*' Charles Duhigg and Steve Lohr, and consumers are suffering from the broad protections it offers the first person to claim rights even to vague concepts.

Goldman Turns Tables on Obama Campaign
Balking at increased regulation and perceived personal attacks, Goldman Sachs employees have gone in four years from Obama's biggest financial supporters to the biggest backers of his defeat. According to an analysis by *The Wall Street Journal*'s Liz Rappaport and Brody Mullins, it's the most abrupt reversal in the history of campaign finance, leaving Democrats bereft of their most significant financial ally of the past quarter-century.

Vote Obamney
When you get down to the specifics of Obama and Romney's economic policies, the disagreement is mostly in the details. This presidential race, writes *The New York Times*' Adam Davidson, stands testament to a broad economic consensus the country has reached after an early history of radical disagreement.

America's Flimsy Case Against China's Huawei and ZTE
A report from the House Intelligence Committee on Monday warns that allowing Chinese telecoms ZTE and Huawei to continue operating in the U.S. could create intelligence liabilities. But *Quartz*'s Lily Kuo points to a lack of positive proof of espionage, and argues that fears are overblown.

A Home at the End of Google Earth
As a 5-year-old, Saroo Munshi Khan became separated from his family at a train station in India and, not knowing the name of his hometown, began a new life on the streets of Calcutta. As an adult in Australia, reports *Vanity Fair*'s David Kushner, Khan was able to use Google Earth and some clever problem-solving to locate his home and reunite with his family.

If Only T. Boone Pickens Had Died
Billionaire oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens' idea to have Oklahoma State University take out $10 million insurance policies on his life and those of 27 other elderly alums was so crazy it might just have worked. But it didn't. The school, reports *Bloomberg Businessweek*'s Caleb Hannan, could not pay its premiums and is now stuck with millions in bills and without any hope of receiving the promised windfall.

The CIA Burglar Who Went Rogue
In 1990, Doug Groat was sent on nearly botched a mission for "the Shop," the secret CIA unit that stole codes from other countries. As *Smithsonian*'s David Wise reports, Groat's attempt to blow the whistle on the mission's shoddy prep work put him on a collision course with his employer that has led him to six months in a windowless cell and four years in federal prison.

The Case Against Parasitic Baby Boomers
Baby boomers have lived during a period of unparalleled growth, fueled by cheap fossil fuels and borrowing, while leaving a bleaker economic future for generations X, Y, and Z. Vacationing at the family home in Oregon, *National Journal*'s Jim Tankersley makes the case against the baby boomers while his attorney father, Tom, mounts the defense.

Behind Enemy Lines With a Suburban Counterterrorist
With the help of Google Translate, Shannen Rossmiller, a suburban mother in Montana, has led authorities to Taliban operatives in Afghanistan and wannabe terrorists in the U.S., among others. *Wired*'s Jack Hitt observes the amateur terrorist-hunter in action, and describes her gift for gaining the trust of Jihadists online.