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Hamburger Mary's In Orlando Sues To Stop Florida's New Anti-Drag Law

The burger joint is known for its Sunday drag brunches.



By Sara Boboltz

May 23, 2023, 01:49 PM EDT

A Florida burger joint known for its drag shows is asking a federal court to halt enforcement of the new anti-drag bill signed into law by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) last week, alleging that it violates the First Amendment.

Hamburger Mary's in Orlando has been hosting family-friendly drag shows on Sundays for 15 years, just like it does at other locations around Texas, Colorado, California and other states.

But the restaurant's owners say that in the wake of the law, it has been forced to tell its Florida customers that children will not be permitted to attend any of the drag shows. The new law bans anyone under 18 from attending "adult live performances." The state can impose an array of penalties, including fines of \$10,000 and the revocation of business licenses.

“The establishment ... simply cannot take the chance that their business or liquor licenses would be suspended for hosting a drag show where children attend,” reads the complaint, filed Monday.

A whopping 20% of Hamburger Mary’s bookings were canceled this past Sunday, according to the suit.

The owners argue that the new law’s phrasing unconstitutionally infringes upon free speech, stating: “The language used in the statute is meant to be and is primarily vague and indistinct.”

The complaint pointed to one passage of the law in particular that describes an “adult live performance” as an event that is “patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community of this state as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for the age of the child present.”

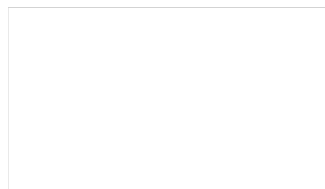
“The inclusion of ‘community standards’ ... requires the most restrictive and conservative state’s community standards in order to avoid criminal liability,” the suit read, noting that the phrasing of “community standards” has been found to be “unconstitutionally overbroad” in the past.

“The State seeks to explicitly restrict or chill speech and expression protected by the First Amendment based on its content, its message and its messenger,” said the document, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

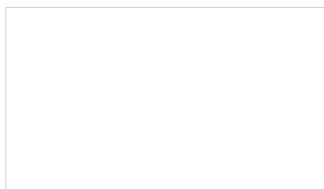
Hamburger Mary’s got its start in 1972 in San Francisco, where it became a mainstay for the LGBTQ community, and has grown to be a small national chain, according to [its website](#).

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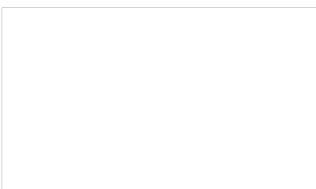
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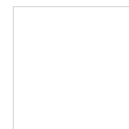
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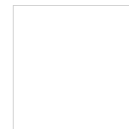
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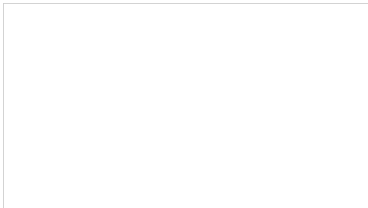
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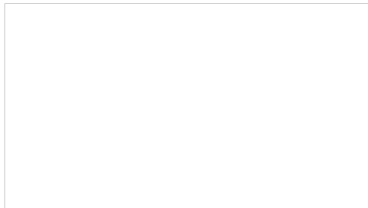
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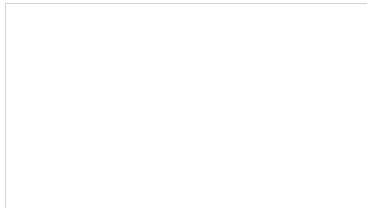
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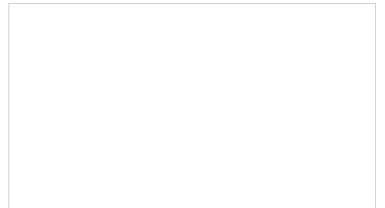
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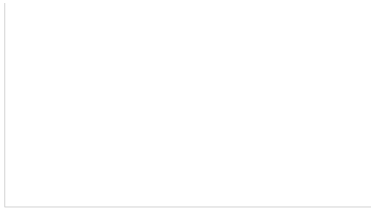


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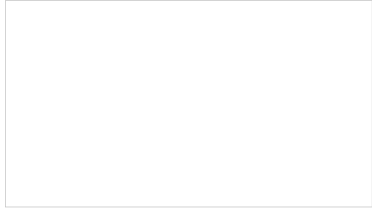
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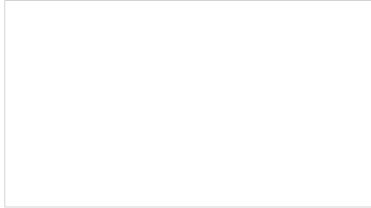
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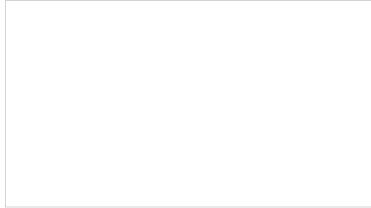
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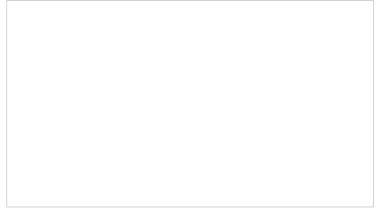
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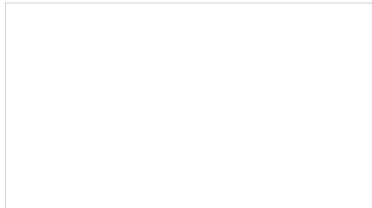
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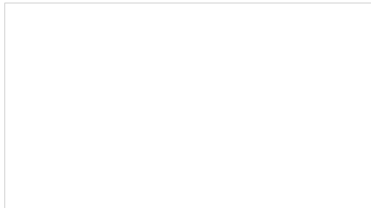
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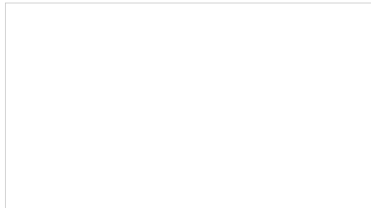
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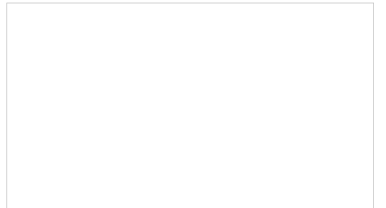
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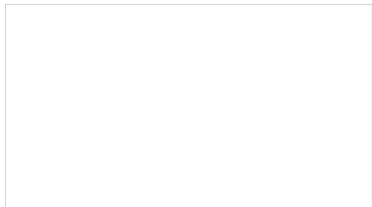
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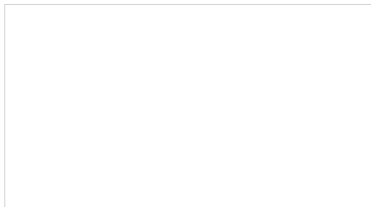
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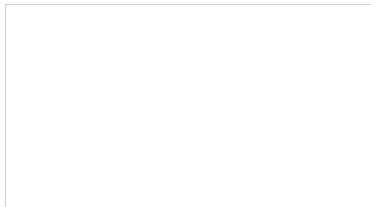
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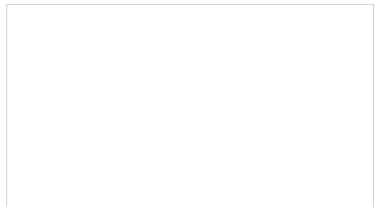
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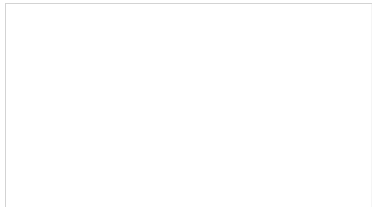
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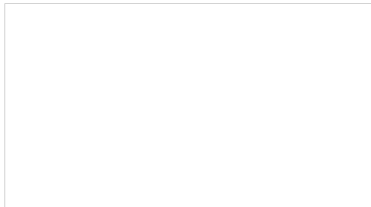
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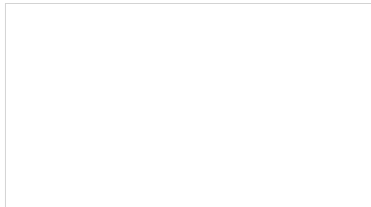
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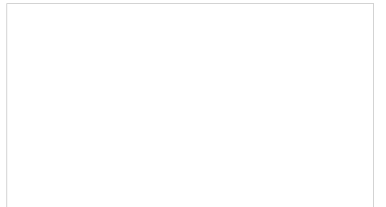
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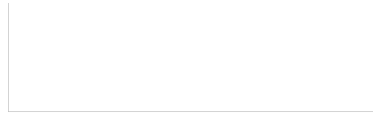


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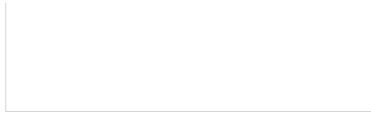


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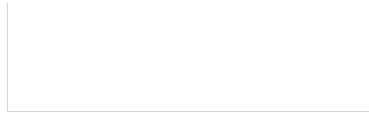




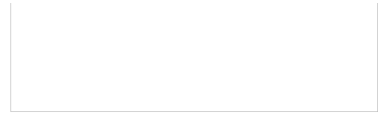
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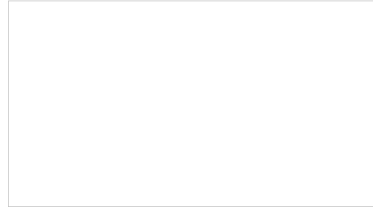
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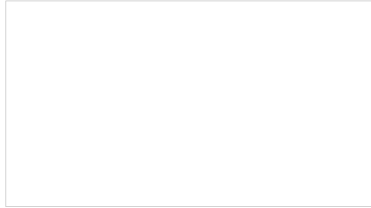
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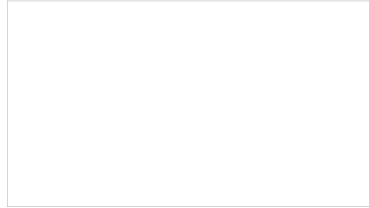
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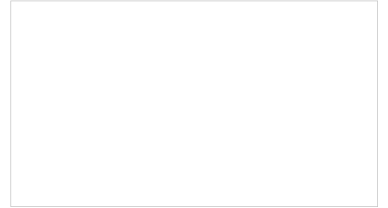
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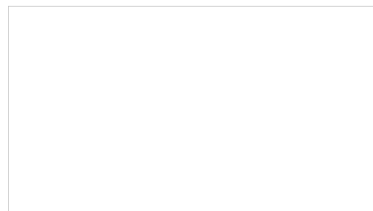
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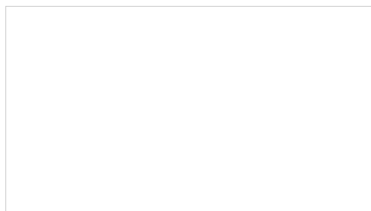
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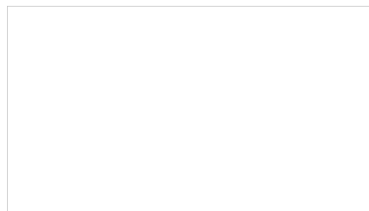
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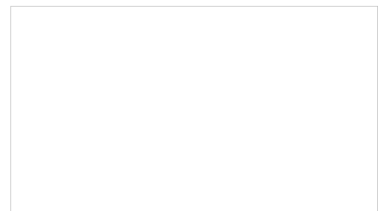
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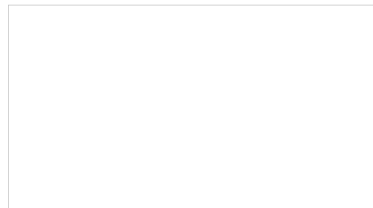
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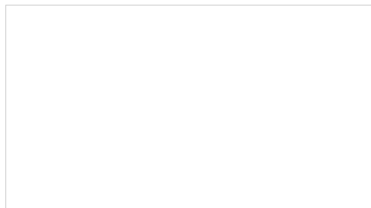
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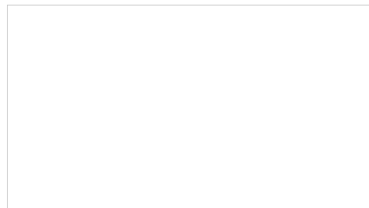
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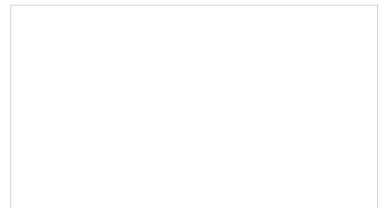
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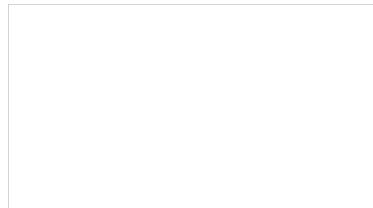
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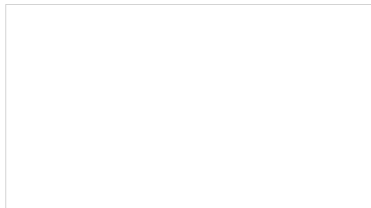
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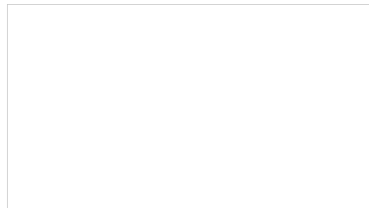
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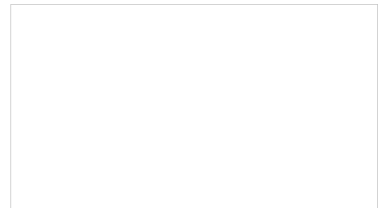
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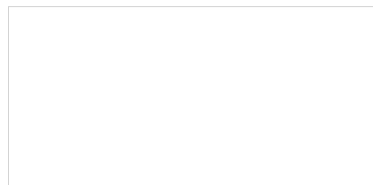
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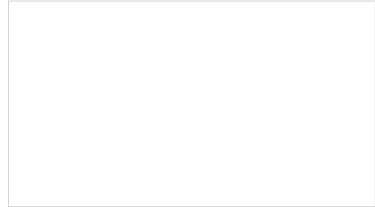
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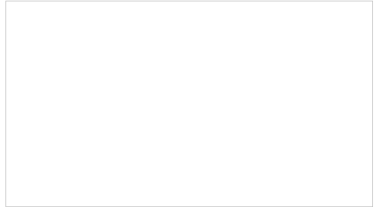
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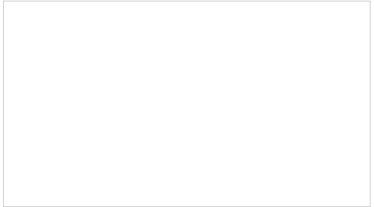
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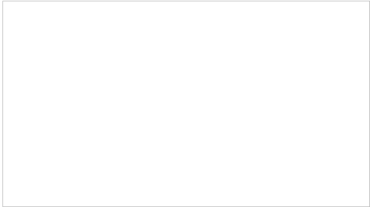
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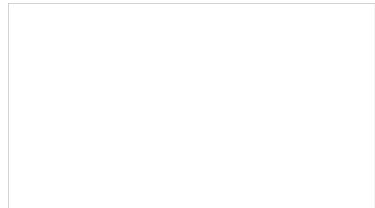
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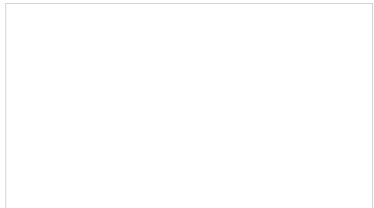
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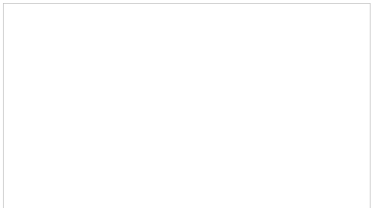
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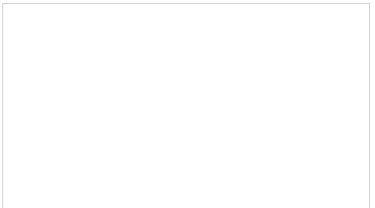
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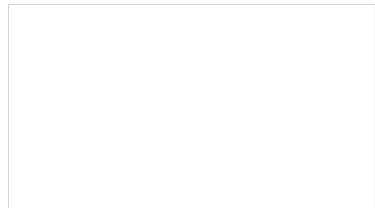
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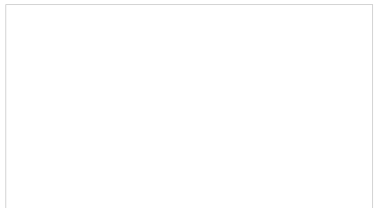
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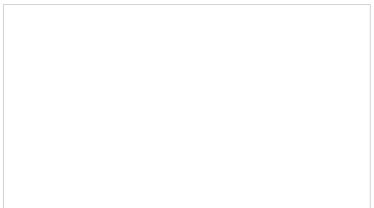
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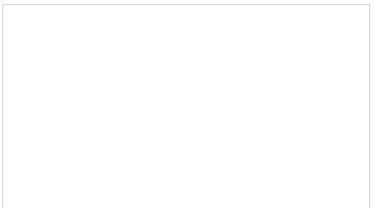
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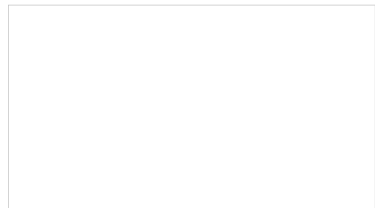
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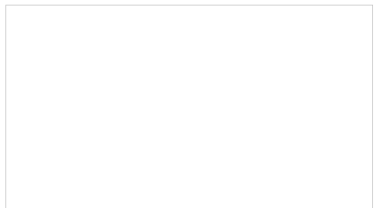
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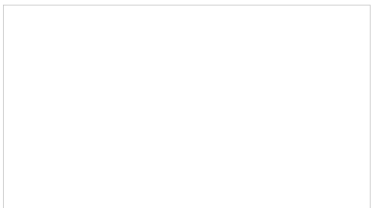
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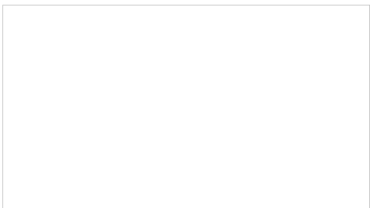
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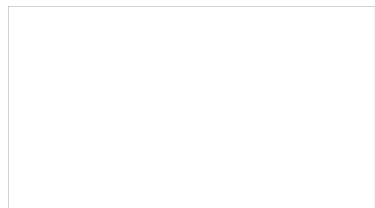
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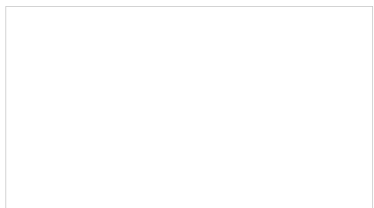
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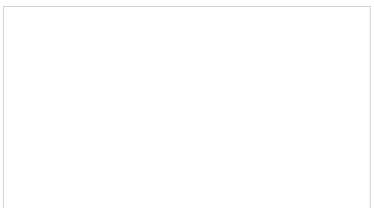
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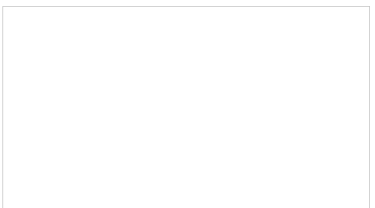
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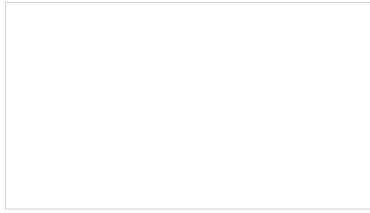


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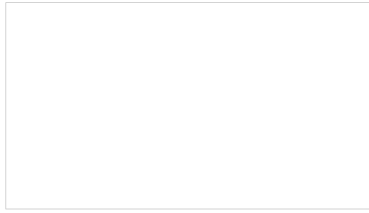


Democratic Sen. Tom Carper To Retire In 2024

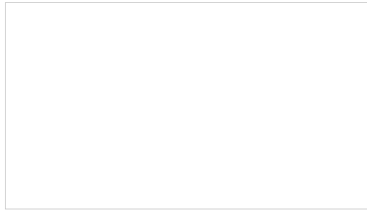
Trump In 2024



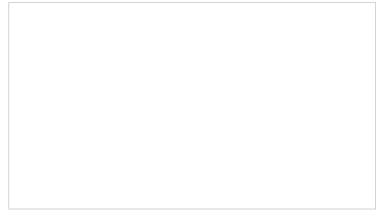
Janet Yellen Says June 1 Remains 'Hard Deadline' For Congress To Raise Debt Limit



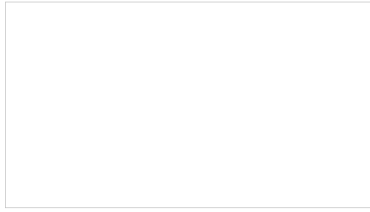
Dem Points Out The 'Farce' Of Republicans' Demands Amid Debt Ceiling Talks



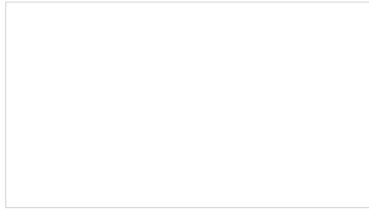
GOP Strategist Flips Chris Christie's Trump Vow Back At Him



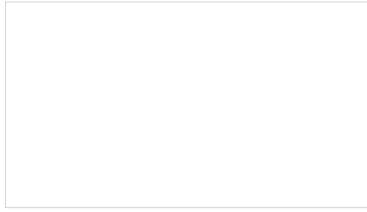
Tuberville Draws Fire For Holding Hundreds Of Military Promotions 'Hostage' Over Abortion



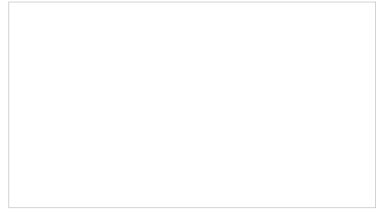
Ex-RNC Chair Ridicules Jim Jordan With Cold 'Reality' Of Weaponization Claims



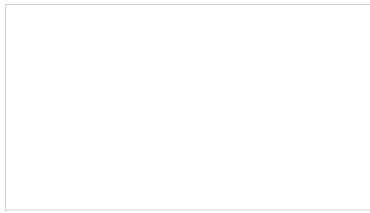
Former Florida GOP Rep. Considers Drastic Move Because Of Ron DeSantis



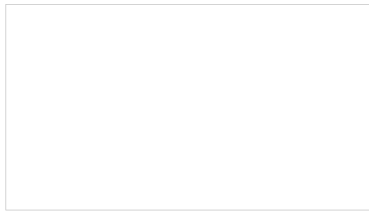
Ex-White House Lawyer Says Evidence Is Stacked Against Trump In Documents Case



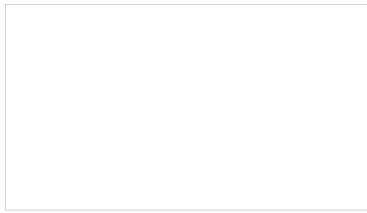
GOP Senator Thinks Trump Can't Win A General Election For President



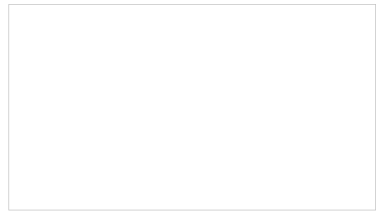
NAACP Warns Against Travel To Florida Over DeSantis' 'Openly Hostile' Politics



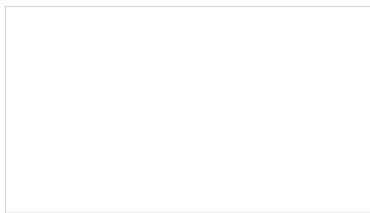
Biden, McCarthy To Meet Monday For Debt Limit Talks



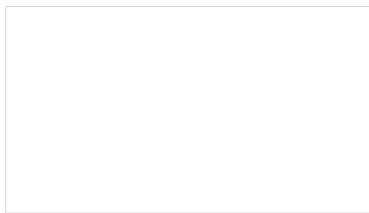
If Trump 'Finished' His Wall Like He Claims, How Are So Many Migrants Still Crossing?



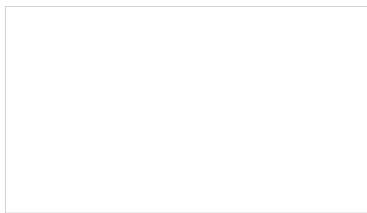
Ron DeSantis Is About To Run For President. Andrew Warren Has A Warning.



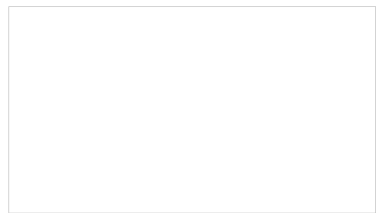
North Carolina's Dem Governor Lambastes Republicans Over 12-Week Abortion Ban



Lawyer Who Quit Trump Legal Team Cites Disagreements With Trump Adviser As Basis For Departure



Another Florida Pride Event Canceled As Other Organizers Dig Their Heels In



George Santos Names Himself Treasurer Of His Campaign



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