



Becca Rotenberg 23 hrs ago

## This robot chef is learning to make pizza



*Bruno Siciliano and Prisma Lab*

Robotic Dynamic Manipulation, known as RoDyMan, could soon become the first robot chef to make a pizza, Scientific American reports. Currently, the robot is learning to toss and knead the dough.

**To teach the robot,** master pizza chef Enzo Coccia wore a suit of movement-tracking sensors to

analyze movements that RoDyMan tries to mimic. The robot is equipped with visual sensors to follow the dough in real time, and map its position as it's tossed in the air. Professor Bruno Siciliano, who has been working on the robot for five years, hopes that with practice it will be able to hold and handle the pizza as a chef would.

The main goal for RoDyMan is eventually "to emulate a chef's agility and dexterity with the best performing mobile bimanual robot system," Siciliano told Axios. RoDyMan will debut at the Naples pizza festival in May 2018.

 FUTURE OF WORK



Mike Allen 5 hrs ago

FEATURED

## Silicon Valley could be next target for Trump-style nationalism

Manuel Balce Ceneta / AP

As tech royalty converges on the White House today for an American Technology Council meeting, the darlings of Silicon Valley are in danger of becoming the devils of Trumpism's nationalist wing.

This won't happen overnight, but danger signs are everywhere.

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 POLITICS



 Amy Harder 7 hrs ago

COLUMN / HARDER LINE

## What Trump gets wrong about coal, natural gas and carbon





Rebecca Zisser / Axios

The closest thing President Trump has to a climate and energy policy is actually a collection of contradictions.

He touts natural gas as a carbon-cutting mechanism, but he also promises to bring back the carbon-emitting coal industry. He talks about "clean coal," but his actions will make it harder for "clean coal" technology to make any headway.

**Why it matters:** Misleading statements are nothing new in Washington. But these contradictions are becoming the Trump administration's core policy framework. Top officials, including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt have over the last couple of weeks repeatedly pushed these contradictory positions, so let's take a closer look at them.

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Alayna Treene 16 mins ago

## Meet Jay Sekulow, Trump's TV lawyer



Steve Helber / AP

Jay Sekulow, a member of President Trump's legal team, raised eyebrows Sunday as he hopped from network to network defending Trump against reports that he's under investigation for obstruction of justice, until he fumbled while being interrogated by Fox News' Chris Wallace, and admitted he doesn't know for sure what Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller is investigating.

That misstep was not due to inexperience on TV — Sekulow regularly appears as a legal analyst on Fox News Channel, The 700 Club, and Sean Hannity's radio show. Sekulow has grown famous for his work with the religious-right, such as in his defense of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ).

**Expect to see a lot more of Sekulow**, who has essentially stood in for members of the administration on the Sunday shows for two weeks running.

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Becca Rotenberg 21 mins ago

## The key points from Megyn Kelly's Alex Jones interview



John Minchillo/ Evan Agostini/Invision/AP

Despite backlash and controversy, right-wing personality and Infowars founder, Alex Jones, was interviewed on last night's Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly. Here's what you missed:

- Kelly pushed Jones on his controversial response to the Manchester attack, which Jones defended arguing that the media clipped his response, and that he wasn't aware of who the victims were when he said it.
- Jones wouldn't say how many times the President has called him, but called their relationship "friendly."
- "I was going into devil's advocate," Jones in regards to his Sandy Hook conspiracy theory, and he continued to stand behind his statements.
-

- Kelly addressed the real life implications from Infowars promoting fake stories from the Pizzagate scandal to the death threats parents of Sandy book victims have received.

Watch the full interview, [here](#).

 POLITICS




Dan Primack 1 hr ago

## Online mattress retailer Casper raises \$170 million

Casper, a New York-based direct-to-consumer bedding products retailer, has raised \$170 million in Series C funding. Target Corp. led the round, after reportedly having been in earlier talks to acquire Casper outright. Other investors include Tresalia Capital, Lerer Hippeau Ventures, Norwest Venture Partners, Institutional Venture Partners, NEA, Irving Capital and individual angels like 50 Cent, Kevin Spacey, Carmelo Anthony and Andre Iguodala.

**Why it matters:** Because it's the latest example of the rapidly converging e-commerce and physical retail worlds, following last Friday's Amazon/Whole Foods and Walmart/Bonobos deals. For Casper, it's about gaining consumer visibility. For Target, it's about better understanding direct-to-consumer selling via digital.

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 TECHNOLOGY





Axios 1 hr ago

## Supreme Court to hear gerrymandering case



J. Scott Applewhite / AP

The Supreme Court announced Monday that it will take up a case involving partisan redistricting in the state of Wisconsin.

- **Background, from the Washington Post:** "The court accepted a case from Wisconsin, where a divided panel of three federal judges last year ruled that the state's Republican leadership in 2011 pushed through a plan so partisan that it violated the Constitution's First Amendment and equal rights protections."
- **Why it matters:** "[T]he Supreme Court has never found a plan unconstitutional because of partisan gerrymandering. If it does, it would have a revolutionary impact on the reapportionment that comes after the 2020 election..."





Alayna Treene 2 hrs ago

## Russia threatens U.S. after Syrian jet shot down



Olga Balashova / AP

Russia's defense ministry said Monday that it will treat U.S.-led coalition planes west of the Euphrates in Syria as targets after the U.S. downed a Syrian jet over the weekend, bringing an end to the agreement between the U.S. and Moscow, reports FT.

**The no-fly zone demanded by Russia:** Key cities like Aleppo and Damascus would be out of bounds for coalition aircraft. Most Kurdish and ISIS territory would not. (Go deeper with this map by Axios' Lazaro Gamio.)

**Why it matters:** The incident is the first time the U.S.-led coalition has shot down a Syrian plane since the beginning of the country's civil war six years ago. Moscow denounced the action as a violation of international law and has reportedly suspended its incident-prevention hotline with the U.S. in Syria in retaliation, per AFP.

 POLITICS



Axios 2 hrs ago

## North Korea, "the worst problem on Earth"



Wong Maye-E / AP

This Atlantic cover story (*online soon*) by Mark Bowden, author of "Black Hawk Down" and the new "Hué 1968," gives us some new baseline thoughts about the dilemma North Korea poses for

the U.S.:

- "Thirty minutes. That's how long it would take a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launched from North Korea to reach Los Angeles."
- "Even failed tests move North Korea closer to its goal possessing nuclear weapons capable of hitting U.S. cities."
- "Kim [Jong-un] may end up trapped in the circular logic of his strategy. He seeks to avoid destruction by building a weapon that, if used, assures his destruction."
- "Every option the United State has for dealing with North Korea is bad."
- "An American first strike would likely trigger one of the worst mass killings in human history."
- "Would the U.S. sacrifice Los Angeles to save Seoul?"

 POLITICS



Alayna Treene 4 hrs ago

## Death toll from London fire rises to 79





Matt Dunham / AP

London police said Monday that 79 people are now believed to be dead or are missing and presumed dead after the fire in the 24-story Grenfell Tower in London, reports The Telegraph. Police Commander Stuart Cundy said that so far only five of those people have been formally identified.

*It has been "incredibly emotional working in there" said Cundy. "On Saturday I went in myself and went to the top floor, and it is incredibly hard to describe the devastation in some parts of that building."*

**Next steps:** Cundy said authorities will continue to investigate whether the building's new exterior cladding was in violation of U.K. building regulations, as the paneling may be responsible for quickly spreading the flames. Meanwhile, the government will give those left homeless by the fire at least £5,500 from a £5 million emergency fund announced by Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday.

 POLITICS



Lazaro Gamio 6 hrs ago

## The incredible shrinking Islamic State

This map shows the fading fortunes of the Islamic State as it has been beaten back on multiple fronts over the past two years. It's based on data collected by analysts at IHS Markit Conflict Monitor, a service that gathers open-source intelligence on the fighting in Syria and Iraq.

Holits Aleppo Raqqa May Deir al Zor 1.5 Ramadan Mosul Kirkuk Baghdad  
Damascus SYRIA IRAQ

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Jonathan Swan, Amy Harder 7 hrs ago

## Scoop: Jeff Holmstead expected to be #2 at EPA



Jeff Holmstead, a former top EPA official under President George W. Bush, is expected to be appointed as the No. 2 official at the EPA, according to two sources familiar with the decision-making process.

Holmstead, now a partner at law and lobbying firm Bracewell, is the last man standing for the deputy administrator post. EPA chief Scott Pruitt has met with him and likes him, and the White House recommended him so he's an easy pass from that end. No final decision has been made, but there is no other serious contender for the job at this moment. Other contenders, including coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler, have been cast aside, according to a source with direct knowledge.

**Why it matters:** If Holmstead is nominated, it would represent a moderating tilt inside the agency's leadership. Holmstead is a veteran Washington insider and considered a more moderate official compared to many elected Republicans today, and compared to some top advisers in EPA

now.

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David Nather, Lazaro Gamio 7 hrs ago

## The disappearing ACA insurance market

We've all heard about the insurers that are pulling out of Affordable Care Act marketplaces, but sometimes you have to see it to really get it. This map is based on data from the Kaiser Family Foundation for the first four years of the ACA marketplaces. You can really see the difference in 2017, when high-profile insurance exits left 21 percent of all ACA customers with only one insurer in their area.

Number of insurers in marketplace



Data: Kaiser Family Foundation; Map: Lazaro Gamio / Axios

**For context:** This doesn't even count 2018, when there could be as many as 47 counties with no insurer at all. We'll have a better idea after this week's filing deadline, of course.

**Why it matters:** There are definite signs that the Trump administration's opposition to the ACA is hurting the marketplace for next year, as we wrote on Friday. But it's important to remember what was happening before the administration ever took office.

 HEALTH CARE

