

Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump react during a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, June 6, 2019. REUTERS/Christian Hartmann TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron look to flypasts in the Normandy American Cemetery to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, Normandy, France, June 6, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump greets a WWII veteran during the commemoration ceremony for the 75th anniversary of D-Day at the American cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer in Normandy, France, June 6, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A demonstrator performs as she takes part in a rally during a teachers' national strike against the government in demand of better working conditions, in Santiago, Chile June 6, 2019. REUTERS/Rodrigo Garrido TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman sits in front of the gravestone of a family member who died for the country on Korean Memorial Day at the National Cemetery in Seoul



U.S. President Donald Trump's sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr. visit a local pub in Doonbeg village



Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen of the Liberal Party reacts during a speech after the election results at Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen



Sailors stand to attention on board HMS Queen Elizabeth, as they wait for the MV Boudicca to leave the harbour in Portsmouth

Is The Future Of The Burger Vegan?



Actresses Dorothy Sebastian and Joan Crawford, 1925. (Photo/Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone/Getty)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

From every direction, the underpinnings of everyday life are under challenge — from the jobs Americans once held, to the allies we once embraced, to the decorum we tightly observed. Now, it's the hamburger — the very-nearly patriotic staple of every childhood and backyard barbecue — that's under threat.

What's happening: Last week, McDonald's became the latest major fast-food chain to serve plant-based burgers, saying it will test the "Big Vegan TS" in Germany. By the end of the year, such "non-meat burgers" will be in 7,200 Burger Kings, 1,000 Carl's Jrs., and hundreds of other fast-food joints.

•That's a lot of "imposter" burgers, as George Motz, one of the world's premier hamburger experts, calls the boom in laboratory-invented burgers. "If the next generation embraces these 100%, we will lose a sense of what a real burger should be. They are getting away from the real thing."

The big picture: The hamburger goes back to a surge of German immigrants in the 1800s. When they arrived in the U.S., they brought with them a standard cuisine — chopped meat on a plate, with

gravy. In the U.S., it morphed into the Hamburg Steak, a meatball-size dollop of beef between two slices of bread.

•In the decades since, each state and region of the country has made its own twist on the burger. Similar adjustments have happened as the burger has traveled to seemingly every country in the world.

•Now, the international community is embracing the gourmet burger at places like Smashburger, Shake Shack and Five Guys.



The original McDonald's Museum

It may seem like people are eating less and less red meat, but that impression holds only if you compare now with the hamburger's peak years. Beef-eating crashed along with the U.S. economy starting in 2008, but has picked up fitfully year by year and is back up to the equivalent of 229 burgers a year, or 4.4 burgers a week, according to the U.S.

Agriculture Department. It's a global phenomenon — from 2007-2017, the world consumed an average of 1.9% more meat each year, the Economist reports.

The somewhat jarring arrival of faux beef burgers is part of an unlikely shake-up of the country's cultural bedrock:

•There is a potential shift away from gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs to quiet electrics.

•American football — versus the international version — is losing its cachet, as teens — their parents worried about permanent injury — drop the sport. More broadly, we have seen the near-demise of the traditional pickup game of basketball (along with street baseball and touch football).

•"Americans are intensely proud of their hamburger heritage. It's one of the only American food inventions in the last 100 years," Motz tells Axios. "Now we have invented the fake hamburger."

The burger is bigger than you might think: Motz, a Brooklyn filmmaker, has built a new globe-trotting career around his expertise with hamburgers, including a movie and four books (last year, he published "Hamburger America").



The first Whataburger

•Brazilians, he says, are absolutely crazy about burgers — he says he is soon traveling to Sao Paolo to demonstrate how to grill a better burger. Then he is on his way to do the same in Copenhagen and Paris, where he is to appear at Holybelly, a diner. "I have more Instagram followers in Buenos Aires and Sao Paolo than

in New York City."

•In the U.S., journalists are positioning the burger in the long culture war, with Republicans placing themselves on the side of beef-eating and suggesting that Democrats "want to kill all the cows." In February, Sebastian Gorka, the acerbic former Trump administration official, equated such thoughts with Stalinism.

Motz feels certain that, even if faux beef is taken up by lots of Americans, it will be only when they feel guilty for environmental reasons, such as the contribution of cows to climate change.

•Even millennials, the killers of mayonnaise, cheddar cheese and other American staples of bad eating, haven't — and won't — abandon the burger, he is certain.

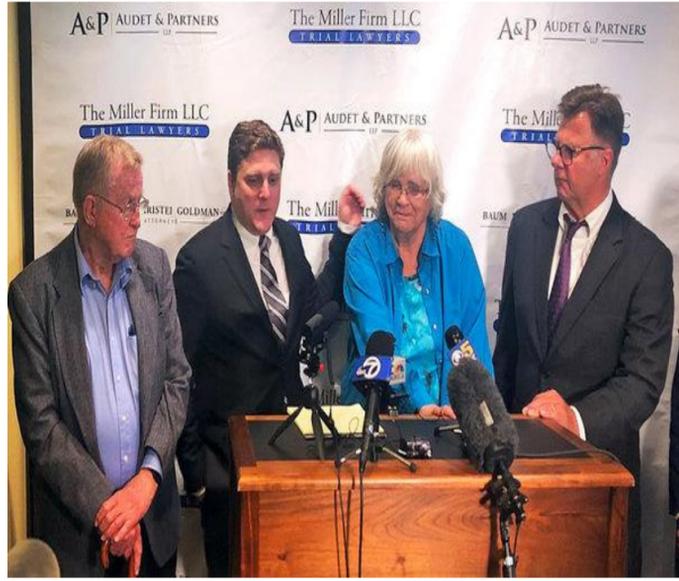
•"Millennials require not just food but a story behind it. They have to have context." Such as nostalgia, which the burger has. (Courtesy axios.com)

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Conventional-Gas Station	SBA Loan-Motel
Loan Amount: \$1,880,000 Term: 20 Years Straight payout Purpose: Purchasing	Loan Amount: \$2,500,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Construction/Term Start Up
Conventional: Retail Condominiums	Conventional: Gas Stations
Loan Amount: \$4,350,000 Term: 8 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Tenant Improvement/ Term CRE Investor Program	Loan Amount: \$3,450,000 (Total 2 Loans) Term: 20 Years straight payout Purpose: Refinance & Extra Equity for Gas Stations purchasing
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Thousands Are Suing Monsanto Over The Weedkiller Roundup

Jury Returns \$2 Billion Verdict Against Monsanto For Couple With Cancer



Alva Pilliod, left, and Alberta Pilliod, third from left, with their lawyers after a jury ordered Monsanto to pay the Pilliods \$2 billion in damages. (Photo/Associated Press)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

(CNN) A jury handed an unparalleled \$2.055 billion verdict in favor of a couple in California who say their cancer was caused by long-term exposure to Monsanto's popular weed killer Roundup, according to the plaintiffs' attorneys.

The jury, in state court in Alameda County, reached its verdict two months after a federal jury in San Francisco awarded \$80 million to a man who claimed that Roundup had caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In August, a state court in San Francisco found that Roundup had caused the cancer of a school groundskeeper, awarding him \$289 million. A judge reduced that figure to \$78 million. That verdict is being appealed. The septuagenarian plaintiffs, Alva and Alberta Pilliod, used Roundup on their Northern California property for decades. In 2011, Mr. Pilliod, now 76, was given a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In 2015, his wife, who is 74, learned she had

the same disease.

The verdict in Oakland includes more than \$55 million in compensatory damages to the couple and \$2 billion in punitive damages, a statement said.



Monsanto and thousands of plaintiffs are at odds over whether Roundup weedkiller can cause cancer.

The Pilliods' lawyer, R. Brent Wisner, argued in court that a billion-dollar judgment would send a message to the chemical gi-

ant. He based the amount of punitive damages, \$1 billion for each of the Pilliods, on what he said was Roundup's annual profit: \$892 million in 2017.

After the verdict, Mr. Wisner said in a statement, "The jury saw for themselves internal company documents demonstrating that, from Day 1, Monsanto has never had any interest in finding out whether Roundup is safe."

The verdict "is as clear of a statement as you can get that they need to change what they're doing," one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, Brent Wisner, told reporters Monday. It follows several recent losses the company has faced in court concerning Roundup. Thousands of similar cases are pending at the federal or state level.

Another lawyer for the couple, Michael Miller, said homeowners like the Pilliods were more at risk than professional gardeners because they were never told to wear any protective gloves or clothing.

A Bayer spokesman, Chris Loder, said in an interview, "Bayer believes the punitive verdict is excessive and unjustifiable."



A California jury handed an unparalleled \$2.055 billion verdict in favor of Alva Pilliod, left, and Alberta Pilliod, right, who said their cancer was caused by long-term exposure to Monsanto's popular weed killer Roundup.

The active ingredient in the herbicide, glyphosate, is the world's most widely used weed killer. Bayer has repeatedly declared that the chemical is safe, saying health regulators worldwide have come to the same conclusion.

"We have great sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Pilliod," Bayer said in a statement, but "there is not reliable scientific evidence" to conclude the herbicide was the culprit.

"Bayer is disappointed with the jury's decision and will appeal the verdict in this case," it said in a statement after Monday's verdict. Appearing with her husband at a brief news conference after the trial, Ms. Pilliod said, "We can't do the things we used to be able to do, and we really resent Monsanto for that fact."

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency issued an interim review that said the agency "continues to find that there are no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen."

Bayer's stock has taken a beating since the jury verdicts started coming in last summer, losing billions of dollars in value. Shares have fallen roughly 40 percent since Bayer completed its purchase of Monsanto in June.



Bayer, the parent company of Monsanto, insists that glyphosate -- the key ingredient in Roundup -- is safe.

Thousands of additional lawsuits against Monsanto, which Bayer acquired last year, are queued up in state and federal courts.

Bayer said the jury was presented with "cherry-picked findings" inconsistent with a statement last month by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which announced that glyphosate was not a carcinogen and posed no public health risk when used as directed.

"The contrast between today's verdict and EPA's conclusion that there are 'no risks to public health from the current registered uses of glyphosate' could not be more stark," Bayer said.

However, not all groups have mirrored the EPA's announcement. Cases like the Pilliods' surged after a World Health Organization report in 2015 suggested that glypho-

sate might cause cancer.

The report, by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer, said glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." Bayer's statement on Monday said the plaintiffs "relied heavily" on the agency's 2015 assessment but called it "an outlier among international health regulators and scientific bodies."

Most lymphoma cases have no known cause, according to the American Cancer Society.



There have also been concerns about whether Monsanto has had undue influence over regulators, with internal company documents playing a key role in Monday's verdict, according to the plaintiffs' lawyers.

In the statement, Michael Miller, another of the Pilliods' lawyers, said their case is different from two previous Monsanto trials "where the judges severely limited the amount of plaintiffs' evidence." He said the jury was shown a "mountain of evidence showing Monsanto's manipulation of science, the media and regulatory agencies to forward their own agenda."

Wisner said Monday that this evidence included emails and text messages between Monsanto and EPA officials.

A Monsanto spokeswoman previously denied that the company had ever paid, given gifts to or done anything else to curry favor with anyone from the EPA.

"This is going to continue until Monsanto and now Bayer takes responsibility for its product," Wisner said.

"This is not the end of this litigation," he said. "This is the beginning." (Courtesy cnn.com)

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