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Phase 1 commodity targets likely more than China can chew: analysts



**Inside C2** 

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# 'I'm happy he did it' - in Beirut, wife of fugitive Ghosn slams Japanese justice



Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn and his wife Carole Ghosn pose for a picture after an exclusive interview with Reuters in Beirut, Lebanon January 14, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Carlos and Carole Ghosn, the former first couple of carmaker Nissan, are united again in Beirut. They hold hands in the street and whisper together in a mix of Arabic and French. They kiss.

But the pair's most visceral display of unity comes when they talk about Carlos Ghosn's former home.

"I'm done with Japan," said Carole Ghosn in an interview with her husband in a private house in Beirut.

### RELATED COVERAGE

Ex-Nissan boss Ghosn says French envoy told him of inside plot

Two weeks ago, Carlos Ghosn made a dramatic escape from house arrest in Japan, where he was awaiting trial on charges of under-reporting earnings, breach of trust and misappropriation of company funds. He denies all charges.

Shortly after Ghosn appeared in Beirut, Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant for Carole on suspicion of alleged perjury related to the misappropriation charge against her husband.

"What they're accusing me of is a bit of a joke," said the 54-year-old Lebanese-American national, who spent many years as a fashion designer in New York and whose children live in the U.S. city.

"I testified for hours and they told me you are free to go, and now, nine months later... this comes up. They are vindictive. This has nothing to do with the law."

Carlos Ghosn was even more adamant. "I spent 18 years in Japan; I never suspected this brutality, this lack of fairness, this lack of empathy."

Tokyo prosecutors have said his allegations of a conspiracy are false and that he has failed to justify his acts.

The plan to flee to his childhood home of Lebanon developed quickly with a small group of people, a "reasonable price" and utter secrecy, he said.

Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn and his wife Carole Ghosn pose for a picture after an exclusive interview with Reuters in Beirut, Lebanon January 14, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

"The first rule if you want to do something like is that no member of your family should be aware because they become very anxious," he added.

Asked whether she would have dissuaded him to escape, Carole Ghosn blurted: "Yes!"

But then she paused, looked at her husband and added: "No. I mean, actually, let me rephrase. If you told me this at the beginning, I would have said No, of course not. You're going to fight this and prove your innocence... But then, with time, we saw how the prosecutors were behaving... I said 'Oh my God my husband is never going to get a fair trial' and I was

desperate." "I'm happy he did it," she said.

Japan's justice minister has said Ghosn's escape from his trial could constitute a crime.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS FOCUS**

Beirut has no extradition agreement with Japan and Ghosn's legal team is pushing for him to stand trial in Lebanon. But

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Ghosn said last week that he does not want his own case to hurt relations between Lebanon, which is currently in the throes of an economic crisis, and the world's third-largest economy.

The Ghosns have been attempting to focus the narrative on the question of human rights — and what they say is the inhumane way that Ghosn was treated after his arrest in late 2018. Ghosn says he was held in isolation, given only limited access to his lawyers and - his biggest complaint - prevented from speaking to his wife.

The couple had been married for two years — second unions for both — when Ghosn was first arrested. He says they spoke for only two hours in nine months.

"They wanted to break me, they wanted to put me into a situation where life was miserable," he

Japan's Justice Minister Masako Mori has called the accusations "absolutely intolerable." During his arrest, Carole Ghosn said she sought the support of Human Rights Watch, hired a high-profile human rights lawyer in Paris, and appealed directly to President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron to help her husband's case.

Carlos Ghosn said he was determined up until late last year to stay in Japan and see through the investigation and his trial. On Christmas Day, he said, he realized the legal cases could last five years and decided to bolt.

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Tuesday, January 15. 2020



### **LOCAL NEWS**

# Phase 1 commodity targets likely more than China can chew: analysts

BEIJING/SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Commodity traders and analysts are struggling to map out how China will reach the eye-popping amounts it is committing to buy from the United States under Phase 1 of their trade deal.

FILE PHOTO: Soybeans fall into a bin as a trailer is filled at a farm in Buda, Illinois, U.S., July 6, 2018. REUTERS/Daniel Acker

China has pledged to buy \$50 billion more in U.S. energy supplies, and will raise U.S. agriculture purchases by some \$32 billion over two years above 2017's \$24 billion baseline, according to a source briefed on the deal to be signed on Wednesday. The deal also stipulates purchases of an additional \$80 billion in manufactured goods.

Those totals would certainly trim the roughly \$300 billion annual trade gap between the countries. However, analysts who study Chinese commodity flows remain skeptical that Beijing can absorb such quantities of U.S. goods without threatening trade ties with other suppliers, hurting its own domestic producers, and making substantial changes to import standards and quotas.

"Either China massively increases imports and reduces current account surplus from the current 1.5% of GDP, or it engages in trade diversion away from current providers of goods which compete with the U.S." said Alicia Garcia Herrero, Chief Economist Asia Pacific at Natixis in Hong Kong. "I see this second scenario as much more likely."

#### RELATED COVERAGE

Drag from Trump's trade wars continues to ripple through U.S.

U.S., China have no agreement for future tariff reductions: Lighthizer, Mnuchin

**ENERGY** 

China will have to include U.S. crude, liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments and imports of petrochemical raw materials such as ethane and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to meet the target, Chinese trade sources and analysts said.



FILE PHOTO: Soybeans fall into a bin as a trailer is filled at a farm in Buda, Illinois, U.S., July 6, 2018. REUTERS/Daniel Acker

But it would still struggle unless new supply deals are signed that displace other exporters, they said. The \$50 billion target is "too aggres-

sive and unlikely to achieve", said Seng Yick Tee, an analyst at SIA Energy in Beijing, adding that energy product exports from the United States to China were about \$8 billion in 2017 and 2018.

"To achieve \$25 billion a year, all the

imports need to be tripled."

Gavin Thompson, Vice Chair for Asia Pacific at Wood Mackenzie, was surprised by the energy figure since it would mean tariffs on U.S. crude and LNG imports would have to be removed, particularly for LNG to be competitive.

Quality, rather than quantity, may be another hurdle.

"Most of the Chinese refineries were designed to process medium-sour crude, but U.S. oil is mostly light,

sweet," SIA's Tee said, referring to the density and the sulfur amounts in crude, which dictate the types of fuels that can be refined from an oil. AGRICULTURE TARGET "SHOCK-

The pledge to boost U.S. farm imports by over \$30 billion over two years is "shocking" since that increment is more than the value of farm products it has purchased from the U.S. in a single year, said a China-based grains trader.



新加坡《联合早报》日前刊载 文章,通过新加坡华裔企业家、前 南洋大学创始人陈六使孙女陈丽音 之口,讲述了陈六使的故事。

文章摘编如下:

陈丽音的阿公叫陈六使。2019 年10月,新加坡洋理工大学将校园 内一条道路,以前南洋大学创始人 陈六使为名,易名为"陈六使径" ,校园的人文学院大楼也以新加坡 福建会馆命名,以肯定陈六使和福 建会馆对教育做出的贡献。

祖父创校父亲授课

"我不是前南大或后来的南洋 理工大学的学生,但我身上有南大 的遗传因子,因为除了祖父陈六使 创办前南大,我父亲也一度在南大 授课,所以我和这所学府有深厚的 渊源。"陈丽音说。

陈丽音的父亲陈永新早年从美 国纽约大学毕业回国后,曾到南大 授课两年。之后陈永新转战商场, 成立一家再生纸公司,而陈丽音并 没有进入南大修读。"我喜欢服装 ,但本地学府没有这方面的课程,

于是我到意大利佛罗伦萨的艺术学院修

面海大屋内的童年

鲜少人知道陈丽音的家庭背景。陈 丽音透露,她自出生那天起,就与祖父 同住在马林百列占地接近两英亩的面海 黑白大屋内,直到十岁祖父去世为止。 她的童年以至后来的成长岁月,或多或 少受祖父敦厚处事态度影响。

陈丽音印象中的童年,祖父是主角 八。就像60年代的黑白粤语片中的富裕 人家,大屋内除了人多,司机和佣人也 多,包括司机和看顾孩子的妈姐,很有 旧年代的电影画面。

陈丽音记得的是,在她十岁以前, 每个周末,祖父的所有孩子都会到大屋 聚首,祖父都会给所有的儿孙派发"利 是",所以大屋内经常都充满人气。过 献,真是相当伟大。"



年的时候就更热闹,因为除了儿孙,陈 孙子为祖父提公事包 六使的兄弟姐妹也都会一家大小前来拜 多,自成一个社群。

"祖父样子相当严肃,为人耿直、 诚实、保守、乐于助人,同时也有一定 的威严,但他非常疼爱儿孙,经常带我 们到福建会馆,办完正事后,一家人就 胶工厂,以及在马来西亚的橡胶园玩。 会在会馆内吃晚餐。"她说。

。陈六使有13个孩子,陈丽音有超过50 建会馆主席,每天进出会馆成为日常作 祖父度过不少宝贵亲子时光的地方。" 个堂表兄弟姐妹,陈丽音的父亲排名第 息。从六岁开始上学后,陈丽音通过大 陈丽音说。 人的交谈,加上感觉上在会馆出入的都 是大人物,每个人也都听祖父的话,慢 慢知道原来祖父是个响当当的人物。

> "但当时也没认为那是什么了不起 的事,相比小时候和现在对祖父的认识 ,现在当然更深一层,也更了解祖父对 国家社会,尤其是教育方面所做出的贡

年,因此当年的陈家大屋出入的人非常 陈嘉庚的橡胶园工作,累积丰富的经验 ,之后在1925年与三哥合创橡胶公司, 大力发展橡胶生意,在十多年内迅速成 为橡胶界巨子。

"祖父会带我们到他在新加坡的橡 橡胶园内有虾池,虾池和虾都有浓浓的 1950年,陈六使接替陈嘉庚担任福 橡胶味道,所以我印象难忘,那是我和

> 像许多传统华人家庭一样,长辈都 不太容易表露自己的情感。陈丽音出世 的时候,陈六使已65岁,她记忆中的祖 父拿着枴杖,每天早上必定会喝咖啡、 看报纸,上班前会穿着白色汗衫和纱笼 先到花园散步喂鱼,之后才整装到会馆 去。每天下班回家后,包括陈丽音在内 的小孩子就会忙着为祖父提公事包,拿

大家都听他的话,平日他自 己不下厨,要吃什么都吩咐 工人去准备,最喜欢的是吃 沟通,所以也懂得一点广东 话和马来语。"

陈丽音坦言,她很幸 运有一个那么能干的祖父, 让下一代都能享受平稳幸福 。这也启发陈丽音,明白要 有属于自己美好生活的推动 力,连带成就了她在时尚界 的贡献。

慷慨助人热心慈善

来说,祖父留下的最丰富遗 产,是他慷慨助人的慈悲之

心。陈六使不仅热爱中华文化及教育, 陈六使早年从中国南来之后,曾在 更是积极参加新加坡华人社团活动的领 袖,同时对东南亚地区的教育及慈善福 利事业慷慨资助。

陈丽音回忆,祖父生前非常乐于助 人,是大慈善家,当年陈家大屋经常有 陌生人在外排队,希望能获得救济。只

1972年,陈六使因心脏病逝世。 '他当时昏倒在每天坐的大椅子上,救 护车将他带走后就没再回来。祖父生前 的善举很多人没齿难忘,所以他的丧礼 多,出殡时更是万人空巷。" 筹办南大传为佳话

学的校址,陈六使个人率先捐出500万 来一样。" 。随着他的振臂一呼,社会各阶层热烈

拖鞋,并为祖父按摩双腿。 响应,筹募建校基金,整个华人社会掀 "祖父是一家之主, 起踊跃捐款的热潮,社会各界纷纷响应 , 集腋成裘以促其成, 一时传为佳话。

谈到祖父给自己带来的最正面影响 ,陈丽音认为是祖父白手起家的创业过 潮州菜。祖父在家与每个家程。上世纪20年代益和公司创办初期, 庭成员都以福建话沟通,我 曾碰到不少困难,1929年又受经济大萧 也因此学会简单的福建话。 条影响,经营不很顺利。日占时期,公 我们平时也看不少黑白粤语 司业务一度停顿,遭到不少损失,但面 片,与马来司机则以马来话 对这一切挑战祖父都咬紧牙关一一克服 , 让她非常敬佩。

> "祖父受教育不多,但极有远见, 创建了自己的商业王国,并乐于助人大 力推广教育事业,还创办了南大,这股 坚毅的精神让我知道,在生活中只要定 下目标努力去进行,没有什么事情是不 可能的,这也是我这些年处世待人的原

迟到好过没到

南洋理工大学将校园内一条路以陈 陈六使一生事迹可以 六使命名的举动,肯定先人对本地教育 写成多部书,在华人历史上 事业的贡献,陈丽音认为是很令人钦佩 也有详细记录,但对陈丽音 的做法。"有些人认为这份肯定来迟了 ,但我觉得迟到好过没到。没有陈六使 ,也许就没有现在的南洋理工大学。 她说。

陈丽音和丈夫育有三个儿子,老大 在美国纽约大学修读商科,双胞胎兄弟 目前也在同一所大学修读音乐,孩子们 都遗传父母的基因,很有时尚感。陈丽 音透露, 虽然三个孩子都没有选择在南 洋理工大学念书,但修读音乐的双胞胎 要能帮得到,陈六使都义不容辞,所以 不久前与南大的艺术、设计与媒体学院 合作一个多媒体音乐项目,在一定的程 度上也算是延续了陈家的南大精神。

陈丽音说,现在她们这一代所做的 一切,都不是为自己,而是为下一代, 就像陈六使所做的一切,都是为了让未 是当时的社会大事,每天来吊唁的人很 来一代能有更好的将来。"我已经走过 人生的大半旅程, 更好的明天对下一代 来说更至关重要。我们现在所拥有的一 当年筹办南洋大学,福建会馆带头 切最后都带不走,最理想的就是将之传 ,决定捐523英亩土地作为兴建南洋大 承下去,像祖父将他的大爱精神传承下

Tuesday, January 15, 2020



### **Editor's Choice**



Jan 13, 2020; New Orleans, Louisiana, USA; A general view as LSU Tigers quarterback Joe Burrow (9) takes a snap in the third quarter against the Clemson Tigers in the College Football Playoff national championship game at Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Mandatory Credit:



Protest over economic hardship and lack of new government in Beirut



A British woman, accused of lying about being gang raped, covers her face as she arrives at the Famagusta courthouse in Paralimni



A protestor jumps over a burning barricade during a protest over economic hardship and lack of new government in Beirut, Lebanon January 14, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro delivers his annual state of the nation speech during a special session of the National Constituent Assembly, in Caracas



Seagulls feast on bread crumbs in Ohrid, North Macedonia January 14, 2020. REUTERS/Ognen Teofilovski TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Activists from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) protest with transparents under the slogan: "The naked truth: Wool kills" during Berlin Fashion Week in Berlin, Germany, January 14, 2020. REUTERS/Annegret Hilse TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez holds his first cabinet meeting in Madrid



## COMMUNITY

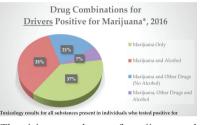
As more states legalize marijuana for medical or recreational use, concern is rising about the risk of people getting behind the wheel while high. The latest highway safety statistics confirm the number of drivers testing positive for pot has increased dramatically -- but driving under the influence of alcohol remains a far more deadly threat.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey, conducted in 2013 and 2014, found that the number of drivers with marijuana in their systems grew by nearly 50 percent since 2007, rising from 8.6 percent in 2007 to 12.6 percent

Overall, 22 percent of drivers tested positive for some kind of drug that could affect safety. That includes illegal drugs as well as prescription and over-the-counter medications.

While drug-impaired driving was on the rise, NHTSA said the the number of drivers on the road with alcohol in their systems has declined by nearly one-third since 2007. Tougher laws, drunk driving crackdowns and public education campaigns have helped reduce the number of cases by more than three-quarters since the agency began conducting roadside surveys in 1973.

The anonymous surveys gather data in dozens of locations across the country from drivers who agree to participate.



"The rising prevalence of marijuana and other drugs is a challenge to everyone who is dedicated to saving lives and reducing crashes," NHTSA head Mark Rosekind warned.

The report cited "evidence that marijuana use impairs psychomotor skills, divided attention, lane tracking, and cognitive functions" -- all essential skills for safe driving.

But a separate survey, the largest of its kind, offered another take on the issue -highlighting the fact that driving under the influence of marijuana may not be nearly as hazardous as the impairment caused by alcohol.

Is It As Risky As Drinking And Driving?

### **Cannabis Smokers Behind** The Wheel Are On The Rise

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



The study assessing the comparative risk of drunk and drugged driving was conducted in Virginia Beach, Virginia, over a 20-month period; it involved the collection of data from more than 3,000 drivers involved in a crash, and more than 6,000 crash-free drivers for comparison.

That survey found that while marijuana users are more likely to be involved in accidents, the increased risk may be largely due to the fact that marijuana users are more likely to be part of demographic groups at higher risk of crashes generally. In particular, marijuana users are more likely to be young men -- a group already at high risk.



"Drivers should never get behind the wheel impaired, and we know that marijuana impairs judgment, reaction times and awareness," said Jeff Michael, the agency's associate administrator for re-

search and program development.

One complication to assessing crash risk by drivers who have used marijuana is that it can be detected in the human body for hours and sometimes days after the high from smoking has dissipated. Other studies have shown that a marijuana high typically peaks within 30 minutes and is gone within about three hours after ingestion. But unlike with alcohol, drivers high on pot tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles. On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker's exaggerated caution and to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone. In the NHTSA survey, about 8 percent of drivers during weekend nighttime hours were found to have some alcohol in their system, and 1.5 percent were found with .08 percent or higher breath alcohol content - the legal limit in every state. Drivers with any alcohol in their systems and drivers testing greater than .08 were both down by about 30 percent from the previous survey in 2007. Both groups are also down by more than three-quarters since the first survey in 1973. (Courtesy www. cbsnews.com)

#### Related

**How Long Should You Wait to Drive** After Using Recreational Marijuana?



It's recommended that you should let at least four hours pass between the time you smoke marijuana and the time you drive a car. The window for taking marijuana orally is six hours. However, these guidelines come with a few caveats.

#### **The Trouble With Guidelines**

However, it's difficult to set hard parameters for safe time passed between smoking marijuana and getting behind the wheel because the effects of marijuana vary widely according to potency and tolerance. They are, in short, dose-dependent. So while it is helpful to suggest a window of hours between smoking and driving, it's even more useful to get into the details. Don't Be High

No one should drive while high. If you're "a little high," as measured by how strong your buzz is, you shouldn't get behind the wheel. Many of us think we can drive with a slight high. The first parameter for safe time passed between smoking marijuana and driving is that you shouldn't be high

#### Don't Be Overconfident

Smokers who drive can underestimate the time they need by forgetting these factors: There is a period during which you might not be feeling the "high" you're no longer recreating with marijuana — but your senses and reflexes aren't yet what you'd like them to be for getting

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There are levels of being "straight" after smoking that are appropriate to normal driving conditions but not for emergencies. Skidding on black ice or having to swerve away from a pedestrian stepping into the street from between two parked cars, for example. It's usually recommended that eight hours should pass between the feeling of euphoria has passed and the moment you drive.



Notice that there's a certain inconsistency between that recommendation and the one listed further above (that you shouldn't drive for four hours after smoking).

When recommendations clash, it's better

to go with the more conservative option and decide that you shouldn't drive for eight hours after smoking marijuana.

A smoker might handle his or her vehicle faultlessly but still be in legal trouble if something goes wrong completely beyond your control.

#### Marijuana, Driving, and the Law

Don't make the mistake of thinking that because marijuana might now be legal in your state it's legal to drive while high. Even if there hasn't been an accident, if you're pulled over while driving high vou'll be cited for Driving Under the Influence, just as though you had had a mar-

Laws vary from state to state. Some have a zero-tolerance policy, together with broad interpretive powers granted to the police officer who has pulled you over. Don't be surprised if the mere presence of weed paraphernalia in your vehicle is enough for a judge to decide in favor of the officer even though you hadn't smoked in several days.

#### Conclusion

Marijuana is criticized for leading to a sedentary lifestyle. When it comes to driving, let this criticism become sound advice. The safest place to be high is still on your couch. (Courtesy https://eufloracolorado.com)

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### **Newspapers Ask Congress For New Protections From Google, Facebook**

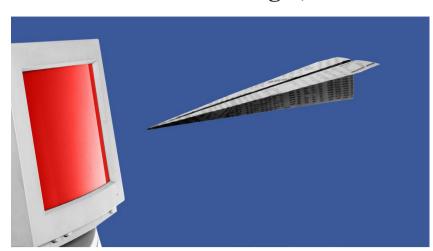


Illustration: Rebecca Zisser/Axios

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

The News Media Alliance (NMA), a newspaper trade group that represents over 2,000 newspapers in the U.S., is asking Congress for an antitrust safe harbor against Google and Facebook. David Chavern, the CEO and President of the Alliance, tells Axios:

#### Ultimately, we need a better deal from a distorted system.

At issue: The group — with support from members like The New York Times, Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal — argues that existing media competition laws prevent news organizations from working together to negotiate better deals with major internet platforms, unintentionally enabling Google and Facebook to continue to control the digital advertising ecosystem and information economy.

The strategy: Chavern has written an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal outlining his position, but says NMA is not calling out any specific lawmakers or committees at this time. "We are just starting to work the Hill," NMA Chairman Michael J. Klingensmith, publisher and CEO of the Minneapolis Star Tribune Media, tells Axios. Klingensmith adds that there's an attachment to local news organizations that lawmakers will want to see sustained, which is an encouraging sign. By the numbers: There's unquestionable evidence that the duopoly's dominance has created a media economy that is unsustainable for news publishers.

•60% of total U.S. digital ad revenue will go to Google and Facebook this year, per eMarketer estimates — roughly \$73 bil-

•Nearly 80% of all digital search ad revenue in the U.S. will go to Google this year and nearly 40% of all digital display ad revenue in the U.S. will go to Facebook, per eMarketer.

•83% of every new digital ad dollar will go to the duopoly this year, according to calculations from Digital Content Next, the premium publishers association.



By comparison, the print industry brings in roughly \$18 billion in advertising rev-

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enue (both print and digital), nearly a third of what it was just 10 years ago, according to Pew. That's roughly the same as all of Facebook's U.S. digital ad revenue and less than half of Google's.

The impact on news: The group also argues that the Facebook and Google's dominance has created an unhealthy media economy and news environment, where the duopoly benefits from investments made by news companies, and consumers are less likely to connect with news brands. To combat this, they're looking for Google and Facebook to make four key changes:

1.Increase advertising revenue sharing: Facebook has made revenue sharing updates to Instant Articles and video over the past few months, but the industry argues it's not enough. "It's a promise that hasn't materialized," Klingensmith says. 2.Create more support for news subscription models: This includes a way to drive subscriptions through Facebook and amend Google's first-click policy that allows access to content past paywalls. There are rumors that Facebook is adding a publisher subscription feature for mobile.



3.Improve data sharing: Give newspaper publishers more data about their own readers on both platforms. "When our content is being read on Facebook, that audience is invisible to us," Klingensmith says.

**4.Develop better brand support**: They argue that brand is at the core of the news business and Google and Facebook have come between consumers and the brand. A new Pew/Knight Foundation study conducted earlier this year found that 10% of respondents exposed to news articles on Facebook thought the news source was Facebook.

#### Related

News companies take Big Tech battle to Capitol Hill



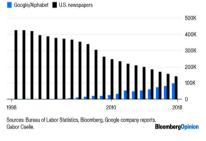
#### Illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios

News companies that have been lobbying for legislation that makes it easier to negotiate with companies like Google and Facebook will testified before Congress on Tuesday, in the first of several hearings probing the power of Big Tech. The advertising-supported business model that underpinned journalism for decades has collapsed, leading to the closure of hundreds of newspapers across America.

Newspapers worry that outdated government rules about consolidation and collective action prevents them being able to join forces to compete for their share of digital advertising dollars. So they're asking Congress for a four-year antitrust safe harbor that would allow them to work together to negotiate better deals with major internet platfor

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, the subject of Tuesday's hearing, is spearheaded by the News Media Alliance, a trade group that represents thousands of newspapers including The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Google Eats the Newspaper Industry, Again Payroll employees as of December



•Despite multiple drafts and proposals over the past two years, the bill never

•In March, the bill was re-introduced by Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI), the main antitrust watchdog in the House.

•The bill now has has a Republican co-sponsor, Rep. Collins, Doug (R-GA), which supporters hope will help persuade Republicans to rally behind the

•The bill was also introduced by a pair of bipartisan members in the Senate in

The Alliance is hoping to appeal to lawmakers whose local newspapers are dying in the wake of an economic market collapse for print media.

•"The major tech platforms act as our regulators," News Media Alliance CEO David Chavern tells Axios. "They stand between news publishers and most of our readers, and determine everything about the relationship. We need the ability to organize ourselves and fight for a sustainable future for quality journalism."

Skeptics argue that, even with collective bargaining power, newspapers won't be able to rebuild their businesses.

•Newspaper companies see collective bargaining as more than being able to negotiate fees and licensing agreements, but also an opportunity to set boundaries around how tech platforms feature their brands and share user data.

Congress doesn't typically intervene in private negotiations around content distribution.

Even if the bill does pass, don't expect newspapers to recover overnight. Forecasts project that social media and video platforms will continue to take the majority of ad growth away from publishers for the foreseeable future. (Courtesy axios.com)











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