

# Episode 115-- The Danger of Hoaxers and Alternate Truths Rep...

📅 Wed, 2/3 2:10PM ⌚ 44:34

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, fred, gun violence, alternative facts, jaime, lies, gun, andy, congress, gun violence prevention, brady, talking, world, fight, shooting, podcast, democracy, kris, guttenberg, happen

## SPEAKERS

Fred Guttenberg, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson, Andy Parker, Kris Brown



JJ Janflone 00:08

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JJ Janflone 00:37

Hey, everybody! Welcome back to another episode of Red, Blue, and Brady, and I am still your host, JJ Janflone.



Kelly Sampson 00:44

And I'm still your co host, Kelly Sampson.



JJ Janflone 00:46

This is true. You are so my co host. So much changes from week to week. Well, I'm glad we

still have each other for normalcy. I didn't, I didn't expect that this is what we're going to talk about today. But you know, 2021, who knew? And that is so called gun truthers, gun hoaxers, who think that mass killings like the ones perpetrated at Sandy Hook, were organized by the government to promote more restrictive gun laws,



Kelly Sampson 01:14

Which first of all, didn't even work. That's a whole other thing, but I find it so disturbing how a lot of the same people who believe these theories also believe that no one died, and that actors are playing the parts of the victims and grieving relatives. And, you know, we've had an opportunity to meet some of these amazing people personally. And so it is very, very upsetting to know that people are calling them liars.



JJ Janflone 01:37

It's I really like that's the fact that people will go up to people who have lost children and fight with them that it's an actor, I can't, I can't, I'm going to be very millennial, I just can't.



Kelly Sampson 01:49

I think that's fair. And I mean, if you can imagine these families of gun violence victims are already grieving, and also grieving many times in a very public way, whether that's at their local level, or at a national level. And so to have a member of Congress harass you, that's just re-victimization. And that's so awful. But I'm so happy that we have the opportunity to speak to two amazing fathers who lost their beloved daughters, and who have since been attacked by these so called truthers, and who are also great gun violence prevention advocates to tell us what this has been like and offer some wisdom on how we can combat this.



JJ Janflone 02:26

I think that's the important thing to take from this is that when we see sort of awful folks in the news, claiming that these mass shootings are, you know, quote, unquote, false flags or things of that nature, that there are amazing folks fighting for gun violence prevention that are also going through this and we should be lifting up their voices. So I'm really happy today that we get to lift up the voices of Andy Parker, who is the leader of Andy's Fight, and he's the author of *For Allison: The Murder of a Young Journalist* and her *Father's Fight for Gun Safety*. And Fred Guttenberg, who's the leader of Orange Ribbons for Jaime, and the author of *Find the Helpers: What 9/11 and Parkland Taught Me About*

Recovery, Purpose, and Hope. Both of these dads have been on the podcast before, both of these dads do so much for gun violence prevention. And unfortunately, like both of these dads have been targeted by these groups. So they have a lot to share with us.



Kelly Sampson 03:14

In addition to Andy and Fred, we're also joined by Brady President Kris Brown, who's also had her fair share of dealing with conspiracy theorists and survivors of gun violence.



JJ Janflone 03:24

Yeah, Kris has a lot of stories. So I'm very excited to get into this. So while all of us know each other, I want to make sure that our audience is aware of our fabulous guests. I mean, obviously they should know Kelly and I by now, but Andy, Fred, Kris, do you guys want introduce yourselves really quickly?



Andy Parker 03:39

I'm Andy Parker. I'm the father of Alison Parker, who is the journalist that was killed on live television in 2015.



Kris Brown 03:47

I'm Kris Brown. I'm the president of Brady.



Fred Guttenberg 03:50

I'm Fred Guttenberg, father of Jamie Guttenberg, and in context of this phone call, also brother to Dr. Michael Guttenberg.



JJ Janflone 04:00

And this was a one that almost I think, a podcast that came together exceptionally quickly when we started to see what was happening, not just in the news, but on Twitter, what people were reporting on. But this is something that I think I've talked to Fred, I've talked to Andy, I've talked to Chris and Kelly, like we've all talked about this before. Right. And so Chris, I'm wondering to start with a primer for our listeners who maybe, you know, have been lucky enough to be spared from hearing this nonsense. What are some of the hoax theories that have popped up following some of the shootings that have have made

headlines in the US? And you know, why do you think this happens, although certainly we've seen them happen after shootings in places like Christchurch.

K

Kris Brown 04:38

Right. Well, the most notable one that, everyone I think, in the US and probably around the world knows about is Alex Jones's hoax theory that Sandy Hook was actually a false flag event, and that the government was behind this that actually no children or educators died at Sandy Hook. And he became a quasi celebrity within a radio and blog space related to that made a lot of money off of that the families of course of the victims, many of them had to deal with conspiracy theorists, inspired by Alex Jones in this theory actually going after them, similar to what we saw with Marjorie Greene chasing David Hogg down the street and calling MSD a false flag event that has that's a very specific term. Right and, and they're using this term for a reason. And I think part of what we're going to get to here is that, you know, a lie goes around the world before the truth has the chance to put its pants on. And that's what we're seeing here is people who are making these things up, sensationalizing themselves through it, getting eyeballs around this and inspiring others. And this is really a form of mass psychosis around our issue. And we'll get to this inspired at the very heart, first of all, by the myths and lies of the NRA. And the saddest part of the whole thing, though, I think, if you really get down to the root of it, is these things have happened and they do happen, because of our lacks gun laws in this country. This isn't fake news. This is America today, and we need to solve it.

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Fred Guttenberg 06:32

you know, you're brushing about a lie going around the world before the truth has time to put its pants on. What makes this a little different, thankfully, we've all got our pants on and that lie's coming face to face with the truth. And I don't believe anyone expected that the truth would punch back as powerfully as it did this past week. And we're not done punching, you know. This lunatic, and we have to be clear, I'm referring to her as a lunatic, no disregard to anyone suffering from a mental health issue, because we have to separate that individual from the bigger opponent.



JJ Janflone 07:07

Yeah, I do want to jump in there, though, because we avoid terms like crazy or lunatic, because we certainly don't want to further stigmatize those mental health issues. And I think we all realize that those who struggle with their mental health are more likely to be victims of gun violence, you know, certainly rather than perpetrators. But I totally get what

you're saying here, because she is behaving irrationally and irresponsibly. You know, she's behaving in this way.

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Fred Guttenberg 07:31

You know, she had said Parkland was a false flag. Law enforcement and others were paid of, okay, in order to create this gun issue for Nancy Pelosi. I shared video yesterday, which is now being widely distributed of her talking about Las Vegas, which is the most insane thing. If you haven't seen it, you need to watch it. The insane belief that she has there. But the good news is, her insanity is coming face to face with the truth before it has time to take hold. Now, let's differentiate between her as an insane person who managed to, in an unopposed election, sneak her way into Congress. And the bigger problem, which is the fact that she has not disowned anything she has said, and the party is not making her do it. The fact that the party has not said we disown this, we're going to do something about it. We reject it. This is not who we are. And too much time has already passed, for them to have the ability to do that. They now own it. This is now this party, embracing that under the leadership of McCarthy, because he believes it's a winning strategy in the next election. He is willing to let people like her win in other districts, so he can be speaker. It is so cynical, it is so evil, and it can't win.

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Andy Parker 09:04

And it's, and Fred, to your point. It's cowardice too. The representative that I had, well, he is I live in his district guy named Morgan Griffith, who was one of the 130 or so Republicans that decided to ignore the election results. You know, I think that there there are guys like there are people like Marjorie Taylor Greene, who as you say she is a lunatic. She drinks the Kool Aid. She actually believes this stuff. And then you've got people like Morgan Griffith who know better, but they're so afraid of being primaried. I mean, look what Matt Gates did, you know flying up to Wyoming to check out, you know, to throw shade at Liz Cheney. They are so afraid of getting primaried that they're going along with these they're still have in you know, my rural part of Virginia, and they still have their damn Trump signs up. You know, the cult is not going away. And they don't have the courage to tell them. You know what, it was all a big lie. And I'm not sure who I just like most, more Greene or Griffith,

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Fred Guttenberg 10:09

Listen, it is a cult, but it's a large cult. And it is a cult that has taken over a political party. I mean, you remember, we used to talk about about Republicans and Democrats, and they disagreed on policy, and how to get to a certain end point. It's now they disagree on

whether or not we're a democracy, okay, that's the dividing line. And there's a, the cult has a leader, he's now living in Palm Beach, and the current minority leader in the House, went to visit the cult leader yesterday for cake and caviar cocktails, so that they could strategize how to finish the job of making this cult, the dominant form of government. We can't let it happen. And that's why this conversation that we're having here, and obliterating these lies, and not giving them an inch matters.

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Andy Parker 11:08

And Fred, you know, they have a very willing accomplice in social media. Now, I will say that Twitter has actually done a very good job, but Google and Facebook have not. And that's why I've sort of, as Chris knows, and you know too, I've driven into the lane of, we've got to have section 230 reform, we've got to. You know, I'm finally I think going to win the battle with great television to get co-copyright. And the only right to to challenge Google for copyright infringement. But I literally had to go do public shaming to get that done. And it's the same with Google, it's going to get there eventually. But that's what it's going to have to take to maybe remedy some of this stuff because, to Chris's point earlier, in the early days, because I was a real actor and professional actor, but when the video of Alison shooting came out, and they say, hey, look, he's a crisis actor, look at the commercials he did. And they put two and two together and came up with 10. So that's a that's the other battle that we've got to fight them to put the kabosh on all this stuff.

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Kris Brown 12:21

I wonder, Andy, from that perspective, just if you could take our listeners a little bit through that, and the details of that, because it strikes me that's a really important component of, of what we're talking about here. It is everything Fred is saying. It's the elected officials, it's those in the party who allow that to happen, and even encourage it. And then it's the whole social media markets in the United States, and what's happening there and what's not, and the profiteers around that. So maybe you could take us a little bit back for those who may not be familiar with it, so we can understand what you've been doing to try and rectify that.

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Andy Parker 13:02

Have we got all day?

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Kris Brown 13:04

I wish we did.

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**Andy Parker 13:05**

Well, the short story is, is that, as I mentioned earlier, what, you know, Alison was murdered on live television, it was captured on video. And these videos, I thankfully, I've never seen it. It's, you know, it's like a landmine out there. And it's come close a couple of times, but I've never seen it, never want to, but I knew that they were up there. And so, you know, one day I went down the rabbit hole to the degree that I could and typed in Alison Parker on YouTube, and they were literally pages after pages after pages, you know, and it was then that I decided that I needed to take on Google and try and get them to remove this stuff. Because according their to their terms of service and community guidelines, they don't allow that. And they will, that's typically their their answer. Well, why don't you take this down? Well, we don't allow that. It's this circular thing going on. So I've literally been engaged in this fight for four and a half years. We're getting close. They have removed things, but it's always at, you know, they always have to be coerced either by the press or by Congress. Literally right before this call, I was on, there's a story coming out in the Washington Post, I was on with the journalist for the post about my fight with Gray Television. You know, here's this, they own the station, and they own the video. And we're trying to just get co-copyright so that we can do what I call the Al Capone prosecution. You can't go after them for big stuff, so let's go after them for this. But in order to do that, we have to have the co-copyright so they literally would ghost us. They were pulling the same tactics that Google was. We couldn't figure it out. It's like why can't you do the right thing? And so that's why I started this change.org petition. You know, why I did the piece on, or they, 60 Minutes came to me to do the piece, so I figured it was a good time to, sort of, the moon and the stars to align here to bring focus on this. So, that's what I've been trying to do. If Google and Facebook have the same editorial guidelines that the Washington Post or hell Fox News for that matter, you wouldn't be seeing all this stuff and promoting all the proliferation of all this garbage, which feeds this stuff and feeds these these extremists like Marjorie Taylor Greene.

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**Fred Guttenberg 15:27**

So, let me ask you a question. This is such a great point, and Twitter is now taking, kind of trying, to take control of their platform responsibly. Late but doing it. As these people get shoved off these major platforms, they're going into the dark web, and they're not going to stop what they're doing. We're just going to have less visibility of it. If you think of the Pittsburgh temple shooting that was planned on the dark web, nobody saw it coming. So, the question is, how do we stop the proliferation? But also, find ways to keep our eyes on what's happened?

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Andy Parker 16:07

Yeah, I don't know that you can totally stop it. It's like a sieve, it's gonna find it someplace. I think the best thing that we can do is to try and mitigate it, so that some of the people, some of these other folks that have become radicalized, and what you used to think were normal people have become domestic terrorists, you know, the hardcore that they will always find that that place in the dark web. But if we can at least prevent what we can and and hold the, you know, the three majors to some kind of standard, at least you'll stop some of the bleeding, I guess.

K

Kris Brown 16:45

I do think that the fact that Twitter is actively doing something is important here, because Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act for a long time, all of these social media groups have really relied on that to say, we're just a platform, right? And so we're not going to ever execute any editorial oversight the way that newspapers etc, do because of libel laws, because we don't want to get involved in that. The fact that Twitter, through a lot of efforts by you and others, are now taking that action means that the groundwork, I think, has been laid for Congress really to look at that, because I think that is the overall solution. That way that applies to everyone in that space, whether you're part of the dark web, or you're a major purveyor, and there are tools then for law enforcement to use to actually enforce the law against them. I think that's where we have to go next, if we really want to globally in the United States constrain this.

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Andy Parker 17:49

And they are, you know, I'm working with with Kaine and Warner and Senator Verono's staff. I mean, they're working on language to craft a bill to do something about it. And, you know, after the last three weeks, you know, before January 6, their biggest concern was, oh, this is we're gonna have to deal with the people with you know, this is First Amendment, you can't mess with it. I think it's becoming easier now in talking with them that that it's, you know, it's going to get it'll it'll be easier to pass legislation. And it's interesting, because, as Mike Harney, who was, Warner's Chief of Staff said, told me so, you know, Google has no friends on the hill, none. And it's true. No, you know, Republicans and Democrats hate him for different reasons, but for totally different reasons. But it's like, Okay, well, the enemy of my enemy is my friend so we can get this done. And and my, I think what we're trying to do is, and my suggestion was, let's keep it narrow, so that you're, you're you're prohibiting murder videos, targeted harassment, hate speech, you know, those are the three biggies right there that if you can, if you don't just do away with 230 completely, at least modify it and amend it. So that that's taken into account. And as I've said, I just want my day in court. I want to be able to go after these bastards and sue them

for what they've done because they do monetize it. They make money from it. They say we don't owe we don't accept it. You know, it's clickbait, you see that video, whether it's Alison's murder, or it's a cat playing the piano. If you like that video, you'll see the thing on the side there, and it points you to, it's algorithmic amplification. That's what they do. They say, Oh, we don't promote it. And that's just complete bullshit. They do.

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Fred Guttenberg 19:31

Well, Andy, you know, listen, our legislators and these companies are going to have to come to grips with the reality that what happened January 6, and what will happen next, is all predictable, predictable, and it was predictable, and it was preventable, and anyone who says we didn't see it coming is lying. Kris, you know this because I've spoken to you about this. The afternoon of January 6, I was in a recording all afternoon for a documentary that's going to come out in the spring. In that recording, we were discussing the NRA, the gun lobby as a whole, their impact on society, and where things are headed. I literally, we were, I was walled off from the world in the studio, I had no idea what was happening in Washington, DC that afternoon, none. And I'm literally talking, and I thought I was exaggerating about the threat of tying together guns with all of these groups on social media and their use of social media, and the encouragement from elected leaders. And I was talking about my fear that something terrible was going to happen, an attack on our democracy before this transition was done. I was literally pulling all these pieces together, and I thought I was exaggerating, sounding crazy to make a point. And the recording ended, and I looked at my phone and I just said to all the people from the studio, I said, you're not going to believe what's going on right now. So they're going to take the day of my interview and pull together all the real world news stories that are happening during it. It was predictable. It was, we all could have seen it coming. And we all as we sit here now, we know there's more coming. There's more being planned. And the same platforms that were used to energize it, are still energizing it. Legislators better get off their ass, and they better start getting on this and our intelligence agencies, which were obliterated, have their work cut out for them.

K

Kelly Sampson 21:38

I think that goes to your earlier question about what happens if people move to the dark web. And I think part of the issue is that our intelligence, our national security, needs to consider the mix of guns and hate and conspiracy theories as a domestic threat and give it the same sort of investigative power that they've given to the way they treat so called, you know, international terrorism, because they find ways to monitor people's, you know, phone calls and communications to be able to ward off what they view as a threat. And I think part of the issue is just recognizing that when you have people with arms and hate

and misinformation, that that deserves investigation as well.

F Fred Guttenberg 22:16

And people will come up to me not only said what you said, but they've also threatened me with additional violence if I don't stop talking about what happened. So you know, it's worse, and which is why somebody like Greene, who has threatened violence, who has made clear, people should be shot, yet walks around carry her gun in the halls of Congress, we need to take her at her word. We need to take her seriously. She is a threat.

A Andy Parker 22:42

Yeah. And unfortunately, it's going to take what two-thirds of the house to expel her. And there is not two-thirds of the the Democrats overwhelmingly will be but there's not enough spine in the Republican Party to get rid of her. And I don't know how you fix that.

K Kris Brown 23:00

I do think one of the things that's really, really important here, that is a solution. First of all, I think that Fred is right, regardless of the political realities, we have to demand, what is appropriate to be done, and she should be expelled. It's their problem, how to make it happen, but we all have to lift our voices around that. The other part that relates to this is money. Look, I mean, ultimately, this is all about money. For most of these people, we need to understand who's continuing to finance these politicians. And I think one very important thing that is moving through Congress that I want to see pass is HR 1. I mean, we have to unrig our democracy, that's a really, really big part of this. And there are solutions. Some of them are short term, get Marjorie Greene out, and let's keep demanding it even if it's not possible, but we also have to reimagine what kind of elected officials we want. And it shouldn't be people who just have more money than everyone else, corporate financed behind them. And if we want that to change, and we want to bring the money out of politics, ensure that there's equal representation that that people get the chance and opportunity to vote. And we don't have bizarre illegal, disenfranchising restrictions across the states that stop that we need to put democracy first. And that's also essential to our cause of gun violence prevention. The two things are completely linked.

F Fred Guttenberg 24:37

We either get her out, or she becomes the face of that party that she is the dominant face of that party going forward if they don't remove her.



Andy Parker 24:46

Yes. The problem though, is she is the face of the party just like Lauren Boebert, you know, same get other, or Bob Good and I go back to you know, money is certainly important. But, you know, you can't you can't fix stupid, but you can fix ignorant. And I think that's what we got to concentrate on around here.



Fred Guttenberg 25:09

Well, so you have to call it what it is, a lie. Listen, you can't make this stuff up. He doesn't believe my daughter died at Parkland. She doesn't believe my brother died because of 9/11. But she does believe because my name is Guttenberg that I have a laser that sets forests on fire.



Andy Parker 25:24

Well, I knew that.



Fred Guttenberg 25:26

Well, it's true.



JJ Janflone 25:28

I hope you all know that that's the soundbite that they're gonna use.



Fred Guttenberg 25:34

And this is, this is where I have never forget what KellyAnne Conway said for the very first time, we believe in alternative facts. Yeah, they have made the world of alternative facts, their facts, okay. And I don't think we should ever, ever, ever forget that phrase. And we actually need to use it. We need to differentiate between reality and the world of alternative facts that they, that they embrace, and they are acknowledged, they embrace, you know, there's truth, and there's alternative facts. That's where they live. We, listen, it's going to be a battle, but we need to defeat the alternate facts,



Andy Parker 26:15

Here, here.

K

Kris Brown 26:16

100%. And I think that that's a really important point to remember that those alternative facts were intentionally put forward in order to create and feed a base. And that base, inevitably, when tied to the mythology of the NRA and talking about sort of these false, these lies that people are fed on, you know, it's just a good guy with a gun that defeats a bad guy with a gun. You know, that you need your gun to fight the tyrannical government it for those who express surprise, consistent with what you're saying, Fred, you may have been in that room closed off on January 6, not knowing what's going on. And everything that you're saying others in the room who are listening to you might think, my God, you know, what's this guy talking about? And then they go and watch the news. For those of us who are in this movement and far too many who are survivors who paid a terrible price for our inability to address these issues, none of that was a surprise. All of it is the inevitable conclusion of allowing these things to proliferate, and that's what we have to address. And I think you're right, Fred, all of us have to call it what it is. It's lies, its lies. And that's what it is. And we have truth, or we have lies. There's no alternative truth.

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Fred Guttenberg 27:39

For three out of Donald Trump's four years, nobody called them lies. Should he have said that? Is this normal? Is this okay? It took him finally looking like he was going to lose for them to start calling what it was. Lies. And we can't stop doing that now.

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Kris Brown 27:56

Yeah. And the mainstream media is also part of that, Fred, that's what you're talking about. The delicate treatment of that administration for three and a half years wasn't just, you know, on the alt right media. The mainstream media was very, very guilty of that too.

A

Andy Parker 28:16

It was all about ratings. I mean, that's the whole, that's, you know, Donald Trump was a gift to every media, mainstream, every mainstream and, you know, alternative media outlet out there.

K

Kris Brown 28:28

Yeah, that's exactly right. I've talked to people in the media who are completely with us are so frustrated, who also have said, we're worried about what's going to happen with our ratings when he goes away. I mean, people who are honest, know that that has been

what has driven a lot of the coverage. And that's a problem.

K

Kelly Sampson 28:48

To your points about, you know, facts and alternative facts. I think it's all other pace. And I think the 1776 project came out in the waning days of the Trump administration kind of show the point where people you know, there's this push to kind of have this false version of history and reality and some of these conspiracy theories and ways of looking at the world. All Roosevelt did Berger, that, whether you're talking about guns, or democracy, or racism or anything else, and so I was just wondering, you know, from each of you, what are some ways that you think moving forward, we can actually live in reality as a country and have a shared reality rather than, you know, some people over here think that 9/11 was a hoax or that gun violence definitely

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Fred Guttenberg 29:33

I would recommend everybody read what Malcolm Nance wrote and published today in the Washington Post because he talks about this. And this is where we need to really get good at public shaming of alternative facts and people who push them. It's a really powerful weapon. If you look at the news clip, last night, from the Eleventh Hour, where Brian Williams was going to put up a video clip of the bully in Palm Beach and McCarthy. And instead, it turned out to be the Tom Cruise character from Show Me The Money, where it's the you complete a scene. And that's what he made Kevin McCarthy look like you have to watch the video clip, it's genius. We have to, we have to stop playing like these people own the reality, and that we're always on defense. And we have to hit them hard. We have to do it with facts, video, with pictures. And you know what? We have to shame them.

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Andy Parker 30:45

Yep, I'm all about shaming. And I've been doing a good bit of that of late. So, it works. I mean, it's, you know, if I get this co-copyright from Gray, it's only because I shamed, you know, did public shaming, and Google the same way. You know, we just, Fred you're right, I mean, we just have to keep battling them. And it's you know, whether it's work as GVP warriors or social media warriors, they kind of go hand in hand. And that's it's the combination of that focus is going to, or the efforts, I think is going to hopefully, ultimately prevail, and maybe we can gain some converts here in rural America.

K

Kris Brown 31:28

I think the solutions a lot of them we've identified it's part of the reason Brady says we have to work across Congress, courts, and communities. And I think, during the course of this conversation, we've talked about things that Andy is doing that, Fred is doing that, you know, fit into all three buckets. We have an epidemic of gun violence in this country, right. And it's not a one, any one solution, we have to get the right policies in place. And I think part of that is a change to the CDA, the Communications Decency Act that Andy referenced, that he's helping to work on. In courts, it's holding folks accountable under the law, for violations of the law in a realistic way. We had a quote, unquote, self described law and order president in President Trump. He was not about the law at all, nor order, we actually need to enforce the law that we have. In terms of communities, and I think the point that Andy and Fred are making here is really profound, it's also making fun of these people. These people dress up in combat, like they're members of the military, they aren't. And what I've really liked to see is a lot more responsible gun owners and members of the military who these people aspire to be, standing up with us arm and arm saying, there is no place for this, I represented my country and serve my country, because I want to live in a country where I don't have to carry a gun everywhere. And most members of the military say that.

A

Andy Parker 33:04

I think that the majority of at least I like to think so Kris, you have the numbers on this. But the majority overwhelming majority of gun owners feel like we do. But they're just afraid to say something.

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Fred Guttenberg 33:17

But you know what? There is a there there is something changing, that may change all of this, which is for the first time because of January 6 donors, corporations have started to pull their money from that machine. And maybe we need to direct some of our energy towards not letting them forget, and making sure that money doesn't start to flow again.



JJ Janflone 33:43

And Fred and Andy, it may seem strange to end on this note. But I always want to circle back when we do these episodes to the folks that we're actually talking about. Right. You know, there's been a loss here that has been running through this whole podcast. And so, I'm wondering if you could tell our listeners a little bit about who Jaime and Alison, actually were.

A

Andy Parker 34:07

Yeah, thank you. I think Fred, our daughters shared the love of arts and dancing. I mean, Allison was just, I always said that if she had gone into journalism, she could have been a professional dancer on Broadway and, you know, that was trying to be, I was as objective as I could because I've seen the best. And, you know, she was one of those people that, anything she tackled, she did well, and I always admired her. She had more talent in her little pinky than I ever did. But beyond that, she was, people ask me, well what, you know, what is the thing that you could describe most of what sums it up about Allison, and Allison was just a beautiful, kind soul. She was beautiful. You know, from the, you know, she was beautiful, but she was beautiful in here. And there were so many things that she did and to mentor people and to help people that, you know, stories that I heard that I never, you know, that people shared with me that I never knew about. But she was, that's, she was just a kind soul and she had so much promise, just like Fred's daughter. I mean, like Jaime, I, it's, they were robbed. They were robbed. We were, we were robbed. They were robbed.

F

Fred Guttenberg 35:28

They sound like they're tough from the same cloth. Listen, I think beautiful, kind soul sums it up for Jaime as well. I would tell you, you know, Jaime was the energy in the room. She, you were laughing because of her. Sometimes you were yelling because of her because she was very stubborn. But you were always reacting to her. And, you know, the end of the day, I always taught my kids one really simple lesson, you always do what's right, not what's easy. And, you know, that's what Jaime tried to do. It's what my son thankfully still gets to do, because he was there also that day. And, you know, Jaime, in addition to her love of dance, which dominated her life, you know, it didn't matter where we were, when we were, she was dancing. It's just what she loved to do. But Jaime also loved being around for other kids, who maybe weren't always treated as well by other kids. So she really got involved in anti-bullying programs. She dedicated her time, both my children do, for kids with special needs. And they get that gene from my wife, who's a pediatric occupational therapist, and has always been, you know, my kids have grown up around kids like that. And Jaime, that's what she wanted to do, as well, as a pediatric physical therapist. Just the world lost two amazing souls because of what happened to us. And it's why we do what we do.

A

Andy Parker 37:07

Exactly, exactly. And they were, they were cut from the same cloth. And I'd like to think that somewhere they're dancing together.



Fred Guttenberg 37:15

After this conversation, I'm counting on it.



JJ Janflone 37:18

And, while I hope that's true, this is again, just one of those things where, like Fred and Andy and Kris and Kelly, even you know, I love all of you. And I'm so glad I've met all of you. But I really wish we had hadn't, you know, had to meet under these circumstances. So, you know, and I wish that we could all know, Jaime and Alison the way that you two, are lucky enough to. But I want to thank you so much for sharing and for continuing to fight for gun violence prevention and to fight for the truth, so thank you so much.



Fred Guttenberg 37:47

Thank you all. I cannot appreciate a group of people more. So thank you.



Andy Parker 37:53

Bye, everybody.



JJ Janflone 37:57

This week, we're going back to a school related story.



Kelly Sampson 38:01

Oh, okay.



JJ Janflone 38:05

You know, just to, I know, you love those.



Kelly Sampson 38:08

I mean, yeah. It's a, they're are definitely a barrel of fun.



JJ Janflone 38:13

Yeah, so last week in Oklahoma, a parent was waiting in line to pick up his children at the Grove Lower Elementary School, and he unintentionally discharged a gun inside his vehicle.



Kelly Sampson 38:24

How did that happen?



JJ Janflone 38:25

Okay. Ah, so I don't know, have you ever had to, I don't know if you've been to a pickup line, or if your school worked at all like this. But this is one of those pickup lines where it's just a line of cars. And they send the kids out, like in order to the car. So he was in the pickup line where adults line up in their cars to pick up the kids, and he had the firearm in his car. And the gun went off as he was waiting in line.



Kelly Sampson 38:49

So what, I mean, how did it go off? Like what happened? Was he reaching for it?



JJ Janflone 38:53

Okay, so this is where, you know, I was not the journalist, so I was unable to access all this information. We don't know too much about how it unintentionally fired, but we do know that the parent was injured because the man had to immediately leave the parking lot and take himself to the hospital and, while the Grove Police Department is looking into the incident, I am happy to report that there weren't yet any children in the parking lot, and no one else was injured.



Kelly Sampson 39:19

I mean, I'm glad that he was able to drive himself to the hospital. That suggests that maybe, you know, he's not gravely injured, but I'm also thinking about the child that he was there to pick up with probably like where's, where's my dad or uncle or whoever the person was, and you know just goes to shows man is really lucky because the child could have been in the car, could have been injured worse. There are all sorts of things that could have happened. And it sounds like it was bad enough as it is because he had to go

to the hospital.



JJ Janflone 39:49

Well and comments on the Grove Lower Elementary Cchool Facebook, because everyone has a Facebook now, comments on their Facebook page from other parents who are in the pickup line, make it very clear that all of the parents who were in line knew immediately that it was a gunshot. So apparently it was very scary for all involved, too.



Kelly Sampson 40:06

Yeah, I can imagine. I mean, I, especially if you're dealing with children and schools, and because it's the United States, and we've had so many bad incidents with that, like, I would imagine you would be really, really terrified, especially if the person drove off. Like, wait, what, you know.



JJ Janflone 40:25

What just happened? Right. And I do want to say that the school has issued a statement as well making it very clear that they do not allow firearms on school property, even if, you know, they are in cars.



Kelly Sampson 40:35

This seems to show exactly why.



Kelly Sampson 40:37

Yes. This week, we begin our News Wrap Up with a prayer vigil held on Sunday for the members of the child's family killed in Indianapolis's largest mass casualty shooting and over a decade. Family, friends, and neighbors gathered to remember Kezzie Childs, 42, Raymond Childs, 42, Elijah Childs, 18, Rita Childs, 13, Kiera Hawkins, 19, and Hawkins' unborn baby boy. The shooter is in custody, but of course many are still struggling with the loss of three generations of family members.



JJ Janflone 41:18

Then, to turn to El Paso, Texas. This Friday, it was announced that an undocumented

immigrant named Rosa, who survived the August 3, 2019 Walmart shooting that ended with 23 people killed and 23 injured, has been deported to Juarez, Mexico. Rosa, and I want to be clear, we only know her first name had been helping police and FBI officials investigate the shooting to quote Sandra Ramirez, a spokesperson with the ICE migrant and refugee services, Rosa is a survivor of one of the most horrific events to ever take place in El Paso. She came forward and presented herself to both El Paso police and FBI officials to get the statement of what she saw on that fateful day. This decision amounts to a re-victimization of this young lady who only came forward to help build the case against a shooter and the racist attack. End quote. Rosa is still listed as one of the district attorney's plan witnesses to testify against the shooter and his eventual trial and had applied for a U Visa, which if our listeners aren't familiar, is a form of immigration relief that gives temporary or permanent us residents for undocumented survivors of crimes, who are helping officials or who have helped officials investigate or prosecute criminal activity.



Kelly Sampson 42:27

I have a lot of things that I could say about this, but I won't. So, yeah, we can end on some good news. And that's that Senator Tom Carper of Delaware has introduced S51, which is the Washington DC Admission Act, which will make Washington DC the 51st state. In championing this cause, Senator Carper has recognized the voices and rights of over 700,000 DC residents that have been denied for too long. And I'm one of them, so I'm really excited about this. The issue of DC statehood cuts to the heart of our democracy, as the citizens of DC, who are disproportionately impacted by gun violence, have no voting representatives in Congress and have seen their legal, their local laws, used as bargaining chips by federal legislators to score political points back home. They're really excited about this, and I look forward to being the 51st state.



JJ Janflone 43:25

Hey, want to share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red, Blue, and Brady via phone or text message. Simply call or text us at 480-744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever, Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 43:40

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