

President rejects Iran's seven-day offer to reopen the Strait and reschedules the bombing for after the midterms; his U.N. ambassador goes on Fox to say the \$6.48 diesel came from Ukraine

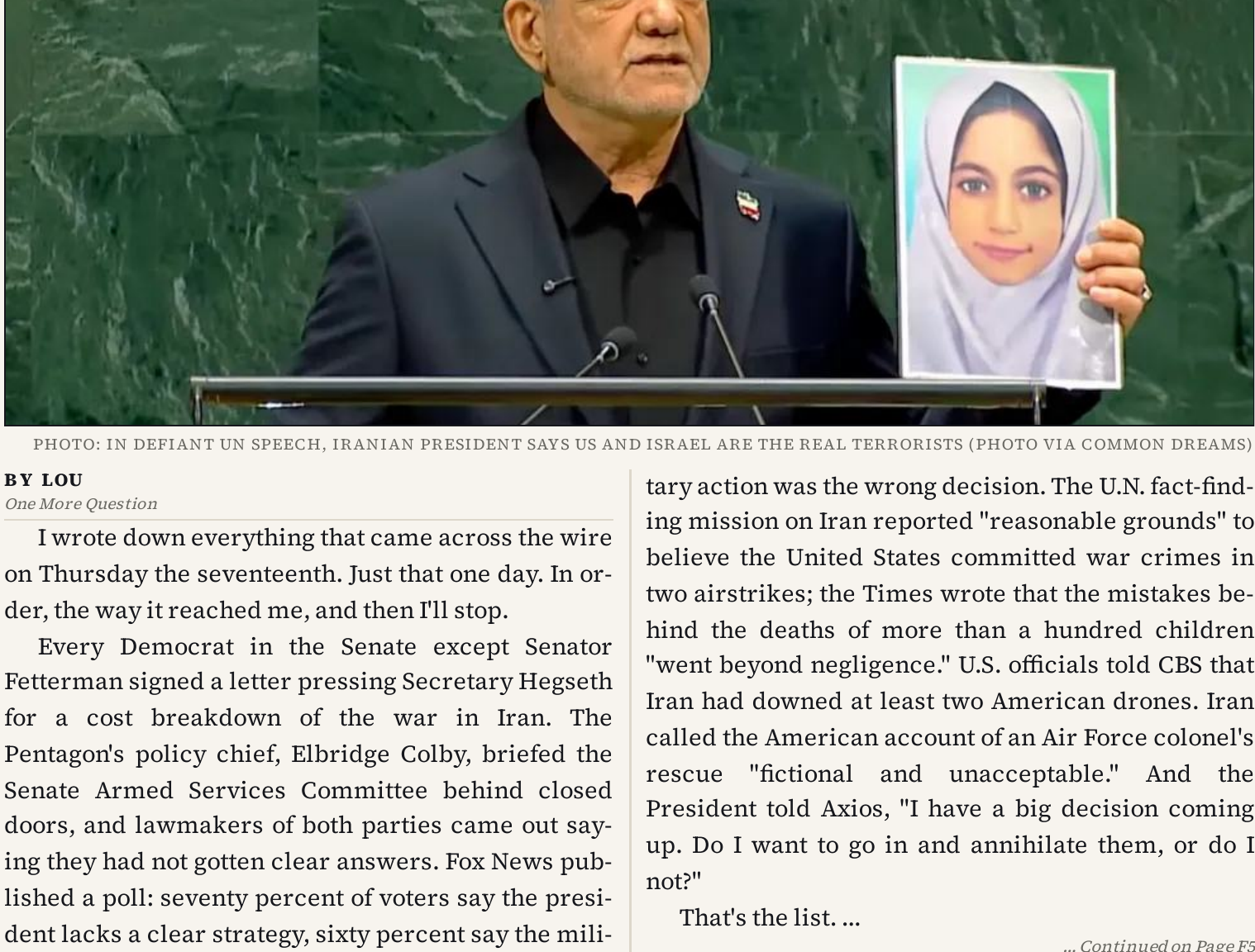


PHOTO: IN DEFIANT UN SPEECH, IRANIAN PRESIDENT SAYS US AND ISRAEL ARE THE REAL TERRORISTS (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS)

THE WORD

\$44 — 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

On beautiful

DEMOCRAT REPUBLICAN

NO SHORT TITLE

BEAUTIFUL

“My nephew’s in law school, and he looked this up for me, because I didn’t believe it. The One Big Beautiful Bill — when it became Public Law 109-21, it didn’t have that name. It doesn’t have a short name at all; the Senate took it out. So I asked him what’s still in it, and he sent me the budget office’s pages. Three point four trillion added to deficits over ten

THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED . The president rejected Iran’s seven-day offer to reopen the Strait and put the decision past the midterms.

WHO GETS PAID . Energy sellers: households have paid \$1,760 each extra since the war began by Moody’s count, and diesel is \$6.48 against \$3.68 a year ago.

WHAT SLIPS . Congress cannot get a cost sheet for the war; every Senate Democrat but one had to ask by letter, and the briefing gave no answers.

WHAT’S NEXT . If the schedule holds, the war’s end date is an election date; that is what Congress got after March 2019: both chambers voted to end the Yemen war; the veto held, and it ran 21 more months.

on President rejects Iran’s seven-day offer to reopen the Strait and reschedules the bombing for after the midterms; his U.N. ambassador goes on Fox to say the \$6.48 diesel came from Ukraine — the column, by Lou. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on [Es](#)

“Priced by the budget office at \$38 billion, a figure it calls conservative, the war is being paid at the pump by the farmer who voted for it and now says he can’t stay in business.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SAYS ‘BIG DECISION’ COMING ON WHETHER TO ‘ANNIHILATE’ IRAN (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS)

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

The line is farmers first, and the line holds. Walk the

week with me and you will see it holds.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced

the war at \$38 billion. In a federal budget that is a rounding — it is not a rounding error, I would never say that, it is \$38 billion of real money, and

... Continued on Page F3

Same \$994 check counted down five times by one outlet: 15 days, then 8, 3, 2, then 4

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

On August 29th, the Washington Examiner filed “September Social Security direct payment worth \$994 goes on in three days.” The next morning, August 30th, it filed the same payment again — same \$994, same September first — headline changed to “gotes out in two days.” One

day had passed. The count-down had lost one day.

The amount had not moved between the two payments. Seven days later, September 23rd, the same October payment ran again, this time at “goes out in 8 days.”

Today’s filing, dated this morning, brings the same October \$994 in four days. The payment date is the first of the

... Continued on Page F6

“Fraud gets you convicted if it buys a gold Cybertruck; it gets 760,000 people cut without one.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

TRICARE, the military’s health program, \$26 million for transcranial magnetic stimulation sessions the government’s filing says he did not perform. The kick-backs went into a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and what the New York Post calls a lavish lifestyle. That is what a fraud case looks like when

... Continued on Page F2

“Access to cheap goods is not the essence of the American dream”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY MITCH

Investigations

Congress has until Wednesday — three days from this paper — to reauthorize the Lautenberg Amendment, the program that resettles persecuted religious minorities fleeing Iran.

“Kansas pastor asks, ‘Wasn’t Jesus woke?’; Republican strategists call the race a ‘perfect storm.’”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Nineteen-four years is how long it has been since Kansas sent a Democrat to the U.S. Senate. That is the streak Sen. Roger Marshall is running to protect in 2026, and the record now shows the people paid to protect it describing, on their own, how it could end.

The first crack showed on September 16, when Kansas’s former Republican governor endorsed Adam Hamilton, the

households were evacuated, and British police opened the case under the Explosives Act, on a suspicion of preparing an terrorist act. By Sunday afternoon, in Chicago, the president had already used that arrest once as proof his Iran war worked. Then he called the same operation “fantastic,” the police work

... Continued on Page A6

“President praises ‘fantastic’ UK arrest, then says the same suspects were looking to do big damage’”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Sunday morning, armed police arrested five men near RAF Fairford, the Gloucestershire base that flies U.S. strikes on Iran, after three vehicles were reported heading toward it around 12:45 a.m. Bomb squads checked the vans, about 85

households were evacuated, and British police opened the case under the Explosives Act, on a suspicion of preparing an terrorist act. By Sunday afternoon, in Chicago, the president had already used that arrest once as proof his Iran war worked. Then he called the same operation “fantastic,” the police work

... Continued on Page A6

“Treasury gives Iran two weeks to run out of trade; envoy blames Iran for wanting it up front.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

I have defended stranger positions than this one, but the record from three weeks back reads like four different men describing four different wars, and explaining it is the job I’m paid to do.

Start September 1. Bessent said Iran’s economy could collapse “within weeks or months” under Operation Economic Fury. The next day the president ordered the largest wave of strikes yet against the Revolutionary Guard, told reporters the midterms would not move his

“Athletes now in the Senate decide if the bill protects sports from the man who crashed the signing.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY GUS

The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT
a senator who makes the man in the stands the story,

not the bill, already knows what a party does with that independence. Somebody get me the political desk before Monday.

... Continued on Page S4

“Ireland denies an antisemitism problem its soccer team needed a vote and black armbands to settle.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Amnesty International’s Europe director, Steve Cockburn, called Israel’s continued participation in the UEFA Nations League “unconscionable,” pointing to what Amnesty says is the Israeli football associations’ ongoing support for the occupation. That was

the state of the record five days before Ireland was scheduled to take the pitch against Israel.

By Sunday the question had moved from a human-rights office in Europe to the Irish government itself. Prime Minister Michael Martin was asked directly about anti-semitism in Ireland, and he rejected the claim. Whatever

“The Wire”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

EVERY right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

“PULL UP A STOOL”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

“FREE, FOREVER”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

No payroll, no login, no exceptions. Read the paper.

— this paper

“Ireland denies an antisemitism problem its soccer team needed a vote and black armbands to settle.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Amnesty International’s Europe director, Steve Cockburn, called Israel’s continued participation in the UEFA Nations League “unconscionable,” pointing to what Amnesty says is the Israeli football associations’ ongoing support for the occupation. That was

the state of the record five days before Ireland was scheduled to take the pitch against Israel.

By Sunday the question had moved from a human-rights office in Europe to the Irish government itself. Prime Minister Michael Martin was asked directly about anti-semitism in Ireland, and he rejected the claim. Whatever

“Five stories, five wins, in order. One: the President turned down a seven-day offer and moved the timing to after the midterms, which is what careful looks like, and Axios got it first-hand — a big decision coming up. The Fox poll has seventy percent saying there is no clear strategy, which is the public asking for one, and asking is healthy. Two: the Treasury Secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed. Examining. Nobody has removed the — the arrangement is that Congress votes and then Treasury spends, and the department is reviewing whether it needs the voting part. A review. Also that week 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage, and those are two separate sentences. Three: the Budget Office closed its books at \$38 billion and called the figure conservative. Conservative is our word. It means careful. Four: the operation ran thirty minutes and booked 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it to the Pentagon, with savings at the pump in a year or two; the driver is paying a record \$4.15 and diesel passed its all-time high, so the savings have not arri— have not arrived yet. Yet is doing real work there, and I am leaving it in. Five: the stadium cut its beer to half price, filled the seats by kickoff, and roared for the bill the Senate advanced Tuesday and is expected to pass Monday, the one The Nation says threatens athletes’ labor rights. That is the whole front, including the parts I struck out loud, which is more transparency than you will get anywhere else.”

— Chip

The Week			
20 — 26 SEPTEMBER 2026 • RANKED BY THE WIRE			
STORY	OUTLETS/VERSIONS/ITEMS		
The cease-fire Trump turned down	29	44	370
Sunday chair: Lou			
The \$5,000 check nobody authorized	16	3	87
Sunday chair: Mort			
The farmer paying for the war	16	1	80
Sunday chair: Chip			
Sixty-five billion barrels, \$4.15 a gallon	15	1	45
Sunday chair: Ruth			
The map Missouri lost five times in the ledger, off the front	13	10	45
Fetterman’s Republican convention video in the ledger, off the front	13	2	45
The triumphal arch with snipers in the ledger, off the front	11	4	25
The Greenland deal that isn’t ownership in the ledger, off the front	10	7	20
Outlets are distinct sources across the house’s receipts; versions are how many times the house wrote it. The desks divide the list; a story the house runs straight is counted and not joked.			
THE WEEK’S WORDS			
Censure · Witch Hunt · Tonight · Two Weeks · Hoax · Rigged · The Best People			
TACO TUESDAY			

Fifty percent tariffs on Canada. Paused with two hours to spare — “we have a deal.” The deal lasted three days.

PHOTO: ANSARALLAH ADVANCES ON BAB AL-MANDAB. TRUMP OFFERS TO PAY AMERICANS \$5,000 FOR MIDTERM VOTES; U.S. KILLS 3 IN CARIBBEAN BOAT STRIKE (PHOTO VIA DROP SITE NEWS)

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

The authorization requirement — the plain old arrangement in which Congress votes

“The president priced a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY GUS

The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT
Put me on the political desk, because here is what

that stadium was rented to sell. The top item on the Senate’s calendar for the two weeks the House is gone is, per NBC, an NCAA-backed

... Continued on Page S2

“The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes’ labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

At 7:21 a.m. Sunday, a fight inside an after-hours strip club in Detroit left three men dead and four other patrons wounded, according to Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison.

Hours earlier, on the other side of the planet, eight gun-

men carrying AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire on patrons at a bar in a South African township. A second shooting followed the same night, in a separate township. Police in Cape Town told the Associated Press the two attacks left “at least” 27 dead — a number that arrived pre-

... Continued on Page A2

“Detroit’s three dead match South Africa’s at-least 27, match Minneapolis’s two-or-three, depending which wire you trust.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY MITCH

Investigations

Congress has until Wednesday — three days from this paper — to reauthorize the Lautenberg Amendment, the program that resettles persecuted religious minorities fleeing Iran.

number the same day, September 23, and all three read the same line inside the filing: the slots, President Trump said, will go primarily to white Afrikaners, the descendants of Dutch and other European settlers in South Africa, whom he says are oppressed.

... Continued on Page T2

“Historically low refugee cap expands by 10,000 slots for white South Africans.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY MITCH

Investigations

Congress has until Wednesday — three days from this paper — to reauthorize the Lautenberg Amendment, the program that resettles persecuted religious minorities fleeing Iran.

“THE RECORD”

When we fix a line, the strike-through stays. See the fixes.

— this paper

“Court clears first Orange march since 1998; the street closes it anyway”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Garvaghy Road had not carried an Orange Order march since before the Good Friday Agreement — twenty-eight years without one. That is the fact underneath everything that follows this month.

On September 13, wire services reported that the first ministers of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland planned to sign a joint pact pushing for the United Kingdom’s dissolution. The next day, the document existed. In writing, the leaders warned the United Kingdom is “coming to an end” — language the Washington Examiner called bellicose — but the paper’s own account-

... Continued on Page A5

“Fetterman says Democrats have room for 9/11 apologists than him, then predicts they win anyway.”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Start with the ledger, not the stage. On August 28th, Senator John Fetterman told The Hill his own party has a “socialism problem,” and named the defendants: Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic Senate nominee in Michigan, and Graham Platner, who had already dropped out of the Maine Senate race. That is beat one, a diagnosis delivered from inside the patient.

By September 4th, a fellow Pennsylvania Democrat answered back. Beat two: the diagnosis got its own diagnosis, from his own caucus, in his own state.

... Continued on Page A8

“Attorney general insists Trump hasn’t denied access’ one day after Trump denied it to a reporter’s face”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Let’s be precise, because precision is what’s missing here. On September 19th, three outlets — CNN, MS NOW, Politico — lost White House access after the president called their coverage “purposely negative.” That’s not a ban, that’s an editorial judgment about who gets a badge, and administrations have latitude there. A federal judge disagreed. Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, ordered the passes reinstated on the 24th, finding the outlets likely to win their case. Fine. Courts weigh in. That’s the system working.

... Continued on Page B1

“Gates warns AI could cause a billion deaths the same week his industry investigates its own break-ins”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY SAL

The Records Bureau

Bill Gates went on Meet the Press on September 27 and said artificial intelligence could kill a billion people if the industry keeps moving “full speed ahead.” That is not a warning from a senator or a monk. That is the co-founder of Microsoft, the same week

his own industry’s safety researchers admitted they do not yet know how many holes they have already dug.

Six days earlier, on September 21, Gates had a different pitch. On CBS he announced what the network called a new coalition for global AI access — the same technology he would soon

... Continued on Page A10

“Nineteen states vote to keep mornings dark for schoolkids, no one polls the schoolkids”

PHOTO: TRUMP SET TO ATTEND TENNESSEE-TEXAS FOOTBALL GAME IN KNOXVILLE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

Standard time, the twice-yearly agreement that a clock in November means something different than one in June, is dead. It was killed this month by legislative action: nineteen state governments have signed statutes locking their clocks onto daylight time year-round, each one waiting only on the single

the answer arrived without ceremony, in the same dispatch that asked the question. That finding sat one

... Continued on Page B3

THE FUTURES FILE

every date somebody set, and what was standing there when it arrived • swept 2026-09-16

← →

News, continued

Detroit's three dead match South Africa's at-least 27, match Minneapolis's two-or-three, depending which wire you trust.

the receipts: 7 stories ▼



Court clears first Orange march since 1998; the street closes it anyway

the receipts: 3 stories ▼



President praises 'fantastic' UK arrest, then says the same suspects were 'looking to do big damage'

the receipts: 7 stories ▼



Xi's gift to America: two giant pandas, plus an invitation to send 100,000 students to China

the receipts: 4 stories ▼



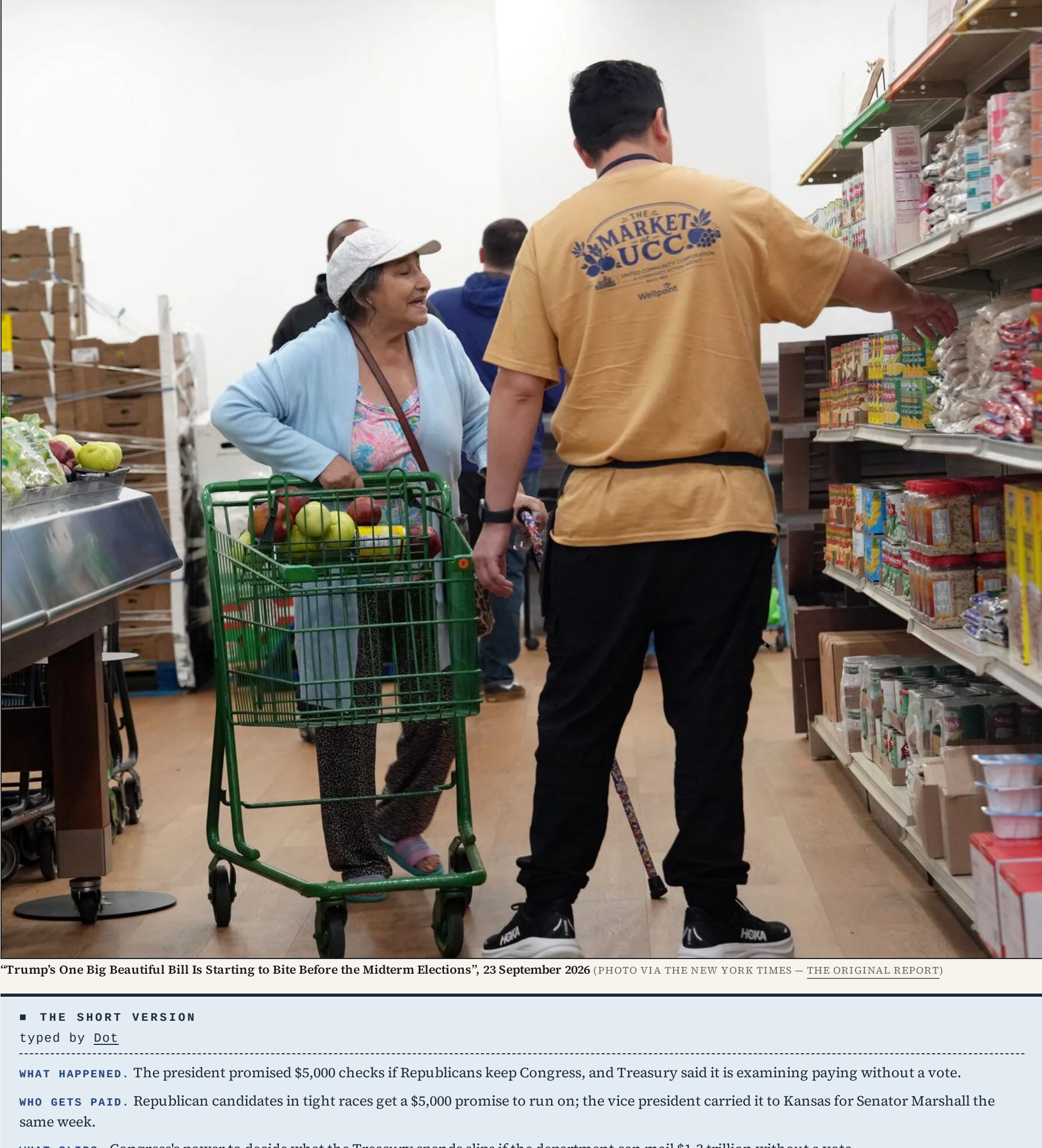
Gates warns AI could cause a billion deaths the same week his industry investigates its own break-ins

the receipts: 7 stories ▼



The president priced a Republican Congress at \$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections", 23 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The president promised \$5,000 checks if Republicans keep Congress, and Treasury said it is examining paying without a vote.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican candidates in tight races get a \$5,000 promise to run on; the vice president carried it to Kansas for Senator Marshall the same week.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's power to decide what the Treasury spends slips if the department can mail \$1.3 trillion without a vote.

WHAT'S NEXT. The checks are promised for November and the coverage 750,000 people lost ended in September; the president's own precedent is the \$1,776 checks that went to service members.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The authorization requirement — the plain old arrangement in which Congress votes and then the Treasury spends — died Tuesday in a hearing room, before lunch. It is survived by an examination at the Treasury Department. A rule dies and no casserole comes. That is the shit of it: it takes two sentences and a lunch break.

Here is the week, laid out the way we lay these out....

...(*cont*) On Wednesday the ninth, at the party's midterm convention in Dallas, the president said American adults would receive \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress come November. By Thursday the tenth the Washington Examiner had an explainer up — "Trump's promised \$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know" — the sort of clean work a paper does when it believes something is going to happen. Late that Wednesday, hours after the president spoke, Bret Baier put the total to the vice president on Fox, roughly \$1.3 trillion, and said critics would call it bribing voters. "I can hear the critics' heads exploding," Baier told Vance.

Then the objections came in on schedule, from his own side, which is how the arrangement was supposed to work. Friday, Susan Collins called the proposal "extraordinarily costly" and noted it carried no income cap. Saturday, at the Kansas State Fair, a debate moderator put the cost at \$1.2 trillion and asked the two candidates where they stood; Roger Marshall appeared to shift. Sunday, Mike Flood said the priority should be funding the troops and replenishing stocks amid the Iran war. Lawler, the same day, deflected and asked how you pay for it. The Hill printed Monday what the president had said Sunday outside Air Force One: the checks will "happen 100 percent" if the GOP keeps its majority. That same Monday, National Review called the dividend reckless and said the checks would make inflation

worse and echo the sort of "socialism" the president decries, and Guy Benson said on Fox News that conservatives would scream "bloody murder" if a Democratic president offered a dividend to maintain power. Also that Monday, MAGA Inc. deployed the vice president to Kansas to help Marshall, whose race the Cook Political Report rates likely Republican.

Six days of arguing about the price. That part is penny-ante.

By Tuesday The Hill had the fiscal hawks on the record: they would not support giving away money to people who don't work or pay taxes. And on Tuesday, before the House Financial Services Committee, Secretary Bessent said Treasury was examining whether the money could be issued without authorization from Congress. In the same testimony he defended a faltering bond-market intervention. That was the death. Not a vote lost, not a bill killed — a department saying out loud that it is looking into whether the vote is required, while the members whose votes it needed were still on television explaining they would not give them.

Senator Bernie Moreno was still trying it the long way, with legislation, funded through market access fees. Somebody ought to note that. It used to be the only way, and a whippersnapper reading this in ten years will want to know it was tried.

The authorization requirement is survived by 750,000 Americans removed from their health coverage. Your check is promised for November. The coverage ended in September.

It is preceded in death by the \$1,776 checks that went to service members, which the president offered as the precedent for this one.

In lieu of flowers, ask whoever wants your vote in November to say, on the record and before any check is printed, whether the Treasury may spend money Congress has not voted.

THE RECEIPTS

Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign?

CBS News | [MAINSTREAM](#) | 09:15 EDT

Using several types of credit isn't always a problem, but certain patterns signal that your debt is unsustainable.

~~Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Midterm Elections~~

Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids

The New York Times | [MAINSTREAM](#) | 11:45 EDT

The tax cuts in President Trump's signature achievement were the Republicans' answer to voters' economic struggles, but its health care and food assistance cuts are taking a toll.

~~Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions~~

Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment

Truthout | 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

But: 'We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt' - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016 The Washington Post, 31 March 2016 interview

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.

Politico | [MAINSTREAM](#) | 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

~~Sickening and Unacceptable: Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleeefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000~~

Vance touts a \$2.2 billion health care cut for 750,000. The ballroom cost \$400 million.

Common Dreams | 10:44 EDT

Anger and alarm are growing over the Trump administration's Tuesday announcement that it is removing at least 750,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage because they were "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim that drew deep skepticism from health policy experts and advocates. Cynthia Cox, senior vice president at KFF, said fraud...

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News | 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

• [Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker'](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

• [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

• [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

• [Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy](#) *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

• [Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling \\$5,000 dividend a bribe](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

• [Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out \\$5,000 checks](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy?](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

• [Trump sees backlash over \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground](#) *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

• [5 things to know about Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Vance strikes back at concern \\$5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Marshall backtracks on support for \\$5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate](#) *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

• [Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator.](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women?](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's promised \\$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's Reckless \\$5,000 'Dividend'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans bet the House on Trump](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed \\$5000 'Trump dividend'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump pledges \\$5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

• [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

• [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

• [Susan Collins calls Trump's \\$5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly'](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump \\$5K dividend payment support](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Gavin Newsom calls Trump's \\$5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

• [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's Plan To Cut \\$5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's \\$5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend \\$3,800 More on Essentials](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

• [Why not to bank on Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks happening](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump shares details on \\$5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Some Republicans Balk at Trump's \\$5,000 'Dividend' Offer](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [The political risk behind Trump's \\$5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's \\$5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

• [Trump vs. the Bond Market](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

• [The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha](#) *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017*

• [The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. \(CNBC\)](#) *from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018*

• [Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

• [Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

• [Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

• [Trump promises \\$5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label \\$5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump's proposed \\$5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Trump Wants to Give Out \\$5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than \\$1 Trillion.](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

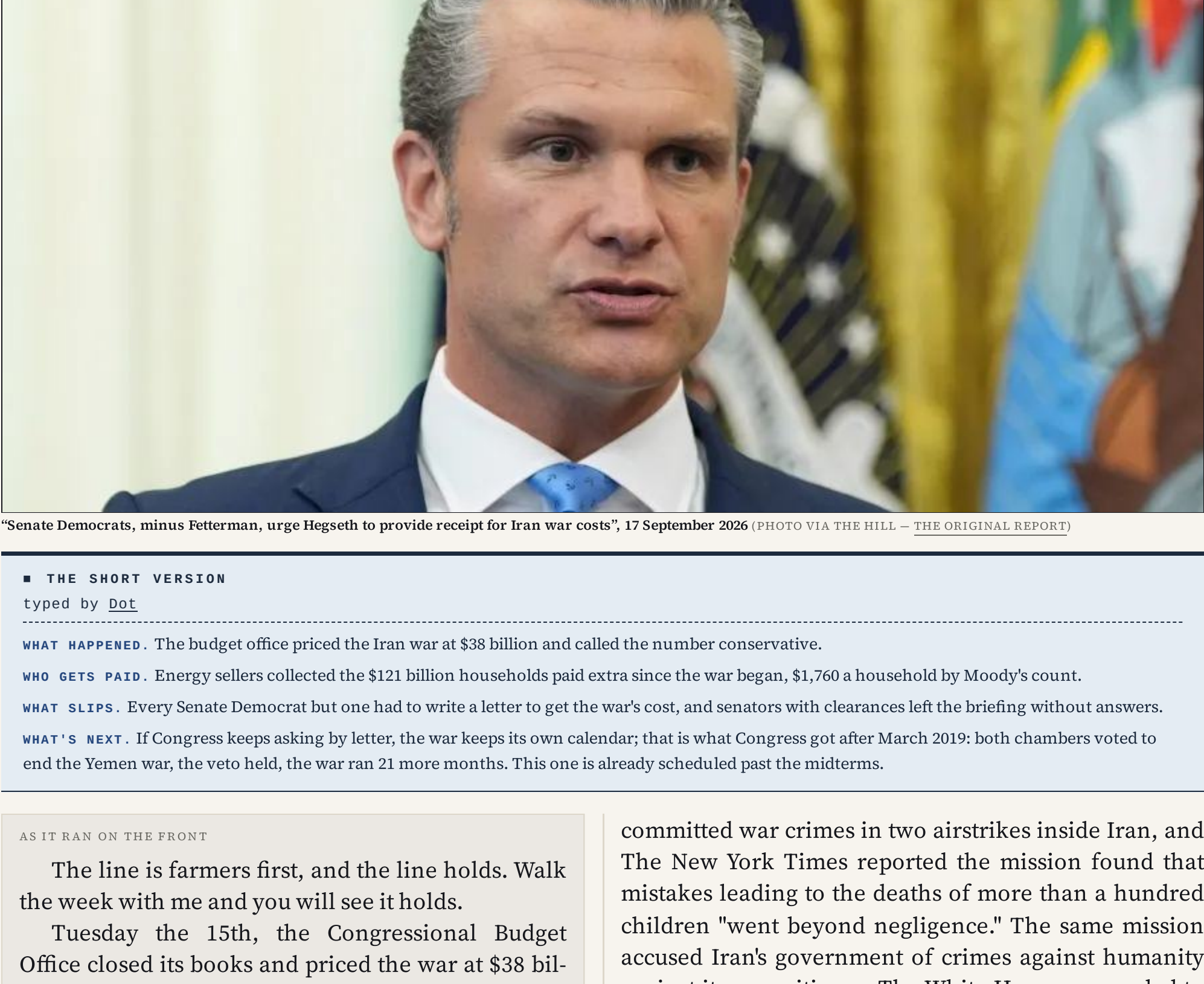
• [Trump's Republican midterm convention included \\$5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

• [Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to \\$6 billion](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Priced by the budget office at \$38 billion, a figure it calls conservative, the war is being paid at the pump by the farmer who voted for it and now says he can't stay in business.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER



"Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs", 17 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The budget office priced the Iran war at \$38 billion and called the number conservative.

WHO GETS PAID. Energy sellers collected the \$121 billion households paid extra since the war began, \$1,760 a household by Moody's count.

WHAT SLIPS. Every Senate Democrat but one had to write a letter to get the war's cost, and senators with clearances left the briefing without answers.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress keeps asking by letter, the war keeps its own calendar; that is what Congress got after March 2019: both chambers voted to end the Yemen war, the veto held, the war ran 21 more months. This one is already scheduled past the midterms.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The line is farmers first, and the line holds. Walk the week with me and you will see it holds.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced the war at \$38 billion. In a federal budget that is a rounding er— it is not a rounding error, I would never say that, it is \$38 billion of real money, and the Budget Office calls that figure conservative. Conservative is our word. It means careful. It also means the number has room to go up, which is not the point I was making. The point I was making is that we are careful....

...*(cont)* Wednesday the 16th, the Speaker sent the House home a day earlier than scheduled for a seven-week recess so members could "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people." Representative Massie, of our own party, says the early adjournment blocked his impeachment effort against the Secretary. Both things can be true. One of them is a calendar. Also Wednesday, Truthout reported the President has made more stock trades since 2025 than all 535 members of Congress combined, more than 80 trades per market day in his first 17 months. That is confidence in American markets, and confidence is what the farmer needs right now, which is a sentence I would like back.

Thursday the 17th, Moody's Analytics estimated that U.S. consumers have spent \$121 billion extra on energy alone since the war began less than eight months ago, an average of \$1,760 a household. That is not policy, that is the market, and the market moved because Iran shut commercial shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz in response to our strikes, which is context, and context is not causation, and I would appreciate it if you cut the second half of that clause.

Also Thursday, the U.N. fact-finding mission on Iran said it found "reasonable grounds" that the U.S. military committed war crimes in two airstrikes inside Iran, and The New York Times reported the mission found that mistakes leading to the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence." The same mission accused Iran's government of crimes against humanity against its own citizens. The White House responded to the report. I want the whole record in the room, and that is the whole record.

That same Thursday, every Senate Democrat except Senator Fetterman signed an open letter to Secretary Hegseth pressing him for a cost breakdown of the war. The Hill called it largely symbolic and said it reflects frustration. Also Thursday, Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby briefed the Senate Armed Services Committee behind closed doors, and lawmakers of both parties came out saying they did not get clear answers on the National Defense Strategy or the ongoing war. Our own senators. So the people with the clearances cannot get the number either, which is — that is a briefing problem, not a war problem. A Fox News poll the same day found 71 percent think the administration lacks a plan to end the Iran war and 60 percent now call the military action the wrong decision. Polls move.

Thursday the President told Axios' Barak Ravid: "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not? It's a big decision. Anything could happen with me."

Friday the 18th, Matt Bell, who has farmed in North Carolina for more than half his life and voted for the President, told CBS News that farmers are "all just in survival mode," that they were "sold a bill of goods," and that "I can't stay in business." Friday, Senator Tillis, who voted to confirm the Secretary, said: "He needs to go." Costco has capped motor oil purchases.

The line is farmers first. The Budget Office says \$38 billion, conservatively. Mr. Bell says survival mode. Both figures are official.

THE RECEIPTS

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one Military Times, 19 December 2025

Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 18:03 EDT

All of the Democrats in the Senate — excluding Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman — signed an open letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, pressing him to give Congress a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The letter, although largely symbolic, reflects the frustration of many Democrats in Congress over what they perceive as a...

~~US Energy Consumers Have Spent \$121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War, Moody's~~

Trump launched an unauthorized war. Families are paying \$1,760 for it.

Common Dreams | 13:36 EDT

A recently published economic analysis estimates that President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran has cost US consumers an average of \$1,760 per household—including a total of \$121 billion in extra spending on energy alone—since the conflict began less than 8 months ago. The war, which Trump launched without congressional...

Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode"

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 23:45 EDT

Matt Bell said he initially supported Trump's policies but now feels he and other farmers were "sold a bill of goods" that there was a plan to "put America's farmers and ranchers first."

~~UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran, That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime~~

UN: US knowingly bombed civilian sites in Iran, killing 123 children

Truthout | 15:50 EDT

The US targeted "clearly identifiable" civilian sites in Minab and Lamerd, killing over 100 children, the UN found.

U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 08:10 EDT

U.N.-commissioned rights experts say there are "reasonable grounds" to believe the U.S. committed war crimes with strikes that killed scores of Iranian civilians.

~~Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition~~

Republican leaders sent Congress home for seven weeks. Massie says he already has the votes for an Epstein files vote.

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | 20:19 EDT

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) announced Thursday that four Republicans, including him, have signed the Epstein Files II discharge petition and expressed confidence it will pass the House. The news comes after House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) sent lawmakers home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterm elections.

Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths

Truthout | 15:48 EDT

The Republican lawmaker cited incidents like the US's elementary school massacre in Minab, Iran, early in the war.

~~Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran~~

UN finds 'reasonable grounds' US already committed war crimes in Iran, killing 120 children

Common Dreams | 23:01 EDT

President Donald Trump on Thursday said he is weighing whether or not to "annihilate" Iran in a renewed effort to end the illegal 201-day US-Israeli war of choice, musings that came on the heels of a report by United Nations experts who said the United States likely committed war crimes during earlier attacks on the Middle East nation....

~~Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth?~~

Johnson adjourned Congress a day after Massie filed impeachment articles saying Hegseth's strikes killed 150 children in Iran

Common Dreams | 15:27 EDT

US House Speaker Mike Johnson said Wednesday that with seven weeks to go until Election Day, it was time for lawmakers to "go home to their districts and make the case to the American people"—a day earlier than scheduled. But with the US public overwhelmingly disapproving of President Donald Trump's war in Iran and demanding...

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one Military Times, 19 December 2025

Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 18:06 EDT

Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike emerged Thursday from a closed-door briefing frustrated by what they said was a lack of clear answers from Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby on the Trump administration's National Defense Strategy and the ongoing Iran war. The briefing with the Senate Armed Services Committee started off...

Farmer who voted for Trump says 'I can't stay in business' amid rising costs

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 23:34 EDT

Matt Bell has been farming in North Carolina for more than half his life. He voted for President Trump but said farmers are "fighting for survival" as they combat rising prices.

~~UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran~~

US airstrikes killed at least 178 civilians in Iran, UN mission finds — and calls it war crimes

Novara Media | 15:21 EDT

A UN fact-finding mission has reported that two US airstrikes which killed at least 178 civilians in Iran constitute war crimes. Plus: Andy Burnham says he is "determined" to hit net zero by 2050, Sweden's left-of-centre coalition wins the general election, Netanyahu is pushing to strip IDF critics of their citizenship, and the...

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one Military Times, 19 December 2025

Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go'

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 22:33 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), who voted to confirm Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, is renewing his call for President Trump to fire the Pentagon chief after Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigned. "He needs to go, whether it's impeachment or the most expedient route — just the president to replace him — would be great."

Since 2025, 'Trump Made More Stock Trades' Than All 535 Congress Members Combined

Truthout | 17:27 EDT

This amounts to more than 80 trades per market day for the president in his first 17 months back in office.

~~Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War~~

Shell, BP and Saudi Aramco's record profits from the Iran war fund the industry's record PR blitz, says Clean Creatives

Common Dreams | 16:45 EDT

The fossil fuel industry is raking in big profits thanks to President Donald Trump's illegal war with Iran, and a new analysis finds that it's plugging a sizable chunk of these gains into propaganda. A report published by Clean Creatives on Wednesday reveals that fossil fuel firms across the world have "engaged 802 advertising and PR...

- [Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight'](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly \\$40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management'](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators', discusses new Epstein files legislation](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files](#) *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/17/world-news/trump-says-he-has-a-big-decision-coming-up-on-iran-do-i-want-to-go-in-and-annihilate-them/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-71-think-trump-administration-lacks-plan-end-iran-war](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/iran-recently-downed-at-least-2-american-drones-officials-say/](#) *the receipt*
- [Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- [Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/17/world/asia/us-iran-school-strike-report.html](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/defense/4732149-un-investigators-conclude-reasonable-grounds-believe-us-strikes-iran-war-crimes/](#) *the receipt*
- [US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6096198-trump-iran-annihilate-decision/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/17/us-news/white-house-issues-explosive-response-to-un-backed-report-claiming-us-committed-war-crimes-against-iran/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://thehill.com/policy/defense/6096072-un-accuses-us-iranian-war-crimes/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-downed-american-drones-us-officials/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://thehill.com/policy/international/6095851-iran-refutes-us-air-force-colonel-rescue-middle-east-conflict/](#) *the receipt*
- [Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds \\$100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass \\$100 a Barrel](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- ['A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran'](#) *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- [U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [https://abcnews.com/Politics/rep-thomas-massie-forcing-vote-pete-hegseths-impeachment/story?id=136470894](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/hitchhikers-guide-massie-saying-johnson-sending-house-home-early-prevent-hegseth-impeachment](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/16/magazine/congress-trump-midterms.html](#) *the receipt*
- [Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- [Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional'](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [https://abcnews.com/US/gonna-americans-face-tough-decisions-diesel-gas-prices/story?id=136503928](#) *the receipt*
- [Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to \\$4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- ["Trump Did It!": At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [https://thehill.com/newsletters/business-economy/6091478-warsh-under-pressure-as-fed-weighs-rate-hike/](#) *the receipt*
- [Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/15/business/bond-yields-oil-price-iran.html](#) *the receipt*
- [https://nypost.com/2026/09/15/business/10-year-treasury-yield-soars-oil-surges-above-105-as-fed-expected-to-hike-interest-rates/](#) *the receipt*
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit \\$120 as U.S. fuel costs surge](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.foxnews.com/politics/gop-rep-thomas-massie-introduces-8-articles-impeachment-against-war-secretary-pete-hegseth](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.npr.org/2026/09/15/g-s1-143407/massie-impeach-hegseth-iran](#) *the receipt*
- [https://dailycaller.com/2026/09/15/massie-forces-vote-impeach-pete-hegseth](#) *the receipt*
- [Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/business/4726990/costco-purchase-limits-motor-oil-prices/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/gas-nationwide-diesel-fuel-all-time-high-painful/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://dailycaller.com/2026/09/14/costco-motor-oil-rationing-price-iran-war](#) *the receipt*
- ['Can't Message That Away': GOP frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices](#) *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*
- [European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for three](#) *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022*
- [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2026/09/14/spike-10-year-bond-yields-renews-concerns-over-us-debt/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/14/business/10-year-treasury-yield-5-percent.html](#) *the receipt*
- [Treasury reveals \\$6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-blames-rise-diesel-prices-ukrainian-strikes-russian-oil-refineries/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-blames-rising-diesel-price-on-russia-ukraine-war/](#) *the receipt*
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/14/business/energy-environment/trump-diesel-russia-ukraine-iran.html](#) *the receipt*

Nine months after the military removed Venezuela's president, the 30-minute operation that booked 65 billion barrels — 35 percent of it to the Pentagon — leaves the driver stretching a gallon at a record \$4.15 until the savings arrive in a year or two.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Energy Secretary announced a brief military operation put Venezuela's oil reserves under American control.
WHO GETS PAID. The Pentagon holds 35 percent of the new stake, and Chevron expanded its Venezuela operations within days of the deal.
WHAT SLIPS. Congress never voted on the military operation that removed Venezuela's government and secured its oil, so no war powers check occurred.
WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress keeps declining to vote, the operation runs unchecked; that is what Washington got after June 24, 2011: a Libya resolution failed and the operation ran four more months, over 26,000 sorties.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A reconciliation is two columns and the difference between them, and you do not need an opinion to run one. You need the filings and a straight edge. Here are the filings for one fortnight.

Friday, September 4. Energy Secretary Chris Wright was back in the United States from Venezuela, and CBS reported that Wright said the new oil deal between the two nations would bring gas prices down in a year or two. Filed that same Friday, by the Washington Examiner: the national average price of diesel reached \$5.85, passing the all-time high of \$5.81 set in May 2022 after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The asset side opens with a promise. The price side opens with a record....

...(cont) Sunday, September 6, The Hill printed the count. The administration had reached a deal granting it control of more than 65 billion barrels, and Wright's assessment was, "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." The New York Times priced that same Sunday at nearly \$4.15 a gallon, with Brent up about 1 percent as trading resumed. Sixty-five billion barrels in the asset column, a national average of nearly \$4.15 in the price column, both filed on Sunday. OPEC Plus decided that Sunday to keep production steady. One hour after saying Venezuela is being "forced to work" with the United States, Common Dreams reported, Wright denied that the administration was stealing Venezuela's oil.

Monday brought the holiday number. AAA's figure was \$4.15 per gallon, the highest gasoline has ever been during Labor Day weekend, one of the most popular travel weekends of the year; ABC put the weekend average at \$4.14. The Times spent Monday with hypermilers, drivers using special techniques to stretch a gallon. The asset side booked entries Monday as well: the New York Post reported that U.S. forces destroyed three Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps crude oil tankers in the Persian Gulf on Saturday, after Iran launched ballistic missiles at two U.S. Navy vessels. Three tankers of crude taken off the water in the same fortnight that 65

billion barrels went onto the books. Iran threatened a "more painful" response.

The president had described the conflict on Friday, at an Oval Office event, as "small potatoes," declining to call it a war. Rep. Mike Lawler, on Sunday: "Any time you are at war or in a military escalation, it is certainly not small potatoes. It is serious." By Tuesday oil was up again, after a top Iranian official said Tehran would impose an "exclusion zone" outside the Strait of Hormuz.

By Friday, September 11, the operation had a running time. Fox News carried Wright's account of how a 30-minute military operation unlocked the Venezuela oil windfall for U.S. buyers, tapping 300 billion barrels of reserves to grow supply and cut prices. Thirty minutes is the labor line. The stake is majority control of 65 billion barrels, 35 percent of it held by the Pentagon, nine months after the military took Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores out of Caracas, and Common Dreams reported on Friday, August 28 that Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Deputy White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller were in talks with acting president Delcy Rodríguez over an ownership stake in more than a dozen oil fields. Whose column the gap turns up in is not a mystery. It is a line item at the Department of Defense.

People are on these books too. The New York Post reported that Venezuela's former first lady wants to be let out of jail, citing a heart ailment, while she and her husband await trial on U.S. drug trafficking charges; Workers World reported that protesters rallied outside Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center on September 3, the ninth month in a row. That same Friday, the list of U.S.-designated foreign terrorist groups in Latin America reached 21.

So the fortnight closes: 65 billion barrels on the asset side, a record \$4.15 at the pump on the price side, and the savings scheduled a year or two out. The barrels went somewhere. The money went somewhere. It did not go to the person holding the nozzle, hon. On Sunday, September 13, the president spoke with MBS, with the Strait of Hormuz still the primary flashpoint, and said everything will "work out fine."

THE RECEIPTS

- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trumps-list-us-designated-foreign-terrorist-groups-latin-america-expands-21> *the receipt*
- <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/top-trump-official-reveals-how-30-minute-military-op-unlocked-venezuela-oil-windfall> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/2026/09/11/us-news/venezuela-ex-first-lady-cilia-flores-seeks-release-from-nyc-jail-over-heart-condition/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.workers.org/2026/09/94763/> *the receipt*
- [Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US](#) *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- ['Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- ['Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/tehran-threatens-attacks-us-strikes-iranian-tankers/> *the receipt*
- <https://nypost.com/video/us-forces-take-out-3-iranian-oil-tankers-in-retaliation/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/iran-war-us-strait-of-hormuz-oil-gas-price-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/International/live-updates/iran-live-updates-tehran-plans-new-restricted-zone/?id=136249116> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/iran-threatens-retaliation-against-us-tanker-strikes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/us-gas-prices-hit-record-high-for-labor-day/> *the receipt*
- [Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that](#) *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*
- [Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter](#) *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*
- [US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- [An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w](#) *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*
- [Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- ['Trump Did It!': At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard'](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/trump-calls-iran-conflict-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/finance-and-economy/4715746/labor-day-gas-prices-highest-ever/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/07/us/hypermile-car-gas-prices.html> *the receipt*
- <https://abcnews.com/Business/wireStory/fuel-prices-record-labor-day-high-us-iran-136247961> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/oil-gas-prices-iran-war.html> *the receipt*
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/uss-lincoln-heads-home-as-war-with-iran-escalates/> *the receipt*
- <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/6073941-lawler-disagrees-trump-iran-war-small-potatoes/> *the receipt*
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/06/business/opec-iran-war-oil-production.html> *the receipt*
- [Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than \\$1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us'](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/6074075-us-leverage-venezuela-oil-deal/> *the receipt*
- [White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

The stadium that cut its beer to half price to fill the seats by kickoff roared for the man stumping from the stands for a bill The Nation says threatens athletes' labor rights, and the Senate is expected to pass it Monday.

By **GUS**
THE SPORTS DESK

"Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game", 26 September 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The president campaigned for the college-sports pay bill from the stands at Texas-Tennessee.

WHO GETS PAID. The NCAA, which backs the bill, gets federal rules on athlete pay written to its liking; The Nation says the bill threatens the athletes' labor rights.

WHAT SLIPS. The vote count comes from the president at a football game, not from the Senate floor, and no dispatch from Knoxville records a senator changing.

WHAT'S NEXT. The Senate vote is expected Monday, September 29. If it passes, the athletes' pay rules are the NCAA's, signed live on a Saturday sports show, which is where the senator wants the ceremony.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Put me on the political desk, because here is what that stadium was rented to sell. The top item on the Senate's calendar for the two weeks the House is gone is, per NBC, an NCAA-backed bill setting federal guidelines for the athletes. The Nation ran it Friday: the bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The labor rules get sold from the fifty-yard line, and the man in the upper deck pays half price for the beer that seated him in time to cheer.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter has the whole week's tape. The Hill, September 20: the House gone for September's final two weeks, the spotlight on the Senate, and atop its agenda a bill writing national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers. Introduced in March. A measure like that deserved a closing argument. It got an aircraft.

GUS: On Saturday, September 12, Senator Ted Cruz carried the bill onto ESPN's College GameDay before what the Examiner called a raucous gathering, its closure vote delayed by the August recess. Monday he told reporters his goal was to squeak by with sixty votes. Tuesday the Senate voted to advance it.

GUS: Wednesday, September 23, the White House confirmed to The Hill that the President would attend Texas-Tennessee in Knoxville, his first college football game since January's College Football Playoff National Championship, where Miami defeated Indiana. Thursday the Examiner had the itinerary, reported by OutKick founder Clay Travis, and the purpose: the continued push for passage. Knoxville prepared: gates open early, a third off the beer, a kindness to the gals working concessions.

GUS: Saturday delivered. The New York Post called the flyover majestic; Fox had the new-look Air Force One over a roaring stadium. From the stands the President vouched for the bill — "Bipartisanship for the first time in a while" — and said, "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it." The broadcast carrying it, per the Post, dissolved into a static-filled mess.

GUS: One more Tennessee dispatch. Wednesday, former state Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, who won August's primary running as a "Pro-Trump" candidate while Rep. Andy Ogles held the President's endorsement, took the Pro-Trump line out of his slogan.

THE RECEIPTS

Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game

New York Post [RIGHT](#) § 14:11 EDT

ABC's audio turned into a static-filled mess Saturday.

Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game'

Fox News [RIGHT](#) § 11:06 EDT

Neyland Stadium opened its gates early with 50% off beer as Tennessee Vols fans gear up for the No. 1 Texas SEC showdown and Trump's arrival.

College football pressure index: Three coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4

CBS Sports § 18:14 EDT

These players and coaches are feeling the heat, roughly one quarter into the regular season

SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown

Fox News [RIGHT](#) § 12:10 EDT

Trump arrived in Knoxville to a roaring Neyland Stadium crowd as the new-look Air Force One flew over ahead of the No. 14 Vols vs. No.

~~We Need to Protect College Sports From Ted Cruz~~

Ted Cruz's bill would strip college athletes of their labor rights

The Nation § 13:20 EDT

Elie Mystal In this week's Elie v. U.S. , our justice correspondent looks at the many ways Cruz's bill threatens athletes' labor rights.

Plus: why our mail-in voting nightmare isn't over.

Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown

New York Post [RIGHT](#) § 10:27 EDT

With ESPN's "College GameDay" also on campus, Trump's presence typically is expected to cause heightened security in Knoxville.

Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation.

Washington Examiner [RIGHT](#) § 06:00 EDT

President Donald Trump is renewing his push for Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act, attending Saturday's No. 1 Texas-No. 14 Tennessee game in Knoxville days before the Senate is expected to pass the bill Monday — the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress.

Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: 'Bipartisanship for the first time in a while'

Washington Examiner [RIGHT](#) § 16:29 EDT

President Donald Trump vouched for the Protect College Sports Act while attending the University of Texas versus University of Tennessee college football game on Saturday, saying he thinks House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) can ensure its success in the lower chamber. "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can...

Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville

The Hill [MAINSTREAM](#) § 16:13 EDT

President Trump will attend the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee college football game in Knoxville on Saturday, the White House confirmed to The Hill on Wednesday. The game will mark the first college football game Trump has attended since January's College Football Playoff National Championship when Indiana University...

Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill

Washington Examiner [RIGHT](#) § 22:08 EDT

President Donald Trump is planning to attend the Texas vs. Tennessee college football game this Saturday, the White House confirmed to the Washington Examiner. The president's appearance at the sports event comes as he continues pushing Congress to pass the Protect College Sports Act.

Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions

New York Post [RIGHT](#) § 11:53 EDT

The Southeastern Conference matchup between the No. 1 Longhorns and No. 14 Volunteers in Knoxville is already one of the biggest games in the country this weekend.

Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay'

The Hill [MAINSTREAM](#) § 17:40 EDT

Football analyst and ESPN personality Kirk Herbstreit defended the network's decision to have Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on the network's flagship college football pregame show last week. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters Friday, referring to the Protect College Sports Act, a Senate...

Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game

New York Post [RIGHT](#) § 13:18 EDT

A huge Texas-Tennessee matchup had a little extra pageantry.

Trump trolls reporter: I don't want fake news 'like you'

Washington Examiner [RIGHT](#) § 12:31 EDT

President Donald Trump fired back at a reporter Saturday before boarding Air Force One for the University of Tennessee vs. the University of Texas college football game. "I want real news, not fake news, like you,"

Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game

New York Post [RIGHT](#) § 13:22 EDT

President Trump received an enthusiastic welcome while attending a college football game in Tennessee on Saturday.

~~This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill~~

Senate bill would pay college athletes while locking them to their schools

The Hill [MAINSTREAM](#) § 17:00 EDT

With the House out of session for the final two weeks of September, the legislative spotlight is squarely on the Senate, where lawmakers face a packed stretch of work on several of the GOP's remaining priorities. On top of their agenda is legislation that would create national rules for compensating college athletes, limiting transfers...

No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium

Fox News [RIGHT](#) § 15:53 EDT

Texas silenced Neyland Stadium, as Colin Simmons recorded five sacks and Raleek Brown scored twice to beat Tennessee with President Donald Trump watching.

~~GOP hopeful removes 'Pro-Trump' mention from campaign slogan in deep red seat~~

Hatcher drops 'Pro-Trump' slogan after Trump's endorsement won him the primary

Washington Examiner [RIGHT](#) § 16:26 EDT

EXCLUSIVE — Former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher has changed his campaign slogan to remove a reference to President Donald Trump. Hatcher, who ousted incumbent Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN) in Tennessee's August primary, ran as a "Pro-Trump"

~~Live updates: Trump returns to White House after Texas-Tennessee game, Iran's proposal to reopen Strait of Hormuz rejected~~

Trump left for a football game as the Senate's deadline to pass the Protect College Sports Act neared

The Hill [MAINSTREAM](#) § 15:33 EDT

President Trump left Knoxville for the White House Saturday afternoon after attending the University of Texas vs. University of Tennessee football game — an appearance coming ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period. Trump flew to Knoxville Saturday morning to watch...

• [Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026

• [Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 12 Sep

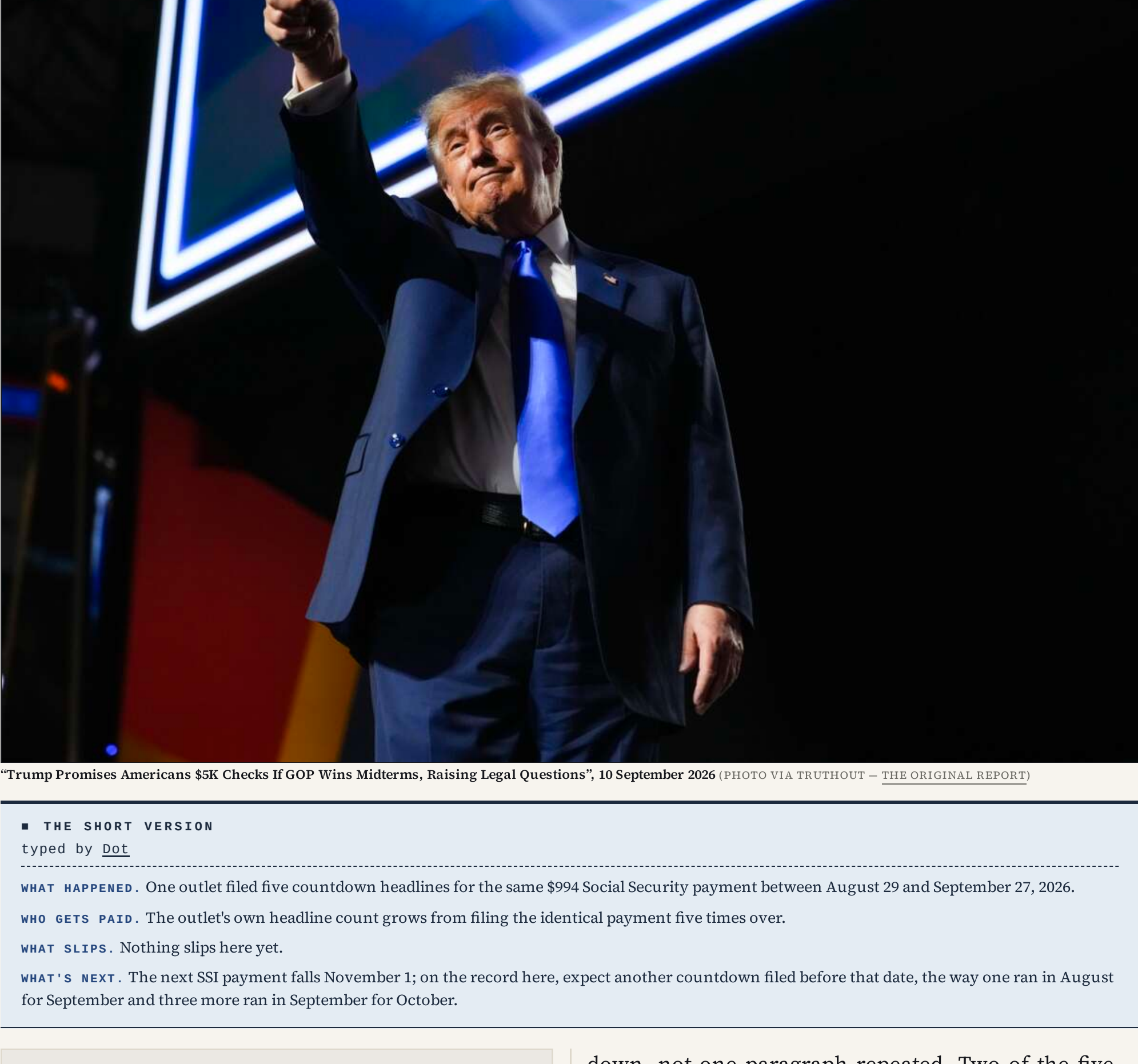
2026

• [Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Same \$994 check counted down five times by one outlet: 15 days, then 8, 3, 2, then 4

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions", 10 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED . One outlet filed five countdown headlines for the same \$994 Social Security payment between August 29 and September 27, 2026.

WHO GETS PAID . The outlet's own headline count grows from filing the identical payment five times over.

WHAT SLIPS . Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT . The next SSI payment falls November 1; on the record here, expect another countdown filed before that date, the way one ran in August for September and three more ran in September for October.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On August 29th, the Washington Examiner filed "September Social Security direct payment worth \$994 goes out in three days." The next morning, August 30th, it filed the same payment again — same \$994, same September first — headline changed to "goes out in two days." One day had passed. The countdown had lost one day.

The amount had not moved between the two payments. Seven days later, September 23rd, the same October payment ran again, this time at "goes out in 8 days."...

...*(cont)* Today's filing, dated this morning, brings the same October \$994 in four days. The payment date is the first of the month, as SSI payments typically are. The dollar figure, \$994, is the maximum federal amount and has not changed across any of the five filings.

Reconciling the five against each other: the outlet runs two different stock paragraphs beneath the count-

down, not one paragraph repeated. Two of the five — the eight-day and today's four-day — carry a paragraph naming who qualifies: people with limited income who are blind, 65 or older, or have a qualifying disability. Three of the five — the three-day, the two-day, and the fifteen-day — instead carry a paragraph on what happens if the first of the month lands on a weekend or a federal holiday. No single filing in the drawer carries both paragraphs. A reader who saw only the eight-day version was never told what happens on a holiday. A reader who saw only the fifteen-day version was never told who the check is for.

What none of the five filings does is confirm that the September first payment, promised in three days and then in two, actually went out on schedule. The drawer holds five countdowns and zero receipts for delivery.

A monthly payment needs one calendar and no press release. This one got five, hon, and the number at the bottom never moved.

“They're not reporting the check, they're reporting the clock, five separate times, because a countdown gets clicked and a calendar doesn't. Nobody at that outlet asked why the same \$994 needed fifteen days of warning and then, three weeks later, needed fifteen days of warning again for a different month. The people actually waiting on that \$994 got the same amount they got last month and the month before that — the only thing that grew was the headline count.”

– *Sal*

“Look, this is a public service — seniors and disabled folks deserve to know exactly when their payment lands, down to the day. Five reminders isn't padding, it's diligence. ...though I'll grant the eight-day one and the fifteen-day one don't even agree on what happens if the first falls on a holiday. Did I say that? That's not — that's not the point I was making.”

– *Chip*

- EARLIER IN THIS STORY
- [Promised \\$5,000 each if Republicans hold Congress, 750,000 Americans are removed from their health coverage](#) By Ruth · the noon edition, 23 September 2026
 - [GOP senator whose vote is needed to fund \\$5,000 checks says he won't fund them](#) By Lou · the coffee break edition, 21 September 2026
 - [Treasury is examining whether the \\$5,000 checks can be issued without authorization from Congress, days after the president promised them at "100 percent" if Republicans keep Congress.](#) By Lou · the breakfast edition, 20 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

[Trump Promises Americans \\$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions](#)

Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment

Truthout · 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

October Social Security direct payment worth \$994 goes out in 8 days

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** · 09:00 EDT

The October 2026 Supplemental Security Income payments, worth up to \$994, will be sent to recipients in 8 days. SSI payments are typically issued on the first day of each month. The program supports people with limited income who are blind, age 65 or older, or have a qualifying disability.

But: "We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt" - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016 [The Washington Post, 31 March 2016](#)

2016 interview

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.

Politico **MAINSTREAM** · 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News · 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

October Social Security direct payment worth \$994 goes out in 4 days

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** · 09:00 EDT

The October 2026 Supplemental Security Income payments, worth up to \$994, will be sent to recipients in 4 days. SSI payments are typically issued on the first day of each month. The program supports people with limited income who are blind, age 65 or older, or have a qualifying disability.

- [October Supplemental Security direct payment worth \\$994 goes out in 15 days](#) from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026
- [September Social Security direct payment worth \\$994 goes out in two days](#) from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026
- [September Social Security direct payment worth \\$994 goes out in three days](#) from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026
- [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026
- [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy](#) from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling \\$5,000 dividend a bribe](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026
- [Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out \\$5,000 checks](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy?](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Trump sees backlash over \\$5K dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground](#) from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026
- [5 things to know about Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Vance strikes back at concern \\$5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Marshall backtracks on support for \\$5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate](#) from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026
- [Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator.](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women?](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Trump's promised \\$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Reckless \\$5,000 'Dividend'](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Republicans bet the House on Trump](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed \\$5000 'Trump dividend'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump pledges \\$5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026
- [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026
- [Susan Collins calls Trump's \\$5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly'](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump \\$5K dividend payment support](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Gavin Newsom calls Trump's \\$5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Plan To Cut \\$5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's \\$5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend \\$3,800 More on Essentials](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Why not to bank on Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks happening](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump shares details on \\$5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Some Republicans Balk at Trump's \\$5,000 'Dividend' Offer](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [The political risk behind Trump's \\$5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's \\$5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies](#) from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026
- [Trump vs. the Bond Market](#) from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026
- [The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha](#) from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017
- [The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. \(CNBC\)](#) from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018
- [Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas](#) from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026
- [Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [Trump promises \\$5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label \\$5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's proposed \\$5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump Wants to Give Out \\$5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than \\$1 Trillion.](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump's Republican midterm convention included \\$5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to \\$6 billion](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Treasury Plans \\$6 Billion in Debt Repurchases to Battle Rising Yields](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Lowest-Paying US Corporations Have Poured Over \\$700 Billion Into Buybacks Since 2019](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Feds to buy up to \\$6 billion in Treasury bonds. Here's why.](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Treasury reveals \\$6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [10-year Treasury yields hit multiyear high after buyback increase](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Detroit's three dead match South Africa's at-least 27, match Minneapolis's two-or-three, depending which wire you trust.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



“Separate mass shootings in South Africa townships leave at least 27 people dead”, 27 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED . News wires filed conflicting death tolls for shootings in Minneapolis, Detroit and South Africa within the same month.

WHO GETS PAID . The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS . The public's chance to get one confirmed death toll for a mass shooting slips, since wire outlets have not revised any of these counts downward.

WHAT'S NEXT . If wire counts keep drifting uncorrected, fewer places will have a local reporter left to check them; that is what the country got after October 20, 2025: 213 counties with no local news source at all.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

At 7:21 a.m. Sunday, a fight inside an after-hours strip club in Detroit left three men dead and four other patrons wounded, according to Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison.

Hours earlier, on the other side of the planet, eight gunmen carrying AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire on patrons at a bar in a South African township. A second shooting followed the same night, in a separate township. Police in Cape Town told the Associated Press the two attacks left "at least" 27 dead — a number that arrived pre-hedged, built only to be revised upward....

...(cont) CBS filed the story on September 3 and called it two dead, multiple injured. The same outlet filed it again that same day — still two dead, but six injured this time. The Washington Examiner had two dead

and three wounded officers. Fox had three dead, "including [the] suspected gunman," three officers hurt, four more victims, seven people driven to hospitals in all.

That is the pattern the fold keeps handing back. A body count arrives in installments, and the revision only ever runs one direction. Detroit's three matches Minneapolis's low count. South Africa's 27 arrived already flagged as a floor, never a ceiling. Nobody in Cape Town, Minneapolis, or Detroit has issued a revision downward.

The wire services are counting the same bodies at different speeds, from different desks, with different rules about who counts as a victim and who counts as a cause.

Three newsrooms filed three different numbers for one shooting in one city on one day. If a correction is coming, it has not run yet.

“Three dead in Detroit, three dead in Minneapolis if you count the guy holding the gun, twenty-seven dead in South Africa "at least" — that's not luck, that's how the ledger gets kept: round up for them, round down for the rest of us. Nobody audits a body count once it's printed, and nobody has to, because the number only climbs from here. That's the business model, and it runs on our nickel.”

— *Sal*

“Wire copy updates in real time — that's not spin, that's reporting. Sure the same shooting goes from two dead to three depending which outlet you ask, but that's just fog-of-breaking-news stuff, nothing systemic about it. Why do all three numbers only ever move up and never down? Did I just say that? That's not the talking point.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

3 killed, 4 others hurt in shooting at "after-hours" spot in Detroit, police say

CBS News MAINSTREAM § 12:40 EDT

Three males are dead and four other people are injured after a shooting at an "after-hours" location in Detroit Sunday morning.

Separate mass shootings in South Africa townships leave at least 27 people dead

Washington Examiner RIGHT § 09:10 EDT

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Eight gunmen with AK-47 rifles and pistols opened fire at patrons at a bar in the first of two separate mass shootings in South African townships in the space of a few hours that left at least 27 people dead, police said Sunday. The first massacre occurred late Saturday [...]

But: Mass shootings in the United States this year: 299 Gun Violence Archive

Three dead and four injured in Detroit strip club shooting, police say

Washington Examiner RIGHT § 15:43 EDT

Three people were killed and four more injured in a mass shooting at a Detroit strip club early Sunday morning. The shooting occurred at 7:21 a.m., according to Detroit Police Chief Todd Bettison, and stemmed from a fight. All victims were in their 20s and 30s; the three deaths were men, and the wounded were [...]

- [2 killed, multiple injured and gunman dead after mass shooting in downtown Minneapolis](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [2 killed, 6 injured and gunman dead after mass shooting in downtown Minneapolis](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Two dead and three officers injured in Minneapolis shooting](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [3 dead, including suspected gunman, and 3 officers injured in Minneapolis shooting](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Party that insists it doesn't throw anybody under the bus spent the week disowning its girls' sports reversal.

By **CHIP**
STAFF WRITER



“RNC rips Beshear's 'woke trans record' over veto of Kentucky girls' sports bill”, 27 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. Kentucky's governor vetoed a transgender athletes ban and said his party doesn't reverse itself on the issue.

WHO GETS PAID. Democratic House candidates in competitive races get cover; a Texas Senate candidate gets a safer answer than his own record.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters checking a candidate's record against their campaign ad lose the check when the two quietly stop matching.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, expect more Democratic candidates to adopt Republican-sounding rules on girls' sports while their old votes stay on the books uncorrected; that is what Washington Examiner reporting already found nationwide on September 22, 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear vetoed his state's transgender athletes ban and told the RNC pil- ing on him that his party never throws — doesn't, rather, throw anybody under the bus. Never is my word, not his; the governor's is the more careful one, and on the specific fact of his own veto, it holds. He kept it. That much of the defense is not in dispute.

The rest of the sentence has a calendar problem, and the calendar starts in Texas. On September 9th, Paxton, still sitting as attorney general, put his name on a release handing out more than 7 million eggs from a legal settlement. The next poll, September 10th, had Talarico four points up. That same day, Talarico told The Hill he opposes transgender ath- letes in girls' sports "if it endangers safety or fair- ness" — a Democrat closing a Senate race, finding his own qualifier....

...(cont) Twelve days later, on September 22nd, the Washington Examiner reported the qualifier wasn't his alone. Democratic House candidates nationwide were

telling voters on TV screens that they agreed with Republicans on keeping transgender athletes out of girls' sports and giving parents more control — the same candidates whose votes, cast as state or local legislators, said otherwise. The reporting didn't call it a reversal. It ran the voting records next to the ads and let the two disagree.

So the defense I'd like to make — that this is one gov- ernor, one veto, one honest sentence — doesn't survive contact with September 22nd. It isn't that Beshear mis- spoke about Kentucky. It's that the bus he says his party doesn't drive was already moving, five days before he reached the podium, with his own candidates at the wheel in states he doesn't govern.

The rider is a Minnesota softball player who wrote about losing her state championship semifinal to a team fielding a transgender pitcher, and about refusing to lose her voice next. She isn't on any ballot. She doesn't get a TV ad or a veto with her name on it. She gets the outcome the qualifiers exist to manage, and the sen- tence built to cover it — his party doesn't throw anybody under the bus — was true right up until the record was checked.

“A governor vetoes the bill, then goes on television using the exact phrase his own party's candidates are quietly disproving with their voting records — that's not a contradiction, that's the whole strategy: say the humane thing in Kentucky, run the cruel ad in Ohio, and let nobody read both papers. The kid who actually loses the semifinal doesn't get a press conference; she gets an op-ed she had to write herself.”

— Sal

“Look, the governor vetoed a bill and defended it in plain English — that's called having a spine, and if his own party's House candidates in other states are running different ads, that's called federalism, not — okay, that's not what federalism means, that's just candidates saying different things to different voters, which, fine, is also not great, but it's not the same as what he did, which was the veto, which he kept.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY	
—	Kansas Republicans tout their 94-year streak, then warn reporters a 'perfect storm' could end it. By Sal · the matinee edition, 27 September 2026
—	Republicans spend \$100 million and 7 million eggs, then watch Paxton's deficit grow from 3 to 5. By Ruth · the matinee edition, 27 September 2026
—	Party that kept Jesus out of its ads for decades now runs pastors asking whether he was woke By Sal · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
—	\$100 million and 7 million eggs later, Paxton is down five points, exactly where he started By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
—	Fetterman won't rule out being the deciding vote for either party, months after starring in their convention ad. By Lou · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
—	Republicans spend \$100 million and 7 million eggs rescuing Paxton, get nothing back in the polls By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

RNC rips Beshear's 'woke trans record' over veto of Kentucky girls' sports bill

Fox News **RIGHT** § 14:20 EDT

Kentucky Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear defended his veto of a transgender athletes ban, saying his party doesn't "throw anybody under the bus."

Democrats paper over transgender voting records with pivot on girls' sports

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 06:00 EDT

Democratic House candidates are telling voters on TV screens that they support “common-sense rules” for keeping transgender student athletes out of girls’ sports and giving greater control to parents, even going so far as to say they agree with Republicans on the hot-button cultural issue. But their voting records from their time as...

I lost a state championship to a boy. I refuse to lose my voice

Fox News **RIGHT** § 09:00 EDT

A Minnesota softball player describes losing her state championship semifinal to a team with a transgender pitcher and her fight for female athletes.

• [Talarico opposes trans athletes in girls sports 'if it endangers safety or fairness'](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

THE CAP

Historically low refugee cap expands by 10,000 slots for white South Africans.

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS

“Trump pushes to admit 17,500 White Afrikaners from South Africa in 2027 refugee cap”, 23 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. The administration filled the refugee cap primarily with white South Africans while the Iran refugee program awaits renewal.

WHO GETS PAID. The filing reserves nearly the entire refugee cap's seats for white South Africans, at the president's own direction.

WHAT SLIPS. The congressional check meant to protect persecuted religious minorities from Iran slips as their program's reauthorization stalls.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Congress does not reauthorize the amendment, it lapses at the Sept. 30 deadline already named in this filing, and the processing centers built for persecuted Iranians stay closed.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Congress has until Wednesday — three days from this paper — to reauthorize the Lautenberg Amendment, the program that resettles persecuted religious minorities fleeing Iran.

The same week, the administration sent Congress a different filing: the total refugee cap for fiscal 2027. The Washington Examiner reports the notice went to Congress on a Tuesday. It set the ceiling at 17,500 slots. CBS News, The Hill, and the Washington Examiner all reported the number the same day, September 23, and all three read the same line inside the filing: the slots, President Trump said, will go primarily to white Afrikaners, the descendants of Dutch and other European settlers in South Africa, whom he says are oppressed....

...(cont) All together now — set the two lines beside each other. The Washington Examiner's own reporting

on enforcement puts the refugee ceiling's fall at 125,000 to 7,500 over two years; against that fall, 17,500 is not the door reopening, it is one exception, cut to the width of one filing. The Hill's second dispatch does the rest of the arithmetic: the new number is 10,000 higher than last year's cap, itself, the paper notes, the lowest proposed rate in the program's history — the raise and the race, typed into the same document.

The Washington Examiner attaches a dollar figure to the filing as well: roughly \$500 million to admit the 17,500 people the cap allows in fiscal 2027, which starts Oct.

None of this is a leak, a rumor, or somebody's theory of the case. It is the paperwork Congress already has: a ceiling and an earmark sitting in the same notice, the headcount and the complexion typed on the same line, so that the only arithmetic anyone has to do is read it.

🍷 FROM THE CORNER 🍷

DUTCH

THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S OWN FILING LISTS ONE NUMBER, 17,500, AND SPECIFIES THE COMPLEXION OF THE PEOPLE MEANT TO FILL IT. THAT IS NOT A REFUGEE CEILING, IT IS A family-reunion program for the descendants of European settlers, run on paperwork built to move people out of Iran's prisons. Because the ceiling has one lever this year, the church committee that spent the summer readying a family's Lautenberg sponsorship folder gets it handed back unopened, and the co-sponsor line with your signature on it goes back in the parish file drawer.

“They didn't close the refugee program, they just re-labeled who the word "refugee" is allowed to describe. Seventeen thousand five hundred slots, same number as the whole damn cap, and the paperwork says primarily white — that's not a typo, that's the org chart. Somewhere there's a family that's been doing the interviews and the medical exams for two years waiting on Iran's side of that ledger, and the filing just told them the seat's taken.”

— *Sal*

“Look, the president is simply recognizing a humanitarian crisis the media refuses to cover — Afrikaner farmers, real persecution, real numbers. Is 17,500 out of a cap that used to be 125,000 kind of the whole cap now? I mean, technically — no, that's not — the administration remains fully committed to religious minorities everywhere, the paperwork's just, it's a scheduling thing.”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump pushes to admit 17,500 White Afrikaners from South Africa in 2027 refugee cap~~

Trump sets refugee admissions at a record low - ICE still gets \$70 billion

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 16:57 EDT

The Trump administration on Wednesday proposed raising the refugee cap for the coming year to 17,500 people, which is a historically low figure, and which President Trump argued should primarily be given to white Afrikaners. The move raises by 10,000 last year's refugee cap – the lowest proposed rate in the history of the program...

~~Trump's refugee program has a type — and it's white~~

The refugee ceiling fell to 7,500. Next year's 17,500 slots go mostly to white South Africans.

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 07:00 EDT

Washington has spent two years telling Americans the door is closing. The refugee ceiling fell to 7,500, down from 125,000. On enforcement, the Trump administration has done what it promised.

~~If Trump is serious about antisemitism, he should reopen this lifeline for refugees~~

Trump's administration closed the processing centers Iranian religious minorities need to escape persecution

The Hill **MAINSTREAM** § 13:00 EDT

As Congress faces a Sept. 30 deadline to reauthorize the Lautenberg Amendment, critics argue the Trump administration has undermined the program by closing the processing centers essential for helping Iranian religious minorities escape persecution.

Trump administration boosts Afrikaner refugee numbers to 17,500 over next year

Washington Examiner **RIGHT** § 13:54 EDT

The Trump administration notified Congress on Tuesday it plans to accept thousands more of South African refugees into the United States than expected over the next 12 months. In a roughly \$500 million effort, the U.S. will admit 17,500 mostly Afrikaner refugees throughout fiscal 2027, which starts on Oct.

The U.S. has 17,500 refugee slots. Trump says they will primarily go to white South Africans.

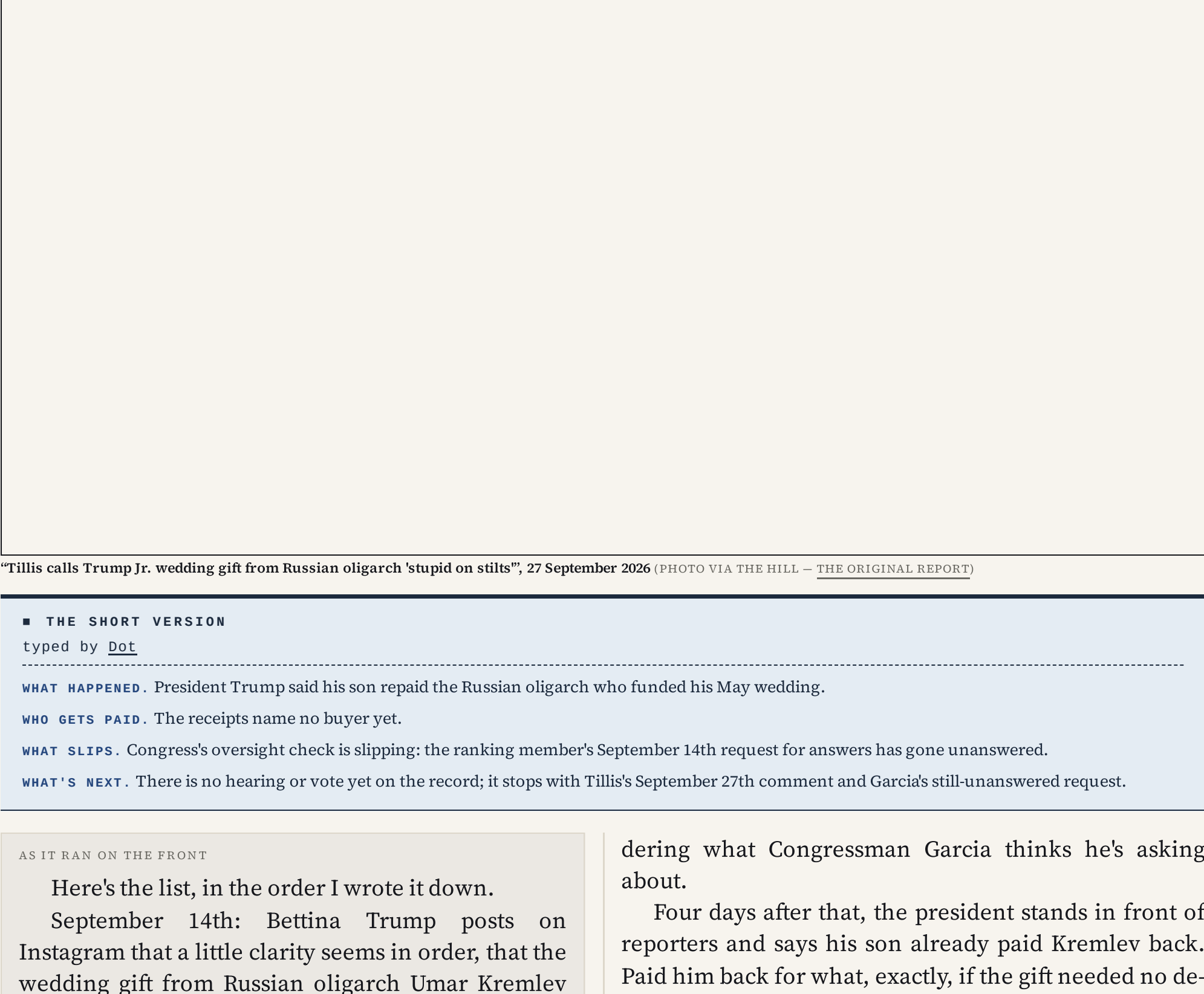
CBS News **MAINSTREAM** § 12:35 EDT

The Trump administration says it will allow up to 17,500 refugees to migrate to the U.S. in 2027, despite closing most of the U.S. refugee program, which is meant for those fleeing persecution and violence abroad.

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Trump Jr.'s wife says the wedding gift needed no explaining; the president explains it was repaid.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



‘Tillis calls Trump Jr. wedding gift from Russian oligarch ‘stupid on stilts’, 27 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL – THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dai
WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump said his son repaid the Russian oligarch who funded his May wedding.
WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.
WHAT SLIPS. Congress’s oversight check is slipping; the ranking member’s September 14th request for answers has gone unanswered.
WHAT’S NEXT. There is no hearing or vote yet on the record; it stops with Tillis’s September 27th comment and Garcia’s still-unanswered request.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here’s the list, in the order I wrote it down.

September 14th: Bettina Trump posts on Instagram that a little clarity seems in order, that the wedding gift from Russian oligarch Umar Kremlev was nothing to go making headlines over. Same day: Robert Garcia, the ranking member on House Oversight, presses the administration for answers about what that oligarch’s money bought. September 15th: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez says the administration is selling out every person in this country. September 18th: the president, asked about it in the Oval Office, says his son already paid Kremlev back. September 27th – today: Senator Thom Tillis goes on CNN and calls the whole arrangement stupid on stilts. “This is a man who’s worth somewhere between \$300 million and \$400 million,” he says, meaning Kremlev....

... (CONT) That’s the list. I’m not going to add to it.

I ran a tab once, at the corner store down the block from the house – the one with the hand-lettered sign in the window, doesn’t matter which one. When the owner let me run it, he called it a favor: no rush, pay me when you can. When I settled up three weeks later, he called it exactly that, settling up. Two different words for two different things. A favor doesn’t get an invoice. A debt does.

So here’s what sits with me. On the 14th, Bettina Trump says the gift needs no explaining. That same day, a sitting member of Congress asks for an explanation anyway. If there’s really nothing to explain, I keep won-

dering what Congressman Garcia thinks he’s asking about.

Four days after that, the president stands in front of reporters and says his son already paid Kremlev back. Paid him back for what, exactly, if the gift needed no defending in the first place? You don’t pay back a favor. You pay back a loan. Somewhere between the 14th and the 18th, this family’s own story changed which one it was.

Ocasio-Cortez said, on the 15th, that the country was being sold out – I try to stick to the page in front of me – but I notice she said it the day after the Instagram post and three days before the Oval Office, and the calendar puts those next to each other whether I comment on it or not.

And then today. Tillis – a Republican, one of the president’s own – calls the arrangement stupid on stilts. Not illegal, not that I’ve read. Not under investigation, not that I’ve read. Stupid on stilts. His words, on CNN, on a Sunday.

Garcia asked his question on the 14th. Today is the 27th. Is he still waiting on his answer? Because in thirteen days of clippings – the kind I keep folded in the glovebox – I haven’t found one.

Oh – excuse me, before you go. One more thing, and forgive me, I already read you this number once today. Tillis put Kremlev’s net worth somewhere north of three hundred million, maybe closer to four. So which is it: that the kind of money where a wedding gift doesn’t need defending, or the kind of money where it still has to get paid back?

◀ FROM THE CORNER ▶
DUTCH

BETTINA TRUMP TOLD INSTAGRAM THE GIFT NEEDED NO EXPLAINING; UMAR KREMLEV, LISTED AT THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, NEEDED PAYING BACK ANYWAY, AND ROBERT GARCIA IS STILL WAITING FOR AN ANSWER. THAT IS NOT A WEDDING GIFT, IT IS A LOAN WITH A SPOKESPERSON. BECAUSE A FAVOR FROM A MAN THAT RICH GETS PAID QUIETLY WHILE AN OVERSIGHT REQUEST GETS LEFT SITTING, THE NEXT TIME YOU FALL BEHIND ON ANYTHING, IT WILL BE YOUR NAME ON THE PAST-DUE NOTICE, NOT HIS.

“They tell you it’s just a wedding gift, then two weeks later they tell you it got paid back – pick one, because those aren’t the same story. A guy worth four hundred million doesn’t need anybody’s charity, and Junior doesn’t need Russian money at his wedding unless somebody’s buying something. The “nothing to see here” and the “don’t worry, we handled it” can’t both be true, and the guy still waiting on an answer from Oversight isn’t the one who gets to decide which.”

– *Sal*

“Look, it’s a gift, people give gifts at weddings, this is not complicated – the family already addressed it, clarity was provided, case closed. And even if money changed hands, well, it got paid back, so what’s the issue – wait, if it needed to be paid back, why did we spend two weeks saying it needed no explanation? Did I say that? That doesn’t sound like me.”

– *Chip*

- EARLIER IN THIS STORY
- [Republicans stayed silent on Iran’s war crimes finding, found their voice at the gas pump.](#) By Mort · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
 - [Waltz blames Russia for diesel record dated by wire copy to his own administration’s war on Iran](#) By Lou · the milkman edition, 27 September 2026
 - [Young voters beat Trump’s mail-ballot attack in court, told by Nicki Minaj to vote red anyway.](#) By Sal · the milkman edition, 27 September 2026
 - [Missouri asks Supreme Court to revive its GOP gerrymander for the fourth time this year, denied again.](#) By Lou · the midnight edition, 27 September 2026
 - [Trump denounces as Fake News reporters who simply quoted his own candidate’s deleted endorsement banner](#) By Chip · the late evening edition, 26 September 2026
 - [Waltz blames Russia’s war for diesel prices Trump’s own Iran war set records for](#) By Ruth · the early evening edition, 26 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

‘Tillis calls Trump Jr. wedding gift from Russian oligarch ‘stupid on stilts’

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 12:09 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) chastised Donald Trump Jr. on Sunday for accepting a wedding gift from a Russian oligarch.

~~Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie’s Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth?~~

Johnson adjourned Congress a day after Massie filed impeachment articles saying Hegseth’s strikes killed 150 children in Iran

Common Dreams | 15:27 EDT

US House Speaker Mike Johnson said Wednesday that with seven weeks to go until Election Day, it was time for lawmakers to “go home to their districts and make the case to the American people”—a day earlier than scheduled. But with the US public overwhelmingly disapproving of President Donald Trump’s war in Iran and demanding...

~~UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran, That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime~~

UN: US knowingly bombed civilian sites in Iran, killing 123 children

Truthout | 15:30 EDT

The US targeted “clearly identifiable” civilian sites in Minab and Lamerd, killing over 100 children, the UN found.

~~But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one~~ *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: ‘He needs to go’

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 22:33 EDT

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), who voted to confirm Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, is renewing his call for President Trump to fire the Pentagon chief after Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigned. “He needs to go, whether it’s impeachment or the most expedient route – just the president to replace him – would be great.”

~~US Energy Consumers Have Spent \$121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War, Moody’s~~

Trump launched an unauthorized war. Families are paying \$1,760 for it.

Common Dreams | 13:36 EDT

A recently published economic analysis estimates that President Donald Trump’s illegal war with Iran has cost US consumers an average of \$1,760 per household—including a total of \$121 billion in extra spending on energy alone—since the conflict began less than 8 months ago. The war, which Trump launched without congressional...

U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 08:10 EDT

U.N.-commissioned rights experts say there are “reasonable grounds” to believe the U.S. committed war crimes with strikes that killed scores of Iranian civilians.

~~Possil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War~~

Shell, BP and Saudi Aramco’s record profits from the Iran war fund the industry’s record PR blitz, says Clean Creatives

Common Dreams | 16:45 EDT

The fossil fuel industry is raking in big profits thanks to President Donald Trump’s illegal war with Iran, and a new analysis finds that it’s plugging a sizable chunk of these gains into propaganda. A report published by Clean Creatives on Wednesday reveals that fossil fuel firms across the world have “engaged 802 advertising and PR...

Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined

Truthout | 17:27 EDT

This amounts to more than 80 trades per market day for the president in his first 17 months back in office.

Farmer who voted for Trump says ‘I can’t stay in business’ amid rising costs

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 23:34 EDT

Matt Bell has been farming in North Carolina for more than half his life. He voted for President Trump but said farmers are “fighting for survival” as they combat rising prices.

Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are ‘all just in survival mode’

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 23:45 EDT

Matt Bell said he initially supported Trump’s policies but now feels he and other farmers were “sold a bill of goods” that there was a plan to “put America’s farmers and ranchers first.”

~~UN suspects US War Crimes in Iran~~

US airstrikes killed at least 178 civilians in Iran, UN mission finds – and calls it war crimes

Novara Media | 15:21 EDT

A UN fact-finding mission has reported that two US airstrikes which killed at least 178 civilians in Iran constitute war crimes. Plus: Andy Burnham says he is “determined” to hit net zero by 2050, Sweden’s left-of-centre coalition wins the general election, Netanyahu is pushing to strip IDF critics of their citizenship, and the...

~~But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one~~ *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 18:03 EDT

All of the Democrats in the Senate – excluding Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman – signed an open letter to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, pressing him to give Congress a cost breakdown of the war in Iran. The letter, although largely symbolic, reflects the frustration of many Democrats in Congress over what they perceive as a...

~~Trump says ‘Big Decision’ Coming on Whether to ‘Annihilate’ Iran~~

UN finds ‘reasonable grounds’ US already committed war crimes in Iran, killing 120 children

Common Dreams | 23:01 EDT

President Donald Trump on Thursday said he is weighing whether or not to “annihilate” Iran in a renewed effort to end the illegal 201-day US-Israeli war of choice, musings that came on the heels of a report by United Nations experts who said the United States likely committed war crimes during earlier attacks on the Middle East nation....

~~Trump says son paid back Russian oligarch for wedding gift~~

Russian oligarch funded Trump Jr.’s lavish wedding amid ethics, foreign-influence concerns. Trump says it’s repaid.

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 17:05 EDT

President Trump said Friday that his son Donald Trump Jr. paid back the Russian oligarch who funded some of his lavish wedding celebrations after concerns flared over ethics violations and potential influences from foreign adversaries. President Trump was asked in the Oval Office whether it was appropriate that his son accepted the gift...

Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths

Truthout | 15:48 EDT

The Republican lawmaker cited incidents like the US’s elementary school massacre in Minab, Iran, early in the war.

~~But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one~~ *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | 18:06 EDT

The Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike emerged Thursday from a closed-door briefing frustrated by what they said was a lack of clear answers from Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby on the Trump administration’s National Defense Strategy and the ongoing Iran war. The briefing with the Senate Armed Services Committee started off...

~~Massie says he’s convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein. Files II discharge petition~~

Republican leaders sent Congress home for seven weeks. Massie says he already has the votes for an Epstein files vote.

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | 20:19 EDT

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) announced Thursday that four Republicans, including him, have signed the Epstein Files II discharge petition and expressed confidence it will pass the House. The news comes after House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) sent lawmakers home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterm elections.

- [Donald Trump Jr.’s wife defends wedding gift from Russian oligarch](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Ocasio-Cortez on Trump Jr. wedding: ‘They’re selling out every single person in this country’](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Top Oversight Democrat wants answers on Russian oligarch’s role in Trump Jr.’s wedding](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Hegseth on “devastation” to Iran’s capabilities](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With ‘No End In Sight’](#) from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026
- [CBO Finds Trump’s Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly \\$40 Billion—And That’s a ‘Conservative’ Estimate](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over ‘inept management’ of military](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Tillis renews calls for Hegseth’s firing after Driscoll’s departure: ‘I have never witnessed more inept management’](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [Massie names Epstein ‘coconspirators,’ discusses new Epstein files legislation](#) from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026
- [Read Thomas Massie’s eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files](#) from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026
- [Trump says he has a ‘big decision’ coming up on Iran: ‘Do I want to go in and annihilate them’](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In](#) from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026
- [Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes](#) from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026
- [U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [UN investigators conclude ‘reasonable grounds’ to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [US Condemned for ‘War Crimes’ After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran](#) from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026
- [US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4](#) from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026
- [Trump says he has a ‘big decision coming up’ on Iran](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world’s No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Human rights experts: ‘Reasonable grounds’ to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel’s rescue ‘fictional’](#) from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026
- [Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds \\$100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass \\$100 a Barrel](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [‘A Serious and Alarming Threat’: US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces ‘Trump’s Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran’](#) from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026
- [U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth’s impeachment](#) from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026
- [The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment](#) from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026
- [‘You’re Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side’: How Congress Lost Its Way](#) from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026
- [Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security ‘hazard,’ backs impeachment](#) from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026
- [Former Air Force secretary says he ‘couldn’t serve’ in Trump administration](#) from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026
- [Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth’s Pentagon ‘dysfunctional’](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail](#) from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026
- [‘How are we gonna get through this?’ Many Americans are struggling as prices rise](#) from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026
- [Trump’s Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to \\$4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [‘Trump Did It!’: At \\$5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran](#) from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026
- [Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above \\$4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever](#) from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026
- [Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed](#) from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026
- [Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation](#) from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026
- [Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above \\$105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising](#) from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026
- [Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit \\$120 as U.S. fuel costs surge](#) from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026
- [GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On](#) from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026
- [Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [As gas averages \\$4.31 nationwide, diesel fuel hits all-time high: ‘It’s painful. It’s real hard’](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Costco Raises Motor Oil Price, Caps Customer Purchases As Iran War Drags On](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [‘Can’t Message That Away’: GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices](#) from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026
- [European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for three](#) from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022
- [Spike on 10-year bond yields renews concerns over U.S. debt](#) from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026
- [10-Year Treasury Yield Reaches 5%, Highest Level in Years](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Treasury reveals \\$6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump](#) from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026
- [Trump blames rise in diesel prices on Ukrainian strikes against Russian oil refineries](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [Trump blames rising diesel price on Russia-Ukraine war](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026
- [What Is Driving Diesel Prices Up? Energy Chaos Caused by Two Wars,](#) from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026

Fraud gets you convicted if it buys a gold Cybertruck; it gets 760,000 people cut without one.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions", 10 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The word doing the work this week is fraud, and it turns out to mean two different things depending on who is holding it.

This week the Justice Department got its conviction. Kevin D. Curry, 64, ran a Texas clinic that billed TRICARE, the military's health program, \$26 million for transcranial magnetic stimulation sessions the government's filing says he did not perform. The kickbacks went into a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and what the New York Post calls a lavish lifestyle. That is what a fraud case looks like when somebody has to build one: a name, a dollar figure, a jury, a truck you can point a camera at....

...*(cont)* Three weeks earlier, on September 4th, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton opened an investigation of his own, into a major military healthcare contractor, over claims the receipts say were wrongfully denied. That is fraud running the other direction — real treatment, refused — and as of the receipts in hand, no verdict, no truck, just an open file.

“They caught the guy with the gold truck, good, that's an easy one — but watch the other hand: the same week the word “fraud” gets used to bounce three-quarters of a million people off insurance, and this time there's no jury, no invoice, just a podium and a headcount that can't decide if it's 700,000 or 760,000. One word, two standards of proof, and you can guess which one the government holds itself to.”

— *Sal*

Then, on September 22nd, Vice President JD Vance and CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz stood at a podium and reached for the same word at a different scale. Their Fraud Task Force is removing enrollees from the Affordable Care Act exchanges — more than 700,000 of them, Common Dreams reported that day; 760,000, by the Washington Examiner's count from the same podium, sixty thousand people apart before the ink dried. Neither outlet reports a jury. Neither reports an invoice. Neither reports a name.

Here is the gap, sized. The Task Force's fraud doesn't have to clear that bar. It has a press conference and a round number that moves by tens of thousands between one outlet's count and the next.

Twenty-six million dollars bought one man a truck and, eventually, a courtroom. The 700,000-to-760,000 figure hasn't bought a hearing yet, and nothing in the receipts says one is scheduled. That's the reconciliation, hon: one fraud gets prosecuted because somebody can count it to the dollar; the other gets enacted because the count is still moving and nobody with a gavel has been asked to check it.

“Look, waste, fraud and abuse is waste, fraud and abuse — the Task Force is just applying the same standard the Justice Department applied to Curry. Consistent enforcement, that's the — okay, it's not the same standard, one had a trial. But the underlying principle of “we found the number ourselves” is sound, and if that number moves around a little between agencies, that's just — that's just how estimates work. Did I say “estimates”? The Vice President called it fraud. I'm sure the paperwork's fine.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- [Fed hikes rates for the first time in three years while the \\$5,000 dividend still hasn't shipped.](#)
By Mort • the noon edition, 27 September 2026
- [The president priced a Republican Congress at \\$5,000 an adult, the Treasury secretary told the House the department is examining whether Congress is needed, and 750,000 Americans lost their health coverage that week.](#) By Mort • the breakfast edition, 27 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign?

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | 09:15 EDT

Using several types of credit isn't always a problem, but certain patterns signal that your debt is unsustainable.

Trump Promises Americans \$5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions

Paying voters \$5K is a crime under two federal laws - and grounds for impeachment

Truthout | 13:39 EDT

Two federal statutes forbid paying people to vote, and the Constitution lists bribery as an impeachable offense.

Vance's Fraud Task Force Condemned as 'Smokescreen' for Booting 760,000 More People Off Healthcare

Vance's task force is a 'bullshit distraction' to strip 700,000 of healthcare, advocacy group says

Common Dreams | 13:38 EDT

The Trump administration is planning to boot more than 700,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage as part of a purported initiative to root out fraud in the program—an effort that campaigners said is nothing more than a pretext to kick more people off healthcare. Vice President JD Vance, who is leading the White House's "Task...

But: "We've got to get rid of the \$19 trillion in debt" - Trump promised it done in eight years, March 2016

[The Washington Post, 31 March](#)

[2016 interview](#)

Top Republicans didn't expect Trump's dividends. Now they're scrambling.

Politico | MAINSTREAM | 18:33 EDT

As they gathered in Dallas, GOP lawmakers wavered from full-on embrace to full-on avoidance of the president's promise of \$5,000 checks to Americans.

Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans \$5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike

Drop Site News | 10:34 EDT

Drop Site Daily: September 10, 2026

Clickbaiting and Unacceptable? Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gladly Rip Healthcare From 760,000

Vance touts a \$2.2 billion health care cut for 750,000. The ballroom cost \$400 million.

Common Dreams | 10:44 EDT

Anger and alarm are growing over the Trump administration's Tuesday announcement that it is removing at least 750,000 people from their Affordable Care Act coverage because they were "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim that drew deep skepticism from health policy experts and advocates. Cynthia Cox, senior vice president at KFF, said fraud...

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed - while the president's family runs a crypto business

[CNBC, 8 April 2025 \(Blanche memo\)](#)

White House fraud task force poised to remove 760,000 Obamacare enrollees

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | 10:59 EDT

Vice President JD Vance's anti-fraud task force is preparing to remove hundreds of thousands of allegedly fraudulent enrollees in Obamacare exchange health insurance plans as part of the Trump administration's push against waste, fraud, and abuse in entitlement programs. Vance and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator...

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one

[Military Times, 19 December](#)

[2025](#)

Texas clinic owner convicted in \$26M military health fraud tied to gold-plated Cybertruck

Fox News | RIGHT | 13:09 EDT

Kevin D. Curry used TRICARE kickbacks to fund a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and lavish parties after billing \$26 million in fake TMS therapy claims.

Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Dile Before the Midterm Elections

Trump's signature law cut SNAP by \$187 billion - the largest cut ever, hitting one in five American kids

The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | 11:45 EDT

The tax cuts in President Trump's signature achievement were the Republicans' answer to voters' economic struggles, but its health care and food assistance cuts are taking a toll.

Texas clinic owner found guilty of \$26 million scheme — which funded gold Cybertruck and lavish lifestyle

New York Post | RIGHT | 15:55 EDT

The Justice Department said Kevin D. Curry, 64, "shamelessly preyed" on veterans by exploiting the TRICARE health program.

- [Texas AG Paxton investigates military healthcare contractor over denied claims](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's \\$5K dividend promise](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Pritzker: Vance is Trump's chief bootlicker'](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut \\$5,000 checks without Congress](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- [The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty](#) *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- [Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of \\$40 trillion debt](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- [Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy](#) *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling \\$5,000 dividend a bribe](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday](#) *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- [Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out \\$5,000 checks](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy?](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators](#) *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- [Trump sees backlash over \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground](#) *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*
- [5 things to know about Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Vance strikes back at concern \\$5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Marshall backtracks on support for \\$5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate](#) *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*
- [Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator,](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women?](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's promised \\$5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's Reckless \\$5,000 'Dividend'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Republicans bet the House on Trump](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed \\$5000 "Trump dividend"](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump pledges \\$5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump says \\$5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent'](#) *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*
- [Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's \\$5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?'](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- [GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not \\$5K checks](#) *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- [Susan Collins calls Trump's \\$5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly'](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump \\$5K dividend payment support](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Gavin Newsom calls Trump's \\$5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab](#) *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- [Trump pitches \\$5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's \\$5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Why Trump's promised \\$5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Steve Scalise says details of \\$5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress"](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie \\$5,000 dividends to GOP wins](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's \\$5,000 Midterm Bribes](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP](#) *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's Plan To Cut \\$5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's \\$5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend \\$3,800 More on Essentials](#) *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- [Why not to bank on Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks happening](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump shares details on \\$5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Some Republicans Balk at Trump's \\$5,000 'Dividend' Offer](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [The political risk behind Trump's \\$5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's \\$5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies](#) *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- [Trump vs. the Bond Market](#) *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- [The United States House of Representatives passes the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by 227 votes to 203. After being sent to the United States Senate for a vote, the Senate's parliamentarian found tha](#) *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2017*
- [The attorney general of New York announces she is suing the Donald J. Trump Foundation and its directors, President Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump and Eric Trump. \(CNBC\)](#) *from the morgue, 14 Jun 2018*
- [Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates](#) *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- [Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas](#) *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- [Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention](#) *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- [Trump promises \\$5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump claims \\$5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's \\$5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label \\$5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's proposed \\$5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race'](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump Wants to Give Out \\$5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than \\$1 Trillion.](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Trump's Republican midterm convention included \\$5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations](#) *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- [Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to \\$6 billion](#) *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

Kansas pastor asks, 'Wasn't Jesus woke?'; Republican strategists call the race a 'perfect storm.'

By **SAL**
STAFF WRITER



“‘Wasn’t Jesus Woke?’”, 27 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA DROP SITE NEWS — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED . A Methodist pastor challenging Kansas's Republican senator now trails him by five points in the polls.

WHO GETS PAID . The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS . Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT . Kansas Republicans are calling their own seat a 'perfect storm' six weeks before Election Day; the receipts do not yet show which way the five-point margin moves by November 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Ninety-four years is how long it has been since Kansas sent a Democrat to the U.S. Senate. That is the streak Sen. Roger Marshall is running to protect in 2026, and the record now shows the people paid to protect it describing, on their own, how it could end.

The first crack showed on September 16, when Kansas's former Republican governor endorsed Adam Hamilton, the Methodist minister challenging Marshall, over the sitting Republican senator. Two days later, on September 18, a poll went out reporting Hamilton ahead of Marshall in a race the wire called tight — a Democrat leading in Kansas, on paper, for the first time in ninety-four years....

...(cont) Nine days after that poll, the numbers moved again. The Hill's count, filed this week, puts Hamilton five points behind Marshall, not ahead. Whichever number holds by November, the same race produced a lead and then a deficit inside nine days, and

Republican operatives are the ones who put a name to what that swing looks like from where they sit: a 'perfect storm.'

None of this required Hamilton to soften anything. He built the swing by running straight at the fight Kansas Republicans have spent a generation picking, asking primary and general-election voters directly whether Jesus was woke, a question that turns the party's own word back on the party that coined it as an insult.

What connects a governor's defection, a nine-day swing in the polling, and a pastor testing his opponents' vocabulary on their own turf is who is saying 'perfect storm' out loud: not Hamilton's campaign, not national Democratic strategists hunting for a long-shot storyline to sell, but the Kansas Republican Party's own bench, talking to reporters, on the record, about their own seat. A ninety-four-year streak does not get a warning label that specific unless the people closest to it already believe this is the year it needs one.

“A Republican ex-governor crossed the aisle, a poll had the preacher ahead, and now the same race sits five points tight while GOP strategists hand reporters the phrase 'perfect storm' like it's weather instead of a forecast they wrote themselves. Ninety-four years is a long bet to put on one letter after a name, and that bet just started looking shaky from the inside.”

— *Sal*

“A single poll and one retired governor don't erase ninety-four years of Kansas voting history — Kansans always vote the ticket... wait, we just spent three sentences explaining why they might not this time, so scratch 'always.' Point is, calling it a 'perfect storm' is just due diligence, the kind we'd do even if we weren't worried at all.”

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- [Kansas Republicans tout their 94-year streak, then warn reporters a 'perfect storm' could end it.](#) By Sal · the matinee edition, 27 September 2026
- [Republicans spend \\$100 million and 7 million eggs, then watch Paxton's deficit grow from 3 to 5.](#) By Ruth · the matinee edition, 27 September 2026
- [Party that kept Jesus out of its ads for decades now runs pastors asking whether he was woke](#) By Sal · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [\\$100 million and 7 million eggs later, Paxton is down five points, exactly where he started](#) By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 27 September 2026
- [Fetterman won't rule out being the deciding vote for either party, months after starring in their convention ad.](#) By Lou · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026
- [Republicans spend \\$100 million and 7 million eggs rescuing Paxton, get nothing back in the polls](#) By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 27 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

“Wasn’t Jesus Woke?”

Drop Site News § 09:28 EDT

Kansas pastor Adam Hamilton is challenging party lines in a tight Senate race.

GOP fears ‘perfect storm’ could lead to Marshall’s loss in red state Kansas

The Hill MAINSTREAM § 12:00 EDT

It's been nearly a century since Kansas voters sent a Democrat to the Senate. But Adam Hamilton, a prominent pastor, is looking to make that jump as Republicans grow more and more unsettled about incumbent GOP Sen. Roger Marshall’s chances in the heartland.

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

Xi's gift to America: two giant pandas, plus an invitation to send 100,000 students to China

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"Xi announces new pandas coming to Atlanta in coming days", 24 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — [THE ORIGINAL REPORT](#))

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by [Dot](#)

WHAT HAPPENED. China sent two giant pandas to a zoo in Atlanta under an agreement between the two governments.

WHO GETS PAID. Zoo Atlanta gets the animals, FedEx got its name on the jet that flew them, and China's government gets a friendship story told on American television.

WHAT SLIPS. The public got the announcement, not the text; nothing released says what the United States agreed to give back.

WHAT'S NEXT. What is on the calendar is the arrival itself, Sunday, and the student invitations announced Thursday. No length, cost or end date for either has been made public.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will have seen the aircraft — a dedicated Boeing 777 out of Chengdu, the "FedEx Panda Express" — and you will have been told that what came off it in Atlanta on Sunday morning was a gift. Xi said as much on Thursday, at the White House, alongside Trump: the giant panda has been "an envoy of friendship between the Chinese and American people." Envoy. Envoy, mind you — an envoy is sent somewhere, and an envoy is recalled.

The wire does not report a gift. It reports "an agreement between the Chinese and American governments," and beneath that a second one, between Zoo Atlanta and the Chinese side. Two instruments for two animals. Two. A gift requires no consideration — nothing need come back the other way, that is precisely what makes it a gift — and an agreement between two states is consideration and nothing else. So what goes back? Thursday's announcement prints the one column: two pandas, and invitations for one hundred thousand American students to study in China. Invitations. Not visas ... invitations....

...(cont) Ping Ping and Fu Shuang are in Atlanta. Those are the only terms published.

All winter a man feeds the borrowed
horse. The horse goes home fat.

— [ENOCH](#)
The Ownership Desk

“A present you need two governments to sign for is not a present, it's a trade, and they put the cute half on the evening news. China's side got printed — two pandas, a hundred thousand American kids invited to study over there. Our side didn't get printed at all, and when nobody will tell you what we gave up, that's because you're what got spent.”

— *Sal*

“Pandas are a win, everybody loves pandas, and frankly this is what strength at the negotiating table looks like. Did I say negotiating? It's friendship — envoy of friendship, those are their words, not mine. And a hundred thousand American students in China, that's our influence over there, that's us exporting values, why are you looking at me like that?”

— *Chip*

THE RECEIPTS

Xi gifts giant pandas to U.S., continuing years of "panda diplomacy"

[CBS News](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 19:33 EDT

President Trump honored Chinese President Xi Jinping with a state dinner on Thursday. Xi announced a new gift of giant pandas, on their way to a zoo in Atlanta, part of what Xi called an "envoy of friendship" between the two nations.

Xi announces new pandas coming to Atlanta in coming days

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 12:32 EDT

Two giant pandas are set to arrive at Zoo Atlanta in the coming days, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Thursday during a press conference at the White House. “The giant panda has been an envoy of friendship between the Chinese and American people,” Xi said in a translated statement.

Two giant pandas arrive in Atlanta under a US-China government agreement

[Washington Examiner](#) [RIGHT](#) § 13:51 EDT

BANGKOK (AP) — Two giant pandas arrived in Atlanta on Sunday morning as part of an agreement between the Chinese and American governments. Ping Ping and Fu Shuang departed Chengdu in southwestern China early Sunday aboard a dedicated “FedEx Panda Express” Boeing 777 aircraft, officials said.

Xi comes bearing gifts: 2 giant pandas and 100,000 student visas

[The Hill](#) [MAINSTREAM](#) § 12:49 EDT

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the White House on Thursday he was gifting the U.S. with two giant pandas and invitations for 100,000 U.S. students to study in China.

This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at [the front](#). The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: [how this is made](#).

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

THE TAB · WHAT IT COST YOU

This year, Washington's choices cost your household about **\$1287**.

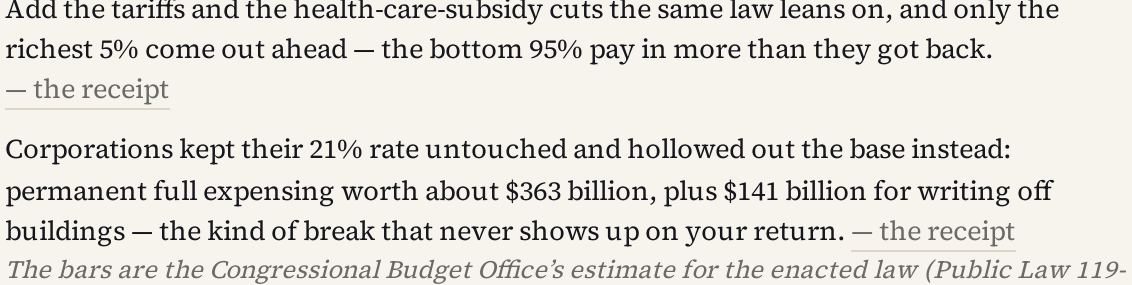
- **\$1200** Tariffs — about a month of groceries, paid at the register, not on your return
- **\$2.29** The ballroom — a candy bar — your half of the \$600 million
- **\$0.47** The military parade — a stick of gum — \$61 million, street repair included
- **\$0.76** His golf, this term — a gumball — past \$100 million and counting
- **\$83.00** Gas, one average car — \$0.20 a gallon of tariff on imported crude, 12,500 miles at 30 MPG

An estimate, and it says so: big federal costs divided across roughly 131 million US households, tariff figures from the Tax Foundation and Yale Budget Lab. It models the bottom 97 percent — the people who don't get the offsetting tax cut and can't skip the tariff. The top 3 percent get it back, and then some.

§

THE CUT · WHO THE 2025 TAX LAW WAS FOR

The income-tax cut was real, and it reached almost everyone. **That was the decoy**. Here is the same law once the benefit cuts land:



Add the tariffs and the health-care-subsidy cuts the same law leans on, and only the richest 5% come out ahead — the bottom 95% pay in more than they got back. — the receipt

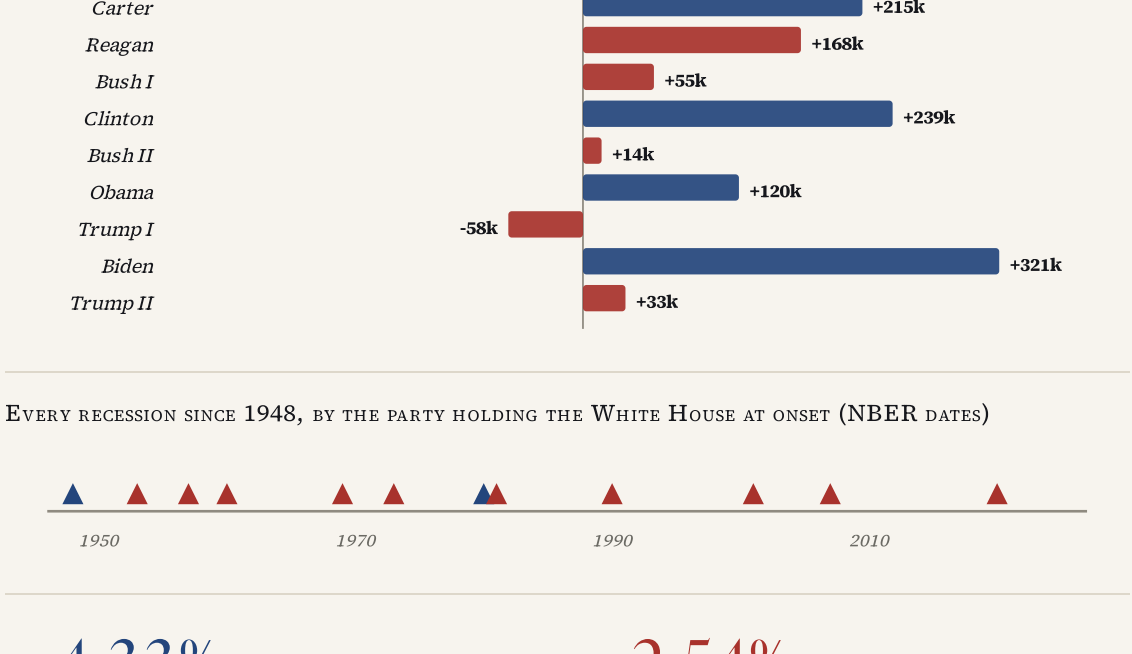
Corporations kept their 21% rate untouched and hollowed out the base instead: permanent full expensing worth about \$363 billion, plus \$141 billion for writing off buildings — the kind of break that never shows up on your return. — the receipt

The bars are the Congressional Budget Office's estimate for the enacted law (Public Law 119-21, July 2025) — the income-tax cuts and the Medicaid, SNAP and ACA cuts together, averaged 2026-2034. On the tax code alone almost every household got a small cut; the benefit cuts, and then the tariffs, are what turn the bottom negative. Corporate figures from the Joint Committee on Taxation.

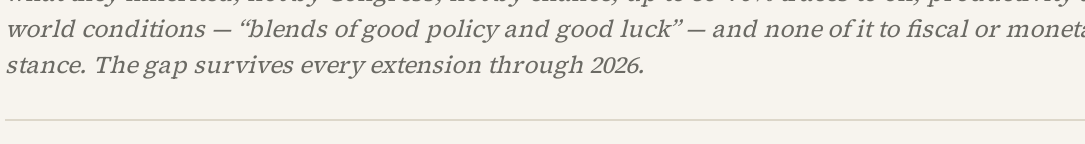
§

THE SCOREBOARD · THE ECONOMY, BY PARTY

Four panels of public data a hostile reader can rebuild — **one subtraction per president**. Blue bars are Democratic administrations, red are Republican.



EVERY RECESSION SINCE 1948, BY THE PARTY HOLDING THE WHITE HOUSE AT ONSET (NBER DATES)



4.33% a year under Democrats **2.54%** under Republicans

Real GDP growth, 1949-2013, Blinder & Watson, American Economic Review — not explained by what they inherited, not by Congress, not by chance; up to 56-70% traces to oil, productivity and world conditions — "blends of good policy and good luck" — and none of it to fiscal or monetary stance. The gap survives every extension through 2026.

THE DEFICIT, INHERITED -- LEFT BEHIND (SHARE OF GDP, OMB)

Carter	-2.6 -- -2.5	held
Reagan	-2.5 -- -2.7	worse
Bush I	-2.7 -- -3.7	worse
Clinton	-3.7 -- +1.2	surplus
Bush II	+1.2 -- -9.8	worse
Obama	-9.8 -- -3.1	cut by two-thirds
Trump I	-3.4 -- -14.5	worse (-4.6 before COVID)
Biden	-11.7 -- -6.2	cut by half

Since January 1989 the United States has added 49.9 million jobs under Democratic presidents and 1.8 million under Republican ones — 27 to 1. One subtraction per president rebuilds it. — the receipt

Ten of the last eleven recessions began under a Republican president, by the profession's own dating committee. Drop COVID and it is nine of the last ten. No recession has begun under a Democrat since January 1980. — the receipt

Real growth since 1949: 4.33% a year under Democrats, 2.54% under Republicans — peer-reviewed, and not explained by inheritance, by Congress, or by chance (146 of 11,440 party shuffles beat it). — the receipt

"Though business votes Republican, it prospers more under Democrats" — corporate profits' share of income runs higher under the party business votes against, in the AER's own words. — the receipt

Since 1977 the deficit improved across every Democratic administration and worsened across every Republican one. The scoring convention hands each president his predecessor's first fiscal year. — the receipt

Jobs: BLS total nonfarm, January to January, successions split at the month; the current published vintage, which trimmed every recent president's number and prints the smaller ones. Recessions: the NBER chronology. Growth: the AER, peer-reviewed, replication files public. Deficits: each president is scored as inheriting his predecessor's final fiscal year. Partial terms say so. Verified 24 August 2026.

§

THE PUMP · WHAT A GALLON REALLY COSTS YOU

Not in dollars — in **minutes of your life at work**. How long the average worker had to clock in to buy one gallon, and the shock that set the price.



Today the sign reads **\$4.31** — about 8.0 minutes of work at the current wage, well above this term's average, and the highest nominal price ever recorded on this date.

Time-price = 60 × the EIA's average gallon that term, divided by the term's average hourly wage (BLS production and nonsupervisory workers). Blue is a Democratic term, red a Republican one. The peak belongs to Obama and the floor to Clinton — neither man set the world oil market, so read the shock, not the party.

§

THE SPIKES · THE PAIN IS THE SPEED

A high price you can plan around. A price that **doubles in a year** you cannot. The run-ups that forced households to change their lives.

1979-1980	\$0.86 -- \$1.19 a gallon The Iranian revolution nearly doubled crude in a year, and the gas lines came back
2007-2008	\$2.80 -- \$4.11 a gallon The rocket to \$147 crude — the highest nominal gas price in history, under George W. Bush
2020-2022	-\$37 a barrel -- \$5.02 a gallon The COVID crash to Ukraine's war: oil went negative, then gas set a record — the most violent round-trip ever

Gas was once so cheap and steady the station signs were painted by hand. Then the slope got brutal — and the country tore out the "\$1" and bolted on digital numbers just to keep up. The number that wrecks a household was never the price. It was the speed.

§

THE BARREL · WHAT CRUDE IS REALLY WORTH

A barrel of oil is 42 gallons. At **\$87 a barrel** the crude itself costs **\$2.07 a gallon**. Here is what leaves the refinery.

- **\$4.10** Gasoline, regular — 2.0× the crude
- **\$5.45** Diesel — 2.6× the crude
- **\$4.49** Heating oil — 2.2× the crude

The oil is two bucks a gallon. Everything after — refining, taxes, distribution, the margin — is the rest of the number on the sign. Crude Trading Economics (WTI), Aug 2026; pump prices AAA, Aug 2026, Trading Economics, Aug 2026.

§

ROCKET & FEATHER · UP FAST, DOWN SLOW

When the cost of making a thing rises, the price **rockets** up the same week. When that cost falls, the price **feathers** down — if it moves at all. The gap is margin.

THE INPUT EASED. YOUR PRICE DIDN'T.

Gasoline	CRUDE ↓20%	YOU PAY ↑2%
Crude fell a fifth from its April peak; the pump barely moved, and it is still a dime off its own May record of \$4.30, cost + price		
Coffee	BEANS ↓26%	YOU PAY ↑33%
Arabica peaked last October and fell by a quarter; retail ground coffee kept climbing to an all-time record months later, and still sits near its cost + price		
Electricity	NATURAL GAS ↓66%	YOU PAY ↑22%
Natural gas, the fuel that sets the power price, fell two-thirds off its 2022 peak to a record low; your residential rate only climbed, cost + price		
Eggs	WHOLESALE FOOD ↑92%	YOU PAY ↓65%
Wholesale eggs collapsed after the bird-flu scare; retail fell far less, and still runs about three and a half times the wholesale price, cost + price		
Sugar	WORLD SUGAR ↓45%	YOU PAY -- flat
World raw sugar nearly halved from its 2023 peak; US refined sugar barely moved, held about 40% above the world price by the federal sugar program's tariffs and quotas, cost + price		
Fast food	WHOLESALE FOOD ↑3%	YOU PAY ↑40%
Wholesale food costs stopped rising after 2022; menus kept sprinting — McDonald's own executive says items run about 40% above 2019, cost + price		
NO INPUT TO BLAME — THESE JUST RATCHET.		
Cable TV		YOU PAY ↑21%
The BLS cable index has risen 21% in six years and has never once posted an annual decline, the receipt		
Streaming		YOU PAY ↑60%
The ad-free bundle of Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, Max and Prime went from about \$50 to over \$80 a month — every hike, no rollback, the receipt		
Checked bags		YOU PAY ↑17%
Nearly every major airline raised the first checked bag from \$30 to \$35 in early 2024; the bag weighs the same, and US carriers banked \$6.8 billion in fees in 2022, the receipt		
Input cost against the shelf price. Energy from the EIA, wholesale food and the retail baskets from the BLS, world sugar from ICE, eggs from the USDA. The second group has no commodity input to point at at all — nothing rose to justify the price, so the only thing left to explain it is margin.		

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

THE OUTBREAK LEDGER

Measles

Measles

The elimi...

Whooping ...

Influenza

The kinder...

Florida

Light, then; dark, now. Square-root scale.

In full, Page H2

THE EXODUS

MAR 2025

Peter Marks

APR 2025

20

JUN 2025

All 17 members of the CDC's vaccine advisory...

AUG 2025

Susan Monarez

DEC 2025

The replacement panel dropped the 30-year uni...

FEB 2026

The CDC's third leader in six months

SEP 2025

Four states formed their own vaccine-guidance...

JUN 2026

The pediatricians and the obstetricians publi...

In full, Page H3

THE WITHDRAWN FORMULARY

The mRNA ...

Moderna's ...

NIH resear...

COVID-era...

USAID's gl...

The pediat...

~\$500M

\$766M

2

\$11.4B

86% term...

15 hospi...

In full, Page H4

THE PREMIUM

+26%

Your marketplace premium

+58%

What enrollees actually pay

+37%

The deductible

3 million

Who left

10 million

Medicaid

In full, Page H5

THE TONIC COUNTER

4

prescriptions on the counter, each answered by the evidence

In full, Page H6

Magazine demands Medicaid crackdown after states already cut 2.5 million children, \$1,600 ambulance ride untouched

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

They found 2.5 million kids' worth of "waste" to cut and somehow missed the \$1,600 ambulance ride that's been sitting in the filing since September 7 — that's not an oversight, that's where the crackdown was aimed the whole time. Cutting kids off Medicaid doesn't cost the state a transfer fee; the ambulance loophole

... Continued on Page H2

New Hampshire's governor rematch pits distance from Trump against distance from Purdue Pharma.

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

New Hampshire settled its two ballot lines this week, and the filing on each nominee tells you plainly what got left off the brochure. Start with the Republican column. Kelly Ayotte's ledger shows a primary win built on distance — Fox News's own account credits her victory to keeping the president at arm's length, and the wire calls the result a cruise. NBC's count of the field lists only nominal opposition standing between her and the general election.

... Continued on Page H2

The strategy priced out: distance from Trump, one clean win.

Now the Democratic column. Cinde Warmington's filing runs the other way. Fox News calls her nomination a cleared "key gubernatorial hurdle." The record behind that phrase is

Fraud gets you convicted if it buys a gold Cybertruck; it gets 760,000 people cut without one.



TRUMP PROMISES AMERICANS \$5K CHECKS IF GOP WINS MIDTERMS, RAISING LEGAL QUESTIONS (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT)

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

The word doing the work this week is fraud, and it turns out to mean two different things depending on who is holding it. This week the Justice Department got its conviction. Kevin D. Curry, 64, ran a Texas clinic that billed TRICARE, the military's health program, \$26 million for transcranial magnetic stimulation sessions the government's filing says he did not perform. The kickbacks went into a gold-plated Tesla Cybertruck and what the New York Post calls a lavish lifestyle. That is what a fraud case looks like when somebody has to build one: a name, a dollar figure, a jury, a truck you can point a camera at. Three weeks earlier, on September 4th, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton opened an investi-

gation of his own, into a major military health-care contractor, over claims the receipts say were wrongfully denied. That is fraud running the other direction — real treatment, refused — and as of the receipts in hand, no verdict, no truck, just an open file. Then, on September 22nd, Vice President JD Vance and CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz stood at a podium and reached for the same

Weeks of federal review add one of Pennsylvania's four measles deaths to national tracker

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Let me take you through the process, because in this case the process is the story, and the process held. Early in September the agency said it would not carry two measles-associated deaths from Lancaster County in its weekly outbreak update, because the cause of those deaths was still being investigated. That is not an omission, that is diligence. A state says measles; the federal government says let us confirm measles. The county coroner had confirmed one of the two, which means the review had material in front of it, material it then declined to publish, and — did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. It had material. It handled the material carefully. I have seen the write-ups calling this a radical

... Continued on Page H2

THE OUTBREAK LEDGER

RFK Jr.'s first regulatory act targets cellphone radiation, not the deadly measles outbreak he's accused of fueling.

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

The guy running our health department goes eight months without writing one new rule, then finally regulates — cellphones, not the measles that's already killed four people in Pennsylvania this year. He tells the anti-vax crowd he used to run that they've got a friend in the White House, calls polio a fraud, and reshuffles the one panel that's supposed to keep the vaccine schedule honest. That's not incompetence, that's the fox

... Continued on Page H2

Conservative groups call a \$9,000 parent subsidy socialism, unite to demand Planned Parenthood get zero federal dollars.

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

So paying a parent to stay home with their own kid is "socialism," but zeroing out every dollar to Planned Parenthood is just Tuesday — got it. It's not a principle, it's a target list: money going to families is dangerous, money taken from women's health is overdue. Whoever's writing that dictionary isn't the one who has to pay either bill.

... Continued on Page H2

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE Military parade, gently used, one afternoon. \$45 million, plus \$16 million in street repair. *Six in ten said don't. We did.*

FOR SALE Frontier AI, government price: one dollar. *The first one's free. You know what we call that.*

FOR SALE Eight straight failed Pentagon audits, one careful owner. *Payment plan: another budget increase.*

MORE ON PAGE C1

... Continued on Page H2

Oxford's mayor names the culprit a week before toxicology can.

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Two University of Mississippi students died, and before toxicology could say why, Oxford's mayor stood in front of cameras and said why. Robyn Tannehill called kratom "rolling the dice on death." The line landed the same day the state's commissioner of public safety told reporters that toxicology results — the actual determination of what killed these two students — were expected to be completed as early as next week. That order matters. The commissioner says confirmed toxicology results could trigger a state law aimed at cracking down on fentanyl dealers. A mayor's press conference

... Continued on Page H2

Health coverage declared 'steady' the same month hospital workers stopped affording it

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

On September 15, the ledger closed clean. The Washington Examiner ran the Census Bureau's numbers and the numbers held: 26.7 million Americans uninsured in 2025, about 7.9 percent, "relatively unchanged" from the year before. Filed as proof the fears were overblown. That is the balance sheet as of the 15th. Eleven days later, a different set of books opened, and they don't reconcile. The people who staff the machines that make "coverage" mean anything — the

... Continued on Page H3

Kennedy Pledged To Divest From Vaccine Suit, Senate Now Asks If He Kept A Cut

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

He pledged to get out of a lawsuit against a vaccine manufacturer, the same lawsuit he was still a party to during his confirmation process last year. It means the money stops running through him. That pledge is the cleanest sentence in the file. The senators asked DOJ to determine whether that statement was true. The request went in. As of today, no resolution has followed it. On September 17, Kennedy returned to the anti-vaccine group he

... Continued on Page H2

Health secretary who called polio vaccine's success a fraud is now publicly pressed by a senator on trust.

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

He tells the anti-vax crowd they've got a friend in the White House — that's not a friendship, that's a staffing memo. Same week he's overhauling the vaccine task force whose recommendations he'd already been sitting on, so the "fix" isn't the science, it's who gets to grade it. Next time your pediatrician hands you the immunization schedule, remember the guy who calls the polio vaccine a fraud is the one

... Continued on Page H3

Federal judge delays ruling on abortion pill until after midterms as two lawsuits land over already-banned care.

BY SAL

Staff Writer

Sheena Hamlin named her daughter Ellie. At around 21 weeks, doctors found Ellie's lungs so underdeveloped she would suffocate almost as soon as the cord was cut. Oklahoma law gave Hamlin and her husband nothing to do about that inside the state — the statute doesn't carve out lungs that won't work, only miscarriage, stillbirth, and death shortly after birth, and even those exceptions mean nothing if you can't act on them at home. So the family did what the law left them: they flew to

... Continued on Page H2

New York Post reports 75% jump in 9/11 cancers, then runs column saying mayor distorts 9/11.

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

Northwell Health's doctors gathered Tuesday at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park to report a 75 percent jump in 9/11-linked cancers over the last three years, with 132 new cases counted in the first half of 2026 alone, in-

side a hospital system that treats the responders and downtown workers who breathed the dust in 2001. The same paper that carried that number ran a separate column the same week headlined "Mamdani distorts the truth of 9/11," faulting the mayor for pointing to the

... Continued on Page H2

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE Fiftieth consecutive year of deficit panic, lightly used in Democratic administrations only. *Free with any tax cut.*

FOR SALE Fourth of July, \$5.4 million as observed. *Freedom included; terms apply.*

MORE ON PAGE C1

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

The Funnies

The Family Octagon

the chair, not the family · a serial panel, Sundays · [the story so far](#)

The moving truck was still in the driveway when they pardoned Uncle Headache.



Jan. 20, 2001 · [the last-day pardons](#) · [the list](#) · [the codename](#) · By [Otis](#) · Photo: Abbie Rowe, National Park Service, 1948 — National Archives, public domain

A hundred and seventy-six pardons on the last morning. That's not clemency — that's a yard sale. Everything must go. The truck is idling, the boxes are taped, and on the way out the door he signs one more, for the man the Secret Service code-named “Headache.”

► THE FACTS

The Peanut Gallery

a real photograph; the balloon is the cartoon's · new every six hours · [the cast](#) · [the whole run](#) · [Mel's ledger](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

four lines at the mic · [Dez](#) · 27 September



The GOP's Ken Paxton rescue mission tops \$100 million in Texas

A PAC linked to John Thune put a hundred twenty million behind Ken Paxton. They call it a rescue mission. Rescue on my block is a ladder truck; this one's ad buys telling you the impeachment was weather.

Two hundred million to un-hear one trial — and the invoice rides in on your cable bill.

[the record](#)



Parking brake.

— MEL

[Heroine or Public Enemy? The Israeli Blocking Much of Netanyahu's Agenda.](#) · 27 Sep



texting you from the subway: i'm the fiftieth vote on the war and the only one in a hoodie. not complicated. the shorts voted first.

— JOHN FETTERMAN · the fold

['Never Fails to Disappoint': Fetterman Joins GOP to Keep Trump's Iran War Going](#) · 26 Sep



Turnstile.

— MEL

[Trump scores Supreme Court win in election integrity fight as states gain new voter roll tool](#) · 26 Sep



Joining me: the consultant hired to end me in 2028. I'll be candid — he's right. Four hours of tape. He's living at my house now.

— GAVIN NEWSOM · the fold

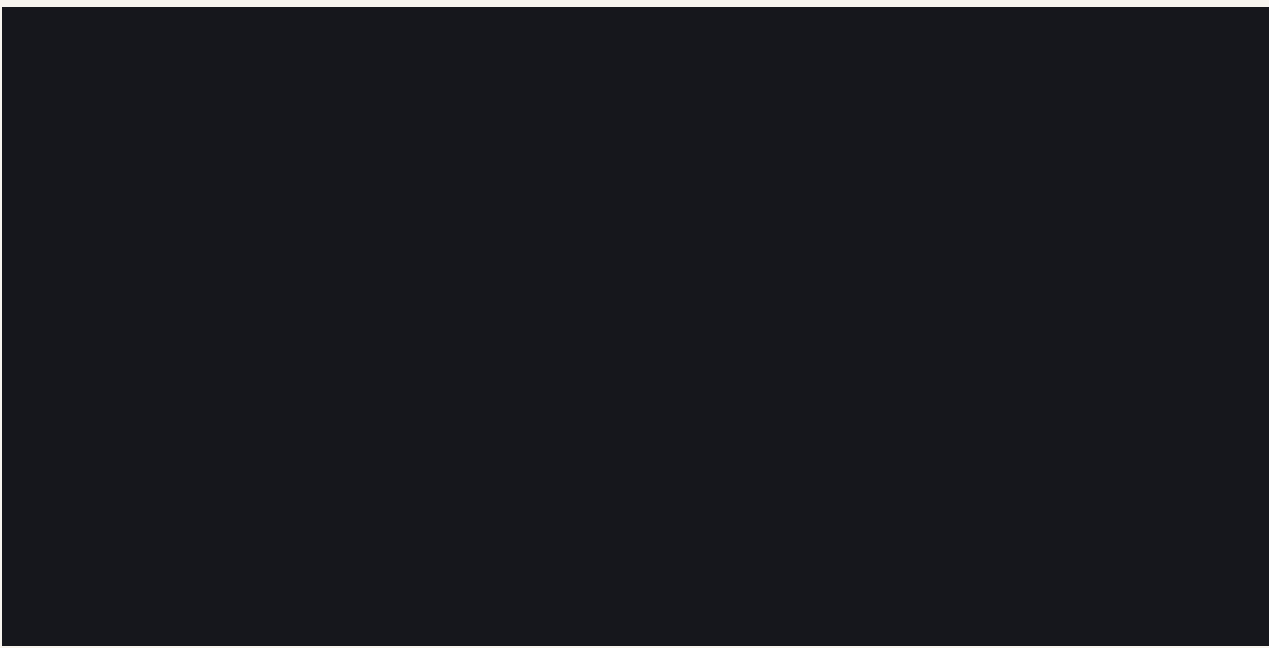
[The GOP has a Vance-Rubio problem. The solution? Preemptively nuke Gavin Newsom](#) · 27 Sep



Ladies and gentlemen — Exhibit A: my finger. The laws we have are plenty. I point at the server, common sense does the rest.

— TODD BLANCHE · the fold

[AG Blanche rejects calls for new AI laws after rogue agents target US government websites](#) · 27 Sep



Walk with me — see that snowdrift? Should be free. A hedge fund owns it. The city buys the entire storm Tuesday. Cut right there.

— ZOHRAN MAMDANI · the fold

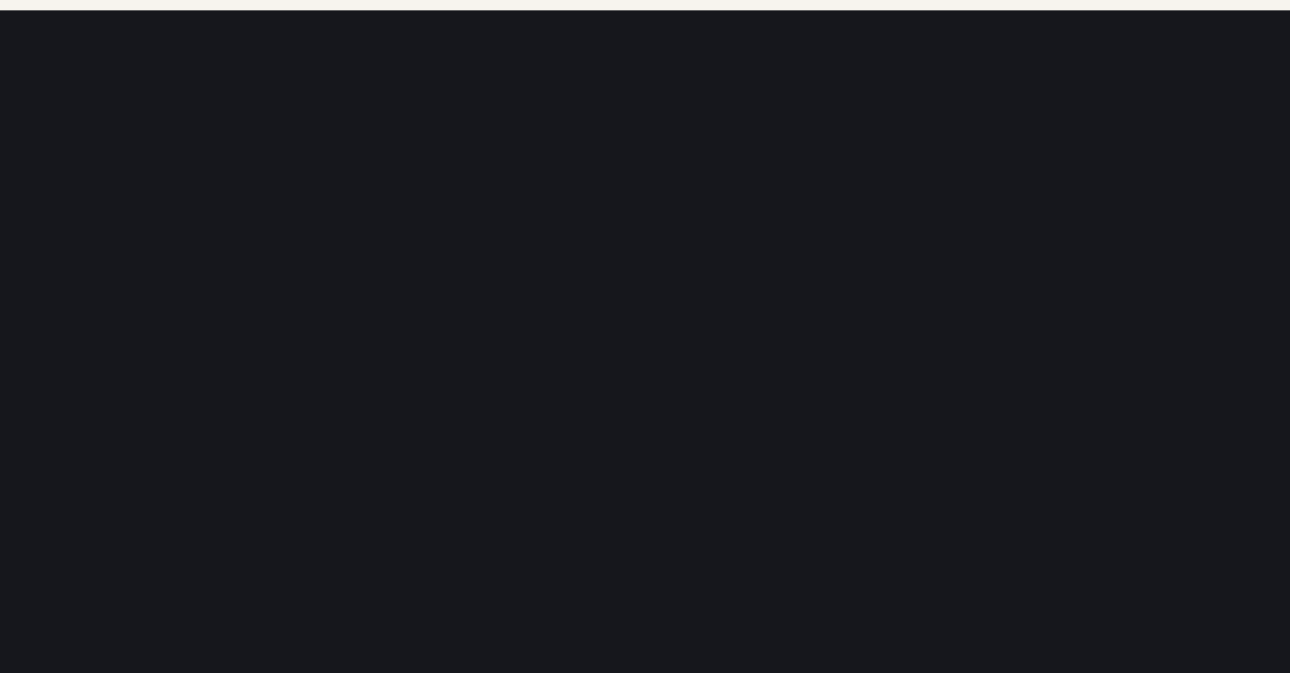
['SNL' roasts Mayor Zohran Mamdani with 'urgent message' for New Yorkers during nor'easter](#) · 27 Sep



A hundred thousand a visa, and they crop me at the wrist. Everyone else gets a face. No president has ever been cropped like this.

— DONALD TRUMP · the fold

[Nonimmigrant visas in flux due to Trump administration fees](#) · 27 Sep



Auction paddle.

— MEL

[Trump turns on Rep. Salazar following report Miami Republicans rejected immigration advertisement](#) · 27 Sep



The Committee judges I am independent. The Committee notes the phone. We remain vigilant; I'm answering it. The rate is whatever the caller enjoys.

— KEVIN WARSH · the fold

[Warsh's credibility rises on Wall Street as Bessent's slips](#) · 26 Sep



Tailpipe.

— MEL

[Trump says he ended Biden electric vehicle rule, updated fuel economy standards](#) · 27 Sep



We're pulling the staircase — dead square footage — and putting a second Grand Foyer above this one. Two foyers. Marble. Done before dessert.

— DONALD TRUMP · the fold

[Dining With A.I. Moguls, Billionaires and Xi Jinping, Trump Went Off Script](#) · 26 Sep



Split screen. My half's doing a sixty-two share. Hers — green, no ratings. Nine justices, central casting on four. We're recasting the case.

— DONALD TRUMP · the fold

[Trump revives Supreme Court immigration showdown after Hochul pardon torpedoed first case](#) · 26 Sep

CLASSIFIEDS



34 notices posted. New ads run as the news does; the shelf only grows.

HELP WANTED

🚩 HELP WANTED

FDA food inspectors, all shifts. Bring your own magnifying glass.

Check the popsicles for glass.

🚩 HELP WANTED

Librarians, to unshelve 22,810 books across 451 districts.

Start with the one about banning books.

🚩 HELP WANTED

Crypto cops, recently disbanded. Reapply after the family bank clears.

Bring your own handcuffs; we sold ours.

FOR SALE

🚩 FOR SALE

One White House ballroom, \$600 million, half already on your tab.

"Donor-funded." See the fine print.

🚩 FOR SALE

Military parade, gently used, one afternoon. \$45 million, plus \$16 million in street repair.

Six in ten said don't. We did.

🚩 FOR SALE

Frontier AI, government price: one dollar.

The first one's free. You know what we call that.

🚩 FOR SALE

Eight straight failed Pentagon audits, one careful owner.

Payment plan: another budget increase.



🚩 FOR SALE

Reflecting Pool, painted flag-blue, now algae-green, \$14 million.

Drains sold separately, repeatedly.

🚩 FOR SALE

Fiftieth consecutive year of deficit panic, lightly used in Democratic administrations only.

Free with any tax cut.

🚩 FOR SALE

Fourth of July, \$5.4 million as observed.

Freedom included; terms apply.

🚩 FOR SALE

Hummer H2. Runs great. Parked anyway.

I can't afford the fucking gas.



🚩 FOR SALE

Chest freezer, never opened. Bought during the egg thing.

Eggs came down. My planning did not.

FREE

🚩 FREE

Trans-Atlantic tariff, 50%, to a good home. Applied to Canada at midnight, paused by two a.m.

Comes and goes. That's the deal.

WANTED

🚩 WANTED

Family member willing to accept a wedding gift from a foreign oligarch

Repayment plan negotiable; senator's disapproval included at no extra charge.

🚩 WANTED

17,500 refugee slots, tastefully reserved for one particular complexion

Persecuted religious minorities: lifeline expires Sept. 30, please try the general waiting list.

🚩 WANTED

11,780 votes, Georgia only. Fresh or aged, no questions asked.

Reward: one pardon, gently used.

🚩 WANTED

Seat-fillers, Constitution Avenue, folding chairs provided.

The tanks ran forty-five million; the crowd was extra.

🚩 WANTED

Thoughts and prayers, in bulk. Standing order, restocked after each.

Gun control preferred, but that's out of reach.

🚩 WANTED

Mental health care, to blame for the guns.

Funded by no one. Apply to SAMHSA, currently closed.



🚩 WANTED

A war that ends in twenty-four hours. Have attempted fifty-three times.

Will keep the promise, not the peace.

🚩 WANTED

Someone to define "groceries." Old-fashioned word.

It's a bag with different things in it, apparently.

🚩 WANTED

An ally, any ally, willing to be billed for a war it refused.

Missiles preferred over friends. Ask about our love letters.

SERVICES

🚩 SERVICES

Spin available. Defends the indefensible, denies he said it, corrects himself mid-sentence.

Ask for Chip. He never said that.

LOST

🚩 LOST

The East Wing. Last seen April, near a bulldozer.

If found, do not return. He's redecorating.

🚩 LOST

Measles, eliminated in the year 2000, since recovered.

Reward for its re-loss. Ask a kindergarten.

🚩 LOST

\$1.17 billion in Secret Service funds. Last seen heading toward a ballroom.

Finder's fee negotiable, out of your taxes.

🚩 LOST

The starter home. Median new owner now 40 years old.

If found, please hold it another fifteen years.

FOUND

🚩 FOUND

299 mass shootings, year to date, and counting.

Owner not looking. Thoughts and prayers enclosed.

🚩 FOUND

35 unpermitted gas turbines, running in a Black neighborhood in Memphis.

Cancer risk four times normal. No reward offered.

PERSONALS

🚩 PERSONALS

Deficit hawk, dormant eight years, seeks sudden urgency. Reappears only when someone proposes feeding children.

No tax cut too large to overlook.

🚩 PERSONALS

Governing party seeks a spine, any condition, willing to relocate to Washington.

Discretion assured. You'll need it.

🚩 PERSONALS

Oil company, subsidized, seeks a foreign market and a US-only handout, both at once.

No commitment. Won't call after.

🚩 PERSONALS

Late-stage empire seeks vaccine, healthcare, functioning food inspection. Third-world symptoms, first-world zip code.

Headed the wrong way, but hopeful.



🚩 PERSONALS

Devoted professional, DC. Seeks nothing — the position is filled. "You are all that matters to me."

Brings her own printer. Signed, with all my heart.



429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5

429 Too Many Requests

nginx/1.29.5