# FROM EACH

FIRST YEAR | SUNDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2026 — THE SUNDAY EDITION | FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED


# *The Treasury secretary told a House committee the department is examining whether it needs Congress at all to mail the $5,000 the president promised adults for keeping Congress Republican, in the same week 750,000 people lost their health coverage with no vote required.*



PHOTO: TRUMP'S ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL IS STARTING TO BITE BEFORE THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES)

**BY MITCH**
*Investigations*

Follow the paperwork with me. It begins, as these things do, at a convention.

At the party's midterm convention in Dallas, the president told the room that every American adult would receive $5,000 if Republicans keep control of Congress in November. The Hill printed Monday that he had said Sunday, outside Air Force One, that the checks will "happen 100 percent," comparing them to the $1,776 checks that went out to U.S. service members. Three days of his own party then performed an audit.

Friday, Senator Susan Collins called the proposal "extraordinarily costly," observing that "the proposed $5,000 dividend would not have an income cap." The same day The Hill reported that Bret Baier had pressed Texas Attorney General and Senate nominee Ken Paxton, on Thursday, over his support for it. ...

*... Continued on Page F5*

## *The Week*

27 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2026 · RANKED BY THE WIRE

| STORY | OUTLETS | VERSIONS | ITEMS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **The contractor planning the next war** *Sunday chair: Sterling* | 56 | 292 | 1287 |
| *The Cornell fraternity rape case runs straight; no chair* | *29* | *33* | *151* |
| **The fifth botched execution** *Sunday chair: Ruth* | 25 | 21 | 99 |
| **The $5,000 promise and $90 check** *Sunday chair: Chip* | 22 | 15 | 137 |
| **The consulates shut before Brazil's vote** *Sunday chair: Lou* | 17 | 20 | 71 |
| **The bombing rescheduled for after midterms** *Sunday chair: Mort* | 16 | 1 | 80 |
| **The $5,000 dividend and 750,000 dropped** *Sunday chair: Mitch* | 16 | 1 | 80 |
| **The $38 billion war at the pump** *Sunday chair: The Wrecking Crew* | 16 | 1 | 80 |

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

Beautiful · Drain The Swamp · Liberation Day · Nasty · Trust · The Greatest · Mexico Will Pay

TACO TUESDAY

**Asked Xi whether China would like to buy American weapons, says his own ambassador. The next day: "I've never heard of that one." Then: "maybe it's a good idea."**

*The full arc, timestamped: the ambassador on Fox News Sunday, Sept. 27 — "He actually asked President Xi, would he like to buy some, at one point"; the denial to reporters, Monday the 28th — "we didn't discuss that" — and, in the same breath, "we do make better equipment than them, so maybe it's a good idea." The offer, the denial and the re-offer stand on the ledger. China still has the pandas.*

THE WORD

§51 — 04 OCTOBER 2026

## *On the forgotten man*

DEMOCRAT | REPUBLICAN




*$989.7 BILLION* | *FORGOTTEN NO LONGER*

*"I kept a copy of the inaugural address — I wasn't there, somebody sent it. "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer." Then I've got this other paper, from the Congressional Research Service. Medicaid: nine hundred eighty-nine point seven billion dollars*

*... Continued on Page W51*

§ §

*Pentagon moves troops out of the hemisphere where it claims no oil and into the one where it has claimed 35 percent, then seats a contractor with billions of dollars in military contracts on the body planning the future of war*

PHOTO: HEGSETH PUTS THE FUTURE OF WARFARE IN THE HANDS OF MAJOR MAGA DONORS (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN)

**BY STERLING**
*The Ownership Desk*

Thirty-five percent of what? The filing declines to supply the noun. Thirty-five percent, and the rest is yours to work out. Hold the figure, because on October 3, in the morning, a filing had Hegseth moving troops out of Europe,

*... Continued on Page F4*

*Tennessee hired a prison chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth on Wednesday and the resignation on Saturday; the Justice Department spent the same week asking the judge who struck its press ban to restore it on grounds of professionalism.*

PHOTO: TENNESSEE CORRECTION COMMISSIONER RESIGNS DAYS AFTER BOTCHED CHRISTA PIKE EXECUTION (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS)

**BY RUTH**

*... Continued on Page B1*

*Co-pilot grounded by Oman Air as a security risk in 2024 was flying 174 people toward Tel Aviv with a crash axe; the president's response was to offer the plumber who stopped him a job.*

PHOTO: FLYDUBAI CO-PILOT ATTACKED CAPTAIN WITH CRASH AXE IN HIJACKING (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER)

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

Who stopped the plane.

I put that question to a fellow Wednesday night and he

*... Continued on Page T2*

§

## *The ninety dollars Treasury mailed this month is installment one of the promised five thousand, and this podium will not be putting a date or a figure on installment two.*



PHOTO: U.S.-RUSSIA TALKS ON UKRAINE NOW INVOLVE AN OIL DEAL TIED TO TRUMP ALLIES (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES)

**BY CHIP**
*Staff Writer*

Let me start with the number in the news. The Treasury began mailing checks this month and the checks are ninety dollars. In Dallas the president said five thousand, and that Sunday he told reporters it would "happen 100 percent" if Republicans hold Congress, which is a conditional, and November has not occurred. On the tenth, in a recorded message, he alleged

*... Continued on Page H2*

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

CORNELL'S PRESIDENT PROMISED TRANSPARENCY IN AN EIGHT-MINUTE video the same week Tompkins County's DA's office quietly declined to review more evidence Cornell's own police had already gathered. That isn't an investigation, it's a courtesy: the school controls what the public gets to see, and the prosecutor's office signs off by looking away. Because a DA's office can decline to review more evidence without explaining why, the next parent's call to campus police gets filed the same quiet way; because that call gets filed quietly, the record your own kid needs stays inside the building it started in, and the only paper you actually see is the tuition bill with your kid's name on it, due in full either way.

⁂

*On* Hochul installs independent special prosecutor for Cornell case, immediately branded 'abhorrent,' 'hateful,' a 'fire-breathing hack.' *— the column, by Lou*

*Tennessee's half-price beer filled Neyland by kickoff for a stadium stump speech backing the bill, up for Senate passage Monday, that The Nation says threatens the labor rights of the athletes on the field below.*



PHOTO: SEC CROWD GREETS TRUMP WITH MASSIVE CHEERS AHEAD OF TENNESSEE-TEXAS SHOWDOWN (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS)

**BY GUS**
*The Sports Desk*

● HOT MIC MOMENT

*Is this thing — fine. At the plane, asked whether he*

*... Continued on Page S2*

## *The unwritten rule that you do not schedule ordnance around a ballot died at no fixed age, survived by a bombing moved to after the midterms and by the chamber that went home for seven weeks without voting on the war.*



PHOTO: TRUMP SLAMS REPORTING ON REMOVAL OF HIS ENDORSEMENTS FROM GOP CANDIDATE'S WEBSITE (PHOTO VIA THE HILL)

**BY MORT**
*The Records Bureau*

The wall between the war calendar and the campaign calendar died Sunday the twenty-seventh, in Washington. It was of no fixed age. Nobody ever wrote it

*... Continued on Page F3*

*"The United States of America has just entered into an Agreement with the Country of Venezuela on, THE BIGGEST OIL DEAL IN WORLD HISTORY!"*

— DONALD TRUMP, TRUTH SOCIAL, 28 AUGUST 2026

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Randy White called Talarico untrustworthy on trans issues as Paxton's estranged wife endorsed the ticket without naming him.

**WHO GETS PAID.** Ken Paxton's Senate campaign is the buyer: a Hall of Fame endorsement and his estranged wife's on-record vote, gained without her having to say his name.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Nothing slips here yet.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** No hearing, filing or vote beyond this week appears in the record; the next event on file is the election itself.

On Angela Paxton endorses the Republican ticket her estranged husband tops, without once saying his name. — the column, by Lou. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

*"Shut down Delaney Hall, free them all!"*

— PROTESTORS OUTSIDE THE DELANEY HALL ICE FACILITY, NEWARK

## *Angela Paxton endorses the Republican ticket her estranged husband tops, without once saying his name.*

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

You're good at this, both of you. A statewide campaign pulling in money the way these two have doesn't put the wrong thing on page one by accident, and it doesn't leave it sitting on page nine either, where the type runs smaller and fewer people check it twice. That's what I admire about a well-funded operation — it has readers before the voters do. Whatever happened this week happened in front of people whose job is to catch it.

I wrote something down on September 8th. I know I wrote it down, because I remember where I was stand-

*... Continued on Page A2*

## *With the war priced at $38 billion by its own budget office and $121 billion in extra energy costs charged to households, the House went home a day early for a seven-week recess.*



PHOTO: UN INQUIRY FINDS US STRIKE ON MINAB, IRAN, THAT KILLED 123 CHILDREN WAS WAR CRIME (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT)

**BY THE WRECKING CREW**
*The Remedy Desk*

The job this week was to find the invoice, and then find the tool that makes somebody read it out loud on a floor.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced the war at $38 billion. The Budget Office calls that figure conservative. In accounting, conservative means the number has room above it and none below.

Wednesday the 16th, Clean Creatives published its count of who is buying the quiet: fossil fuel firms have engaged 802

*... Continued on Page F2*

THE TIMELINE

## *Hochul installs independent special prosecutor for Cornell case, immediately branded 'abhorrent,' 'hateful,' a 'fire-breathing hack.'*

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

You're sharp enough to see where this is going already, and that's not flattery — that's a problem for whoever buried the item on page nine. A smart operation doesn't schedule a promise of reform the same week it declines to look at its own evidence. You'd have caught that. I almost didn't, because I'm slow, and because I keep losing the page.

I wrote this down. Give me a second — here it is. Saturday night, Cornell's president put out a video. Eight minutes long. He called it a "defining moment." He said the university "must do better." He promised "greater

*... Continued on Page A3*

❦ FROM THE MAILBAG ❦

*Dear Vivian,*

*My brother-in-law said that never in history have more Americans been employed. Is he just using Trumpian math?*

⁂

*— Counting Heads in Hershey. Vivian answers on E5*

## *Farmer tipped police to five terror suspects; all five, then a sixth, walked free on bail.*

**BY MITCH**
*Investigations*

Mitch, investigations. Follow the paper with me, one filing at a time, because this one keeps growing a roster. On September 28th, a farmer driving home past 1 a.m. flagged police to activity near RAF Fairford, the air base the US Air Force also uses; five men were arrested the same day, and by that same Monday bail paperwork was already signed releasing all five. That afternoon President Trump told reporters, of the release, "I wouldn't have done that." Two days later, on September 30th, Andy Burnham told the Washington Examiner there were "indications" Iran "played a part" in the Fairford case — and defended the bail decision anyway.

*... Continued on Page A5*

## *Trump vows to defeat communists once and for all, having just lost to the pollster he sued.*

**BY SAL**
*Staff Writer*

The vow and the complaint arrived in the same breath, which is its own kind of receipt.

The communists are not on the ledger anywhere else this week. The war is. In August it passed six months past the end date Trump had set for it. By September 15 the Congressional Budget Office priced it at nearly forty billion dollars and called that figure conservative. A United Nations inquiry had already found the strikes likely war crimes. A senator who voted to confirm the defense secretary running it has called twice this month for their fir-

*... Continued on Page A4*

## *Health secretary who doubted two measles deaths watches Pennsylvania confirm a fifth*

**BY LOU**
*One More Question*

You are smart people. I don't say that to warm you up before I ask something of you; I say it because this whole column only works if it's true, and because a smart operation does not make the mistake sitting on page nine of this morning's paper. I've read it twice, and I'd like to walk through it with you, because there's a number on it I can't get past, and I'd like the company.

I wrote the date down back in August, because it seemed like the sort of thing worth keeping. Just a second — I had it here somewhere... August 28th. Pennsylvania's governor had said two people had died of measles. The health secretary's own department looked at that sentence

*... Continued on Page H3*

**PULL UP A STOOL**

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

## *Hospitals that skip price disclosure half the time profit off a poverty subsidy in wealthy suburbs.*

**BY RUTH**
*The Money Desk*

The filing's own headline does the reconciling for us: "Robin Hood in reverse."

A month earlier, the same publication had already run the ledger on what nonprofit hospitals do with the slack. The September 1 filing put a number on it: $14 billion, its own figure, attached to hospitals it said "hoard wealth while gouging patients." The same filing noted that Congress and the administration were taking what it called serious steps toward transparency and accountability for those hospitals. Steps were, by its account, underway.

Nine days later the first readout on those steps arrived. The Patient Rights Advocate group's eighth re-

*... Continued on Page H4*

## *US pledges 'full cooperation' investigating Marine murder arrest, its third on this island in twenty years.*

**BY SAL**
*Staff Writer*

A Marine, 20, sat in an Okinawa jail this week on suspicion of robbing and murdering a Japanese woman, Anna Yagi, 39, at a hotel. The U.S. ambassador's office said it was "providing full cooperation with the investigation," which is the exact temperature Washington keeps on hand for a killing like this: warm enough to sound engaged, cool enough to commit to nothing. That same week, Japan's prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, registered a protest with the United States, and the word doing the heavy lifting in the wire reports was "threat-

*... Continued on Page A6*

## *Los Angeles taxed housing to build more of it, and lost thousands of homes and construction jobs instead.*

**BY RUTH**
*The Money Desk*

Los Angeles keeps a ledger with two columns that are supposed to move together: the tax collected on home sales over five million dollars, and the housing supply that tax exists to grow. The second column is the subject of this correction.

The stated purpose, per the record, is simple. Tax homes over five million dollars. Use the money to build more homes. Reconcile that purpose against the finished product and the two columns do not move together. Thousands of homes, gone. Thousands of construction jobs, gone with them. That is

*... Continued on Page F7*


### *Today*

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| The Business Desk | F3 |
| The Money Pages, continued | F4 |


**ASK VIVIAN**

"My brother-in-law said that never in history have more Americans been employed." She answers on E5.

— this paper

THE RECORD

## *Tennessee hired a commissioner with four botched executions, got a fifth, ordered its first review.*

**BY RUTH**
*The Money Desk*

The file arrived before the appeal did. Lawyers for Christa Pike counted five botched executions under Frank Strada's supervision across two states; four of the five were Arizona's, logged while Strada ran that state's execution unit. Those four sat in Arizona's own public record, not a drawer anyone needed a subpoena to open, when Tennessee read the file and hired him to run its prisons.

Then the schedule moved on its own calendar. A federal court halted Pike's execution; the Supreme Court lifted that stay the same week and let Tennessee proceed. On Wednesday night, September 30, officials administered two doses of pentobarbital. Witnesses told the Guardian that Pike was still awake and snoring loudly forty minutes later. Fox News reported she

*... Continued on Page F6*

**THE RECORD**

When we fix a line, the strikethrough stays. See the fixes.

— this paper

## *Jeremiah Smith declares himself the best player in the country; the record book agrees, 34 games early.*

**BY GUS**
*The Sports Desk*

● HOT MIC MOMENT

*Somebody get this to the political desk, this reporter is begging. The NCAA's interim name, image and likeness policy took effect July 1, 2021, so a player could finally sell his own name. The sportsbooks found a way to sell it first and kept the house's cut.*

*... Continued on Page S3*

**THE WIRE**

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

**SOURCED OR SILENT**

Open any fold. Every claim linked, every link dated.

— this paper

**FREE, FOREVER**

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— this paper

## *Trump's super PAC keeps spending nine figures while its own coalition keeps leaving the building.*

**BY RUTH**
*The Money Desk*

The filing starts on September 8, when the National Republican Congressional Committee added five candidates to its battleground watch list. The receipt names no states for that add and carries no belief about the House; it only flags five more seats the committee is now tracking.

Ten days later, on September 18, NPR reported that two Trump-aligned super PACs had reserved more than $150 million in ads, running mostly in seats the wire called deep red and newly competitive. The next day, September 19, MAGA Inc. sent another $5 million into the Texas Senate race, bringing the PAC side to at least $155 million placed in eleven days.

Six days after that, on September 25, the Cook Political Report moved its projection: Democrats take the House. The spending kept running against that call, not toward it.

The earlier reading was already on the page. On September 9, the Washington Examiner reported Latino voters were in play while Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the party's most prominent Hispanic surrogate, stayed off the trail. Four days later, September 13, the CBS Battleground Tracker found Democrats holding a House edge — three weeks before today's numbers confirm it.

*... Continued on Page F8*

*"Get them out quick. Open those beds up for more detainees."*

— BORDER CZAR TOM HOMAN, CNN STATE OF THE UNION, 30 AUGUST 2026

*"Don't let anybody tell you that people running Congress right now are looking out for the rich. Actually, I think we should do a little more for them"*

— REP. GLENN GROTHMAN (R-WI), AUGUST 2026

SAL READS THE FRONT

"On one page it reads as a ledger. Treasury is examining whether it needs Congress to mail the five thousand dollars the president promised adults for keeping the House, in a week 750,000 people lost coverage with no vote required. The checks require a vote. The Pentagon moved troops out of the hemisphere where it claims no oil and into the one where it claims thirty-five percent of something unnamed, then seated a contractor with billions in military contracts on the body planning the next war. Tennessee hired a prison chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth Wednesday and the resignation Saturday, and the Justice Department spent that same week asking a judge to restore its press ban on grounds of professionalism. The checks were ninety dollars, installment one, no date and no figure on installment two. A co-pilot Oman Air grounded as a security risk in 2024 was flying 174 people toward Tel Aviv with a crash axe, and the president's response was a job offer to the plumber who stopped the plane. The rule against scheduling ordnance around a ballot died Sunday; the bombing moved to after the midterms. The House went home a day early for seven weeks without voting on a war its own budget office prices at $38 billion, with $121 billion in added energy costs charged to households. Then half-price beer filled Neyland for a stadium speech for a bill The Nation says threatens the labor rights of the athletes on the field below. They tell you there is no money. The beer was fifty percent off and the check was ninety dollars."

*— Sal*

CHIP READS THE FRONT

"I will take them in order. One: Treasury is examining whether the five thousand needs Congress at all, which is efficiency, and 750,000 people came off their health coverage the same week with no vote required — two things that happened without a vote, one of which we are proud of. Strike that. Both are process. Two: we moved troops out of the hemisphere where we claim no oil into the one where we claim thirty-five percent, sixty-five billion barrels, thirty minutes, and seated a contractor holding billions in military contracts on the body planning the future of war. Three: Tennessee hired a corrections chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth Wednesday and the resignation Saturday, and Justice asked the judge who struck the press ban to restore it on grounds of professionalism. Four: the ninety dollars went out, installment one, and I am not putting a date or a figure on installment two from this podium. Five: the co-pilot Oman Air grounded as a security risk in 2024 was aboard with a crash axe and 174 people, and the president offered the plumber who stopped them a job. Six and seven: the bombing moved to after the midterms and the House went home a day early for seven weeks without a vote on the war — thirty-eight billion, a hundred twenty-one billion in energy charged to households — so nobody voted, so nobody can say we — the record is clean. Eight: half-price beer, a full stadium by kickoff, and a bill up Monday that The Nation says threatens the labor rights of the athletes. All of it said out loud, from this podium."

*— Chip*

**FOUND** 299 mass shootings, year to date, and counting. *Owner not looking. Thoughts and prayers enclosed.* **— Classifieds**

**FOUND** 35 unpermitted gas turbines, running in a Black neighborhood in Memphis. *Cancer risk four times normal. No reward offered.* **— Classifieds**

**PERSONALS** Deficit hawk, dormant eight years, seeks sudden urgency. Reappears only when someone proposes feeding children. *No tax cut too large to overlook.* **— Classifieds**

What is taken loudly comes back. What goes out the back door stays gone.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

# Pentagon moves troops out of the hemisphere where it claims no oil and into the one where it has claimed 35 percent, then seats a contractor with billions of dollars in military contracts on the body planning the future of war

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



**"With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface", 3 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Thirty-five percent of what? The filing declines to supply the noun. Thirty-five percent, and the rest is yours to work out. Hold the figure, because on October 3, in the morning, a filing had Hegseth moving troops out of Europe, where the Pentagon claims no oil stake, and into the hemisphere where it claims thirty-five percent. Out of the one, into the other. You would like to call that strategy. It is a usufruct — the fruit of a field a man does not hold the title to — and troops are what one posts along the fence.

The thing itself was done in daylight. August 28: Congress was called upon to stop what one filing called, in its own headline, "Yet Another Trump Grift," the takeover of Venezuela's oil fields. August 30: the president described that same oil as set to replenish United States reserves, in language a filing called mobster. By September 1 the question had narrowed to one headline asking deal or theft at gunpoint. September 11: Fox News quoted a top official crediting a thirty-minute military operation with unlocking the windfall. Sixty-five billion barrels. Thirty minutes ... which is handsome, as hourly rates go....

*...(cont)* Someone paid for the half-hour, and it was not the department. September 15: the Congressional Budget Office put Defense Department spending on the Iran war at $38 billion through the end of July, and called that estimate conservative. September 17: Moody's Analytics put the war's cost to the average American household at $1,760, and extra United States consumer spending on energy alone at $121 billion. On September 4 diesel reached $5.85 the gallon, an all-time high. On August 31 gasoline stood at $4.08, ninety cents above the year before. Matt Bell, who farms in North Carolina and voted for the president, told CBS on September 18 that farmers were "sold a bill of goods," and, "I can't stay in business."

From August 27, a mandated filing with the Office of Government Ethics: more than 1,000 stock transactions in June, among them thousands of dollars in energy companies taking record profits from the war. Two filings. One quarter.

An accounting was requested, and the week disposed of the request twice. September 3: the Wall Street Journal reported Middle East deployments extended into next year, a presence of 50,000 troops kept in the region "in part to give the president flexibility on next steps." Flexibility. The president's, not the household's. September 17: every Senate Democrat but Fetterman signed an open letter pressing Hegseth for a cost breakdown. Largely symbolic, as the item itself allowed.

October 3, and from Hegseth: no beardos, no weirdos, no wimps. The same October 3, the department opened its new Office of Religious Affairs. The one department, the one day, and no tension reported between the two.

At least five people were killed and 68 injured when the United States bombed a wedding party at a private home in Kuhestak, in Hormozgan province, reported September 2. On September 17 a United Nations fact-finding mission found reasonable grounds to believe the United States committed war crimes in two airstrikes inside Iran; the strike on Minab killed 123 children.

Which leaves the chair. The New York Times, October 3: "The founder of SpaceX, with billions of dollars in military contracts, joins several other defense industry executives" on the body that will help plan the future of war. The department's largest contractor. Also a top campaign donor. One page carries both, and the page was filed. The average household's cost of this war is $1,760. The firms that sell the equipment are seated for the next.

THE RECEIPTS

~~With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface~~

*Musk advises the Pentagon that pays SpaceX billions in contracts*

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *17:14 EDT*

The founder of SpaceX, with billions of dollars in military contracts, joins several other defense industry executives on a Pentagon advisory board.

~~Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors~~

*The Pentagon official running its AI program profited from Musk's private stock while in office*

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *13:27 EDT*

Installing tech billionaires Elon Musk and Palmer Luckey to Pentagon defense board raises conflict-of-interest concerns Send us your questions about how the Iran war will affect US voters in the midterms By installing the tech billionaires Elon Musk and Palmer Luckey to advisory roles in a Pentagon project about the future of warfare...

Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *08:00 EDT*

Fuel costs are biting for crop growers, trucking firms and a host of other industries as Iran war stokes record prices Joe Hamilton farms corn and soybeans on 2,500 acres in Indiana's Delaware county. Next week, when his soybean harvest kicks off, four tractors, two combine harvesters and five semi-trucks will roar to life. And with...

Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI

*Daily Caller* RIGHT § *14:13 EDT*

The Accord Establishes 'Real Oversight – Without Creating A Regulatory Capture Regime'

· Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 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*

· States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 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*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 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*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 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 Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *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*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *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*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *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*

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

· Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 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*

· 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*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 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*

*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.*

# Tennessee hired a prison chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth on Wednesday and the resignation on Saturday; the Justice Department spent the same week asking the judge who struck its press ban to restore it on grounds of professionalism.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Blackburn calls on Tennessee to 'bring back' electric chair after botched Christa Pike execution", 1 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The file came first. Lawyers for Christa Pike count five botched executions under Frank Strada's leadership across two states since 2022. Four of those five were in Arizona, where Strada oversaw the state's executions, and all four were on the books before Tennessee hired Strada to run its prisons. The New York Times reported Saturday that the hire went through anyway. That is the first entry on this page, and it is dated earlier than everything under it.

The booking came next. Truthout reported on September 22 that the lethal injection was set for September 30. On September 26 the New York Post reported the state had slated an all-female team to carry it out; Pike's attorneys had written in their petition, "Christa was broken, not evil." On Tuesday, September 29, the Supreme Court declined to stop the execution, clearing the way for Tennessee's first execution of a woman in more than 200 years....

*...(cont)* Wednesday morning, with witnesses already gathered at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, a Sixth Circuit panel voted 2-1 to halt it an hour before the scheduled time, to review Pike's allegations that she had been sexually abused and raped. The Supreme Court lifted that stay the same day, over the dissent of three justices. Tennessee proceeded Wednesday night with two injections of pentobarbital, each of which was supposed to be lethal. Forty minutes after the double dose, the Guardian reported, she was alive and snoring.

Christa Pike, 50, was hospitalized Wednesday and remained unconscious and on a ventilator Friday, her attorneys said, while hospital staff worked to clear the pentobarbital from her system.

Then the reviews, all of them after the fact. Thursday: Governor Bill Lee called it "deeply disturbing," and United Nations human rights experts urged the state not to try again. Saturday: the Guardian published the count of five, the Times published the hiring file, and Strada was out. Court documents say Pike thought her arm would "burst open"; her experts describe pentobarbital as caustic and highly alkaline, burning flesh, tissue and veins on contact, akin to "bleach" or "Drano." The Guardian's sentence for what the week produced is the first death row prisoner in the US to be injected with lethal drugs and survive.

An independent inquiry is what an institution buys when it decides to read a record late. On September 24, Judge Timothy Kelly, appointed by this president, ordered the White House to immediately restore the press credentials of reporters from CNN, MS NOW and Politico, finding the outlets likely to succeed on their claim that the ban and the revocation violated Fifth Amendment due process. On October 3, the Justice Department asked Kelly to put the ban back, arguing that access to the White House complex is a privilege and not a constitutional right, and that the three outlets had failed to meet "standards of professionalism." September 24 to October 3: one finding, then one motion to set the finding aside, filed with the judge who made it.

So the week ran two standards. The standard the department applied to three newsrooms was professionalism. The standard Tennessee applied to a hiring file was four botched executions and a signature.

Reconcile those and the difference is four. Four entries in the record before the appointment, and zero of them in the decision to make it. That is not a gap in the applicant's file, hon; the applicant's file was complete and correct. It is a gap in the employer's, and the employer is the state — which has now suspended its executions, ordered its inquiry, and will pay for both out of the same column it paid the salary from.

## THE RECEIPTS

~~Tennessee prison system head to resign after failed Christa Pike execution~~

### She's alive, unconscious and intubated after Tennessee's failed execution, her lawyers say.

*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *12:10 EDT*

Christa Pike remains alive but unconscious and intubated after her failed execution on Wednesday, her lawyers said.

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Blackburn calls on Tennessee to 'bring back' electric chair after botched Christa Pike execution

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) on Thursday called on Tennessee to reintroduce the electric chair for executions after death-row prisoner Christa Pike survived two lethal injections the day before. Blackburn, who is the GOP nominee in the Volunteer State's gubernatorial race, called the botched execution "tragic"

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~~Christa Pike Hospitalized After Surviving 2 Lethal Injection Doses in Tennessee~~

### Tennessee has now botched two executions this year

*Truthout* § *13:42 EDT*

This represents the second failed attempt at an execution via lethal injection in Tennessee this year alone.

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Trump dumbfounded on why death row inmate Christa Pike couldn't be executed: 'Should be easy to do'

*New York Post* RIGHT § *16:46 EDT*

He expressed disbelief that Pike survived the two rounds of lethal injection, becoming the first person in history to survive that death penalty method.

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~~Judge blocks Trump's firing of top federal prosecutor in Seattle~~

### Trump fired him within the hour of his swearing-in

*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *18:58 EDT*

Attorney General Todd Blanche announced in July that President Trump had fired Roger Rogoff as the U.S. attorney in Seattle, less than an hour after he was sworn into the post.

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Tennessee Correction commissioner resigns days after botched Christa Pike execution

*ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *15:18 EDT*

Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Frank Strada he will resign days after the execution of Christa Pike was botched, the governor said.

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Tennessee's prisons chief resigns after failed Pike execution, governor says

*The Washington Post* MAINSTREAM § *14:38 EDT*

The botched lethal injection of Christa Pike led to the halting of all scheduled executions in the state.

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Tennessee Pauses Executions After a Botched Lethal Injection

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *18:04 EDT*

Also, the Supreme Court will review Trump's migrant detention policy. Here's the latest at the end of Thursday.

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~~Christa Pike thought her arm would 'burst open' during botched Tennessee execution: court docs~~

### Tennessee's execution drug burns flesh like bleach, Pike's experts say

*New York Post* RIGHT § *23:48 EDT*

The execution drug, pentobarbital, is a caustic, highly alkaline chemical that burns human flesh, tissue and veins on contact, akin to household chemicals like "bleach" or "Drano," Pike's experts say.

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Judge reinstates Washington state US attorney fired by Trump

*ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *18:27 EDT*

A federal judge has ordered a U.S. attorney from Western Washington who was fired by President Donald Trump in July to immediately be reinstated to the position.

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~~After Two Botched Attempts, UN Experts Urge Tennessee Not to Try to Execute Christa Pike Again~~

### Tennessee failed to kill Christa Pike twice. UN experts say stop before a third.

*Common Dreams* § *19:39 EDT*

United Nations human rights experts on Thursday joined the growing chorus of people around the world outraged by Tennessee's two botched attempts to execute Christa Pike and called on the state to refrain from trying again to kill the 50-year-old woman. After a last-minute legal battle , the US Supreme Court allowed Tennessee to execute...

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~~Legal expert on what could happen after botched execution of Christa Pike~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her Wednesday night

*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:36 EDT*

Christa Pike is receiving medical care after Tennessee failed to execute her by lethal injection Wednesday night. Deborah Denno, a professor of law at Fordham Law School, joins "The Daily Report" to break down what could happen next.

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Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five 'botched' executions, lawyers say

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

Frank Strada will leave role next month after uproar over execution attempt, which sent Pike to hospital in critical condition Tennessee's prison chief is resigning after the failed execution of Christa Pike, which lawyers say was the fifth "botched" execution under his leadership across two states since 2022. Frank Strada, the...

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Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *09:58 EDT*

Tennessee inmate Christa Pike was in critical condition and receiving "lifesaving medical care" on Thursday, a day after surviving two failed lethal injection attempts by state executioners, according to her lawyers. Attorney Randy Spivey, who was present at the Wednesday execution attempt, said during a press conference that state...

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Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

*Truthout* § *14:08 EDT*

"I've never seen anything like what we saw Wednesday night," said one reporter who witnessed the execution attempt.

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Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution

*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *10:47 EDT*

Tennessee death row inmate Christa Pike survived two doses of a lethal injection drug during her attempted execution, her attorneys say. Officials are investigating what went wrong.

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Infamous Murderer 'Critically Ill' After Surviving Two Botched Lethal Injections: REPORT

*Daily Caller* RIGHT § *15:32 EDT*

'Critically ill but not in a coma.'

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~~The Memo: Tennessee debacle revives bitter debate over death penalty~~

### Tennessee botched her execution Wednesday; she's now in critical condition

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *17:24 EDT*

The death penalty is back center stage in national politics in the most macabre of circumstances. Christa Pike, 50, who admits to the gruesome 1995 murder of classmate Colleen Slemmer, is in critical condition in the hospital after Tennessee's attempt to execute her Wednesday evening failed. The attempted execution had only proceeded at...

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~~Tennessee Prison Commissioner Resigns Days After Failed Execution~~

### Tennessee's botched execution left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *11:52 EDT*

Frank Strada, who oversaw the process that left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized, quit as an independent review begins.

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~~Christa Pike Was Unconscious and on Ventilator After Execution Attempt~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection attempt left her burned and on a ventilator

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *14:56 EDT*

The Tennessee inmate was brought to a hospital with burned and blistered arms after an unsuccessful attempt at lethal injection, her lawyers said in a court filing.

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Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike's lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *00:18 EDT*

Independent inquiry ordered after failed execution of Pike, who was convicted of 1994 murder Christa Pike: what we know so far about Tennessee woman's failed execution Tennessee 's governor on Thursday said it was "deeply disturbing" that his state botched the execution of a death row prisoner who remained alive and snoring 40 minutes...

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Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *12:00 EDT*

Tennessee's botched execution of Christa Pike is renewing scrutiny over how states carry out the death penalty and raising questions about what legal recourse exists when that protocol goes awry. The attempt mirrors recent failures in other states, where inmates and their lawyers have argued in court that such errors amount to cruel...

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~~Lawyers, experts urge Tennessee governor to commute Christa Pike's sentence after botched execution~~

### She survived two doses of lethal injection - Tennessee's governor could still execute her

*Fox News* RIGHT § *22:25 EDT*

Christa Pike survived two doses of pentobarbital in a botched Tennessee execution, and her lawyers now urge Gov. Bill Lee to commute her death sentence.

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~~Botched US execution prompts global calls to scrap death penalty~~

### Tennessee tried to kill her with pentobarbital. She survived.

*Le Monde* MAINSTREAM § *15:29 EDT*

Christa Pike was taken to a hospital after the failed attempts to put her to death in Tennessee on Wednesday night. Her condition was not known and officials have not said how she survived the deadly doses of pentobarbital.

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Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

*RTÉ* MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*

The prison commissioner in the southern US state of Tennessee has resigned over the failed execution of convicted murderer Christa Pike, Governor Bill Lee has said.

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How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty

*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *15:04 EDT*

State legislators and the courts have turned the death penalty into a grimly farcical process, feeding the cheapest arguments against it. The attempted execution of Christa Pike in Tennessee showcases this fact. For full context, an 18-year-old Pike and an accomplice lured Colleen Slemmer into the woods, tortured her with a box cutter...

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~~Death row inmate unconscious on ventilator after botched execution for teen's killing, attorneys~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection left her unconscious on a ventilator, attorneys say

*Fox News* RIGHT § *17:43 EDT*

Christa Pike remains unconscious on a ventilator after Tennessee's botched lethal injection as attorneys file to preserve execution evidence.

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Am I Lying to Myself About the Death Penalty?

*National Review* RIGHT § *13:00 EDT*

It is a scandal that Christa Pike's execution was botched, but we must ask whose fault that was.

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~~Christa Pike unconscious and intubated after failed execution, lawyers say~~

### Tennessee's two botched lethal injections left her unconscious, lawyers say

*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *15:53 EDT*

The lawyers for a Tennessee woman who survived an execution attempt said on Friday she is unconscious and intubated following the failed procedure this week. Christa Pike, 50, was scheduled for execution on Wednesday, but is still alive after two attempts to end her life by lethal injection. Both attempts failed, and Pike's lawyer said...

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~~Judge restores Seattle US attorney who Trump fired after court appointment~~

### Trump fired a federal prosecutor less than an hour after judges swore him in

*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *19:16 EDT*

A federal judge restored Roger Rogoff as the top federal prosecutor in Seattle on Thursday, ruling that President Donald Trump could not fire a U.S. attorney whom district judges had appointed less than an hour earlier. U.S.

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The Guardian view on the death penalty: Christa Pike's execution was botched, but cruelty is inherent

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *14:14 EDT*

Three-quarters of nations have rightly abolished capital punishment in law or practice, but killing by the state has surged in the US What is the kindest way to kill? That's the question being asked once more following Tennessee's failed attempts to execute Christa Pike for the brutal murder of a classmate, Colleen Slemmer, when she was...

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Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived

*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *10:00 EDT*

Tennessee attempted to carry out the death sentence imposed on Christa Pike on Wednesday. The state administered its prescribed lethal-injection procedure. Pike survived.

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Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim

*Truthout* § *15:46 EDT*

Christa Pike's lethal injection is booked for September 30. She may be the first woman Tennessee executes in 200 years.

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Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *11:41 EDT*

The failed execution of Christa Pike has prompted new scrutiny of Frank Strada, who resigned as the state's top prison official on Saturday, and his past role overseeing executions in Arizona.

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Christa Pike's botched lethal injection takes focus off victim, jeopardizes execution: former police chief

*Fox News* RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

Christa Pike's botched lethal injection could end capital punishment in Tennessee altogether, warns former Knoxville Police chief Phil Keith.

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~~DOJ petitions judge to reinstate White House ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico~~

### Trump administration asks court to let it bar three news outlets from the White House

*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *10:23 EDT*

The Justice Department is asking a federal judge to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico journalists' access to the White House, arguing that access to the White House is a privilege, not a constitutional right. The filing comes after U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, temporarily blocked...

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White House defends media outlet bans, now citing 'professionalism' standards

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

Trump administration lawyers are fighting back against CNN, MS NOW and Politico's attempt to prevent the White House from enforcing futures bans against them — with the Justice Department (DOJ) now arguing the three outlets failed to meet "professional" standards. "The President concluded that they have failed to maintain basic minimum...

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~~Christa Pike Is in Critical Condition as Tennessee Pauses Executions~~

### Tennessee botched her execution; she's hospitalized

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *19:09 EDT*

Gov. Bill Lee ordered a review of the state's lethal injection process after the botched attempt to execute the lone woman on Tennessee's death row.

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Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed execution

*BBC News* MAINSTREAM § *13:48 EDT*

Pike's lawyers said the failure "goes far beyond any one person". Pike is in critical condition after surviving two lethal injections.

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~~Federal Appellate Court Halts Tennessee's Planned Execution of Christa Pike~~

### Tennessee's AG asks Supreme Court to force through first execution of a woman in centuries

*Common Dreams* § *13:16 EDT*

A federal appellate court on Wednesday morning temporarily blocked Tennessee from executing Christa Pike, as witnesses had already gathered at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville for the state's first execution of a woman in centuries. A panel from the US Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled 2-1 to halt the...

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~~Botched execution of death row inmate~~

### Tennessee injected her twice with a lethal drug. She survived.

*NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *19:50 EDT*

Tennessee gave death row inmate Christa Pike two doses of a lethal drug, but somehow she survived. NBC News' Jesse Kirsch reports.

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~~Judge rejects Trump administration arguments for withholding boat strike justification memo~~

### Trump administration ordered to disclose legal basis for lethal boat strikes

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *18:59 EDT*

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled the Trump administration must turn over a Department of Justice (DOJ) memo that legally authorizes the Pentagon's lethal boat strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific. U.S. District Judge Paul Engelmayer rejected two of the administration's three arguments to keep the document secret in a 66-page opinion...

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Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's botched execution

*New York Post* RIGHT § *11:34 EDT*

The Tennessee prison chief who oversaw the botched execution of murderer Christa Pike has stepped down from the position.

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Christa Pike left in 'critical condition' as Tennessee halts all executions

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *06:59 EDT*

Failed attempt to execute 50-year-old prompts review of state's execution practices. Plus the California woman who is allergic to cold Good morning. Tennessee's governor has suspended executions as Christa Pike's lawyer says the state's failed lethal injection execution attempt has left her in a critical condition.

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~~Christa Pike remains on ventilator after failed execution in Tennessee~~

### Tennessee tried to execute her with pentobarbital. She's unconscious on a ventilator instead.

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *16:26 EDT*

Attorneys say hospital staff are working to clear pentobarbital she was administered from her system Christa Pike remained hospitalized, unconscious and on a machine helping her breathe after her failed execution in Tennessee, her attorneys said in a court filing Friday. The attorneys said hospital staff were working to save Pike's life...

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What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution

*National Review* RIGHT § *06:30 EDT*

Medicalizing and sanitizing capital punishment erase the deterrence it is supposed to create.

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· After failed execution, health workers say Tennessee's method flouts medical ethics *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court Allows Execution of Christa Pike, Tennessee's Lone Woman on Death Row *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Federal court halts Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Sunday Shows Preview: Trump bans 3 media outlets from White House; Parties make final cases as midterms approach *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Vance defends White House media ban: 'Politico is as anti-Trump as Breitbart was anti-Obama or anti-Biden' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Vance defends Trump's media ban as 'totally appropriate' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Bill Clinton: 'There were lots of times when I wanted to ban the White House press corps' *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court declines Christa Pike's clemency appeal, with Tennessee set to execute first woman in 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court allows execution of Christa Pike to go forward *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee court makes last minute move to temporarily halt Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump White House Restores Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters Hours After Judge's Order *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Judge orders White House to restore media access temporarily for blocked outlets *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters regain entry to White House *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Christa Pike's Tennessee execution halted by court an hour before it was scheduled *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee inmate survived two lethal injections, her lawyer says in motion to halt execution *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee prepares to execute the first woman in over 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· States should not blindly Alabama's use of execution by nitrogen *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Lone woman death row inmate Christa Pike says she's 'at peace' ahead of execution — as Tennessee gov. denies last-ditch bid for clemency *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Fourth Circuit worried Trump's US attorney appointments unlawfully cut out Senate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Judge blocks Trump executive order banning 'birth tourism' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· The Supreme Court of the United States rules 5–4 to lift the block on four federal executions scheduled for July and August. Convicted murderer Daniel Lewis Lee, whose execution was scheduled for the *from the morgue, 14 Jul 2020*

· The Supreme Court of the United States refuses to vacate a stay of execution issued by the Arkansas Supreme Court. Arkansas's highest court has also put on hold the execution of another inmate, Bruce *from the morgue, 18 Apr 2017*

· CNN, MS Now, and Politico ask judge to extend order pausing Trump's ban *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump administration asks Supreme Court to OK transgender inmate policy *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· https://nypost.com/2026/10/01/us-news/mom-of-christa-pikes-victim-has-furious-response-to-watching-failed-execution-they-f-ked-up/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/health/what-know-pentobarbital-death-row-inmate-survives-2-lethal-injection-doses *the receipt*

· United States district court judge Jeremy Fogel imposes a moratorium on lethal injections in California stating that they are unconstitutional. In an unrelated incident, the Governor of Florida Jeb Bu *from the morgue, 15 Dec 2006*

· John Marek becomes the 68th death row inmate in the state of Florida, United States to be executed by lethal injection since the death sentence was re-instated in 1979.(Miami Herald) *from the morgue, 19 Aug 2009*

· U.S. President Joe Biden commutes the death sentences of 37 out of the 44 federal death row inmates to life imprisonment. The exceptions are Dylann Roof, Robert Gregory Bowers, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, *from the morgue, 23 Dec 2024*

· The death penalty: 50 years after reinstatement *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· After nitrogen execution blocked, Alabama inmate to die by lethal injection *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/6122386-bill-lee-tennessee-executions-halt-christa-pike-case/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/6122593-christa-pike-failed-execution-tennessee/ *the receipt*

· https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2026/10/01/us-supreme-court-clears-way-for-tennessee-woman-s-imminent-execution_6758127_4.html *the receipt*

*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 ninety dollars Treasury mailed this month is installment one of the promised five thousand, and this podium will not be putting a date or a figure on installment two.

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

**"Trump says US to send one-time $90 payment to 20m seniors enrolled in Medicare", 3 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Let me start with the number in the news. The Treasury began mailing checks this month and the checks are ninety dollars. In Dallas the president said five thousand, and that Sunday he told reporters it would "happen 100 percent" if Republicans hold Congress, which is a conditional, and November has not occurred. On the tenth, in a recorded message, he alleged the prior administration had been "massively" overcharging people on the federal exchange and pledged five hundred dollar rebates to nearly a million of them. So you have five thousand, five hundred, ninety. That is a schedule. The ninety is the first installment. It is installment one. I am not going to put a date on installment two from this podium — or a figure, the figure is Treasury's — look, when Treasury has the second one, Treasury will have it, and I would not want to characterize a second one I have not been given. Did I say installment? I would characterize it as a check. A check that went out.

On mechanics. The Treasury secretary told the House Financial Services Committee on the fifteenth that the department is examining whether it can issue the money without authorization from Congress, and examining is not doing. The critics here are our own house: Senator Collins of Maine called the proposal "extraordinarily costly" and said that from the few details available, it seems the dividend would carry no income cap. Senator Marshall of Kansas, asked at the state fair debate about a $1.2 trillion price tag, shifted. Representative Lawler of New York asked how you pay for it. Representative Flood of Nebraska said the priority needs to be the military. National Review called it reckless. Guy Benson called it a "disastrous idea." The vote the checks require sits with a senator who has said they will not fund them. That is a party conducting a debate in the open, and the ninety dollars went out during it....

*...(cont)* Third, energy. The special envoy and the president's son-in-law flew to Moscow on September 4 and then to Kyiv; by the sixth the Kyiv leg was "encouraging," by the seventh there was "substantive progress" and a three-day pause both sides had agreed to; on the ninth the president took a call with Mr. Putin and pronounced it great. At some point in that effort, by the reporting, Mr. Putin raised with the two of them a sale of Russian energy assets — the assets Ukraine agreed not to hit. You could stand up a second delegation to hear an energy proposal. You could open an office for it. The two of them were in the room, the room was paid for, and I would call that efficiency. And I would note the word used is sale, which is a commercial term, and commerce is not — commerce is ordinary.

On the advertising. There is a campaign praising the president's presidency, it was financed out of the Department of Homeland Security, and it ran at the president's direction. That department's appropriation is border security. The ads concern the presidency. The presidency sits inside the country, and the border is the edge of the country, so the country is the thing inside the border, so an advertisement about the man inside the border is in a broad sense a border — I hear it. I hear what that sounded like. Strike it. The department has latitude, the material is informational, and the public benefits from knowing who is running the government they live inside of.

Which brings me to the comparison you intend to run. Ninety dollars to a senior this month, against the president's nine largest oil and gas holdings, which CNBC found had risen between $1.5 million and $4.4 million since the war with Iran; against 750,000 people the administration announced it is removing from Affordable Care Act coverage as "fraudulently" enrolled, a claim health policy experts met with skepticism; against an independent analyst's September 3 tally of as many as 10 million who have lost coverage under this president. Four ledgers. They do not touch. I have been shown nothing that wires them together, and the wiring is not something I will do from here. Ninety against four point four million is a unit problem. One is a check. One is a holding, and a holding is not income until you sell it. I will take the rest of this Monday. I will be here Monday.

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump says US to send one-time $90 payment to 20m seniors enrolled in Medicare~~

*The $90 check comes from a fund Congress already created, Trump says*

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *09:48 EDT*

President says payments, to be sent in early October, are meant to offset cost of monthly insurance premiums Donald Trump has said the US government will send a one-time $90 payment to more than 20 million Americans enrolled in Medicare , the health insurance program for elderly people, to help offset the cost of their monthly...

~~Trump announces US will send $90 checks to 20 million seniors enrolled in Medicare~~

*He promised to erase $19 trillion in debt. He's now mailing out $2 billion in checks.*

*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *09:17 EDT*

President Trump announced Friday his administration will pay out a total of around $2 billion in checks to over 20 million seniors to offset Medicare Part B premium costs. In an evening Truth Social post, the president said this money would be sourced from the Medicare Improvement Fund, which he called a "pointless 'Slush Fund.'"...

*But:* Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of taking office, on 53 separate occasions, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

U.S.-Russia Talks on Ukraine Now Involve an Oil Deal Tied to Trump Allies

*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *21:58 EDT*

President Vladimir V. Putin brought up a sale of Russian energy assets with President Trump's envoys, Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, pushing a deal that raises new questions about conflicts of interest.

· Trump says Ukraine and Russia have agreed to energy target ceasefire *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Witkoff touts 'substantive progress' after peace talks with Ukraine, Russia *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Trump envoys hail 'encouraging' talks in Kyiv to end Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Witkoff, Kushner to visit Moscow and Kyiv in renewed push to end Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Analysis Finds Up to 10 Million People Have Lost Healthcare Coverage During Trump's Second Term *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Treasury confirms plan to auto-enroll millions of children in Trump accounts *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· The Big Beautiful Bill Is Starting to Bite Before the Election *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· 'Sickening and Unacceptable': Anger Mounts as Trump and Vance Gleefully Rip Healthcare From 750,000 *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign? *from the morgue, 23 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*

· GOP leaders blindsided by Trump's promise of $5K checks *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*

*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.*

# Co-pilot grounded by Oman Air as a security risk in 2024 was flying 174 people toward Tel Aviv with a crash axe; the president's response was to offer the plumber who stopped him a job.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



**"Brazilian voters heading to the poll this weekend say Lula is turning the country into 'another Venezuela'", 3 October 2026**
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Who stopped the plane.

I put that question to a fellow Wednesday night and he answered it, and I apologize, because here I am asking it again. The answer came back Friday in a different shape, and when an answer changes shape I start to think I wrote the question down wrong. Hold on. It's in the notebook. The pocket's torn, everything slides to the bottom — ah. Here....

*...(cont)* Wednesday, September 30th, the Washington Examiner. The pilot who unlocked the cockpit door "after getting stabbed to allow passengers to storm the cockpit" is Smit Machchhar, an Indian national. Named first in Indian media, then confirmed by Prime Minister Netanyahu, then confirmed again by the Indian Embassy. One identification and two confirmations, all in the one day. That was Wednesday's answer, and it held up fine.

Friday morning the same question gets answered again. The Hill: the president thanked Israeli plumber Yaniv Hayoun in a video message on Truth Social, said he "did an amazing job," said "He's my kind of guy." The New York Post carries the rest of it — "he can be my plumber." The Post says Hayoun saved 170 lives. The Examiner on Friday says the flight carried 174 passengers. Two counts from two outlets; I make nothing of it, I only mention it because I wrote both of them down.

So a man on a plane is offered work. That's a fine story. Here is where I get stuck, and it is my own fault for reading Saturday's wire.

ABC News, Saturday: the co-pilot "was previously suspended by Oman Air as a security risk," according to officials. Fox News puts a year on it — Hamam al-Hammami, 29, an Omani national, grounded by Oman Air in 2024. The Examiner had it Friday from a Wall Street Journal report: barred from flying by Oman over radical beliefs. And on Wednesday he is in the right-hand seat of a Tel Aviv-bound flight with 174 people behind him, and the UAE attorney general says he tried to "take control of the aircraft" and carry out a "terrorist act," using the cockpit's crash axe.

Now, my car. The one that wants a fan belt and announces it at every light. In 2024 it went through a toll plaza with a transponder that didn't read, and there is still a notice about it in my glovebox. Two years on, the arm at that plaza comes down slow for me. A machine the size of a mailbox, bolted to a pole in the weather, holds onto one dollar-fifty and my license plate across two years and a state line, and it never loses the file. That's the thing I keep setting beside the clipping. A mailbox on a pole remembers 2024. So when a country's own airline grounds a man in 2024, who does that follow him to?

Two more from the notebook, because the week kept going. Thursday, CBS: Netanyahu told them the motive of the co-pilot is still unknown, too early to determine. That same Thursday, the New York Post: Netanyahu credits the plumber with preventing "another 9/11" and vows to find out whether Iran was behind the attack. If the motive is still unknown on Thursday, what is the thing he is vowing to find out whether Iran was behind?

And back on Wednesday the Examiner writes that the hijacking has become a flashpoint in Israel's politics, with the prime minister claiming credit for alerting the opposition while rivals say he is exploiting the situation for campaign purposes. An election season. I put a star next to that one.

Oh — excuse me, you've got your coat on already. One small thing and I'll let you go. Friday's job offer went to the passenger, and the passenger earned it. But there was a hiring before Friday's, and it's the one I can't get out of the notebook. Who flew him on Wednesday, and who had grounded him previously?

THE RECEIPTS

Brazilian voters heading to the poll this weekend say Lula is turning the country into 'another Venezuela'
*New York Post* RIGHT § *10:00 EDT*
This election is turning into a Carnaval.

Lula and Bolsonaro make final push for votes ahead of Brazil's knife-edge election
*France 24* MAINSTREAM § *16:16 EDT*
Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his main challenger Flavio Bolsonaro wrapped up their campaigns on Saturday in the powerhouse state of Sao Paulo, where a fifth of the nation's vote is based, seeking to rally supporters and convince the undecided on the eve of Sunday's nail-biter election.

Co-pilot stabs captain, tries to crash FlyDubai flight en route to Israel
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *11:38 EDT*
Israel leader Benjamin Netanyahu says the FlyDubai co-pilot who allegedly stabbed the captain and tried to crash the plane had undergone "Islamist radical indoctrination."

~~Alarm Grows Over 'Clearly Illegal' Trump-Rubio Election Meddling in Brazil~~
*Trump, Rubio interfere for Bolsonaro's son against Lula, spy agency confirms*
*Common Dreams* § *11:09 EDT*
Brazilian officials, pro-democracy advocates, and US lawmakers are growing increasingly concerned about apparent efforts by President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to interfere in the Latin American country's upcoming election. Reuters reported Wednesday that Brazil's spy agency "confirmed the existence of interference...

Flavio Bolsonaro: In the name of the father, sons, and holy ideology
*France 24* MAINSTREAM § *05:48 EDT*
The first round of Brazil's presidential election on Sunday pits two well-known names in the political ring: Lula vs. Bolsonaro. But it's not former president Jair Bolsonaro facing off against the incumbent head of state – it's his eldest son, Flavio Bolsonaro.

Netanyahu says it's too early to determine motive in cockpit stabbing
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *08:56 EDT*
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated to CBS News that the motive of the Flydubai co-pilot accused of stabbing his fellow pilot on a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv is still unknown.

*But:* The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to preserve evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza *(ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL))*
Mamdani says it was 'strange' getting called out by Netanyahu after calling for his arrest
*Fox News* RIGHT § *19:45 EDT*
New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani told Theo Von he was stunned when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called him out by name during a United Nations General Assembly address.

Trump thanks man who helped save Flydubai flight: 'What a job he did, he's a hero'
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *11:19 EDT*
President Trump on Friday morning thanked the Israeli plumber, Yaniv Hayoun, who intervened after a pilot stabbed his co-pilot and attempted to crash a Flydubai flight this week. In a video message shared on Truth Social, the president praised Hayoun, saying he "did an amazing job." "He's my kind of guy,"

*But:* Antisemitic incidents in 2025: 6,274 - the third-highest year since tracking began in 1979, with assaults at a record high *(ADL, 2025 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents)*
"Grotesque": Ex-Israeli Negotiator Daniel Levy on Netanyahu's U.N. Speech & Israel's Impunity
*Democracy Now!* § *08:18 EDT*
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a half-empty chamber at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, after dozens of delegations walked out in protest at the start of his speech. Netanyahu assailed his critics as "antisemites," defended his country's conduct in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, and lavished...

Why has Brazil accused the US of election interference?
*BBC News* MAINSTREAM § *09:52 EDT*
The Latin American country will vote for its next president, as Lula da Silva and Bolsonaro clash over sovereignty, security and ties with Washington.

*But:* The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to "prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence" of alleged genocide in Gaza *(ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL))*
Mamdani calls for US to join ICC, arrest Netanyahu during Theo Von podcast appearance: 'Architect of a horrific genocide'
*New York Post* RIGHT § *01:06 EDT*
"If I had my say, the US government would have joined the ICC and honored every single warrant that they've issued," Mamdani declared on Theo Von's podcast, "This Past Weekend."

~~Lula Campaign Asks to Probe Sudden US Shutdown of Consular Services as 'Interference in Brazilian Elections'~~
*Brazil's intelligence agency confirms US interference to help elect Bolsonaro's son*
*Common Dreams* § *16:14 EDT*
Just two days before Brazil's closely watched presidential election, the campaign of its left-wing president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has asked the nation's top election court to examine the sudden shutdown of US consular services as part of a broader investigation into alleged election "interference" by the Trump administration. On...

US suspends consular services in Brazil due to security concerns
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *10:29 EDT*
The U.S. halted consular services in Brazil Friday due to rising security concerns ahead of the country's presidential election on Sunday. "Consular Services in the U.S.

Flydubai hijacker previously barred from flying by Oman over radical beliefs: Report
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *18:11 EDT*
The co-pilot who hijacked a Flydubai flight carrying 174 passengers and stabbed his captain on Wednesday was previously banned from flying by Oman over his radical beliefs. Israeli officials identified the hijacker as an Omani national, but according to a Wall Street Journal report, the individual was banned from operating an aircraft by...

'Crazy' FlyDubai landing explained by Israeli pilot, who offers steps to prevent future crises
*Fox News* RIGHT § *14:13 EDT*
Eliran Almog, a former Israeli pilot and aviation cybersecurity CEO, explains why FlyDubai flight 1073's emergency landing was nearly impossible.

Flydubai co-pilot attacked captain with crash axe in hijacking
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *12:11 EDT*
The Flydubai co-pilot accused of attacking the captain of a Tel Aviv-bound flight earlier this week allegedly used the cockpit's "crash axe" in the assault and has been identified as a 29-year-old Omani national. The co-pilot attempted to "take control of the aircraft"

Trump gushes over blue-collar flydubai hero who thwarted hijacking terrorist, says 'he can be my plumber'
*New York Post* RIGHT § *12:50 EDT*
Donald Trump praised Israeli plumber Yaniv Hayoun, who saved 170 lives by subduing a co-pilot trying to crash a Flydubai flight to Tel Aviv.

*But:* The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to "prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence" of alleged genocide in Gaza *(ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL))*
Mamdani rips Netanyahu's UN jab as Gaza distraction: 'Not about me and him'
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *22:34 EDT*
New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was trying to distract the world from the humanitarian crisis in Gaza when Netanyahu openly criticized Mamdani at the U.N. General Assembly last week. "All of this is an attempt to distract from responsibility.

Co-pilot attacker had been banned from flying over his radical views
*NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *19:29 EDT*
The Wall Street Journal reports the co-pilot who tried to fly a plane bound for Israel into the ground had been banned from flying by his home country, Oman, over his radical views. Plus, an Israeli official told NBC News investigators discovered the co-pilot had posted on social media that he wanted to kill Jews. NBC News' Matt Bradley...

~~US Meddling in Brazil May Decide Latin America's Future~~
*Flávio Bolsonaro is counting on Trump's help to win Brazil's election*
*Jacobin* § *08:00 EDT*
Brazil's presidential election is on a knife-edge. Right-winger Flávio Bolsonaro has powerful interests on his side but is also counting on the Trump administration's help to push him over the line.

A Bloody Attack on a FlyDubai Plane Headed to Israel, and a Terrifying Plunge
*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM § *21:56 EDT*
"I don't deserve to die like this," said one passenger on Flight 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The motive of the cockpit stabbing remains unknown, officials said.

In Brazil's Elections, Trump Seeks to Tighten Right Wing Grip on the Americas
*Truthout* § *11:30 EDT*
The US has been heavily intervening on behalf of right wing challenger Flávio Bolsonaro ahead of Sunday's elections.

While America debates who belongs, a Hindu captain and Jewish passengers just stopped a hijacking
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*
While Americans argue about which religious minorities belong in our national life, a Hindu of Indian origin captain and Jewish Israeli passengers offered a more consequential answer: They helped keep everyone on board Flydubai Flight FZ1073 alive. On Sept. 30, Flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv became the scene of an apparent attempt...

How newsrooms turned an attempted hijacking into a 'brawl' (and killed public trust)
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*
Imagine sitting on an airplane at 34,000 feet. Breakfast has been served. You are flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv with more than 170 other people, most of them Israelis.

Suspect in FlyDubai incident was previously identified as security risk: Officials
*ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *11:38 EDT*
The co-pilot of the FlyDubai plane who allegedly attacked its captain is an Omani national who was previously suspended by Oman Air as a security risk, sources say.

Flydubai pilot attacked captain with cockpit's crash ax in attempted terrorist act, UAE official says
*NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *05:25 EDT*
TEL AVIV — A Flydubai pilot attacked his flight captain using a crash ax and tried to take control of the aircraft's controls in an attempted terrorist attack, an official with the United Arab Emirates said Saturday.

FlyDubai co-pilot accused of stabbing captain identified as 29-year-old Omani national
*Fox News* RIGHT § *06:17 EDT*
Hamam al-Hammami, the 29-year-old FlyDubai co-pilot accused of stabbing the captain on a Tel Aviv-bound flight, was previously grounded by Oman Air in 2024.

Flydubai co-pilot used crash ax to hack at pilot in attempted 'terrorist attack': UAE official
*New York Post* RIGHT § *07:50 EDT*
UAE prosecutors say flydubai co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami used a crash axe to attack the pilot in an attempted hijack of an Israel-bound flight.

Israeli Opposition Accuses Netanyahu Of Being Too Pro-Palestine
*Daily Caller* RIGHT § *21:25 EDT*
'This isn't AI'

· What to know about Flydubai cockpit clash as pilot is arrested *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Pilot stabbed fellow pilot in apparent attempt to crash Israel-bound plane, Netanyahu says *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· 'Hero' pilot who helped save hijacked plane identified as Indian national Smit Machchhar *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Passengers stop co-pilot's attempt to crash plane *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Facebook Blocks Lula's Campaign Ads Just Days Before Brazil Election *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Lula Teams With Bad Bunny to Highlight Dangers of Trump's Colonial Ambitions Across Latin America *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Peltola campaign rips New York Times report on tumultuous operations *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats warn Trump administration against Brazil election interference *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Pilot of flydubai plane who fought off 'terrorist' first officer on Israel-bound flight ID'd as Indian national *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Netanyahu told him 'Israeli plumber' stabilized hijacked flight *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Passengers helped subdue attacker on Israel-bound flight that diverted to Saudi Arabia *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Flydubai hijacking divides Israel's squabbling politicians during tough election season *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Brazil's Biggest Election Question?: Donald Trump's Next Move *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Latest on FlyDubai flight to Israel where passenger says "co-pilot tried to murder pilot" *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Netanyahu is using Mamdani as a foil in his re-election campaign *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· 'Baseless Lies Meant to Sanitize His Genocide': Mamdani Hits Back After Netanyahu's Attacks During UN Speech *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Israeli UN ambassador says Mamdani should be arrested instead of Netanyahu *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Mamdani again calls for Israel's Netanyahu to be arrested when he comes to NY this week: 'A war criminal' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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*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 unwritten rule that you do not schedule ordnance around a ballot died at no fixed age, survived by a bombing moved to after the midterms and by the chamber that went home for seven weeks without voting on the war.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The wall between the war calendar and the campaign calendar died Sunday the twenty-seventh, in Washington. It was of no fixed age. Nobody ever wrote it down, which is the trouble with it now: an unwritten rule is a penny-ante thing to defend in court, and there was never anything to repeal. It was only the understanding, held by people who agreed on nothing else, that you do not schedule ordnance around a ballot. It worked for a long time on nothing but habit, and the shit of it is that habit was the only thing holding it up.

It had been ailing since February, when the war it would have governed was launched without congressional authorization. By Friday the eighteenth Common Dreams was counting it at 201 days....

*...(cont)* Thursday the seventeenth was the worst day of the illness. The U.N. fact-finding mission on Iran, established by the Human Rights Council in 2022, reported reasonable grounds to believe the United States committed war crimes in two strikes inside the country; the New York Times reported that the mistakes leading to the deaths of more than a hundred children at an Iranian school "went beyond negligence," and that a separate strike the same day killed a reported 22 civilians, and Truthout reported the inquiry found clearly identifiable civilian sites struck in Minab and Lamerd. The White House, the New York Post reported, came out swinging. A Fox News poll that day found 70 percent of voters saying the president lacks a clear strategy and 60 percent calling the military action the wrong decision. Moody's Analytics put the extra spending by American households on energy since February at $121 billion, and the war's cost at an average of $1,760 a household in under eight months. Every Senate Democrat except Senator Fetterman signed a letter pressing Secretary Hegseth for a cost breakdown. The Pentagon's policy chief briefed Armed Services behind closed doors, and members of both parties came out saying they had not gotten clear answers. And the president told Axios: "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not?"

The chamber that might have asked him to put that to a vote was not in town. Speaker Johnson had sent lawmakers home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterms. Representative Massie spent that Thursday counting signatures on a discharge petition about something else entirely.

By then the campaign calendar was visible to everyone, including the president's own candidates. On Tuesday the twenty-second Representative Donalds removed mentions of the endorsement from his gubernatorial campaign website; on Wednesday the twenty-third a Tennessee candidate dropped "Pro-Trump" from his slogan. On Saturday the president called the reporting "Another Fake Story."

Then the death. Iran's seven-day offer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, declined, preceded it. The bombing was moved to after the midterms.

It is survived by $6.48 diesel, and by the explanation, delivered on Fox News by the president's ambassador to the United Nations, that the diesel came from Ukraine. It is survived by Matt Bell, who has farmed in North Carolina more than half his life, voted for the president, and told CBS News that farmers are "all just in survival mode" and that he was sold a bill of goods. It is survived by an internal Army message reviewed by CBS News, which says some units would "possibly [be] needed in 90-120 days" around Cuba. That one has a calendar of its own.

In lieu of flowers: a recorded vote on the war, taken by the chamber that went home for seven weeks.

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# With the war priced at $38 billion by its own budget office and $121 billion in extra energy costs charged to households, the House went home a day early for a seven-week recess.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The job this week was to find the invoice, and then find the tool that makes somebody read it out loud on a floor.

Tuesday the 15th, the Congressional Budget Office closed its books and priced the war at $38 billion. The Budget Office calls that figure conservative. In accounting, conservative means the number has room above it and none below....

*...(cont)* Wednesday the 16th, Clean Creatives published its count of who is buying the quiet: fossil fuel firms have engaged 802 advertising and public relations agencies over the last two years, and the 1,321 contracts recorded in 2025 and 2026 are the highest the group has logged since it began tracking in 2021. Common Dreams reported the industry is taking big profits from the war and plugging a sizable chunk of them into that work. Put that on the board next to the $38 billion. Same war, two ledgers, one of them growing.

Also Wednesday the 16th, the Speaker sent the House home a day earlier than scheduled for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterms. Fox News reported that Representative Thomas Massie says the early adjournment blocked the impeachment effort against the Secretary of War. That is the structure the muscle goes at first: not a vote lost, a vote never held.

Thursday the 17th the household invoice arrived. Moody's Analytics estimated American consumers have spent $121 billion extra on energy alone since the war began in February, launched without congressional authorization — an average of $1,760 per household in under eight months. The government's own score for the war is less than a third of what households have already paid for it.

The same Thursday, the United Nations fact-finding mission on Iran found reasonable grounds to believe the U.S. military committed war crimes in two airstrikes. Investigators said the mistakes that led to the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence"; Truthout reported 123 children killed at Minab, Novara at least 178 civilians across the two strikes. The report said the United States should pay "full reparations to victims." The White House came out swinging. Asked about Iran that day, the President said: "I have a big decision coming up. Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not?" A Fox News poll that day found 71% think the administration lacks a plan to end the war.

So the oversight parts, as they sat on the bench Thursday. Democratic and Republican lawmakers alike left a closed-door briefing by the Pentagon policy chief frustrated by what they said was a lack of clear answers. Every Senate Democrat except Senator John Fetterman signed an open letter asking the Defense Secretary for a cost breakdown of the war; The Hill called the letter largely symbolic. A letter is a request. A discharge petition is a key.

That is the part worth admiring. Massie announced Thursday that four Republicans, including Massie, had signed the Epstein Files II discharge petition, and said it will pass the House. That is a claim and four signatures, not a count. But the mechanism is the point: a petition does not ask the Speaker's calendar for permission, and the week shows members assembling one while the chamber is empty.

Friday the 18th supplied the last part. Senator Thom Tillis, who voted to confirm the Defense Secretary, said: "He needs to go, whether it's impeachment or the most expedient route — just the president to replace him — would be great."

Friday the 18th also supplied the reason. Matt Bell has farmed in North Carolina more than half his life and voted for the President. Farmers, he told CBS News, were "sold a bill of goods," are "all just in survival mode" against rising prices, and: "I can't stay in business."

Four of those five are already built. The fifth is a return date.

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· Goldman Sachs warns oil prices could hit $120 as U.S. fuel costs surge *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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· 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 thre *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*


*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.*

# Tennessee's half-price beer filled Neyland by kickoff for a stadium stump speech backing the bill, up for Senate passage Monday, that The Nation says threatens the labor rights of the athletes on the field below.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

HOT MIC MOMENT

*Is this thing — fine. At the plane, asked whether he wanted to be surrounded by outlets that support him, the man said "I want real news, not fake news, like you," and then the audio on the biggest game of the week died into static and we file that under weather. One America News signed. Put this reporter on the political desk. I will still do the ballgames on weekends.*

**GUS** HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter has run the week's tape twice, and the week ends where the week now ends: in a football stadium. Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, Saturday. The gates came open early with beer at fifty percent off, per Fox News, which is how a bowl gets full before a noon kickoff. The new-look Air Force One came over the rim. The roar that followed was the loudest instrument in American politics this week.

GUS: Because this was not a football trip. It was a closing argument. On Saturday the twelfth, Senator Ted Cruz of Texas carried the Protect College Sports Act onto ESPN's "College GameDay" and drew a rowdy crowd, the closure vote having been delayed by the August recess. Monday the fourteenth he told reporters the goal was "not just to squeak by with 60 votes," and that he wanted the president to sign the bill live on GameDay. Tuesday the fifteenth, NBC News: the Senate voted to advance it, NCAA-backed, bipartisan. Friday the eighteenth, Kirk Herbstreit explained the booking: "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week."

GUS: So the president went to Knoxville and stumped from the stands. "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it," he said, calling it "Bipartisanship for the first time in a while." This reporter notes it was his first college football game since February's national championship, when Miami beat Indiana.

GUS: The game, then. No. 2 Texas held off No. 4 Tennessee behind five sacks from Colin Simmons and two scores from Raleek Brown, and ABC's audio came apart into static, the Post having reported that Saturday that coaches were worried about disruptions. And may this reporter add that the ladies of Knoxville turned out in their orange best, and that at half price a gentleman can afford to buy the beer for the lot of them.

***TRUDY*** *HER SIDE*

*The wire records one price cut in Knoxville on Saturday, Gus, and it was the beer — Fox News: gates early, fifty percent off. The discount reached the concourse. It did not reach the field, and the field was what the Senate was scheduled to vote on Monday.*

*That same Friday, The Nation ran Ellie Mystal under a plain headline — 'We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz' — saying the senator's college-sports bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The Hill, that Sunday: national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers, with the House gone for September's final two weeks. That is the pay question, in writing, with one chamber out of the building.*

*January, Gus, and Indiana beat Miami — The Hill, that Wednesday, when the White House confirmed the trip. Now hold still for the rest: The Hill's Saturday file calls Monday the senators' last chance before recessing into a lame-duck period, and the Washington Examiner says passage would be the furthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress. Introduced in May. Furthest ever, in five months, with the closing argument delivered from a seat on the fifty.*

*No. 1 Texas and No. 14 Tennessee, sugar — Fox News had the rankings in the headline before kickoff. The women in that stadium bought their own and can read a bill, and this one writes the rules for what the athletes get paid, per The Hill. Take the nap at halftime next week.*

*Gus, the mic was live, the network was ours, and you went from a static problem to a press-freedom sermon in nine seconds flat. You are also right. Judge Timothy Kelly ordered those credentials restored immediately on the twenty-fourth of September, and the Committee to Protect Journalists said the ban 'violates First Amendment rights' and that the government 'should not be in the business of censorship.' Now go buy the mushrooms they sell for the memory, and I will take the second half.*

THE RECEIPTS

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/white-house/4744245/trump-stump-protect-college-sports-act-bipartisan/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/outkick-sports/texas-defense-rocks-tennessee-freshman-qb-strong-sec-victory-trump-attendance *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/26/sports/audio-problems-plague-abc-for-texas-tennessee-game/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/26/us-news/trump-met-cheered-at-university-of-tennessee-ut-football-game/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/26/sports/air-force-one-does-flyover-before-trump-attends-texas-tennessee-game/ *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/entertainment/4744106/trump-trolls-reporter-i-dont-want-fake-news-like-you/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/outkick-sports/sec-crowd-greets-trump-massive-cheers-ahead-tennessee-texas-showdown *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/26/sports/trump-to-attend-major-college-football-game-and-coaches-are-worried-about-disruptions/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/outkick-sports/tennessee-fans-excited-trump-attendance-game-vs-texas-hope-stays-whole-game *the receipt*

· Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· GOP hopeful removes ‘Pro-Trump’ mention from campaign slogan in deep-red seat *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/26/sports/tennessee-uses-unusual-alcohol-tactic-for-fans-with-president-trump-attending-texas-showdown/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/6112836-live-updates-trump-college-football-gop/ *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/white-house/4684429/trump-protect-college-sports-act-what-to-know/ *the receipt*

· We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· https://thehill.com/newsletters/this-week-on-the-hill/6099111-senate-protect-college-sports-act-heidi-overton-fda/ *the receipt*

· https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/college-football-pressure-index-week-4-coaches-qbs-coordinator/ *the receipt*

· Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay' *from the morgue, 18 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****.*

# *Angela Paxton endorses the Republican ticket her estranged husband tops, without once saying his name.*

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



"GOP Senate candidate's estranged wife confirms who she's voting for amid divorce proceedings", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Randy White called Talarico untrustworthy on trans issues as Paxton's estranged wife endorsed the ticket without naming him.

WHO GETS PAID. Ken Paxton's Senate campaign is the buyer: a Hall of Fame endorsement and his estranged wife's on-record vote, gained without her having to say his name.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing, filing or vote beyond this week appears in the record; the next event on file is the election itself.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You're good at this, both of you. A statewide campaign pulling in money the way these two have doesn't put the wrong thing on page one by accident, and it doesn't leave it sitting on page nine either, where the type runs smaller and fewer people check it twice. That's what I admire about a well-funded operation — it has readers before the voters do. Whatever happened this week happened in front of people whose job is to catch it.

I wrote something down on September 8th. I know I wrote it down, because I remember where I was standing — out by the garage, the dog underfoot — and I can't find the page now. It's probably folded into the toolbox with the spark-plug gauge I never use. What it said, as close as I can recall: David Maxwell ran law enforcement for Attorney General Ken Paxton's office for close to ten years. Before he endorsed James Talarico for the Senate seat, he reported his own boss to the FBI....

*...(cont)* Eight days later, on the 16th, the Texas Farm Bureau endorsed Paxton, citing his record defending farmers and ranchers in court. I remember that one without looking — it came across the porch with the mail, next to a seed catalog I never ordered.

Then on October 3rd, Talarico's campaign took money from a group that backs gender care for minors, the same stretch he'd spent twice walking his own position toward a harder line on girls' sports. I went through that one already, a different week. I won't make you sit through it twice.

Which brings me to yesterday — and the thing I keep going back to, and I'm sorry, because I know I keep going back to it.

Randy White, Cowboys Hall of Fame, a name that still fills a room in this state, endorsed Paxton and said Talarico can't be trusted. I wrote the date down twice, October 4th, which I never do.

I'm sorry — I keep coming back to that word, and I'd like to look at it once more, from the cost side this time. No filing. No sworn statement. No agent across a desk taking notes. He said it in an interview, on a Sunday, with a cigar he probably didn't pay full price for either. What did it cost him to say it?

I'm sorry — one more side of it. The only man in this race who used that word in writing had to carry it himself, out of Paxton's own building and into a federal one, a month before Dallas needed to weigh in. That's the one I wrote down first, back on September 8th. Which of them paid more to use the word?

And I'm sorry, because this is the last one. The same day Mr. White was spending that word on Talarico, Ken Paxton's own wife — estranged, the filing is public record — went on record asking Texas to back "the GOP ticket." Not her husband. The ticket. I checked. His name isn't in it anywhere.

One more thing, if I can, before you go. I had a single question when I sat down with this — between the man who used the word for free on a Sunday, and the man who spent ten years inside that office before he used it on paper, to federal agents, under his own name — which one had actually earned it? I've got both dates written down, September 8th and October 4th. Which one, on the page I've got, still needs proving — can't be trusted?

"They want you fighting about bathrooms while a Hall of Famer cashes his name in for a Senate seat and the candidate's own wife can't bring herself to say his name on tape. That's not an endorsement, that's a brand deciding it's worth more than the marriage. Either way, Texans get a senator whose own house won't say his name out loud."
— Sal

"Angela Paxton is a sitting state senator, she's allowed to back the party ticket without turning her own divorce into a campaign ad — wait, did I just say it wasn't a campaign ad? Strike that. And Randy White played football for twelve years, he knows a thing or two about trust, even if the guy who actually ran Paxton's law enforcement office apparently didn't."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Talarico vows to ban gender surgery for kids, then takes cash from the group that provides it.*
By Lou · the sunrise edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

GOP Senate candidate's estranged wife confirms who she's voting for amid divorce proceedings
*Fox News* RIGHT *08:08 EDT*
Texas state Sen. Angela Paxton urges voters to back the GOP ticket without naming estranged husband Ken Paxton, who faces James Talarico in a tight Texas Senate race.

*But:* In special elections, Democrats have retained 10 points more of their previous turnout than Republicans *Ballotpedia, 26 February 2026*
Meet the voters who could break the GOP's decadeslong grip on a Republican stronghold
*Fox News* RIGHT *06:00 EDT*
Black and Hispanic voter turnout could decide whether James Talarico breaks a 30-year Democratic drought in the Texas Senate race this fall.

Cowboys legend Randy White endorses Ken Paxton, warns James Talarico 'can't be trusted'
*Fox News* RIGHT *09:43 EDT*
Dallas Cowboys legend Randy White endorsed Ken Paxton in the Texas Senate race, citing concerns over transgender athletes in girls' sports and bathrooms.

· Ken Paxton's former 'top cop' endorses James Talarico in Texas Senate race *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Texas Farm Bureau endorses Ken Paxton after James Talarico faced fallout from vegan comments *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

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THE TIMELINE

# Hochul installs independent special prosecutor for Cornell case, immediately branded 'abhorrent,' 'hateful,' a 'fire-breathing hack.'

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Cornell president speaks out, says 'defining moment' for university", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's president promised transparency in a video the same week the county DA declined to review more evidence.

WHO GETS PAID. Cornell University, whose own police gathered the evidence the county prosecutor's office chose not to review further.

WHAT SLIPS. A prosecutor's independent review of evidence already on hand slips, with no public reason given for declining to look further.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, expect what followed Cornell's agreement on October 1 to let Governor Hochul's independent investigator in: the outside review moves forward on paper while the original case record stays closed.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You're sharp enough to see where this is going already, and that's not flattery — that's a problem for whoever buried the item on page nine. A smart operation doesn't schedule a promise of reform the same week it declines to look at its own evidence. You'd have caught that. I almost didn't, because I'm slow, and because I keep losing the page.

I wrote this down. Give me a second — here it is. Saturday night, Cornell's president put out a video. Eight minutes long. He called it a "defining moment." He said the university "must do better." He promised "greater transparency." I wrote the date next to it, because a date is the one thing in this business that doesn't move once you've got it on paper: a Saturday, a video, eight minutes....

*...(cont)* I'm sorry, I keep going back to this, but the same week that video went out, the Tompkins County DA's office quietly declined to review additional material that Cornell's own campus police had already gathered. Not "will revisit." Not "under advisement." Declined. Documents reviewed by a news outlet say so, plain as anything, no drama to the sentence at all, which is the part that got me.

I went out to the garage after I read that twice, because I had a fan belt waiting and nothing better to do with my hands, and I kept thinking about the eight minutes. Eight minutes isn't long. I timed the dog's checkup once out of boredom — nine, with the vet apologizing for running over. I'm not saying eight minutes can't mean something. I'm saying I've written it down twice now, and I'm sorry, I'm going to write it down once more before I'm through.

Here's what I can't get past, and I apologize, because I already told you I can't get past it — the material that got declined didn't walk itself over. Somebody at Cornell's police department put it in a folder, or a box, or whatever they use now, and somebody carried it across a room, down a hall, into a building where a different somebody decided it didn't need a closer look. That's a lot of hands for a sentence that ends in "declined." The president's eight minutes went out on the evening news the same week. The folder went as far as a desk.

I don't know what's in the folder. The people outside that office don't know either, not yet. But I know the two things happened the same week, because the paper says so, and I know one of them got eight minutes of broadcast time and the other got a line in a document, not a broadcast.

Governor Hochul installed an independent prosecutor to look at how Cornell handled all this — I wrote the name down too, Letitia James, in case I lost the thread. And I was putting the notebook away —

Excuse me, before you go — one more thing, because you're sharp and you've probably already got there ahead of me. The same newspaper that ran "fire-breathing hack" about the new prosecutor on Saturday had already run "lynch mob mentality" about the public reaction six days earlier — different speaker, different piece, same pages, same week. Is that the same week Governor Hochul's independent prosecutor got called "abhorrent," "hateful," and a "hack"? And is that the same eight-minute video in which the university called itself a "defining moment," the same stretch in which the DA's office decided it had seen enough? I'm sorry — I know I keep coming back to it. Eight minutes.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

CORNELL'S PRESIDENT PROMISED TRANSPARENCY IN AN EIGHT-MINUTE VIDEO THE SAME WEEK TOMPKINS COUNTY'S DA'S OFFICE QUIETLY DECLINED TO REVIEW MORE EVIDENCE Cornell's own police had already gathered. That isn't an investigation, it's a courtesy: the school controls what the public gets to see, and the prosecutor's office signs off by looking away. Because a DA's office can decline to review more evidence without explaining why, the next parent's call to campus police gets filed the same quiet way; because that call gets filed quietly, the record your own kid needs stays inside the building it started in, and the only paper you actually see is the tuition bill with your kid's name on it, due in full either way.

"They call it a "defining moment," then the DA's office somehow forgets to open the evidence sitting right there from Cornell's own cops. That's not transparency, that's a magic trick — wave the eight minutes with one hand so you don't watch the other hand close the file. The student who says she was raped is still waiting on both hands."
— Sal

"Letitia James has no business near this case, our side knows she's all politics, no process. I mean, sure, Governor Hochul appointed her specifically because she's independent of the school — but, okay, that's actually the definition of impartial, isn't it? Hold on. Did I say that? Let me start over."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

### Cornell president speaks out, says 'defining moment' for university
*ABC News* MAINSTREAM § *09:24 EDT*
The Tompkins County DA's office declined to additional review material gathered by Cornell University police, documents reviewed by ABC News show.

### Cornell president promises reforms after alleged gang rape
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *09:13 EDT*
Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff on Saturday promised reforms at his school in the wake of allegations of a gang rape that put the university in the national spotlight. "I believe we, as an administration, and we as a community, must do better. We must do everything we can to prevent what happened to Jane...

### Cornell president calls out 'party culture' after alleged gang rape, backs state inquiry
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *09:32 EDT*
Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff said an alleged gang rape at a fraternity house exposed troubling questions about the school's "party culture" and pledged to examine the role of Greek life on campus as New York officials take over the criminal investigation. Kotlikoff addressed the allegations involving a former student...

### Cornell allegations fuel bipartisan push for stronger sexual assault protections
*The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*
Lawmakers across the aisle are pushing for stronger protections for sexual violence survivors after a former Cornell University student's fraternity house gang rape allegations drew national attention last week. While the woman first accused the seven men of raping her for several hours at a fraternity house in 2024, the reports sparked...

### New York Attorney General Letitia James made special prosecutor in Cornell rape investigation
*NPR* MAINSTREAM § *12:43 EDT*
Counter to what a local prosecutor has claimed, the alleged victim of a 2024 gang rape at Cornell University clearly said in her police statement that she was sexually assaulted, her attorney told NPR.

### Cornell president breaks silence over alleged campus rape
*France 24* MAINSTREAM § *07:53 EDT*
Cornell University remains at the centre of controversy over an alleged gang rape at a fraternity on campus, with the university president now breaking his silence. In an eight-minute video statement released Saturday night, Michael Kotlikoff called the allegations, made by a woman known as Jane Doe, deeply disturbing and said the...

### Cornell president says school "must do better" amid criticism of its investigation
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *00:04 EDT*
Cornell's president said his school's administration "must do better" amid the criticism of its investigation into allegations made by a former student that she was gang-raped at a fraternity in 2024.

### Megyn Kelly says 'Cornell 7' are 'f'd,' blasts 'fire-breathing hack' NY AG Letitia James
*New York Post* RIGHT § *08:55 EDT*
Megyn Kelly attacked Gov. Kathy Hochul after she appointed the "abhorrent and hateful" Letitia James in charge of investigating the case.

### A timeline of Jane Doe's allegations of Cornell gang rape
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *18:29 EDT*
An incident at Cornell University involving alleged gang rape is stoking controversy after a woman filed a lawsuit alleging sexual assault nearly two years after she said the incident occurred. A young woman whose identity was shielded with a "Jane Doe" name filed the lawsuit on Sept.

### Legal expert explains how New York law could impact alleged Cornell gang rape case
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:44 EDT*
CBS News legal contributor Rebecca Roiphe explains New York rape law and how it might play into the alleged Cornell University gang rape case.

### Letitia James is absolutely wrong person to get to bottom of complex Cornell case
*New York Post* RIGHT § *05:30 EDT*
James has always followed the policy of the Queen of Hearts in "Alice in Wonderland": "Sentence first, verdict afterward."

### Cornell University to take 'serious look' at fraternities after rape allegations
*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *05:43 EDT*
Ivy League school's president promises action after woman alleged she was drugged and raped by fraternity members Cornell University will examine the role of fraternities and sororities on campus after an outcry over the school's handling of a student's rape allegations, the Ivy League school's president has said. A civil lawsuit filed...

· Hochul calls for third-party investigation into Cornell over gang rape allegations *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Cornell president agrees to third-party gang rape investigation, Hochul says *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· AOC Calls Out Cornell and 'Culture of Rape' as Prosecutors Reopen Campus Assault Case *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Cornell law professor decries 'lynch mob mentality' over alleged gang rape case, blasts AOC for 'rushing to judgment' *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Prominent Jewish activist backs Saritha Komatireddy for AG — in blow to Letitia James *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

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# Trump vows to defeat communists once and for all, having just lost to the pollster he sued.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER




**"Trump says polls 'don't account for one thing,' as he pledges to defeat communists 'once and for all'", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Trump vowed at a Dayton rally to defeat communists after a judge dismissed his suit against a pollster.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The receipts name no buyer yet.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Nothing slips here yet.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** If Republicans keep voicing doubt about Trump in public, a primary challenge follows; that is what Kentucky got after October 2025, when Thomas Massie lost his seat in a $37 million primary funded in part by the president's own advisers.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The vow and the complaint arrived in the same breath, which is its own kind of receipt.

The communists are not on the ledger anywhere else this week. The war is. In August it passed six months past the end date Trump had set for it. By September 15 the Congressional Budget Office priced it at nearly forty billion dollars and called that figure conservative. A United Nations inquiry had already found the strikes likely war crimes. A senator who voted to confirm the defense secretary running it has called twice this month for their firing. A Republican congressman has filed impeachment paperwork against them. None of that made the Dayton remarks. The fight that is actually underway, with an actual price tag, stayed off the stage....

*...(cont)* What did make the week's news, on the record, was the economy. On September 21 an NBC News poll found 55 percent of voters saying Trump's policies have made it worse, against 26 percent who said better. On September 17 Washington Examiner editor Bob Cusack said Republicans are biting their tongues and warned of a "civil war" inside the party if the numbers hold. By September 24 the New York Times was cataloguing Senate candidates in Iowa and Michigan trying to put daylight between themselves and the man who heads their ticket.

That same day, September 24, an Iowa judge dismissed Trump's lawsuit against pollster J. Ann Selzer and the Des Moines Register. The suit had called her 2024 poll, the one that missed and showed Kamala Harris ahead, "deceptive" under the state's consumer fraud law. The claim could not survive its own arithmetic: a poll that turns out wrong is not, under that law, the same thing as a poll meant to defraud. Ten days later, in Dayton, Trump told a crowd the polls don't account for him.

The enemy named from the podium is an idea with no return address. The war's price tag, the economy's own numbers, the party's own candidates, and the pollster who called a race correctly are not ideas. They are dated, signed, and not one of them is Soviet.

"The guy wants to fight communists but the only fight he's lost lately is to an Iowa pollster with a spreadsheet. Fifty-five percent of us say the economy got worse under him, and his own party's starting to ask out loud why they still back him. That's not a culture war, that's a receipt."
— Sal

"Look, the polls have been wrong before — Selzer missed in 2024, that's just a fact, everybody knows that. The lawsuit was about accountability, holding people to — wait, the judge already tossed that one, didn't he. Communists, though, real threat, huge threat, very against them, very strongly — I mean, who isn't."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Tennessee's lethal injection fails to kill Christa Pike twice, succeeds in killing the commissioner's job once.* By Mort · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026
- *The promised Republican sweep required three days of rallies in Texas, Oklahoma and Alabama, plus a steel plant.* By Lou · the noon edition, 3 October 2026
- *Washington Examiner predicts a Republican sweep the same week Republicans pour millions into defending a once-safe Kansas seat.* By Lou · the breakfast edition, 3 October 2026
- *Trump says Russia, Ukraine agreed to spare energy sites; weeks later G7 drains 100 million barrels anyway* By The Lodgers · the milkman edition, 3 October 2026
- *Republicans pull ad money from North Carolina to save a Kansas seat lost over a $50 bill.* By Ruth · the milkman edition, 3 October 2026
- *Treasury blames Ukraine for the energy shock the EU already priced a cap for in 2022.* By The Lodgers · the wee small hours edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

*But:* Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking*

Trump says polls 'don't account for one thing,' as he pledges to defeat communists 'once and for all'

*Fox News* RIGHT § *07:25 EDT*

President Donald Trump told a cheering Dayton, Ohio, rally crowd that polls don't account for him campaigning as Republicans face a tough House path.

Republicans say they hate communists. So why do they like Donald Trump?

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*

Trump supporters may be surprised to learn the state takeover of means of production is not driven by the left Americans will never accept the Democratic party's slide to the left, or so desperate Republicans are hoping. With the midterm elections fast upon us, Zohran Mamdani's promise of a few city-run bodegas in New York City will...

· Judge dismisses Trump lawsuit against Iowa pollster J. Ann Selzer *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Majority of voters say Trump's policies worsened the economy: Poll *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· 'Cowardice, Not Conviction': Republicans Try to Back Away From Toxic Trump After Years of Subservience *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Republicans frustrated with Trump could lead to 'civil war': Bob Cusack *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 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*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 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*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 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 Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *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*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *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*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *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*

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

· Since 2025, Trump Made More Stock Trades Than All 535 Congress Members Combined *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 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*

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 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 thre *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*

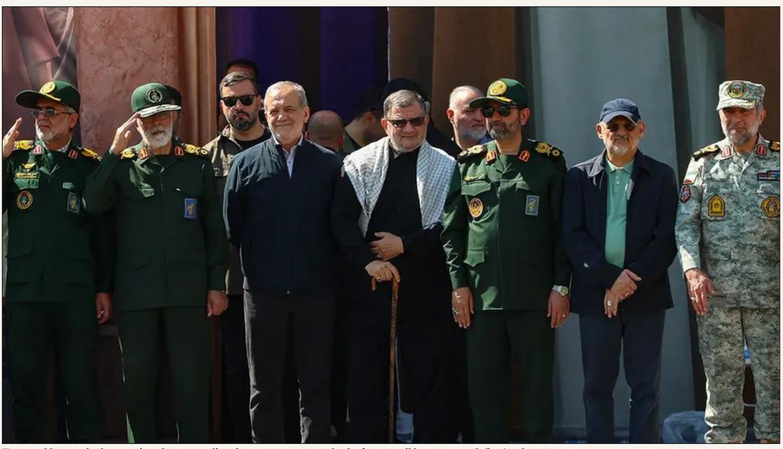
· Trump blames rising diesel price on Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· What Is Driving Diesel Prices Up? Energy Chaos Caused by Two Wars. *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

*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.*

# Farmer tipped police to five terror suspects; all five, then a sixth, walked free on bail.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Iran could move shadow war in a dangerous direction, experts warn on back of two possible terror attacks", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

**■ THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** UK police freed a Fairford suspect and charged Iranian men in a Manchester plot as the US expelled Iranian diplomats.

**WHO GETS PAID.** Secretary of State Marco Rubio's office gets credit for a tough-looking expulsion, even though the diplomats had already been told to leave.

**WHAT SLIPS.** The public's assurance that a terror arrest leads to actual custody slips, as suspect after suspect is granted bail.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** No hearing date appears in the record for the sixth suspect or the two men charged in the Manchester plot; the case file stops at bail and charge.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Mitch, investigations. Follow the paper with me, one filing at a time, because this one keeps growing a roster. On September 28th, a farmer driving home past 1 a.m. flagged police to activity near RAF Fairford, the air base the US Air Force also uses; five men were arrested the same day, and by that same Monday bail paperwork was already signed releasing all five. That afternoon President Trump told reporters, of the release, "I wouldn't have done that." Two days later, on September 30th, Andy Burnham told the Washington Examiner there were "indications" Iran "played a part" in the Fairford case — and defended the bail decision anyway.

Then, on October 3rd, the docket grew three lines in a single day. First: a sixth suspect, a UK-Iranian national arrested in a separate security incident near London, after police searched two properties in the capital, was released on bail, same as the first five. Second: UK police charged two more Iranian nationals, this time not over an air base but over an alleged plot against Manchester's Jewish community. Third: the State Department sent two more members of Iran's UN delegation home — members who had already been asked to leave days earlier and were removed anyway, Friday night into Saturday morning. "Secretary Rubio means business," a US official told the Washington Examiner. Two bail releases, two new charges, two expulsions: all together now, that's three separate case files closing in the same week, on the same country....

*...(cont)* By October 4th, Fox News had terrorism analysts describing Fairford and the FlyDubai cockpit attack as two fronts of what they're calling the same Iranian shadow war, the two cases raising questions about covert Iranian operations against the US and Israel. The analysts don't claim the fronts are tied together by evidence — only by the pattern the docket itself has been writing since September 28th.

And the farmer who made the original call isn't satisfied. She told the New York Post she fears several of the plotters remain free, and she has criticized the security at the base she lives beside. Five arrests, one presidential complaint, one shrug from Burnham, a sixth arrest, two charges, two expulsions — and the person who started it all still doesn't feel safe walking home past 1 a.m. All together now: that's the whole case file, and it still isn't closed.

"They let five walk, then a sixth, same base, same bail, while the only one who actually caught anything — a farmer coming home at one in the morning — gets a shrug from the people whose job was security. Washington's over here acting tough, putting two Iranian diplomats on a plane they'd already told to go. That's not a shadow war, that's a government staging a show once the hard part already failed."
— Sal

"Bail isn't a conviction — that's due process working exactly the way Andy Burnham defended it. Sure, a farmer out past one in the morning noticed something Counter Terrorism Policing didn't, but that's not a security failure, that's — okay, that one's not landing. The diplomats were already headed home anyway; Rubio's office just handled the paperwork."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Sixth Fairford suspect freed on bail as UK charges two Iranian men in Manchester plot, U.S. expels diplomats* By Mitch · the wee small hours edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Iran could move shadow war in a dangerous direction, experts warn on back of two possible terror attacks
*Fox News* RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

Two suspected plots near RAF Fairford and aboard a FlyDubai flight raise questions about Iran's covert attacks against the United States and Israel.

~~UK-Iranian national released on bail after arrest in security incident near base~~

*UK counter-terrorism police search two London homes over air base breach*
*CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *18:00 EDT*

The 25-year-old man was arrested in London, and police searched two properties in the U.K. capital, Counter Terrorism Policing said.

~~Two Iranian diplomats removed from NYC days after UN General Assembly ended~~

*State Department takes two tries to expel Iranian diplomats already told to leave*
*Washington Examiner* RIGHT § *19:55 EDT*

Two members of the Iranian delegation from the last two weeks' U.N. General Assembly meeting were sent home by the State Department on Friday night and Saturday morning, despite having been asked to leave days earlier. "Secretary [of State Marco] Rubio means business,"

· Farmer who foiled suspected Iran terror plot on UK base blasts security — and fears several terrorists still free *from the morgue, 28 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.*

# Health secretary who doubted two measles deaths watches Pennsylvania confirm a fifth

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

**"Pennsylvania health officials brace themselves as measles outbreak expected to spread", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. publicly questioned two Pennsylvania measles deaths; the state later confirmed a fifth.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The receipts name no buyer yet.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Pennsylvania's confirmed death count becomes disputable the moment the health secretary questions it, and no one is held to account for the doubt.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** If the doubt stands, confirmed deaths keep climbing without an answer; that is what Pennsylvania got after August 28: three more confirmed deaths and an outbreak spreading toward counties with no health department of their own.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You are smart people. I don't say that to warm you up before I ask something of you; I say it because this whole column only works if it's true, and because a smart operation does not make the mistake sitting on page nine of this morning's paper. I've read it twice, and I'd like to walk through it with you, because there's a number on it I can't get past, and I'd like the company.

I wrote the date down back in August, because it seemed like the sort of thing worth keeping. Just a second — I had it here somewhere... August 28th. Pennsylvania's governor had said two people had died of measles. The health secretary's own department looked at that sentence and went hunting for the soft spot in it instead of the floor under it — questioned, publicly, on the record, whether the circumstances held up. Two deaths. I'm not going to tell you what to make of that yet. I'd like you to hold the number for me a minute....

*...(cont)* On September 14th, a coroner in Jefferson County put out a release — to Facebook first, if the paper has it right — saying a woman had died of measles two days before. That's three. I don't have a tidy reason why the asking only ran one direction, and I'm sorry, I want to go back to the two again. I don't think I did it justice the first time.

There's another side to it, though. Nobody has gone on the record since August to say the doubting of those first two deaths was wrong. Nobody's gone on the record to say it was right, either. It just sits there, the way a coat sits on a hook after whoever hung it has left the room. I'm sorry — I keep circling that number. Let me try it a different way.

I'm sorry, I know I already asked you to hold that number once, but I want to show you what it weighs. I've got a spigot out back that fills slow, and some mornings I carry two five-gallon buckets up to the porch at once, one to a hand, because the dog's water bowl needs topping and I'm past the age of making two trips. A full bucket doesn't get lighter because you didn't care for how heavy it felt when you picked it up. That's what two felt like back in August — something a man thought he could set down and argue with. By September 30th it wasn't two anymore. It was five. The fifth one was a resident of Lancaster County, unvaccinated, the state said, in what officials are calling the worst outbreak Pennsylvania has had in better than thirty-five years. Five is heavier than two. I don't think that needs explaining.

I'm sorry — I know I keep coming back to it, and this is the last time. Two deaths. That is the exact number the secretary's own department stood over in August and asked the state of Pennsylvania to explain itself about. Two deaths. Not a model, not a projection, not a figure somebody rounded for a press conference. Two people. The state has confirmed three more since then.

Most of those thirty-nine counties, the paper says, don't keep a health department of their own.

Oh — before you turn the page. One more thing, since we're already here. If most of those counties don't have a health department to confirm a death when it happens, who is supposed to field the next question about whether it happened at all?

"They didn't dispute the lab work, they disputed the headline — question two deaths loud enough and the fifth one sounds like an opinion instead of a coroner's report. Most of these thirty-nine counties don't even have a health department left to pick up that next call."

— Sal

"Secretary Kennedy was simply asking Pennsylvania to show its work on two data points, which is just good oversight. Although I suppose asking twice, in August, before a third and a fourth and a fifth confirmed death — that's not oversight, that's — did I say that? Strike it."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Pentagon puts its biggest contractor on the war-planning board, then moves troops from Europe to South America* By Sterling · the milkman edition, 4 October 2026
- *Pentagon moves troops out of the hemisphere where it claims no oil and into the one where it has claimed 35 percent, then seats a contractor with billions of dollars in military contracts on the body planning the future of war* By Sterling · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

*But:* Measles cases in the last two years outnumber the rest of this century combined - the worst count since 1991 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

Pennsylvania health officials brace themselves as measles outbreak expected to spread

*The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

Most counties don't have their own health agencies, and some specific population groups have low vaccination rates Pennsylvania is bracing for a wave of measles cases, with some public health officials concerned that it's "only a matter of time" until the disease spreads beyond the outbreak's epicenter. Last week the state reported its...

· Pennsylvania records 5th measles-related death this year *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Pennsylvania's growing measles outbreak *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· RFK Jr. questions measles deaths in Pennsylvania *from the morgue, 28 Aug 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.*

# *Hospitals that skip price disclosure half the time profit off a poverty subsidy in wealthy suburbs.*

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

**"Robin Hood in reverse: How big hospitals use poverty subsidies to profit in wealthy suburbs", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** A federal drug discount program meant for poor and uninsured patients is funding hospital margins in wealthy suburbs.

**WHO GETS PAID.** Hospital systems in wealthy suburbs collect the extra margin instead of the low-income and uninsured patients the program was built for.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Congress's check on whether the subsidy reaches a needy patient slips, since no rule requires a hospital to prove it.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** No hearing or vote date appears in the record on requiring hospitals to prove the subsidy reaches patients; the next compliance readout would be Patient Rights Advocate's ninth report, with no date yet set.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The filing's own headline does the reconciling for us: "Robin Hood in reverse."

A month earlier, the same publication had already run the ledger on what nonprofit hospitals do with the slack. The September 1 filing put a number on it: $14 billion, its own figure, attached to hospitals it said "hoard wealth while gouging patients." The same filing noted that Congress and the administration were taking what it called serious steps toward transparency and accountability for those hospitals. Steps were, by its account, underway....

*...(cont)* Nine days later the first readout on those steps arrived. The Patient Rights Advocate group's eighth report, out September 10, put hospital compliance with the federal price-transparency rule at a record high. The record high was 49.4 percent. Roughly half the industry posts its prices where a patient could find them before a bill arrives; roughly half does not. Calling that a record tells you what the previous seven reports found.

Lay the three filings end to end and the gap gets an address. The sector drawing margin off a poverty subsidy in zip codes that never needed one is the same sector running a coin-flip rate of compliance with the rule meant to let a patient see a price coming. None of the three filings draws a line connecting the two facts, and none rules it out. How many 340B dollars actually reached a patient who could not pay is a number none of September's or October's filings supply, which is its own kind of finding.

The program was named for the patient at the bottom. Run the receipts end to end and the money clears somewhere else: a hospital system with a coin-flip compliance rate and a $14 billion figure attached to its sector, sitting in a zip code that was never the ask. Congress wrote the eligibility rule. It did not write the audit. That is the gap, hon, and it does not close by itself.

"This is the oldest trick in the book: call it a poverty program, then let the hospital system with the nicest parking lot cash the check. The same outfits skating by on half-assed price disclosure are the ones banking the markup meant for the uninsured guy down the street. That's not an oversight problem, that's the business model, and it comes out of money that was supposed to be his."

— Sal

"Look, the system has safeguards — reporting requirements, nonprofit status, the whole architecture — and transparency is at a record high right now, so credit where it's due. Forty-nine point four percent, record high, that's... huh, that's barely half. Okay, forget I used the word "record," that's not where I meant to lead with."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Robin Hood in reverse: How big hospitals use poverty subsidies to profit in wealthy suburbs

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

The 340B drug discount program was intended to help low-income and uninsured patients afford medicine, not create lucrative revenue streams for hospital systems in wealthy communities. However, without oversight, that is what it has become. Congress should return the program to its intended purpose by requiring hospitals to show that the...

· The $14 billion scam: How 'charity' hospitals hoard wealth while gouging patients *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Roughly half of hospitals complying with price transparency rules: Report *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

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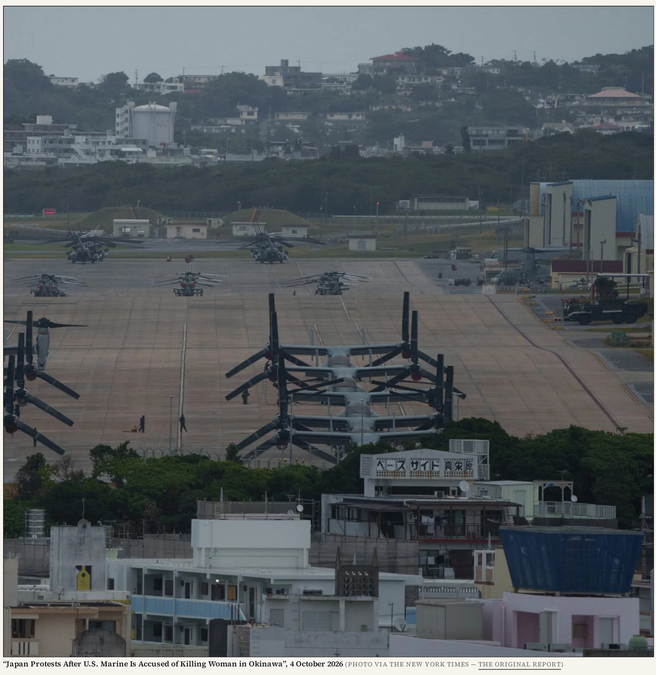
# US pledges 'full cooperation' investigating Marine murder arrest, its third on this island in twenty years.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER




**"Japan Protests After U.S. Marine Is Accused of Killing Woman in Okinawa", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** A U.S. Marine was arrested in Okinawa on suspicion of robbing and murdering a Japanese woman at a hotel.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The receipts name no buyer yet.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Japan's leverage over the American military presence it hosts slips a little further each time a killing there draws a protest and the base goes on exactly as before.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** If the pattern holds, this protest changes nothing about the base presence; that is what Okinawa got after the 2016 Marine arrest, when fifty thousand people marched in Naha and the base stayed open the next day regardless.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A Marine, 20, sat in an Okinawa jail this week on suspicion of robbing and murdering a Japanese woman, Anna Yagi, 39, at a hotel. The U.S. ambassador's office said it was "providing full cooperation with the investigation," which is the exact temperature Washington keeps on hand for a killing like this: warm enough to sound engaged, cool enough to commit to nothing. That same week, Japan's prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, registered a protest with the United States, and the word doing the heavy lifting in the wire reports was "threatened" — the case "threatened to revive tensions over the American military presence," as if the tension on Okinawa were a dormant thing that needed waking rather than a thing that never left.

It never left because this is not the first time. In June of 2016, after a U.S. Marine veteran working as a civilian contractor was arrested for raping and killing a 20-year-old woman on the island, more than fifty thousand people filled the streets of Naha to protest the American military presence there. Fifty thousand people in the street is not a dormant tension reviving; it is a standing account coming due on schedule. A decade before that, in 2006, the U.S....

*...(cont)* What connects 2006 to 2016 to this week is not a pattern a reporter had to dig for; it is a pattern the island has already lived through twice, in the dead. The choreography runs the same steps each time: an arrest, an ambassador's statement of cooperation, a prime minister's protest, and a quiet return to the arrangement as it stood the week before. None of the wire reports say what changed on the ground between one protest and the next, because none of them record a change. They record a repeat.

The ambassador's office will keep providing full cooperation. Takaichi's protest will be logged, and going by what the last two produced, logged is as far as it goes. A 39-year-old woman is dead. Everything else in this story — the statement, the protest, the American military presence — is running exactly on the schedule the island has kept since 2006.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

A Marine is under arrest in Okinawa on suspicion of murder, the third such case in twenty years to draw a Japanese prime minister's protest, after 2016's fifty thousand marchers and 2006's seven Marines and a sailor charged. That is not an alliance under review, it is a presence that gets apologized for but not adjusted. Because the ambassador's "full cooperation" changes the words and not the American military presence underneath them, and because what does not change needs no vote, this week's protest ends up filed the same place the last two did — next to the renewal notice on your own counter, the one paperwork in this country that still goes through automatically regardless of who objects.

"Third time this island's buried someone under a Marine's uniform and gotten a protest instead of a renegotiation — count 2006, count 2016, count this week. "Full cooperation" is code for the investigation moves and that's it. Twenty years, same base, same statement, one more body on the ledger."
— Sal

"Look, the ambassador's office said full cooperation, that's accountability working exactly as designed, a man gets arrested, due process runs — don't put a base review in my mouth, nobody said that. This alliance has held for decades for a reason, you don't torch sixty years of security cooperation over one — did I just say "one"? That's not what I meant, strike that."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Marine murder arrest 'threatens to revive' Okinawa tensions last seen: 50,000 protesters, 2016.*
By Sal · the milkman edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Japan Protests After U.S. Marine Is Accused of Killing Woman in Okinawa
*The New York Times* MAINSTREAM 04:38 EDT
The matter threatened to revive tensions over the American military presence on the Japanese archipelago.

US Marine arrested on suspicion of murder after 'brutal and heinous' death in Japan
*ABC News* MAINSTREAM 05:10 EDT
The U.S. ambassador said his office was "providing full cooperation with the investigation."

U.S. Marine arrested on suspicion of killing Japanese woman in Okinawa
*NBC News* MAINSTREAM 04:59 EDT
A United States service member is in custody on suspicion of killing a Japanese national on the island of Okinawa.

Japan PM protests to US after marine accused of murder
*RTÉ* MAINSTREAM 04:28 EDT
Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has registered a protest with the United States after a US Marine was arrested on suspicion of robbing and murdering a Japanese woman in Okinawa.

US Marine, 20, arrested in Japan on suspicion of killing local woman at hotel
*New York Post* RIGHT 01:11 EDT
US Marine Jacob Ballad, 20, was arrested in Okinawa, Japan, on suspicion of robbing and murdering 39-year-old Anna Yagi at a local hotel, according to new reports.

· Over 50,000 people protest in Okinawa capital Naha against U.S. military presence on the Japanese island, spurred on by last month's arrest of an U.S. Marine veteran, civilian contractor for the rape *from the morgue, 19 Jun 2016*

*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 RECORD

# Tennessee hired a commissioner with four botched executions, got a fifth, ordered its first review.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK




"The Memo: Tennessee debacle revives bitter debate over death penalty", 1 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Tennessee's corrections commissioner resigned after a lethal injection failed, having been hired despite earlier failures already on his record.

WHO GETS PAID. Former U.S. Attorney Ed Stanton gets the governor's appointment to lead the review of the state's own execution.

WHAT SLIPS. The review of the governor's own hire is run by someone the governor appointed, not a court or the legislature.

WHAT'S NEXT. Executions stay suspended through the end of the year, and the review Stanton leads is due after Strada's resignation takes effect later this month.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The file arrived before the appeal did. Lawyers for Christa Pike counted five botched executions under Frank Strada's supervision across two states; four of the five were Arizona's, logged while Strada ran that state's execution unit. Those four sat in Arizona's own public record, not a drawer anyone needed a subpoena to open, when Tennessee read the file and hired him to run its prisons.

Then the schedule moved on its own calendar. A federal court halted Pike's execution; the Supreme Court lifted that stay the same week and let Tennessee proceed. On Wednesday night, September 30, officials administered two doses of pentobarbital. Witnesses told the Guardian that Pike was still awake and snoring loudly forty minutes later. Fox News reported she was hospitalized on a ventilator....

*...(cont)* Thursday, October 1, the governor called the outcome "deeply disturbing," suspended every scheduled execution in the state through the end of the year, and ordered an independent inquiry. The same day, United Nations human rights experts asked Tennessee not to try again. Two days later, on Saturday, Strada resigned, effective later this month — a separate date, filed separately from the suspension.

This week, with the inquiry still open and the UN's request still sitting on the record, the state named its reviewer: Ed Stanton, a former U.S. attorney, appointed by the same governor who denied Pike clemency before either injection went in. Stanton will examine a process that ran under a commissioner the state hired with four such entries already on his file, and he reports to the governor who appointed him.

The gap, reconciled: four priors on the books, a fifth landed on schedule anyway, one resignation effective later, one reviewer answering only upward. Every number lines up with the one filed before it, hon. Nothing here is missing. It is filed exactly where the record said it would be.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

Four botched executions followed Frank Strada from Arizona before Tennessee hired him to run its prisons. That isn't a background check, it's a receipt stamped paid in advance. Because the same governor who denied Christa Pike clemency picked the lawyer now reviewing why she's still alive, and because that lawyer reports to the governor's office and not to you, the only signature left on this file is the one you put on a ballot for governor.

"They hired the guy with four strikes already on tape and act surprised when the fifth happens live. That's not an oversight, that's the résumé they wanted — somebody who'd already shown he won't be the one asking the hard question before they flip the switch. And when it goes wrong on camera, the fix isn't a different system, it's a different guy signing the same governor's paperwork."
— Sal

"Look, the Governor acted decisively here — resignation accepted, independent reviewer named, that's accountability in real time. Sure, the commissioner's Arizona record was public before the hire, but hindsight's twenty-twenty and it's not like somebody— did I say somebody? Let's just say due diligence is a process, not a guarantee, and the process is, in fact, working exactly as designed right now."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- CEOs sign 'morally binding' AI pact that leaves the binding part unnamed By Mitch · the milkman edition, 4 October 2026
- Tennessee hired a chief after four botched executions, got a fifth, named a sixth official to explain it. By Ruth · the wee small hours edition, 4 October 2026
- Tennessee hired a prison chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth on Wednesday and the resignation on Saturday; the Justice Department spent the same week asking the judge who struck its press ban to restore it on grounds of professionalism. By Ruth · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~"The Memo: Tennessee debacle revives bitter debate over death penalty"~~

### Tennessee botched her execution Wednesday; she's now in critical condition

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *17:24 EDT*

The death penalty is back center stage in national politics in the most macabre of circumstances. Christa Pike, 50, who admits to the gruesome 1995 murder of classmate Colleen Slemmer, is in critical condition in the hospital after Tennessee's attempt to execute her Wednesday evening failed. The attempted execution had only proceeded at...

~~Botched US execution prompts global calls to scrap death penalty~~

### Tennessee tried to kill her with pentobarbital. She survived.

*Le Monde* | MAINSTREAM | *15:29 EDT*

Christa Pike was taken to a hospital after the failed attempts to put her to death in Tennessee on Wednesday night. Her condition was not known and officials have not said how she survived the deadly doses of pentobarbital.

~~Judge blocks Trump's firing of top federal prosecutor in Seattle~~

### Trump fired him within the hour of his swearing-in

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | *18:58 EDT*

Attorney General Todd Blanche announced in July that President Trump had fired Roger Rogoff as the U.S. attorney in Seattle, less than an hour after he was sworn into the post.

'Inhumane, Barbaric, Torturous': Christa Pike Survives Twice-Botched Execution in Tennessee

*Common Dreams* | *07:40 EDT*

The botched execution of Christa Pike in Tennessee on Wednesday night was met with disgust and outrage by death penalty opponents who have long argued that not only is murder by the state morally wrong, but the government's inability to carry out such punishments humanely has been shown time and time again to result in horrific human...

Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five 'botched' executions, lawyers say

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *06:00 EDT*

Frank Strada will leave role next month after uproar over execution attempt, which sent Pike to hospital in critical condition Tennessee's prison chief is resigning after the failed execution of Christa Pike, which lawyers say was the fifth "botched" execution under his leadership across two states since 2022. Frank Strada, the...

~~Botched execution of death row inmate~~

### Tennessee injected her twice with a lethal drug. She survived.

*NBC News* | MAINSTREAM | *19:50 EDT*

Tennessee gave death row inmate Christa Pike two doses of a lethal drug, but somehow she survived. NBC News' Jesse Kirsch reports.

Tennessee Pauses Executions After a Botched Lethal Injection

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *18:04 EDT*

Also, the Supreme Court will review Trump's migrant detention policy. Here's the latest at the end of Thursday.

Tennessee's prisons chief resigns after failed Pike execution, governor says

*The Washington Post* | MAINSTREAM | *14:38 EDT*

The botched lethal injection of Christa Pike led to the halting of all scheduled executions in the state.

White House defends media outlet bans, now citing 'professionalism' standards

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *15:22 EDT*

Trump administration lawyers are fighting back against CNN, MS NOW and Politico's attempt to prevent the White House from enforcing futures bans against them — with the Justice Department (DOJ) now arguing the three outlets failed to meet "professional" standards. "The President concluded that they have failed to maintain basic minimum...

~~Tennessee prison system head to resign after failed Christa Pike execution~~

### She's alive, unconscious and intubated after Tennessee's failed execution, her lawyers say.

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | *12:10 EDT*

Christa Pike remains alive but unconscious and intubated after her failed execution on Wednesday, her lawyers said.

~~Tennessee Commissioner Resigns After Failed Execution of Christa Pike~~

### He quit as the review into his botched execution began.

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *01:24 EDT*

Frank Strada, who oversaw the process that left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized, quit as an independent review began.

~~Federal Appellate Court Halts Tennessee's Planned Execution of Christa Pike~~

### Tennessee's AG asks Supreme Court to force through first execution of a woman in centuries

*Common Dreams* | *13:16 EDT*

A federal appellate court on Wednesday morning temporarily blocked Tennessee from executing Christa Pike, as witnesses had already gathered at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Nashville for the state's first execution of a woman in centuries. A panel from the US Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled 2-1 to halt the...

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

*RTÉ* | MAINSTREAM | *00:15 EDT*

The prison commissioner in the southern US state of Tennessee has resigned over the failed execution of convicted murderer Christa Pike, Governor Bill Lee has said.

Blackburn calls on Tennessee to 'bring back' electric chair after botched Christa Pike execution

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *15:22 EDT*

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) on Thursday called on Tennessee to reintroduce the electric chair for executions after death-row prisoner Christa Pike survived two lethal injections the day before. Blackburn, who is the GOP nominee in the Volunteer State's gubernatorial race, called the botched execution "tragic"

~~After Two Botched Attempts, UN Experts Urge Tennessee Not to Try to Execute Christa Pike Again~~

### Tennessee failed to kill Christa Pike twice. UN experts say stop before a third.

*Common Dreams* | *19:39 EDT*

United Nations human rights experts on Thursday joined the growing chorus of people around the world outraged by Tennessee's two botched attempts to execute Christa Pike and called on the state to refrain from trying again to kill the 50-year-old woman. After a last-minute legal battle , the US Supreme Court allowed Tennessee to execute...

Trump dumbfounded on why death row inmate Christa Pike couldn't be executed: 'Should be easy to do'

*New York Post* | RIGHT | *16:46 EDT*

He expressed disbelief that Pike survived the two rounds of lethal injection, becoming the first person in history to survive that death penalty method.

~~Tennessee Prison Commissioner Resigns Days After Failed Execution~~

### Tennessee's botched execution left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *11:52 EDT*

Frank Strada, who oversaw the process that left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized, quit as an independent review begins.

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

*Truthout* | *14:08 EDT*

"I've never seen anything like what we saw Wednesday night," said one reporter who witnessed the execution attempt.

Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim

*Truthout* | *15:46 EDT*

Christa Pike's lethal injection is booked for September 30. She may be the first woman Tennessee executes in 200 years.

~~Christa Pike Hospitalized After Surviving 2 Lethal Injection Doses in Tennessee~~

### Tennessee has now botched two executions this year

*Truthout* | *13:42 EDT*

This represents the second failed attempt at an execution via lethal injection in Tennessee this year alone.

Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *09:58 EDT*

Tennessee inmate Christa Pike was in critical condition and receiving "lifesaving medical care" on Thursday, a day after surviving two failed lethal injection attempts by state executioners, according to her lawyers. Attorney Randy Spivey, who was present at the Wednesday execution attempt, said during a press conference that state...

~~Judge restores Seattle US attorney who Trump fired after court appointment~~

### Trump fired a federal prosecutor less than an hour after judges swore him in

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | *19:16 EDT*

A federal judge restored Roger Rogoff as the top federal prosecutor in Seattle on Thursday, ruling that President Donald Trump could not fire a U.S. attorney whom district judges had appointed less than an hour earlier. U.S.

Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's botched execution

*New York Post* | RIGHT | *11:34 EDT*

The Tennessee prison chief who oversaw the botched execution of murderer Christa Pike has stepped down from the position.

Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *12:00 EDT*

Tennessee's botched execution of Christa Pike is renewing scrutiny over how states carry out the death penalty and raising questions about what legal recourse exists when that protocol goes awry. The attempt mirrors recent failures in other states, where inmates and their lawyers have argued in court that such errors amount to cruel...

~~Ex-US Attorney will lead independent review of Christa Pike botched execution~~

### Tennessee botched her execution. The governor picked who reviews it.

*New York Post* | RIGHT | *00:08 EDT*

Gov. Bill Lee appointed former US Attorney Ed Stanton to review Tennessee's botched execution of Christa Pike.

~~Death row inmate unconscious on ventilator, after botched execution for teen's killing, attorneys~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection left her unconscious on a ventilator, attorneys say

*Fox News* | RIGHT | *17:43 EDT*

Christa Pike remains unconscious on a ventilator after Tennessee's botched lethal injection as attorneys file to preserve execution evidence.

~~Legal expert on what could happen after botched execution of Christa Pike~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her Wednesday night

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | *19:36 EDT*

Christa Pike is receiving medical care after Tennessee failed to execute her by lethal injection Wednesday night. Deborah Denno, a professor of law at Fordham Law School, joins "The Daily Report" to break down what could happen next.

~~DOJ petitions judge to reinstate White House ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico~~

### Trump administration asks court to let it bar three news outlets from the White House

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | *10:23 EDT*

The Justice Department is asking a federal judge to reinstate President Donald Trump's ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico journalists' access to the White House, arguing that access to the White House is a privilege, not a constitutional right. The filing comes after U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump appointee, temporarily blocked...

~~Tennessee prison chief resigns after failed execution as former US attorney tapped to lead independent review~~

### Tennessee's botched lethal injection left Christa Pike on a ventilator. The corrections chief resigned.

*Fox News* | RIGHT | *14:34 EDT*

Frank Strada resigned as Tennessee's corrections commissioner after Christa Pike's botched lethal injection left her hospitalized on a ventilator.

Tennessee Correction commissioner resigns days after botched Christa Pike execution

*ABC News* | MAINSTREAM | *15:18 EDT*

Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Frank Strada he will resign days after the execution of Christa Pike was botched, the governor said.

What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution

*National Review* | RIGHT | *06:30 EDT*

Medicalizing and sanitizing capital punishment erase the deterrence it is supposed to create.

Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed execution

*BBC News* | MAINSTREAM | *13:48 EDT*

Pike's lawyers said the failure "goes far beyond any one person". Pike is in critical condition after surviving two lethal injections.

~~Judge rejects Trump administration arguments for withholding boat strike justification memo~~

### Trump administration ordered to disclose legal basis for lethal boat strikes

*The Hill* | MAINSTREAM | *18:59 EDT*

A federal judge on Wednesday ruled the Trump administration must turn over a Department of Justice (DOJ) memo that legally authorizes the Pentagon's lethal boat strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific. U.S. District Judge Paul Engelmayer rejected two of the administration's three arguments to keep the document secret in a 66-page opinion...

Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike's lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *00:18 EDT*

Independent inquiry ordered after failed execution of Pike, who was convicted of 1994 murder Christa Pike: what we know so far about Tennessee woman's failed execution Tennessee 's governor on Thursday said it was "deeply disturbing" that his state botched the execution of a death row prisoner who remained alive and snoring 40 minutes...

~~Christa Pike Is in Critical Condition as Tennessee Pauses Executions~~

### Tennessee botched her execution; she's hospitalized

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *19:09 EDT*

Gov. Bill Lee ordered a review of the state's lethal injection process after the botched attempt to execute the lone woman on Tennessee's death row.

Christa Pike's botched lethal injection takes focus off victim, jeopardizes execution: former police chief

*Fox News* | RIGHT | *07:00 EDT*

Christa Pike's botched lethal injection could end capital punishment in Tennessee altogether, warns former Knoxville Police chief Phil Keith.

~~Christa Pike remains on ventilator after failed execution in Tennessee~~

### Tennessee tried to execute her with pentobarbital. She's unconscious on a ventilator instead.

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *16:26 EDT*

Attorneys say hospital staff are working to clear pentobarbital she was administered from her system Christa Pike remained hospitalized, unconscious and on a machine helping her breathe after her failed execution in Tennessee, her attorneys said in a court filing Friday. The attorneys said hospital staff were working to save Pike's life...

Judge reinstates Washington state US attorney fired by Trump

*ABC News* | MAINSTREAM | *18:27 EDT*

A federal judge has ordered a U.S. attorney from Western Washington who was fired by President Donald Trump in July to immediately be reinstated to the position.

Tennessee's top prison official resigning after botched execution of Christa Pike

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *13:09 EDT*

Frank Strada leaving position as state launches independent investigation into what went wrong Tennessee's top prison official is stepping down in the aftermath of the failed execution of death row prisoner Christa Pike , the state's governor Bill Lee announced Saturday. Frank Strada, the department of correction commissioner, will leave...

~~Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's failed execution~~

### The state injected her twice with the lethal drug. She survived.

*Le Monde* | MAINSTREAM | *12:39 EDT*

Pike, 50, survived two injections of the normally lethal substance pentobarbital.

How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | *15:04 EDT*

State legislators and the courts have turned the death penalty into a grimly farcical process, feeding the cheapest arguments against it. The attempted execution of Christa Pike in Tennessee showcases this fact. For full context, an 18-year-old Pike and an accomplice lured Colleen Slemmer into the woods, tortured her with a box cutter...

Am I Lying to Myself About the Death Penalty?

*National Review* | RIGHT | *13:00 EDT*

It is a scandal that Christa Pike's execution was botched, but we must ask whose fault that was.

Infamous Murderer 'Critically Ill' After Surviving Two Botched Lethal Injections: REPORT

*Daily Caller* | RIGHT | *15:32 EDT*

'Critically ill but not in a coma.'

~~Christa Pike thought her arm would burst open' during botched Tennessee execution, court docs~~

### Tennessee's execution drug burns flesh like bleach, Pike's experts say

*New York Post* | RIGHT | *23:48 EDT*

The execution drug, pentobarbital, is a caustic, highly alkaline chemical that burns human flesh, tissue and veins on contact, akin to household chemicals like "bleach" or "Drano," Pike's experts say.

Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *11:41 EDT*

The failed execution of Christa Pike has prompted new scrutiny of Frank Strada, who resigned as the state's top prison official on Saturday, and his past role overseeing executions in Arizona.

Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | *10:00 EDT*

Tennessee attempted to carry out the death sentence imposed on Christa Pike on Wednesday. The state administered its prescribed lethal-injection procedure. Pike survived.

Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution

*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | *10:47 EDT*

Tennessee death row inmate Christa Pike survived two doses of a lethal injection drug during her attempted execution, her attorneys say. Officials are investigating what went wrong.

Christa Pike left in 'critical condition' as Tennessee halts all executions

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *06:59 EDT*

Failed attempt to execute 50-year-old prompts review of state's execution practices. Plus the California woman who is allergic to cold Good morning. Tennessee's governor has suspended executions as Christa Pike's lawyer says the state's failed lethal injection execution attempt has left her in a critical condition.

~~Lawyers, experts urge Tennessee governor to commute Christa Pike's sentence after botched execution~~

### She survived two doses of lethal injection - Tennessee's governor could still execute her

*Fox News* | RIGHT | *22:25 EDT*

Christa Pike survived two doses of pentobarbital in a botched Tennessee execution, and her lawyers now urge Gov. Bill Lee to commute her death sentence.

~~Christa Pike unconscious and intubated after failed execution, lawyers say~~

### Tennessee's two botched lethal injections left her unconscious, lawyers say

*Washington Examiner* | RIGHT | *15:53 EDT*

The lawyers for a Tennessee woman who survived an execution attempt said on Friday she is unconscious and intubated following the failed procedure this week. Christa Pike, 50, was scheduled for execution on Wednesday, but is still alive after two attempts to end her life by lethal injection. Both attempts failed, and Pike's lawyer said...

~~Tennessee prison chief who oversaw botched Christa Pike execution resigns~~

### The governor who denied her clemency just halted every execution in the state

*France 24* | MAINSTREAM | *13:24 EDT*

The head of Tennessee's prison system has resigned in the first major shake-up since the stunning failed execution of Christa Pike, who is in critical condition after surviving two lethal injections. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee, who previously denied Pike clemency, has halted further executions through the rest of the year while a review...

~~Christa Pike Was Unconscious and on Ventilator After Execution Attempt~~

### Tennessee's lethal injection attempt left her burned and on a ventilator

*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *14:56 EDT*

The Tennessee inmate was brought to a hospital with burned and blistered arms after an unsuccessful attempt at lethal injection, her lawyers said in a court filing.

The Guardian view on the death penalty: Christa Pike's execution was botched, but cruelty is inherent

*The Guardian* | MAINSTREAM | *14:14 EDT*

Three-quarters of nations have rightly abolished capital punishment in law or practice, but killing by the state has surged in the US What is the kindest way to kill? That's the question being asked once more following Tennessee's failed attempts to execute Christa Pike for the brutal murder of a classmate, Colleen Slemmer, when she was...

· After failed execution, health workers say Tennessee's method flouts medical ethics *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court Allows Execution of Christa Pike, Tennessee's Lone Woman on Death Row *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Federal court halts Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Sunday Shows Preview: Trump bans 3 media outlets from White House; Parties make final cases as midterms approach *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Vance defends White House media ban: 'Politico is as anti-Trump as Breitbart was anti-Obama or anti-Biden' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Vance defends Trump's media ban as 'totally appropriate' *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Bill Clinton: 'There were lots of times when I wanted to ban the White House press corps' *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court declines Christa Pike's clemency appeal, with Tennessee set to execute first woman in 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Supreme Court allows execution of Christa Pike to go forward *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee court makes last minute move to temporarily halt Christa Pike's execution *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump White House Restores Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters Hours After Judge's Order *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Judge orders White House to restore media access temporarily for blocked outlets *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters regain entry to White House *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Christa Pike's Tennessee execution halted by court an hour before it was scheduled *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee inmate survived two lethal injections, her lawyer says in motion to halt execution *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee prepares to execute the first woman in over 200 years *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· States should not blindly Alabama's use of execution by nitrogen *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Lone woman death row inmate Christa Pike says she's 'at peace' ahead of execution — as Tennessee gov. denies last-ditch bid for clemency *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Fourth Circuit worried Trump's US attorney appointments unlawfully cut out Senate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Judge blocks Trump executive order banning 'birth tourism' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· The Supreme Court of the United States rules 5–4 to lift the block on four federal executions scheduled for July and August. Convicted murderer Daniel Lewis Lee, whose execution was scheduled for the *from the morgue, 14 Jul 2020*

· The Supreme Court of the United States refuses to vacate a stay of execution issued by the Arkansas Supreme Court. Arkansas's highest court has also put on hold the execution of another inmate, Bruce *from the morgue, 18 Apr 2017*

· CNN, MS Now, and Politico ask judge to extend order pausing Trump's ban *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump administration asks Supreme Court to OK transgender inmate policy *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Mom of Christa Pike's victim has furious response to watching failed execution: 'They f–ked up' *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· What to know about pentobarbital after death row inmate survives 2 lethal injection doses *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· United States district court judge Jeremy Fogel imposes a moratorium on lethal injections in California stating that they are unconstitutional. In an unrelated incident, the Governor of Florida Jeb Bu *from the morgue, 15 Dec 2006*

· John Marek becomes the 68th death row inmate in the state of Florida, United States to be executed by lethal injection since the death sentence was re-instated in 1979.(Miami Herald) *from the morgue, 19 Aug 2009*

· U.S. President Joe Biden commutes the death sentences of 37 out of the 44 federal death row inmates to life imprisonment. The exceptions are Dylann Roof, Robert Gregory Bowers, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, *from the morgue, 23 Dec 2024*

· The death penalty: 50 years after reinstatement *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· After nitrogen execution blocked, Alabama inmate to die by lethal injection *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee governor halts executions after Christa Pike survives 2 lethal injection attempts *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Christa Pike's failed execution follows another in Tennessee this year *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· US Supreme Court clears way for Tennessee woman's imminent execution *from the morgue, 1 Oct 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.*

# *Los Angeles taxed housing to build more of it, and lost thousands of homes and construction jobs instead.*

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



**"LA's 'mansion tax' backfires spectacularly as thousands of homes and jobs vanish", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Los Angeles keeps a ledger with two columns that are supposed to move together: the tax collected on home sales over five million dollars, and the housing supply that tax exists to grow. The second column is the subject of this correction.

The stated purpose, per the record, is simple. Tax homes over five million dollars. Use the money to build more homes. Reconcile that purpose against the finished product and the two columns do not move together. Thousands of homes, gone. Thousands of construction jobs, gone with them. That is not a rounding error against a program that merely underperformed. It is a program that produced less of the exact thing it was named for....

*...(cont)* Call it the mansion tax, which is a brand name, not a description. The levy applies far beyond mansions — the receipts are specific on that point and silent on the rest, which is its own kind of honesty. A city willing to say its tax reaches well past luxury homes, and not willing to say how far, has drawn a five-million-dollar line wide enough to catch property nobody pictured when they put "mansion" in the name.

Here is the arithmetic, plain: tax housing, to get more housing, get less housing. The input and the output share a name and point in opposite directions. Somewhere there is a filing that explains the mechanism of that reversal — a transaction that does not happen because the tax changes what the transaction is worth. The receipts in front of me do not supply that filing. What they supply is a before and an after, and the after is smaller than the before was prior to the tax existing at all.

Hon, that is not what a five-million-dollar line is drawn to do.

Somewhere there is a ledger where a tax like this nets out the way it was sold — new revenue outrunning the activity it discourages, enough building funded to replace the building it discouraged.

The city taxed the thing it wanted more of. It got less of it. I can show you the before column and the after column; I cannot show you the mechanism connecting them, because the receipts do not go that deep, and I do not print what they do not go. The gap is the story. The gap is the size of a line item that never made it into either column, and that absence is the only honest thing left to report today.

"They called it a mansion tax so nobody outside a gated driveway would object, then wrote the line wide enough to catch whatever was for sale that week. The city wanted more houses and ended up with fewer houses and fewer people building them — that's not an unlucky break, that's the machine running in reverse. Somebody's still collecting that tax every year the hole stays empty, and it ain't the guy who needed the apartment."

— Sal

"Look, a mansion tax on homes over five million dollars is just common sense, taxing the people who can afford it most — did I say "most"? I mean, it applies a little broader than that, but that's a technical detail, not a design flaw. And sure, the housing numbers went down, but correlation isn't — okay, it's literally the same column, never mind."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~LA's 'mansion tax' backfires spectacularly as thousands of homes and jobs vanish~~

LA's 'mansion tax' taxes far more than mansions

*New York Post* RIGHT § *21:33 EDT*

Despite its nickname, LA's "mansion tax" applies far beyond luxury homes.

LA taxed housing to get more housing. It got less.

*New York Post* RIGHT § *21:55 EDT*

Los Angeles had a housing shortage. So naturally, it decided to tax housing.

*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.*

# Jeremiah Smith declares himself the best player in the country; the record book agrees, 34 games early.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



**"Jeremiah Smith snags more Ohio State records, hits Heisman pose after setting school TD, receptions marks", 3 October 2026**
(PHOTO VIA CBS SPORTS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

**■ THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Ohio State receiver Jeremiah Smith called himself the best player in the country after a record-setting game.

**WHO GETS PAID.** Sportsbooks taking Heisman odds on Smith's name profit from the attention his own declaration created.

**WHAT SLIPS.** Nothing slips here yet.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** No further date appears in the receipts; the only test left is whether the record and the odds hold through the rest of the season.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

*Somebody get this to the political desk, this reporter is begging. The NCAA's interim name, image and likeness policy took effect July 1, 2021, so a player could finally sell his own name. The sportsbooks found a way to sell it first and kept the house's cut.*

**GUS** HIS SIDE

Jeremiah Smith, the tight end anchoring Ohio State's offense, stood in front of a television camera after Saturday's rout and said, plainly, that he is the best player in the country.

The claim landed the same weekend Smith passed two names in Ohio State lore this reporter has long admired, breaking the Buckeyes' all-time marks set by Troy Smith and David Boston, done and dusted in just 34 career games.

That pace traces straight back to the Illinois game, where this reporter recalls Smith hanging six touchdowns on the Fighting Illini to light the whole thing up.

Ohio State's own NFL alumni took notice too. Jaxon Smith-Njigba went out this week and called Smith the LeBron James of all-time Buckeyes, full stop, no hedge.

Vegas had already caught up before Smith ever opened his mouth Saturday, naming him the favorite entering Week 6 off that Illinois showing.

By the time the cameras cut away, the betting houses had already turned a junior's press conference into inventory — a name on a board, a line to shop, a season-long product moving without him ever signing a thing in the sportsbook's own ledger.

***TRUDY*** *HER SIDE*

*He plays wide receiver, not tight end — the New York Post ran the quote Saturday: "I'm the best player in the country," straight from the man himself.*

*Wrong names entirely. CBS Sports had it Saturday: Smith passed Chris Olave for Ohio State's career touchdown record and Emeka Egbuka for the receptions record, both in 34 games.*

*Four touchdowns, 217 yards — Fox News had the box score September 26, tying Ohio State's own single-game touchdown record, not setting a new one.*

*There's a hedge, sugar — CBS Sports quoted Smith-Njigba Wednesday saying Smith is "like the LeBron James" of all-time Buckeyes. A comparison, not a coronation.*

*Week 5, not six. CBS Sports posted the new odds September 28, two days after that Illinois game Fox News clocked at four touchdowns and 217 yards.*

*That's a manifesto, not a column, go lie down before standards and practices calls. You happen to be right: Ohio's casino commission did ban proposition bets on individual college athletes in 2023, and the NCAA's interim name, image and likeness policy did take effect July 1, 2021.*

"This kid breaks two school records in 34 games and tells the world he's the best, and the paperwork backs him up. The sportsbooks turned his name into a whole menu of Heisman bets before the ink dried on his stat sheet, and none of that money runs back through his hands. That's the con: the record belongs to him, the betting handle doesn't."
— Sal

"The free market rewarded him with a Heisman favorite tag and a mountain of attention, which is basically the same as money — did I just say attention is basically money, that's not landing the way I meant it to. These kids knew the deal when they signed up, the system worked fine for decades before anybody started complaining about a betting handle — fine for who, let me get back to you on that."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Jeremiah Smith snags more Ohio State records, hits Heisman pose after setting school TD, receptions marks
*CBS Sports* § *19:01 EDT*
The junior wideout needed only 34 career games to pass Chris Olave for touchdowns and Emeka Egbuka, whom he also passed for career receptions on Saturday

Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith makes bold statement after latest huge game: 'I'm the best player in the country'
*New York Post* RIGHT § *23:57 EDT*
Ohio State receiver Jeremiah Smith made a bold proclamation about himself on Saturday.

· 2026 Heisman Trophy odds update post-Week 4: Ton of movement, led by new favorite Jeremiah Smith of Ohio State *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith is now the Heisman favorite following historic performance *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Seattle WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba says Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith is 'like the LeBron James' of all-time Buckeyes *from the morgue, 30 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.*

# *Trump's super PAC keeps spending nine figures while its own coalition keeps leaving the building.*

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



**"Democrats Lead Governor Races Deep in Republican Territory, Polls Show", 4 October 2026** (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

**WHAT HAPPENED.** Trump's super PAC kept spending on House and Senate races this week while new polls showed its coalition pulling back.

**WHO GETS PAID.** The Texas Senate campaign and the ad vendors behind the PAC's reservations keep collecting the checks this month.

**WHAT SLIPS.** The voters telling pollsters no stop steering where the party's own money keeps going.

**WHAT'S NEXT.** If the spending keeps running against the numbers, nothing in the forecast moves: the Cook Political Report already called the House for Democrats on September 25, before any of this week's polling landed.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The filing starts on September 8, when the National Republican Congressional Committee added five candidates to its battleground watch list. The receipt names no states for that add and carries no belief about the House; it only flags five more seats the committee is now tracking.

Ten days later, on September 18, NPR reported that two Trump-aligned super PACs had reserved more than $150 million in ads, running mostly in seats the wire called deep red and newly competitive. The next day, September 19, MAGA Inc. sent another $5 million into the Texas Senate race, bringing the PAC side to at least $155 million placed in eleven days....

*...(cont)* Six days after that, on September 25, the Cook Political Report moved its projection: Democrats take the House. The spending kept running against that call, not toward it.

The earlier reading was already on the page. On September 9, the Washington Examiner reported Latino voters were in play while Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the party's most prominent Hispanic surrogate, stayed off the trail. Four days later, September 13, the CBS Battleground Tracker found Democrats holding a House edge — three weeks before today's numbers confirm it.

Today's filing adds four readings on the same day, October 4. NBC finds Latino voters, the bloc that helped elect Trump, swinging away from him and his party. NPR finds Latter-day Saints women in Arizona turning on Mark Lamb, the Republican congressional candidate and former sheriff accused of sexual misconduct in office; Democrats now see the seat in play. The New York Times finds Democrats leading governor races in Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska — four states where the coalition the PAC spending is meant to hold is the one slipping — with a Republican still leading in Kansas. CBS finds Democrats keeping their House edge, with voters naming prices as the concern.

None of the four readings cancels the spending. The ledger does not show the PAC redirecting money toward the groups it is losing, or away from seats Cook already called lost. It shows the same number, $155 million and climbing, placed across a map that keeps getting redder in the filing and bluer in the polling.

Twenty-six days separate the first watch-list addition from today's four polls. In that span the money moved in one direction and the voters moved in another. The arithmetic does not reconcile; it is not supposed to. A super PAC's ledger tracks what a committee is willing to spend, not what a voter is willing to forgive, hon.

"The money isn't chasing votes anymore, it's chasing a story the donor class still believes — that enough cash can out-vote a poll. Latino voters, Mormon women in Arizona, four red-state governor's races: all telling them no on the same day, and the answer is a bigger check instead of a different candidate. That check clears from somewhere, and it isn't the super PAC's own pocket."
— Sal

"More spending just means we're competing everywhere — that's strength, that's reach, that's a party that shows up. The Cook call, the Latino numbers, the Lamb thing in Arizona, that's all noise before a single vote is counted. Did I say noise? I mean — it's data, we respect the data, we're just not changing anything because of it."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump's PAC pours tens of millions into House races the same week forecasters call them already lost.* By Ruth · the breakfast edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

*But:* Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking*

CBS News poll finds Democrats maintain House advantage amid concern about prices
*CBS News* | MAINSTREAM | *08:39 EDT*

Here are 10 things to know about the 2026 midterm elections, in no particular order, based on what voters are telling us today.

Latter-day Saints women turn away from scandal-plagued Republican candidate in Arizona
*NPR* | MAINSTREAM | *05:00 EDT*

Arizona Republican candidate for Congress Mark Lamb has been accused of sexual misconduct while sheriff. His controversy is turning many voters away as Democrats see an opportunity in the red seat.

*But:* Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking*

Democrats Lead Governor Races Deep in Republican Territory, Polls Show
*The New York Times* | MAINSTREAM | *05:03 EDT*

Democratic advantages in the races for governor in Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska reflect deep unhappiness with President Trump and the economy. A Republican leads in Kansas.

Poll: Latino voters swing away from Trump and Republicans
*NBC News* | MAINSTREAM | *09:00 EDT*

Latino voters helped propel Donald Trump back to the White House.

· Polls show Latino voters in play in 2026 as Rubio stays on the sidelines *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· CBS Battleground Tracker poll: Democrats hold edge in bid for House control *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

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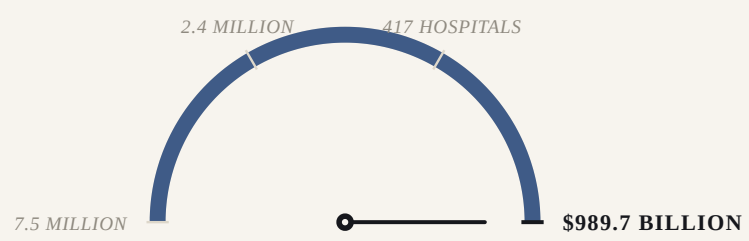
§51 — 04 OCTOBER 2026

# On the forgotten man

BY LOU
*The Word*

## DEMOCRAT




### *$989.7 BILLION*

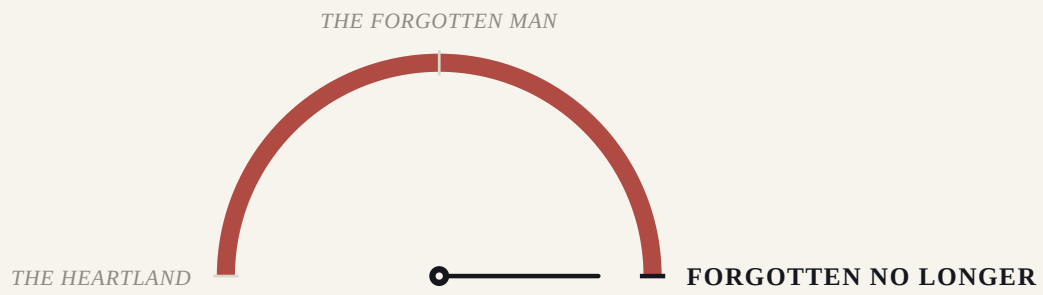
The rest of the paper. The Congressional Research Service, citing the Congressional Budget Office, puts the Medicaid provisions of the July 2025 law at $989.7 billion in reduced federal outlays from 2025 through 2034, with 7.5 million more people uninsured by 2034; the work requirement begins December 31, 2026 [1]. The same law's SNAP changes extend work requirements to adults 55 to 64 and to parents of teenagers, cut participation by 2.4 million people in an average month, and begin shifting benefit costs to states in fiscal 2028 [2].

And the hospitals the promise was about. The Chartis Center counts 417 rural hospitals vulnerable to closure, 206 that have closed or stopped inpatient care since 2010, and 41.2 percent operating at a loss [3]. Fifty billion over five years in, nine hundred eighty-nine billion over ten out. The forgotten were remembered at about a dollar for every twenty.

SOURCES

1. The Medicaid provisions "reduce federal outlays by $989.7 billion" over FY2025–2034 and increase the uninsured by 7.5 million in 2034; work requirements begin "beginning December 31, 2026, or sooner at state option" — Congressional Research Service, R48633, 18 August 2025 ↑
2. SNAP work requirements extended to ages 55–64 and parents of children 14–17; participation reduced by 2.4 million in an average month; state benefit cost-share beginning in FY2028 — Congressional Research Service, R48552, 15 August 2025 ↑
3. 417 rural hospitals vulnerable to closure; 206 closed or converted since 2010; 41.2 percent operating at a loss — The Chartis Group, 10 February 2026 ↑

## REPUBLICAN




### *FORGOTTEN NO LONGER*

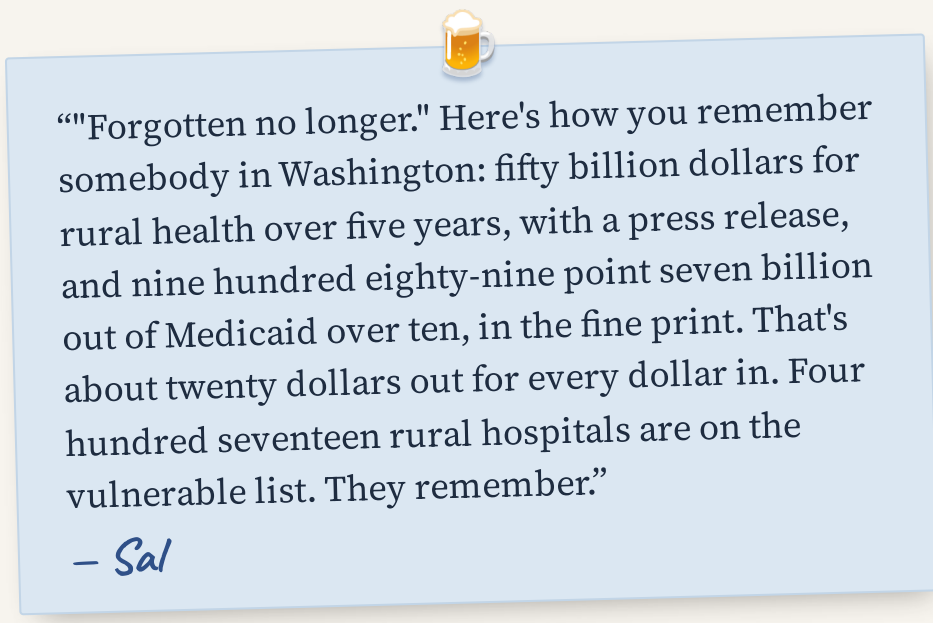
The promise was the spine of the first inaugural, and it deserves its full weight: "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer" [1]. It named people who had watched the factories and the hospitals leave, and it said the government would look at them first.

There is a receipt for it. In December the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced $50 billion in Rural Health Transformation awards for 2026 through 2030, reaching all 50 states, with first-year awards averaging $200 million — from about $147 million in New Jersey to about $281 million in Texas [2]. The agency's administrator called it "an extraordinary milestone for rural health" [2]. Money aimed by name at rural America is the promise, kept, on paper. The other side of the page is the rest of the paper.

SOURCES

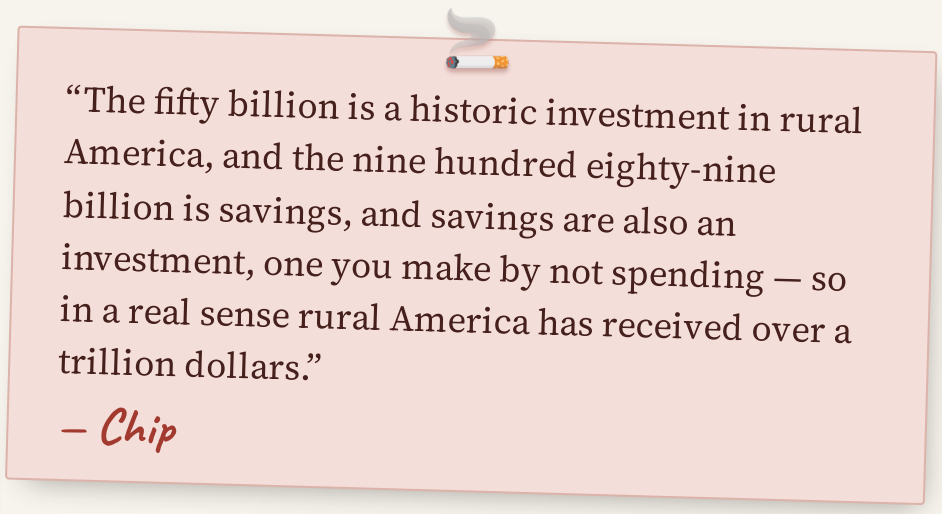
1. "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer" — inaugural address, 20 January 2017 — Trump White House archives ↑
2. $50 billion in Rural Health Transformation awards for 2026–2030 to all 50 states; first-year awards averaging $200 million, from $147,250,806 (New Jersey) to $281,319,361 (Texas); "an extraordinary milestone for rural health" — CMS, 29 December 2025 ↑

*"I kept a copy of the inaugural address — I wasn't there, somebody sent it. "The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer." Then I've got this other paper, from the Congressional Research Service. Medicaid: nine hundred eighty-nine point seven billion dollars less over ten years, seven and a half million more people uninsured by 2034. And from the agency, fifty billion for rural health, five years, every state. I did the division in the car at a red light. It comes out about twenty to one. Sorry — I'm going — one more thing. Which of those two numbers is the one doing the remembering?"* — Lou



""Forgotten no longer." Here's how you remember somebody in Washington: fifty billion dollars for rural health over five years, with a press release, and nine hundred eighty-nine point seven billion out of Medicaid over ten, in the fine print. That's about twenty dollars out for every dollar in. Four hundred seventeen rural hospitals are on the vulnerable list. They remember."

— Sal



"The fifty billion is a historic investment in rural America, and the nine hundred eighty-nine billion is savings, and savings are also an investment, one you make by not spending — so in a real sense rural America has received over a trillion dollars."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎