The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SUNDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MIDNIGHT EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Los Angeles taxes housing to fund more housing, gets thousands fewer homes instead.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Los Angeles wanted more housing. A city council does what a city council does when it wants more of something funded: it puts a tax on something else to pay for it. Measure ULA put a transfer tax on home sales above a set price, nicknamed the "mansion tax," with the money earmarked for affordable housing.

The ledger is public. Column one, the stated purpose: more housing, paid for by a tax on selling the housing that already exists.

That is not a scandal in the sense of money skimmed off the top. It is simpler than that. A transfer tax is a tax on a transaction. Tax a transaction and the transaction happens less — that isn't opinion, it's what the word "tax" does to behavior at the margin. Fewer sales means fewer projects that pencil out, which means fewer construction jobs, which means fewer units delivered. The receipts don't need adjectives. They need a column for "intended" and a column for "delivered," and those two columns don't match.

The tax's nickname does some work here too. "Mansion tax" suggests the charge sits only at the top of the market. The reporting says the tax applies

... Continued on Page F2

THE WORD

§50 — 03 OCTOBER 2026

On who pays

DEMOCRAT

$46.5 BILLION

REPUBLICAN

MEXICO WILL PAY

"I'm just going to read the payers, in order. Congress, 2019: one point three seven five billion, about fifty-five miles. The Treasury forfeiture fund: six hundred one million. Counterdrug money: up to two and a half billion. Military construction: up to three point six billion. Congress again, last year: forty-six and a half billion, available through 2029. Sorry — I'm leaving, I'm leaving — that's the whole list. Which line on it is Mexico?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W50

The $5,000 promise ships this month as a $90 check, less than half one Medicare premium

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The $5,000 Trump Dividend was born on the ninth of September, in a Dallas convention hall, and died Friday at the age of twenty-four days. It is survived by a check for ninety dollars.

Here is the life, laid out the way we lay these out. At the party's midterm convention the president told the room that if Republicans keep control of Congress in November, every American adult gets $5,000 — "If the Republicans win, you win with us." The next day the White House posted a recorded message pledging $500 rebates to nearly a million people it said had been overcharged for ObamaCare coverage, an allegation offered without evidence, which is a younger sibling born with the same weak heart. On the fifteenth the Treasury secretary told the House the department was examining whether it could cut the $5,000 checks without Congress at all — a sentence that buries the appropriations clause and then goes to lunch.

Friday the arithmetic arrived. More than 20 million Medicare Part B beneficiaries, the president announced, will get a one-time payment of $90, drawn from the $2 billion Medicare Improvement Fund — money Congress appro-

... Continued on Page F3

NPR found Head Start lifts families out of homelessness; the rule deleting that priority takes comments through Tuesday.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the filing, because the filing is short and the table is long.

Head Start — the federal early-education program for low-income families, serving 700,000 children by The Hill's count — carries a standing instruction to the local programs that run it: when seats open, children in homeless families go to the front. On August 27, The Nation reported what the administration's proposed rule change would do with that instruction. Undo it. Completely. No replacement priority named in its place.

Kennedy Jr. asking him to scrap the overhaul, which they said would weaken services for thousands of families. They had the department's own title to work from: "Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs." A title is a line item. This one names the account getting the credit. It leaves the other column blank.

Two days after that letter, on September 17, NPR filled the other column in. A woman who got out of homelessness through Head Start, and a finding that the proposal reaches that same help twice — once at the door, changing how a child experiencing homelessness gets in, and once inside, changing

... Continued on Page F4

Trump's envoys broker a ceasefire sparing Russian refineries; Putin offers them a sale of Russian energy assets

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

A number is what you will want, and the report does not carry one. The report does not say what moves the other way. An agent negotiates for a principal, and whatever is handed to the agent across the table belongs to the principal; that is the theory, and a theory is not a statute.

Do note what the two carried in with them. 4 September, Moscow and Kyiv. 6 September, talks the envoys called "encouraging". 7 September, Witkoff's "substantive progress". 14 September, after the President had criticised Zelensky for raising diesel prices with drone strikes on Russian refineries: "Ukraine has agreed not to hit Russian Energy targets." And what did Ukraine get for the refineries? An announcement ... on Truth Social, by the president of a third country. Then the refineries come to the table as merchandise, offered to the two men brokering the peace.

Ukraine gave up the targets. Kushner and Witkoff were offered the targets. No waiver is required.

... Continued on Page F5

White House orders three-month study to find the AI risks its own accord already promised to handle

BY MITCH
Investigations

On September 25th, Trump told reporters Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent would not be the first czar of the administration's "Super Intelligence Force." A denial is a small thing. It is also, read backward, a confession that a seat existed and someone had to be told they weren't getting it.

Four days later the seat found its purpose a different way. On September 29th the White House released the text of its "Accord on Superintelligence," which tech CEOs signed and Trump called "morally binding." The document promised real oversight without a regulatory capture regime. Read clause by clause, as this column did that day, it named zero enforcers. The oversight was internal — a word doing the job "accountable" was supposed to do.

That same day, Representative Ro Khanna announced what he told CNBC was "the most comprehensive... legislation to date" on artificial intelligence — his own ellipsis, not ours, the gap in the quote as the receipt gives it. Khanna wants a temporary ban on AI systems that can improve themselves without human input, a ban CNBC reported he wants held in place until the federal government builds proper guardrails. A sitting member of Congress

... Continued on Page A2

Fox watches a teacher get doused in gasoline in France, calls it a warning about open borders

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

On Saturday's Big Weekend Show, the host called France's student riots "a cautionary tale," warning that open borders breed exactly this kind of unrest. It is a clean thesis delivered in one breath, and it survives for about as long as the next sentence in this network's own archive.

Start with the 1st of October, when this outlet ran its own dispatch on the unrest: "hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide," the story said, with "officials warning of outside agitators." Outside agitators. Not outside borders — a claim about domestic troublemakers, filed by this network three days before its own host moved the blame to the border. That is not a cautionary tale about open borders. That is — hold on. That is a different story than the one we just told.

Walk it forward anyway. The same week, the Washington Examiner filed its version, attributing the mayhem to "far-left instigation," which at least keeps the trouble inside the country. French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu convened an emergency meeting after more than a week of protests in the Paris region. None of it involves a border crossing. None of it involves

... Continued on Page A3

Housing-affordability candidate seeks permit for 88 percent bigger house, with spa and two-car garage.

BY LOU
One More Question

I asked myself a question back in September, and I was sure I'd already closed the book on it. Was Nithya Raman independent of the people backing her campaign? I thought I had that settled — The Hill has her saying so herself, out loud, at a forum on the 30th, over at the Jewish Federation, with Mayor Bass standing right there next to her. I put a line under that and moved on to other business. Then this week I picked the same question back off the pile, and it came out a different shape than it did the first time through. What that word was covering, exactly, is the part I'd skipped.

Here's what else was on the page before that. Late September, a poll comes out of a university institute, the kind the local paper co-sponsors, and it has Raman ahead of the sitting mayor — eleven points, one outlet put it at, with a lot of people still saying they hadn't made up their minds. Eleven points is a fair amount of city to be ahead by. I sat with that a minute before I turned to the next sheet.

The next sheet was dated two weeks before the forum. Raman's got a house over in Silver Lake, 1,879 square feet is the figure given, and there's a permit

... Continued on Page A4

Trump calls data centers Ohio's job savior in the county that just cut 1,400.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Vandalia keeps two ledgers on the same page this week, and they do not square. On Saturday night the president stood in that stretch of southwestern Ohio for Jon Husted and Vivek Ramaswamy and told the crowd there is so much money to be made for Ohio, that you can't just turn off a data center, that if Ohio refuses one it goes to China. That is the deposit column. The withdrawal column, filed this week by the New York Post, carries the number 1,400 — the workers laid off from the Navistar truck factory in the same stretch of southwestern Ohio where the president was standing to ask for votes. The filing and the applause arrived close enough together that a skimmer could mistake one for an answer to the other. It is not. The rally is for two Senate and governor candidates; the layoff ledger does not carry either of their names, or his.

Run the data-center line against the president's own filings and the gap gets wider. In August he told Americans on social media that any community that turns away a data center risks ending up "backwards and poor" — the same frame he brought to Vandalia, money too large to refuse.

... Continued on Page F6

Tennessee's lethal injection fails to kill Christa Pike twice, succeeds in killing the commissioner's job once.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Frank Strada's job as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction died Saturday, three days after the one thing the job exists to get right went wrong for the second time this year, on the same inmate, Christa Pike.

It was born properly enough, as these things go. Pike, convicted decades ago in the murder of 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer, had her case cleared by the U.S. Supreme Court after a last-minute legal fight and was handed to the state of Tennessee to execute Wednesday night, exactly as the protocol said it would.

It is survived by Christa Pike, who is not dead. Her lawyers told the state Supreme Court that witnesses saw her still breathing, by some accounts still snoring, forty minutes after officials administered two full doses of pentobarbital. She remains in critical condition on a ventilator while the inquiry that follows her tries to work out what a protocol is for if not this.

It was preceded in death by an earlier version of itself.

Governor Bill Lee called the outcome "deeply disturbing," suspended ev-

... Continued on Page B1

Cornell pledges 'greater transparency' days after prosecutors declined to review evidence police already had.

BY LOU
One More Question

Did the DA's office decline to look any further before the president made his promise, or after? I already asked myself that. I already answered it, too — out loud, last night, in the car, waiting on the fan belt to decide if it was going to hold. This morning I went back over the same two facts and the answer came out a different shape. Not a different answer. The same one, read back a different way.

Here's what I had written down. Cornell police responded to the Chi Phi house at 1:05 in the morning, October 19th, 2024. Forty minutes on scene. A drug-related arrest. NBC put a number on the gap between that response and the alleged assault: twenty-two hours. Was Chi Phi the same house Cornell police had already been inside, on a drug call, twenty-two hours before the assault she alleges? It was. I checked that twice.

The woman filed her lawsuit September 16th of this year. About two years after that October night in 2024 — not to the week, I ran the math and it isn't, so I'm not claiming it. Seven men named. Did the original handling produce any criminal charges before this lawsuit arrived? It didn't. That's in the

... Continued on Page A5

Republicans tolerate Tucker Carlson's antisemitism concerns, draw the line at World War II.

BY SAL
Staff Writer

On September 2nd, Vice President JD Vance answered a question about Tucker Carlson and left part of the audience disappointed; the dispatch didn't say why, only that the answer wasn't enough. The next day made it clear what the disappointment was about: pressure was building for Vance to distance himself from Carlson's remarks on antisemitism, and instead Vance told reporters, "Everybody knows that Tucker Carlson and I are friends," adding that it was "obvious" Carlson had said things he disagreed with — which is not the same sentence as goodbye.

I'm not going to play the game where I throw friends under the bus." Two defenses of the same commentator inside a week, from the man one heartbeat from the presidency.

By September 22nd the complaint had moved from antisemitism to electoral math. Carlson had praised Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed on air while tearing into the Republican nominee, Mike Rogers, prompting El-Sayed himself to say the party was "eating itself." A Democrat was narrating the Republican coalition's internal weather, and the forecast did not

... Continued on Page A6

Pentagon appoints its biggest contractor, a top campaign donor, to help plan the future of war.

BY MITCH
Investigations

Here is the filing, read in the order it was filed, which is the only order that matters.

Aug 30: the oil seized from Venezuela was described, in the Oval Office's own words, as bound for U.S. reserves — language a filing at the time called mobster. Sept 11: a Fox News filing quoted a top official crediting a thirty-minute military operation for unlocking the windfall. Oct 3, morning: a filing reported Hegseth moving troops out of Europe, where the Pentagon claims no oil stake, into the hemisphere where it claims thirty-five percent.

The New York Times, also Oct 3: "The founder of SpaceX, with billions of dollars in military contracts, joins several other defense industry executives on a Pentagon advisory board." All together now, slowly: the founder of SpaceX. With billions of dollars in military contracts. Joins a Pentagon advisory board. Nobody in that sentence is accused of a thing. The sentence is simply naming the vendor and the committee in the same breath, because the filing does.

The sentence has a prehistory, and it is dated. Sept 30, the Guardian:

... Continued on Page F7

President posts senator's cell number over clock bill same week his convention chair admits rallies dropped votes

BY SAL
Staff Writer

Saturday, the President of the United States posted a phone number on Truth Social. Not a hotline, not a press-office line — the personal cellphone of Senator Tom Cotton, a sitting Republican from Arkansas, with an instruction attached: call him, pressure him, move the Sunshine Protection Act off the Senate floor, where Cotton has it stalled. Cotton is "a friend of mine," the post said, the line that precedes the doxxing in every account of it. Fox, NBC, CBS and the Hill all ran the number within hours; a disagreement over clock changes became a crowd-sourced flood aimed at one senator's pocket, organized by his own party's president.

The week around that Saturday supplies the rest of the story, and none of it needed Cotton's help.

On September 8th, the account posted a graphic showing the American flag drawn large enough to cover Iceland. Iceland's government summoned the U.S. ambassador that same day to ask what had happened to its country on the president's map.

Three weeks later, on September 29th, the wire reported that Canada had

... Continued on Page A7

Bishop who asked Trump for mercy announces resignation; Washington gets a 30-foot statue instead.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

OBITUARY: THE HAVE-MERCY PULPIT

Born in the days after the second inaugural, 2025, when the Episcopal bishop of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde, used a sermon at the National Cathedral to ask the newly sworn president to have mercy on immigrants and on LGBTQ+ people.

In September, the president shared photographs of gold-plated statues, mended fountains, and an arch rising in his own honor, all of it work he credited to National Park Service crews updating the capital under his beautification label. Days later he urged the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History to take down the abstract steel sculpture at its entrance, called Infinity, and put up in its place a thirty-foot Washington Colossus.

This week, a different kind of notice arrived. Budde told her diocese she is leaving the post on June 3, 2028, once her successor is consecrated and ordained — more than three years after the sermon, timed so the seat is never without a bishop, only ever, eventually, without her.

Born: a sentence, January 2025. Died: by her own letter, June 3, 2028.

... Continued on Page B2

A lawmaker writes the Flock ban; a judge enforces it case by case while it waits in committee.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

On August 28th, Judge Rita Lin in the Northern District of California ruled that the Pentagon's blacklisting of the artificial-intelligence firm Anthropic was illegal retaliation for constitutionally protected speech, a First Amendment and Due Process violation. The next day, in that same federal district, Judge Noël Wise found the administration had violated the Constitution again — this time two clauses at once, First Amendment and Fifth, in moving to deport international students who had criticized the war in Gaza.

Five days later, on September 3rd, Representative Thomas Massie introduced the Flock-Off Act, a bill that would cut off federal funding for the purchase, installation, maintenance, or upgrade of automated license-plate readers and biometric surveillance cameras used by local police departments. It went to committee. It is still there.

Two weeks after that, on September 16th, Judge Rudolph Contreras ruled that the Department of Homeland Security could no longer send warning notices to a New York man whose offense was sending a critical email to ICE — a

... Continued on Page A8

A federal judge is questioning the antitrust settlement that's supposed to end Warner Bros. as a standalone studio.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

Warner Bros., the last major studio still answering to no one but itself, died at the finish line of its own merger this month, at the exact moment a federal judge stopped taking the settlement's word for it. It is survived by that judge, who on September 24 used a virtual hearing to ask, in open court, whether the deal that is supposed to clear Paramount Skydance's $111 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery actually satisfies federal antitrust law. The question remains open.

It is an odd question to still be asking this late. Wire copy that day filed it as a landmark settlement, the word doing the studio's public relations for it. The hearing three days later did not treat the matter as settled law. It treated it as unfinished business.

Warner Bros. is preceded in death by its own last picture. "Digger," starring Tom Cruise, opened the same week the judge was still weighing the settlement, and brought in an estimated $8 million its first weekend — on track to lose the studio an estimated $125 million, the kind of arithmetic that makes "landmark" sound like penny-ante malarkey. A studio that spent a

... Continued on Page D2

"Read the page top to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen."

— *Sal*

"Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet."

— *Chip*

The $5,000 promise ships this month as a $90 check, less than half one Medicare premium

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"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)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump announced one-time $90 payments to Medicare beneficiaries weeks before the midterm elections.

WHO GETS PAID. Republicans defending Congress get checks landing before the vote; the president's own oil and weapons holdings gained millions over the same months.

WHAT SLIPS. Treasury is studying whether it can send the bigger $5,000 checks without a vote in Congress, which decides spending.

WHAT'S NEXT. The $90 payments are due in accounts around October 8, and the election follows in November. Treasury has not said whether the $5,000 needs Congress.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The $5,000 Trump Dividend was born on the ninth of September, in a Dallas convention hall, and died Friday at the age of twenty-four days. It is survived by a check for ninety dollars.

Here is the life, laid out the way we lay these out. At the party's midterm convention the president told the room that if Republicans keep control of Congress in November, every American adult gets $5,000 — "If the Republicans win, you win with us." The next day the White House posted a recorded message pledging $500 rebates to nearly a million people it said had been overcharged for ObamaCare coverage, an allegation offered without evidence, which is a younger sibling born with the same weak heart. On the fifteenth the Treasury secretary told the House the department was examining whether it could cut the $5,000 checks without Congress at all — a sentence that buries the appropriations clause and then goes to lunch....

...(cont) Friday the arithmetic arrived. More than 20 million Medicare Part B beneficiaries, the president announced, will get a one-time payment of $90, drawn from the $2 billion Medicare Improvement Fund — money Congress appropriated to improve the fee-for-service program. Divide two billion dollars twenty million ways and you get ninety dollars and change. That is not a dividend; that is the whole fund, swept into envelopes, due in bank accounts around October 8, three and a half weeks before an election. The standard Part B premium is about $202 a month. The check does not cover half of it. That is the shit of it: a fund built to improve a program, spent instead to advertise one. The president's word for the maneuver was that seniors could now rest assured the $5,000 would follow after the midterms.

Rest assured is doing a great deal of work for ninety dollars.

During the same stretch, CNBC examined the nine largest fossil fuel holdings on the president's annual disclosure and put their gain since the start of the Iran war at between $1.5 million and $4.4 million. His July disclosure listed 1,156 securities transactions — artificial intelligence, big oil, weapons-makers — totaling between roughly $79 million and $270 million. Those trades did not require a vote either. They cleared in July. The seniors clear on the eighth.

The Dividend is preceded in death by the plain arrangement in which Congress votes first. It is survived by an examination at Treasury, by a promise with a date attached to an election rather than a bill, and by twenty million people holding a receipt for half a premium.

In lieu of flowers, ask your member of Congress for a recorded vote on the $5,000 before the ninety dollars clears — and ask them to name, out loud, which fund the rest comes out of.

"They spent a year telling us the cupboard was bare — can't fund Medicare for All, can't fund the premiums — and then found two billion dollars sitting in a fund meant to improve Medicare and mailed it back to us in ninety-dollar pieces three weeks before we vote. That's not a dividend, that's your own money handed back with half your premium still missing, and a note saying the real check comes if you vote right. Meanwhile the man's oil and weapons stocks moved a hundred million dollars in a single July and nobody had to appropriate a nickel."

— Sal

"Look, the seniors are getting a check — a check, in October, in the account, that's real relief, and you're over here doing arithmetic. Did I say it came out of the improvement fund? That doesn't sound like me. And the $5,000 is absolutely coming; Treasury is examining the mechanics, which is what responsible people do, it's not a process story, nobody at the mailbox is asking which clause of the Constitution the envelope came from."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump priced a Republican Congress at $5,000 an adult; the checks mailing this month are $90.* By Mort · the noon edition, 3 October 2026
- *Putin pitches oil deal to Trump's son-in-law, the man negotiating peace with Putin.* By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 3 October 2026
- *Seniors get $90 once; the president's oil stocks gain up to $4.4 million from the war.* By Ruth · the wee small hours edition, 3 October 2026
- *Ads praising the president's presidency were charged to border security, at the president's direction.* By Mort · the supper edition, 2 October 2026
- *Sen. Ron Johnson holds the vote that could save $810 million, declines to cast it.* By The Wrecking Crew · the late evening edition, 30 September 2026
- *White House mails 'finally getting something back' checks for overcharges no audit ever found* By Ruth · the supper edition, 30 September 2026

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...

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

Trump to give $90 one-time payment to 20 million Medicare beneficiaries

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *17:36 EDT*

President Donald Trump said on Friday his administration will send one-time checks of $90 to certain Medicare recipients as he campaigns across the country about a month before the 2026 midterm elections. "I am pleased to announce that my Administration will, immediately, begin sending 'Checks' of nearly $100 to over 20 MILLION wonderful...

~~Trump to Send $90 Medicare Checks, Says Americans Can 'Rest Assured' $5,000 Will Follow After Midterms~~

Trump's $90 Medicare check covers less than half the premium it's supposed to offset

Common Dreams · *18:07 EDT*

With the midterm elections just weeks away, President Donald Trump announced on Friday that more than 20 million Medicare Part B beneficiaries will receive a one-time $90 payment this month. Trump, who declared on Truth Social that his administration would send out "checks," said the money will come from the $2 billion Medicare...

But: After Trump promised taxpayers would not pay 'one dime' for the ballroom, Republicans proposed $1 billion in taxpayer funds for it. Congress rejected the ask *NBC News, May 2026*

Trump pledges to send $90 checks to millions of seniors on Medicare

NBC News MAINSTREAM · *17:47 EDT*

President Donald Trump promised on Friday to give $90 rebate checks to offset premiums for millions of U.S. seniors on Medicare, his latest pledge to send money to Americans ahead of the midterm elections.

· Trump pledges $500 ObamaCare rebate checks *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump, Who Calls Medicare for All Too Expensive, Vows $5,000 to Every US Adult—If GOP Wins Midterms *from the morgue, 10 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*

· 'It Should Be Illegal': Trump's 1,156 July Stock Trades Involved AI, Big Oil, Weapons-Makers, and More *from the morgue, 22 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*

· Trump claims $5,000 midterm dividends wouldn't need congressional approval *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 dividend checks would come with a major catch under GOP senator's plan *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump faces reckoning as GOP figures label $5K promise a 'socialist vote-buying scheme' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's proposed $5,000 dividend blindsides Congress, angers fiscal conservatives: 'A dangerous arms race' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump Wants to Give Out $5,000 Checks. It Would Cost More Than $1 Trillion. *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump Promises Americans $5K Checks If GOP Wins Midterms, Raising Legal Questions *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Ansarallah advances on Bab al-Mandab; Trump offers to pay Americans $5,000 for midterm votes; U.S. kills 3 in Caribbean boat strike *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Republican midterm convention included $5,000 pitch and Iran war expectations *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Treasury boosts debt buyback cap to $6 billion *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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

NPR found Head Start lifts families out of homelessness; the rule deleting that priority takes comments through Tuesday.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



"Head Start fight reaches tipping point as advocates push back against proposed Trump changes", 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Trump administration proposed a rule ending Head Start's requirement that homeless children be enrolled first.

WHO GETS PAID. Health and Human Services, which wrote the rule, and the local programs relieved of the duty.

WHAT SLIPS. Public comment closes Tuesday; after that, no one is required to seek those children out.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the burden-reduction claim holds, expect a savings figure with no itemized list; that is what Washington got on November 24, 2025, when the efficiency office closed claiming $214 billion saved against outside tallies of $1.4 billion to $7 billion.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the filing, because the filing is short and the table is long.

Head Start — the federal early-education program for low-income families, serving 700,000 children by The Hill's count — carries a standing instruction to the local programs that run it: when seats open, children in homeless families go to the front. On August 27, The Nation reported what the administration's proposed rule change would do with that instruction. Undo it. Completely. No replacement priority named in its place....

...(cont) Kennedy Jr. asking him to scrap the overhaul, which they said would weaken services for thousands of families. They had the department's own title to work from: "Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs." A title is a line item. This one names the account getting the credit. It leaves the other column blank.

Two days after that letter, on September 17, NPR filled the other column in. A woman who got out of homelessness through Head Start, and a finding that the proposal reaches that same help twice — once at the door, changing how a child experiencing homelessness gets in, and once inside, changing the kind of care they receive if they do. That is not a dispute between advocates and the administration. That is the outcomes column arguing with the burden column, hon, in the same ledger, under the same letterhead.

Which brings us to yesterday. The Hill reports the fight has reached a tipping point, with advocates saying the proposals will limit access to a program now serving those 700,000 students, and with interested parties given until Tuesday to tell the federal government what they think.

So here is the reconciliation, and it is not complicated. The thing being removed is not a line of spending. It is an instruction about the order of a line of children. Removing it costs nothing and saves nothing that anyone has published a figure for. The title promises a reduction; the receipts in front of the public this week quantify exactly one thing, which is 700,000 enrolled children and a category among them that stays first in line until Tuesday.

The alternative is now written down. It is available for comment.

"They've got a program with a receipt on it — a woman and her kids out of a shelter because somebody wrote down "these ones first" — and the fix they came up with is to erase the sentence that found her. And they called it reducing a burden, which tells you exactly who the burden was: a four-year-old with no address. You get until Tuesday to object, and the people it lands on are the only people in America who can't make that deadline."

— Sal

"Nobody is removing anyone — we're giving local programs flexibility to serve the families in front of them, which is more children, not fewer. Did I say fewer? That doesn't sound like me. And look, there's a public comment period, it's open, it's open right now, so if advocates have concerns they can put them in writing by Tuesday, and I'd note the department hasn't actually said how many kids come off the list, so I don't know where these numbers are coming from."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Head Start rule declares finding homeless children a federal burden, then moves to reduce it.* By Ruth · the early evening edition, 3 October 2026
- *Britain was still paying the slave-owner compensation debt eleven years ago; the King rules out paying anyone else.* By Sterling · the early bird edition, 3 October 2026
- *Washington Examiner reports the same Oct. 14 payment four times in seven days, each with a new countdown.* By Ruth · the matinee edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Head Start fight reaches tipping point as advocates push back against proposed Trump changes~~
>
> **Trump administration moves to limit Head Start access for 700,000 low-income children**
>
> *The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *17:00 EDT*
>
> The Trump administration is moving ahead with big changes to Head Start, the federal early childhood education program that serves low-income families, to the outcry of advocates who say the proposals will limit access to the program, currently serving 700,000 students. Interested parties have until Tuesday to submit their thoughts to...

· Head Start got her out of homelessness. Trump proposal threatens that help for others *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Head Start Rule Changes Would Slash Enrollment of Homeless Children *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Democrats urge RFK Jr. to scrap proposed Head Start overhaul *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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

Trump's envoys broker a ceasefire sparing Russian refineries; Putin offers them a sale of Russian energy assets

By **STERLING**
THE OWNERSHIP DESK



"U.S.-Russia Talks on Ukraine Now Involve an Oil Deal Tied to Trump Allies", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Putin offered Trump's envoys, Kushner and Witkoff, a sale of Russian energy assets while they negotiate the Ukraine deal.

WHO GETS PAID. Kushner and Witkoff, who would own part of the business they are bargaining over.

WHAT SLIPS. No outside office reviews the sale; the men offered the deal are the men judging it.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the ceasefire holds, the refineries keep running and keep their value; that is what Moscow protected after 8 July 2026, when it banned diesel exports following drone strikes on those refineries and extended the ban to 31 January 2027.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A number is what you will want, and the report does not carry one. The report does not say what moves the other way. An agent negotiates for a principal, and whatever is handed to the agent across the table belongs to the principal; that is the theory, and a theory is not a statute.

Do note what the two carried in with them. 4 September, Moscow and Kyiv. 6 September, talks the envoys called "encouraging". 7 September, Witkoff's "substantive progress". 14 September, after the President had criticised Zelensky for raising diesel prices with drone strikes on Russian refineries: "Ukraine has agreed not to hit Russian Energy targets." And what did Ukraine get for the refineries? An announcement … on Truth Social, by the president of a third country. Then the refineries come to the table as merchandise, offered to the two men brokering the peace….

…(cont) Ukraine gave up the targets. Kushner and Witkoff were offered the targets. No waiver is required.

A truce the hens kept. The fox has not been fed yet.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"They sold you the ceasefire as peace — neither side hits the oil, everybody calms down. Three weeks later the same two guys who got Ukraine to put those refineries off the target list are sitting across a table from Putin while he pitches them a piece of the refineries. That is not diplomacy, that is a listing agreement, and the diesel in your tank is somewhere inside it."
— Sal

"These are private citizens doing this out of patriotism, they are not drawing a government salary, so the conflict rules — did I say conflict? That does not sound like me. Putin raised it, nobody can control what another man raises in a room, and you cannot ask the president's people to be rude to him mid-negotiation. A ceasefire is a ceasefire no matter who ends up holding the paper on a refinery."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Putin offers Trump's envoys a sale of the Russian energy assets* *Ukraine agreed not to hit* By Sterling · the early evening edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> *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*

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.

White House orders three-month study to find the AI risks its own accord already promised to handle

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS



"'Looks Like They're Firing Whistleblowers': Alarm as OpenAI Reportedly Ousts Safety Experts", 1 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The White House named its intelligence director AI czar on October 4th to spend three months studying AI risks.

WHO GETS PAID. The AI companies that signed the unenforceable accord keep operating under no binding rules for the study's three months.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's chance to see AI risk assessed by anyone outside the industry or the administration slips here.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the study produces findings with no enforcement attached, that is what happened to the 1984 Grace Commission's $424 billion savings claim: independent reviewers later found the real number was about a third of it, and nothing in government changed on the strength of the report alone.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 25th, Trump told reporters Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent would not be the first czar of the administration's "Super Intelligence Force." A denial is a small thing. It is also, read backward, a confession that a seat existed and someone had to be told they weren't getting it.

Four days later the seat found its purpose a different way. On September 29th the White House released the text of its "Accord on Superintelligence," which tech CEOs signed and Trump called "morally binding." The document promised real oversight without a regulatory capture regime. Read clause by clause, as this column did that day, it named zero enforcers. The oversight was internal — a word doing the job "accountable" was supposed to do....

...(cont) That same day, Representative Ro Khanna announced what he told CNBC was "the most comprehensive... legislation to date" on artificial intelligence — his own ellipsis, not ours, the gap in the quote as the receipt gives it. Khanna wants a temporary ban on AI systems that can improve themselves without human input, a ban CNBC reported he wants held in place until the federal government builds proper guardrails. A sitting member of Congress was, on the day of the signing ceremony, already treating the Accord's self-regulation as insufficient to the danger. The Accord's published text had just declared that question settled.

On October 1st, OpenAI "parted ways" with three safety researchers the company said had shared confidential information. Critics, per the Wall Street Journal's reporting, called it the sidelining of internal warnings about the risks of increasingly powerful systems.

Which brings us to today. Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton — who had been expected to run the Super Intelligence Force before Bessent wasn't it, before anyone was it — will now serve as AI czar. His assignment, per the Washington Examiner: three months to establish the "risks and opportunities" of artificial intelligence.

Follow the clock with me. Day one of ninety starts today. The Accord's subtitle promised a joint commitment on frontier responsibilities, no verb attached. Khanna's bill promised a ban until guardrails exist. OpenAI's departures promised fewer people asking the question internally. The government's answer to all three, five days shy of a week after the signing, is a study of the question the signing ceremony was called to close.

The risks and opportunities are still unknown. The document says they're not supposed to be.

🍺

"They sign a pledge, lose the safety guys who'd actually flag a problem, then hire a study to find out if there's a problem — that's not oversight, that's a shell game with a ninety-day clock on it. Every one of these moves buys time, and time is the only thing being spent here; nobody's writing a check for enforcement. Watch what the intelligence director's report says in January, because by then the next product ships regardless."

— Sal

🚬

"Director Clayton brings exactly the credibility this moment needs — he already runs the intelligence community, so naming him AI czar isn't outsourcing, it's consolidation. Three months is thorough, not slow; you want a czar who reads the risks instead of rubber-stamping them. And the Accord still stands — nothing in a study contradicts a pledge, they're complementary — did I say "nothing contradicts"? That's not — let me rephrase."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Tech CEOs sign 'morally binding' AI pledge whose oversight section names zero enforcers* By Mitch · the supper edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~'Looks Like They're Firing Whistleblowers': Alarm as OpenAI Reportedly Ousts Safety Experts~~

OpenAI fired three safety researchers it accused of leaking to an outside AI watchdog

Common Dreams § *18:29 EDT*

San Francisco-based artificial intelligence firm OpenAI has "parted ways" with three safety researchers who allegedly shared "confidential company information," The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday, prompting fresh alarm among critics who accuse the ChatGPT maker of sidelining internal warnings about the risks posed by its...

Clayton to create report outlining AI risks and opportunities as czar: Report

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *22:51 EDT*

Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton will serve as the Trump administration's AI czar and lead a three-month effort to establish the "risks and opportunities" of the technology. Clayton, who was largely expected to lead the White House's recently formed "Super Intelligence Force,"

· Citing 'Civilizational Extinction Risk,' Khanna to Intro Bill to Ban Recursive AI *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump confirms Bessent will not be 'super intelligence' czar *from the morgue, 25 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.

Fox watches a teacher get doused in gasoline in France, calls it a warning about open borders

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER



“France’s violent student protests raise warning for America: ‘A cautionary tale’”, 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Fox News host called France's student protests over school funding a warning about open borders.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Fox's own reporting on French school funding is overridden on-air by a commentary program, so viewers never get the real reason for the unrest.

WHAT'S NEXT. If opinion coverage keeps overriding a network's own reporting, trust in that reporting falls further; that is what the United States got after 30 April 2026, when Reporters Without Borders ranked the country 64th of 180, its lowest ever, citing attacks on the press as a policy cornerstone.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On Saturday's Big Weekend Show, the host called France's student riots "a cautionary tale," warning that open borders breed exactly this kind of unrest. It is a clean thesis delivered in one breath, and it survives for about as long as the next sentence in this network's own archive.

Start with the 1st of October, when this outlet ran its own dispatch on the unrest: "hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide," the story said, with "officials warning of outside agitators." Outside agitators. Not outside borders — a claim about domestic troublemakers, filed by this network three days before its own host moved the blame to the border. That is not a cautionary tale about open borders. That is — hold on. That is a different story than the one we just told....

...(cont) Walk it forward anyway. The same week, the Washington Examiner filed its version, attributing the mayhem to "far-left instigation," which at least keeps the trouble inside the country. French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu convened an emergency meeting after more than a week of protests in the Paris region. None of it involves a border crossing. None of it involves an immigrant. It involves French high school students protesting a French funding formula, administered by a French government, in French schools.

On the 2nd of October, riot police met those students with tear gas and shields in cities across the country, battling to contain protests the New York Post described plainly as being over "classroom conditions and funding." Funding. The thing schools run out of. The day before, attackers doused a headteacher in gasoline and set fires in at least two schools — an atrocity, and also not an immigration story by any definition this desk can locate. It is a story about what happens when a funding fight curdles, in a country with no open border anywhere in the sentence.

So the warning stands, corrected: this is a cautionary tale about what happens when a school system is starved and the resulting fire is called something else on television. The open border was never in the room. The gas can was.

“This is the whole racket: French kids get tear-gassed over the same thing American teachers scream about every budget cycle — there's no money for the classroom — and Fox's answer is to point at a border nobody in the story crossed. Somebody doused a teacher in gasoline over school funding, and the network airs a monologue about immigration instead. That's not a cautionary tale, that's what it looks like when nobody fixes the money.”

— Sal

“Look, the point stands regardless of the particulars — unrest is unrest, and when a society loosens control at the border, somewhere down the line the streets reflect that, that's just basic — okay, technically no one in this story crossed a border, the story says "classroom funding," our own newsroom said "outside agitators," not outside the country — did I say open borders? That's not what I meant.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

France’s violent student protests raise warning for America: ‘A cautionary tale’

Fox News RIGHT § *21:54 EDT*

"The Big Weekend Show" co-host says the country's violent student protests are "a cautionary tale" for the U.S., warning open borders lead to unrest and misplaced anger.

~~Fire, tear gas, and riot shields: Violence erupts in France as student protesters clash with police~~

French police used tear gas on teenagers protesting school funding cuts

New York Post RIGHT § *15:07 EDT*

Riot police clashed with high school students in cities across France on October 2nd, as President Macron’s government battled to contain increasingly violent protests over classroom conditions and funding.

France gripped by violent student riots attributed to far-left instigation

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:46 EDT*

Mayhem has broken out across France, as a student-led protest has escalated into acts of arson and battery of police, leading the prime minister to call an emergency meeting with officials. French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu convened the crisis meeting on Thursday following more than a week of protests by students in the Paris...

· Attackers douse teacher in gasoline as student protests rage across France *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· France rocked by student riots as hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide *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.

Housing-affordability candidate seeks permit for 88 percent bigger house, with spa and two-car garage.

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION



"Mayor Karen Bass and rival Nithya Raman square off at contentious rally as final sprint to election day approaches", 4 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Los Angeles mayoral candidate Nithya Raman says she is independent of the Democratic Socialists backing her campaign.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's chance to take her housing-affordability pledge at face value slips once her own permit for a bigger house surfaces.

WHAT'S NEXT. No ledger pattern fits a candidate's personal building permit. What is on the calendar is the November election, when Los Angeles voters choose between Raman and Mayor Bass.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I asked myself a question back in September, and I was sure I'd already closed the book on it. Was Nithya Raman independent of the people backing her campaign? I thought I had that settled — The Hill has her saying so herself, out loud, at a forum on the 30th, over at the Jewish Federation, with Mayor Bass standing right there next to her. I put a line under that and moved on to other business. Then this week I picked the same question back off the pile, and it came out a different shape than it did the first time through. What that word was covering, exactly, is the part I'd skipped.

Here's what else was on the page before that. Late September, a poll comes out of a university institute, the kind the local paper co-sponsors, and it has Raman ahead of the sitting mayor — eleven points, one outlet put it at, with a lot of people still saying they hadn't made up their minds. Eleven points is a fair amount of city to be ahead by. I sat with that a minute before I turned to the next sheet....

...(cont) The next sheet was dated two weeks before the forum. Raman's got a house over in Silver Lake, 1,879 square feet is the figure given, and there's a permit application in to knock it down and put up something new — three stories, 3,528 square feet, a spa, a two-car garage. Work that against the old number and you get an 88 percent jump in space, which I worked twice, because percentages and I have a complicated history going back years. I went out to my own garage after I read that one, the way I tend to. One car fits in it, barely, and only because the car's seen better days — needs a fan belt I keep telling myself I'll get around to. No spa out there. No second bay. I'm not bringing up my garage to complain about my garage. I'm bringing it up because I needed to stand next to something real before 88 percent in square feet meant anything to me.

Housing is supposed to be the whole platform here. That's not my phrase — the piece from the 14th calls it central to her political identity, their words, not mine. Is the permit sitting with the planning department the same stretch of weeks she's out there saying that? Near as the dates line up, yes. I don't know what else to do with two dates that close together except notice them.

The backing from the socialist organization is in the same piece as the forum — on the campaign trail, is the phrase the piece uses. Not in the room, not confirmed where anybody was sitting that day, one way or the other. All I've got is the sentence, and the sentence says the organization has been behind her, and stayed behind her, the same week she's telling a crowd she's standing apart from exactly that.

This week's piece has her and Bass back at it again, a rally down in South L.A., the paper calling it contentious, heading into the last stretch before election day. Same two people. Same race. Same number sitting underneath it, eleven points, give or take whatever the undecided end up doing with themselves.

Oh — one more thing, before you go. Just hers. Not the organization's name. Not the coalition's. Just Nithya Raman's, on her own, applying for 88 percent more house, all by herself. You could call that independent.

"She tells a Jewish Federation crowd she's nobody's puppet, same week the socialists are still carrying her water on the trail — pick one. The woman running on housing affordability just filed to add nearly 1,650 square feet and a spa to her own house, 88 percent more space. There's always room at the top; she's just proving it with her own permit."

— Sal

THE RECEIPTS

Mayor Karen Bass and rival Nithya Raman square off at contentious rally as final sprint to election day approaches

New York Post RIGHT § *21:21 EDT*

Mayor Karen Bass and Nithya Raman turned a South Los Angeles campaign forum into a preview of the increasingly bitter fight for City Hall.

· Bass trails Raman in Los Angeles mayor's race: Poll *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Bass trailing progressive challenger by double digits in new LA mayoral poll *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Raman stresses 'independence' from DSA in Los Angeles mayor's race despite backing *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Hypocrite socialist Nithya Raman wants 88% more house *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.

Trump calls data centers Ohio's job savior in the county that just cut 1,400.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Jon Gruden backs Republican Jon Husted in Senate race", 4 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump promised a Vandalia rally that data centers would keep Ohio jobs from going to China.

WHO GETS PAID. The data-center and AI industry gets the administration's public defense against the backlash it has been drawing nationwide.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If Ohio localities move to limit data centers the way Palm Beach County just did, that is what Texas got after Denton's 2014 fracking ban: the legislature barred local control over the industry within 195 days of the vote.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Vandalia keeps two ledgers on the same page this week, and they do not square. On Saturday night the president stood in that stretch of southwestern Ohio for Jon Husted and Vivek Ramaswamy and told the crowd there is so much money to be made for Ohio, that you can't just turn off a data center, that if Ohio refuses one it goes to China. That is the deposit column. The withdrawal column, filed this week by the New York Post, carries the number 1,400 — the workers laid off from the Navistar truck factory in the same stretch of southwestern Ohio where the president was standing to ask for votes. The filing and the applause arrived close enough together that a skimmer could mistake one for an answer to the other. It is not. The rally is for two Senate and governor candidates; the layoff ledger does not carry either of their names, or his.

Run the data-center line against the president's own filings and the gap gets wider. In August he told Americans on social media that any community that turns away a data center risks ending up "backwards and poor" — the same frame he brought to Vandalia, money too large to refuse. Representative Tim Burchett, a Republican, read that filing back to a reporter on the House steps: "I guess I'm backwards and poor." Weeks later, Palm Beach County — the county that files the president's own home address — voted 6 to 0 for a one-year moratorium on data centers over fifty megawatts, the same technology Ohio was told it could not afford to turn down. The commissioners who cast that vote do not run in Ohio's midterms....

...(cont) The commerce secretary keeps a ledger of his own. Asked on CNBC why voters in both parties are souring on data centers, Howard Lutnick laughed off the water-use complaints as "propaganda." Two filings, one secretary, no auditor reconciling them before air.

None of that touches the 1,400 names on the Navistar list. Their filing carries a date, this week, and a number, 1,400, and no line yet for what replaces either one.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE PRESIDENT TOLD VANDALIA A DATA CENTER IS TOO VALUABLE TO SEND AWAY; THE same week, in the same county, the Navistar truck plant let 1,400 people go. That isn't two separate headlines, it's one ledger, with a server rack entered as the replacement for the people who got cut. Because a server rack doesn't need a parking pass or a shift schedule, the count gets called even without anyone actually being made whole, and the only name that leaves the building that week is yours, badge still warm, dropped in the box by the door.

"He tells you a data center is too valuable to turn off, like somebody's paycheck depends on it — just not anybody who actually got a layoff notice this week. Navistar cut 1,400 jobs in the same county he's standing in asking for votes, and not one of them gets hired at a server farm. The sales pitch and the pink slip came out of the same stretch of road this week, and only one of them got a standing ovation."

— Sal

"Data centers are the future — you can't turn away that kind of investment, period, full stop. The Navistar layoffs are a totally separate legacy-manufacturing issue, nothing to do with — wait, did I just call fourteen hundred jobs "legacy"? The point stands: somebody wins the AI race, and it's probably going to be Ohio. Eventually."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Jon Gruden backs Republican Jon Husted in Senate race

New York Post RIGHT § *21:52 EDT*

Former Las Vegas Raiders and Super Bowl-winning head coach Jon Gruden has given Republican Senate candidate Jon Husted his full support during a surprise visit at a campaign rally for President Donald Trump in Vandalia, Ohio. Gruden, 63, a native of Sandusky, Ohio, who went to college at the University of Dayton, took the stage...

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, campaigning in Ohio, says the midterms will bring a 'big surprise'

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:22 EDT*

VANDALIA, Ohio — President Donald Trump rallied Saturday for Republicans in Ohio's competitive races for Senate and governor, predicting that the party will defy expectations in a choppy midterm election climate.

Ohio truck factory lays off 1,400 days before Trump midterm rally in the area

New York Post RIGHT § *18:53 EDT*

This week nearly 1,400 other people were laid off from their jobs at what had been the Navistar truck factory in southwestern Ohio.

WATCH LIVE: Trump holds a rally in Vandalia, Ohio

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:31 EDT*

President Donald Trump is hosting a rally in Vandalia, Ohio, as part of an effort by the White House to energize the Republican voter base ahead of the midterm elections. Trump told a crowd at a rally in Alabama on Friday that he would embark on a 10-state tour ahead of Election Day. Many Republican [...]

Trump defends data centers in Ohio, warns they'll go to China if US turns them away

New York Post RIGHT § *22:26 EDT*

"There's so much money to be made for Ohio. You can't just turn them off. They'll go to China,"

But: **In special elections, Democrats have retained 10 points more of their previous turnout than Republicans** *Ballotpedia, 26 February 2026*

Trump touts 'golden age' at Ohio rally, urges voters to deliver GOP midterm wins

Fox News RIGHT § *22:09 EDT*

President Donald Trump urged Ohio rally-goers to "pretend I'm on the ballot" as he stumped for Jon Husted and Vivek Ramaswamy in the midterms.

Jon Gruden stumps for Ohio Republicans at Trump rally near Dayton

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:49 EDT*

President Donald Trump campaigned in Vandalia, Ohio, on Saturday night alongside former NFL coach and TV personality Jon Gruden to drum up support for gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and incumbent Sen. Jon Husted (R-OH). "I'm from Ohio,"

Trump backs data centers in Ohio amid tight Senate race

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *22:39 EDT*

President Trump defended data centers at a midterm campaign rally in Vandalia, Ohio Saturday, arguing that the U.S. will risk losing ground in the global artificial intelligence race against China without the massive facilities that have come under heightened scrutiny in recent years. "There's so much money to be made for Ohio.

· Out-of-Touch Trump Says Communities That Reject AI Data Centers Will Be 'Backwards and Poor' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Trump Commerce Secretary Once Said Data Centers 'Suck Water,' Now Scoffs That Such Concerns Are Just 'Propaganda' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump takes the risk on data centers *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· 'Maybe Trump's Neighbors Know Something He Doesn't': Palm Beach County, Home to Mar-a-Lago, Passes Data Center Moratorium *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· House Republican pushes back on Trump data center support: 'I guess I'm backwards and poor' *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

THE PROTOCOL

Tennessee's lethal injection fails to kill Christa Pike twice, succeeds in killing the commissioner's job once.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"Tennessee corrections commissioner to resign after botched Christa Pike execution", 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Tennessee's corrections commissioner resigned after the state's lethal injection failed twice on inmate Christa Pike.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Oversight of how the state carries out executions slips to a single outside reviewer picked by the same governor whose department failed twice.

WHAT'S NEXT. Tennessee's governor has suspended all executions through the end of 2026 while the independent review proceeds; nothing further is scheduled yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Frank Strada's job as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Correction died Saturday, three days after the one thing the job exists to get right went wrong for the second time this year, on the same inmate, Christa Pike.

It was born properly enough, as these things go. Pike, convicted decades ago in the murder of 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer, had her case cleared by the U.S. Supreme Court after a last-minute legal fight and was handed to the state of Tennessee to execute Wednesday night, exactly as the protocol said it would....

...(cont) It is survived by Christa Pike, who is not dead. Her lawyers told the state Supreme Court that witnesses saw her still breathing, by some accounts still snoring, forty minutes after officials administered two full doses of pentobarbital. She remains in critical condition on a ventilator while the inquiry that follows her tries to work out what a protocol is for if not this.

It was preceded in death by an earlier version of itself.

Governor Bill Lee called the outcome "deeply disturbing," suspended every scheduled execution in the state through the end of the year, and ordered an independent inquiry, naming a former U.S. attorney to run it. On Thursday, United Nations human rights experts urged Tennessee not to attempt a third execution of the same woman. Death penalty opponents reacting to the week's events called what happened to Pike "inhumane, barbaric, torturous" — not a finding from the review board, which had not yet convened, but the plain words of people who had been saying for years that this was coming.

Then Saturday, Strada resigned. He said it was "in the best interest of Tennesseans." The governor thanked him for serving "with integrity."

Institutions fail the way institutions fail: slowly, then all at once, and then somebody's job is what absorbs it, which is its own kind of institutional shit going wrong, in public, on a Wednesday night, with lawyers taking notes. Strada's resignation is not an ending. It is a receipt. The protocol that failed twice is still the protocol. The inquiry UN experts begged the state not to need is the only thing standing between Christa Pike and a third attempt.

In lieu of flowers, Tennessee should let that inquiry finish, in full, before anyone is strapped to a gurney again.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

TENNESSEE'S LETHAL INJECTION PROTOCOL FAILED TWICE ON THE SAME WOMAN THIS year, the second failure put her on a ventilator, and three days later the man who ran the department resigned while the drugs, the dosage, and the staff who administered them all stayed exactly where they were. That isn't an investigation, it's a paperwork cooldown built so the same team can reload the same syringes once the cameras move on. The review gets a former U.S. attorney and a deadline, the drugs and the staff who already failed twice stay right where they are, and the only new paperwork to come out of this whole case so far is a resignation letter, filed the same week as the jury summons sitting on your kitchen table with your name typed on it.

"This is the same government that tells you executions are quick, clean, and under control, and then the drugs don't work and the guy who resigns is the one who never held the syringe. Frank Strada is a human sandbag for a broken machine — he absorbs the headline so the machine, the drugs, the staff, the protocol, gets to stay exactly where it was. They'll call it accountability, and in October they'll reload."

— *Sal*

"Look, the governor acted fast here — suspended executions immediately, brought in an outside former U.S. attorney, that's accountability working in real time. And this protocol has a track record, it's worked plenty of times before, I mean I don't have the exact number in front of me right now — did I just say I don't have the number? The point is leadership took responsibility, and that's what the public should be focused on."

— *Chip*

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *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
— *National Republicans pour millions into saving a Kansas Senate seat that's underwater over a $50 bill.* By Ruth · the midnight edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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.

Tennessee corrections commissioner to resign after botched Christa Pike execution
The Hill MAINSTREAM · *13:24 EDT*
The head of Tennessee's corrections department will step down following the state's botched execution of death row inmate Christa Pike this week. Tennessee Department of Correction Commissioner Frank Strada submitted his resignation on Saturday, Gov. Bill Lee (R-Tenn.) announced.

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...

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.

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Trump doesn't rule out sending ICE to polling sites; US supreme court to review policy to detain immigrants challenging deportation – as it happened
The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *22:08 EDT*
This blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email The White House has, again, blocked CNN from covering Donald Trump as part of the rotating press pool. The outlet was scheduled to be a part of the group of media traveling to Texas and Oklahoma with the president today, but was removed from list of newsrooms in place for...

~~Tennessee Commissioner Resigns After Failed Execution of Christa Pike~~
He quit as the review into his botched execution began.
The New York Times MAINSTREAM · *15:57 EDT*
Frank Strada, who oversaw the process that left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized, quit as an independent review began.

~~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...

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...

'Satanic' Christa Pike murder scene still haunts police 31 years later, former chief says: 'Pure evil'
New York Post RIGHT · *14:33 EDT*
19-year-old Colleen Slemmer was tortured, mutilated and murdered in Tennessee.

~~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's prison chief resigns after failed Christa Pike execution, Bill Lee says
Washington Examiner RIGHT · *14:18 EDT*
Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R-TN) announced Saturday that Corrections Commissioner Frank Strada is stepping down following the state's failed attempt to execute death row inmate Christa Pike. Strada said his resignation was "in the best interest of Tennesseans"

'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...

· Tennessee inmate Christa Pike still alive after lethal injection dose, lawyers say *from the morgue, 1 Oct 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.

THE RECORD

Cornell pledges 'greater transparency' days after prosecutors declined to review evidence police already had.

By LOU

ONE MORE QUESTION

"Cornell president calls alleged gang rape 'deeply disturbing,' pledges greater transparency", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA LE MONDE — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Cornell's president pledged transparency after the county prosecutor had already declined to review evidence police gathered.

WHO GETS PAID. Governor Hochul and Attorney General James gain the political credit of reopening a case the county had already closed.

WHAT SLIPS. The county prosecutor's choice not to review the evidence further faced no outside check until press scrutiny forced it into view.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pledge produces no outside audit, that is what already happened October 1, when Cornell agreed to an outside investigation of its own handling only after the county had already closed its review.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Did the DA's office decline to look any further before the president made his promise, or after? I already asked myself that. I already answered it, too — out loud, last night, in the car, waiting on the fan belt to decide if it was going to hold. This morning I went back over the same two facts and the answer came out a different shape. Not a different answer. The same one, read back a different way.

Here's what I had written down. Cornell police responded to the Chi Phi house at 1:05 in the morning, October 19th, 2024. Forty minutes on scene. A drug-related arrest. NBC put a number on the gap between that response and the alleged assault: twenty-two hours. Was Chi Phi the same house Cornell police had already been inside, on a drug call, twenty-two hours before the assault she alleges? It was. I checked that twice....

...(cont) The woman filed her lawsuit September 16th of this year. About two years after that October night in 2024 — not to the week, I ran the math and it isn't, so I'm not claiming it. Seven men named. Did the original handling produce any criminal charges before this lawsuit arrived? It didn't. That's in the record too.

Then it moved. AOC, at a town hall in Ithaca, September 28th, called it a culture. Schumer, September 30th: "horrifying," no stone unturned, he said. The next day — one day, I checked that twice as well, after getting it wrong the first time — a law professor at the same school wrote the opposite in print, called the public reaction a lynch mob. Same week, same campus. Were they arguing, that week, about a file that had already been shut before either of them opened their mouths?

Because that's the part I keep losing in my own notebook and finding again under something else. I don't have a date for when that decision landed. I have what came after: a special prosecutor named, a criminal investigation reopened, Cornell agreeing on October 1st to an outside review of its own handling. All of it stacked up after a file that was, by the record, already closed.

My toolbox is older than my car. There's a drawer in my garage where the mechanic down the block puts the work order when he's done with it — stamped, dated, closed out — and only then does he come find me to ask if there's anything else I want him to look at. Is that generous of him, or is that just the order things happened in?

Because here's the president, on video. Saturday: "deeply disturbing." Somewhere in the same run, "a defining moment." And once — I'm only using this once, I promised myself that — he says he'll deliver "greater transparency." Going forward. He doesn't say toward what. Is a promise aimed at the future still about the thing that already happened in the past?

I was closing the notebook. I really was.

Excuse me — before you go — can I ask it the way I should have the first time: which one came first, the decline or the promise? I have the dates for one of those. Transparency.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

CORNELL POLICE HAD THE DRUG ARREST, THE OVERDOSE, AND THE FILE WITHIN FORTY minutes of walking into that house, and the Tompkins County DA's office looked at everything campus police had already gathered and closed it anyway. That isn't an investigation ending, it's a jurisdiction built to stop at the fraternity's front steps. The county closes the file, the governor has to step in from the outside to reopen it, and when the next one isn't reopened in time, the lawsuit lands two years late with your kid's name typed in where Jane Doe's used to be.

🍺

"The DA's office had the same records Cornell police did and decided there was nothing left to look at — then the university's president goes on camera calling it "deeply disturbing" and promising "greater transparency." That's not candor, that's a press release timed for after the file was already shut. The woman who filed that lawsuit two years later doesn't get a video statement; she gets a reopened investigation because the governor stepped in, not because the school looked first."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, the DA's office reviewed the evidence Cornell police gathered and made a call — that's called trusting your local prosecutor, not covering anything up. Now Hochul wants a special prosecutor and James wants a say, and — wait, isn't she the AG whose own staff told federal investigators she orders them to target people? No, that's — I didn't mean to bring that up, forget I said that part."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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.

Cornell President Calls Rape Inquiry 'Defining Moment' for Campus

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:35 EDT*

Michael I. Kotlikoff said in a video the university would be more transparent, hold Greek groups accountable and improve sexual assault prevention.

~~Cornell president calls alleged gang rape 'deeply disturbing,' pledges greater transparency~~

Cornell promises a 'serious look' at frats only after backlash over alleged gang rape

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *22:39 EDT*

As scrutiny mounts over Cornell's response to allegations that a student was gang raped at a fraternity house in 2024, the university's president acknowledged troubling questions raised about the investigations and pledged taking a 'serious look at the role of fraternities and sororities in campus life.'

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.

Cornell president says rape allegations raise 'heartbreaking and troubling issues'

The Washington Post MAINSTREAM § *20:00 EDT*

Michael Kotlikoff also said he backed New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's decision to name a special prosecutor to lead a reopened criminal investigation.

NY AG Letitia James too 'biased' to fairly investigate 'Cornell 7' frat boys: critics

New York Post RIGHT § *21:10 EDT*

New York Attorney General Letitia James is too political, biased and unethical to fairly investigate the seven Cornell University fraternity brothers accused of raping a female classmate, pols and other critics told The Post.

Cornell president speaks out, says 'defining moment' for university

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *20:34 EDT*

The Tompkins County DA's office declined to additional review material gathered by Cornell University police, documents reviewed by ABC News show.

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.

Cornell University police made drug arrest hours before alleged sexual assault

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *18:23 EDT*

Cornell University police made a drug-related arrest at a fraternity house 22 hours before a former student alleges she was drugged and sexually assaulted there, according to police records.

Cornell president says university 'must do better' on handling of sexual assault allegations

Fox News RIGHT § *20:21 EDT*

Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff said the university "must do better" after questions arose over its handling of fraternity sexual assault claims.

Kathy Hochul, Tish James rush to exploit 'Cornell 7' – justice be damned

New York Post RIGHT § *22:20 EDT*

We can't recall a Tish James investigation that wasn't blatantly political, so Gov. Hochul knows exactly what she's ordered up here.

New revelations in Cornell rape investigation

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *19:02 EDT*

We're seeing dramatic video of a confrontation with one of the men accused in the Cornell sexual assault case. This as questions grow over how the alleged 2024 incident was handled. NBC News' Valerie Castro reports.

Cornell knew of drug arrest, overdose at Chi Phi frat before alleged gang rape: records

New York Post RIGHT § *19:20 EDT*

Cornell police responded to Chi Phi at about 1:05 a.m. on Oct. 19, 2024, and made a drug-related arrest during the roughly 40-minute response.

Cornell president issues statement in wake of gang rape case: 'Must do better'

New York Post RIGHT § *18:35 EDT*

Cornell's president issued a video message Saturday on the rape scandal surrounding the Ivy League school, calling the case "deeply disturbing."

· Cornell law professor decries 'lynch mob mentality' over alleged gang rape case, blasts AOC for 'rushing to judgment' *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*

· Schumer calls for review of 'horrifying' Cornell rape case: "No stone unturned" *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Cornell University frat house rape investigation reopened: What we know *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Cornell Agrees to Outside Investigation of Alleged Gang Rape Case *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Federal investigators interviewed Letitia James whistleblower who said she ordered staff to target 'Trump himself' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

Republicans tolerate Tucker Carlson's antisemitism concerns, draw the line at World War II.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



"Tucker Carlson questions if Britain should have fought in WW2: 'Is the UK better off?'", 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Senator Ted Cruz publicly denounced Tucker Carlson for questioning whether Britain benefited from fighting World War II.

WHO GETS PAID. Tucker Carlson keeps his friendship with Vice President Vance and his audience no matter which Republican denounces him that week.

WHAT SLIPS. The party's claim that condemning a view means doing something about it slips a little more with each denunciation that changes nothing.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this pattern holds, the denunciation changes nothing about Carlson's standing in the party; that is what happened after Vance's September 3rd defense of the friendship was repeated almost word for word on September 8th, five days later, with no consequence in between.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 2nd, Vice President JD Vance answered a question about Tucker Carlson and left part of the audience disappointed; the dispatch didn't say why, only that the answer wasn't enough. The next day made it clear what the disappointment was about: pressure was building for Vance to distance himself from Carlson's remarks on antisemitism, and instead Vance told reporters, "Everybody knows that Tucker Carlson and I are friends," adding that it was "obvious" Carlson had said things he disagreed with — which is not the same sentence as goodbye.

I'm not going to play the game where I throw friends under the bus." Two defenses of the same commentator inside a week, from the man one heartbeat from the presidency....

...(cont) By September 22nd the complaint had moved from antisemitism to electoral math. Carlson had praised Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed on air while tearing into the Republican nominee, Mike Rogers, prompting El-Sayed himself to say the party was "eating itself." A Democrat was narrating the Republican coalition's internal weather, and the forecast did not improve.

The loudest charge of the month met the quietest answer.

Then, Friday, came the sentence that finally moved a sitting senator to type something back. Carlson asked whether Britain had benefited from winning World War II.

Line them up and the pattern is the point: antisemitism drew a friendship defense, a quote that produced 25th Amendment talk drew silence from Republicans, and a counterfactual about 1940 drew the one on-record rebuke this month. The common thread is not that no one ever answers. It is that whatever gets said, Carlson's friendship with the vice president, his microphone, and his standing in the coalition pass through each episode intact — denounced individually, kept collectively, on a schedule nobody has to explain because nobody's asked to.

"Antisemitism gets a friendship defense, a quote that sends people reaching for the 25th Amendment gets dead silence, and a trivia question about Churchill is what finally cracks a senator open. That's not principle, that's a man checking which complaints have witnesses in the room. The vice president's best friend keeps his show, his audience, and his seat at the table no matter how many individual statements get posted about him."

— Sal

"Senator Cruz spoke up immediately, same night, first instinct — that's accountability, that's the party policing its own. Nobody's defending questioning World War II, that's indefensible, but the friendship thing, that's personal, that's different, you can't ask a man to end a friendship over a podcast booking. Did I just say that's different? That's not — that's not what I meant."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Vance defends Carlson twice in a week; Cruz draws the line at World War II* By Sal · the matinee edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Tucker Carlson questions if Britain should have fought in WW2: 'Is the UK better off?'

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *16:12 EDT*

Conservative commentator Tucker Carlson questioned whether Britain benefited from fighting World War II and challenged a former U.K. Conservative Party lawmaker to explain why the country should have entered the war in the first place. Carlson pressed former Conservative politician Jacob Rees-Mogg on the legacy of the war during a...

Ted Cruz slams Tucker Carlson for World War II comments

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *13:09 EDT*

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) slammed conservative commentator Tucker Carlson for a recent podcast appearance during which the former Fox News host questioned whether the United Kingdom "benefited" from its involvement in the second World War. "Yes, Tucker, the UK is better off for winning WWII,"

· JD Vance defends friendship with Tucker Carlson as pressure to condemn antisemitism grows *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Fresh Calls for Trump Removal as Tucker Carlson Claims He Said 'In the End, We All Die, Anyway' Ahead of Iran War *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· El-Sayed on Carlson praise: MAGA 'eating itself' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· The Movement: Vance faces pressure over Carlson friendship *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· JD Vance courts Jewish Republicans. Tucker Carlson still looms. *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

Pentagon appoints its biggest contractor, a top campaign donor, to help plan the future of war.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors", 1 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Defense Secretary Hegseth named SpaceX's Musk, holder of billions in Pentagon contracts, to a Pentagon advisory board.

WHO GETS PAID. SpaceX and Anduril, the contractors now advising the Pentagon that pays them.

WHAT SLIPS. Independent oversight of Pentagon contracting slips, because the people reviewing the contracts are the people holding them.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, expect no itemized accounting of what the board changes; that is what Washington got after 19 February 2025: a DOGE-claimed $8 billion contract turned out to be $8 million, and the correction cut the listed receipts in half while the $55 billion headline stood.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Here is the filing, read in the order it was filed, which is the only order that matters.

Aug 30: the oil seized from Venezuela was described, in the Oval Office's own words, as bound for U.S. reserves — language a filing at the time called mobster. Sept 11: a Fox News filing quoted a top official crediting a thirty-minute military operation for unlocking the windfall. Oct 3, morning: a filing reported Hegseth moving troops out of Europe, where the Pentagon claims no oil stake, into the hemisphere where it claims thirty-five percent....

...(cont) The New York Times, also Oct 3: "The founder of SpaceX, with billions of dollars in military contracts, joins several other defense industry executives on a Pentagon advisory board." All together now, slowly: the founder of SpaceX. With billions of dollars in military contracts. Joins a Pentagon advisory board. Nobody in that sentence is accused of a thing. The sentence is simply naming the vendor and the committee in the same breath, because the filing does.

The sentence has a prehistory, and it is dated. Sept 30, the Guardian: Hegseth appointed Musk — a year removed from his "chaotic" run atop the so-called Department of Government Efficiency — to co-lead a new task force on the future of warfare, alongside Anduril's Palmer Luckey and Newt Gingrich. Oct 1, the Guardian again: Hegseth had by then named the project Project Meridian, and the paper named the arrangement too — extraordinary influence, handed to two of the party's most significant donors, both running companies that collect federal defense money. The advisory board the Times describes two days later is a second seat, not the same seat. Hegseth gave it to the same donor anyway.

The campaign filing runs underneath, same season. Sept 3, the Washington Examiner: Musk's America PAC disclosed what it called "what appeared to be mail advertising," its first spending of the cycle, boosting Republican candidates. Sept 22, the same paper ran a former DOGE staffer's memoir as required reading, an insider's account of the last time this administration let Musk inside the building.

None of these documents contradicts any other. That is the filing, and it is already full.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

MUSK HOLDS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PENTAGON CONTRACTS, AND THE PENTAGON JUST gave him a seat on its own board for the future of warfare. That is not advice, it is the vendor cosigning his own purchase order. Because the board recommends what the military needs, because the Pentagon buys what the board recommends, because the bill for what the Pentagon buys comes out of the budget line marked "defense" withheld from a paycheck, that line gets a little heavier on the stub with your name printed above it.

"They put the guy selling rockets and satellites to the Pentagon on the board that tells the Pentagon what to buy next. That's not oversight, that's the fox doing inventory in the henhouse with a government badge clipped to his jacket. Your tax dollar writes the check for the contract, and now it writes the memo recommending the contract too."

— Sal

"Look, you want someone who actually understands rockets and drones advising on military innovation, not another career bureaucrat — Elon's just bringing private-sector expertise to a process that — wait, didn't his last turn in government end with an auditor finding an eight-billion-dollar contract that was actually eight million? That's... not landing the way I wanted it to. Let's just say the board has other members too."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Pentagon shifts troops from the hemisphere with no oil stake to the one where it claimed 35 percent.* By Ruth · the supper edition, 3 October 2026
- *Rubio's ex-housemate gets 10 years for the $50 million lobbying campaign he swore he had no idea about.* By Sal · the coffee break edition, 3 October 2026
- *Rubio testifies his roommate's $50 million Caracas lobbying operation, which drew 10 years, escaped his notice.* By Ruth · the supper edition, 2 October 2026
- *Senate asks who authorized the Pentagon's Venezuela oil stake; the record says a chatbot, over hours, in December.* By Ruth · the early bird edition, 2 October 2026
- *Senator demands Hegseth's firing; he answers with a new base, a new command and a new university partnership.* By Chip · the supper edition, 30 September 2026
- *Called inept and facing impeachment, Hegseth cuts a fifth of generals and calls it bare minimum.* By Chip · the early bird edition, 30 September 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~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...

~~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.

· 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*

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.

President posts senator's cell number over clock bill same week his convention chair admits rallies dropped votes

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



“Trump, Cotton tussle over daylight savings after cell phone number leak”, 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The president posted a sitting senator's personal cellphone number online to pressure him over a stalled daylight-saving bill.

WHO GETS PAID. The president's push for the Sunshine Protection Act gets the political win; Senator Cotton absorbs the calls.

WHAT SLIPS. A senator's personal safety and judgment slip once his home address of contact becomes a public pressure campaign run by his own party's leader.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this follows the pattern of member punishment after public breaks with the party, the next step is pressure on Cotton's seat itself; that is what happened in Kentucky after October 2025, when a primary challenge backed by the president's allies cost a seven-term incumbent the nomination by 19 May 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Saturday, the President of the United States posted a phone number on Truth Social. Not a hotline, not a press-office line — the personal cellphone of Senator Tom Cotton, a sitting Republican from Arkansas, with an instruction attached: call him, pressure him, move the Sunshine Protection Act off the Senate floor, where Cotton has it stalled. Cotton is "a friend of mine," the post said, the line that precedes the doxxing in every account of it. Fox, NBC, CBS and the Hill all ran the number within hours; a disagreement over clock changes became a crowd-sourced flood aimed at one senator's pocket, organized by his own party's president.

The week around that Saturday supplies the rest of the story, and none of it needed Cotton's help....

...(cont) On September 8th, the account posted a graphic showing the American flag drawn large enough to cover Iceland. Iceland's government summoned the U.S. ambassador that same day to ask what had happened to its country on the president's map.

Three weeks later, on September 29th, the wire reported that Canada had made permanent daylight saving time the standard across more of its territory: the Northwest Territories announced they would stop changing clocks at all, less than a week after Manitoba made the same call. No ambassador was summoned. No senator's number went out on social media. Officials there simply announced the change — "gives residents what they've asked us for" — and the clocks stop moving in November.

On September 30th, two more items landed on the same day. In audio leaked and reported by Common Dreams, Ken Paxton, the chair of Trump's own Texas convention, was caught admitting the rally "dropped our numbers" — a Republican official conceding on tape that the president's signature campaign event cost his own party votes. That same day, the Hill reported that an official letter posted under the president's name, after a meeting with AI executives, misspelled the country he runs: "Unites States."

By Saturday the pattern needed no interpretation. Canada changed its clocks without any of it.

🍺

“You want to know what power looks like when it's scared? It doesn't send a bill to committee, it posts your cell number and lets strangers do the yelling for it — that's not persuasion, that's outsourcing the threat. And the same week the guy running the country can't spell "United States" and his own convention chair admits on tape the rallies cost votes, he's picking a fight with a senator over clocks instead of fixing either one.”

— Sal

🚬

“Context matters. The president was advocating for a bill, not harassing a colleague — Cotton's a friend, the post said so right there. Did the number get posted? Technically. Did it work? The bill's still stalled, so if anything this proves the president has no real leverage over his own party, which — I should probably not be saying that part out loud.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *President whose rallies dropped his own numbers broadcasts a senator's personal number instead.* By Sal · the early bird edition, 3 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

> ~~Trump, Cotton tussle over daylight savings after cell phone number leak~~
>
> *Trump posted Cotton's phone number to pressure his vote*
>
> *The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *15:53 EDT*
>
> President Trump repeatedly berated Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) on Saturday over his stance on a daylight savings bill after posting the Republican Congress member's cell phone number on social media. In a morning Truth Social post, the president encouraged his supporters to call the senator and urge him to back legislation that would make...

· Permanent daylight saving time expands in Canada: 'Gives residents what they’ve asked us for' *from the morgue, 29 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.

Bishop who asked Trump for mercy announces resignation; Washington gets a 30-foot statue instead.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"Episcopal bishop who urged Trump to 'have mercy' to resign post in Washington DC", 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Washington's Episcopal bishop, who once asked Trump for mercy, announced she will resign her post.

WHO GETS PAID. National Park Service contractors and the Smithsonian's new statue project gain presidential attention while the bishop who criticized him departs.

WHAT SLIPS. The capital loses its one prominent religious critic of the administration, a public check with no immediate replacement named.

WHAT'S NEXT. The next calendar date is her departure on June 3, 2028, once a successor bishop is consecrated; the record does not yet say who that will be.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

OBITUARY: THE HAVE-MERCY PULPIT

Born in the days after the second inaugural, 2025, when the Episcopal bishop of Washington, Mariann Edgar Budde, used a sermon at the National Cathedral to ask the newly sworn president to have mercy on immigrants and on LGBTQ+ people....

...(cont) In September, the president shared photographs of gold-plated statues, mended fountains, and an arch rising in his own honor, all of it work he credited to National Park Service crews updating the capital under his beautification label. Days later he urged the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History to take down the abstract steel sculpture at its entrance, called Infinity, and put up in its place a thirty-foot Washington Colossus.

This week, a different kind of notice arrived. Budde told her diocese she is leaving the post on June 3, 2028, once her successor is consecrated and ordained — more than three years after the sermon, timed so the seat is never without a bishop, only ever, eventually, without her.

Born: a sentence, January 2025. Died: by her own letter, June 3, 2028. Survived by: the pulpit itself, which does not resign; whoever is consecrated into it next; a diocese that watched its one quoted request for mercy outlast the news cycle that made it famous. Preceded, in its way, by the abstract sculpture at the museum door, which the president asked to be replaced with a man thirty feet tall.

Washington keeps adding statues. It is getting a new one, Colossus-sized, where an abstract shape used to turn in the wind. The ask for mercy gets a succession plan instead — a hogwash arrangement by which the pulpit stays filled on schedule and the man who was asked keeps deciding what gets built around it.

In lieu of flowers, read the letter in full before the new bishop is seated.

"She asks the president to have mercy, and a season later the capital's getting gold-plated statues and a thirty-foot George Washington instead of an answer. That's not beautification, that's a receipt: money for the monument, silence for the ask. Watch what gets funded while the one person who said the quiet part out loud packs up her office."

— Sal

"Beautifying the capital and one bishop's retirement calendar are two completely unrelated items; I don't know why people keep stapling them together. The president is simply restoring dignity to the monuments — a thirty-foot Colossus is just scale, not a statement, scale is not a statement. Did I just say a thirty-foot statue isn't a statement? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

> *But:* **The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them** *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
>
> Episcopal bishop who urged Trump to 'have mercy' to resign post in Washington DC
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *17:21 EDT*
>
> Mariann Budde gained national attention for calling on US president to consider immigrants and LGBTQ+ people Rev Mariann Edgar Budde, the Episcopal bishop of Washington DC who gained national attention when she called on Donald Trump to " have mercy " on the country's immigrants and LGBTQ+ community after his second inauguration, is...

· Trump demands Smithsonian honor George Washington with new statue and exhibition *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

· Trump posts updates about his DC 'beautification' projects *from the morgue, 7 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.

A lawmaker writes the Flock ban; a judge enforces it case by case while it waits in committee.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



"Judge rules Flock cameras violate the Fourth Amendment", 3 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On August 28th, Judge Rita Lin in the Northern District of California ruled that the Pentagon's blacklisting of the artificial-intelligence firm Anthropic was illegal retaliation for constitutionally protected speech, a First Amendment and Due Process violation. The next day, in that same federal district, Judge Noël Wise found the administration had violated the Constitution again — this time two clauses at once, First Amendment and Fifth, in moving to deport international students who had criticized the war in Gaza.

Five days later, on September 3rd, Representative Thomas Massie introduced the Flock-Off Act, a bill that would cut off federal funding for the purchase, installation, maintenance, or upgrade of automated license-plate readers and biometric surveillance cameras used by local police departments. It went to committee. It is still there....

...(cont) Two weeks after that, on September 16th, Judge Rudolph Contreras ruled that the Department of Homeland Security could no longer send warning notices to a New York man whose offense was sending a critical email to ICE — a third First Amendment finding in three weeks, this one aimed not at a company or a campus but at an ordinary citizen's inbox.

Then, on Friday, October 3rd, Judge Sara E. Hill, an Oklahoma federal judge, added a fourth amendment to the government's growing docket of violations: the Fourth. A Tulsa County sheriff's deputy, she ruled, had no business pulling weeks of a driver's travel history out of Flock Safety's camera network without a warrant. She warned the practice risks building a nationwide "dragnet," the word regulators reach for when the net is built for everyone, not just a suspect.

None of the four needed a jury, a hearing, or a committee markup, because the fix for at least one of them — the camera network itself — was already sitting written on paper since September 3rd, in a bill restricting exactly the technology Judge Hill just flagged.

The bill does not need discovery or testimony. It needs a committee chair to schedule a vote. Instead the work keeps getting done the slow way, one deputy, one plaintiff, one docket number at a time, while the tool built to do it for everyone sits a floor below, collecting dust.

"Four federal judges in five weeks told the government it broke the Constitution a different way each time, and the fix for one of those ways is a bill just sitting in a drawer since September. That's not gridlock, that's a choice — somebody decided the camera company keeps its federal money flowing while your license plate history gets read like a diary. You pay for the cameras, you pay for the lawyers when they lose, and the only guy who tried to stop it gets ignored by his own committee."

— Sal

"Look, these cameras help departments solve real crimes, that's just a fact — nobody's denying law enforcement needs modern tools. And committees take time, that's how the process works, you don't just rush a funding bill because — wait, it's been a month, that's not exactly rushing. The point is the courts are handling it fine case by case, so really there's no urgency here at all. Did I say no urgency? There's clearly some urgency, forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*

Judge rules Flock cameras violate the Fourth Amendment

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *13:02 EDT*

A federal judge has ruled that a Tulsa County sheriff's deputy violated the Fourth Amendment when he used Flock license plate reader technology to access weeks of a driver's travel history, warning that the system risks creating a nationwide "dragnet" of mass surveillance. U.S.

Federal judge rules warrantless Flock camera searches may violate 4th Amendment

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *17:43 EDT*

An Oklahoma federal judge ruled Friday that warrantless searches using AI-powered surveillance camera data, such as what Flock Safety's hallmark technology collects, may violate the Fourth Amendment without adequate probable cause. "Freedom from persistent, dragnet-style surveillance while in public is not a foreign concept in our...

· DHS's 'warning notice' to ICE critic 'likely' violated First Amendment: Federal judge *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Judge Rules the Trump Admin Can't Deport International Students for Free Speech *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

· Judge rules Pentagon's supply chain risk designation for Anthropic was illegal *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Massie unveils Flock-Off Act aimed at restricting surveillance cameras *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.

A federal judge is questioning the antitrust settlement that's supposed to end Warner Bros. as a standalone studio.

By **MORT**
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"'Digger,' Warner Bros.' Last Release Before Merger, Is a Major Flop", 3 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A federal judge questioned a settlement clearing Paramount Skydance's purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery on September 24.

WHO GETS PAID. Paramount Skydance and its chief executive, David Ellison, stand to finish their $111 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery once the settlement holds.

WHAT SLIPS. The court's independent check on the merger slips, since the settlement was already announced and called a landmark before the judge finished deciding whether it meets antitrust law.

WHAT'S NEXT. The judge has not ruled. If she rejects the settlement, the $111 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery stays blocked until she does.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Warner Bros., the last major studio still answering to no one but itself, died at the finish line of its own merger this month, at the exact moment a federal judge stopped taking the settlement's word for it. It is survived by that judge, who on September 24 used a virtual hearing to ask, in open court, whether the deal that is supposed to clear Paramount Skydance's $111 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery actually satisfies federal antitrust law. The question remains open.

It is an odd question to still be asking this late. Wire copy that day filed it as a landmark settlement, the word doing the studio's public relations for it. The hearing three days later did not treat the matter as settled law. It treated it as unfinished business....

...(cont) Warner Bros. is preceded in death by its own last picture. "Digger," starring Tom Cruise, opened the same week the judge was still weighing the settlement, and brought in an estimated $8 million its first weekend — on track to lose the studio an estimated $125 million, the kind of arithmetic that makes "landmark" sound like penny-ante malarkey. A studio that spent a century selling tickets closed out its solo run unable to move eight million dollars of them in three days.

Cause of death is listed as merger, pending. What dies here is not Warner Bros. the asset; that part survives, folded into a bigger company under new ownership. What dies is Warner Bros. the standalone decision-maker, the outfit whose last independent judgment was a greenlight that lost nine figures before anyone outside a courtroom had finished checking the paperwork on how it got sold.

🍺

"They settle with the states, settle with the writers, call it a landmark the same day, and three days later the judge they still need to sign off is the one asking out loud if any of it holds up legally. Meanwhile the one movie this company greenlit on its own before the sale lost $125 million — that is the company's last decision as itself, and it is a bad one. When the ink is not even dry and the judge is already skeptical, the "clearing" was for headlines, not the courtroom."

— Sal

🚬

"This is just standard process, the judge is doing due diligence, nothing unusual about a federal court actually reading a settlement before approving it. And the movie underperforming — that's Hollywood, that happens, it has nothing to do with whether the merger itself makes sense. Although, I guess if the studio can't greenlight one movie right before the sale without losing nine figures, maybe that is relevant to the price. Forget I said that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

'Digger,' Warner Bros.' Last Release Before Merger, Is a Major Flop
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *19:44 EDT*

The film, starring Tom Cruise, grossed an estimated $8 million in its opening weekend. That could put the movie on track to lose at least $125 million.

· Paramount Settles States' Lawsuit, Clearing Way for Warner Bros. Merger *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Paramount-Warner Bros. merger not a done deal as judge questions settlement *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Paramount Skydance reaches settlement with states over Warner Bros. merger *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Paramount settles antitrust lawsuits over Warner Bros. merger: Report *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

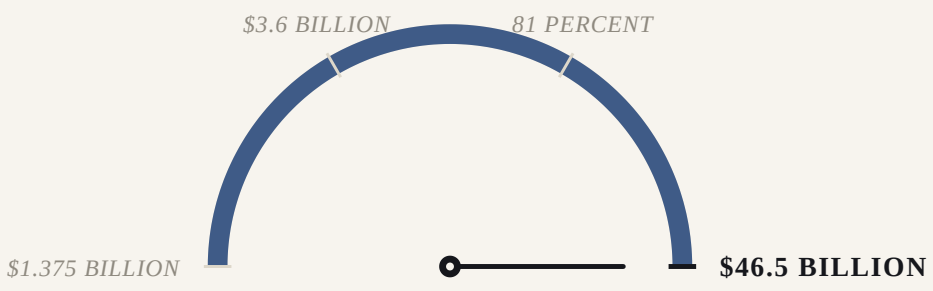
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§50 — 03 OCTOBER 2026

On who pays

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$46.5 BILLION

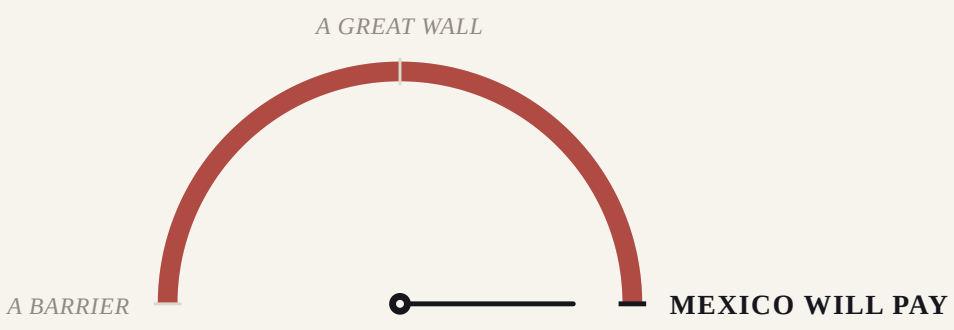
The payer. In March 2016 Mexico's treasury secretary said "Mexico will under no circumstance pay for the wall" [1]. That August, after meeting Mexico's president, Trump said of payment, "We didn't discuss that"; the Mexican president said within hours that he had told him at the start Mexico would not pay [2].

So the bill went elsewhere. The February 2019 plan paired $1.375 billion from Congress, for about 55 miles, with up to $8.1 billion moved from other accounts: $601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, up to $2.5 billion in counterdrug money, and up to $3.6 billion reallocated from military construction [3]. And the 81 percent of first-term miles that replaced existing barrier, rather than going where none stood [4]. Then the July 2025 law appropriated $46.5 billion for barriers, available through September 30, 2029 [5]. Mexico will pay. The appropriation says who did.

SOURCES

1. "Mexico will under no circumstance pay for the wall that Mr. Trump is proposing" — Global News, 3 March 2016 ↑
2. "We didn't discuss that"; the Mexican president said he had stated at the start that Mexico would not pay — NPR, 31 August 2016 ↑
3. "$1.375 billion for approximately 55 miles"; $601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund; up to $2.5 billion in counterdrug funds; up to $3.6 billion from military construction — White House fact sheet, 15 February 2019 — American Presidency Project ↑
4. 81 percent of barrier built replaced existing barriers — Government Accountability Office, GAO-23-105443, 5 September 2023 ↑
5. "$46.5 billion … available through September 30, 2029" for border barriers — TIME, 6 August 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



MEXICO WILL PAY

The promise, from the announcement in June 2015: "I will build a great, great wall on our southern border and I will have Mexico pay for that wall" [1]. The first half is the part to take seriously, because it happened. By the end of the first term about 458 miles of barrier had been built [2]. Since January 2025, Customs and Border Protection reports 59 new miles of primary wall and 42 of secondary [3].

The case for the wall is that a border is a line and a line needs a barrier, and on miles, the promise delivered something a voter can drive out and touch. The second half of the sentence is the one with a payer in it. That half is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "I will build a great, great wall on our southern border and I will have Mexico pay for that wall" — campaign announcement, 16 June 2015 — Roll Call / Factba.se ↑
2. About 458 miles of border barrier built, 81 percent of it replacing existing barriers — Government Accountability Office, GAO-23-105443, 5 September 2023 ↑
3. "59 new miles of primary wall and 42 miles of secondary wall" since January 2025, per CBP — TIME, 6 August 2026 ↑

“I'm just going to read the payers, in order. Congress, 2019: one point three seven five billion, about fifty-five miles. The Treasury forfeiture fund: six hundred one million. Counterdrug money: up to two and a half billion. Military construction: up to three point six billion. Congress again, last year: forty-six and a half billion, available through 2029. Sorry — I'm leaving, I'm leaving — that's the whole list. Which line on it is Mexico?” — Lou

🍺

“"I will have Mexico pay for that wall." Mexico's treasury secretary said "under no circumstance" in 2016, and they meant it. So the first term paid for it out of military construction money, drug-war money, and a forfeiture fund. Then last summer Congress wrote a check for forty-six and a half billion dollars. Mexico did pay for the wall. Mexico is a code name for you.”

— Sal

🚬

“Mexico is paying indirectly, through the economic benefits of a secure border, which show up in the budget under a different heading, the one that says United States.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎