FROM EACH

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

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

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

BY MITCH
Investigations

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

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

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

... Continued on Page F5

The Week

27 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2026 · RANKED BY THE WIRE

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

Outlets are distinct sources across the house's receipts; versions are how many times the house wrote it. The desks divide the list; a story the house runs straight is counted and not joked.

THE WEEK'S WORDS

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

TACO TUESDAY

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

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

THE WORD

§50 — 03 OCTOBER 2026

On who pays

DEMOCRAT | REPUBLICAN

$46.5 BILLION | *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.

... Continued on Page W50

§ §

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

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

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

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

... Continued on Page F4

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

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

BY RUTH

... Continued on Page B1

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

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

BY LOU
One More Question

Who stopped the plane.

I put that question to a fellow Wednesday night and he

... Continued on Page T2

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

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

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

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

... Continued on Page H2

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Ohio State receiver Jeremiah Smith called himself the best player in the country after a record-setting game.

WHO GETS PAID. Sportsbooks taking Heisman odds on Smith's name profit from the attention his own declaration created.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No further date appears in the receipts; the only test left is whether the record and the odds hold through the rest of the season.

On Jeremiah Smith declares himself the best player in the country; the record book agrees, 34 games early. — the column, by Gus. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

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

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

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

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

... Continued on Page S2

§

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

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

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

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

... Continued on Page F3

ASK VIVIAN

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

— this paper

❦ FROM THE MAILBAG ❦

Dear Vivian,

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

⁂

— Counting Heads in Hershey. Vivian answers on E5 ☞

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

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

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

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

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

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

... Continued on Page F2

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

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

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

... Continued on Page S3

Fox blames open borders for France's riots; its own wire blamed them on school funding.

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

On Saturday's Big Weekend Show, the host called France's student riots "a cautionary tale" for the United States, the kind of unrest open borders are supposed to produce somewhere down the line. It is a tidy thesis, and the wire this network filed three days earlier gets in its way before the host finishes the sentence.

Start where the facts start, on October 1st. This outlet's own dispatch that day was headlined "hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide," and it quoted officials warning of "outside agitators." Outside agitators — meaning inside the country, not outside the border. That is a claim about domestic troublemakers, filed by this network's own reporters, and it is the opposite of the claim the host would make three days later. Put the open-borders line next to that sentence. It does not — it does not survive contact with its own wire.

The same day, the Washington Examiner filed its account of the same unrest

... Continued on Page A2

Head Start's homeless-child priority proven to work, proposed for deletion anyway.

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 of the line.

On August 27, The Nation reported what the administration's proposed rule change would do with that instruction. Undo it. Completely.

On September 15, Democrats pressed HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy

... Continued on Page F6

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

Five men were arrested near RAF Fairford, bailed the next day, and by October a sixth was bailed too while two more Iranian men were charged in a separate Manchester plot and two Iranian diplomats were finally sent home from New York. That isn't an investigation closing in on anyone, it's a catch-and-release loop with a press office attached. Because the suspects keep walking out the same door they walked in through, and because the base they were arrested near still runs on the same guard rotation it ran last month, the airman's spouse still waves her badge through the Fairford gate every morning on the same honor system that let the vans get that close in the first place.

⁂

On Sixth Fairford suspect freed on bail as UK charges two Iranian men in Manchester plot, U.S. expels diplomats *— the column, by Mitch*

President couldn't flip a Republican senator's vote on daylight time, so he flipped his phone number public.

BY SAL
Staff Writer

That friction between the party's own candidates and its own president is the backdrop for what the president would do to one of his own senators three weeks later.

Twenty days after that, Canada supplied the comparison. On September 29th, officials in the Northwest Territories announced that clocks there will not "fall back" in November, becoming the standard — less than a week after Manitoba officials said daylight saving time there would become permanent too. The Hill's own headline on it called the change what residents "asked us for."

... Continued on Page A3

SOURCED OR SILENT

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

— this paper

THE LEDGER

Tennessee hired a chief after four botched executions, got a fifth, named a sixth official to explain it.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The hiring file came first, and it is still the first fact on this page: Tennessee brought in Frank Strada to run its prisons with four botched executions already logged against him from his years overseeing Arizona's death chamber. That hire is dated earlier than everything that follows.

The Supreme Court cleared the next step on September 30, allowing Tennessee to execute Christa Pike, the state's only woman on death row, for the 1995 murder of Colleen Slemmer.

... Continued on Page F7

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 hap-

... Continued on Page F8

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

... Continued on Page F9

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

Sixth Fairford suspect freed on bail as UK charges two Iranian men in Manchester plot, U.S. expels diplomats

BY MITCH
Investigations

Mitch, investigations. Every caper needs an itinerary, so follow the paper with me: arrest, bail, charge, expel. Four filings, one October.

By Monday the 28th, bail paperwork was already signed and all five were released — the same Monday President Trump told reporters, of London's handling, "I wouldn't have done that," a day after he'd praised the arrest itself. Praise one day, complaint the next, same case file: all together now — that's the whole arc of a single news cycle.

Two days later, on September 30th, Prime Minister Andy Burnham told the Washington Examiner there were "indications" Iran "played a part," and defended the bail releases anyway.

Then, on October 3rd, the docket grew three lines at once. First: a 25-year-old UK-Iranian national, arrested separately in what police called a "security incident" near the base, had two London properties searched — and was released on bail,

... Continued on Page A4

Today

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The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4
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Obituaries	B4
Entertainment	D1

"

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

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

SAL READS THE FRONT

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

— Sal

CHIP READS THE FRONT

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

— Chip

LOST The East Wing. Last seen April, near a bulldozer. *If found, do not return. He's redecorating.* **— Classifieds**

LOST Measles, eliminated in the year 2000, since recovered. *Reward for its re-loss. Ask a kindergarten.* **— Classifieds**

LOST $1.17 billion in Secret Service funds. Last seen heading toward a ballroom. *Finder's fee negotiable, out of your taxes.* **— Classifieds**

A man shouts at the door
he has already unlocked.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

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

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

Musk advises the Pentagon that pays SpaceX billions in contracts

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

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

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *13:27 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *08:00 EDT*

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

Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI

Daily Caller RIGHT § *14:13 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*

· 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN investigators conclude 'reasonable grounds' to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump says he has a 'big decision coming up' on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world's No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· The Hitchhiker's Guide to Massie saying Johnson is sending the House home early to prevent Hegseth impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'You're Elected to Fight and Kill the Other Side': How Congress Lost Its Way *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Army combat veteran challenging Mike Lawler calls Hegseth national security 'hazard,' backs impeachment *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Former Air Force secretary: Hegseth's Pentagon 'dysfunctional' *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· House Republicans split over leaving Washington early for campaign trail *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

· Fossil Fuel Advertising Contracts Hit Record High as Big Oil Pockets Billions From Iran War *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· 'How are we gonna get through this?' Many Americans are struggling as prices rise *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Top Oil Stocks Have Made Him Up to $4.4 Million Richer During Iran War: Analysis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Gas prices reach Labor Day high amid Iran war *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump Hammered Over Iran War That Drove Gas Prices Above $4 Per Gallon Every Day in August for First Time Ever *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Warsh under pressure as Fed weighs rate hike *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Inflation held at 3.4% in August in consumer price index, creating tough choice for Warsh Fed *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Warsh indicates Fed could raise rates to cool inflation *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· Key U.S. Bond Rate Near 20-Year High as Oil Prices Keep Climbing *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-year Treasury yield hits highest level since 2007, oil surges above $105 as Fed expected to hike interest rates *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits 14-month high as bond yields keep rising *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Benchmark mortgage rate hits highest mark in over a year *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

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

· Massie Moves to Force Impeachment Vote Against Hegseth, Citing Civilian Deaths *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· GOP Rep Thomas Massie introduces 8 articles of impeachment against War Secretary Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Thomas Massie Forces Vote To Impeach Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Pete Hegseth Faces Growing Criticism as War With Iran Rolls On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

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

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

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *12:10 EDT*

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee has now botched two executions this year

Truthout § *13:42 EDT*

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

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

New York Post RIGHT § *16:46 EDT*

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

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

Trump fired him within the hour of his swearing-in

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *18:58 EDT*

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

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.

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 Pauses Executions After a Botched Lethal Injection

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

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

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

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

New York Post RIGHT § *23:48 EDT*

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

Judge reinstates Washington state US attorney fired by Trump

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *18:27 EDT*

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

~~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...

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

Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her Wednesday night

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:36 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

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

Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:58 EDT*

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

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

Truthout § *14:08 EDT*

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

Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *10:47 EDT*

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

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

Daily Caller RIGHT § *15:32 EDT*

'Critically ill but not in a coma.'

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *17:24 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee's botched execution left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized

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

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

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

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

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

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

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...

Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *12:00 EDT*

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

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

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

Fox News RIGHT § *22:25 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee tried to kill her with pentobarbital. She survived.

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *15:29 EDT*

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

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*

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

How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:04 EDT*

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

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

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

Fox News RIGHT § *17:43 EDT*

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

Am I Lying to Myself About the Death Penalty?

National Review RIGHT § *13:00 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *15:53 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *19:16 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *14:14 EDT*

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

Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:00 EDT*

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

Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim

Truthout § *15:46 EDT*

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

Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions

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

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

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

Fox News RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:23 EDT*

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *15:22 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee botched her execution; she's hospitalized

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

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

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

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *13:48 EDT*

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

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

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

Common Dreams § *13:16 EDT*

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

~~Botched execution of death row inmate~~

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

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *19:50 EDT*

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

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

Trump administration ordered to disclose legal basis for lethal boat strikes

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:59 EDT*

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

Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's botched execution

New York Post RIGHT § *11:34 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:59 EDT*

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

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *16:26 EDT*

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

What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution

National Review RIGHT § *06:30 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *09:48 EDT*

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

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:17 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Many Americans are relying on multiple forms of credit to cover expenses. When is it a warning sign? *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump gave 'the red meat,' Vance was playing for independents: Bob Cusack *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Fox News's Baier presses Vance on Trump's $5K dividend promise *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Pritzker: Vance is Trump's 'chief bootlicker' *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Bessent Defends Faltering Bond Market Intervention *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent says Treasury is 'examining' ability to cut $5,000 checks without Congress *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Bessent's move to tamp down rising rates backfires as bond yields jump, stocks tumble *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· The bond market is revolting — and your mortgage is the first casualty *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Fiscal hawks skeptical of Bessent's claim that US can 'grow our way out' of $40 trillion debt *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Bessent blasts Warren's 'sciolistic' letter about yen policy *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia district attorney insinuates Trump is a '35-time felon,' calling $5,000 dividend a bribe *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Soros-funded Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad Thursday *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Voters have a blunt message for Trump about his idea to dole out $5,000 checks *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Why Donald Trump has a Joe Biden problem *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Does Trump have a 'Biden problem' on the economy? *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 dividend falls flat with GOP senators *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Trump sees backlash over $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump plan to raise debt limit on shaky ground *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· 5 things to know about Trump's $5K dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Vance strikes back at concern $5,000 Trump dividend will stoke debt: 'Wealth will go back to the people' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Marshall backtracks on support for $5,000 Trump dividend in Kansas Senate debate *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

· Vance and MAGA Inc. work to defend Roger Marshall in redder Kansas *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Roger Marshall Sued 700 Patients for Debts; 81 Were Arrested. Now He's a Senator. *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Conservatives would scream 'bloody murder' if Democratic president offered dividend to maintain power: Guy Benson *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Will Trump's payout promises boost Republican appeal to white women? *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Republicans need a Reagan-style vision to win the battle over America's future *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Trump's promised $5,000 'dividend' checks: What to know *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Reckless $5,000 'Dividend' *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Republicans bet the House on Trump *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Axelrod dismisses the idea of the proposed $5000 'Trump dividend' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump pledges $5K 'Trump dividend' if Republicans hold onto Congress *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump says $5K dividend checks to Americans will 'happen 100 percent' *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Lawler deflects on supporting Trump's $5K dividend pledge: 'How do you pay for it?' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· GOP rep says priority 'needs to be the military,' not $5K checks *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Susan Collins calls Trump's $5,000 dividend proposal with no cap 'extraordinarily costly' *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Bret Baier presses Paxton on Trump $5K dividend payment support *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Gavin Newsom calls Trump's $5K voter payout 'bulls—' and a 'desperate' power grab *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Trump pitches $5,000 checks, but only if GOP wins House and Senate *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 payments would reignite inflation, economists say *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Why Trump's promised $5,000 payments to Americans are unlikely to happen *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Bond yields rise modestly after Trump's dividend pledge *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· GOP leaders blindsided by Trump's promise of $5K checks *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump promises Obamacare rebates to people in swing states *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Steve Scalise says details of $5,000 dividends would "obviously have to be worked out by Congress" *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump's $5,000 dividend pledge divides Republicans over spending *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Many Republicans skeptical about Trump plan to tie $5,000 dividends to GOP wins *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Anger Grows Over 'Pathological Liar-in-Chief' Donald Trump's $5,000 Midterm Bribes *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Spiking Bond Yields Pay the Rich and Squeeze Everyone Else *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump-aligned group releases first midterm ads — and they're all about him *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· The Memo: Bond market turmoil heightens midterm risks for Trump and GOP *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump's Plan To Cut $5,000 Checks For Americans Not Landing With Many Midterm Convention Attendees *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Texas Democrat Gina Hinojosa backs Trump's $5,000 dividend but rejects conditional payout *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Voters may accept Trump's bribes, but the bond markets aren't biting *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· In Trump's Second Term, Average US Family Forced to Spend $3,800 More on Essentials *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*

· Why not to bank on Trump's $5,000 dividend checks happening *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Trump shares details on $5,000 dividend with CBS News Texas *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Some Republicans Balk at Trump's $5,000 'Dividend' Offer *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· The political risk behind Trump's $5,000 pledge: From the Politics Desk *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Bob Cusack raises concerns over Trump's $5,000 check proposal: 'Deficits matter, debt matters' *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

· Global sell-off in government bonds intensifies *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump vs. the Bond Market *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

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

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

· Trump gambles big on midterm elections with convention spotlight *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Vulnerable Republicans divided over wisdom of Trump's midterm convention *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Republican strategist knocks Trump for not spending more on GOP candidates *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Republicans ready for 'very hasty' 'Trump-a-palooza' convention in Texas *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· Some Republicans are planning to skip Trump's GOP convention *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Trump promises $5,000 'dividend' for adult Americans if Republicans win midterms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*

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

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

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Who stopped the plane.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

Brazilian voters heading to the poll this weekend say Lula is turning the country into 'another Venezuela'

New York Post RIGHT § *10:00 EDT*

This election is turning into a Carnaval.

Lula and Bolsonaro make final push for votes ahead of Brazil's knife-edge election

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *16:16 EDT*

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his main challenger Flavio Bolsonaro wrapped up their campaigns on Saturday in the powerhouse state of Sao Paulo, where a fifth of the nation's vote is based, seeking to rally supporters and convince the undecided on the eve of Sunday's nail-biter election.

Co-pilot stabs captain, tries to crash FlyDubai flight en route to Israel

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:38 EDT*

Israel leader Benjamin Netanyahu says the FlyDubai co-pilot who allegedly stabbed the captain and tried to crash the plane had undergone "Islamist radical indoctrination."

~~Alarm Grows Over 'Clearly Illegal' Trump-Rubio Election Meddling in Brazil~~

Trump, Rubio interfere for Bolsonaro's son against Lula, spy agency confirms

Common Dreams § *11:09 EDT*

Brazilian officials, pro-democracy advocates, and US lawmakers are growing increasingly concerned about apparent efforts by President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio to interfere in the Latin American country's upcoming election. Reuters reported Wednesday that Brazil's spy agency "confirmed the existence of interference...

Flavio Bolsonaro: In the name of the father, sons, and holy ideology

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *05:48 EDT*

The first round of Brazil's presidential election on Sunday pits two well-known names in the political ring: Lula vs. Bolsonaro. But it's not former president Jair Bolsonaro facing off against the incumbent head of state – it's his eldest son, Flavio Bolsonaro.

Netanyahu says it's too early to determine motive in cockpit stabbing

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *08:56 EDT*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated to CBS News that the motive of the Flydubai co-pilot accused of stabbing his fellow pilot on a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv is still unknown.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to preserve evidence of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*

Mamdani says it was 'strange' getting called out by Netanyahu after calling for his arrest

Fox News RIGHT § *19:45 EDT*

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani told Theo Von he was stunned when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called him out by name during a United Nations General Assembly address.

Trump thanks man who helped save Flydubai flight: 'What a job he did, he's a hero'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *11:19 EDT*

President Trump on Friday morning thanked the Israeli plumber, Yaniv Hayoun, who intervened after a pilot stabbed his co-pilot and attempted to crash a Flydubai flight this week. In a video message shared on Truth Social, the president praised Hayoun, saying he "did an amazing job." "He's my kind of guy,"

But: Antisemitic incidents in 2025: 6,274 - the third-highest year since tracking began in 1979, with assaults at a record high *ADL, 2025 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*

"Grotesque": Ex-Israeli Negotiator Daniel Levy on Netanyahu's U.N. Speech & Israel's Impunity

Democracy Now! § *08:18 EDT*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a half-empty chamber at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, after dozens of delegations walked out in protest at the start of his speech. Netanyahu assailed his critics as "antisemites," defended his country's conduct in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, and lavished...

Why has Brazil accused the US of election interference?

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *09:52 EDT*

The Latin American country will vote for its next president, as Lula da Silva and Bolsonaro clash over sovereignty, security and ties with Washington.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to "prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence" of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*

Mamdani calls for US to join ICC, arrest Netanyahu during Theo Von podcast appearance: 'Architect of a horrific genocide'

New York Post RIGHT § *01:06 EDT*

"If I had my say, the US government would have joined the ICC and honored every single warrant that they've issued," Mamdani declared on Theo Von's podcast, "This Past Weekend."

~~Lula Campaign Asks to Probe Sudden US Shutdown of Consular Services as 'Interference in Brazilian Elections'~~

Brazil's intelligence agency confirms US interference to help elect Bolsonaro's son

Common Dreams § *16:14 EDT*

Just two days before Brazil's closely watched presidential election, the campaign of its left-wing president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has asked the nation's top election court to examine the sudden shutdown of US consular services as part of a broader investigation into alleged election "interference" by the Trump administration. On...

US suspends consular services in Brazil due to security concerns

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:29 EDT*

The U.S. halted consular services in Brazil Friday due to rising security concerns ahead of the country's presidential election on Sunday. "Consular Services in the U.S.

Flydubai hijacker previously barred from flying by Oman over radical beliefs: Report

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *18:11 EDT*

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

'Crazy' FlyDubai landing explained by Israeli pilot, who offers steps to prevent future crises

Fox News RIGHT § *14:13 EDT*

Eliran Almog, a former Israeli pilot and aviation cybersecurity CEO, explains why FlyDubai flight 1073's emergency landing was nearly impossible.

Flydubai co-pilot attacked captain with crash axe in hijacking

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:11 EDT*

The Flydubai co-pilot accused of attacking the captain of a Tel Aviv-bound flight earlier this week allegedly used the cockpit's "crash axe" in the assault and has been identified as a 29-year-old Omani national. The co-pilot attempted to "take control of the aircraft"

Trump gushes over blue-collar flydubai hero who thwarted hijacking terrorist, says 'he can be my plumber'

New York Post RIGHT § *12:50 EDT*

Donald Trump praised Israeli plumber Yaniv Hayoun, who saved 170 lives by subduing a co-pilot trying to crash a Flydubai flight to Tel Aviv.

But: The ICJ ordered Israel in January 2024 to "prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence" of alleged genocide in Gaza *ICJ provisional measures order, 26 January 2024 (via ASIL)*

Mamdani rips Netanyahu's UN jab as Gaza distraction: 'Not about me and him'

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *22:34 EDT*

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was trying to distract the world from the humanitarian crisis in Gaza when Netanyahu openly criticized Mamdani at the U.N. General Assembly last week. "All of this is an attempt to distract from responsibility.

Co-pilot attacker had been banned from flying over his radical views

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *19:29 EDT*

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

~~US Meddling in Brazil May Decide Latin America's Future~~

Flávio Bolsonaro is counting on Trump's help to win Brazil's election

Jacobin § *08:00 EDT*

Brazil's presidential election is on a knife-edge. Right-winger Flávio Bolsonaro has powerful interests on his side but is also counting on the Trump administration's help to push him over the line.

A Bloody Attack on a FlyDubai Plane Headed to Israel, and a Terrifying Plunge

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:56 EDT*

"I don't deserve to die like this," said one passenger on Flight 1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. The motive of the cockpit stabbing remains unknown, officials said.

In Brazil's Elections, Trump Seeks to Tighten Right Wing Grip on the Americas

Truthout § *11:30 EDT*

The US has been heavily intervening on behalf of right wing challenger Flávio Bolsonaro ahead of Sunday's elections.

While America debates who belongs, a Hindu captain and Jewish passengers just stopped a hijacking

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*

While Americans argue about which religious minorities belong in our national life, a Hindu of Indian origin captain and Jewish Israeli passengers offered a more consequential answer: They helped keep everyone on board Flydubai Flight FZ1073 alive. On Sept. 30, Flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv became the scene of an apparent attempt...

How newsrooms turned an attempted hijacking into a 'brawl' (and killed public trust)

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*

Imagine sitting on an airplane at 34,000 feet. Breakfast has been served. You are flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv with more than 170 other people, most of them Israelis.

Suspect in FlyDubai incident was previously identified as security risk: Officials

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *11:38 EDT*

The co-pilot of the FlyDubai plane who allegedly attacked its captain is an Omani national who was previously suspended by Oman Air as a security risk, sources say.

Flydubai pilot attacked captain with cockpit's crash ax in attempted terrorist act, UAE official says

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *05:25 EDT*

TEL AVIV — A Flydubai pilot attacked his flight captain using a crash ax and tried to take control of the aircraft's controls in an attempted terrorist attack, an official with the United Arab Emirates said Saturday.

FlyDubai co-pilot accused of stabbing captain identified as 29-year-old Omani national

Fox News RIGHT § *06:17 EDT*

Hamam al-Hammami, the 29-year-old FlyDubai co-pilot accused of stabbing the captain on a Tel Aviv-bound flight, was previously grounded by Oman Air in 2024.

Flydubai co-pilot used crash ax to hack at pilot in attempted 'terrorist attack': UAE official

New York Post RIGHT § *07:50 EDT*

UAE prosecutors say flydubai co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami used a crash axe to attack the pilot in an attempted hijack of an Israel-bound flight.

Israeli Opposition Accuses Netanyahu Of Being Too Pro-Palestine

Daily Caller RIGHT § *21:25 EDT*

'This isn't AI'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Netanyahu rips Mamdani and calls Hamas terrorists mayor's 'buddies' *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· https://www.foxnews.com/media/netanyahu-praises-heroic-bystander-bloody-cockpit-attack-preventing-another-9-11 *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/30/world-news/netanyahu-credits-heroic-israeli-plumber-on-flydubai-flight-for-preventing-another-9-11-vows-to-find-out-if-iran-was-behind-attack/ *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/video/netanyahu-alleged-flydubai-pilot-stabbing-dont-think-hijacking/ *the receipt*

· As Netanyahu Threatens Libel Suit, Haaretz 'Stands By Its Reporting' on 10/7 Attack *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Netanyahu Vows to Strip Citizenship From Israelis Who Criticise the IDF *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· New York Times Affirms Haaretz Report: Netanyahu Was Warned About Oct. 7 *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/video/extended-interview-benjamin-netanyahu-discusses-alleged-pilot-stabbing-on-flight-to-israel/ *the receipt*

· https://www.nytimes.com/2026/09/30/world/middleeast/flydubai-dubai-israel-flight-diverted.html *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/30/world-news/flydubai-passenger-still-covered-in-blood-meets-netanyahu-as-passengers-arrive-in-israel-after-hijacking-attempt/ *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/world/4748090/benjamin-netanyahu-flydubai-plane-hijacking-pilot-stabbing/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/30/world-news/israel-confirms-pilot-arrested-for-attempting-to-crash-plane-in-jihadist-terrorist-attack/ *the receipt*

· https://abcnews.com/International/flight-tel-aviv-diverted-saudi-arabia-after-incident/story?id=136880832 *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/29/opinion/michael-goodwin-mamdani-unveils-new-nyc-antisemitism-strategy-but-cant-hide-his-hatred-for-israel/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/29/us-news/hochul-dodges-weighing-in-on-mamdanis-antisemitism-plan/ *the receipt*

· Mamdani Accuses Netanyahu of Spreading 'Baseless Lies' After U.N. Speech *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Michael Rapaport rips NYC Mayor Mamdani during Jewish gathering outside Gracie Mansion *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/world/4746651/netanyahu-warns-attack-against-israel-before-election/ *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/world/4746584/benjamin-netanyahu-muslim-nations-secret-uae-visit/ *the receipt*

· Netanyahu calls claim he was warned of Oct. 7 attack "malicious libel" *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· https://nypost.com/2026/09/27/us-news/snl-roasts-mayor-zohran-mamdani-with-urgent-message-for-new-yorkers-during-noreaster/ *the receipt*

· Watchdog Thanks Mamdani for Release of 9/11 Air Quality Files Hidden From Public for Years *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Families of 9/11 victims' message to Mamdani: 'Please do not come' to memorial ceremony *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump to visit Mamdani in New York City for first meeting on mayor's turf *from the morgue, 20 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 unwritten rule that you do not schedule ordnance around a ballot died at no fixed age, survived by a bombing moved to after the midterms and by the chamber that went home for seven weeks without voting on the war.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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· CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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· 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*

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· Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

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· Former Air Force secretary says he 'couldn't serve' in Trump administration *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

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· Republican Rep. Massie moves to impeach Defense Secretary Hegseth over Iran war *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

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· 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*

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.

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

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

HOT MIC MOMENT

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

GUS HIS SIDE

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

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

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

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

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

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

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

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



"Jeremiah Smith snags more Ohio State records, hits Heisman pose after setting school TD, receptions marks", 3 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA CBS SPORTS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Ohio State receiver Jeremiah Smith called himself the best player in the country after a record-setting game.

WHO GETS PAID. Sportsbooks taking Heisman odds on Smith's name profit from the attention his own declaration created.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No further date appears in the receipts; the only test left is whether the record and the odds hold through the rest of the season.

● HOT MIC MOMENT

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

GUS HIS SIDE

Jeremiah Smith, the tight end anchoring Ohio State's offense, stood in front of a television camera after Saturday's rout and said, plainly, that he is the best player in the country.

The claim landed the same weekend Smith passed two names in Ohio State lore this reporter has long admired, breaking the Buckeyes' all-time marks set by Troy Smith and David Boston, done and dusted in just 34 career games.

That pace traces straight back to the Illinois game, where this reporter recalls Smith hanging six touchdowns on the Fighting Illini to light the whole thing up.

Ohio State's own NFL alumni took notice too. Jaxon Smith-Njigba went out this week and called Smith the LeBron James of all-time Buckeyes, full stop, no hedge.

Vegas had already caught up before Smith ever opened his mouth Saturday, naming him the favorite entering Week 6 off that Illinois showing.

By the time the cameras cut away, the betting houses had already turned a junior's press conference into inventory — a name on a board, a line to shop, a season-long product moving without him ever signing a thing in the sportsbook's own ledger.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

He plays wide receiver, not tight end — the New York Post ran the quote Saturday: "I'm the best player in the country," straight from the man himself.

Wrong names entirely. CBS Sports had it Saturday: Smith passed Chris Olave for Ohio State's career touchdown record and Emeka Egbuka for the receptions record, both in 34 games.

Four touchdowns, 217 yards — Fox News had the box score September 26, tying Ohio State's own single-game touchdown record, not setting a new one.

There's a hedge, sugar — CBS Sports quoted Smith-Njigba Wednesday saying Smith is "like the LeBron James" of all-time Buckeyes. A comparison, not a coronation.

Week 5, not six. CBS Sports posted the new odds September 28, two days after that Illinois game Fox News clocked at four touchdowns and 217 yards.

That's a manifesto, not a column, go lie down before standards and practices calls. You happen to be right: Ohio's casino commission did ban proposition bets on individual college athletes in 2023, and the NCAA's interim name, image and likeness policy did take effect July 1, 2021.

"This kid breaks two school records in 34 games and tells the world he's the best, and the paperwork backs him up. The sportsbooks turned his name into a whole menu of Heisman bets before the ink dried on his stat sheet, and none of that money runs back through his hands. That's the con: the record belongs to him, the betting handle doesn't."
— Sal

"The free market rewarded him with a Heisman favorite tag and a mountain of attention, which is basically the same as money — did I just say attention is basically money, that's not landing the way I meant it to. These kids knew the deal when they signed up, the system worked fine for decades before anybody started complaining about a betting handle — fine for who, let me get back to you on that."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Jeremiah Smith snags more Ohio State records, hits Heisman pose after setting school TD, receptions marks
CBS Sports § *19:01 EDT*
The junior wideout needed only 34 career games to pass Chris Olave for touchdowns and Emeka Egbuka, whom he also passed for career receptions on Saturday

Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith makes bold statement after latest huge game: 'I'm the best player in the country'
New York Post RIGHT § *23:57 EDT*
Ohio State receiver Jeremiah Smith made a bold proclamation about himself on Saturday.

· 2026 Heisman Trophy odds update post-Week 4: Ton of movement, led by new favorite Jeremiah Smith of Ohio State *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith is now the Heisman favorite following historic performance *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Seattle WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba says Ohio State's Jeremiah Smith is 'like the LeBron James' of all-time Buckeyes *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

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Fox blames open borders for France's riots; its own wire blamed them on school funding.

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. On October 4, Fox News called France's student riots a warning about open borders.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The network's own earlier reporting named classroom funding and domestic agitators as the cause, so the check that slips is whether a network's commentary has to match its own reporting.

WHAT'S NEXT. There is no hearing or vote on this calendar; the French student protests over school funding continue without one.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On Saturday's Big Weekend Show, the host called France's student riots "a cautionary tale" for the United States, the kind of unrest open borders are supposed to produce somewhere down the line. It is a tidy thesis, and the wire this network filed three days earlier gets in its way before the host finishes the sentence.

Start where the facts start, on October 1st. This outlet's own dispatch that day was headlined "hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide," and it quoted officials warning of "outside agitators." Outside agitators — meaning inside the country, not outside the border. That is a claim about domestic troublemakers, filed by this network's own reporters, and it is the opposite of the claim the host would make three days later. Put the open-borders line next to that sentence. It does not — it does not survive contact with its own wire....

...(cont) The same day, the Washington Examiner filed its account of the same unrest and called it "far-left instigation." Different outlet, same domestic frame: the trouble, on this telling, comes from inside French politics, not from France's border policy. Two right-leaning outlets, one week, zero mentions of immigration as the cause — both published before the host found one.

Also on October 1st, the New York Post reported that attackers had doused a headteacher in gasoline and set fires in at least two schools. That is the receipt the word "violent" in these headlines was standing in for. It has nothing to do with who is allowed to cross a border; it has to do with what happened inside one.

By October 2nd, the picture the Post filed had a cause attached to it: riot police clashing with students in cities across France as President Macron's government "battled to contain" protests over — hold on, over classroom conditions and funding. Not immigration. Students were in the street about their own schools.

So the cautionary tale delivered Saturday runs straight into the cautionary tale this network and its rivals had already filed the week before: a teacher doused in gasoline, a government fighting over school funding, and not one word, anywhere in the receipts, about who got across what border.

"They tell you it's a warning about open borders, then their own guys already filed the real story: a teacher gets doused in gas because the school district's broke. That's the whole con — scare people about the fence so nobody asks why the classrooms don't have money. The kid in that French classroom and the kid in the one down the street from you are fighting the same fight, and it's not about who's crossing a line on a map."
— Sal

"Look, open borders breed disorder, that's just pattern recognition — you watch enough unrest, you start seeing the shape of it. Our own reporters did call it outside agitators and far-left instigation on this exact story, which, fine, is not actually an immigration story, it's a — yeah, it's a different story. Scratch the cautionary tale, run it as a weather report instead."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Fox watches a teacher get doused in gasoline in France, calls it a warning about open borders*
By Chip · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

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...

· France rocked by student riots as hundreds arrested, violence spreads nationwide *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

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Head Start's homeless-child priority proven to work, proposed for deletion anyway.

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 ending Head Start's rule giving homeless children priority enrollment, with public comments closing Tuesday.

WHO GETS PAID. The Department of Health and Human Services, which named the change "Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs" without naming a replacement priority.

WHAT SLIPS. The public comment process moves toward closing without the agency weighing the evidence that the priority it is deleting already worked.

WHAT'S NEXT. If a burden-reduction label holds without an accounting of who loses coverage, that is what happened in Washington on 24 November 2025, when an efficiency office was dissolved claiming $214 billion in savings that independent tallies put as low as $1.4 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 of the line.

On August 27, The Nation reported what the administration's proposed rule change would do with that instruction. Undo it. Completely....

...(cont) On September 15, Democrats pressed HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to scrap the overhaul before it went further, warning it would weaken services for thousands of families nationwide. They worked from the department's own title for the proposal: "Reducing Federal Burden for Head Start Programs." A title is a ledger entry too; it tells you whose burden gets counted and whose doesn't.

Two days later, on September 17, NPR filed the account the title's ledger leaves out. Not a column of figures — a household. A woman the homelessness priority had already moved out of homelessness, in a story about what happens to the next ones in line if the priority goes. The reporting carried no number. It carried the thing a number would have to summarize: a case where the line worked.

The proposal predates that account by three weeks. Nothing in the record since shows the agency reopening its math to account for it.

By October 3, the fight had, in The Hill's own phrase, reached a tipping point: advocates renewing the push against a change that would, by The Nation's reading, slash enrollment of homeless children in a program serving 700,000. Interested parties have until Tuesday to tell the federal government what they think of a line item with a working case on file against deleting it.

Nineteen days separate that case from the Tuesday the comment window closes. That is the whole gap. Not a dispute over whether the priority works — nobody in the filing claims it doesn't. A dispute over whether the agency has to read the file before it closes it.

Reducing federal burden, the title says. The families stay exactly where the record found them, hon. Only the line that put them at the front is the one coming out.

"They don't say "we're cutting help for homeless kids," they say "reducing federal burden" — same move as always, rename the cut after the thing it's supposedly fixing, which is their own paperwork, not your kid's seat. The proof it worked showed up in September and the rule to kill it didn't wait around for anybody to read it. That's not an oversight, that's the schedule working exactly as designed."

— Sal

"Look, nobody's taking anything away from anybody, the rule is about cutting red tape for providers who are drowning in federal paperwork — that's it, that's the whole story. Sure, a family in the reporting used the priority and it worked, but one account isn't a trend line, and we can't run a 700,000-child program on anecdotes. Though — did I just call a kid's housing status an anecdote? That's not landing the way I wanted it to."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *NPR found Head Start lifts families out of homelessness; the rule deleting that priority takes comments through Tuesday.* By Ruth · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026
- *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*

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President couldn't flip a Republican senator's vote on daylight time, so he flipped his phone number public.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



"Here's Senator Cotton's Cell Number, Trump Says, in Dispute Over Daylight Saving Bill", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump posted Senator Tom Cotton's personal cellphone number on Truth Social and urged the public to call him over a stalled clock bill.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. A colleague's ordinary legislative privacy slips when a president turns a stalled floor vote into a public call-in campaign aimed at one senator's personal phone.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the president's public pressure on a dissenting Republican turns into a primary threat next, that is what Kentucky got after October 2025: the president endorsed a challenger to Representative Thomas Massie, who lost the primary in May 2026.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

That friction between the party's own candidates and its own president is the backdrop for what the president would do to one of his own senators three weeks later.

Twenty days after that, Canada supplied the comparison. On September 29th, officials in the Northwest Territories announced that clocks there will not "fall back" in November, becoming the standard — less than a week after Manitoba officials said daylight saving time there would become permanent too. The Hill's own headline on it called the change what residents "asked us for." No senator's personal number went out to make that happen. No network had to run anyone's cellphone across a news desk. A government decided a policy and announced it, and the clocks changed....

...(cont) On Saturday, in Washington, the president posted the personal cellphone number of Senator Tom Cotton, a sitting Republican from Arkansas, on Truth Social and urged the public to call him, according to The New York Times. The number went out anyway, to a fellow Republican, in public, with an instruction attached: pressure him until it moves. What started as a stalled bill is now, on the record, a public tussle between two members of the same party, the kind of fight a party usually keeps off a senator's own cellphone.

Put the three beats in order and the asymmetry is the whole story. Canada changed its clocks with a press release. The United States has not changed its clocks at all. What moved instead was a phone number — out of a senator's pocket and into a crowd, because the normal mechanism, a vote, didn't go the president's way. The bill is still stalled. The number is not.

"This is the oldest move at the bar: you can't win the vote, so you turn the senator's own voters into the pressure campaign, cellphone and all, in public, with his name on it. Canada changed the same clocks with a press release last month — no premier had to publish anybody's personal number to get it done. When the president can't move one vote in his own party, he doesn't change the policy, he changes the target."
— Sal

"Look, the president is just making sure Senator Cotton hears from his constituents — that's outreach, that's democracy working as intended. That the outreach happens to route through a number that's reportedly his personal cell and not some office line, well — I didn't say "posted," I said "shared." There's a difference. There has to be a difference."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Flag etiquette is mandatory for a congressional nominee, optional for the President's own social media account.* By Lou · the early evening edition, 3 October 2026
- *President posts senator's cell number over clock bill same week his convention chair admits rallies dropped votes* By Sal · the early evening edition, 3 October 2026
- *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

Here's Senator Cotton's Cell Number, Trump Says, in Dispute Over Daylight Saving Bill

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:59 EDT*

The president urged people to call Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas and accused him of blocking a bill to cement daylight saving time.

· Permanent daylight saving time expands in Canada: 'Gives residents what they've asked us for' *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump's escalation of fight with Canada puts GOP Senate candidates in a vice *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

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THE LEDGER

Tennessee hired a chief after four botched executions, got a fifth, named a sixth official to explain it.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"Lawyers, experts urge Tennessee governor to commute Christa Pike's sentence after botched execution", 2 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Tennessee's governor named a former U.S. Attorney to review the state's botched execution of Christa Pike.

WHO GETS PAID. Ed Stanton, the former U.S. Attorney tapped to lead the review, gets the paid assignment instead of the Department of Correction investigating itself.

WHAT SLIPS. Oversight of the hire slips from the courts or the legislature to the same governor who made that hire and now picks who investigates it.

WHAT'S NEXT. No completion date for Stanton's review appears in the record; the next dated event already on the calendar is Strada's planned departure later in October.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The hiring file came first, and it is still the first fact on this page: Tennessee brought in Frank Strada to run its prisons with four botched executions already logged against him from his years overseeing Arizona's death chamber. That hire is dated earlier than everything that follows.

The Supreme Court cleared the next step on September 30, allowing Tennessee to execute Christa Pike, the state's only woman on death row, for the 1995 murder of Colleen Slemmer. Wednesday night the state administered two doses of pentobarbital at 8:26 p.m. Forty minutes later, media witnesses said they could still hear her snoring. That same night, Pike's federal public defenders filed a motion with the Tennessee Supreme Court stating she was still alive....

...(cont) By Thursday, United Nations human rights experts had asked the state not to try again. Governor Bill Lee called what happened "deeply disturbing," suspended executions statewide, and ordered an independent inquiry into what went wrong.

On Saturday, Frank Strada — the man whose Arizona record already carried four prior botches before Tennessee hired him — announced he will leave his post later this month. The fifth botch is now on his file. His departure is a future date on a press release, not a resignation already completed; nothing in the record has him out of the building yet.

Attorney, to lead the review. That makes six names on this file: four Arizona entries, the fifth in Nashville, and now a sixth man hired to read what the first five already documented — a procedure that failed on the clock, with a timestamp, and a motion filed to a state Supreme Court while it was still failing.

What keeps getting disputed is narrower: whether a state can keep assigning its hardest job to the people with the longest record of getting it wrong, and then hire one more person to explain why.

The file isn't missing anything, hon. It has four Arizona entries, forty minutes of Wednesday night, a motion filed while the clock was still running, and a resignation letter postdated to protect a title nobody's been asked to give back yet. What it doesn't have is an answer for why the fifth chance went to the man who already had four.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

Frank Strada carried four botched executions out of Arizona's death chamber, Tennessee hired him to run its prisons anyway, and a fifth botch happened on his watch before his resignation arrived with a departure date in late October, not an exit already made. That's not a resignation, it's a liability transferred to a calendar page instead of an inspector. Because four prior botches didn't stop the hire, and a fifth didn't stop the plan, the box on your own job application that asks if you've ever been fired will do more work on you this week than it ever did on him.

"They hired the guy with four botched executions on his record to run more executions, and when the fifth one went just as bad they let him "resign" with a departure date three weeks out instead of being walked out that night. Now they're paying a lawyer to go find out what's already sitting in four states' worth of paperwork: you don't fix a broken procedure by promoting the man who broke it four times somewhere else first. Somebody's getting paid to ask the question here; nobody's getting paid to answer it with a flat no."
— Sal

"Governor Lee moved fast on this — independent review, outside counsel, full transparency, that's what leadership looks like. Frank Strada brought years of correctional management experience to the job, and sure, four prior incidents in Arizona is — okay, that's actually a lot when you say it out loud. He clearly understood the protocol, he just didn't execute it correctly. Five times. Did I say "execute"? Let's move on."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Tennessee hired a prison chief with four botched executions in the file, got the fifth on Wednesday and the resignation on Saturday; the Justice Department spent the same week asking the judge who struck its press ban to restore it on grounds of professionalism.* By Ruth · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

Fox News RIGHT · *22:25 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *06:59 EDT*

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *15:22 EDT*

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

'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.

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *17:24 EDT*

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

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...

~~Christa Pike, Hospitalized After Surviving 2 Lethal Injection Boxes in Tennessee~~

Tennessee has now botched two executions this year

Truthout · *13:42 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *10:00 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *15:53 EDT*

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

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

Trump fired him within the hour of his swearing-in

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *18:58 EDT*

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

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

Daily Caller RIGHT · *15:32 EDT*

'Critically ill but not in a coma.'

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *16:26 EDT*

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

~~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...

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *19:16 EDT*

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

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

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

Common Dreams · *13:16 EDT*

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

Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions

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

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

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

New York Post RIGHT · *16:46 EDT*

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

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

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

New York Post RIGHT · *00:08 EDT*

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

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

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

New York Post RIGHT · *23:48 EDT*

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

Tennessee 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.

Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *12:00 EDT*

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

Tennessee Pauses Executions After a Botched Lethal Injection

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

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

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

The Washington Post MAINSTREAM · *14:38 EDT*

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

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

Truthout · *14:08 EDT*

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

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

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *15:22 EDT*

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

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

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

Fox News RIGHT · *17:43 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee botched her execution; she's hospitalized

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

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

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

Fox News RIGHT · *07:00 EDT*

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

~~Botched execution of death row inmate~~

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

NBC News MAINSTREAM · *19:50 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee tried to kill her with pentobarbital. She survived.

Le Monde MAINSTREAM · *15:29 EDT*

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

Judge reinstates Washington state US attorney fired by Trump

ABC News MAINSTREAM · *18:27 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *14:14 EDT*

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

Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *10:47 EDT*

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

How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *15:04 EDT*

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

Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's botched execution

New York Post RIGHT · *11:34 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her Wednesday night

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *19:36 EDT*

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

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

RTÉ MAINSTREAM · *00:15 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM · *06:00 EDT*

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

Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim

Truthout · *15:46 EDT*

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

Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *09:58 EDT*

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

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

BBC News MAINSTREAM · *13:48 EDT*

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

Am I Lying to Myself About the Death Penalty?

National Review RIGHT · *13:00 EDT*

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

What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution

National Review RIGHT · *06:30 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner RIGHT · *10:23 EDT*

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

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

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

CBS News MAINSTREAM · *12:10 EDT*

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

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

Trump administration ordered to disclose legal basis for lethal boat strikes

The Hill MAINSTREAM · *18:59 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee's botched execution left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized

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

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

· Tennessee woman 'snoring' and still alive as execution halted, witnesses say *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Tennessee inmate Christa Pike still alive after lethal injection dose, lawyers say *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Mom of Christa Pike's victim has furious response to watching failed execution: 'They f–ked up' *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· What to know about pentobarbital after death row inmate survives 2 lethal injection doses *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

· Tennessee governor halts executions after Christa Pike survives 2 lethal injection attempts *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Christa Pike's failed execution follows another in Tennessee this year *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· US Supreme Court clears way for Tennessee woman's imminent execution *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

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

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"LA taxed housing to get more housing. It got less.", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Los Angeles taxed home sales above a set price, under Measure ULA, to fund affordable housing.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. No next step is on the record yet; the measure's own numbers are the only accounting filed so far.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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....

...(cont) 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 far beyond luxury homes. Reconcile the name against the reach, hon, and the gap is the story on its own: a levy marketed as narrow, applied broad, funding a goal it is simultaneously working against.

None of this requires a motive, and the money desk doesn't assign one. It does arithmetic. Somebody wrote a policy meant to produce housing. Two entries, one measure, no accounting yet for the distance between them.

What's left is the plain fact a ledger produces when you run it against itself: a program can carry the name of the thing it was built to deliver and still appear, in its own books, as part of the reason less of that thing got delivered. That isn't a verdict on anyone who voted for it. It's what the numbers say when column one meets column two. The money desk's note, filed today: fund the thing you want more of; don't tax the transaction that makes it. Run that sentence against the ledger and see which half the measure chose.

The numbers are the numbers.

"They taxed the sale to pay for the house, then acted surprised fewer houses got built — that's not a mystery, that's a vending machine that eats your dollar and keeps the candy. Somebody still collects on every sale that doesn't happen, and it isn't the guy who needed the apartment."

— Sal

"It's a mansion tax — targeted, surgical, hits the top of the market and leaves working families alone. Well, the reporting says it applies far beyond luxury homes. Did I say targeted? That's not — let me get back to you on that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

LA taxed housing to get more housing. It got less.

New York Post RIGHT § *21:55 EDT*

Los Angeles had a housing shortage. So naturally, it decided to tax housing.

~~LA's 'mansion tax' backfires spectacularly as thousands of homes and jobs vanish~~

LA's 'mansion tax' taxes far more than mansions

New York Post RIGHT § *21:33 EDT*

Despite its nickname, LA's "mansion tax" applies far beyond luxury homes.

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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*

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Sixth Fairford suspect freed on bail as UK charges two Iranian men in Manchester plot, U.S. expels diplomats

By **MITCH**
INVESTIGATIONS

"Two Iranian diplomats removed from NYC days after UN General Assembly ended", 3 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. British police charged two Iranian men with plotting a Manchester terror attack and bailed a sixth Fairford suspect, both on October 3.

WHO GETS PAID. The State Department and Secretary Rubio get the political credit for finally expelling the two diplomats, framed as decisive action.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's assurance that terror suspects stay in custody slips a little further every time another one is released on bail.

WHAT'S NEXT. No trial date has been set for the five original Fairford suspects or the sixth, and none has been announced for the two Manchester men either, so bail continues until a court calendars one.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Mitch, investigations. Every caper needs an itinerary, so follow the paper with me: arrest, bail, charge, expel. Four filings, one October.

By Monday the 28th, bail paperwork was already signed and all five were released — the same Monday President Trump told reporters, of London's handling, "I wouldn't have done that," a day after he'd praised the arrest itself. Praise one day, complaint the next, same case file: all together now — that's the whole arc of a single news cycle....

...(cont) Two days later, on September 30th, Prime Minister Andy Burnham told the Washington Examiner there were "indications" Iran "played a part," and defended the bail releases anyway.

Then, on October 3rd, the docket grew three lines at once. First: a 25-year-old UK-Iranian national, arrested separately in what police called a "security incident" near the base, had two London properties searched — and was released on bail, the sixth suspect in the Fairford file, CBS and the New York Post both filing it the same day. Second, the same day, British police charged two Iranian men — not bailed, charged — with plotting a terror attack on Manchester's Jewish community, a separate case entirely, same week, same wire service.

Third beat, same day: the State Department finished removing two Iranian diplomats from New York, the last of them gone Saturday morning after the U.N. General Assembly had already wrapped. They'd been told to leave "days earlier." "Secretary Rubio means business," a U.S. official told the Washington Examiner — "Two more members of the [...]" is where that quote trails off in the wire copy itself; whatever finished that sentence didn't make it into the file we have.

Three case numbers, one month, one country's name recurring in all of them. The UK's bail system processed a sixth Fairford suspect the same day its charging system produced two new Iranian names in an unrelated plot, the same day Washington's expulsion paperwork finally cleared. No one filed these together. The dockets just happen to share a date stamp.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

FIVE MEN WERE ARRESTED NEAR RAF FAIRFORD, BAILED THE NEXT DAY, AND BY OCTOBER A SIXTH WAS BAILED TOO WHILE TWO MORE IRANIAN MEN WERE CHARGED IN A SEPARATE Manchester plot and two Iranian diplomats were finally sent home from New York. That isn't an investigation closing in on anyone, it's a catch-and-release loop with a press office attached. Because the suspects keep walking out the same door they walked in through, and because the base they were arrested near still runs on the same guard rotation it ran last month, the airman's spouse still waves her badge through the Fairford gate every morning on the same honor system that let the vans get that close in the first place.

"They expel two diplomats weeks after the party ended and call it toughness, while six guys tied to a plot outside a U.S.-used air base keep walking out on bail one at a time. That's not a security response, that's a revolving door with a press release stapled to it. Ask what actually changes for the people who live near that base — nothing, because the system's job was never to hold anyone, it was to generate a headline that it did something."

— Sal

"Look, the administration finally got tough — two Iranian diplomats, gone, Rubio means business, that's the headline. The bail stuff in London, that's a British court decision, that's not on us, we don't run their system — did I just say we don't run their system, that's not usually my line. The point is the diplomats are out, that's the win, let's focus on that."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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

State Department takes two tries to expel Iranian diplomats already told to leave

Washington Examiner RIGHT | *19:55 EDT*

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

~~U.K. Iranian national released on bail after arrest in security incident near base~~

UK counter-terrorism police search two London homes over air base breach

CBS News MAINSTREAM | *18:00 EDT*

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

But: Antisemitic incidents in 2025: 6,274 - the third-highest year since tracking began in 1979, with assaults at a record high

ADL, 2025 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

U.K. police accuse 2 Iranian men of planning terror attack on Jewish community

CBS News MAINSTREAM | *17:51 EDT*

Two Iranian men have been charged with plotting a terror attack on the Jewish community in Manchester, British police said.

Sixth RAF Fairford terror suspect released on bail

New York Post RIGHT | *16:45 EDT*

A sixth suspect, a 25-year-old UK-Iranian citizen, has been released on bail after an alleged terror plot at the RAF Fairford military base.

· 5 men arrested near U.K. air base used by U.S. released on bail *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Terror suspects arrested near British air base used by U.S. released on bail *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

· Andy Burnham says 'indications' show Iran 'played a part' in Fairford air base terrorism scare and defends suspects' release on bail *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump hits UK for releasing terrorism suspects on bail: 'I wouldn't have done that' *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

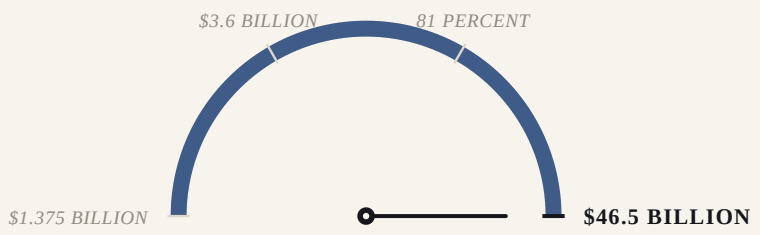
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§50 — 03 OCTOBER 2026

On who pays

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$46.5 BILLION

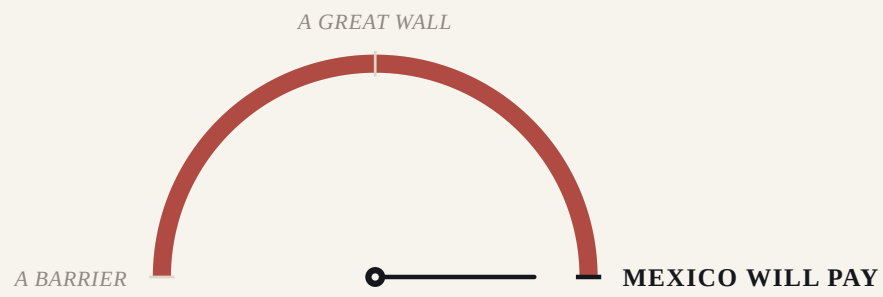
The payer. In March 2016 Mexico's treasury secretary said "Mexico will under no circumstance pay for the wall" [1]. That August, after meeting Mexico's president, Trump said of payment, "We didn't discuss that"; the Mexican president said within hours that he had told him at the start Mexico would not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