FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · MONDAY, 05 OCTOBER 2026 — THE BREAKFAST EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

THE WORD

§52 — 05 OCTOBER 2026

On alone

DEMOCRAT · REPUBLICAN





5-4 — ***I ALONE CAN FIX IT***

"My nephew in law school printed me two opinions from the same day in June, and I read them in the order they came off the printer. The first one, six to three: the Constitution 'vests the whole executive power in the President.' The second one, five to four: the government's theory 'would in effect transform the Federal Reserve's for-cause protection into at-will employment,' so the governor stays. I'm sorry, I'll let you get in there, the Court opens today. If he alone can fix it, who's the one person he's not allowed to fire?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W52

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

BY LOU
One More Question

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

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

Eight days later, on the 16th, the Texas Farm Bureau endorsed Paxton, citing his record defending farmers and ranchers in court. ...

... Continued on Page A2

THE TIMELINE

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



PHOTO: FRANCE 24

BY LOU
One More Question

You're sharp enough to see where this is going already, and that's not flattery — that's a problem for whoever buried the item on page nine. A smart operation doesn't schedule a promise of reform

... Continued on Page A3

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

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

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

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

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

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

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

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

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

BY SAL
Staff Writer

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

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

What did make the week's news, on the record, was the economy. On September 21 an NBC News poll found 55 percent of voters saying Trump's policies have made it worse,

... Continued on Page A4

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

BY MITCH
Investigations

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

... Continued on Page A5

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

BY LOU
One More Question

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

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

... Continued on Page H2

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

BY SAL
Staff Writer

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

... Continued on Page A6

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

... Continued on Page S2

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

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

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

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

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

Lay the three filings end to end and the gap gets an address. The sector drawing margin off a poverty subsidy in zip codes that never needed one is the same sector running a coin-flip rate of compliance with the rule meant to let a patient see a price coming. None of the three filings draws a line connecting the

... Continued on Page H3

THE RECORD

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

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

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

Then the schedule moved on its own calendar. A federal court halted Pike's execution;

... Continued on Page F2

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

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

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

The stated purpose, per the record, is simple. Tax homes over five million dollars. Use the money to build more homes. Reconcile that purpose against the finished product and the two columns do not move together. Thousands of homes, gone. Thousands of construction jobs, gone with them. That is not a rounding error against a program that merely underperformed. It is a program that produced less of the exact thing it was named for.

Call it the mansion tax, which is a brand name, not a description. The levy applies far beyond mansions — the receipts are specific on that point and silent on the rest, which is its own kind of honesty. A city willing to say its

... Continued on Page F3

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



PHOTO: THE NEW YORK TIMES

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

The filing starts on September 8, when the National Republican Congressional Committee added five candidates to its battleground watch list. The receipt names no states for that add and carries no belief

... Continued on Page F4

"*Get them out quick. Open those beds up for more detainees.*"
— BORDER CZAR TOM HOMAN, CNN STATE OF THE UNION, 30 AUGUST 2026

"*Shut down Delaney Hall, free them all!*"
— PROTESTORS OUTSIDE THE DELANEY HALL ICE FACILITY, NEWARK

"*Don't let anybody tell you that people running Congress right now are looking out for the rich. Actually, I think we should do a little more for them*"
— REP. GLENN GROTHMAN (R-WI), AUGUST 2026

"*Maybe the children will have two dolls instead of 30 dolls. So maybe the two dolls will cost a couple bucks more than they would normally*"
— PRESIDENT TRUMP, CABINET MEETING, 30 APRIL 2025

"Notice every "temporary" on the page. Temporary tariffs, temporary fees, temporary emergencies. I've been temporary since 2017. So has the tab."

— Sal

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

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

PERSONALS Governing party seeks a spine, any condition, willing to relocate to Washington. *Discretion assured. You'll need it.* **— Classifieds**

"If the numbers on this page bother you, I'd gently suggest that numbers are one perspective."

— Chip

Today

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THE TIMELINE

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

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

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

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

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

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *09:24 EDT*

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

Cornell president promises reforms after alleged gang rape

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:13 EDT*

Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff on Saturday promised reforms at his school in the wake of allegations of a gang rape that put the university in the national spotlight. "I believe we, as an administration, and we as a community, must do better. We must do everything we can to prevent what happened to Jane...

Cornell president calls out 'party culture' after alleged gang rape, backs state inquiry

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:32 EDT*

Cornell University President Michael Kotlikoff said an alleged gang rape at a fraternity house exposed troubling questions about the school's "party culture" and pledged to examine the role of Greek life on campus as New York officials take over the criminal investigation. Kotlikoff addressed the allegations involving a former student...

Cornell allegations fuel bipartisan push for stronger sexual assault protections

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

Lawmakers across the aisle are pushing for stronger protections for sexual violence survivors after a former Cornell University student's fraternity house gang rape allegations drew national attention last week. While the woman first accused the seven men of raping her for several hours at a fraternity house in 2024, the reports sparked...

New York Attorney General Letitia James made special prosecutor in Cornell rape investigation

NPR MAINSTREAM § *12:43 EDT*

Counter to what a local prosecutor has claimed, the alleged victim of a 2024 gang rape at Cornell University clearly said in her police statement that she was sexually assaulted, her attorney told NPR.

Cornell president breaks silence over alleged campus rape

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *07:53 EDT*

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

Cornell president says school "must do better" amid criticism of its investigation

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *00:04 EDT*

Cornell's president said his school's administration "must do better" amid the criticism of its investigation into allegations made by a former student that she was gang-raped at a fraternity in 2024.

Megyn Kelly says 'Cornell 7' are 'f'd,' blasts 'fire-breathing hack' NY AG Letitia James

New York Post RIGHT § *08:55 EDT*

Megyn Kelly attacked Gov. Kathy Hochul after she appointed the "abhorrent and hateful" Letitia James in charge of investigating the case.

A timeline of Jane Doe's allegations of Cornell gang rape

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *18:29 EDT*

An incident at Cornell University involving alleged gang rape is stoking controversy after a woman filed a lawsuit alleging sexual assault nearly two years after she said the incident occurred. A young woman whose identity was shielded with a "Jane Doe" name filed the lawsuit on Sept.

Legal expert explains how New York law could impact alleged Cornell gang rape case

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:44 EDT*

CBS News legal contributor Rebecca Roiphe explains New York rape law and how it might play into the alleged Cornell University gang rape case.

Letitia James is absolutely wrong person to get to bottom of complex Cornell case

New York Post RIGHT § *05:30 EDT*

James has always followed the policy of the Queen of Hearts in "Alice in Wonderland": "Sentence first, verdict afterward."

Cornell University to take 'serious look' at fraternities after rape allegations

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *05:43 EDT*

Ivy League school's president promises action after woman alleged she was drugged and raped by fraternity members Cornell University will examine the role of fraternities and sororities on campus after an outcry over the school's handling of a student's rape allegations, the Ivy League school's president has said. A civil lawsuit filed...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

Fox News RIGHT § *07:25 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Costco imposes purchase limits on motor oil, hikes prices by nearly double *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· As gas averages $4.31 nationwide, diesel fuel hits all-time high: "It's painful. It's real hard" *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Costco Raises Motor Oil Price, Caps Customer Purchases As Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

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

· European Union member states agree to a natural gas price cap in an attempt to limit economic damage from the global energy crisis. The price cap can be triggered beginning on February 15, if for thre *from the morgue, 19 Dec 2022*

· Spike on 10-year bond yields renews concerns over U.S. debt *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· 10-Year Treasury Yield Reaches 5%, Highest Level in Years *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Treasury reveals $6B in debt buybacks, triple the normal level – but markets slump *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames rise in diesel prices on Ukrainian strikes against Russian oil refineries *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

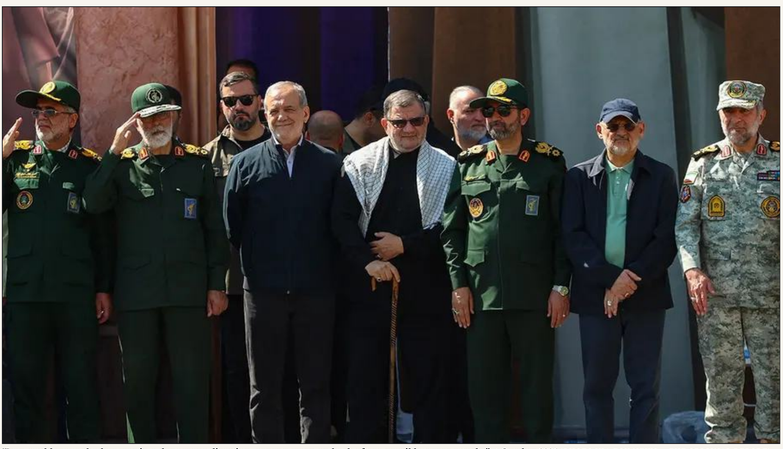
· Trump blames rising diesel price on Russia-Ukraine war *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

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

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

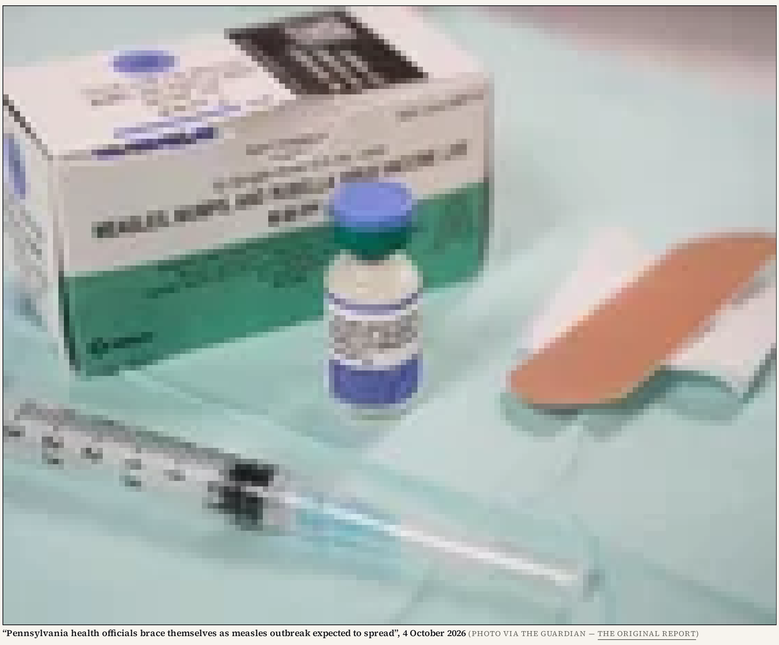
Two members of the Iranian delegation from the last two weeks' U.N. General Assembly meeting were sent home by the State Department on Friday night and Saturday morning, despite having been asked to leave days earlier. "Secretary [of State Marco] Rubio means business,"

· Farmer who foiled suspected Iran terror plot on UK base blasts security — and fears several terrorists still free *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

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

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

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION



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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Sal

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

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

Pennsylvania health officials brace themselves as measles outbreak expected to spread

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *06:00 EDT*

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

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

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

· RFK Jr. questions measles deaths in Pennsylvania *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

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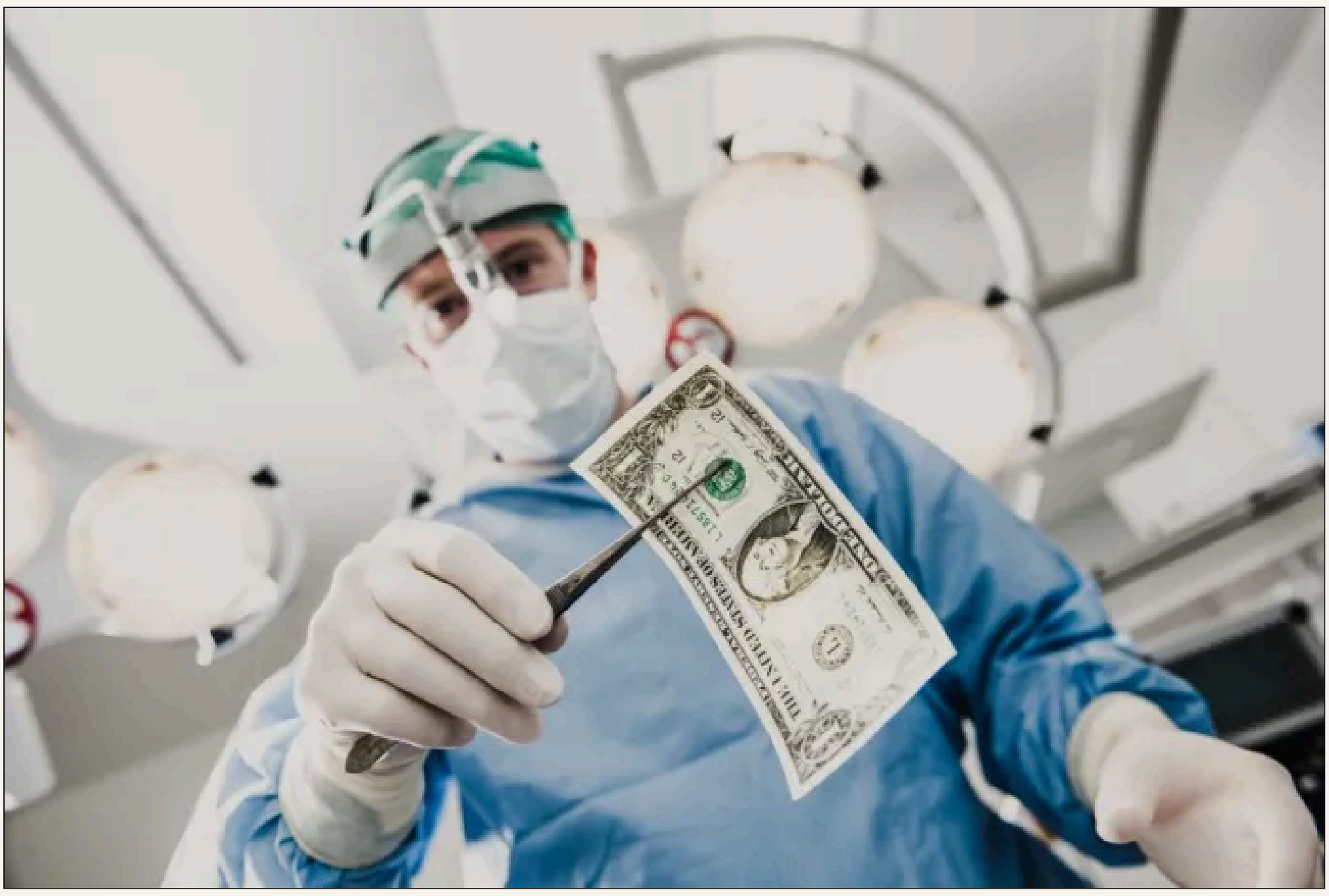
Hospitals that skip price disclosure half the time profit off a poverty subsidy in wealthy suburbs.

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



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

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

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

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

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

Robin Hood in reverse: How big hospitals use poverty subsidies to profit in wealthy suburbs
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

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

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

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

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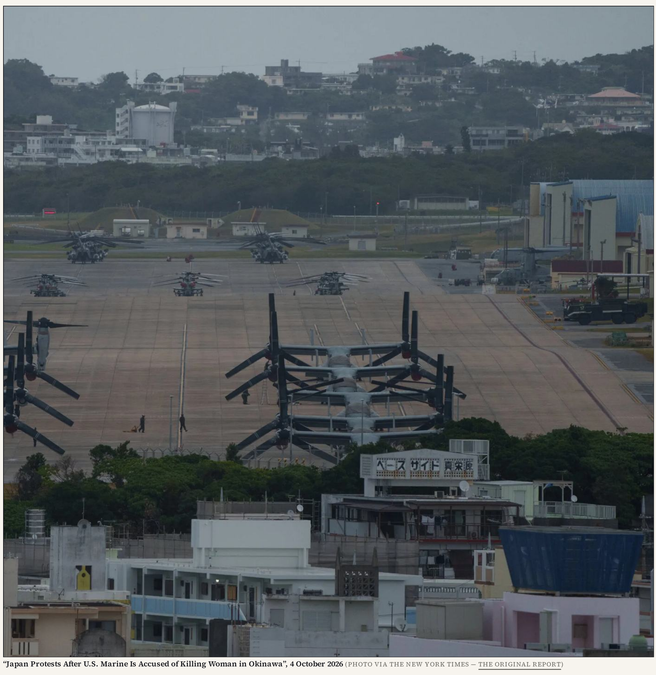
US pledges 'full cooperation' investigating Marine murder arrest, its third on this island in twenty years.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER



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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

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

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

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

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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THE RECORD

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

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

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

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

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

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦
DUTCH

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

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

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

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *17:24 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee tried to kill her with pentobarbital. She survived.

Le Monde | MAINSTREAM | *15:29 EDT*

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

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

Trump fired him within the hour of his swearing-in

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *18:58 EDT*

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

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

Common Dreams | *07:40 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *06:00 EDT*

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

~~Botched execution of death row inmate~~

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

NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *19:50 EDT*

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

Tennessee Pauses Executions After a Botched Lethal Injection

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *15:22 EDT*

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

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

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

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *12:10 EDT*

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

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

He quit as the review into his botched execution began.

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

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

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

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

Common Dreams | *13:16 EDT*

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

Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US

RTÉ | MAINSTREAM | *00:15 EDT*

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

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

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *15:22 EDT*

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

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

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

Common Dreams | *19:39 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

Tennessee's botched execution left Christa Pike unconscious and hospitalized

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

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

Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution

Truthout | *14:08 EDT*

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

Tennessee Attempted to Execute a Sexual Assault Victim

Truthout | *15:46 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee has now botched two executions this year

Truthout | *13:42 EDT*

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

Christa Pike in critical condition after failed execution attempts: Lawyer

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *09:58 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *19:16 EDT*

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

Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike's botched execution

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

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

Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *12:00 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fox News | RIGHT | *17:43 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee's lethal injection failed to kill her Wednesday night

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *19:36 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *10:23 EDT*

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

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

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

Fox News | RIGHT | *14:34 EDT*

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

Tennessee Correction commissioner resigns days after botched Christa Pike execution

ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *15:18 EDT*

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

What the Modern State Gets Wrong About Execution

National Review | RIGHT | *06:30 EDT*

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

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

BBC News | MAINSTREAM | *13:48 EDT*

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

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

Trump administration ordered to disclose legal basis for lethal boat strikes

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *18:59 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *00:18 EDT*

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

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

Tennessee botched her execution; she's hospitalized

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

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

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

Fox News | RIGHT | *07:00 EDT*

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

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *16:26 EDT*

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

Judge reinstates Washington state US attorney fired by Trump

ABC News | MAINSTREAM | *18:27 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *13:09 EDT*

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

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

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

Le Monde | MAINSTREAM | *12:39 EDT*

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

How legislatures and the courts sabotage the death penalty

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *15:04 EDT*

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

Am I Lying to Myself About the Death Penalty?

National Review | RIGHT | *13:00 EDT*

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

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

Daily Caller | RIGHT | *15:32 EDT*

'Critically ill but not in a coma.'

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

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

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

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

Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions

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

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

Tennessee executed Christa Pike by the book. She survived

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *10:00 EDT*

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

Questions emerge after Christa Pike's botched execution

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *10:47 EDT*

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *06:59 EDT*

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

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

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

Fox News | RIGHT | *22:25 EDT*

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

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

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

Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *15:53 EDT*

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

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

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

France 24 | MAINSTREAM | *13:24 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *14:14 EDT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By **RUTH**
THE MONEY DESK



"LA's 'mansion tax' backfires spectacularly as thousands of homes and jobs vanish", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

The stated purpose, per the record, is simple. Tax homes over five million dollars. Use the money to build more homes. Reconcile that purpose against the finished product and the two columns do not move together. Thousands of homes, gone. Thousands of construction jobs, gone with them. That is not a rounding error against a program that merely underperformed. It is a program that produced less of the exact thing it was named for....

...(cont) Call it the mansion tax, which is a brand name, not a description. The levy applies far beyond mansions — the receipts are specific on that point and silent on the rest, which is its own kind of honesty. A city willing to say its tax reaches well past luxury homes, and not willing to say how far, has drawn a five-million-dollar line wide enough to catch property nobody pictured when they put "mansion" in the name.

Here is the arithmetic, plain: tax housing, to get more housing, get less housing. The input and the output share a name and point in opposite directions. Somewhere there is a filing that explains the mechanism of that reversal — a transaction that does not happen because the tax changes what the transaction is worth. The receipts in front of me do not supply that filing. What they supply is a before and an after, and the after is smaller than the before was prior to the tax existing at all.

Hon, that is not what a five-million-dollar line is drawn to do.

Somewhere there is a ledger where a tax like this nets out the way it was sold — new revenue outrunning the activity it discourages, enough building funded to replace the building it discouraged.

The city taxed the thing it wanted more of. It got less of it. I can show you the before column and the after column; I cannot show you the mechanism connecting them, because the receipts do not go that deep, and I do not print what they do not go. The gap is the story. The gap is the size of a line item that never made it into either column, and that absence is the only honest thing left to report today.

"They called it a mansion tax so nobody outside a gated driveway would object, then wrote the line wide enough to catch whatever was for sale that week. The city wanted more houses and ended up with fewer houses and fewer people building them — that's not an unlucky break, that's the machine running in reverse. Somebody's still collecting that tax every year the hole stays empty, and it ain't the guy who needed the apartment."

— Sal

"Look, a mansion tax on homes over five million dollars is just common sense, taxing the people who can afford it most — did I say "most"? I mean, it applies a little broader than that, but that's a technical detail, not a design flaw. And sure, the housing numbers went down, but correlation isn't — okay, it's literally the same column, never mind."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

New York Post RIGHT § *21:33 EDT*

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

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

New York Post RIGHT § *21:55 EDT*

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

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

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

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK



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

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

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

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

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

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

● HOT MIC MOMENT

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

GUS HIS SIDE

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE RECEIPTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Democrats Lead Governor Races Deep in Republican Territory, Polls Show", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump's super PAC kept spending on House and Senate races this week while new polls showed its coalition pulling back.

WHO GETS PAID. The Texas Senate campaign and the ad vendors behind the PAC's reservations keep collecting the checks this month.

WHAT SLIPS. The voters telling pollsters no stop steering where the party's own money keeps going.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the spending keeps running against the numbers, nothing in the forecast moves: the Cook Political Report already called the House for Democrats on September 25, before any of this week's polling landed.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

Today's filing adds four readings on the same day, October 4. NBC finds Latino voters, the bloc that helped elect Trump, swinging away from him and his party. NPR finds Latter-day Saints women in Arizona turning on Mark Lamb, the Republican congressional candidate and former sheriff accused of sexual misconduct in office; Democrats now see the seat in play. The New York Times finds Democrats leading governor races in Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska — four states where the coalition the PAC spending is meant to hold is the one slipping — with a Republican still leading in Kansas. CBS finds Democrats keeping their House edge, with voters naming prices as the concern.

None of the four readings cancels the spending. The ledger does not show the PAC redirecting money toward the groups it is losing, or away from seats Cook already called lost. It shows the same number, $155 million and climbing, placed across a map that keeps getting redder in the filing and bluer in the polling.

Twenty-six days separate the first watch-list addition from today's four polls. In that span the money moved in one direction and the voters moved in another. The arithmetic does not reconcile; it is not supposed to. A super PAC's ledger tracks what a committee is willing to spend, not what a voter is willing to forgive, hon.

"The money isn't chasing votes anymore, it's chasing a story the donor class still believes — that enough cash can out-vote a poll. Latino voters, Mormon women in Arizona, four red-state governor's races: all telling them no on the same day, and the answer is a bigger check instead of a different candidate. That check clears from somewhere, and it isn't the super PAC's own pocket."
— Sal

"More spending just means we're competing everywhere — that's strength, that's reach, that's a party that shows up. The Cook call, the Latino numbers, the Lamb thing in Arizona, that's all noise before a single vote is counted. Did I say noise? I mean — it's data, we respect the data, we're just not changing anything because of it."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Trump's PAC pours tens of millions into House races the same week forecasters call them already lost.* By Ruth · the breakfast edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

CBS News poll finds Democrats maintain House advantage amid concern about prices
CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *08:39 EDT*

Here are 10 things to know about the 2026 midterm elections, in no particular order, based on what voters are telling us today.

Latter-day Saints women turn away from scandal-plagued Republican candidate in Arizona
NPR | MAINSTREAM | *05:00 EDT*

Arizona Republican candidate for Congress Mark Lamb has been accused of sexual misconduct while sheriff. His controversy is turning many voters away as Democrats see an opportunity in the red seat.

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

Democrats Lead Governor Races Deep in Republican Territory, Polls Show
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *05:03 EDT*

Democratic advantages in the races for governor in Texas, Iowa, Ohio and Alaska reflect deep unhappiness with President Trump and the economy. A Republican leads in Kansas.

Poll: Latino voters swing away from Trump and Republicans
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *09:00 EDT*

Latino voters helped propel Donald Trump back to the White House.

· Polls show Latino voters in play in 2026 as Rubio stays on the sidelines *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*

· CBS Battleground Tracker poll: Democrats hold edge in bid for House control *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

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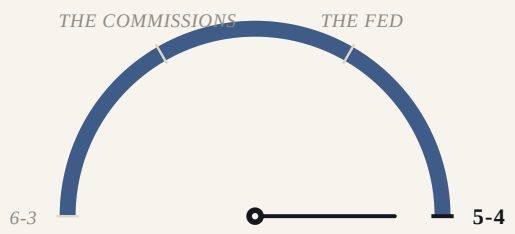
§52 — 05 OCTOBER 2026

On alone

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



5-4

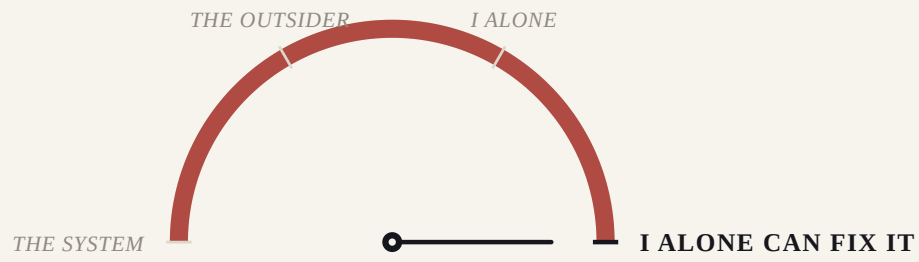
The holding has a remainder. The same majority wrote that "all that is left of Humphrey's is its observation that an agency that 'exercises no part of the executive power' need not fall within the rule of Presidential removal"; the dissent answered that "some decisions should depend not only on who is in office — much less on who is disfavored or owed a favor by those in office" [1]. Before the ruling, the removals had already reached the FTC [1], the NLRB and the Consumer Product Safety Commission [2].

Then the same day, Trump v. Cook, 5 to 4. The Court refused to let him remove a governor of the Federal Reserve while the case proceeds, the Chief Justice writing that the government's reading "would in effect transform the Federal Reserve's for-cause protection into at-will employment" [3]. The governor is still in office. The October term opens today, and none of its first cases asks who the president may fire. That question is settled everywhere but one building.

SOURCES

1. Majority on what remains of Humphrey's Executor; dissent of Justice Sotomayor — Trump v. Slaughter, 29 June 2026 ↑
2. The removal of Democratic members of the NLRB — NPR, 28 January 2025 — https://www.npr.org/2025/01/28/nx-s1-5277103/nlrb-trump-wilcox-abruzzo-democrats-labor ; the removal of CPSC commissioners — NPR, 9 May 2025 ↑
3. Trump v. Cook, 5–4: the government's reading "would in effect transform the Federal Reserve's for-cause protection into at-will employment" — SCOTUSblog, 29 June 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



I ALONE CAN FIX IT

The line, from the 2016 acceptance speech in Cleveland: "Nobody knows the system better than me, which is why I alone can fix it" [1]. It sounded like a boast. In June it became, in large part, the law.

On June 29 the Supreme Court decided Trump v. Slaughter, 6 to 3, holding that the FTC commissioners' protection from removal "is contrary to the separation of powers." The Chief Justice wrote that "more than 200 years have passed since we recognized that the Constitution 'vests the whole executive power in the President'"; the syllabus: "To remain accountable to the President, those officers must be removable by the President" [2]. The case for "I alone" is now a holding: one elected officer answers for the executive branch, so one elected officer runs it.

SOURCES

1. "Nobody knows the system better than me, which is why I alone can fix it" — Republican National Convention acceptance speech, 21 July 2016 — ABC News, full text ↑
2. Trump v. Slaughter, No. 25-332, decided 29 June 2026, 6–3 — Supreme Court of the United States ↑

"My nephew in law school printed me two opinions from the same day in June, and I read them in the order they came off the printer. The first one, six to three: the Constitution "vests the whole executive power in the President." The second one, five to four: the government's theory "would in effect transform the Federal Reserve's for-cause protection into at-will employment," so the governor stays. I'm sorry, I'll let you get in there, the Court opens today. If he alone can fix it, who's the one person he's not allowed to fire?" — Lou



""I alone can fix it." In June the Supreme Court more or less agreed — the whole executive power, vested in one man, fire the commissioners at will. Same day, same Court, five to four: except the Fed. So he alone can fix everything but the price of money. The term opens today. They're calling it the October term. He's calling it staff."

— Sal



"The Court affirmed that the president alone controls the executive branch, and clarified that the Federal Reserve is not the executive branch, which frees the president to control everything except the one thing he talks about most."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎