The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

THURSDAY, 08 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION FREE, FOREVER

Hinson calls millennials the worst savers, voted to cut the Medicaid they can't afford to lose

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Let's run the numbers the way they came in, in the order the clock puts them, because the candidate gave us two different ledgers on two different nights and only one of them adds up.

Wednesday, the debate stage, Social Security comes up, and Representative Ashley Hinson tells Iowa that millennials are "the worst group of savers" she's seen. That's the line.

Her opponent's answer came from the same stage, same night. State Representative Josh Turek didn't argue with the savings math. He pointed at her voting record: Hinson's own vote for last year's reconciliation bill carried a trillion-dollar reduction in Medicaid spending. Turek said it more than once during the debate, because the arithmetic doesn't change no matter how many times you say it. A worker who can't save enough and a worker whose Medicaid got smaller in the same bill are, it turns out, frequently the same worker.

Go back sixteen days from the debate — not two weeks, sixteen days, September 21 to October 7 — and Hinson had already laid out a different rule

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THE WORD

§54 — 07 OCTOBER 2026

On fired

DEMOCRAT

96 PERCENT

REPUBLICAN

YOU'RE FIRED

"I read the government's own personnel numbers, because they put them out and I believe people. Three hundred seventeen thousand departures last year. A hundred forty-four thousand took deferred resignation. A hundred twenty-nine thousand just left. Twenty-four thousand involuntary. Then the rehires: a hundred thirty-two back at the FAA, four hundred fifty jobs posted at the Weather Service. And the auditors' report in August. Sorry, before you go — the savings from all of that, how much of it came with the arithmetic attached?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W54

Trump calls Iran threat to L.A. proof he protects it, blames a Trump voter for heckling him.

BY LOU
One More Question

I need somebody who does this for a living to walk me through something, because I don't get paid to follow it and I still can't keep up. The wire services were all in San Antonio on Wednesday for the same speech — the Post, the Examiner, the Guardian, the Hill, NBC, the Times — and I'm hoping one of you can tell me how one speech turned into three different sentences before it was over.

Give me the order first, because the order is the whole question.

On Oct. 1, the president told Time he had "created peace" by annihilating Iran. By Oct. 7, the Post and RTE were both reporting that the White House was bracing for the Nobel committee to disagree and hand him the snub instead. Is that the same number, run twice in a week — the thing that was done, counted as the proof that it worked?

Here's what I actually called about. Ken Paxton, running for Senate out of Texas, told donors at the end of September, on tape the Times published, that the president's big Dallas convention "dropped our numbers." His word was "dropped." Paxton skipped Vice President Vance's rally the next day, then

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DNC sues to stop $12 million in taxpayer-funded Trump ads his own Super PAC still hasn't paid back.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Ruth here, money desk. Let's run the filing against the table.

Begin with the schedule. The president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head. This month the Treasury started mailing the first installment, and the first installment is ninety dollars.

Now the ad money, because that's where the ledgers meet. Common Dreams reported on September 25th that a thirty-second spot glorifying the president was airing on Fox, Newsmax, and CBS. By September 29th, the Wall Street Journal and congressional Democrats had traced the financing to the Department of Homeland Security, through Customs and Border Protection.

By this week the running total, per the ad-tracking firm AdImpact, was more than twelve million dollars. The DNC's complaint, filed Wednesday in federal court in Washington, itemizes it further: the White House Office wrote the ads, the Office of Management and Budget moved twenty million dollars to fund them, and CBP put them on the air. That is three line items across three agencies for one man's name recognition, which is not how an appropriation is supposed to read.

... Continued on Page B40

Twenty years after Russia cut Europe's gas, Kushner is negotiating America's cut of selling it back

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

A stake is not a pipeline, and you will want to hold those two apart — because one of them must be welded, and the other merely changes hands. Jared Kushner and Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's energy adviser, have been discussing bringing an American investor into the Nord Stream pipelines. Into. Not building. Into.

And what would such an investor put in the ground? Nothing whatever. The steel is laid, the gas is Russia's, and the war is ongoing.

You are thinking this is novel. Energy Secretary Chris Wright credits a thirty-minute military operation with unlocking 65 billion barrels. Americans paid $4.15 a gallon over Labor Day. A record.

On 2 January 2006, Russia having disconnected supplies to Ukraine, Hungary reported gas down 40 percent, France and Italy down 30, Poland 14.

A rentier sells no gas ... a rentier sells the position between the field and the furnace. Those furnaces are European.

... Continued on Page F113

Senate searches for the bottom of a surveillance network while sitting on the bill that turns it off.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

On September 3rd, Rep. The bill went to committee. It has not left.

Twenty days later, on September 23rd, a Senate panel held its first hearing on AI-powered surveillance cameras, titled "Always Watching: Flock's Nationwide AI Surveillance Network." The bill that would answer the question by turning off the money sat in the same building, in the same committee it reached twenty days earlier, for the length of the hearing.

The next day, September 24th, Flock itself asked a security researcher to take a map offline. Not a leak, not a rival's product — a map built from Flock's own camera locations, the most detailed public accounting anyone has made of where the devices sit. The company that runs the surveillance network wants the map of the surveillance network gone. The senators still "getting to the bottom of" what that network tracks have Massie's bill sitting exactly where it sat on September 3rd.

By October 8th, NPR reported that experts call other police surveillance tools — real-time crime-center software, the back-end systems that aggregate camera, sensor and license-plate data — more worrisome than Flock, and

... Continued on Page A208

Special prosecutor appointed to make sure every fact gets examined is petitioned out for already deciding guilt.

BY LOU
One More Question

I need somebody who knows this stuff better than I do, because I've been sitting with it since Tuesday, and I can't get the order to lay flat in my head. Maybe you can help me. The Attorney General's office, the courts, the wire desks — they do this for a living. I only read about it once.

Here's where I start. On October 2nd, Governor Hochul took the Cornell case away from the Tompkins County District Attorney — Matthew Van Houten, that's the name I have — and handed it to Attorney General Letitia James. CBS had that. The Washington Examiner had it too, and they said it came days after the DA reopened the case on new evidence the alleged victim filed. The governor's own statement, the one the Guardian ran, said the young woman "deserves to know that every fact will be examined and justice pursued." That's the reason given. I wrote that part down because I wanted to get it right.

Two days later, October 4th, Cornell's president says the school will take a "serious look" at its fraternities — the Guardian again — after a lawsuit alleging a woman was drugged and raped by members of Chi Phi. A serious look.

... Continued on Page A207

Court cites woman's botched execution as reason to carry out an identical one.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The consensus that lethal injection is a humane way for a state to kill someone finished dying this week, and it died the way its defenders always said it couldn't: awake, in public, asking what had happened.

It had been sick a long time. The fifteen-year taboo on firing squads as a relic of a cruder country died first, in March of 2025, when South Carolina stood a man named Brad Sigmon against a wall at Broad River Correctional Institution and shot him. Lethal injection survived that one. It did not survive this one.

On September 30, Tennessee gave Christa Pike, 50, two doses of pentobarbital meant to stop her heart. It did not. By October 2, Governor Bill Lee had suspended every execution in the state and ordered an independent inquiry, and Pike was listed in critical condition. On Tuesday she woke up enough to ask her lawyers what had happened. They say the prison kept them from her for more than two hours after she did.

Eight days is still dying. This week the method's own failure became, by way of the courts, the reason to keep using it. Jamaal Howard's attorneys

... Continued on Page B40

Bard president quits over Epstein ties in May, quits the rest when the email surfaces in October.

BY MITCH
Investigations

Leon Botstein resigned from Bard College's presidency in May, citing — in the phrasing of the wire services — his ties to the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. That resignation covered one title. He kept his professorship. He kept his roles in Bard's music programs. The ties, whatever they were, were apparently containable.

Five months later, congressional investigators found an email, and the ties stopped being containable. The email runs to one sentence, and the sentence is Botstein's own: he asks Jeffrey Epstein whether a young woman was "for me, or are you keeping her for yourself." All together now — read that twice. The man who stepped down in May over his friendship with Epstein had, at some point, sent a question about a woman as though she were a line item.

The email surfaced this week. Botstein resigned everything else the same day — the professorship, the music-program roles, whatever remained of the fifty years he had spent at Bard. Representative Jamie Raskin, who called the email "startling," is asking for a criminal investigation into what it says — not into whether Botstein knew Epstein, a fact established in May, but into the

... Continued on Page A207

"Nothing up there is a conspiracy. That's the part that should worry you — it's all on the record, filed, stamped, and in a couple of cases notarized."

— *Sal*

"Nothing here is a scandal. A scandal requires surprise, and I can assure you nobody involved was surprised."

— *Chip*

Trump calls Iran threat to L.A. proof he protects it, blames a Trump voter for heckling him.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump heckled multiple times at Texas rally for Ken Paxton, blames 'paid protesters'", 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump told a Texas rally Iran could hit Los Angeles or San Diego, then called it proof they're protected.

WHO GETS PAID. Ken Paxton's Senate campaign, the reason the rally was staged in the first place.

WHAT SLIPS. The crowd's right to protest a sitting president without being branded a paid enemy agent starts to slip.

WHAT'S NEXT. If hecklers keep getting branded paid enemies, the next step already happened in Surprise, Arizona in 2024, when a critic was arrested mid-comment and the charge was later thrown out as "objectively outrageous."

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I need somebody who does this for a living to walk me through something, because I don't get paid to follow it and I still can't keep up. The wire services were all in San Antonio on Wednesday for the same speech — the Post, the Examiner, the Guardian, the Hill, NBC, the Times — and I'm hoping one of you can tell me how one speech turned into three different sentences before it was over.

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Here's what I actually called about. Ken Paxton, running for Senate out of Texas, told donors at the end of September, on tape the Times published, that the president's big Dallas convention "dropped our numbers." His word was "dropped." Paxton skipped Vice President Vance's rally the next day, then showed up for the president's anyway on Oct. 1, at a manufacturing plant, where the president called him a "pain in the a--" and told the crowd to vote for him regardless. On Oct. 4, the Guardian reported that some Republicans now worry the rallies themselves have become the liability — and that when bad weather grounded Air Force One in Texas, the president had the motorcade cover the 85 miles to Oklahoma at nearly 100 miles an hour rather than skip the next stop. Does a schedule driven that hard sound like one anybody treats as optional?

Wednesday was the next stop after that. The Hill reported that the president told the Texas crowd Iran could hit Los Angeles or San Diego, and then — this is the Hill's phrase, not his — added that the United States would not let that happen. NBC's account of the same speech has him saying, afterward, "we protect our cities." The danger, the promise the danger won't happen, and then the promise standing in as the proof it already hasn't. Which of those three was supposed to be the news?

It reminds me of the toll plaza on the turnpike, where the sign says the toll pays for the road's upkeep, and the pothole that just knocked my fan belt loose gets held up as the proof the money's working. Does the sign explain what just happened to my car, or does it use what happened to my car as its own evidence?

Then the hecklers started. The Examiner counted about a dozen of them and reported the president's phrase for them: "paid protesters." The Post was there too, and has him saying of one, "His mom voted for Trump." A mother protesting at his own rally, whom the campaign itself later confirmed had voted for him. If a paid protester and a Trump voter can be the same woman in the same breath, what's left standing in the word "paid"?

One more thing, since you're still on the line. Mr. Paxton's own tape says the September convention cost him votes. The president went back to Texas anyway on Wednesday and called what happened there proof that the city is protected. So here's the actual favor: is the campaign that Paxton's own numbers say he lost ground on in September the same campaign the president is calling proof, in October, that nobody needs to worry? Because from where I'm standing it's the same state, the same candidate, and the same man at the podium, and nobody who covers this for a living has told me yet that I'm wrong.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

AT A TEXAS RALLY, THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE CROWD IRAN COULD HIT LOS ANGELES OR San Diego, then said the government would not let that happen, then pointed to that same promise as proof the cities are already safe. That isn't a threat briefing, it's a protection racket worked off a podium, where the danger and the receipt for stopping the danger get sold in the same breath. Because the sale needs a scared room, the room needs an enemy, and because the room needs an enemy the campaign reaches past the dozen hecklers and lands on a mother the campaign itself later confirmed had already voted for this ticket — which means the ballot you already marked for him buys you nothing the day you're the one standing up to ask a question.

"He tells a rally Iran could flatten two of our cities, calls not letting that happen his big save, then points at a mother who already voted for him and calls her a foreign-paid plant — that's not a gaffe, that's the pitch: make the threat, take credit for stopping it, blame the crowd when they don't buy it. Paxton's own tape already said this road show cost him votes once, and they ran it back anyway. The stakes aren't hypothetical missiles over San Diego; they're a Senate seat a Republican says his own party's rallies can lose for him."

— Sal

"Warning Iran and promising to stop Iran in the same breath is just strength, that's deterrence — wait, is that the same sentence twice? Fine, paid agitators show up at rallies, it's a known tactic — except this one already voted for him, so maybe she's just... passionate? Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me. The point stands: the president protects our cities, full stop — the mechanism, I'll get back to you on the mechanism."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *White House braces for Nobel snub after president says annihilating Iran created peace* By Mort · the supper edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump heckled multiple times at Texas rally for Ken Paxton, blames 'paid protesters'

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:58 EDT*

President Donald Trump's Texas rally for Republican Senate nominee Ken Paxton was repeatedly interrupted by protesters on Wednesday, drawing loud boos from the crowd and sharp jeers from the president. Trump was forced to stop several times during his speech to supporters in San Antonio after multiple hecklers in the crowd caused a...

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

Trump sets off on midterm blitz – are his trademark rallies a liability for Republicans?

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *07:00 EDT*

Rallies have been mainstay of president's brand but even some in his own party fear voters are sick of the sight of him "Get your asses in that car." That was Donald Trump's order, he later recalled, to his motorcade after foul weather grounded Air Force One in Texas on Thursday. The 85-mile dash to Oklahoma at nearly 100mph was proof...

~~Trump rally protesters shout down angel mom talking about her murdered son in Texas: 'They're paid by enemies of our nation'~~

Trump's reply to a rally protester: his mom voted for him

New York Post RIGHT § *00:52 EDT*

"His mom voted for Trump," the president said of one of the about 12 protesters at the rally.

Trump doubles down on California comments: 'Let them hit San Diego, let them hit Los Angeles'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:57 EDT*

President Trump doubled down on his comments suggesting Iran could hit Los Angeles and San Diego during a rally in Texas on Wednesday, adding that the U.S. would not let such a scenario play out. "You want to see trauma?

~~Trump repeats his false claim that Iran could destroy Los Angeles or San Diego – as it happened~~

Trump said Iran could 'take out' Los Angeles and San Diego

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:31 EDT*

This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email Tonight, we'll have another set of midterm debates. In Iowa, we'll see the Republican nominee for US Senate, Ashley Hinson , face off against Democrat Josh Turek , a state representative and Paralympian at 8pm ET.

Trump says 'we protect our cities' after saying Iran could 'take out' Los Angeles or San Diego

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:08 EDT*

The president recast his earlier incendiary statements at a San Antonio rally meant to galvanize voters behind Texas Republicans ahead of the midterms.

~~At Texas Rally, Trump and Paxton Make for an Awkward Pair~~

Trump used Paxton's rally to defend his own record

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *23:32 EDT*

The president offered support for the Republican Senate candidate, after earlier grumbles, but focused much of his speech on a defense of his own record.

· Paxton misses Vance rally; will stump with Trump on Thursday *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· 'It Dropped Our Numbers': In Leaked Audio, Ken Paxton Admits Trump's Texas Convention Backfired *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Trump trucks to Texas to tout 'pain in the a–' Ken Paxton, economic wins *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.

THE INVOICE

DNC sues to stop $12 million in taxpayer-funded Trump ads his own Super PAC still hasn't paid back.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"The DNC Has No Choice": Democrats Sue Trump Over Taxpayer-Funded Propaganda", 7 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Trump administration ran taxpayer-funded ads promoting the president, and the DNC sued Wednesday to stop them.

WHO GETS PAID. Trump's reelection campaign gets the airtime; its Super PAC has not reimbursed the Treasury for any of it.

WHAT SLIPS. A court's check on executive ad spending slips: the law banning taxpayer "publicity or propaganda" went unenforced until the DNC went to a judge this week.

WHAT'S NEXT. The DNC's lawsuit asks a federal judge to halt the ads before the November midterms; no hearing date has been set yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Ruth here, money desk. Let's run the filing against the table.

Begin with the schedule. The president priced a Republican Congress at five thousand dollars a head. This month the Treasury started mailing the first installment, and the first installment is ninety dollars....

...(cont) Now the ad money, because that's where the ledgers meet. Common Dreams reported on September 25th that a thirty-second spot glorifying the president was airing on Fox, Newsmax, and CBS. By September 29th, the Wall Street Journal and congressional Democrats had traced the financing to the Department of Homeland Security, through Customs and Border Protection.

By this week the running total, per the ad-tracking firm AdImpact, was more than twelve million dollars. The DNC's complaint, filed Wednesday in federal court in Washington, itemizes it further: the White House Office wrote the ads, the Office of Management and Budget moved twenty million dollars to fund them, and CBP put them on the air. That is three line items across three agencies for one man's name recognition, which is not how an appropriation is supposed to read.

Here is the number that does the reconciling. The ads promote a candidate. The campaign has a Super PAC. The Guardian reports that Super PAC has refused to reimburse the Treasury for any of it. So the taxpayer fronted twelve million dollars for a campaign ad, and the campaign — the entity whose job is paying for campaign ads — has declined to pay this one. The bill sat on the desk long enough that the DNC had to go to a federal judge to get it paid, or stopped.

The lawsuit asks a court to halt the ads outright. It calls the spending, in the statute's own words, "publicity or propaganda purposes" — the exact category Congress wrote a ban around when it appropriated the money in the first place.

Ninety dollars. Twenty million. Twelve million. Zero reimbursed. The checks went out slower than the ads did, hon, and only one of those two mailings had anyone's reelection riding on it.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION MOVED TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS EARMARKED FOR the border into ads promoting the man who runs the border, and his campaign's own Super PAC has not reimbursed one dollar of it. That isn't an accounting delay, it's a loan the border budget made to a political campaign with no repayment date and no interest written down anywhere. The next time you're stacked up at the crossing because only one booth is open, the twenty million that could have staffed the second one is still running on cable during the evening news.

"They took twenty million out of the border budget to run ads telling you how great the guy running the border budget is. The campaign that benefits from those ads won't pay a dime of it back, so you're not watching a commercial, you're watching a loan you never co-signed. Ninety bucks shows up in your mailbox the same month twelve million shows up on your TV, and only one of those numbers was ever about you."

— Sal

"Look, the government communicates with citizens all the time, that's — that's just public information, it's not a campaign ad. Okay, it ran a recycled 2024 campaign spot on Fox and Newsmax, but the statute's really about intent, and intent is a gray area — did I just defend the border budget for funding his greatest-hits reel? That's not — forget I said that."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *New York Post crowns Social Security's 2027 raise before Social Security announces what it is.* By Ruth · the noon edition, 7 October 2026
- *Trump pledges $5,000 for a Republican Congress, delivers $90 to seniors instead.* By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 7 October 2026
- *Republicans go quiet on the border promise they kept; the $90-for-$5,000 count continues.* By Ruth · the sunrise edition, 7 October 2026
- *Republicans' promised $5,000 arrives as $90, a $4,910 shortfall Treasury won't explain.* By Ruth · the matinee edition, 6 October 2026
- *Treasury mails the promised $5,000 in a $90 deposit, won't name the account that paid it.* By Ruth · the noon edition, 6 October 2026
- *GOP sells $90 as proof $5,000 is coming, then admits on record it won't buy the senior vote.* By Ruth · the breakfast edition, 6 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~"The DNC Has No Choice": Democrats Sue Trump Over Taxpayer-Funded Propaganda~~

OMB shifted $20 million in taxpayer funds to broadcast Trump's own ads, DNC lawsuit says

Common Dreams § *19:09 EDT*

The Democratic National Committee sued President Donald Trump and parts of his administration on Wednesday over a series of recent taxpayer-funded video advertisements that the complaint calls "a blatant violation of the statutory ban on the use of appropriations for 'publicity or propaganda purposes.'" "President Trump personally...

~~Democrats sue to stop Trump from using taxpayer funds for self-promoting ads~~

Trump's self-promoting ads have cost taxpayers $12 million. His own Super PAC refused to pay it back.

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM § *18:58 EDT*

Ads promoting the president have cost more than $12m and his Super Pac has refused to reimburse taxpayers Sign up to The Stakes 2026: your weekly guide to the US midterms The Democratic National Committee sued the Trump administration in federal court on Wednesday, asking a judge in Washington DC to stop the president from using taxpayer...

But: Sen. Blumenthal: the Secret Service diverted $1.17 billion in appropriated funds toward the ballroom project *Sen. Blumenthal, official release*

DNC sues Trump administration over taxpayer-funded TV ads promoting president

France 24 | MAINSTREAM § *18:27 EDT*

The Democratic National Committee sued President Donald Trump's administration on Wednesday over taxpayer-funded television ads promoting his political message, alleging illegal government propaganda. The lawsuit seeks to halt federal funding for the ads, which have cost more than $12 million to air ahead of November's midterm elections...

· Impeachment Calls Grow as Dems Say Up to $20 Million in Taxpayer Funds Were Used for 'Illegal' Pro-Trump Ads *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· 'Pure Cult Propaganda': Outrage Grows Over 'Illegal' Taxpayer-Funded Ad of Trump Begging for Your Love *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· House Democrat 'far less worried' about democratic socialists than Republicans 'complicit' with Trump *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· U.S.-Russia Talks on Ukraine Now Involve an Oil Deal Tied to Trump Allies *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Trump says US to send one-time $90 payment to 20m seniors enrolled in Medicare *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump announces US will send $90 checks to 20 million seniors enrolled in Medicare *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Twenty years after Russia cut Europe's gas, Kushner is negotiating America's cut of selling it back

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"US, Russia explore gas sale to Europe amid Ukraine war: Report", 8 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Jared Kushner and a Putin energy adviser are discussing an American investor's stake in the Nord Stream gas pipelines.

WHO GETS PAID. Whoever takes the American stake collects on gas sold to Europe, alongside the Russian sellers; Kushner is at the table.

WHAT SLIPS. Nothing slips here yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the sale goes through, Europe's heat again depends on a switch in Moscow; that is what Hungary got after 2 January 2006, when Russia disconnected supplies and Hungarian gas fell 40 percent, France and Italy 30.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

A stake is not a pipeline, and you will want to hold those two apart — because one of them must be welded, and the other merely changes hands. Jared Kushner and Kirill Dmitriev, Putin's energy adviser, have been discussing bringing an American investor into the Nord Stream pipelines. Into. Not building. Into.

And what would such an investor put in the ground? Nothing whatever. The steel is laid, the gas is Russia's, and the war is ongoing....

...(cont) You are thinking this is novel. Energy Secretary Chris Wright credits a thirty-minute military operation with unlocking 65 billion barrels. Americans paid $4.15 a gallon over Labor Day. A record.

On 2 January 2006, Russia having disconnected supplies to Ukraine, Hungary reported gas down 40 percent, France and Italy down 30, Poland 14.

A rentier sells no gas … a rentier sells the position between the field and the furnace. Those furnaces are European.

Every crossing, a hen. The
man at the ford owns no water.

— ENOCH
The Ownership Desk

"Nine months ago they told us a thirty-minute military op unlocked 65 billion barrels, and then we paid $4.15 a gallon over Labor Day — a record. Now Kushner's sitting with Putin's energy guy working out an American slice of Russian gas headed to Europe, war still going. Nobody's digging a trench here; they're buying the booth you pay at on the way through."
— Sal

"There's nothing improper about American capital in European energy infrastructure — if anything it's stabilizing, American ownership, American standards. Did I say ownership? That doesn't sound like me, these are exploratory conversations, nothing is signed. And who would you rather had a chair at that table, us or Gazprom?"
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *OpenAI pledges to cut election spending; the same month it fired the researchers flagging its risks.* By Ruth · the late evening edition, 5 October 2026
- *California's wildfire accountability bill dies in Sacramento, resurfaces as a lawsuit against homeowners' own insurer.* By The Wrecking Crew · the early evening edition, 5 October 2026
- *G7 drains 100 million barrels to fix a war's price spike, saves Americans a few pennies* By Sal · the early bird edition, 2 October 2026
- *Trump demands G7 drain 100 million barrels of reserves to fix diesel crisis his war on Iran caused.* By The Lodgers · the noon edition, 2 October 2026
- *Hegseth hands the future of warfare to two donors whose companies already hold billion-dollar Pentagon contracts* By The Lodgers · the matinee edition, 1 October 2026
- *Accused of undermining the military's command, Hegseth removes a fifth of its officers and installs AUTOWARCOM.* By The Lodgers · the coffee break edition, 1 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

US, Russia explore gas sale to Europe amid Ukraine war: Report
New York Post RIGHT § *03:54 EDT*

Jared Kushner and Putin adviser Kirill Dmitriev have held talks about bringing a US investor into the Nord Stream gas pipelines.

· Countries across Europe report reductions in gas supplies after Russia disconnected supplies to Ukraine yesterday. Russia accuses Ukraine of stealing cubic metres of gas yesterday from pipelines trans *from the morgue, 2 Jan 2006*

· Trump admin's list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist' groups in Latin America expands to 21 *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Top Trump official reveals how 30-minute military op unlocked Venezuela oil windfall for US buyers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Ex-Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores seeks release from NYC jail, citing heart ailment *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· New York City protest once again demands release of Maduro and Flores *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*

· Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· 'Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· 'Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*

· The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Tehran threatens attacks after U.S. strikes Iranian tankers *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· US forces take out 3 Iranian oil tankers in retaliation *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil prices up as Iran says it will expand control over Strait of Hormuz *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Iran live updates: Trump speaks to MBS, says everything will 'work out fine' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*

· Iran threatens retaliation against U.S. tanker strikes *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· U.S. gas prices hit record high for Labor Day *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Ship tracking websites, including Kpler, MarineTraffic, and TankerTrackers, show that three Iranian oil tankers, including two from the National Iranian Tanker Company, have escaped the blockade that *from the morgue, 17 Jun 2026*

· Iranian state media reports that the United States Navy attempted to capture an Iranian oil tanker. The oil tanker was boarded, commandeered and then returned by Iranian NEDSA marines in a helicopter *from the morgue, 3 Nov 2021*

· US strikes Iranian rocket launchers in first attack since late July *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*

· An Iranian Navy commander claims on state television that the Iranian Navy forced a U.S. submarine to surface as it transited the Strait of Hormuz and that the submarine violated Iranian territorial w *from the morgue, 20 Apr 2023*

· Trump Threatens to Rename Strait of Hormuz for Himself as War Pushes Diesel Prices Toward Record High *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump floats renaming Strait of Hormuz after himself *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· U.S. strikes targets in Iran near Strait of Hormuz as Iran says it is retaliating *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Price of diesel in U.S. hits record as Vance downplays Iran war impact *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Diesel prices hit record high as wars disrupt supply *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Trump vows response to Iran's retaliatory strikes: 'We're going to hit them hard' *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Trump threatens Iran against retaliation for latest U.S. strikes *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Live updates: US, Iran ramp up strikes; incumbents hold on in Massachusetts *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump calls Iran conflict "small potatoes" *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Labor Day gas prices are highest ever for holiday *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· How 'Hypermilers' Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Fuel prices at record Labor Day high in US thanks to Iran War and refinery issues *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Oil Prices Rise Slightly After U.S. and Iran Trade Strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· USS Lincoln heads home as war with Iran escalates *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

· Lawler disagrees with Trump on Iran war: 'It is certainly not small potatoes' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· OPEC Plus to Keep Oil Production Steady *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than $1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us' *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Wright: US has 'a lot of leverage' in Venezuela after oil deal reached *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*

· White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will 'fill' the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

· Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*

· Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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Senate searches for the bottom of a surveillance network while sitting on the bill that turns it off.

By THE WRECKING CREW
THE REMEDY DESK



“Flock Wants the Most Detailed Map of Its Surveillance Cameras Taken Offline”, 24 September 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE INTERCEPT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Flock's nationwide camera network keeps running while Congress studies it and the bill to limit it sits in committee.

WHO GETS PAID. Flock Safety keeps its police department contracts and federal funding because the bill cutting that money off never left committee.

WHAT SLIPS. The public's view of where the cameras are slips, since Flock itself wants the only detailed map of its network taken down.

WHAT'S NEXT. No markup or vote on the Flock-Off Act has been scheduled; the bill stays in committee with no date set to move it.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On September 3rd, Rep. The bill went to committee. It has not left.

Twenty days later, on September 23rd, a Senate panel held its first hearing on AI-powered surveillance cameras, titled "Always Watching: Flock's Nationwide AI Surveillance Network." The bill that would answer the question by turning off the money sat in the same building, in the same committee it reached twenty days earlier, for the length of the hearing....

...(cont) The next day, September 24th, Flock itself asked a security researcher to take a map offline. Not a leak, not a rival's product — a map built from Flock's own camera locations, the most detailed public accounting anyone has made of where the devices sit. The company that runs the surveillance network wants the map of the surveillance network gone. The senators still "getting to the bottom of" what that network tracks have Massie's bill sitting exactly where it sat on September 3rd.

By October 8th, NPR reported that experts call other police surveillance tools — real-time crime-center software, the back-end systems that aggregate camera, sensor and license-plate data — more worrisome than Flock, and call that software "sometimes overlooked," built to pull together "immense amounts of data" while drawing less of the attention Flock's hearing just drew.

The fix was written before any of this happened. It has a bill number, a sponsor, and a committee of record, filed September 3rd. A hearing happened about the exact thing the bill addresses. The map its backers might have cited got pulled down by the company that owns the cameras. None of that required the bill to move. The bill did not move.

“They hold a hearing to "get to the bottom" of a camera network, then go sit right on top of the bill that would turn it off. Call it what it is: the oversight is theater, and the off switch has had a bill number since September. Every plate your car runs past gets logged somewhere, and the one guy who tried to cut the funding got a committee referral instead of a vote.”

— Sal

“Committee review is how Congress makes sure a bill like this doesn't go too far, too fast — you don't shut down every license-plate camera in the country overnight. The hearing shows we're taking a hard look at Flock. Did I say "hard look"? We held one hearing. That's... thorough, actually.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

Flock is catching flak. Experts say other police surveillance tools are more worrisome

NPR MAINSTREAM § *05:00 EDT*

Real-time crime-center software is a sometimes overlooked but powerful tool allowing police to aggregate immense amounts of data, significantly expanding their surveillance reach.

~~Flock Wants the Most Detailed Map of Its Surveillance Cameras Taken Offline~~

Flock built a mass surveillance network. It doesn’t want the map of it public.

The Intercept § *19:21 EDT*

A security researcher’s map revealed more locations of Flock devices than any other. Flock is trying to take it down. The post Flock Wants the Most Detailed Map of Its Surveillance Cameras Taken Offline appeared first on The Intercept .

· Massie unveils Flock-Off Act aimed at restricting surveillance cameras *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Senators try to 'get to the bottom of' AI-powered surveillance networks amid Flock concerns *from the morgue, 23 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.

Special prosecutor appointed to make sure every fact gets examined is petitioned out for already deciding guilt.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Cornell Student Wants Letitia James, NY Attorney General, Removed as Prosecutor", 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The accused in Cornell's gang-rape case petitioned to remove the special prosecutor assigned to review it.

WHO GETS PAID. Gillio Lopes and the other men accused in the case, who stand to get a more sympathetic prosecutor if Attorney General James is removed.

WHAT SLIPS. The outside review brought in because the local prosecutor looked too easy on the accused could be pulled before it finishes its work.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing date has been set on the petition to remove her, and Cornell has given no date for the fraternity findings it promised back in August.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I need somebody who knows this stuff better than I do, because I've been sitting with it since Tuesday, and I can't get the order to lay flat in my head. Maybe you can help me. The Attorney General's office, the courts, the wire desks — they do this for a living. I only read about it once.

Here's where I start. On October 2nd, Governor Hochul took the Cornell case away from the Tompkins County District Attorney — Matthew Van Houten, that's the name I have — and handed it to Attorney General Letitia James. CBS had that. The Washington Examiner had it too, and they said it came days after the DA reopened the case on new evidence the alleged victim filed. The governor's own statement, the one the Guardian ran, said the young woman "deserves to know that every fact will be examined and justice pursued." That's the reason given. I wrote that part down because I wanted to get it right....

...(cont) Two days later, October 4th, Cornell's president says the school will take a "serious look" at its fraternities — the Guardian again — after a lawsuit alleging a woman was drugged and raped by members of Chi Phi. A serious look. Those are his words, not mine.

Anti-police bias, they call it. That's one description of how she does the job.

And then October 8th — yesterday, by my count — two things land on the same day. NBC reports a petition filed for one of the accused, a man named Gillio Lopes, arguing James has "unequivocally demonstrated a bias and presumption of guilt against the defendants." The New York Times has the same story: a lawyer for one of the men wants her removed. That's the opposite description. Same office. Same case.

And the same day the petition lands, the Washington Examiner says about eighty Cornell students sat in a dining hall for seven hours, calling it "Zero Day," refusing to spend money at the school, because the serious look the president promised back on the 4th still hasn't produced anything they can see.

I drove past the toll plaza on my way home trying to work this through — one of those readers that clocks you different depending which lane you pull into, E-ZPass or cash, same car, same bridge, two numbers. I'm not saying that's what's happening here. I'm asking whether an office that was brought in for being too easy on somebody can also be the office accused of being too hard on them, over the same case, inside the same week, and whether that's in the record the way I read it, or whether I'm misreading it, because the fan belt's been slipping on the car and maybe my head's not where it should be lately either.

So: she was appointed, by the governor's own statement, so that nothing in it would get missed. And the accused's own petition says she's already decided what the facts mean. Can both of those sit in the same file?

Oh — and one more thing, before I go. Those eighty students in the dining hall, Wednesday, seven hours — they weren't there about the prosecutor at all, were they? They were there about the serious look. The one promised on the 4th. Is that still open, as far as anybody's told them?

🍺

"They swapped out one prosecutor for looking too soft on the accused, and the accused's own lawyers immediately said the replacement looks too hard on them — notice how both complaints land on the same outcome, more delay. Cornell, the one outfit that actually controls the fraternities, hasn't published a word since its own August promise, so eighty students sat in a dining hall for seven hours just to ask where it went. Change who's holding the file as often as you like; nobody with the power to shut a house down has touched it yet."

— Sal

🚬

"Look, you can't be soft on crime and also run a secret vendetta against two college kids in the same six days — unless you're the New York Attorney General, apparently, where both headlines get to be true at once. The Post's right that she's letting cases drag, and the defense is right she's already decided the outcome, and — wait, did I just agree with both sides? That doesn't sound like me. The point is the process is working exactly as intended, whatever the intention turns out to be."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Not even Maduro's own lawyer got the memo on his new torture charges; reporters did.* By Lou · the early evening edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Cornell Student Wants Letitia James, NY Attorney General, Removed as Prosecutor

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *21:42 EDT*

Attorney General Letitia James should step down from leading the investigation into a former student's claim that she was sexually assaulted in 2024, a lawyer for one of the men said.

Letitia James' anti-police bias leaves hero cops hanging — and endangers us all

New York Post RIGHT § *19:27 EDT*

As an ideologically driven anti-police politician, James is needlessly slow-walking her investigations — leaving cops twisting in the wind for months and even years on end.

Cornell students hold sit-in over school's response to alleged gang rape

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:19 EDT*

Students at Cornell University are staging a seven-hour sit-in protest over concerns that campus leadership mishandled an investigation into an alleged gang rape in 2024. As of around 3 p.m. Wednesday, roughly 80 students gathered inside a campus dining hall for the "Zero Day"

Cornell defendant is fighting AG Letitia James' appointment as special prosecutor

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:33 EDT*

A petition filed Wednesday for Gillio Lopes says James has "unequivocally demonstrated a bias and presumption of guilt against the defendants."

· Letitia James appointed special prosecutor in alleged gang-rape at Cornell *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Hochul appoints Letitia James as special prosecutor in Cornell gang rape case *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Early details as Hochul removes district attorney in Cornell rape case, appoints Letitia James *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Cornell president vows 'serious look' at fraternities in wake of rape allegations *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

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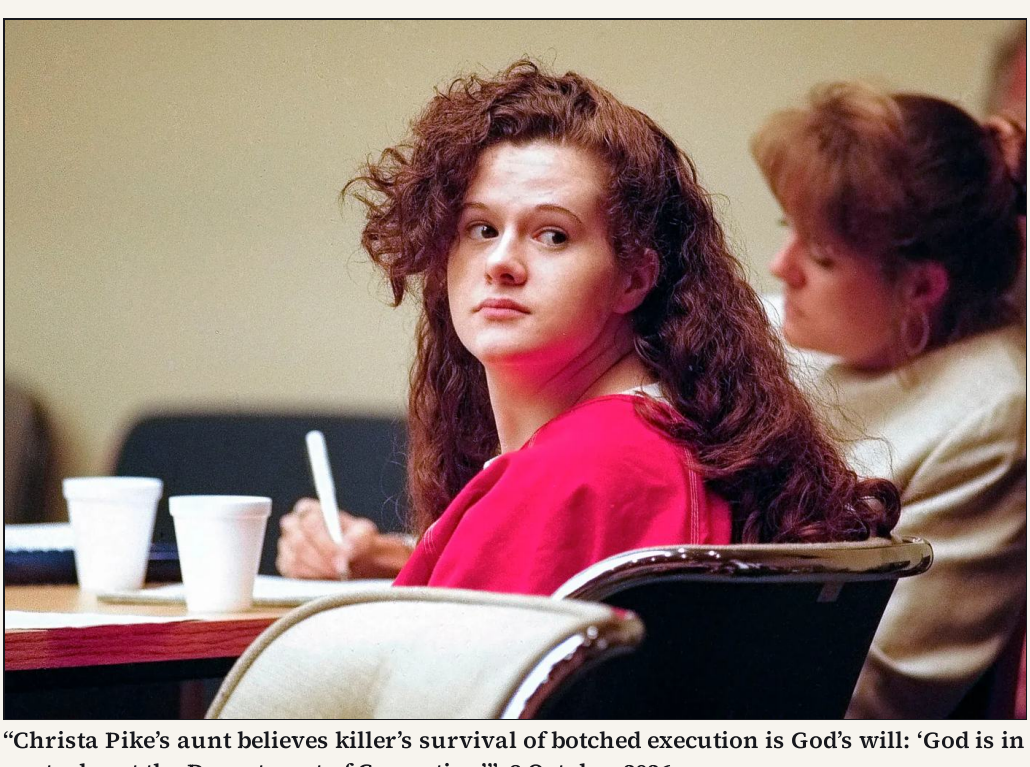
Court cites woman's botched execution as reason to carry out an identical one.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



“Christa Pike’s aunt believes killer’s survival of botched execution is God’s will: ‘God is in control, not the Department of Correction’”, 8 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A Texas court refused to stop an execution days after the same drug left a Tennessee woman conscious mid-injection.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. A court's job to catch a failed method before it's used again slips, the moment it treats one woman's survival as proof instead of warning.

WHAT'S NEXT. Tennessee's governor ordered an independent inquiry on October 2 with no deadline attached; until it reports, the same drug stays approved for use everywhere else.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The consensus that lethal injection is a humane way for a state to kill someone finished dying this week, and it died the way its defenders always said it couldn't: awake, in public, asking what had happened.

It had been sick a long time. The fifteen-year taboo on firing squads as a relic of a cruder country died first, in March of 2025, when South Carolina stood a man named Brad Sigmon against a wall at Broad River Correctional Institution and shot him. Lethal injection survived that one. It did not survive this one....

...(cont) On September 30, Tennessee gave Christa Pike, 50, two doses of pentobarbital meant to stop her heart. It did not. By October 2, Governor Bill Lee had suspended every execution in the state and ordered an independent inquiry, and Pike was listed in critical condition. On Tuesday she woke up enough to ask her lawyers what had happened. They say the prison kept them from her for more than two hours after she did.

Eight days is still dying. This week the method's own failure became, by way of the courts, the reason to keep using it. Jamaal Howard's attorneys cited Pike's botched injection in Tennessee to argue the same pentobarbital posed the same risk in Texas. A Texas court declined to halt his execution anyway. Howard was executed this week by the identical drug.

Pike's aunt, Carrie Ross, who helped raise her and says she loves her as a daughter, has her own account of why her niece is alive: God is in control, she says, not the Department of Correction. She does not credit the governor's inquiry, or the two doses that failed to do what they were built to do. To call what happened to Christa Pike a functioning safeguard, working exactly as designed, is hogwash — and the court in Texas called it something else entirely: precedent.

Lethal injection is survived by Jamaal Howard's family, by whatever is left of the independent inquiry, and by the next name on a death warrant somewhere, waiting on the same drug.

In lieu of flowers, a public count: how many times pentobarbital has to fail before a court finds that it has.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

CHRISTA PIKE WOKE UP MID-INJECTION ASKING WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND A TEXAS court cited her case this week to clear the same drug for Jamaal Howard anyway, while her aunt thanks God, not the Department of Correction, that her niece survived. That isn't judicial review, it's a liability release with a bench attached: the state doesn't need the drug to work, it needs the docket closed. Because closing the docket only requires a ruling and not a fix, a woman choking on the table becomes proof the method passed; because the method passed, the next man's paperwork moved right on schedule; and because paperwork moves on schedule, the form you'll sign before your own next procedure is not really about whether you understood the needle, it's about whether anyone objected before they used it.

“They're using the one woman who lived through it as the proof the drug works, instead of the warning it is, and that's not an oversight, that's the whole machine running correctly. The drug doesn't have to kill cleanly. It just has to not get stopped — and "insufficient grounds for delay" is the receipt that tells you whose job it is to be careful here, and it isn't the state's.”

— Sal

“Look, the court followed the standard for a stay, which is a high bar, as it should be — you can't halt every execution in the country every time one state has a problem, that's not how precedent works. Governor Lee ordered an independent inquiry, the process is working exactly as designed — wait, did I just call a woman asking what happened "the process working"? That's not — let me rephrase that.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Army revives a method unused since 1945 the week lethal injection left a woman asking what happened* By Mort · the early evening edition, 7 October 2026
- *Medical staff ask Tennessee to unshackle the woman it failed to execute; the state says no.* By Mitch · the supper edition, 7 October 2026
- *Tennessee preserves the syringes from the execution it won't confirm it'll retry.* By Mitch · the matinee edition, 7 October 2026
- *Alito warns of a 'concerted' effort to intimidate the Court, then recuses over his own oil investments.* By Lou · the coffee break edition, 7 October 2026
- *Tennessee suspends executions after the fifth one fails; the fifth prisoner wakes up to ask for her file back* By Ruth · the coffee break edition, 7 October 2026
- *Death penalty system answers its own 'broken from start to finish' verdict with a firing squad date.* By Ruth · the early evening edition, 6 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

~~Christa Pike’s aunt believes killer’s survival of botched execution is God’s will: ‘God is in control, not the Department of Correction’~~

Tennessee’s execution attempt failed; her aunt credits God, not the state

New York Post RIGHT § *21:40 EDT*

Carrie Ross, who helped raise Pike, 50, and “loves her as a daughter,” said her niece’s life should be spared because the Almighty clearly doesn’t support her execution.

~~What Christa Pike asked when she woke up from failed execution~~

Her lawyer says Tennessee prison officials delayed access for two hours after the failed execution

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:43 EDT*

Christa Pike's attorneys accuse Tennessee prison officials of delaying access to their client for over two hours after she regained consciousness on Tuesday following a failed execution attempt. Skyler Henry has more.

Request to halt Texas execution denied in wake of Pike's botched lethal injection

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:23 EDT*

A Texas court on Wednesday refused to halt the execution of a man who fatally shot a convenience store clerk, after his attorneys cited the failed lethal injection of Christa Pike in Tennessee.

Texas executes Jamaal Howard despite concerns over lethal injection drug used in failed Tennessee execution

Fox News RIGHT § *23:55 EDT*

Jamaal Howard's attorneys cited Christa Pike's failed lethal injection in Tennessee to argue the pentobarbital drug posed risks, but the Supreme Court rejected it.

· Christa Pike left in ‘critical condition’ as Tennessee halts all executions *from the morgue, 2 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.

Bard president quits over Epstein ties in May, quits the rest when the email surfaces in October.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

"Leon Botstein resigns from Bard roles as key Democrat demands investigation into Epstein links", 7 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Leon Botstein resigned his remaining Bard College titles after his own email to Jeffrey Epstein surfaced.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Bard's trustees have not reviewed what Botstein did; both times, he decided his own exit.

WHAT'S NEXT. Jamie Raskin's call for a criminal investigation is now on the record, with no agency confirmed as taking it up and no hearing date set.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Leon Botstein resigned from Bard College's presidency in May, citing — in the phrasing of the wire services — his ties to the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. That resignation covered one title. He kept his professorship. He kept his roles in Bard's music programs. The ties, whatever they were, were apparently containable.

Five months later, congressional investigators found an email, and the ties stopped being containable. The email runs to one sentence, and the sentence is Botstein's own: he asks Jeffrey Epstein whether a young woman was "for me, or are you keeping her for yourself." All together now — read that twice. The man who stepped down in May over his friendship with Epstein had, at some point, sent a question about a woman as though she were a line item....

...(cont) The email surfaced this week. Botstein resigned everything else the same day — the professorship, the music-program roles, whatever remained of the fifty years he had spent at Bard. Representative Jamie Raskin, who called the email "startling," is asking for a criminal investigation into what it says — not into whether Botstein knew Epstein, a fact established in May, but into the sentence itself.

It is worth noticing what did the work here. Not a Bard faculty committee. Not an internal review. Not, as far as the record shows, Bard's board at all — the retirement in May was Botstein's own announcement, and so, it appears, was October's. What moved him was congressional investigators reading his correspondence and a lawmaker reading it back to the public. The New York Times, writing up the same resignation, describes the thing Botstein kept in May as a "longtime friendship" — the paper's word; the receipts give no count of years beyond it. A longtime friendship was enough to end a presidency. A single sentence was enough to end everything attached to it.

The distance between those two resignations is the actual finding here, and congressional investigators found it the way anyone could have — by reading what the man wrote.

🍺

"""Ties." That's the word they used back in May — ties, like he was related to the guy, not like he was asking whether a trafficking victim was being saved for later use. Bard didn't investigate one thing; the man announced his own retirement twice, five months apart, and this time he called it resigning "the rest." That's not an institution holding anyone accountable, that's a man managing his own exit paperwork on a schedule he set."

— Sal

🚬

"Nobody's disputing the email exists, we're disputing what it means — context matters, people write all kinds of things. He didn't forward it, fine, he wrote it, but the point stands: Professor Botstein already resigned once, in May, voluntarily, which is exactly the accountability we want from an institution. Doing it twice just shows thoroughness. Did I say that? That's not — let me start over."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Gaza negotiator need not disclose his firm's stake in Israeli arms investors; his title is special envoy* By Sterling · the early bird edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Leon Botstein resigns from Bard roles as key Democrat demands investigation into Epstein links

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *19:07 EDT*

Jamie Raskin says 'startling' email asked whether young woman was 'for me, or are you keeping her for yourself' A powerful Democratic lawmaker has called for a criminal investigation into former Bard College president Leon Botstein after congressional investigators uncovered an email from Botstein to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey...

Leon Botstein, Former Bard President With Epstein Ties, Resigns From College Positions

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *19:56 EDT*

Leon Botstein had already retired from the presidency of the liberal arts college this spring, after emails showed he had maintained a longtime friendship with Jeffrey Epstein.

· Leon Botstein, president of Bard College in New York, U.S., announces his retirement over his ties to the late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. (AP) (The Independent) *from the morgue, 1 May 2026*

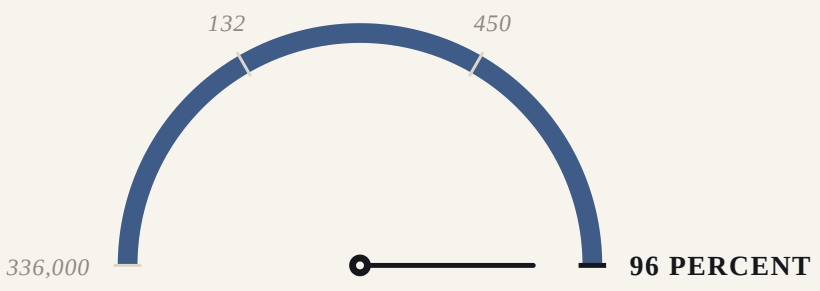
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§54 — 07 OCTOBER 2026

On fired

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



96 PERCENT

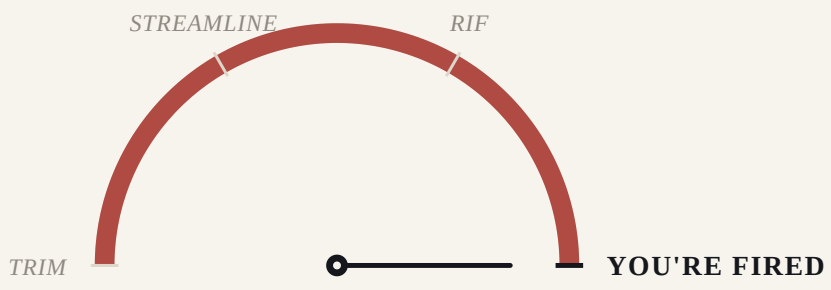
The count. The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts federal employment at 3,010,000 in January 2025 and 2,674,000 in August 2026 — down 336,000 [1]. A federal judge ordered four agencies to rescind layoffs issued during last fall's shutdown, with back pay, finding they likely violated the deal that ended it [2]. The FAA reinstated 132 fired probationary employees under a court order [3]; the National Weather Service, after its cuts, moved to hire 450 [4].

And the savings. In August the Government Accountability Office reviewed the claims on the efficiency office's "Wall of Receipts," which stood at $110 billion: it found no disclosed method for 96 percent of the claimed grant savings, a $1.7 billion contract counted as saved that was never terminated, and 108 of 264 cancelled leases already on their way out before the office existed [5]. You're fired is a sentence. The receipt was supposed to be the proof.

SOURCES

1. Federal government employment: 3,010,000 in January 2025; 2,674,000 in August 2026 (preliminary) — Bureau of Labor Statistics, series CES9091000001, 4 September 2026 ↑
2. A judge ordered Education, State, SBA and GSA to rescind RIFs issued during the shutdown, with back pay — FedScoop, 18 December 2025 ↑
3. The FAA reinstated 132 probationary employees under court order — Reuters via Yahoo News, 17 March 2025 ↑
4. The National Weather Service moved to hire 450 positions — NBC News, 7 August 2025 ↑
5. $110 billion claimed; no disclosed method for 96 percent of claimed grant savings; a $1.7 billion contract claimed but not terminated; 108 of 264 leases already being terminated — Government Accountability Office, GAO-26-108615, 6 August 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



YOU'RE FIRED

The catchphrase came from The Apprentice, which premiered on NBC on January 8, 2004 [1]. The second term brought it to the largest employer in the country, and the government's own personnel office says the headlines got it wrong.

OPM's accounting of 2025: 317,000 departures, of which 144,000 took deferred resignation, 129,000 left through ordinary attrition, 21,000 took early retirement or buyouts, and 24,000 were involuntary, including 17,000 reductions in force; with 68,000 hires, the net reduction was about 249,000 [2]. The director: "The 'mass firing' headlines do not in fact tell the full story" [2]. That is a fair point, and it belongs here in full: the government got smaller mostly by asking, not by firing. What it cost to get smaller that way is on the other side.

SOURCES

1. The Apprentice premiered on NBC on 8 January 2004 — Wikipedia, The Apprentice (American TV series) season 1 ↑
2. 317,000 departures in 2025: 144,000 deferred resignation, 129,000 attrition, 21,000 early retirement or buyout, 24,000 involuntary including 17,000 RIFs; 68,000 hires; "The 'mass firing' headlines do not in fact tell the full story" — Transport Topics, reporting OPM, 10 December 2025 ↑

"I read the government's own personnel numbers, because they put them out and I believe people. Three hundred seventeen thousand departures last year. A hundred forty-four thousand took deferred resignation. A hundred twenty-nine thousand just left. Twenty-four thousand involuntary. Then the rehires: a hundred thirty-two back at the FAA, four hundred fifty jobs posted at the Weather Service. And the auditors' report in August. Sorry, before you go — the savings from all of that, how much of it came with the arithmetic attached?" — Lou

🍺

"'You're fired." A catchphrase since 2004. Then he gets the real thing, the whole federal government, and it turns out mostly he said "please take the buyout." Three hundred seventeen thousand out the door, twenty-four thousand actually fired, and a judge made four agencies take back the shutdown layoffs with back pay. The auditors went looking for the grant savings and couldn't find the math for ninety-six percent of them. You're fired. Check's in the mail."

— Sal

🚬

"Very few people were fired; most chose freedom, which is what a smaller government offers, and the rehires show the system works — you let someone go, you discover you need them, and that discovery is the savings."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎