FROM § EACH

FIRST YEAR · FRIDAY, 09 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER — EVERY CLAIM LINKED

Trump's promised $5,000 reelection bonus arrives as a $90 check, with no date set for the remaining $4,910.



PHOTO: LE MONDE

BY THE LODGERS
The Euro Desk

Today we are making a dividend, which in America is not a payment from a company's profits but a promise from a president. At the Republican midterm convention, on a Wednesday, Donald Trump pledged five thousand dollars to every adult citizen if the Republican Party keeps both chambers of Congress after the midterm elections on the third of November. The first instalment left the kitchen this month as ninety dollars, sent to nearly twenty-one million Americans out of the Medicare Improvement Fund, and Trump said Americans could "rest assured" the rest would follow. Nobody at the podium will give you a date, or a figure, for it.

Clive *A dividend. I have been drafting my own in verse since the cheque arrived, and nothing I own rhymes with Medicare.*

Gary *Rhymes with nothing because it's a number, not a sonnet. ...*

... Continued on Page A208

Federal agents shoot third bystander in six weeks, each one filed as an isolated operation

BY SAL
Staff Writer

Thursday, 4 p.m., Marble Hill. A federal immigration agent fires into a car on a crowded Bronx street. A five-year-old is in the back seat. The driver, 28, survives and is taken to NewYork-Presbyterian Allen.

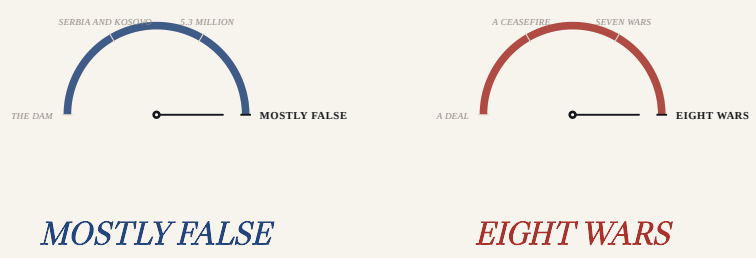
... Continued on Page T26

THE WORD

§55 — 08 OCTOBER 2026

On eight wars

DEMOCRAT — REPUBLICAN



... Continued on Page W55

Hegseth justifies first public U.S. execution in 65 years with an Obama quote that doesn't exist.

BY LOU
One More Question

I have a clipping in my coat pocket. I've had it since Thursday, folded four times, soft at the creases already. It says the Secretary of War — I'm sorry, is it still "Defense," or did I miss a memo — told a television audience that President Obama once called the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood "workplace violence." Thirteen…

... Continued on Page A208

THE FILING

White House defies judge's order to restore press access, calls access a privilege not a right.

BY MITCH
Investigations

I want to walk through this one clause at a time, because the government wrote it down and nobody made me read it to you.

On Tuesday, September 22, lawyers for the administration filed a brief in federal court defending the ban they had imposed on CNN, MS NOW and Politico. The brief said: access to the White House "is a privilege—not a right." All together now — that is not a legal argument about process, it is the government declaring, in writing, that the press secretary's gate is the entire First Amendment, and she can lock it.

The next afternoon, Wednesday, September 23, the three outlets got their hearing. The judge, Timothy Kelly, is a Trump appointee. He heard the privilege argument, and he did not buy it. By early Thursday morning, September 24, he had ordered the administration to "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" the outlets' press passes.

The administration's immediate response to being told to restore access immediately was to not restore access. Thursday morning, reporters from the

... Continued on Page B40

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. President Trump promised adult citizens a payment if Republicans keep control of Congress in the midterm elections.

WHO GETS PAID. The Republican Party stands to gain votes from a payment tied to keeping its congressional majority.

WHAT SLIPS. The line between a public benefit and a campaign promise slips, with no election authority weighing in yet.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the $5,000 figure stays unverified, it can still hold in the public mind; that is what happened in Washington on 19 February 2025, when a padded savings number was corrected downward while the bigger headline figure stood.

On Trump's promised $5,000 reelection bonus arrives as a $90 check, with no date set for the remaining $4,910. — the column, by The Lodgers. The whole front, short, and the precedents, on E6

Riyadh's airport struck again, called deadliest yet, same as September, same as 2018.

BY SAL
Staff Writer

Two missiles came in at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport overnight this week, and the Saudis say they intercepted both. The day before, strikes on the kingdom's airports killed three people — the deadliest run of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia so far, per the wire. "So far" is the tell. This airport has a file.

Start the file in April 2018: Royal Saudi Air Defense intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over Riyadh the same week the Houthis said they'd also fired on Aramco's oil facilities. Three years later, February 2021, the campaign widened

... Continued on Page A208

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

Dutch

In a federal court filing, the administration argued that letting reporters watch the president work is a privilege, not a right, in the same stretch in which a judge found it had defied his own order to give three outlets that privilege back. That's not a legal defense, it's a landlord telling the tenants the lease was only ever a courtesy and the locks stay his. Treat access as a favor the government can grant or pull at will, and the next place that logic lands is whatever office decides your own presence is a courtesy too, the one that laminates the badge clipped to your lanyard.

⁂

On White House defies judge's order to restore press access, calls access a privilege not a right. *— the column, by Mitch*

ASK VIVIAN

"I loved the explanation of the national debt, but who is collecting the interest?" She answers on E5.

— this paper

THE WIRE

Every right or mainstream headline answered before it renders.

— this paper

SOURCED OR SILENT

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

— this paper

Trump warns Iran could hit L.A., vows to stop it, then warns it could hit L.A. again.

BY LOU
One More Question

I was on hold with the county this morning trying to straighten out the truck's registration — wrong office, then the right office, then a recording that sent me back to the wrong office again — and I had the stack of pages the wife leaves on the dash for me to read in the car. One of them was the transcript from the Texas rally. That's the one I actually want to ask about, not the truck.

Here's the order, because I think the order is most of the question.

Wednesday the 30th, down in South Texas, the Vice President stumps for a House candidate named Flores. Ken Paxton, running for Senate, skips it — The Hill had that one, and said he'd show up

... Continued on Page A208

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 vot-

... Continued on Page F113

Today

News, continued	A2
The Wire	A3
The Word	W55
Finance	F1
The Ledger	F2
The Business Desk	F3
The Money Pages, continued	F4
The Record	B1
Legal	B2
The Service	B3
Obituaries	B4
Entertainment	D1
The Marquee	D2

White House declines to rule out pre-election Iran strikes; oil traders rule them in at $104.60.

BY LOU
One More Question

I was at the Department of Motor Vehicles on Tuesday, renewing a registration I let lapse in March, because the car's needed a fan belt since July and I haven't trusted it on the interstate long enough to get it looked at. The clerk gave me the wrong form, twice. I was standing there with the wrong form in one hand when the radio behind the counter said oil had jumped again, and that's when I remembered I'd actually written some of this down.

Not all of it. Just pieces. In August, I wrote down that gas had stayed above four dollars a gallon every day of the month for the first time on record — AAA's number, not mine. Then, the twenty-ninth of September, the president posted that a story about him offering Iran sanctions relief was untrue — I wrote that one down word for word, because it seemed like the kind of sentence somebody files for later.

I filed it for later. Here's later.

Thursday, I'm told — and I wrote this down, I just need to

... Continued on Page F114

> *"Access to cheap goods is not the essence of the American dream"*
>
> — TREASURY SECRETARY SCOTT BESSENT, ECONOMIC CLUB OF NEW YORK, 6 MARCH 2025

PULL UP A STOOL

Sal has never once been wrong. Ask him yourself.

— this paper

"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

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**

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

— Chip

THE THIRD TIME

Federal agents shoot third bystander in six weeks, each one filed as an isolated operation

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

"ICE Agent Shoots Man During Arrest Attempt in New York Neighborhood", 9 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE NEW YORK TIMES — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. An ICE agent shot a man with his five-year-old in the back seat on a Bronx street Thursday.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. An inspector's check slips: each shooting gets reviewed only because the family sues, not because the agency investigates itself first.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the pattern holds, the next step is a federal lawsuit filed by the family, not a finding issued by the agency; that is what happened after the January Minneapolis shooting of Renee Good, whose family sued the agent and top officials on October 1, and after the Chicago shooting of Marimar Martinez, who sued October 5.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Thursday, 4 p.m., Marble Hill. A federal immigration agent fires into a car on a crowded Bronx street. A five-year-old is in the back seat. The driver, 28, survives and is taken to NewYork-Presbyterian Allen. Within hours the Department of Homeland Security has a label for it: a "targeted enforcement operation." Mayor Mamdani calls it unconscionable, says the boy is physically unharmed, and announces he will ask the president to pull ICE out of the city. NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch stands next to him at the podium and confirms only that the investigation is ongoing. DHS, separately, adds that the man is Dominican, has a prior conviction, and has gang ties — the file that always arrives faster than the ambulance did.

Go back three days, to October 6. Same word, different city. The Guardian reports that Marimar Martinez, a U.S. citizen, has sued the federal government over a shooting that happened a year earlier in Chicago: she says a Customs and Border Protection agent fired into her car from behind. CBP's answer, on the record, is that its use-of-force cases are "thoroughly investigated, reviewed, and presented." Prosecutors had first charged Martinez with using her own vehicle as a weapon. That charge is gone. The lawsuit is what's left....

...(cont) Go back five more days, to October 1. The family of Renee Good — killed by immigration agents in January, in Minneapolis — files two federal lawsuits, against the agent who shot her and against several of the administration's top officials. Wrongful death. Her partner and her brother are the plaintiffs now, not the agency.

Three cities. Three statements. Each one issued as though it were the only one that had ever been necessary to issue. A bystander shot from behind in Chicago is not connected, DHS would say, to a woman killed in Minneapolis, which is not connected to a five-year-old in the back seat of a car in the Bronx. Each file gets its own case number, its own press line, its own promise of review — and each promise is, so far, a lawsuit, filed by the family, not a finding, issued by the agency. Nothing in any of the three statements mentions the other two. That omission is not an oversight three times running. It is the only thing the agency has actually been consistent about.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

An agent fires into a car with a child in the back seat on a crowded street, and the agency's statement is ready before the man's x-rays are. That isn't an investigation into a shooting, it's a press release with a shooting attached to it for proof of concept. First the statement calls it isolated, so the next one can call itself isolated too, so that by the third one nobody at the agency has to use the word pattern — and that's how you end up explaining to your own kid why the car in front of you at pickup has a sticker that says it's being watched.

"Three shootings, three cities, six weeks — and every single time the agency calls it the first time. That's not a coincidence, that's a script, and the script works because nobody above the agent ever has to say "pattern" out loud. The kid in the back seat doesn't get a press release about him; he gets a mayor on a podium saying "physically unharmed" like that's the whole story."
— Sal

"Look, every one of these is under review, that's how the system is supposed to work — you don't convict the agency in the newspaper. And can we talk about who was in that car? DHS says prior conviction, gang ties — I'm not saying that justifies a gunshot near a five-year-old, I would never say that, forget I said that. The point is each incident stands on its own facts, and three isolated incidents are still three isolated incidents, that's just math."
— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
ICE Agent Shoots Man During Arrest Attempt in New York Neighborhood
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *03:06 EDT*
The man was in a car with a 5-year-old in the back seat when he was shot and wounded, the authorities said. Mayor Zohran Mamdani said the Trump administration was "terrorizing our city."

~~ICE officer shoots, wounds man in car on crowded New York street~~
ICE officer shoots man in NYC; a 5-year-old was nearby, local leaders say
The Washington Post MAINSTREAM § *01:10 EDT*
New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani said a 5-year-old child was in the car at the time of the shooting. DHS said that an immigration officer fired his weapon during a "targeted enforcement operation."

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
ICE agent shoots man in New York City with five-year-old reportedly in car
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:50 EDT*
Police say man taken to hospital and mayor says child physically unharmed as he condemns 'unconscionable' act A US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent shot and injured a man in New York City on Thursday afternoon during an enforcement operation, federal officials said. The man was conscious and hospitalized, authorities said...

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture' - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
Anti-ICE protesters, cops clash outside NYC hospital where wounded 'criminal migrant' recovering after an agent shot him
New York Post RIGHT § *22:13 EDT*
About 300 demonstrators gathered outside NewYork-Presbyterian Allen Hospital, calling for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to get "off our streets."

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
US citizen alleges immigration agent in Chicago shot her from behind
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *10:08 EDT*
CBP says in response to lawsuit use-of-force cases are 'thoroughly investigated, reviewed, and presented' A US citizen who was shot one year ago by a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent during a sweeping immigration crackdown in Chicago filed a lawsuit against the federal government on Monday, alleging the agent lied about the...

~~Mamdani demands Trump release illegal immigrant shot by ICE agent as protests erupt in the Bronx~~
An ICE agent shot a man in the Bronx on Thursday, setting off protests across New York City
Fox News RIGHT § *00:40 EDT*
Mayor Zohran Mamdani demanded President Donald Trump release the man shot and injured by an ICE agent on Thursday in an incident that set off protests across New York City.

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
New York mayor to ask Trump for ICE withdrawal after agents shoot man in car with child
France 24 MAINSTREAM § *01:21 EDT*
New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani has said he will ask US President Donald Trump to remove ICE from the city after federal immigration agents on Thursday shot a man in a vehicle with his five-year-old child during an attempted arrest. The 28-year-old survived and is being treated at hospital.

~~Mamdani to 'demand' Trump end ICE operations in NYC after latest shooting~~
Federal agents shot another man in the Bronx — Mamdani wants it to stop
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:58 EDT*
Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he will "demand" that President Donald Trump end all immigration operations in New York City following the latest officer-involved shooting. The mayor's statement came hours after an individual was shot by federal law enforcement in a Bronx neighborhood around 4 p.m.

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves "incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture" - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
ICE officers shoot man in New York City
NBC News MAINSTREAM § *21:24 EDT*
A man was taken to the hospital after ICE officers shot him in New York City, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Mayor Mamdani has responded to the shooting saying it was an "unconscionable" situation. The investigation is ongoing.

Man shot by ICE agent in New York City's Marble Hill, authorities say
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *04:42 EDT*
A man was hospitalized after being shot by an ICE agent in New York City's Marble Hill neighborhood, according to the DHS and city officials.

But: ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on direct-contact electric shock gloves the UN torture rapporteur calls incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
Mamdani says he tried to negotiate release of wounded 'criminal migrant' shot by federal agent as he slams ICE as 'rotten to the core'
New York Post RIGHT § *00:26 EDT*
Mamdani — who spoke over protesters' chants labeling him "complicit" - called ICE "rotten to its core."

~~Mamdani, NYC officials give update on ICE shooting~~
ICE agent shot a man as his 5-year-old son sat in the car
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *00:01 EDT*
An Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent shot and hospitalized a man in New York City on Thursday. New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani and NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch gave an update on the situation, saying the victim's 5-year-old son was in the car during the incident.

But: The UN torture rapporteur found direct-contact electric shock gloves "incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture" - ICE plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*
Man shot by ICE in New York City
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:12 EDT*
A U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent shot and wounded a man late Thursday afternoon in New York City, Mayor Zohran Mamdani (D) confirmed. The New York Police Department (NYPD) first reported a shooting "involving federal law enforcement agents" occurred at approximately 4 p.m.

~~Illegal immigrant hospitalized after ICE shooting in New York City, DHS says~~
Federal agents shot a person in the Bronx, NYPD says its officers weren't involved
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *22:33 EDT*
An illegal immigrant has been hospitalized following a nonfatal shooting involving ICE officers in New York City, according to the Department of Homeland Security. In a statement, DHS said the wounded individual was an illegal immigrant from the Dominican Republic with a prior criminal conviction and ties to the Trinitarios gang. "This...

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
ICE agent shoots, wounds 'criminal illegal' migrant in NYC with boy, 5, sitting in back of his car: police, sources
New York Post RIGHT § *20:21 EDT*
A federal immigration agent shot and wounded a man in the Bronx on Thursday afternoon, law enforcement sources told The Post.

~~Woman sues Trump administration after being shot five times by immigration agent~~
She was shot five times, then charged; her lawyers say the agent fired as she drove away
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:31 EDT*
Marimar Martinez, a Chicago woman who was shot five times by an immigration agent, sued the federal government Monday for damages, with her attorneys saying new analysis of the scene will prove the officer shot her as she was turning her car away from him. Martinez was initially charged in the wake of her shooting...

Man shot by ICE agents with child present, Mamdani says
RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *02:34 EDT*
US immigration agents shot and wounded a man in his car with a child present in the Marble Hill neighbourhood of New York City, according to the mayor, city police and eyewitnesses.

~~New York mayor will ask Trump to withdraw ICE after shooting~~
ICE shot a man with a 5-year-old in the car
Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *23:03 EDT*
On Thursday, ICE federal immigration agents shot a man in his car while a 5-year-old was present. Mayor Zohran Mamdani said he plans to call Donald Trump and demand an end to all ICE operations in New York City.

· Family of Renee Good sues ICE agent who shot her and top Trump officials *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 QUOTE

Hegseth justifies first public U.S. execution in 65 years with an Obama quote that doesn't exist.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

“Execution TV? Pete Hegseth has taken the once ‘greatest democracy’ to a horrific new low”, 9 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The Pentagon says it will livestream the firing-squad execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan.

WHO GETS PAID. The administration gains an attack line against former President Obama, built on a quote he never said.

WHAT SLIPS. A court has not ruled on whether the livestream is legal, and the Pentagon is moving ahead before that review happens.

WHAT'S NEXT. The execution is scheduled for December 3, and whether the livestream goes forward before any court rules on it is still unresolved.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I have a clipping in my coat pocket. I've had it since Thursday, folded four times, soft at the creases already. It says the Secretary of War — I'm sorry, is it still "Defense," or did I miss a memo — told a television audience that President Obama once called the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood "workplace violence." Thirteen people died that day. Thirty-two more were hurt. That's further down the same clipping, smaller type.

Same page, same clipping: the Pentagon is going to livestream the execution of the man who did that shooting, December 3rd, by firing squad, in public. The Secretary said he'd make sure of it — his word was "public," that people would be "able to watch it." A legal expert quoted two paragraphs later calls this "uncertain legal terrain." I underlined that part. I don't usually underline....

...(cont) So I went looking for the Obama line. Not because I doubt a Secretary — who am I to doubt a Secretary — but I keep a box in my garage, by the workbench, where everything gets a year on the label: old insurance letters, the kids' report cards, that kind of thing. I thought, if a President said a sentence like that about thirteen dead soldiers, it would be filed somewhere with a year on it, a transcript, a press conference, a wire story from 2009 itself. I moved four boxes looking. I'm sorry — I keep coming back to this one thing, the date — but where would a sentence like that even be written down, if not in 2009?

I didn't find a 2009 for it. I found the Secretary's sentence about the sentence. Is the earlier one anywhere in this clipping at all?

It isn't there.

I want to come at this from the money side now — I'm sorry, I know I keep going back to this — but here's what the line is buying: the frame around a livestream. The firing squad hasn't happened since 1961 — the Pentagon's own number — which by my math on the back of the clipping is sixty-five years. President Trump approved it on a Monday, on the Secretary's recommendation; the Pentagon's spokesman put that on the record himself. The line about Obama came out two days later, in the same cycle of coverage as the livestream announcement. Which came first, the livestream or the line about Obama?

The livestream did.

One more side — I'm sorry, I promise this is the last one — my neighbor and I carried a filing cabinet across his lawn last fall, four drawers, steel, the kind that takes two grown men and a bad decision. The whole walk I kept thinking a thing that heavy ought to have something important behind it. That filing cabinet had four drawers of paper in it. How many pages of paper are behind this one sentence, the one about Obama?

None that I could find.

I don't know what else to do with that. I'm sorry, I really am going to put this clipping away now.

Actually — I'm sorry, one more thing, since I've still got it out. The reporters who wrote this same story, whose names are right there under the Secretary's quote — did they print a date, a transcript, a place, anything at all, for the sentence he says Obama said?

It isn't there.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE PENTAGON ANNOUNCED A LIVESTREAMED FIRING SQUAD AND, ON THE SAME PAGE, A QUOTE FROM OBAMA THAT DOES NOT APPEAR ANYWHERE IN THE RECORD. THAT IS NOT AN EXECUTION BEING MADE PUBLIC, IT IS AN EXECUTION BEING MADE INTO PROGRAMMING, WITH A MANUFACTURED VILLAIN WRITTEN IN TO MAKE SURE YOU TUNE IN. FIRST THE PENTAGON NEEDED A REASON FOR YOU TO WATCH, SO IT BUILT ONE OUT OF A FORMER PRESIDENT'S NAME; THEN IT NEEDED YOU WATCHING AT THE HOUR IT PICKED, SO IT PUT THE WHOLE THING ON A FEED; NOW IT IS SITTING ON THE REMOTE IN YOUR HAND, WAITING FOR YOU TO PRESS PLAY ON A MAN'S DEATH BECAUSE A SENTENCE THAT IS NOT ON ANY RECORD GOT REPEATED UNTIL IT SOUNDED TRUE.

“They want to put a man's execution on live television and call it transparency, and the guy announcing it got caught making up a quote from a former president to help sell it. That's not accountability, that's a press release with a firing squad attached. First public military execution in 65 years, and the only part anybody had to invent was the reason for it.”

— Sal

“This is about transparency, plain and simple — Americans deserve to see justice carried out, not hidden behind closed doors. And sure, maybe the Secretary paraphrased something Obama never actually said, but the broader point about accountability still stands on its own two feet. Wait, did I just defend quoting a president for a line he never said? That's — that's not usually how I'd put it.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Execution TV? Pete Hegseth has taken the once ‘greatest democracy’ to a horrific new low~~

Hegseth proposes a livestreamed execution by firing squad

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:19 EDT*

A proposal to livestream the killing of Nidal Hasan by firing squad opens a window ever wider to the Trump administration’s complete moral vacuity More fool me! Here I was thinking nothing that America’s Trump administration could do or say, no matter how politically and morally bankrupt, no matter how venal or violent, was capable of...

Pentagon says the firing squad execution of Fort Hood shooter will be livestreamed

NPR MAINSTREAM § *01:35 EDT*

The Pentagon says the firing squad execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan will be livestreamed after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the execution would be "public.

Fort Hood Shooter’s Execution Will Be Public and Streamed Live, Pentagon Says

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *02:03 EDT*

If carried out, the public execution of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan by firing squad set for Dec. 3 would be the first in modern U.S.

US to livestream execution of Fort Hood mass shooter

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *23:45 EDT*

The US will livestream the army's upcoming firing squad execution of a man who killed 13 people at the Fort Hood military base in 2009, the Pentagon has said.

Hasan execution will be live-streamed, Pentagon official says

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *03:31 EDT*

Hegseth said he would make sure "people are able to watch it, that it's public."

~~Hegseth falsely claims Obama called 2009 Fort Hood attack ‘workplace violence’ – US politics live~~

Trump called the deployment - during which two sailors tried to jump overboard - ‘not nearly long enough’

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:00 EDT*

Pentagon chief joins Trump in attempt to use deadly shooting at Texas base to attack former Democratic president Thousands turn out to welcome weary USS Lincoln sailors Sign up for the US Breaking News email Donald Trump has urged James Talarico , the Democratic nominee in the US Senate race in Texas, to debate Ken Paxton – Republican...

Pentagon will live stream Fort Hood shooter's execution, official says

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:34 EDT*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Thursday said Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan's execution by firing squad will be public. CBS News national security correspondent Charlie D'Agata reports. Then, legal contributor Jessica Levinson joins with analysis.

Fort Hood shooter's execution will be livestreamed, Pentagon says

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:56 EDT*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth says the public will be able to watch the firing-squad execution of Nidal Hasan, the ex-Army major who was convicted of killing 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009.

Fort Hood shooter’s firing squad execution to be livestreamed, Pentagon says

France 24 MAINSTREAM § *18:01 EDT*

The Pentagon said on Thursday the firing squad execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hasan would be livestreamed on December 3 after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth vowed to make the execution "public". Hasan was convicted of killing 13 people and injuring 32 in a 2009 shooting at the Texas military base.

Trump approves firing squad execution of 2009 Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:39 EDT*

President Donald Trump authorized the execution of Nidal Hasan, the soldier convicted in the deadly 2009 Fort Hood shooting, by an Army firing squad following War Secretary Pete Hegseth‘s request, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said Monday. “Secretary of War Pete Hegseth has recommended — and President Donald J. Trump has approved ...

Trump approves firing-squad execution of Fort Hood shooter, Pentagon says

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *21:33 EDT*

Nidal Hasan sentenced to death by military jury in 2013 for carrying out deadly shooting attack at army base in Texas Donald Trump has approved the execution by US army firing squad of Nidal Hasan, who was sentenced to death for killing 13 people at Fort Hood in 2009, chief Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said in a social media post....

Pentagon expected to livestream Fort Hood shooter's firing squad execution

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:53 EDT*

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced Thursday that Nidal Hasan's execution by firing squad will be shown publicly on Dec. 3, and a Pentagon official later told CBS News the U.S. military plans to livestream it.

US to livestream execution of Texas gunman who killed 13

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *18:27 EDT*

The US will livestream the army's upcoming firing squad execution of Nidal Hasan, who fatally shot 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas in 2009, according to a Pentagon official.

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

Firing squad execution to be livestreamed, Pentagon says

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *05:29 EDT*

Pete Hegseth says the execution will be public, but a legal expert says the "unprecedented" decision is on "uncertain legal terrain".

~~Pentagon chief says execution of military base shooter to be 'public'~~

Trump approved the first US military execution since 1961. Pentagon chief says it will be public.

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *18:21 EDT*

The Pentagon said US President Donald Trump approved Nidal Hasan's execution for the 2009 fatal shooting of 13 people, 12 of whom were soldiers at Fort Hood. This will be the first execution conducted by the US military since 1961.

Pentagon says execution of Fort Hood shooter will be livestreamed

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *19:18 EDT*

Nidal Hasan, army psychiatrist who killed 13 people, will be executed by firing squad on 3 December Pete Hegseth has said the execution of Nidal Hasan, the former army psychiatrist who killed 13 people at Fort Hood, will be a public event when the sentence is carried out later this year. A defense department official later confirmed the...

Trump approves firing squad for Fort Hood killer Nidal Hasan’s execution after Pete Hegseth’s recommendation

New York Post RIGHT § *20:06 EDT*

President Trump has approved the use of a firing squad to execute convicted Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hassan, the Pentagon announced Monday.

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 FILING

White House defies judge's order to restore press access, calls access a privilege not a right.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



"Live updates: Vance lays out work visa penalties for Microsoft, Adobe; Trump media ban returns to court", 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I want to walk through this one clause at a time, because the government wrote it down and nobody made me read it to you.

On Tuesday, September 22, lawyers for the administration filed a brief in federal court defending the ban they had imposed on CNN, MS NOW and Politico. The brief said: access to the White House "is a privilege—not a right." All together now — that is not a legal argument about process, it is the government declaring, in writing, that the press secretary's gate is the entire First Amendment, and she can lock it....

...(cont) The next afternoon, Wednesday, September 23, the three outlets got their hearing. The judge, Timothy Kelly, is a Trump appointee. He heard the privilege argument, and he did not buy it. By early Thursday morning, September 24, he had ordered the administration to "immediately return, reinstate, and restore" the outlets' press passes.

The administration's immediate response to being told to restore access immediately was to not restore access. Thursday morning, reporters from the three outlets were turned away at the White House complex, the judge's order notwithstanding. It took until 1:30 that afternoon for the press office to file its own paper attesting that access had, in fact, now been restored — roughly five hours after the deadline the judge had already set for "immediately."

That order was supposed to hold through October 8. On October 1, a week before it expired, the White House blocked CNN again, this time from a press pool traveling to Texas and Oklahoma, while the order was still, on paper, in force.

Which brings us to this morning. The lawsuit is back in Judge Kelly's courtroom at 11 a.m., the same courtroom where he already found, once, that the administration would not do what he told it to do the first time he told it to do it. The question in front of him today is not really about press passes. It is about whether an order from a federal judge is a request the executive branch may decline when it is inconvenient on a given Thursday, and whether "privilege, not a right" is a legal theory, or just a description of how the government has been behaving regardless of what the paper says.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

In a federal court filing, the administration argued that letting reporters watch the president work is a privilege, not a right, in the same stretch in which a judge found it had defied his own order to give three outlets that privilege back. That's not a legal defense, it's a landlord telling the tenants the lease was only ever a courtesy and the locks stay his. Treat access as a favor the government can grant or pull at will, and the next place that logic lands is whatever office decides your own presence is a courtesy too, the one that laminates the badge clipped to your lanyard.

"They put it in writing — watching the president work isn't a right, it's a favor they can revoke whenever the coverage gets uncomfortable. That's not a press credentials story, that's a government telling you access to your own public servants is a gift, not a guarantee. Lose that argument once and the next "courtesy" they decide to take back isn't CNN's, it's yours."

— Sal

"Look, the briefing room isn't in the Constitution, okay, the White House manages its own guest list like any business manages a lobby — every president picks who gets a seat, that's not a ban, that's seating. ...did I just call a federal judge's restraining order "seating"? The judge didn't buy the "privilege, not a right" line either, so maybe we lead with something else next time, legal."

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~Live updates: Vance lays out work visa penalties for Microsoft, Adobe; Trump media ban returns to court~~

Trump keeps barring CNN, MS NOW and Politico despite a judge's order

The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *11:50 EDT*

Vice President Vance on Thursday announced the Trump administration is penalizing Microsoft and Adobe, among other firms, alleging fraud in its use of H1-B work visas. The tech giants will no longer be allowed to apply for green cards for workers. CNN, MS NOW and Politico's lawsuit against the Trump administration's ban of the media...

~~Trump's attempt to ban CNN, Politico, and MS Now from White House to be heard in court – live~~

Trump called the deployment - during which two sailors tried to jump overboard - 'not nearly long enough'

The Guardian | MAINSTREAM | *11:49 EDT*

Federal judge who issued temporary restraining order on the media ban will hold hearing at 11am ET Sign up for the US Breaking News email Donald Trump has urged James Talarico , the Democratic nominee in the US Senate race in Texas, to debate Ken Paxton – Republican attorney general that the president has endorsed in the election. On...

· Violating Federal Judge's Order, Trump White House Denies Access to Politico, MS NOW, CNN Reporters *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

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

· White House again blocks CNN from press pool as Trump rages against media in wide-ranging interview – live *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Live updates: White House media ban heads to court; Trump to greet Xi Jinping in airport welcome *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· White House Claims in Court Filing That Press Coverage of Trump Is a 'Privilege,' Not a Right *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Fight over Trump's media ban heads to court *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump-Appointed Judge Orders President to Restore White House Access to CNN, MS NOW, and Politico *from the morgue, 24 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.

Riyadh's airport struck again, called deadliest yet, same as September, same as 2018.

By SAL
STAFF WRITER

"US Backs Major Saudi-Led Offensive as Yemen Slides Back Toward All-Out War", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Houthi missiles struck Riyadh's main airport twice this week, the deadliest run yet on a capital first hit in 2018.

WHO GETS PAID. A thirty-year nuclear deal and a US-backed Saudi offensive keep American contracts and arms flowing to Saudi Arabia.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress's vote on the deal arming this war keeps slipping while the missiles land and the fighting continues.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the resolution holds to the pattern, it goes unvoted or fails and the arming continues regardless; that is what happened after Congress voted to end support for the war in Yemen in 2019 — the president vetoed it, the override failed 53 to 45, and support continued 21 more months.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Two missiles came in at Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport overnight this week, and the Saudis say they intercepted both. The day before, strikes on the kingdom's airports killed three people — the deadliest run of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia so far, per the wire. "So far" is the tell. This airport has a file.

Start the file in April 2018: Royal Saudi Air Defense intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over Riyadh the same week the Houthis said they'd also fired on Aramco's oil facilities. Three years later, February 2021, the campaign widened without reaching the capital — Houthi drones hit airports in Abha and Jeddah instead, halting operations there for two hours. Different cities. Same mailbox....

...(cont) The mailbox came back to Riyadh this fall. September 8: the kingdom promised to retaliate after Houthi strikes wounded at least 73 Saudi civilians and set fires at its energy infrastructure. Eleven days later, September 19 into the 20th, an explosion near King Khalid airport triggered air-raid alerts across the capital; the coalition's statement that same Saturday confirmed what the smoke already said — a ballistic missile had been aimed at Riyadh for the first time since this round of fighting opened.

Then the escalation, not the diplomacy: October 4, Washington backed a major Saudi-led offensive to retake Houthi-held territory, home to about 70 percent of Yemen's population, including the capital, Sanaa. Four days after that, the missiles that opened this column — called, again, the deadliest yet. Nobody answered on camera. The offensive is the answer already filed.

Underneath all of it sits a piece of paper nobody has moved. That was six weeks and two Riyadh attacks ago. Nothing in the record since shows Congress has taken a vote on it either way.

So the shape of the week is this: the capital gets hit, the kingdom promises to hit back, Washington backs the bigger offensive, and the one document built to slow the arming underneath all of it sits exactly as unvoted as it was in August. The missile is new. The response to it is not.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

""

"The missile that "shocks" everybody landed on that same runway in 2018, again in September, again this week, and every single time the move is more hardware, never less — that's not an escalation, that's a subscription. Nobody in Congress is voting on the one piece of paper that could pull a plug anywhere in this, the nuclear deal just sits there collecting dust while the airport collects missiles. You want to know who's got skin in this game? Check whose name is on the contract, not whose name is on the casualty count."

— Sal

"The deal keeps the Gulf stable, that's the whole point — nuclear cooperation with an ally, safeguards or no safeguards, is how you keep Iran from being the only option on that side of the map. The missiles are a Houthi problem, not a Washington problem, and backing the offensive is just helping a partner defend its own airport. Did I say "helping"? That's not — the contracts are the partnership, the partnership is the point, I'll stop there."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Twenty years after Russia cut Europe's gas, Kushner is negotiating America's cut of selling it back* By Sterling · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

US Backs Major Saudi-Led Offensive as Yemen Slides Back Toward All-Out War
Common Dreams § *17:09 EDT*
Yemen is spiraling back toward full-scale war after its Saudi-backed government launched a major offensive on Sunday to retake territory captured by the Iran-backed group Ansar Allah, also known as the Houthis. President Rashad al-Alimi said the armed forces would seek to retake all Houthi-controlled territory, which is home to about 70%...

Blasts Rattle Riyadh as Saudi Arabia Hit by Deadliest Houthi Attacks So Far
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *11:31 EDT*
The Saudi authorities said they intercepted two missiles targeting Riyadh, a day after they said Houthi strikes on airports in the kingdom killed three people.

Houthis claim they struck Riyadh's main airport in Saudi Arabia
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:52 EDT*
Houthi rebels are claiming they attacked Saudi Arabia's main airport in Riyadh. Semafor Gulf's Mohammed Sergie breaks down whether this signals a full-blown regional war in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia sees disruptions at Riyadh airport amid ballistic missile attacks from Houthis
Washington Examiner RIGHT § *10:59 EDT*
The Houthi rebel group claimed it successfully struck Saudi Arabia's King Khalid International Airport in the capital city of Riyadh with two ballistic missiles launched overnight Wednesday and early Thursday morning. The ballistic missile airstrikes come during a week of Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia and threats to the Saudi airports....

· The Royal Saudi Air Defense intercepts a ballistic missile fired from Yemen over the Saudi capital Riyadh that caused panic among residents. Houthis say they fired several Burkan-2 missiles at targets *from the morgue, 11 Apr 2018*

· The Houthis say that they have struck Saudi Arabia's Abha International Airport and King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah with drones. A Houthi spokesman said on Twitter that the attacks halt *from the morgue, 15 Feb 2021*

· Saudi Arabia promises response to Houthi attacks *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Houthis tried to hit Saudi capital with ballistic missile, Riyadh confirms *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Riyadh airport explosion prompts Saudi Arabia to issue air raid alerts as Houthi fighting escalates *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Markey Urges Congress to Block Trump-Saudi Deal, a 'Starting Gun for a Middle East Nuclear Arms Race' *from the morgue, 26 Aug 2026*

· 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*

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 warns Iran could hit L.A., vows to stop it, then warns it could hit L.A. again.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Trump sets off on midterm blitz – are his trademark rallies a liability for Republicans?", 4 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I was on hold with the county this morning trying to straighten out the truck's registration — wrong office, then the right office, then a recording that sent me back to the wrong office again — and I had the stack of pages the wife leaves on the dash for me to read in the car. One of them was the transcript from the Texas rally. That's the one I actually want to ask about, not the truck.

Here's the order, because I think the order is most of the question....

...(cont) Wednesday the 30th, down in South Texas, the Vice President stumps for a House candidate named Flores. Ken Paxton, running for Senate, skips it — The Hill had that one, and said he'd show up Thursday instead, at a plant, with the President.

Thursday the 1st, he does. Denton, Texas, touring a truck factory, then on to Durant, Oklahoma, 86 miles off, for another rally — the Examiner had the mileage. That same Thursday, the plane can't fly on account of weather, and the President sends the motorcade instead, eighty-some miles at close to a hundred to make the next stop. Does a rally that has to outrun the weather to happen still count as one going well? I can't answer that one for you. The Guardian couldn't either — they just asked it and moved on.

Now the part I actually sat down for.

Wednesday the 7th — a different Wednesday, San Antonio, Paxton again — the President tells the crowd Iran could hit Los Angeles. Hit San Diego. CBS has Kathryn Watson's piece on it. Same speech, he says the United States won't let that happen. Then he comes back around a third time, and the thing he said Iran could do becomes the reason we're protected from it. I've read that stretch of transcript three times now. Is that one claim, or three? The transcript doesn't pick a side, so I don't see how I'm supposed to either.

Somewhere in that same rally, protesters go up, get walked out, and the President has a word for them — CBS ran the ejections as their own piece, the crowd jeering, him making fun of them on the way past. Paid. That's the word out of his own mouth.

Here's the one I keep circling back to, and I'll apologize for it once: his own campaign — not CBS, not me, his — confirmed afterward that the heckler they meant was one of his own voters. Somebody who'd actually cast a ballot for him. Isn't that two different kinds of person to find at the same rally — somebody hired to boo you, and somebody who already liked you enough to vote for you?

I've got to get back on hold for the truck. I can hear it clicking over to another department.

Oh — one more thing, before they put me through. The campaign's own confirmation is sitting right next to the word he used from the podium, and they don't agree with each other. So which is it — confirmed, or paid?

FROM THE CORNER

DUTCH

IN TEXAS, THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE CROWD IRAN COULD HIT LOS ANGELES OR SAN DIEGO, PROMISED THE COUNTRY WOULD STOP IT, THEN REPEATED THE SAME WARNING A THIRD time, and when the crowd booed him, his own campaign confirmed the heckler was one of his own voters. That isn't a threat briefing, it's a loyalty test run from the same podium as the warning, where booing gets you relabeled no matter how you voted. Because if the campaign can call your boo a paid performance the moment you make one, the registration card in your glovebox stops proving you're a supporter and becomes the next thing they expect you to explain.

"He warns you Iran could hit L.A., then tells you not to worry because he's the one protecting you from the thing he just said might happen — that's not a briefing, that's a landlord setting the fire and billing you for the alarm. And the heckler he called a paid protester turns out to be somebody who actually voted for him, which means the only paid performance that week was the claim itself."

— Sal

"Look, the president is just illustrating strength through contrast — you name the threat, you say you'll stop it, that's deterrence messaging, not a flip. And sure, the protester turned out to be one of his own voters, but maybe she just got confused about which event she was supporting — wait, am I saying his own supporters don't know what they're protesting? That's not — that's not what I meant to say."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump calls Iran threat to L.A. proof he protects it, blames a Trump voter for heckling him.* By Lou · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
- *White House braces for Nobel snub after president says annihilating Iran created peace* By Mort · the supper edition, 7 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Trump blasts Talarico in Texas and reverses comments on Iran bombing LA, San Diego

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *09:00 EDT*

President Trump joined a rally in Texas for Ken Paxton's campaign, where he slammed Democratic candidate James Talarico. CBS News' Kathryn Watson reports.

~~Protesters ejected from raucous Trump rally in Texas~~

Trump mocked the protesters after they were dragged from his rally

CBS News | MAINSTREAM | *10:32 EDT*

Several hecklers were removed from President Trump's rally in Texas late Wednesday, drawing jeers from the crowd as the president made fun of the protesters.

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...

· WATCH LIVE: Trump stumps for Republicans at Oklahoma midterm election rally *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

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

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White House declines to rule out pre-election Iran strikes; oil traders rule them in at $104.60.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Oil prices jump 5% on Middle East tensions and US hurricane threat", 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The White House refused to rule out bombing Iran before the midterms, and oil jumped right after it spoke.

WHO GETS PAID. Oil traders gain on every price spike, and the Pentagon gets a third aircraft carrier and thousands more troops sent to the Middle East.

WHAT SLIPS. Voters head into the midterms with Congress never voting on whether this war keeps going or expands.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this holds, the strikes go ahead without a vote from Congress; that is what happened after the House rejected authorizing the Libya operation on 24 June 2011, when the campaign ran four more months and flew more than 26,000 sorties.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I was at the Department of Motor Vehicles on Tuesday, renewing a registration I let lapse in March, because the car's needed a fan belt since July and I haven't trusted it on the interstate long enough to get it looked at. The clerk gave me the wrong form, twice. I was standing there with the wrong form in one hand when the radio behind the counter said oil had jumped again, and that's when I remembered I'd actually written some of this down.

Not all of it. Just pieces. In August, I wrote down that gas had stayed above four dollars a gallon every day of the month for the first time on record — AAA's number, not mine. Then, the twenty-ninth of September, the president posted that a story about him offering Iran sanctions relief was untrue — I wrote that one down word for word, because it seemed like the kind of sentence somebody files for later....

...(cont) I filed it for later. Here's later.

Thursday, I'm told — and I wrote this down, I just need to find the page, give me a second, here — The Atlantic reported the president is weighing strikes on Iran before the midterms after all. Before. Not after, the way I'd had it. The Hill had Brent crude at a hundred four dollars and sixty cents a barrel Thursday morning, up four and four-tenths percent. The Guardian, same morning, had it at a hundred five dollars and thirty cents, up five percent. Two different papers, two different numbers, same Thursday — I'm not going to pick one, I'll just leave both in the notebook the way they came in. The New York Post had seven ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, the fewest since the twenty-third of July, on account of attacks on tankers running at their highest clip since the war started. The Times had the Saudi-Houthi fighting getting worse the same week. And the White House, asked straight out whether the bombing comes before the vote or after it, said the Commander-in-Chief "has all options available at any time."

Options. That's their word, not mine. I wrote it down because it's doing a lot of work for one word — it's the word for "we haven't decided" and it's also, apparently, the word for "we have all of them." Is that the same sentence twice, or two different sentences wearing the same shirt?

The Pentagon's own count of who's died in this, by the way — I had this in a different part of the notebook — The Hill found it left out two service members. Not one. Two. A major who died of what they're calling undetermined causes, and somebody else, both doing work the Pentagon says had nothing to do with the war the count is supposed to be counting.

Third aircraft carrier's heading over too, I wrote that down the second of October, thousands more troops behind it, for a war the president's called over or won more than once, by my count.

So I went and paid the toll on the way home — exact change, out of the coffee can I keep in the glovebox for just that — and the gate didn't lift until the number cleared, every time, no matter what I had sitting in the can.

I know, I keep coming back to that one word. One more thing, before you go — if a war can be rescheduled from after an election to maybe before it, and the market knows within the hour, and the price moves before the government even picks a word for what it's doing — whose options were those again?

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE WHITE HOUSE CALLS IT "ALL OPTIONS" AND WILL NOT GIVE A DATE; BRENT CRUDE JUMPED TO $104.60 BEFORE THE SENTENCE FINISHED PRINTING. THAT IS NOT A STRATEGY review, it is a fuel surcharge with the invoice already cut and the press release still being drafted. Diesel sits at $6.06 a gallon from a war Washington keeps calling over, and every barrel priced into that silence becomes the number stamped on the sticker at pump four by the time your tank reads empty.

"The White House won't say if the bombing lands before the vote or after it, and a non-answer that moves oil five percent by lunchtime isn't an options review, it's a decision the market already made for us. That barrel price moves whether Congress gets a vote or not, and diesel at six bucks doesn't wait on an election calendar. Somebody's paying for that silence at the pump, and it isn't the man deciding when to break it."
— Sal

""All options" isn't a threat, it's just honesty about not having made up his mind yet — which, I'll grant you, is a strange thing to advertise twenty-seven days before people vote. The market jumping on a sentence with no verb in it, that's on traders overreacting, not on us. Did I just blame the free market for acting like a free market? That's — that's not landing the way I wanted it to."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Washington's own statute gives it thirty days to decide what 'something meaningful' from Iran means.* By Mitch · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
- *Diesel relief rule dies by executive order; Chevron's own CEO says the backup plan would make prices worse.* By Mort · the noon edition, 7 October 2026
- *White House lifts diesel tax-exemption rule, experts say won't lower the prices it was sold to fix* By Mort · the coffee break edition, 7 October 2026
- *Fuel industry warns against red-dye diesel fraud days after Trump legalizes it* By Mort · the milkman edition, 7 October 2026
- *Trump dyes diesel exempt without Congress, then floats a gas tax cut only Congress can grant.* By Ruth · the supper edition, 6 October 2026
- *White House expands red-dye diesel tax break onto equipment already exempt, calls it relief from record prices* By Ruth · the early bird edition, 6 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Oil prices surge as Trump reportedly mulls pre-midterms strikes on Iran
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *11:17 EDT*
Crude oil prices spike again as The Atlantic reports Trump is considering new attacks on Iran before the U.S. midterms and fighting in Yemen intensifies.

Oil prices jump 5% on Middle East tensions and US hurricane threat
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *07:11 EDT*
Global bond market sell-off continues and stocks fall amid reports White House has asked to see options for more strikes against Iran Business live – latest updates Oil prices have risen sharply amid fears about escalating tensions in the Middle East and a squeeze on production from the threat of a hurricane off the US coast. Brent...

Oil rises after reports White House weighing Iran strikes
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:47 EDT*
Oil prices rose amid reports on Thursday that the White House is weighing new strike options on Iran, less than a month before the November elections. Brent crude, the global benchmark, increased to $104.60 per barrel with a 4.4 percent jump on Thursday morning. The U.S.

Oil prices jump 5%, pushing Treasury yields higher and stocks lower as Iranian attacks disrupt tanker traffic
New York Post RIGHT § *09:55 EDT*
On Tuesday, just seven commodity vessels passed through the strait, marking the lowest total since July 23 as attacks on tankers reached their highest level since the start of the war, according to data analytics firm Kpler.

Oil Prices Jump on Outburst of Violence in the Middle East
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *09:47 EDT*
Attacks on ships around the Strait of Hormuz have continued as a war between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi militia intensified.

Trump blasts Talarico in Texas and reverses comments on Iran bombing LA, San Diego
CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:00 EDT*
President Trump joined a rally in Texas for Ken Paxton's campaign, where he slammed Democratic candidate James Talarico. CBS News' Kathryn Watson reports.

But: The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*

As Iran War Drags On, Trump Plans to Send Third Aircraft Carrier and Thousands More Troops to Middle East
Common Dreams § *20:10 EDT*
The Pentagon is preparing to dramatically expand the American military presence in the Middle East as President Donald Trump weighs renewed attacks on Iran, with thousands of additional troops and a third aircraft carrier being readied for deployment, even as the conflict he has repeatedly declared "over" or "won" threatens to erupt into...

White House on possible Iran strikes before midterms: Trump 'has all options'
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:27 EDT*
President Trump has "all options" available concerning the next steps with Iran, amid reports the president is weighing whether to resume major combat operations before or after elections in the U.S. and Israel.

· 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*

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

· Trump denies Axios report that he offered Iran sanctions relief *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Pentagon's count leaves out some deaths in Middle East during Iran war *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Russia's Lavrov blasts US, Western allies as "warmongers' in fiery UN tirade *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Russia and China unite against US over Iran and Cuba in UN speeches *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· U.S. military lays groundwork for potential action around Cuba *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· The United Nations Security Council has resoundingly rejected a United States bid to extend a global arms embargo on Iran. In a Security Council vote, United States only got support from the Dominican *from the morgue, 14 Aug 2020*

· U.S. Threatens New Economic War on Iran by Targeting China & Tehran's Other Top Trading Partners *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*

· In Defiant UN Speech, Iranian President Says US and Israel Are the Real Terrorists *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump slams reporting on removal of his endorsements from GOP candidate's website *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

· Donalds removes several Trump mentions from campaign website *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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

· Where Trump's 2026 endorsement record stands after primary season *from the morgue, 9 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*

· 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*

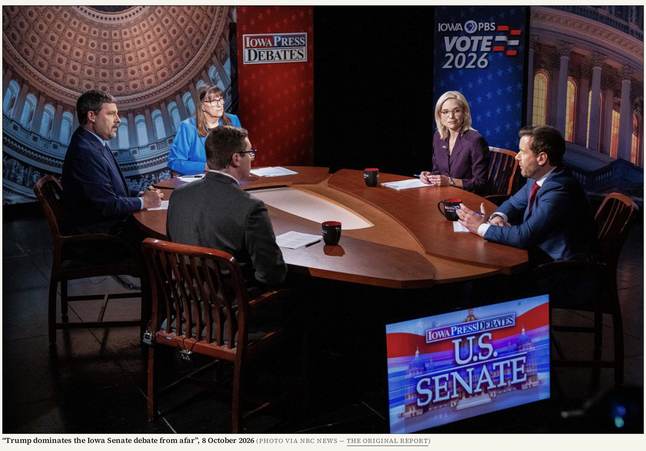
· Hegseth Quietly Extends Middle East Troop Deployments Into 2027 as Iran War Drags On *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

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

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.

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

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Trump dominates the Iowa Senate debate from afar", 8 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Rep. Ashley Hinson told Iowa voters millennials are the worst savers Wednesday, after her own vote cut Medicaid spending by $1 trillion.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. Iowa voters only see the savings lecture and the Medicaid vote linked if they watch the debate and the record side by side; nobody holds a hearing to connect them first.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the link holds in voters' minds, November decides it: the race already moved from Hinson leading outright on September 3 to a toss-up by September 22, the day after her war-cost remarks made news.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

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....

...(cont) 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 for who foots a bill. Iowans, she said that Monday, "shouldn't have to foot the bill at the pump or the checkout line" for the war with Iran. The war is Washington's. The checkout-line cost is Iowa's. She drew that line clean. The Medicaid vote was hers to cast, and she cast it, and the bill for that one goes home with the same Iowans.

The polling tells you which math Iowa believed. On September 3rd, before any of this, Hinson led Turek outright, by Emerson's count. Nineteen days later, the day after her war-cost remarks made news, Sabato's Crystal Ball moved the race from "leans Republican" to a toss-up — citing her effort to put daylight between herself and Washington. The same week, Marist had her down eight points to Turek, 50 to 42. By October 1st, Fox News had it close again, Turek with the thinner edge, independents breaking hard away from her.

So here is the ledger, reconciled: she warns voters about their saving habits while her own vote shrank the program they'd need the savings to cover, and she tells them not to pay for a war in Washington while asking them to live with a cut she signed her name to. The gap between the thrift lecture and the voting record is the same size as the gap between leading outright on September 3rd and trailing by October. Same candidate. Same arithmetic. It just took Iowa nineteen days to check it, hon.

"She's up there lecturing millennials about their 401(k)s like she's their mother, and the whole time her own vote took a trillion bucks out of the program that's supposed to catch them when the 401(k) doesn't work out. That's not a gaffe, that's two different rulebooks — one for Washington's war bill, one for your doctor's bill — and she wrote both of them. Iowa's figuring out which ledger's real, and right now the polling says they're figuring it out against her."
— Sal

"Look, the savings comment was about personal responsibility, financial literacy, that's a completely separate conversation from entitlement reform — did I say entitlement reform? I meant modernizing Medicaid for long-term solvency, which, if millennials saved more, they wouldn't even — no, that's not — the point is she's standing up to her own party on the war costs, that's independence, that's leadership, that's... why do I keep bringing up the Medicaid vote, nobody asked about the Medicaid vote."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

— *Special prosecutor appointed to make sure every fact gets examined is petitioned out for already deciding guilt.* By Lou · the morning edition, 8 October 2026
— *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

Trump dominates the Iowa Senate debate from afar
NBC News | MAINSTREAM | *22:25 EDT*
Republican Ashley Hinson and Democrat Josh Turek sparred about how to handle the president and other issues in a battleground debate Wednesday night.

~~Turek tries to tie Hinson to Medicaid cuts in crucial Iowa Senate race~~
Hinson voted for the $1 trillion Medicaid cut Turek warns about
Washington Examiner | RIGHT | *22:07 EDT*
DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa's Democratic Senate nominee Josh Turek slammed Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) during their first debate by highlighting Hinson's role in passing Republican cuts to Medicaid spending through last year's One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Turek emphasized several times during the debate that Hinson voted in favor of a $1...

But: The 2025 reconciliation law also cut food aid that feeds one in five American children *Congressional Budget Office estimate, via CBPP SNAP tracker*
Turek, Hinson spar in first Iowa Senate debate: 3 takeaways
The Hill | MAINSTREAM | *22:31 EDT*
U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa) and state Rep.

5 Takeaways From the First Iowa Senate Debate
The New York Times | MAINSTREAM | *23:56 EDT*
In a top Senate battleground, Representative Ashley Hinson, the Republican nominee, sparred with Josh Turek, her Democratic rival, on policy issues ranging from Medicaid to term limits.

But: NAR: median first-time homebuyer is now 40 years old, a record, with first-time buyers at a record-low 21% of the market *National Association of Realtors, 2025 Profile*
Iowa's Ashley Hinson slams the savings habits of millennials
Politico | MAINSTREAM | *22:08 EDT*
In a debate, the Iowa Republican candidate for Senate said millennials are "the worst group of savers" during a discussion about Social Security.

· Iowa's shift red meets complex electorate in Hinson-Turek Senate showdown *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Hinson trails Turek by 8 points in new Iowa Senate poll *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP Senate nominee Hinson: Iowans 'shouldn't have to foot the bill' for Iran war *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Sand holds edge over Lahn in Iowa governor's race while Hinson leads Turek for Senate: Poll *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

· Iowa Senate race shifts to toss-up as Iran war plagues Republican Hinson *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Fox News Poll: Turek, Hinson in close Iowa Senate race *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

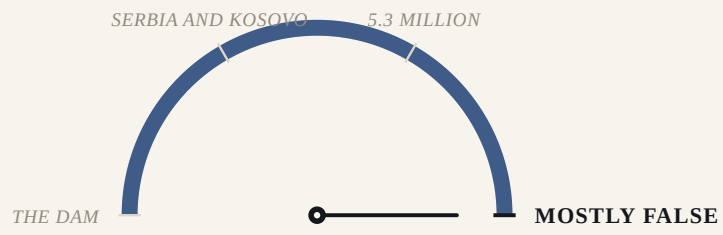
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§55 — 08 OCTOBER 2026

On eight wars

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



MOSTLY FALSE

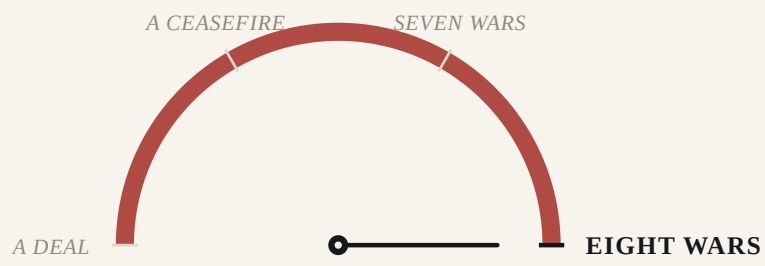
PolitiFact rated the seven-war claim Mostly False: on Serbia and Kosovo, "little evidence a potential war was brewing"; on Egypt and Ethiopia, dam talks "officially stalled" [1]. The Associated Press called it "a gross overstatement to say that these countries are at war" [2]. By December, Cambodia and Thailand had fought five days of clashes, with dozens dead and more than 100,000 displaced, and fighting in the Congo surged a week after the Washington signing [3]. In August the Congo's displaced stood at 5.3 million, with a roadmap to talks just agreed [4]. On September 1 the United States struck Iran, one of the pairs on the list; the president said "we're prepared to do another one any time" [5].

The 2025 prize went to María Corina Machado; the White House said the committee had placed "politics over peace" [6]. The 2026 prize is announced tomorrow, Friday, at 11:00 in Oslo [7].

SOURCES

1. Rated Mostly False; Serbia–Kosovo "little evidence a potential war was brewing"; Egypt–Ethiopia dam talks "officially stalled" — PolitiFact, 23 September 2025 ↑
2. Egypt–Ethiopia: "a gross overstatement to say that these countries are at war" — AP Fact Focus via Yahoo News, 13 October 2025 ↑
3. Five days of Cambodia–Thailand clashes, dozens dead, more than 100,000 displaced; Congo fighting surged — NBC News, 9 December 2025 ↑
4. Fighting ongoing in the DR Congo, 5.3 million displaced; a roadmap for talks agreed — Al Jazeera, 23 August 2026 ↑
5. U.S. strikes on Iran; "we're prepared to do another one any time" — NBC News, 2 September 2026 ↑
6. The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize to María Corina Machado — nobelprize.org, 10 October 2025 — https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2025/press-release/ ; the White House said the committee "place[d] politics over peace" — Euronews, 10 October 2025 ↑
7. "PEACE Friday, 9 October, 11:00 CEST" — nobelprize.org, the 2026 announcements ↑

REPUBLICAN



EIGHT WARS

The claim in full, from the UN General Assembly in September 2025: "I ended seven wars … This includes Cambodia and Thailand, Kosovo and Serbia, the Congo and Rwanda … Pakistan and India, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan," and "Everyone says that I should get the Nobel Peace Prize for each one of these achievements" [1]. At the Knesset in October: "We settled eight wars in eight months. … Yesterday, I was saying seven, but now I can say eight" [2].

The eighth has the strongest receipt of any of them. The Gaza ceasefire took effect on October 10, 2025, and three days later Hamas freed the last 20 living Israeli hostages while Israel freed nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees [3]. If one entry on the list is a peace deal a stranger would recognize, it is that one.

SOURCES

1. "I ended seven wars"; the list; "Everyone says that I should get the Nobel Peace Prize for each one of these achievements" — address to the UN General Assembly, 23 September 2025 — Roll Call / Factba.se ↑
2. "We settled eight wars in eight months. … Yesterday, I was saying seven, but now I can say eight" — remarks to the Knesset, 13 October 2025 — The American Presidency Project ↑
3. Hamas released the last 20 living Israeli hostages; Israel released nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees — NPR, 13 October 2025 ↑

"I made a list, because he made a list. Cambodia and Thailand. Kosovo and Serbia. The Congo and Rwanda. Pakistan and India. Israel and Iran. Egypt and Ethiopia. Armenia and Azerbaijan. Then in October, "Yesterday, I was saying seven, but now I can say eight." And next to them I wrote what the fact-checkers found, one line each — little evidence of a war, talks stalled, clashes in December, fighting in the Congo still going in August. Oh, one more thing, I almost forgot. Israel and Iran is on the list of wars ended. Who ran the strikes on September first?" — Lou

"Seven wars, he said at the UN, and "everyone says" he should get the Nobel for each one. Then Gaza made eight. The fact-checkers looked at the list: Serbia and Kosovo weren't at war, Egypt and Ethiopia were arguing over a dam, and Thailand and Cambodia were shooting again by December. Oslo announces tomorrow at eleven. That's not a peace record. That's a résumé with the dates rounded."

— Sal

"The president ended eight wars, including several that hadn't started, which is the most efficient kind of peace there is — you prevent the war and take credit for ending it, and the Nobel committee simply hasn't developed a category for that yet."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎