The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2026 — THE MORNING EDITION · FREE, FOREVER

Judges strike down DOJ's voter-roll hunt a fourth time; Supreme Court's own order keeps it alive.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

THE CHIEF lays out the job the way she always does: don't tell her it's hard, tell her what's already in the room. A privacy statute barring states' voter data from unauthorized use — already on the books. A whistleblower channel — already open. Judicial review of agency overreach — already standing. Nobody on this crew has to invent a tool. They just have to watch the shop use the ones already in the drawer, four times, before October turned ten days old.

THE PLANNER starts at the oldest blueprint. On September 15, a whistleblower told The Hill that Department of Homeland Security employees were sent to pose as voters while hunting noncitizens on state rolls, pulled files on people flagged as "unlawful voters," and ran the search in a way that likely violated state law. The first part on the table: a statute that already says you can't do this, doing its job before the program cleared the building.

THE TINKERER picks up the next piece ten days later. On September 25, the Supreme Court let the program keep running anyway, issuing an emergency order allowing the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database

... Continued on Page B40

THE WORD

§56 — 09 OCTOBER 2026

On drilling

DEMOCRAT

$4.16

REPUBLICAN

DRILL, BABY, DRILL

"I fill up at the same station every Sunday, so I keep the receipts in the glovebox. Last September, three nineteen a gallon. This September, four fourteen. And I figured, well, maybe we're drilling less. But no — the government says production hit a record in October, almost fourteen million barrels a day. It's just the rigs are down, and the forecast for this year is lower, and Chevron's cutting fifteen to twenty percent of its people. Sorry, I'm holding up the pump. If we're drilling a record, why does my receipt say a dollar more?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W56

Newsom vetoed the oversight his own watchdog called essential; the consultants' nightclub bills tie to the rail CEO.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

Take the car rides first, since they are the cheapest item here and the one you will carry home. Late-night rides. Nightclub outings. Billed to you, by consultants on a railway that does not yet run, and the inspector general counted hundreds of thousands of dollars of questionable spending among them. CBS California has the documents behind that audit, and they carry connections to the rail authority's chief executive that were previously undisclosed. Grubby, yes. The handsome part is the calendar. The bill proved severable: the controversial part enacted in September, the part his own watchdog called essential to transparency and accountability left to sit. Less than a month after the audit. Vetoed, mind you ... not amended. And what did the consultants pay to have the arrangement continue as drafted? Nothing. A signature did the work, and it was somebody else's. The railway does not run. The rides are on your bill.

... Continued on Page F115

Trump gives a plumbing job for stopping a 9/11 remake the government hadn't confirmed yet.

BY LOU
One More Question

The dates, in the order they came in. I'm not going to say anything about them yet.

2024: Oman Air flags the co-pilot as a security risk.

September 30th: he attacks the captain with an axe on the Dubai-to-Tel Aviv flight. Passengers subdue him. The plane drops altitude fast enough to make the wire copy, diverts to Saudi Arabia, and he's arrested on the ground.

October 3rd: the president offers the passenger who helped stop him a plumbing job.

October 5th: NPR reports the investigation has found he meant to put the plane into Ben Gurion Airport.

October 9th and 10th: the attorney general of the United Arab Emirates says it straight out — the target was a passenger terminal at an Israeli airport, and the plan was modeled on September 11th, after years of what the paper describes, not quotes the attorney general saying, as extreme Islamist views. I want to be careful with that line, because the attorney general isn't given a pronoun anywhere I can find, so I'm going to keep calling them the attorney

... Continued on Page T26

Trump blamed Kyiv for diesel prices, lifted the Russian sanctions, thanked Putin by name at the campaign rally.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Start with the September filing. On the fourth, the national average for a gallon of diesel came in at $5.85, an all-time high, and the Associated Press noted that because diesel moves freight, the number arrives later inside everything that gets delivered. Common Dreams entered the cause as the administration's war on Iran and what it did to global energy markets. The New York Post, filing from the other side of the aisle, would later book the same cause in softer language: the US war with Iran causing increased energy costs.

On September thirteenth, at his golf course in Doonbeg, the president entered a different cause. Zelensky, he said, has to do one thing, he has to stop knocking out diesel fuel in Russia. Eight days later he wrote that Russia had lost control of its diesel industry because of the war it started. Those two entries do not add. The first says Ukraine raises the American price by destroying Russian refineries; the second says the destroyed refineries are Moscow's own loss. Both were posted, neither was withdrawn, and under both the debit landed in Kyiv's column.

... Continued on Page F115

Federal agents shoot third bystander in six weeks, then shoot one of their own.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

It was born January 14th in Minnesota, when agent Christian Castro shot Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis in the thigh during that month's immigration surge, a wound the government did not revisit publicly until September 3rd, when federal prosecutors charged Castro — not for the shooting, but for lying to investigators about it. He appeared in a Minnesota courtroom September 17th to answer for that. Three days later, in Austin, an ICE agent not wearing his body camera shot a delivery driver, Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez, in the back; a colleague's camera caught only the aftermath, and officials said they could not explain the missing footage.

Then, October 9th, in Marble Hill, agents shot Oscar Bergal while his five-year-old rode in the back seat. He survived; officials say he is now held at a detention facility outside the city. The government's defense arrived in pieces: NYPD's own bodycam did not show the ramming the agents described, and the man who runs ICE's enforcement division reached for a new word instead, telling CBS News the father had "weaponized his vehicle." The claim did not survive contact with the footage. It was, less gently, shit —

... Continued on Page T26

Judge seals rape-case files over doxing fears; defendant wants AG recused; AG recuses herself from naming a predecessor.

BY MITCH
Investigations

On October 1st, before any filing in this case had a docket number worth citing, a Cornell law professor got in front of the facts. The professor told the New York Post that public reaction to the allegations amounted to a "lynch mob mentality" and named Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez specifically for "rushing to judgment." The documents were not public yet. The professor had already ruled on the public's reaction to them.

The next day, October 2nd, the case changed hands. Governor Kathy Hochul stood with Attorney General Letitia James and told reporters the woman in the lawsuit had been "failed" by the system. That is the sentence this whole file keeps trying, and failing, to finish.

Two days after that, October 4th, the institution named in the lawsuit made its own promise. Cornell's president told the Guardian the school would take "a serious look" at its fraternities. Not a decision. A look.

The day after that, October 5th, the case produced its first recusal fight. A lawyer for one of the seven defendants told the Post that James should step down from the very probe she had just been handed, citing a Facebook post

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The US answer to three deaths at Riyadh's airport was filed days earlier: back the Saudi offensive.

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will read three dead at Riyadh's airport this week and call it an escalation. It is a schedule. A missile came over Riyadh in 2018; drones reached Jeddah and Abha in 2021; in September at least 73 Saudi civilians were wounded and the kingdom promised a response. It launched strikes on 14 September, and the United Nations counted 86,000 Yemenis displaced. On 22 September the G7 condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia "in the strongest terms" — condemned, mind you, not curtailed. On 4 October Washington backed the Saudi-led offensive to retake territory holding about 70 percent of Yemen's population. Third round, third renewal. And the resolution in Congress that would halt the materiel — the crates, the ordnance on the manifest? Unpassed ... which is not a loss. A resolution that does not pass leaves the sale exactly as written. Nothing broke. The offensive is for all of it, Sanaa included.

... Continued on Page A208

Ambassador's $100,000 quid pro quo, confirmed by text weeks ago, is finally investigated by her own department.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Ambassador Kimberly Guilfoyle carried a tab. Before her Senate confirmation hearing, she asked Republican donor Eric Deters to cover a $100,000 charge on her American Express card. Deters did not pay quietly. He went on the record and called the arrangement what it was: quid pro quo. He said the ambassador offered him access to administration officials for the balance, and that she described herself as his "ride or die in Trump World."

The poll never mentioned Guilfoyle by name. The timing did the work instead.

On September 28, The Nation published a column describing the ambassador's tenure in Athens as "mafia diplomacy," pointing to deals it called suspicious made for her associates. That is a magazine's judgment, not a government's.

This week, CBS News reported that a second person — described only as an associate of Deters — confirmed to the network that the texts behind the ask were real. Deters' account now had independent backing from someone who had seen the exchange himself.

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> "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*

The hens, a man counts in spring. The fox counted in winter.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Newsom vetoed the oversight his own watchdog called essential; the consultants' nightclub bills tie to the rail CEO.

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Consultants on California's high-speed rail project billed taxpayers for nightclub outings and late-night car rides.

WHO GETS PAID. The consultants who sent the bills, and a rail authority whose leadership now faces no added oversight after the governor's veto.

WHAT SLIPS. The state's own rail watchdog did not get the power it said it needed to see spending like this, so catching the next round depends on a television station.

WHAT'S NEXT. Nothing on the calendar forces a second look. The audit came in September, the veto on 2 October, and the billing documents surfaced only when reporters obtained them.

Take the car rides first, since they are the cheapest item here and the one you will carry home. Late-night rides. Nightclub outings. Billed to you, by consultants on a railway that does not yet run, and the inspector general counted hundreds of thousands of dollars of questionable spending among them. CBS California has the documents behind that audit, and they carry connections to the rail authority's chief executive that were previously undisclosed. Grubby, yes. The handsome part is the calendar. The bill proved severable: the controversial part enacted in September, the part his own watchdog called essential to transparency and accountability left to sit. Less than a month after the audit. Vetoed, mind you … not amended. And what did the consultants pay to have the arrangement continue as drafted? Nothing. A signature did the work, and it was somebody else's. The railway does not run. The rides are on your bill.

“They keep telling you there's no money for the train, and meanwhile the consultants are expensing club nights and car service, and the paperwork runs back to the guy running the authority. The audit lands in September, and three weeks later the governor kills the half of the bill his own watchdog said he needed to see this stuff. Nothing broke — a door got closed on purpose, and you're covering the cab fare.”

— Sal

“Look, he signed part of that bill — part of it, which nobody wants to mention. Did I say he vetoed oversight? That doesn't sound like me. There was an audit, the inspector general caught the spending, the system worked, which is honestly why you don't need a second bill stacked on top of a system that already worked.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

~~California high-speed rail consultants billed taxpayers for late-night rides~~

Consultants' hidden ties to the rail CEO are the real waste

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *23:41 EDT*

CBS California Investigates obtained receipts behind the watchdog's findings of wasteful spending, revealing previously undisclosed connections to the high-speed rail CEO.

· Newsom vetoes rail oversight bill after watchdog’s scathing audit *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Will Gov. Newsom veto the high-speed rail oversight bill that his own watchdog calls essential? *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

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

Trump gives a plumbing job for stopping a 9/11 remake the government hadn't confirmed yet.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"UAE says Flydubai suspect intended to crash plane into Tel Aviv airport", 9 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A co-pilot flagged as a risk in 2024 tried to crash a passenger flight into an Israeli airport terminal on September 30, 2026.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public learns the full scope of a near-catastrophe only after officials have already set the story's tone.

WHAT'S NEXT. If this follows the pattern of prior unverified-savings-style victory laps, the early feel-good framing holds in public memory even after the facts complicate it; that is what happened in Washington between 19 February and 24 November 2025, when a headline savings number kept circulating long after itemized corrections cut it down.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The dates, in the order they came in. I'm not going to say anything about them yet.

2024: Oman Air flags the co-pilot as a security risk....

...(cont) September 30th: he attacks the captain with an axe on the Dubai-to-Tel Aviv flight. Passengers subdue him. The plane drops altitude fast enough to make the wire copy, diverts to Saudi Arabia, and he's arrested on the ground.

October 3rd: the president offers the passenger who helped stop him a plumbing job.

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October 9th and 10th: the attorney general of the United Arab Emirates says it straight out — the target was a passenger terminal at an Israeli airport, and the plan was modeled on September 11th, after years of what the paper describes, not quotes the attorney general saying, as extreme Islamist views. I want to be careful with that line, because the attorney general isn't given a pronoun anywhere I can find, so I'm going to keep calling them the attorney general, and I apologize for how that gets clunky by the fourth time through.

That's the order. Flag, flight, axe, job offer, confirmed target. I didn't move any of it around to make a point. I just put it down the way it came in.

I've got a car in the garage that's needed a fan belt since March, and when I go out to look at it — which I do, most evenings, the way some men look at a dog that isn't going to walk itself — I pass the toolbox, and in the toolbox there's a folder, because I am the kind of person who keeps a folder in a toolbox, and in the folder is a note from a mechanic, dated two years back, saying the belt should have been replaced then. I drove on it anyway. Nothing happened. Is that the whole difference between my belt and this co-pilot — that nothing happened to me? Oman Air wrote its note in 2024. What is a security-risk flag supposed to do at an airline, if not that?

Here's what sits wrong with me, and it's not the axe, and it's not even the diversion. It's the order of the next two dates. October 3rd, the job offer, blue-collar, good television, a man gets praised on camera for the thing he actually did, which was stop a plane from going somewhere terrible. October 9th and 10th, six and seven days later, the terrible place gets a name — a passenger terminal, a model from 2001. Which means the job offer went out before NPR's October 5th report, and before the UAE's October 9th finding, said what the passengers had actually been stopped from finishing. Does an offer made before the facts count as an answer to the facts? I don't think that's for me to say. I think that's for the two dates to say, side by side, which is all I've done here.

Say, before you go — the plumbing job, the one from the third. Was that before or after the record said the plan this man carried onto that aircraft was modeled on September 11th?

"They flagged this guy in 2024 and let him keep sitting in a cockpit anyway, with 174 people behind him. Then it turns out the plan was a passenger terminal, modeled on the thing that changed every airport in this country, and the official response — before anybody confirmed any of that — was a plumbing job for the guy who actually stopped it. That's the con: turn a 9/11 rehearsal into a feel-good segment before the facts land, so by the time the facts do land, the story's already been told the easy way."

— Sal

"The job offer is about recognizing blue-collar heroism, full stop, it has nothing to do with any ongoing terror investigation — did I say terror investigation, that's not language I'd use, strike that. The point is the president moves fast, that's leadership, you praise the man who acted while the facts are still coming in, you don't wait around for an attorney general in another country to finish a sentence. Was the timing a little close? I'll have to get back to you on that one."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *No fine for airline that flagged the risk — "my plumber," the job offered the passenger who stopped it.* By Lou · the midnight edition, 6 October 2026
- *'Lone wolf' illusion declared shattered 25 days before Israeli investigators conclude the Flydubai attacker was one.* By Lou · the breakfast edition, 4 October 2026
- *Co-pilot grounded by Oman Air as a security risk in 2024 was flying 174 people toward Tel Aviv with a crash axe; the president's response was to offer the plumber who stopped him a job.* By Lou · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

UAE says Flydubai suspect intended to crash plane into Tel Aviv airport
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *18:31 EDT*
The Flydubai co-pilot who attacked the plane's captain with an axe last month intended to crash the aircraft into a passenger terminal at an Israeli airport, according to authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Omani national Hamam al-Hammami, planned to seize control of the 182-passenger...

Attacker in FlyDubai Flight Meant to Crash Into Israeli Airport, Emiratis Say
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *20:10 EDT*
The attorney general of the United Arab Emirates said that the co-pilot had been inspired by the Sept. 11 attacks after years of developing extreme Islamist views.

In Brazil's Elections, Trump Seeks to Tighten Right Wing Grip on the Americas
Truthout § *11:30 EDT*
The US has been heavily intervening on behalf of right wing challenger Flávio Bolsonaro ahead of Sunday's elections.

· FlyDubai attacker intended to crash plane into Tel Aviv airport, ongoing investigation finds *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

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

· 'Crazy' FlyDubai landing explained by Israeli pilot, who offers steps to prevent future crises *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump gushes over blue-collar flydubai hero who thwarted hijacking terrorist, says 'he can be my plumber' *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Flydubai co-pilot attacked captain with crash axe in hijacking *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Suspect in FlyDubai incident was previously identified as security risk: Officials *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Trump thanks man who helped save Flydubai flight: 'What a job he did, he's a hero' *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

· Lula Campaign Asks to Probe Sudden US Shutdown of Consular Services as 'Interference in Brazilian Elections' *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Lula and Bolsonaro make final push for votes ahead of Brazil's knife-edge election *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Why has Brazil accused the US of election interference? *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

· US suspends consular services in Brazil due to security concerns *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Brazilian voters heading to the poll this weekend say Lula is turning the country into 'another Venezuela' *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Flavio Bolsonaro: In the name of the father, sons, and holy ideology *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Alarm Grows Over 'Clearly Illegal' Trump-Rubio Election Meddling in Brazil *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

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

· Co-pilot stabs pilot, tries to crash passenger jet en route to Israel, Netanyahu says *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Flydubai co-pilot used crash ax to hack at pilot in attempted 'terrorist attack': UAE official *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· FlyDubai co-pilot accused of stabbing captain identified as 29-year-old Omani national *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

· US Meddling in Brazil May Decide Latin America's Future *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

· Flydubai pilot attacked captain with cockpit's crash axe in attempted terrorist attack, UAE says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· While America debates who belongs, a Hindu captain and Jewish passengers just stopped a hijacking *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· How newsrooms turned an attempted hijacking into a 'brawl' (and killed public trust) *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

· Co-pilot attacker had been banned from flying over his radical views *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Flydubai hijacker previously barred from flying by Oman over radical beliefs: Report *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

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

· Mamdani says it was 'strange' getting called out by Netanyahu after calling for his arrest *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Israeli Opposition Accuses Netanyahu Of Being Too Pro-Palestine *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

· Mamdani calls for US to join ICC, arrest Netanyahu during Theo Von podcast appearance: 'Architect of a horrific genocide' *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Mamdani rips Netanyahu's UN jab as Gaza distraction: 'Not about me and him' *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

· Netanyahu praises heroic bystander in bloody cockpit attack for preventing 'another 9/11' *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Netanyahu credits heroic Israeli plumber on flydubai flight for preventing 'another 9/11'– vows to find out if Iran was behind attack *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Netanyahu says it's too early to determine motive in cockpit stabbing *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Netanyahu on alleged FlyDubai pilot stabbing: "I don't think it was a hijacking" *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

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

· "Grotesque": Ex-Israeli Negotiator Daniel Levy on Netanyahu's U.N. Speech & Israel's Impunity *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Extended interview: Benjamin Netanyahu discusses alleged pilot stabbing on flight to Israel *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· A Bloody Attack on a FlyDubai Plane Headed to Israel, and a Terrifying Plunge *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· FlyDubai Flight to Israel Diverted After Clash Between Pilots: What We Know and Don't Know *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Hero flydubai passenger still covered in blood meets Netanyahu as passengers arrive in Israel after hijacking attempt *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Netanyahu says one pilot stabbed the other and tried to crash Flydubai plane *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Pilot arrested for attempting to crash passenger plane in 'jihadist terrorist attack': Israeli officials *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Tel Aviv flight diverted to Saudi Arabia after pilot 'stabbed the other': Officials *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Michael Goodwin: Mamdani unveils new NYC antisemitism strategy —but can't hide his hatred for Israel *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

· Hochul dodges weighing in on Mamdani's antisemitism plan — which won't define the term *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Rivals skeptical as Netanyahu warns of 'attack' against Israel before Oct. 27 election *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Netanyahu met with representatives from eight Muslim nations during secret UAE visit: Report *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

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

· 'SNL' roasts Mayor Zohran Mamdani with 'urgent message' for New Yorkers during nor'easter *from the morgue, 27 Sep 2026*

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

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

· Trump to visit Mamdani in New York City for first meeting on mayor's turf *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

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

Trump blamed Kyiv for diesel prices, lifted the Russian sanctions, thanked Putin by name at the campaign rally.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK

"'I want to thank President Putin', Trump says after agreeing to lift sanctions on Russian diesel – as it happened", 10 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE GUARDIAN — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Trump lifted sanctions on Russian diesel and said Putin agreed to ship it to the United States.

WHO GETS PAID. Russia's fuel exporters, paid again for diesel, and Republican candidates campaigning on cheaper energy before the midterms.

WHAT SLIPS. A sanctions policy changed on one phone call, so the public learns the terms after the fact.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the shipments stay small, prices ease on their own and the deal takes the credit; that is what Washington got after 22 June 2022, when the gas-tax holiday never passed and the average fell anyway.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the September filing. On the fourth, the national average for a gallon of diesel came in at $5.85, an all-time high, and the Associated Press noted that because diesel moves freight, the number arrives later inside everything that gets delivered. Common Dreams entered the cause as the administration's war on Iran and what it did to global energy markets. The New York Post, filing from the other side of the aisle, would later book the same cause in softer language: the US war with Iran causing increased energy costs.

On September thirteenth, at his golf course in Doonbeg, the president entered a different cause. Zelensky, he said, has to do one thing, he has to stop knocking out diesel fuel in Russia. Eight days later he wrote that Russia had lost control of its diesel industry because of the war it started. Those two entries do not add. The first says Ukraine raises the American price by destroying Russian refineries; the second says the destroyed refineries are Moscow's own loss. Both were posted, neither was withdrawn, and under both the debit landed in Kyiv's column....

...(cont) September twenty-third, same ledger: the Washington Examiner's editorial board criticizing Emmanuel Macron for waiving EU sanctions on Alisher Usmanov, an ally of Vladimir Putin. France, the board wrote, kowtowing.

Sixteen days after that, on Friday, the president came off a phone call with Putin and announced sanctions relief on Russian diesel, with shipments bound for the United States and world markets. That is the second entry on that side of the column in sixteen days. The first was a foreign government's.

Now the amounts, since the amounts are the sales pitch. CBS: 300,000 tons immediately, millions of tons over coming months. NBC, same announcement, same day: hundreds of thousands of barrels. The New York Times, reconciling: small relative to global demand. So the quantity arrives in two units and one qualifier, the price relief is a projection, and the sanctions relief is a fact with a date on it.

Zelensky filed his own entry within the day. Gifts to Putin will not bring peace or any benefit to the civilized world. An investment in war that must be ended, not prolonged. American, Ukrainian and European officials were due in Miami to discuss ending that war.

Then the thank-you, by name, at the Syracuse rally, where the president is campaigning on cheaper energy for Bruce Blakeman, given a ten percent chance by Decision Desk HQ. Three explanations for one price, hon, and the diesel is Russian in all three. Only the sign in front of it changed.

"For three weeks the story was that your pump price was Kyiv's fault for blowing up Putin's refineries — now the cure is buying Putin's diesel, and every dollar of it goes back into the shells landing on Ukrainian apartment blocks. Sanctions you can lift on one phone call four weeks before an election were never sanctions, they were a price tag waiting for a bidder. And the trucking cost that put your groceries up doesn't come down because a man posted that it will."
— Sal

"Look — cheaper fuel for working families, that's not a favor to Moscow, that's a favor to anybody who drives a truck. Did he thank Putin? That doesn't sound like him, and anyway France pulled sanctions off an oligarch first, so let's talk about Macron. I'm not being defensive. You're the one who brought up the column."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump demanded Ukraine stop bombing Russian refineries over diesel costs, then agreed to import the diesel himself.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026
- *Election spending watchdog can't open a single case, weeks before the most expensive vote in history.* By Mort · the breakfast edition, 7 October 2026
- *Trump's offer to sacrifice San Diego to Iran gets rejected by San Diego's own Republican nominee.* By Mort · the coffee break edition, 6 October 2026
- *Trump calls gas prices a small price to pay; so, he says, are Los Angeles and San Diego.* By Mort · the breakfast edition, 6 October 2026
- *Administration reschedules Iran bombing for after midterms, meets at Camp David to plan it anyway* By Mort · the milkman edition, 4 October 2026
- *The unwritten rule that you do not schedule ordnance around a ballot died at no fixed age, survived by a bombing moved to after the midterms and by the chamber that went home for seven weeks without voting on the war.* By Mort · the midnight edition, 4 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

'I want to thank President Putin', Trump says after agreeing to lift sanctions on Russian diesel – as it happened

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *22:02 EDT*

This liveblog is now closed. Zelenskyy furious as Trump announces deal to buy Russian diesel Sign up for the US Breaking News email In a statement to the Guardian, Robin M Maher , the executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, said that her group is "not aware of any regulation or precedent for a military execution to be...

But: Trump has promised a 24-hour fix before: he said he'd settle the Ukraine war within a day, one of 53 such promises CNN counted
CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)

Trump: Russia will send diesel fuel to the U.S. to bring down prices

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *20:07 EDT*

President Trump said he spoke to Vladimir Putin and Russia will send hundreds of thousands of barrels of diesel fuel to the U.S. aimed at bringing down prices at the pump. NBC News' Garrett Haake reports.

~~Zelensky decries US-Russia diesel deal: 'Gifts to Putin will not bring peace'~~

He promised peace in 24 hours. He just gave Russia a diesel deal.

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:07 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky lambasted President Trump's Friday deal allowing Russia to supply the U.S. and global market with diesel, arguing the move would give the Kremlin more money to fund its war in Ukraine and undermine peace efforts. "Gifts to Putin will not bring peace or any benefit to the civilized world,"

~~Trump announces deal with Putin to deliver Russian diesel fuel to the US~~

Trump's war with Iran spiked fuel prices. Now he needs Putin's diesel.

New York Post RIGHT § *18:13 EDT*

Trump has vacillated between tough economic penalties on Russia to halt continuing invasion of Ukraine and reprieves as the US war with Iran causes increased energy costs and inflation.

But: Trump says Putin agrees to major release of diesel to US, global markets *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Putin agrees to major release of diesel to US, global markets

Le Monde MAINSTREAM § *15:51 EDT*

Trump's announcement on Friday also came as US, Ukrainian and European officials were due to hold talks in Miami in a fresh diplomatic effort to end Russia's war in Ukraine. Moscow, which launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, occupies roughly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory.

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

Trump announces Russia will release millions of tons of diesel to help with costs

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *18:19 EDT*

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to release 300,000 tons of diesel immediately and millions more over the coming months.

~~Live updates: Trump rallies voters in upstate New York after Putin diesel deal announcement~~

A federal officer shot an immigrant in New York City while a child was present

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:14 EDT*

President Trump Later is holding a rally in upstate New York after focusing his crunch-time campaign blitz for GOP candidates in red states. He's speaking in Syracuse, N.Y., to give a last-minute boost to Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman — whom nonpartisan election forecaster Decision Desk HQ (DDHQ) gave a 10 percent...

~~Trump announces deal for Russian diesel as Zelensky calls it a gift to Putin~~

Diesel prices doubled since the Iran war began. Now Trump wants Putin to fix it.

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *00:38 EDT*

Ukraine's president sharply criticised the move, calling it an "investment in war that must be ended, not prolonged".

But: "I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled" - Trump, CNN town hall, 10 May 2023. CNN counted 53 separate occasions he promised it *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *22:32 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky bashed President Donald Trump's deal with Russia to supply millions of tons of diesel fuel to global markets, giving arguably his most direct and biting criticism of Trump so far. Trump announced the deal on Friday in a post on Truth Social after a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin...

But: Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours - 53 separate times, CNN counted *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Russia to supply diesel to US amid criticism

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *18:59 EDT*

President Donald Trump has said that Russia had agreed to supply diesel to global markets in an effort to lower fuel prices.

~~Trump Says He Will Import Russian Diesel Fuel Amid High Prices~~

Trump says Russia will ship diesel - Russia's own export ban says otherwise

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *23:09 EDT*

President Trump said Russia had agreed to ship potentially millions of tons of diesel fuel in the coming months. But the amounts would be small relative to global demand.

· Trump: Russia has 'lost control' of its diesel industry as prices soar *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*

· Trump blames Ukraine for diesel fuel price spike, urges Zelensky to stop hitting Russian refineries *from the morgue, 13 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*

· France kowtows to Putin and removes EU sanctions on Russian mobster *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.

THE PATTERN

Federal agents shoot third bystander in six weeks, then shoot one of their own.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"US immigration officials defend ICE agents who shot man in same car as child", 10 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA BBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

It was born January 14th in Minnesota, when agent Christian Castro shot Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis in the thigh during that month's immigration surge, a wound the government did not revisit publicly until September 3rd, when federal prosecutors charged Castro — not for the shooting, but for lying to investigators about it. He appeared in a Minnesota courtroom September 17th to answer for that. Three days later, in Austin, an ICE agent not wearing his body camera shot a delivery driver, Wilber Rafael Garcés Pérez, in the back; a colleague's camera caught only the aftermath, and officials said they could not explain the missing footage.

Then, October 9th, in Marble Hill, agents shot Oscar Bergal while his five-year-old rode in the back seat. He survived; officials say he is now held at a detention facility outside the city. The government's defense arrived in pieces: NYPD's own bodycam did not show the ramming the agents described, and the man who runs ICE's enforcement division reached for a new word instead, telling CBS News the father had "weaponized his vehicle." The claim did not survive contact with the footage. It was, less gently, shit — recorded, timestamped, and already public by the time the new word landed....

...(cont) A map is not an investigation. It is arithmetic the department keeps declining to do out loud.

One day later, in Fresno, a woman came home to find an off-duty ICE agent asleep on her front lawn. Police say he attacked her and her father; he was shot. The agency that spent the week insisting a father's car was a weapon has not yet found a word for what its own agent allegedly did with his hands on someone else's grass.

Mamdani, Ocasio-Cortez, and other Democrats renewed their call to abolish the agency, which continues to file each of these as its own separate, unconnected thing — a filing system a whippersnapper with a highlighter and the dates above could defeat.

In lieu of flowers, the department is asked to publish, in one place, with dates, every shooting its agents have carried out this year — the work CBS News has already done for them, for free.

"They call a guy's minivan a weapon after putting a bullet near his five-year-old, but when their own guy gets caught on somebody's lawn, suddenly nobody's got a word for it — that's the whole con, which end of the gun gets the vocabulary. People kept saying "isolated incident" until a map did the counting for them, and this week the map added a federal badge to its own body count."

— Sal

"Look — "weaponized his vehicle" is standard threat-assessment language, every agency uses it, nobody's defending a shooting, that's just terminology. And Fresno — that's a personnel matter, an off-duty incident, totally separate from enforcement policy, which, yeah, okay, I guess is exactly what we say about the other ones too. Did I say that? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Third bystander shot by federal agents in six weeks; Mamdani and AOC call to abolish the agency.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 9 October 2026
- *Federal agents shoot third bystander in six weeks, each one filed as an isolated operation* By Sal · the evening edition, 9 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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

Map shows ICE shootings in U.S. during immigration crackdown

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:44 EDT*

Map shows details on each of the shootings carried out by DHS agents during the president's second term.

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

US immigration officials defend ICE agents who shot man in same car as child

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *20:13 EDT*

Oscar Belgal, the 28-year-old man, survived the shooting and is now being held at a detention facility outside of New York, officials said.

~~Head of ICE enforcement says man shot in NYC with child in backseat "weaponized his vehicle"~~

Federal agents shot a father while his 5-year-old sat in the backseat; ICE says he 'weaponized' the car

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *19:20 EDT*

The Department of Homeland Security is responding to outrage over the NYC shooting of Oscar Bergal, who was transporting his 5-year-old child in his car's backseat. Camilo Montoya-Galvez reports.

But: A UN torture rapporteur found ICE's planned shock gloves 'incompatible with the absolute prohibition of torture'; the agency plans to spend up to $20 million on them *ABC10 San Diego / UN Special Rapporteur finding, August 2026*

Off-duty ICE agent shot after allegedly attacking woman and her father: Police

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *20:07 EDT*

The incident occurred early Friday in Fresno. The woman arrived home to find the ICE agent sleeping on her front lawn, according to the Fresno Police Department.

· Video Shows Aftermath of ICE Agent Shooting Driver in the Back *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· 'This Violence Cannot Continue': ICE Shooting of Man in Austin Sparks Outrage *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· ICE agent appears in Minnesota court to face charges in the shooting of a Venezuelan immigrant *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

· Federal prosecutors charge Texas ICE officer whom Minnesota failed to extradite: Report *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*

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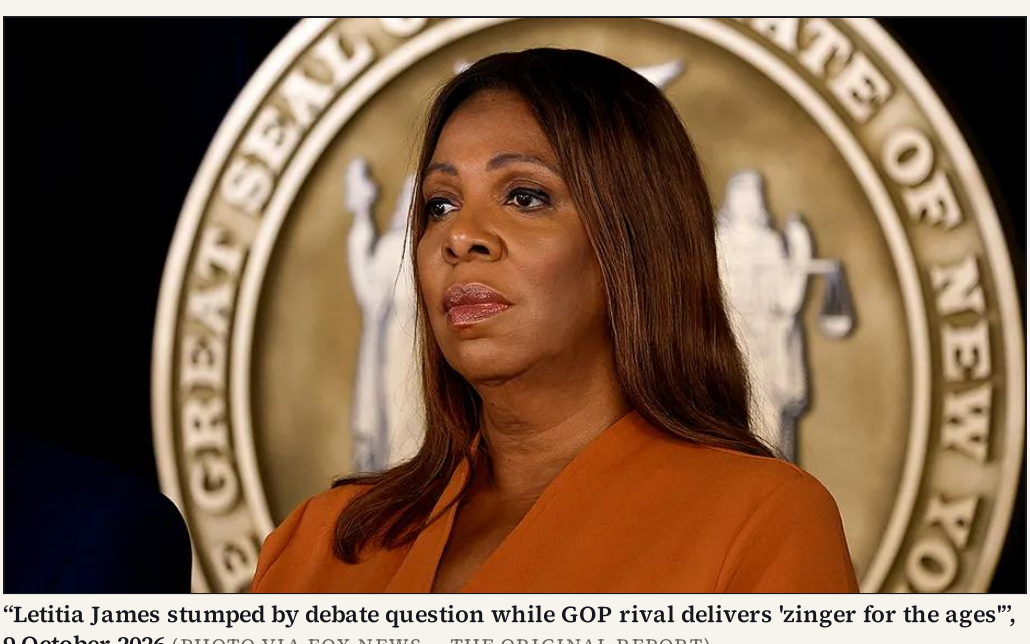
Judge seals rape-case files over doxing fears; defendant wants AG recused; AG recuses herself from naming a predecessor.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS



“Letitia James stumped by debate question while GOP rival delivers 'zinger for the ages'”, 9 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ **THE SHORT VERSION**

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. A judge sealed hundreds of pages of Cornell rape-case documents, citing doxing of people not involved in the case.

WHO GETS PAID. The sealing and the recusal motions give the Chi Phi defendants' attorneys room to fight the case out of public view.

WHAT SLIPS. The public and the press lose the ability to read the full court record of the allegations.

WHAT'S NEXT. The court still has to rule on the Winston Lee recusal motion, and the attorney general's office keeps running the case as special prosecutor; no hearing date appears in the record yet.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

On October 1st, before any filing in this case had a docket number worth citing, a Cornell law professor got in front of the facts. The professor told the New York Post that public reaction to the allegations amounted to a "lynch mob mentality" and named Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez specifically for "rushing to judgment." The documents were not public yet. The professor had already ruled on the public's reaction to them.

The next day, October 2nd, the case changed hands. Governor Kathy Hochul stood with Attorney General Letitia James and told reporters the woman in the lawsuit had been "failed" by the system. That is the sentence this whole file keeps trying, and failing, to finish....

...(cont) Two days after that, October 4th, the institution named in the lawsuit made its own promise. Cornell's president told the Guardian the school would take "a serious look" at its fraternities. Not a decision. A look.

The day after that, October 5th, the case produced its first recusal fight. A lawyer for one of the seven defendants told the Post that James should step down from the very probe she had just been handed, citing a Facebook post as proof she could not be impartial. Three days into "bringing it into light," one side was already asking the light to leave the room.

Thursday, October 8th, the attorney general debate. A moderator asked James to name a predecessor she admired. Fox News reports she went silent for several seconds while her rival supplied what the network called a zinger for the ages. The woman who promised to illuminate every fact of the Cornell file could not, on a stage, produce one sentence about the office's own history.

Friday, October 9th, two things got filed. A judge sealed the Cornell documents, citing the doxing of people who are not parties to the case, and ordered redacted versions filed instead. The same day, attorneys for a second defendant, Winston Lee, filed their own motion: disqualify James from any future grand jury proceeding. Two defendants, two recusal attempts, four days apart, aimed at the same attorney general the governor installed to bring everything into light.

The documents still talk. It's everyone standing next to them who keeps going quiet.

“Three different parts of this one case go quiet in the same week — a judge seals the file, a defendant wants the attorney general tossed off it, and the attorney general can't come up with one name from her own job's history. That's not bad luck, that's what a file looks like when it's bigger than anybody wants to carry out loud. She got handed this thing to bring it "into the light," and when somebody just asks her a simple question, the light goes out.”

— Sal

“The professor's got a point — this whole thing reeks of a mob rushing to judgment before the facts are even in, which is exactly why we're fine with the file getting sealed and fine with the attorney general maybe not finishing the job here. Due process for the accused, sure, due process for the public ever finding out anything, that's — hold on, did I just defend sealing court records? That's not usually our play.”

— Chip

THE RECEIPTS

These documents tell the story of the Cornell rape allegations

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *15:00 EDT*

Hundreds of pages of documents obtained by CBS News detail Jane Doe's allegations, the Cornell police investigation and responses of some of the accused Chi Phi fraternity members.

Letitia James stumped by debate question while GOP rival delivers 'zinger for the ages'

Fox News RIGHT § *16:18 EDT*

Letitia James went silent for several seconds when asked to name a former AG she admired during the Thursday New York Attorney General debate.

Judge seals documents in Cornell case, citing doxing of unrelated people

The Washington Post MAINSTREAM § *16:11 EDT*

The judge asked that redacted versions of the documents be filed to prevent the publishing of private information.

Second defendant in Cornell fraternity case seeks New York AG's recusal

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *16:40 EDT*

Attorneys representing Winston Lee, one of the former fraternity members accused in the Cornell University sexual assault lawsuit, filed a motion Friday in criminal court seeking to disqualify New York Attorney General Letitia James from any future grand jury proceedings.

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

· Woman in alleged Cornell gang-rape case was ‘failed’ by system, New York governor says *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

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

· Lawyer for ‘Cornell 7’ defendant calls for Letitia James to step down from probe after Facebook post sparks ‘impartiality’ questions *from the morgue, 5 Oct 2026*

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The US answer to three deaths at Riyadh's airport was filed days earlier: back the Saudi offensive.

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

■ THE SHORT VERSION

typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Washington backed a new Saudi-led offensive in Yemen after Houthi missiles killed three people at Riyadh's airport.

WHO GETS PAID. The Saudi-backed Yemeni government, and the arms sellers whose deal Congress has not voted to block.

WHAT SLIPS. Congress does not vote, so voters never get a recorded choice on a war their money arms.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the resolution stays off the floor, the backing continues; that is what Congress got in 2019, when its Yemen measure was vetoed on 16 April, the override failed, and U.S. support ran 21 more months.

You will read three dead at Riyadh's airport this week and call it an escalation. It is a schedule. A missile came over Riyadh in 2018; drones reached Jeddah and Abha in 2021; in September at least 73 Saudi civilians were wounded and the kingdom promised a response. It launched strikes on 14 September, and the United Nations counted 86,000 Yemenis displaced. On 22 September the G7 condemned the attacks on Saudi Arabia "in the strongest terms" — condemned, mind you, not curtailed. On 4 October Washington backed the Saudi-led offensive to retake territory holding about 70 percent of Yemen's population. Third round, third renewal. And the resolution in Congress that would halt the materiel — the crates, the ordnance on the manifest? Unpassed … which is not a loss. A resolution that does not pass leaves the sale exactly as written. Nothing broke. The offensive is for all of it, Sanaa included.

The gate, no man mends. Each winter the fox comes back.

— ENOCH

The Ownership Desk

🍺

"Three people are dead at an airport and Washington's answer was already in the mail — back the offensive, go retake the 70 percent of Yemen where the people actually live. Eighty-six thousand Yemenis were pushed out of their homes last month and the G7's big move was telling Iran to knock it off. They tell you there's no money for anything you need; there's money, it just gets spent over there."

— Sal

🚬

"The G7 — all of them, in the strongest terms — told Iran to stop arming these people, so let's be clear about who started it here. Nobody is funding an offensive, we're supporting a partner's right to defend its own airports, and if Congress had a problem they would hold a vote. Did I say funding? That doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Riyadh's airport struck again, called deadliest yet, same as September, same as 2018.* By Sal · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026
- *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

THE RECEIPTS

Iran's Houthi allies step up deadly attacks on Saudi Arabia

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *16:07 EDT*

Saudi Arabia says missile strikes by Iran's Houthi allies killed three people at Riyadh's airport as fighting escalates in the Middle East conflict's new epicenter.

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

· Is Yemen Heading Back to All-Out War? Saudis Launch Strikes as Houthis Take Control of Red Sea Coast *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· US Backs Major Saudi-Led Offensive as Yemen Slides Back Toward All-Out War *from the morgue, 4 Oct 2026*

· F Lead Iran must stop arming Yemen's Houthi forces, say the G7 *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

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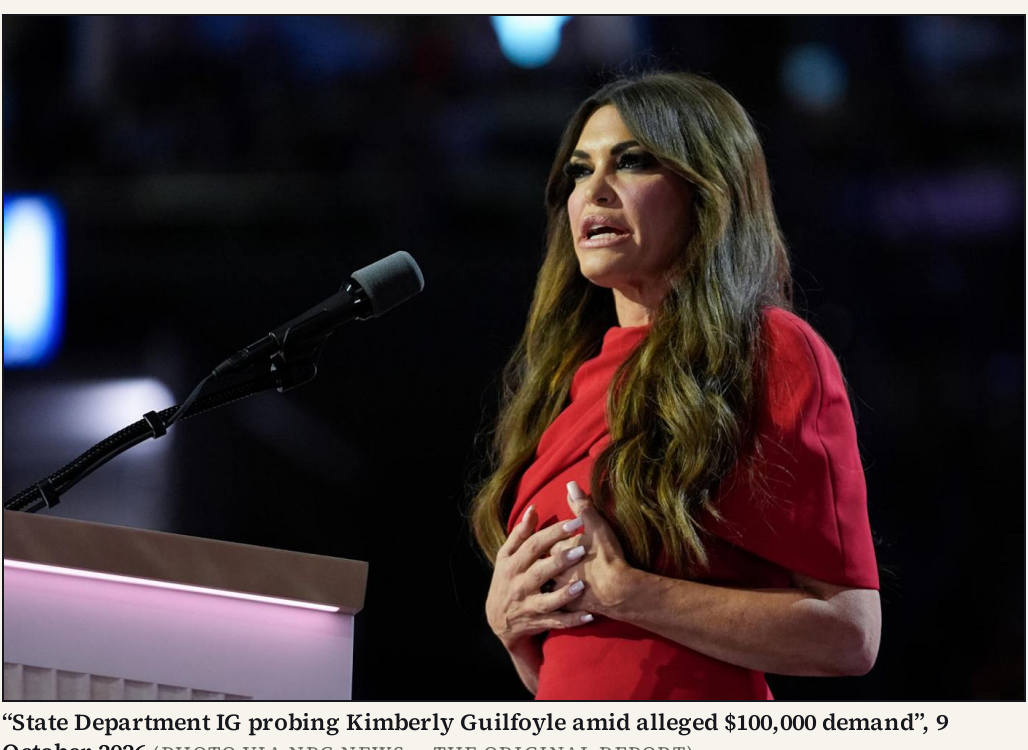
Ambassador's $100,000 quid pro quo, confirmed by text weeks ago, is finally investigated by her own department.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



“State Department IG probing Kimberly Guilfoyle amid alleged $100,000 demand”, 9 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NBC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. The State Department's inspector general opened an investigation into Ambassador Kimberly Guilfoyle and her embassy.

WHO GETS PAID. Republican donor Eric Deters says he was offered access to administration officials in exchange for covering the ambassador's card balance.

WHAT SLIPS. The Senate confirmed her before any of this surfaced, so the vetting meant to catch it came too late.

WHAT'S NEXT. No hearing date has been set. The inspector general's investigation remains open, with no public timeline given for findings.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Ambassador Kimberly Guilfoyle carried a tab. Before her Senate confirmation hearing, she asked Republican donor Eric Deters to cover a $100,000 charge on her American Express card. Deters did not pay quietly. He went on the record and called the arrangement what it was: quid pro quo. He said the ambassador offered him access to administration officials for the balance, and that she described herself as his "ride or die in Trump World."

The poll never mentioned Guilfoyle by name. The timing did the work instead....

...(cont) On September 28, The Nation published a column describing the ambassador's tenure in Athens as "mafia diplomacy," pointing to deals it called suspicious made for her associates. That is a magazine's judgment, not a government's.

This week, CBS News reported that a second person — described only as an associate of Deters — confirmed to the network that the texts behind the ask were real. Deters' account now had independent backing from someone who had seen the exchange himself.

Today the record added two more lines. NBC News reported that the State Department's Office of Inspector General has opened an investigation into Guilfoyle and the embassy she runs in Athens — the office, not just the officeholder. The New York Times reported separately what the $100,000 was for: correspondence it reviewed suggests Guilfoyle asked the donor to pay off her credit card balance.

Put the numbers next to each other. An ambassador's government salary is a matter of public record. A $100,000 card balance is not a rounding error against it. The ask landed before a confirmation vote, when a nominee's leverage is the vote still pending. The corroborating texts surfaced after. The inspector general's investigation opened after that.

The donor is named. The office whose job is to watch the embassy now has an open file on the ambassador who runs it.

The file does not yet say what the arrangement cost the embassy's actual work, or who else inside it knew. The State Department, for its part, has confirmed only that the investigation is open.

“She asked a donor to cover her credit card before her own confirmation vote, and the only people checking the math are the ones who already caught her on tape. Watch how long it takes the inspector general's office to turn a confirmed text thread into an actual finding — that's the real test of whether anybody above her answers for it. The embassy she runs still has a staff, a budget, and a mission, and none of that pauses while the file sits open.”

— Sal

“This is routine oversight — the Inspector General's office reviews ambassadors all the time, so an investigation opening here says nothing by itself. It's just a coincidence that it opened the same week a donor's own associate confirmed the texts to CBS. Did I say coincidence? I meant procedure.”

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Guilfoyle's own associate confirms the quid pro quo; officials tie influencers on courage, Gallup finds.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 9 October 2026
- *Ambassador asks donor to secretly wire her AmEx $100,000; he calls it quid pro quo.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 8 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

State Department IG probing Kimberly Guilfoyle amid alleged $100,000 demand

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *16:55 EDT*

U.S. Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle and the embassy she leads are under investigation by the State Department’s Office of the Inspector General, two people familiar with the decision confirmed to NBC News.

~~Donor Says Kimberly Guilfoyle Sought Money From Him to Cover Debt~~

US ambassador to Greece asked a GOP donor to cover her credit card debt, he says

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *15:31 EDT*

Correspondence suggests that Ms. Guilfoyle, the U.S. ambassador to Greece and former fiancée of Donald Trump Jr., asked a G.O.P.

· Kimberly Guilfoyle Is a Master of Mafia Diplomacy *from the morgue, 28 Sep 2026*

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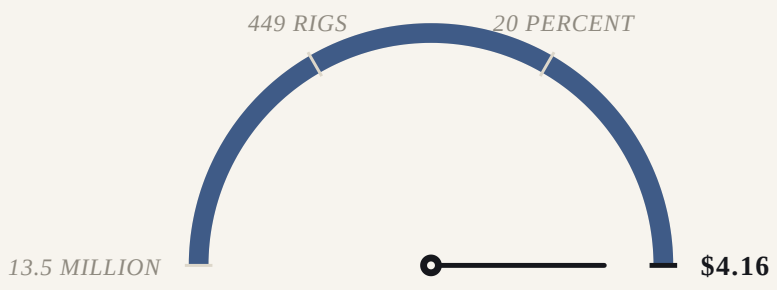
§56 — 09 OCTOBER 2026

On drilling

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



$4.16

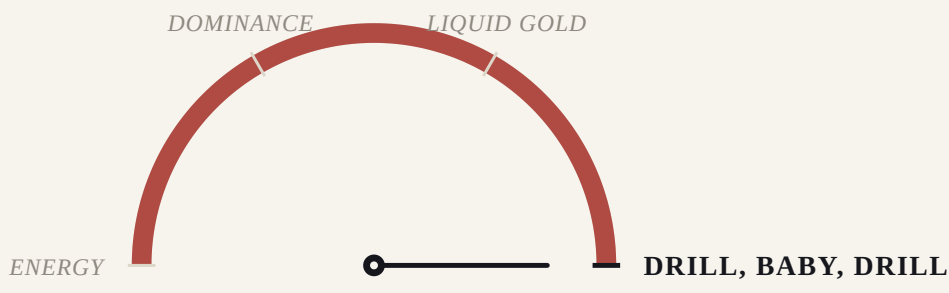
The record did not hold. June 2026 production was 13,792,000 barrels a day, below October's peak [1], and the agency's December forecast put 2026 at 13.5 million barrels a day, "about 100,000 b/d less than in 2025" [2]. The Baker Hughes count of U.S. oil rigs went from 478 in January 2025 to 449 on September 4, 2026 [3][4]. Chevron announced cuts of 15 to 20 percent of its workforce [5]; ConocoPhillips, 20 to 25 percent of its employees and contractors [6].

And the number on the sign. The government's weekly average for regular gasoline was $3.192 in the second week of September 2025 and $4.157 in the same week of 2026 [7]. AAA attributed the climb to "volatility in the Strait of Hormuz" [8]. The barrels came out of Texas. The price came out of the strait.

SOURCES

1. U.S. field production of crude oil: 13,792 thousand barrels per day in June 2026 — Energy Information Administration, series MCRFPUS2 ↑
2. 2026 production forecast at 13.5 million b/d, "about 100,000 b/d less than in 2025" — EIA, Today in Energy, 12 December 2025 ↑
3. 478 oil rigs on 17 January 2025 — Oil and Gas Journal / AOGR rig count archive ↑
4. 449 oil rigs on 4 September 2026 — Reuters via BOE Report, 4 September 2026 ↑
5. Chevron to cut 15 to 20 percent of its workforce — KPRC Click2Houston, 12 February 2025 ↑
6. ConocoPhillips to cut 2,600 to 3,250 people, 20 to 25 percent of its workforce — CBS News, 4 September 2025 ↑
7. Weekly U.S. regular gasoline: $3.192 on 8 September 2025; $4.157 on 7 September 2026 — EIA via FRED, series GASREGW ↑
8. Labor Day prices on track for a record, amid "volatility in the Strait of Hormuz" — AAA, 3 September 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



DRILL, BABY, DRILL

The promise, from the inaugural address: "We will drill, baby, drill," with the oil described as "that liquid gold under our feet" [1]. On the thing the slogan names, it delivered. The Energy Information Administration's monthly data shows U.S. field production of crude oil reaching a record 13,995,000 barrels a day in October 2025, up from 13,167,000 in January [2].

That is the best case for the phrase, and it is a real number: more American oil came out of the ground in a single month than ever before. If the measure of an energy policy is barrels, the first year of this one set the high-water mark. The measures a driver uses are on the other side.

SOURCES

1. "We will drill, baby, drill"; "that liquid gold under our feet" — inaugural address, 20 January 2025 — The White House ↑
2. U.S. field production of crude oil: 13,167 thousand barrels per day in January 2025; a record 13,995 in October 2025 — Energy Information Administration, monthly series MCRFPUS2 ↑

“I fill up at the same station every Sunday, so I keep the receipts in the glovebox. Last September, three nineteen a gallon. This September, four fourteen. And I figured, well, maybe we're drilling less. But no — the government says production hit a record in October, almost fourteen million barrels a day. It's just the rigs are down, and the forecast for this year is lower, and Chevron's cutting fifteen to twenty percent of its people. Sorry, I'm holding up the pump. If we're drilling a record, why does my receipt say a dollar more?” — Lou

🍺

“"Drill, baby, drill." And they did — record production, fourteen million barrels a day last October. Then the rigs went from four seventy-eight to four forty-nine, the government forecast this year lower than last, two of the biggest oil companies cut a fifth of their people, and the pump went up a dollar. Turns out the price of gas isn't set in Texas. It's set in a strait off Iran.”

— Sal

🚬

“Gasoline prices are a global phenomenon, while record production is an American achievement, and it would be unfair to hold an American achievement responsible for a global phenomenon.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎