The Single-Column Edition

FROM EACH

SUNDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2026 — THE SUNDAY EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

The Supreme Court found ninety days enough room to run a voter purge database and twelve days too few to read a student ID.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Set the week on a table and it reconciles. Five items. Two are orders of the Court. Two are on file at the Federal Election Commission. The fifth is a plan reported in September. Nothing in the stack is concealed and nothing in it is unlawful. That is the part to say first, flat, before anything else, because it is what the stack is for.

Item one. On September 25th the Court, six to three, lifted a lower court's block and let the Department of Homeland Security run its SAVE database against state voter rolls through the appeal. Federal law otherwise keeps a program like that out of the final ninety days before an election. Ninety days is the quiet period. The Court looked at the ninety days and found room in them.

Item two. On October 20th New Hampshire's Secretary of State asked the same Court to put a different block back up, the one on student IDs at the polls. On October 22nd the Court granted it. The rationale in the order is the risk of voter confusion from a rule change this close to a vote. Twelve days. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson dissented, alone.

… Continued on Page F12a

THE WORD

$71 — 24 OCTOBER 2026

On windmills

DEMOCRAT



WINDMILLS

"I'm a bird man, a little. I keep a feeder on the porch, and the thing that gets the birds at my house is my neighbor's cat, Duchess. So when he said the windmills 'wipe them all out,' I looked it up. The wildlife-numbers turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year, strikes, eighty-nine to three hundred forty million. Cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Sorry, I'm going — Duchess is probably on the feeder right now. Of the things on that list, which one got the executive order?" — Lou

… Continued on Page W71

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

EIGHTY-ONE DEGREES

The state register's page for the nursing-home cooling rule lists 1,361 notices of homes asking for more time, and two rulings on them, neither a grant nor a denial.

… Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Students protesting rats and falling debris in their schools became footage at Trump's midterm rallies; one Saturday's arrest count was filed at 135, then nearly 1,000.

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

School funding, the stated cause of the French student protests, died on 16 October at the age of twelve days. It is survived by a Kansas rally, by French protest footage shown at American midterm rallies, and by a ballot on 3 November.

It was born in difficult circumstances, as these things usually are. Democracy Now! reported on 6 October that nearly 2,000 French high schools were blockaded or closed, and that the movement had begun in September at a single school in the economically deprived suburbs of Paris, where students protested teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and dilapidated buildings beset by rats and falling debris. That is the shit the children were marching about, and it is the part that did not travel.

It was preceded in death by the schools themselves. Morning Star counted around 400 of them closed on 2 October. The same paper reported on 8 October that students had dragged rubbish bins into position outside the Hélène Boucher Lycee in north-eastern Paris the previous morning, erecting barricades before police moved in with tear gas, and that police had made

… Continued on Page B44

Musk blamed Trump and the U.S. military for Ukraine's throttled battlefield internet, then said Saturday the throttle was SpaceX's and lifted it.

BY LOU
Chief Meta-Question

I'm asking a favor, because this is your field and it is nowhere near mine. You people do satellites and contracts every day of the week. I've got one week of it in my coat and I cannot make it sit flat — four readings in the car, and the car needs a fan belt, so believe me there was time. Straighten me out and I'll get out of your way.

I wrote this down. Just a second. Ah, here it is.

The Guardian, Wednesday the fourteenth: Ukrainian soldiers in combat "have suddenly had their access to Starlink satellite internet terminals restricted." Tuesday evening, the paper says, Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to President Zelensky, wrote on Telegram that the limits came without warning, and the Washington Examiner printed his account: the restrictions applied to Starshield, and to terminals moving above 100 mph. The Examiner also reported that some drone operations were cancelled.

Here's my first snag. Same day — Wednesday, I've got it circled twice — the Examiner carries the owner of SpaceX on who did it. "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government." The Hill, the same

… Continued on Page F29

White House credits Ukraine's third ceasefire of the month to the Russia sanctions it waived the week before

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

Let me start with the number, because the number is the part the critics keep walking past. In one month this White House has produced three ceasefires in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Three. Three is more ceasefires than two. Two is more than one. I am not going to stand here and apologize for a surplus.

The record starts in September. On September 5, AAA priced a gallon of diesel at $5.88, a record, and Axios reported that Republican incumbents were polling just behind the blame on the President. On September 14, the President posted that Ukraine had agreed not to hit Russian energy targets and that Russia had agreed to do likewise. On September 19, he signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, named for the South Carolina senator who championed it before he died in July, authorizing tariffs of up to 100 percent.

Was that September agreement honored? It was honored in the relevant sense — the sense in which it existed, and we said it existed, and the strikes that kept landing afterward were outside the scope of the — all right. The

… Continued on Page B44

Justice Department asks a court to block Alaska's Senate certification only if the Republican loses, challenging zero ballots

BY STERLING
The Ownership Desk

You will want to know which ballots the Department of Justice has a quarrel with. It is a fair question, and the filing that came out of Washington on Friday declines to answer it. The number of Alaska ballots challenged is zero. Zero — no precinct named in the complaint, and no stack of absentee envelopes in it either. What is pleaded instead is confusion: two men named Dan Sullivan, one sitting above the other on the Senate line, one of them the sitting senator and the other a retired schoolteacher, and a voter at a booth with a pen and two identical names under it.

And the relief sought? That a court stop Alaska from certifying its Senate race if Senator Dan Sullivan loses. If he loses. The drafting puts a condition precedent on the remedy — the event that must occur before the obligation arises — and the event is a defeat. Should the senator finish ahead, the two names trouble nobody and the certificate goes out on time. The quarrel is not with a ballot, you see. It is with a result.

This did not arrive on Friday out of nothing. On September 2nd the Department of Homeland Security opened what it calls, internally, the

… Continued on Page T29

Elon Musk, this midterm's largest known donor at $276 million, spent three days saying the 100 mph limit on Ukraine's air defense was the government's call.

BY MITCH
Staff Writer

The ceiling on what one person may put into one party came off this week, and nobody had to touch it.

On Monday the Times reported that Elon Musk is the largest known midterm donor in American political history, at $276 million. On September 22 the reported plan had been at least one hundred million; three weeks on the figure was nearly triple that, and not one rule on the books stood in the road. The money moves through America PAC, an outside group that disclosed its first spending of the cycle on September 3 — mail advertising. The party it funds goes into November with a $400 million edge.

That is the first half of the week. The second half ran on a much smaller number.

On Monday in Warsaw, Zelensky said he had been surprised by Trump's "energy ceasefire" announcement, which went up as Russian drones hit Kyiv, and vowed to retaliate if strikes on Ukraine's power grid continued. ABC News put the arrangement plainly on Thursday: Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

… Continued on Page A23

A county coroner confirmed the measles death; the federal agency that certified measles eliminated in 2000 has called the cause under investigation since 1 September.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
The Remedy Desk

Start with the gap in the table. Since 1 September the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly outbreak update has gone out with two measles deaths in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, missing from it, the agency saying it was still investigating the cause. The county coroner had already confirmed one of the two. The United States certified measles eliminated in 2000 by counting — a year with sustained transmission stopped — so the certificate and the blank line are the same instrument, one of them filled in.

That is the assignment, and it is a small one: a public count with a line withheld. The parts are sitting in other people's dockets.

The planner's part is the emergency filing, and it was fitted twice. On 24 September, opponents of Paramount's purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery asked Judge Araceli Martínez-Olguín for "an opportunity to be heard" before she ruled on a settlement Paramount had reached with a coalition of state attorneys general. Common Dreams reported on 10 October that a coalition of nonprofit groups and labor unions had filed, on Friday, an emergency peti-

… Continued on Page H15

Half-price beer moved the crowd through security early for a president who came to Neyland to sell a bill none of the players below him could vote on.

BY GUS
The Sports Desk

HOT MIC MOMENT

He says he wants real news, not fake news, like you, and the institutions behind him are busy making the distinction official.

… Continued on Page S29

"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 WEEK, FROM ENOCH

By spring the dog sleeps in the shed.
A man finds fewer hens at dusk.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK
The Sunday edition · 18 – 24 October 2026

THE FUTURES FILE ← →

Students protesting rats and falling debris in their schools became footage at Trump's midterm rallies; one Saturday's arrest count was filed at 135, then nearly 1,000.

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU



"BROADCAST BIAS: Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters", 24 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

School funding, the stated cause of the French student protests, died on 18 October at the age of twelve days. It is survived by a Kansas rally, by French protest footage shown at American midterm rallies, and by a ballot on 3 November.

It was born in difficult circumstances, as these things usually are. Democracy Now! reported on 6 October that nearly 2,000 French high schools were blockaded or closed, and that the movement had begun in September at a single school in the economically deprived suburbs of Paris, where students protested teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and dilapidated buildings beset by rats and falling debris. That is the shit the children were marching about, and it is the part that did not travel....

...(cont) It was preceded in death by the schools themselves. Morning Star counted around 400 of them closed on 2 October. The same paper reported on 8 October that students had dragged rubbish bins into position outside the Helene Boucher Lycee in north-eastern Paris the previous morning, erecting barricades before police moved in with tear gas, and that police had made more than 6,600 arrests since late September, when the protests began. The arrested were most of them under 18.

For a while the cause outgrew the schools without losing its name. Common Dreams reported on 8 October that students had led more than 250,000 people in protests demanding education funding, with Clémence Guetté, a deputy of the French National Assembly, saying "we are going to sweep away the old world." On 17 October the same outlet counted demonstrations in 140 cities over inequality, the cost of living and school conditions. A protester identified as Agnes told Agence France-Presse: "For years we've had climate, economy, and equality problems, but the government is not doing anything about it."

The replacement cause was already in print. On 10 October the New York Post ran a column arguing the protests were "really about a growing radical Muslim population that wants to get rid of democracy."

On 18 October the Washington Examiner reported President Trump urging France to secure its borders to "people with hatred in their hearts," and posting "France is burning!" on Truth Social, with police arresting approximately 1,800 people.

The arrest count is the one mourner that kept changing its story. CBS News had more than 1,800 on 19 October, after masked groups set fires and attacked city halls. On 24 October Fox News reported Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez saying 135 people were arrested with 70,000 police deployed; the same day, the same outlet reported the same minister saying nearly 1,000, with the same 70,000. CBS, filing on 25 October, had more than 1,000 and demonstrations that were largely peaceful, with clashes Saturday evening.

The networks' own pictures were the problem and also the evidence. Fox News reported on 19 October that the BBC had called the protests "mostly peaceful" as its own footage showed burning cars, looted shops and nearly 1,000 officers injured nationwide. On 24 October Fox ran the story again under the heading BROADCAST BIAS. On that same Saturday NBC News reported more than 100,000 people marching in Paris over school funding and soaring living costs, police firing tear gas and water cannons near the end.

CBS News reported on 20 October that French officials had implemented local curfews Monday and said an "ultra-left movement" was behind the violence and vandalism. On 21 October Le Monde reported that the US president and his inner circle repeatedly used the violence of October 17 to denounce immigration and Muslims, warning that a Democratic victory in the midterm elections on November 3 would expose the United States to the same dangers. The same day, the Washington Examiner reported that Macron, speaking to the press in Doha, called the comments "stupid" and "unacceptable" and said there was no evidence of foreign actors instigating the protests.

The Hill reported on 24 October that his former campaign manager, Bill Stepien, told CNN's Abby Phillip the midterm picture was "It's ugly." The deceased got one last mention that week in a Washington Examiner opinion piece, which wondered whether the only way the French could get more pens, pencils and the rest was to riot. A penny-ante eulogy, but it did name the thing.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that before 3 November you find out what your own district spends on its school buildings, and who is telling you the children asking for it are something else.

THE RECEIPTS

~~BROADCAST BIAS: Networks show France burning but highlight 'peaceful' protesters~~

Cost of living and crumbling public services fuel unrest in Macron's France

Fox News RIGHT | 09:00 EDT

Emmanuel Macron's government faces mounting unrest as networks blamed 'hijacked' protests over cost of living and declining public services in France.

~~How Trump's camp is exploiting France's riots to energize the MAGA base~~

13 days before the vote, Trump turns Paris riots into a campaign ad

Le Monde MAINSTREAM | 02:26 EDT

The US president and his inner circle have repeatedly used the violence of October 17 to denounce immigration and Muslims, warning that a Democratic victory in the midterm elections on November 3 would expose the United States to the same dangers.

France in Flames

National Review RIGHT | 09:15 EDT

Political France is in for rough times, no matter who sits in the Élysée Palace.

~~Trump's former campaign manager on GOP ahead of midterms: 'It's ugly'~~

Trump's ex-campaign chief blames looming GOP midterm losses on corruption scandals

The Hill MAINSTREAM | 14:55 EDT

President Trump's former campaign manager is joining a growing list predicting midterm doom for Republicans, highlighting recent allegations of government corruption as a key reason. Bill Stepien, who managed Trump's 2020 campaign and had a stint as White House political director in the president's first term, told CNN's Abby Phillip...

~~Nearly 1,000 arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors: officials~~

France deployed 70,000 police to arrest under 1,000 protesters

Fox News RIGHT | 13:51 EDT

French Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez says nearly 1,000 people were arrested as 70,000 police officers deployed across the country amid nationwide protests.

French CEO warns 'purely chaotic' riots prove the country has reached the 'dead end of socialism'

Fox News RIGHT | 13:22 EDT

French AI entrepreneur Brivael Le Pogam warns France has reached the "dead end of socialism" as violent protests, looting and chaos spread nationwide.

~~France on edge: nearly 800 protests as police clash with demonstrators~~

Nearly 800 protests demand Macron's removal

New York Post RIGHT | 17:28 EDT

France faces another weekend of civil unrest as left-wing movements try to oust President Emmanuel Macron from office in the upcoming elections.

Trump exploits France riots to push false immigration claims ahead of midterms

France 24 MAINSTREAM | 15:28 EDT

US President Donald Trump and his inner circle are using unrest in France to push unsubstantiated claims blaming the riots on immigration, even showing French protest footage at midterm rallies. But there is no evidence linking immigration to the unrest, and it's prompted French President Emmanuel Macron to accuse world leaders of making...

135 people arrested across France as police find potential weapons on protestors, official says

Fox News RIGHT | 13:51 EDT

France Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez says 135 people were arrested as 70,000 police officers deployed to clamp down on nationwide protests.

Mass protests challenge Macron as French police use tear gas and water cannons

NBC News MAINSTREAM | 10:09 EDT

PARIS — More than 100,000 people marched in Paris on Saturday over school funding and soaring living costs, challenging President Emmanuel Macron's government in a largely peaceful demonstration before clashes broke out near the march's end point.

The Anti-French Revolt in France

National Review RIGHT | 10:10 EDT

Whatever France's immediate future, greatness is not going to be part of the picture.

~~More than 1,000 arrested in France as protesters and police clash~~

France arrested 1,000+ after protests police called largely peaceful

CBS News MAINSTREAM | 21:23 EDT

While demonstrations throughout France were largely peaceful, police reported clashes with protesters Saturday evening.

· Trump tells France 'close your borders' as police arrest 1,800 in violent protests *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· French police arrest 1,800 after clashes and looting *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· 'The Government Is Trembling': Protests Erupt in France, Spreading to 140 Cities *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Police fire tear gas at barricaded high school in Paris as protests spread to Belgium *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Police and masked protesters clash in Brussels as anti-austerity rally of thousands *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· BBC calls France protests 'mostly peaceful' as footage shows rioters torching cars, battling police *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· 'This Is Going Global': Anti-Austerity Protests Spread From Spain and France to Chile, Belgium, and Beyond *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/world/4773779/emmanuel-macron-trump-stupid-comments-french-riots/ *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/courage-strength-optimism/4773305/france-has-fallen-america-cant-be-next/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/video/anarchy-in-france-behind-the-riots-and-violent-protests/ *the receipt*

· Macron scoffs at Trump arch rivalry: 'Monuments are bigger than ourselves' *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· French student riots spill across Europe as Belgian minister attributes violence to antifa *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· Macron says violent rioters will be 'prosecuted and punished' as buildings burn in France *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· 'The Bastille Has Been Retaken,' Declares Mélenchon as Student-Led Protests Hit New Heights in France *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6160848-trump-warns-france-midterm-chaos/ *the receipt*

· Trump returns to Washington amid midterms campaign blitz as new polls reveal voters's concern about US economy – live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/oct/19/trump-france-protests *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/newsletters/the-movement/6158862-the-movement-france-protests-trump-vance-republicans-response/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/politics/torched-cars-ransacked-businesses-anti-sharia-crusader-warns-france-civil-war-could-imported-us *the receipt*

· https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/op-eds/4771097/france-riots-jewish-shops-kristallnacht/ *the receipt*

· 'Page one of repressive playbook': critics warn of Trump's conspiratorial attacks *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*

· Trump threads needle between communist attacks against Democrats and warm embrace of Xi *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

· France's insane student protests are really about a growing radical Muslim population that wants to get rid of democracy *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Musk blamed Trump and the U.S. military for Ukraine's throttled battlefield internet, then said Saturday the throttle was SpaceX's and lifted it.

By LOU
ONE MORE QUESTION

"Starlink access in Ukraine fully back after disruption: Officials", 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA ABC NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I'm asking a favor, because this is your field and it is nowhere near mine. You people do satellites and contracts every day of the week. I've got one week of it in my coat and I cannot make it sit flat — four readings in the car, and the car needs a fan belt, so believe me there was time. Straighten me out and I'll get out of your way.

I wrote this down. Just a second. Ah, here it is....

...(cont) The Guardian, Wednesday the fourteenth: Ukrainian soldiers in combat "have suddenly had their access to Starlink satellite internet terminals restricted." Tuesday evening, the paper says. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to President Zelensky, wrote on Telegram that the limits came without warning, and the Washington Examiner printed his account: the restrictions applied to Starshield, and to terminals moving above 100 mph. The Examiner also reported some drone operations were cancelled.

Here's my first snag. Same day — Wednesday, I've got it circled twice — the Examiner carries the owner of SpaceX on who did it. "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government." The Hill, the same Wednesday: decisions to restrict the speed or usage of Starshield are made by the U.S. military and, ultimately, the president. France 24 ran it. The Post said he pointed to Trump. So on Wednesday the switch is Washington's. Am I reading that the way you'd read it?

Thursday, the BBC: "Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds." May be. The BBC reports Ukraine says access has improved but it is still facing speed limits which are disrupting its battlefield "missions." The Times that Thursday called it a Pentagon-funded satellite internet program that "appeared to be curbed without warning," and the attack it was reporting cut power to 600,000 people in Kyiv. CBS had Ukrainian officials saying the usual warning never came. That's four desks reading off one page — the Guardian, Common Dreams, CBS, the Times — and Common Dreams had already asked on the Wednesday what a country pays for running its war on a network it doesn't own.

Now, my qualifications. There's a light in my garage on a switch by the side door and a breaker in the panel behind the water heater. Two weeks this fall I hit that switch and got nothing, and I told my wife the power company was doing something to the street. The power company did not know I was alive. I'd thrown the breaker myself with the end of a ladder. Two weeks of blaming the utility for my own elbow — and the whole two weeks, I was the only man in the county who could walk back there and push it up. Is that the same shape as this, or does it change when it's satellites?

Because on the third, the Times reported the founder of SpaceX joining a Pentagon advisory board, billions of dollars in military contracts to his name; this month a report put his midterm spending at $276 million, the largest of the cycle. Senator Tillis asked him that Wednesday to explain the overnight disruptions, and said he hoped it was an error and not a deliberate decision. Zelensky said, "It's a pity that we are losing a strong partner," and by the seventeenth said Starshield was still restricted and called it a "planned operation" to target Kyiv.

The Times reported the president asked him to reverse the limits. Friday, the BBC had the soldiers still restricted. The president was in Sioux City that week with $150 million for gas and diesel, and he'd blamed Ukraine's strikes on Russian refineries for the price — but that's not my page. The twentieth: the Wall Street Journal reported, and The Hill confirmed, that he had ordered the slowdown himself.

Excuse me — before you go. I'm sorry. There was one more page and I've been hunting it since I sat down. Glovebox, probably. No — here. Saturday: he said SpaceX throttled the speeds itself, over the drone strikes, and the cap came off that same day. So Wednesday's page says the U.S. military and, ultimately, the president. Saturday's page says SpaceX. You do this every day: which of the two took the limit off on a Saturday, and whose hand was that on the switch?

THE RECEIPTS

Starlink access in Ukraine fully back after disruption: Officials

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *19:53 EDT*

Ukrainian officials said speed restrictions on Starlink and Starshield that hampered military operations have been lifted.

Elon Musk says SpaceX throttled Ukraine Starlink speeds over drone strikes

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *17:23 EDT*

SpaceX's military-grade version of the Starlink internet service has become the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations.

Ukraine says Starlink is back to normal after disruptions

NPR MAINSTREAM § *13:54 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that normal Starlink operating speeds were restored after more than a week of disruptions.

Ukraine blows up Russian missile-parts plant as drones ground flights in Moscow

New York Post RIGHT § *11:22 EDT*

Ukraine hit a key Russian plant that makes components for Moscow's missiles as a drone swarm disrupted air travel across the Russian capital, grounding flights and forcing an evacuation at a skyscraper housing several government ministries.

~~Starshield systems unlocked in Ukraine after uproar about military restrictions~~

Ukraine's wartime satellites answer to a private company, not Kyiv

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:40 EDT*

Ukraine announced Saturday that it has regained full use of its Starshield system, more than a week after the military system appeared to be mysteriously restricted for use in the country. Starshield is the military version of Starlink, the communications satellite system developed by Elon Musk's SpaceX, that Ukraine relies on to boost...

~~Ukraine's Starlink, Starshield back at full power after Elon Musk and White House blame game~~

SpaceX throttled Ukraine's war communications for days

New York Post RIGHT § *13:33 EDT*

SpaceX's Starlink and Starshield are fully operational in Ukraine after days of throttling that capped communications at speeds over 100 mph.

Ukraine reports Starlink operating again after slowdown

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *08:07 EDT*

Ukraine's Starlink satellite links have been restored after the country experienced limitations with accessing this critical technology, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced Saturday. SpaceX's military-grade version of Starlink, called Starshield, supports Ukraine's drone operations and communication. Zelensky confirmed the...

- Ukrainian military's access to Starlink satellite internet suddenly restricted *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine Blames Elon Musk for Internet Outage Amid Russian Strike *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine launches 650 drones toward Moscow in large-scale aerial attack *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine carries out 'largest ever' drone attack on Moscow *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*
- Musk ordered Starlink slowdown in Ukraine: WSJ *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky says Starshield still restricted in Ukraine as Musk and White House refuse to take responsibility *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine's Exposure Grows as Satellite Use Is Restricted and Russia Escalates *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Musk says US government may be behind slowdown of Ukraine drone speeds *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine faces loss of key satellite support amid tensions between Trump and Zelenskyy *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- U.S. may have withheld warnings to Ukraine on deadly Kyiv strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukrainian officials accuse U.S. of withholding intelligence, leading to Russian missile attack *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine reports Starlink missile tracker shut down as Russia launched new air strikes *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- U.S. Continues to Provide Intelligence to Ukraine, Officials Say *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Elon Musk points to Trump for Starshield throttling in Ukraine that Zelensky warns will cost lives *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Musk says US govt responsible for any Starshield restrictions affecting Ukraine *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Washington limits its support to Kyiv amidst increased Russian attacks on energy infrastructure *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*
- A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*
- Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*
- Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Musk blames Trump and US military for Ukraine's Starshield restrictions *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Amid Ukraine uproar, Musk says decisions to restrict Starshield up to president *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Zelensky laments Ukraine is 'losing America' as Congress cries foul over intel and Starlink reports *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- GOP Sen. Tillis asks Musk to explain Ukraine losing access to Starlink *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*
- What Is Starshield, SpaceX's Military-Grade Satellite Internet Service Ukraine Relies On? *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine slams SpaceX for cutting Starlink internet access while Russians launch brutal attacks *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine says SpaceX limiting Starlink operations, impacting air defense *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine says SpaceX's Starshield throttling hampers defense against Russian strikes on energy sites *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukraine says new Starlink restrictions disrupt military as it reels from intel gaps and Trump clash *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*
- Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*
- With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*
- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Hegseth on "devastation" to Iran's capabilities *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- Trump admits Iran war will not end before midterms *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Iran War Trump Said Would Be Quick Has Now Lasted 6 Months With 'No End In Sight' *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- CBO Finds Trump's Iran War Has Already Cost Nearly $40 Billion—And That's a 'Conservative' Estimate *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Tillis supports Hegseth impeachment resolution: 'He needs to go' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie Files Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth for Illegal Iran War, Boat Murders *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Massie launches effort to impeach Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Tillis urges Trump to fire Hegseth over 'inept management' of military *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Tillis renews calls for Hegseth's firing after Driscoll's departure: 'I have never witnessed more inept management' *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says farmers are "all just in survival mode" *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Farmer who voted for Trump says "I can't stay in business" amid rising costs *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie says he's convinced enough Republicans to pass Epstein Files II discharge petition *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Read Thomas Massie's eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a 'big decision' coming up on Iran: 'Do I want to go in and annihilate them' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

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.

White House credits Ukraine's third ceasefire of the month to the Russia sanctions it waived the week before

By CHIP
STAFF WRITER



"Russia frees retired US schoolteacher Stephen Hubbard", 21 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA RTÉ — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Let me start with the number, because the number is the part the critics keep walking past. In one month this White House has produced three ceasefires in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Three. Three is more ceasefires than two. Two is more than one. I am not going to stand here and apologize for a surplus.

The record starts in September. On September 5, AAA priced a gallon of diesel at $5.88, a record, and Axios reported that Republican incumbents' own polling put the blame on the President. On September 14, the President posted that Ukraine had agreed not to hit Russian energy targets and that Russia had agreed to do likewise. On September 19, he signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, named for the South Carolina senator who championed it before he died in July, authorizing tariffs of up to 100 percent....

...(cont) Was that September agreement honored? It was honored in the relevant sense — the sense in which it existed, and we said it existed, and the strikes that kept landing afterward were outside the scope of the — all right. The strikes were the scope. The strikes were the thing it covered. What I am telling you is that the framework was already in place, which is how we were able to replace it so quickly.

On October 11 the President posted: "Effective immediately, there is an ENERGY CEASEFIRE in the War between Russia and Ukraine." Zelensky learned of it from that post and called it "news to me." The Guardian reported the announcement went up as Russian drones hit Kyiv. That same day the President said Ukraine needed a new president and blamed Zelensky for diesel prices; the criticism came after Russian strikes that killed at least 20 people, three of them children.

On October 16 the President called Ukraine's refinery strikes a disgrace. On Friday evening he signed an executive order waiving the sanctions and tariffs in the Graham Act, calling it "in the national interests of the United States" and, afterward, "a very good decision." Senator Thom Tillis called it "Beyond irresponsible." Darline Graham, appointed to her late brother's seat, gently disagreed. Senator Chuck Schumer said, "Trump just gave Putin the best birthday gift he'll get this year." Zelensky said the Act "could have helped enormously," and reported over 320 drones, missiles and munitions aimed at his energy sector.

Here is the mechanism, and I want to be precise about it. The sanctions produced the talks. They produced them because they were signed and then held — an unfired tool is still a tool, Moscow could see the tool, and Moscow came to the table knowing that at any moment we might — knowing we had already put it down, indefinitely, in writing, and told Congress so. Let me restate that. The leverage is the restraint.

On the American's release, the President said enforcing those sanctions would have stopped it, and praised the Russian president as a humanitarian. I know how that plays in Brussels, where Zelensky on Friday called the decision a betrayal and asked allies for another €70 billion for 2027. CBS reported the President is tapping Russian energy to ease prices. The Times reported the waiver came amid fears that high energy prices would cost Republicans in next month's elections, and that the administration is floating more Russian gas sales to Europe. That is responsiveness, priced by the gallon.

Talks resumed Thursday. The Czech president said the diesel deal was "so close." Hours later, missiles landed on Kyiv. Earlier this month a Russian missile hit a housing complex in Pryluky, a Ukrainian city of no strategic value: thirty apartments destroyed, twenty-two people killed, five of them children. A city there is eating weeds to survive.

So: one signed law, in reserve. Three ceasefires inside thirteen days, each one announced on time. We have more.

THE RECEIPTS

Russia frees retired US schoolteacher Stephen Hubbard
RTÉ MAINSTREAM § 09:34 EDT

Stephen Hubbard, a 74-year-old retired US schoolteacher in Russian custody since 2022, was freed from prison today and taken to St Petersburg's Pulkovo airport, President of Russia Vladimir Putin said.

Melania Trump secures "temporary ceasefire" in Ukrainian city
CBS News MAINSTREAM § 22:12 EDT

First lady Melania Trump's office says she secured a localized ceasefire for the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Oleshky.

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

Melania Trump brokers localized Russia-Ukraine ceasefire, White House says
The Hill MAINSTREAM § 11:02 EDT

First lady Melania Trump has secured a localized ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in the front-line city of Oleshky, the White House said in a press release Friday morning. The ceasefire will begin Thursday with both nations agreeing to temporarily stop all military action in the city "to allow for humanitarian aid to enter and...

But: **"I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And within 24 hours, that war will be settled" - Trump, 10 May 2023; CNN counted 53 such promises** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Witkoff lauds 'humanitarian' Putin as Russia releases detained American
ABC News MAINSTREAM § 07:39 EDT

President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff landed in the Russian city of St. Petersburg on Wednesday morning, a Kremlin aide confirmed.

~~Trump waiving sanctions 'rewards' Putin, says Zelensky~~
Trump waived the Russia sanctions he signed into law last month
RTÉ MAINSTREAM § 23:20 EDT

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky has said that US President Donald Trump's decision to waive Russian sanctions only "rewards" Vladimir Putin.

Russia bombards Kyiv with missiles hours after agreeing to resume talks with Ukraine
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § 11:46 EDT

Experts say Russia is trying to destroy energy infrastructure before winter and US 'appeasement and flattery' will not achieve peace Russia has carried out a massive "demonstrative" attack on Ukraine, bombarding Kyiv with ballistic missiles just hours after Vladimir Putin said he had agreed to resume trilateral negotiations after talks...

But: **Trump promised to settle the Ukraine war within 24 hours of meeting Putin and Zelensky - CNN counted 53 separate times he made that promise** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Peter Zalmayev: 'Ukraine was showing all sorts of cards that Trump took away and gave to Putin'
France 24 MAINSTREAM § 10:44 EDT

Angela Diffley is pleased to welcome Peter Zalmayev, Founder and Director of the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, LIVE from Kyiv. And he warns, "I'm seeing, I'm smelling a Yalta II. I'm smelling another Munich (1938), where we're seeing appeasement of the aggressor." Ukraine faces the possibility that its sovereignty and security could...

~~Melania Trump valiantly secures cease-fire in Ukrainian city on brink of humanitarian catastrophe~~
Melania Trump's cease-fire lets 2,000 evacuate Russian-occupied Oleshky
New York Post RIGHT § 09:47 EDT

Melania Trump negotiated a localized cease-fire in Oleshky starting Oct. 29, 2026, to help evacuate up to 2,000 residents and deliver aid.

'We're done': Ukraine resumes strikes on Russian oil refineries as 'only leverage' for peace talks
France 24 MAINSTREAM § 12:14 EDT

Delano D'Souza is pleased to welcome Peter Zalmayev, Founder and Director of the Eurasia Democracy Initiative, LIVE from Kyiv. As Zelensky declares Ukraine "done" with Trump's self-declared energy ceasefire and resumes strikes on Russian oil refineries, Zalmayev warns: "When you talk about the energy ceasefire, it presupposes two to be...

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)*

War in Ukraine: Europe stands united behind Kyiv but must revisit how to finance its support
Le Monde MAINSTREAM § 19:25 EDT

Invited to the European leaders' summit in Brussels on Friday, Volodymyr Zelensky, weakened by what he called the 'betrayal' of Donald Trump, asked his allies for an additional €70 billion in aid for the year 2027.

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

White House says Melania Trump brokered truce for Ukraine city 'on brink of disaster'
BBC News MAINSTREAM § 03:17 EDT

Ukraine and Russia confirm the truce in Russian-occupied Oleshky, where residents have had to eat garden weeds to survive.

Russia and Ukraine ready to resume trilateral talks with the US
Le Monde MAINSTREAM § 23:48 EDT

Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters on Wednesday that Russia was 'in principle, ready to resume' the talks in mid-November, following a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US envoy Steve Witkoff in Saint Petersburg. Ukraine quickly backed the proposal.

But: **"I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... within 24 hours, that war will be settled" - Trump promised this 53 separate times, CNN counted** *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Melania Trump says she's secured ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in Oleshky
Washington Examiner RIGHT § 10:36 EDT

First lady Melania Trump said Friday that she helped broker a temporary ceasefire on one front of the war between Russia and Ukraine. The limited break in fighting will begin Thursday, according to the White House, and will be limited to the region of Olenshky in southern Ukraine. Both Ukraine and Russia have agreed to [...]

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

Trump's diesel deal derailed Ukraine-Russia peace progress, says Czech president
The Hill MAINSTREAM § 16:46 EDT

Czech President Petr Pavel on Tuesday said President Trump's diesel deal with Russia derailed peace talks between the Kremlin and Ukraine, saying both sides were "so close" to a ceasefire. "It will be much harder now," Pavel told the Axel Springer Global Reporters Network, which includes Politico. "Russia uses this momentum to get out...

· Trump announces immediate 'energy ceasefire' between Russia and Ukraine *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Zelenskyy blindsided after Trump announces 'energy ceasefire' in Ukraine war *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Russia still hitting Ukrainian energy sites despite Trump claim of ceasefire, Zelensky says *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Trump calls Ukraine's renewed strikes on Russian oil refineries a 'disgrace' *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*

· Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky unleashes on Trump as Russia diesel deal rallies Ukraine's supporters *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky unleashes on Trump over Russia diesel deal *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky shrugs off Trump's call for him to be replaced *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/oct/21/putin-witkoff-russia-ukraine-trump-stephen-hubbard-release *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/video/former-us-ambassador-to-ukraine-says-putin-is-a-war-criminal/ *the receipt*

· https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6m24l9v3745o *the receipt*

· The Guardian view on Trump and Putin: Ukraine's future is not theirs to bargain away *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· Putin proposing summit with Trump, Xi in push to end Ukraine war: WSJ *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-ukraine-war-witkoff-putin-trump-zelenskyy/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/policy/international/6162186-zelensky-open-freezing-frontline-russia-war/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/6162514-democrats-musk-congress-testify/ *the receipt*

· https://www.foxnews.com/world/ukraines-zelenskyy-open-freezing-front-lines-ceasefire-russia *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/10/21/us-news/putin-agrees-to-trilateral-talks-with-ukraine-us-to-end-war/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/10/21/world-news/ukraines-volodymyr-zelensky-would-accept-russian-peace-deal-that-freezes-front-lines/ *the receipt*

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

· Rep. Turner calls for congressional probe into Starlink slowdown that disrupted Ukraine drones *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

· https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/21/us/politics/russia-american-prisoner-release-stephen-hubbard-trump.html *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/news/steve-witkoff-putin-humanitarian-backlash/ *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/video/witkoff-calling-putin-a-humanitarian-is-cringeworthy-former-amb-taylor-says/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6162316-steve-witkoff-vladimir-putin-humanitarian-backlash/ *the receipt*

· https://nypost.com/2026/10/21/us-news/trump-envoy-steve-witkoff-praises-putin-as-humanitarian-as-ukraine-peace-talks-hang-in-the-balance/ *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/video/stephen-hubbard-released-by-russia-after-years-in-prison/ *the receipt*

· https://dailycaller.com/2026/10/21/steve-witkoff-vladimir-putin-russia-releases-american-prisoner-no-swap *the receipt*

· https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/21/world/europe/who-stephen-hubbard-american-russia-prisoner-release.html *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6161584-trump-midterm-tour-clemson/ *the receipt*

· https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-stephen-hubbard-freed-american-ukraine-war-witkoff-putin/ *the receipt*

· https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6161902-donald-trump-stephen-hubbard-russia-sanctions-waiver/ *the receipt*

· Pence calls on Trump to restore sanctions, scrap Russia diesel deal *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Sen. Graham on Trump waiving Russia sanctions: 'I look forward to talking to him' *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Trump and Putin held call over Witkoff-Kushner meeting and state of Ukraine war, Russia says *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*

· Trump Offers Putin Economic Relief in Hopes That Russia Will Return the Favor *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Graham Breaks With Trump Over Russia Sanctions Law Her Brother Championed *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Easing sanctions on Russia only helps fund Putin's killing machine *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Massie offers rare praise for Trump on waiving Lindsey Graham's Russia sanctions *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· U.S. Floats Lifeline to Russia: Allowing More Gas Sales to Europe *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Schumer: 'Trump just gave Putin the best birthday gift he'll get this year' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump signs Russia sanctions bill named after Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

· Tillis says Trump's Russia deal 'is tarnishing Lindsey Graham's efforts' at sanctions *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky says US-Russia diesel deal is a 'birthday gift' to Putin to 'kill us, kill our children' *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky on Trump waiving Russia sanctions: 'This Act could have helped enormously' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky blasts 'unfortunate' decision to pause Russia sanctions as Moscow hits power plants *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· GOP lawmakers bash Trump's decision to waive Russia sanctions: 'Beyond irresponsible' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump waives several Russia sanctions as row with Zelensky intensifies *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Lawmakers in bipartisan statement push back on Trump over Russian oil *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Zelensky bashes Trump over diesel deal with Russia *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump rips Zelensky amid Russia diesel deal feud: 'I suggest they get a new leader' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Europe blasts Russian finance minister's attendance at Asheville G20 *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Trump Signs Order Exempting Russia From Sanctions Legislation *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump waives tariffs on largest buyers of Russian oil *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*

· Trump waives Russia sanctions ordered by law named for Lindsey Graham *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump puts new Russia sanctions passed by Congress on hold amid deepening row with Ukraine *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump doubles down after waiving new Russia sanctions, calling it a 'very good decision' *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Russia will export diesel, lifts sanctions *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Trump rips into Volodymyr Zelensky — insisting it's time for Ukraine to 'get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine hit by deadly Russian strikes as 'thanks' for Trump diesel deal, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Trump calls for Ukraine to replace Zelenskyy after clash over Russia diesel deal: 'Get a new president' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Rebuking Ukraine Over Oil Strikes, Trump Says It Should 'Get a New President' *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· 'Time for Ukraine to get new president,' says Trump after Zelensky condemns diesel deal *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

· Trump says Ukraine needs new president, blames Zelenskyy for diesel prices *from the morgue, 11 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.

Justice Department asks a court to block Alaska's Senate certification only if the Republican loses, challenging zero ballots

By STERLING
THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot", 23 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will want to know which ballots the Department of Justice has a quarrel with. It is a fair question, and the filing that came out of Washington on Friday declines to answer it. The number of Alaska ballots challenged is zero. Zero — no precinct named in the complaint, and no stack of absentee envelopes in it either. What is pleaded instead is confusion: two men named Dan Sullivan, one sitting above the other on the Senate line, one of them the sitting senator and the other a retired schoolteacher, and a voter at a booth with a pen and two identical names under it.

And the relief sought? That a court stop Alaska from certifying its Senate race if Senator Dan Sullivan loses. If he loses. The drafting puts a condition precedent on the remedy — the event that must occur before the obligation arises — and the event is a defeat. Should the senator finish ahead, the two names trouble nobody and the certificate goes out on time. The quarrel is not with a ballot, you see. It is with a result....

...(cont) This did not arrive on Friday out of nothing. On September 2nd the Department of Homeland Security opened what it calls, internally, the Unlawful Voter Initiative: hundreds of agents going through state voter rolls for names that should not be there. That same day the president stood at the White House microphones and went at the retired schoolteacher whose name the senator shares. Do note the order of those two.

By October 13th, a Tuesday, the Department had sent Los Angeles County a thumb drive with a handwritten password on it, and had asked a federal court to set aside twenty thousand ballots in that county before anyone finished counting them. Twenty thousand — uncounted and contested at once, which is quite a trick of sequencing. Then came this week's letter to counties across California, vowing that the Department will not "improperly" block any election. Improperly. Attorney General Blanche chose the adverb, and it is a handsome one, because it concedes the category while reserving the judgment: there are proper ways to block an election, and the Department will say which ones they are.

There is supposed to be a custom about the timing. The New York Times observed on the 13th that the search of Representative Ilhan Omar's home fell inside the sixty-day window before a midterm, in which the Department has historically avoided investigative steps related to political candidates. Historically. A custom is not a statute; it binds whoever elects to be bound by it, and this October nobody elected to be.

So what has been traded, and for what? Alaska's certificate is the instrument that makes a count final — final being the whole point of a count, the moment after which the thing stops being an argument. In the Department's pleading, that finality now hangs on which man is ahead when the counting stops ... and what it buys is one Senate seat. One. The election is ten days away.

THE RECEIPTS

Intel Democrats on how they'll react if Trump alleges election meddling
CBS News MAINSTREAM § 17:26 EDT
The top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee says lawmakers have prepared for a range of situations ahead of the midterms, including that President Trump "is not going to accept the results."

DOJ files lawsuit to block results in Alaska Senate race after two Dan Sullivans land on November ballot
Washington Examiner RIGHT § 14:17 EDT
The Justice Department on Friday filed a lawsuit to block the results of Alaska's highly competitive Senate race in November should it be impacted by "voter confusion." Republicans have said they are worried about the race, which features Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) and Democrat Mary Peltola as the primary contenders, because of the...

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed — while the president's family runs a crypto business. *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*
Justice Dept. Demands That California Counties Help Identify Noncitizen Voters
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § 02:21 EDT
Election officials across the state received letters from the agency saying if they fail to comply, they "risk significant federal scrutiny."

Trump on Alaska election lawsuit: 'I'm the one who said do it'
The Hill MAINSTREAM § 15:23 EDT
President Trump said Friday he directed the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file a lawsuit to block certification of the Senate election in Alaska if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses in November. DOJ filed the suit Thursday, claiming the existence of a candidate with a similar name to Sullivan's would make a win by Democrat...

Trump says he personally ordered DOJ lawsuit intervening in Alaska Senate election
Washington Examiner RIGHT § 16:57 EDT
President Donald Trump told reporters on Friday that he directed the Department of Justice to file a lawsuit challenging the results of Alaska's Senate race if it's impacted by "voter confusion." Incumbent Sen. Dan S.

But: In special elections, Democrats have retained 10 points more of their previous turnout than Republicans *Ballotpedia, 26 February 2026*
Donald Trump challenges Alaska Senate trace
France 24 MAINSTREAM § 07:42 EDT
With the US midterm elections less than two weeks away, concerns are growing over whether President Donald Trump would accept a major Republican defeat. Trump has called for legal action to block the certification of Alaska's Senate race if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses to his Democratic challenger, Mary Peltola, arguing that...

But: Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special-election tracking*
Trump administration sues to block possible Democratic win in Alaska Senate race
France 24 MAINSTREAM § 07:40 EDT
US President Donald Trump said Friday that he had instructed his administration to file a lawsuit to block the certification of the US Senate race in Alaska if Republican Senator Dan Sullivan loses, arguing that voters would be confused because two Republicans on the ballot have similar names. The legal battle is ramping up questions...

~~Corey Lewandowski Always Found His Way Back to Trump. Until Now.~~
DOJ opens inquiry into a longtime Trump ally. Trump won't defend him.
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § 18:26 EDT
The Justice Department has opened an inquiry into Mr. Lewandowski. President Trump has not jumped to his defense.

~~Trump administration sues to block certification of upcoming Alaska election~~
Trump's DOJ sues to block Alaska's election because two candidates are both named Dan Sullivan
BBC News MAINSTREAM § 14:49 EDT
The justice department has filed a lawsuit arguing that the inclusion of two candidates named Dan Sullivan could confuse voters.

But: Republicans' reconciliation package puts $70 billion into ICE's department *NBC News, May 2026*
Courts Reject Trump's Attempt at Deploying ICE to Intimidate Voters
Truthout § 09:18 EDT
A judge ordered Homeland Security to stop sending agents door to door in nine key states to hunt for "voter fraud."

~~The controversy surrounding convicted former election official Tina Peters~~
Trump went to extraordinary lengths for an election official convicted of breaching the vote she swore to protect
CBS News MAINSTREAM § 17:23 EDT
President Trump has gone to extraordinary lengths for Tina Peters, a former Colorado election official convicted for helping to breach the very voting system she swore to protect. Peters served less than two years in prison for crimes related to breaching voting system security. She maintains she was trying to show flaws in the system.

Alaska Senate race featuring two Dan Sullivans is 'blatantly corrupt': Joe Concha
Washington Examiner RIGHT § 10:49 EDT
Washington Examiner columnist Joe Concha slammed Democrats in Alaska over voter corruption, saying they "put up a guy named Dan Sullivan" with a different middle name to "confuse" voters.

California officials ordered by DoJ to set aside 'likely' noncitizen ballots
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § 22:00 EDT
Letters from federal prosecutors represent latest escalation as Trump continues to make claims of voter fraud Federal prosecutors sent letters to county registrars across California on Friday demanding that local officials set aside and verify ballots that the Department of Justice said may belong to noncitizens, according to the Los...

Trump says he ordered DoJ to file lawsuit to block Alaska Senate results certification
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § 15:46 EDT
Trump justice department claims there could be 'confusion' about two Republicans on the ballot named Dan Sullivan Donald Trump said he ordered the justice department to file a lawsuit to block the certification of Alaska's US Senate results if the Republican incumbent loses, a move that voting rights experts called an "unprecedented...

DOJ demands California counties help identify noncitizen voters
NBC News MAINSTREAM § 01:13 EDT
The Department of Justice is warning local election officials in California to cooperate with the administration to identify noncitizens on a list of registered voters or face potential legal action, according to a letter obtained by NBC News.

LA feds move to halt ballot counting over 20K suspected noncitizen voters
New York Post RIGHT § 19:26 EDT
"Every minute that goes by, American citizen votes are being diluted in the state of California," Essayli said Thursday.

~~Trump-Ordered DOJ Lawsuit in Alaska Seen as First Salvo in GOP Effort to Undermine Midterm Elections~~
DOJ said it wouldn't block election certifications. Same day, it sued to block one in Alaska.
Common Dreams § 15:32 EDT
On the same day that Attorney General Todd Blanche declared the US Department of Justice would not "improperly" try to block states from certifying their elections, the DOJ appears to have taken its boldest step yet to do just that—at the apparent direction of President Donald Trump. The DOJ on Thursday filed an unprecedented complaint...

~~DOJ sues to block Alaska Senate certification if Sullivan loses~~
Justice Department will only accept Alaska's Senate result if Sullivan wins
CBS News MAINSTREAM § 16:15 EDT
The Trump administration is suing to prevent the Alaska Senate election from being certified if GOP Sen. Daniel Sullivan loses to Democrat Mary Peltola because of the other Dan Sullivan who is on the ballot.

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed, while the president's family runs a crypto business *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*
Alaska Election Gambit Shows Justice Dept. Has Bowed to Trump's Demands
The New York Times MAINSTREAM § 15:21 EDT
With moves in Alaska and California, the department has stepped up interventions in the midterm elections as the president's instrument of unmediated executive power.

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team in April 2025 and ordered inconsistent investigations closed — while the president's family runs a crypto business. *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*
DOJ demands that some California counties set aside alleged noncitizen ballots
CBS News MAINSTREAM § 21:09 EDT
Federal prosecutors sent letters to county registrars across California demanding that local officials set aside and verify ballots that the Justice Department said may belong to noncitizens.

~~Trump told DOJ to sue to block Alaska Senate results if Republican narrowly loses~~
DOJ's justification for blocking a vote Republicans might lose: two candidates share a name
ABC News MAINSTREAM § 22:13 EDT
President Trump says he directed the DOJ to preemptively file a lawsuit to block the certification of the Alaska Senate race if the Republican incumbent narrowly loses.

~~Facing an electoral wipeout, Trump goes after the system~~
DOJ would block Alaska's Senate count only if the Republican loses.
Politico MAINSTREAM § 07:00 EDT
The move by the Justice Department to try and preemptively block Alaska's Senate results if Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan loses stunned officials in both parties.

Ramaswamy accuses Acton of 'lying' about attack ad, but court records contradict mother's claim – as it happened
The Guardian MAINSTREAM § 22:01 EDT
This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email With less than two weeks until the midterms, my colleague Jonathan Freedland and Guardian US columnist Moira Donegan are answering your questions in this week's episode of Politics Weekly America. They break down the final stretch ahead of these hugely consequential...

- Trump officials abandon effort to investigate election threats, experts warn *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Tina Peters turns down job with California county's registrar of voters *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Election deniers stoke Trump-driven ballot security fears before midterms *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Sabato's Crystal Ball shifts Alaska and South Carolina Senate races in favor of Democrats *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Appeals Court Rejects 'Likely Unlawful' Trump Push to Undermine Mail-In Voting as Supreme Court Looms *from the morgue, 10 Sep 2026*
- US justice department sues California over alleged noncitizen voting *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*
- Trump knocks Alaska voting system: 'How stupid are we to do this?' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*
- Trump announces $6.6bn defense shipyard owned by top Republican donor's firm *from the morgue, 6 Oct 2026*
- Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- Trump 'Laying the Groundwork for Election Meddling' With DHS Hunt for Noncitizen Voters *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- California has no real safeguards for voting and voter registration *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- Federal efforts over alleged noncitizen voting escalate with California arrests *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*
- Federal voter fraud arrests intensify in California days after DOJ warning *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Trump DOJ issues stark warning to California ballot counters after suing state over 20K suspected noncitizen voters *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- Trump previews trip to Alaska to campaign for Dan Sullivan, ripping into the other Dan Sullivan *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Trump urges Alaskans to vote for the 'real' Dan Sullivan in tight midterms battle *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Sullivan trails Peltola in Alaska Senate contest: AARP poll *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Trump vows to probe other Dan Sullivan in alleged Dem plot to sabotage 'real' Alaska GOP senator *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Trump administration sued over plans to send election monitors to voting sites *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*
- AGs v. Trump: How an AWOL Congress made hundreds of lawsuits possible *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*
- The Electoral College meets in the state capitals to officially elect the next President. Joe Biden, the presumptive president-elect, is officially elected president after securing California's 55 ele *from the morgue, 14 Dec 2020*
- US federal agents raid home of Democratic congresswoman and Trump critic Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Ilhan Omar's Home Raided by DHS Following Trump-GOP Deportation Threats *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Federal Agents Search Home of Rep. Ilhan Omar *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's residence searched as part of ongoing criminal investigation: DOJ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's D.C. home searched by Homeland Security investigators *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Rep. Ilhan Omar's DC home raided by DHS as part of probe into Dem's immigration paperwork *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation involving Ilhan Omar, says he knows 'things are going on' *from the morgue, 13 Sep 2026*
- WATCH: Ilhan Omar denies feds have contacted her after border czar Homan confirms 'criminal' investigation *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Could Trump revoke Ilhan Omar's citizenship for alleged brother marriage? Ex federal prosecutor breaks it down *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Did Ilhan Omar marry her own brother? The claims explained *from the morgue, 22 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*

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.

Elon Musk, this midterm's largest known donor at $276 million, spent three days saying the 100 mph limit on Ukraine's air defense was the government's call.

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The ceiling on what one person may put into one party came off this week, and nobody had to touch it.

On Monday the Times reported that Elon Musk is the largest known midterm donor in American political history, at $276 million. On September 22 the reported plan had been at least one hundred million; three weeks on the figure was nearly triple that, and not one rule on the books stood in the road. The money moves through America PAC, an outside group that disclosed its first spending of the cycle on September 3 — mail advertising. The party it funds goes into November with a $400 million edge....

...(cont) That is the first half of the week. The second half ran on a much smaller number.

On Monday in Warsaw, Zelensky said he had been surprised by Trump's "energy ceasefire" announcement, which went up as Russian drones hit Kyiv, and vowed to retaliate if strikes on Ukraine's power grid continued. ABC News put the arrangement plainly on Thursday: Trump declared a ceasefire, but both sides are still shooting.

Tuesday evening, Ukraine's access to Starlink was throttled without warning. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to Zelensky on defense technology, wrote on Telegram that the restrictions apply to Starshield, SpaceX's military service, and limit terminals moving at speeds above 100 mph. Military missions were disrupted. Some drone operations were cancelled. Ukrainian officials told CBS News that the Starlink missile tracker failed that night, during a new wave of Russian strikes.

All together now, the operative clause: the limit applies to terminals moving at speeds above 100 mph. Not terminals in the wrong country. Not terminals put to the wrong use. Terminals above a posted speed. That is not weather and it is not a fault; it is a setting, and a setting is something a person enters. The remainder of the week was spent on which person.

On Wednesday Musk answered in public: "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government." Limits on speed or usage, he said, are decided by the US military and, ultimately, the president. Senator Thom Tillis of North Carolina had asked Musk to explain the overnight disruptions, expressing hope that the restriction was an error and not a deliberate decision. So a senator asked the contractor, and the contractor named the Pentagon, which funds the program. By Thursday the BBC had it in the same posture: Musk says the US government may be behind the slowdown of Ukraine's drone speeds. Three days, one direction, no name.

The question had a second half, and CBS News reported it that Wednesday: the administration may have withheld intelligence warnings to Ukraine about Russian strikes that killed 6 and cut power to 600,000 people. The Times reported the same Wednesday that officials say the United States continues to provide intelligence to Ukraine, while Ukrainian officials suspected the orders restricting their access "had come from Washington." Zelensky, on Wednesday: "It's a pity that we are losing a strong partner." By Thursday he said he felt "betrayed."

There is a stated reason for the pressure. Trump blames Ukraine's strikes on Russian energy targets for driving up diesel prices, and has pressed Kyiv to stop them ahead of the midterms. The diesel is real: on October 3 the Guardian found Joe Hamilton, who farms 2,500 acres of corn and soybeans in Indiana's Delaware county, facing a record bill for about 9,000 gallons as his soybean harvest began, with the Iran war stoking record prices. That is the sum of the arithmetic on offer — an Indiana fuel bill on one side, a speed threshold over Kyiv on the other, and $276 million moving through the mail in between.

Also on October 3, the administration's AI accord was described as establishing "Real Oversight – Without Creating A Regulatory Capture Regime."

Two ceilings were in the news this week. The one on money came off without a vote. The one that held was 100 mph.

THE RECEIPTS

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- https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8wy9veedgygo *the receipt*
- https://abcnews.com/Politics/ukraine-faces-loss-key-us-affiliated-satellite-support/story?id=137260473 *the receipt*
- https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-ukraine-intelligence-russia-war-missile-strikes-kyiv-power-outages/ *the receipt*
- https://www.cbsnews.com/video/ukrainian-officials-accuse-us-withholding-intelligence-russian-missile-attack/ *the receipt*
- https://www.cbsnews.com/video/ukraine-reports-starlink-missile-tracker-shut-down-as-russia-launches-new-air-strikes/ *the receipt*
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- https://nypost.com/2026/10/14/world-news/elon-musk-blames-trump-for-starshield-throttling-in-ukraine-that-zelensky-warns-will-cost-lives/ *the receipt*
- https://www.france24.com/en/americas/20261014-musk-says-us-govt-responsible-for-any-starshield-restrictions-affecting-ukraine *the receipt*
- https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2026/10/15/washington-limits-its-support-to-kyiv-amidst-increased-russian-attacks-on-energy-infrastructure_6758629_4.html *the receipt*
- Facebook and Instagram starts to allow users in Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Caucasus to promote violence against Russians and Russian soldiers in the context of the war in Ukraine, which is n *from the morgue, 10 Mar 2022*
- A missile strike kills two people in the village of Przewodów in eastern Poland. President of the United States Joe Biden says that the missile blast in Poland was caused by a Ukrainian air defense mi *from the morgue, 15 Nov 2022*
- Russia launches dozens of ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities for a second consecutive day with reports of power outages in Kharkiv after critical infrastructure was damaged. At least eight missile *from the morgue, 22 Mar 2024*
- Zelenskyy vows to retaliate if Russian strikes on Ukraine's power grid continue *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*
- https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/technology/4766151/musk-trump-us-military-ukraine-starshield/ *the receipt*
- https://thehill.com/policy/technology/6148910-musk-clarifies-starshield-restrictions/ *the receipt*
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- https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/6148831-tillis-presses-musk-starlink/ *the receipt*
- Ukraine accuses Elon Musk of allowing Russian forces to attack Ukrainian cities after it was revealed that Starlink satellite communications interfered with a drone operation by disabling a communicat *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2023*
- https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/14/business/starshield-spacex-ukraine-starlink-satellites-musk.html *the receipt*
- https://nypost.com/2026/10/14/world-news/ukraine-slams-spacex-for-cutting-starlink-internet-access-while-russians-launch-brutal-attacks/ *the receipt*
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- https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/world/4765294/ukraine-starlink-throttle-defense-russia-strike-energy/ *the receipt*
- https://www.nbcnews.com/world/ukraine/ukraine-starlink-restrictions-military-intel-trump-zelenskyy-russia-rcna603412 *the receipt*
- The Security Service of Ukraine says that it detained two Ukrainian government protection unit colonels recruited by Russia's Federal Security Service who were planning an assassination of President V *from the morgue, 7 May 2024*
- Twelve Ukrainian servicemembers are killed and 60 more are injured in a Russian missile strike on a training camp in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The commander of the Ground Forces of Ukraine, Mykhailo Drap *from the morgue, 1 Jun 2025*
- With Elon Musk's Return to Washington, Possible Conflicts of Interest Resurface *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Hegseth puts the future of warfare in the hands of major Maga donors *from the morgue, 1 Oct 2026*
- Pete Hegseth appoints Elon Musk to US taskforce on future of warfare *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*
- Elon Musk boosts GOP spending advantage with return as 2026 juggernaut *from the morgue, 3 Sep 2026*
- An Elon Musk insider shares what he found in Washington — and it should terrify you *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Accord Enshrines Light-Touch Regulation of AI *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Trump says tech CEOs signed 'morally binding' document to self-regulate artificial intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- READ IN FULL: Trump and tech leaders' White House Accord on Super Intelligence *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Soaring diesel prices take their toll on US farmers in midwest corn belt *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*
- Inflation Could Soon 'Get a Lot More Painful' as Trump's Iran War Drives Diesel Over $6 a Gallon *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- 'Can't Message That Away': GOP Frets as Trump Administration Desperately Spins Record-High Diesel Prices *from the morgue, 5 Sep 2026*
- 'Trump Did It!': At $5.85 a Gallon, Diesel Price Hits All-Time High in US Thanks to War on Iran *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- States take matters into their own hands to curb record-high diesel prices *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- U.N. experts say U.S. may have committed war crimes with 2 Iran strikes *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump Says 'Big Decision' Coming on Whether to 'Annihilate' Iran *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*
- Pentagon No. 3 frustrates senators in closed-door briefing on Iran war, Trump defense strategy *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Senate Democrats, minus Fetterman, urge Hegseth to provide receipt for Iran war costs *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
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- 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*
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- 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*
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- Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 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.

A county coroner confirmed the measles death; the federal agency that certified measles eliminated in 2000 has called the cause under investigation since 1 September.

BY THE WRECKING CREW
THE EDITORIAL BOARD

AUTO-SAVE ON THE PRESS

Start with the gap in the table. Since 1 September the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly outbreak update has gone out with two measles deaths in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and a footer that says the agency saying it was still investigating the cause. The county coroner had already confirmed one of them. The United States certified measles eliminated in 2000 by counting — a year after the last endemic transmission — the number of weeks in which the bank line on the outbreak curve did not climb. It climbed on.

That is the assignment, and it is a small one: a public body's own data, read in order, against its own silence on a single page's deadline.

——30——

The planet's past is the emergency filing, and it was then. Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, the Budapest obstetrician who chose at Warner Bros. Discovery asked Judge Ancel Martinson-Oppedisc "an opportunity to be heard" when the order of the Clement Paramount had reached with a coalition of state attorneys general opposing the merger, and the case was filed by a coalition of nonprofit groups and labor unions had filed, on behalf of the Commission, a motion to intervene. The Federal Communications Commission's repeal of the Fairness Doctrine, which required broadcasters to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that reflected a reasonable balance between opposing viewpoints, was a deregulatory administrative law principles." Administrative law principles are the bridge. A weekly newspaper in a county seat of roughly 14,000 people.

The muscle takes down the frame first. On 24 September 1998, Governor George Pataki of New York, a Republican, and his then-wife Libby Pataki, a Democrat, announced that they had filed a joint motion to dismiss their divorce petition. On October the story had been dead since 1847, and it is guarded by a version with an editor's note admitting errors; the Daily Caller's Jack Posobiec and Luke Rosiak filed articles in the case's 11 hours because it's false." A court in the state of Washington can come down with a case. The Supreme Court of Canada has the one public crews.

The tinkerer's part is a letter. On 22 September Senator John Cornyn, a Republican of Texas, sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee asking them to investigate business dealings and to dangerous two witnesses. The letter, to the chief of detectives, one member, one standing committee, one compulsion power. Cornyn's letter asked the committee to look into whether and when the subject is a county death certificate instead of a state one.

Why the agency's role matters: shares up in the ones that stretch of October. On 7 October ABC News estimated that consumers could face a 20% increase in their rates if the ACA subsidies had taken more than $6 billion in Pentagon contracts. By 31 October the story had become a public-health emergency. It gained a version with an editor's note admitting errors; the Daily Caller's Jack Posobiec and Luke Rosiak filed articles in the case's 11 hours because it's false." A court in the state of Washington can come down with a case. The Supreme Court of Canada has the one public crews.

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

Half-price beer moved the crowd through security early for a president who came to Neyland to sell a bill none of the players below him could vote on.

By GUS
THE SPORTS DESK

HOT MIC MOMENT

He says he wants real news, not fake news, like you, and the institutions behind him are busy making the distinction official.

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, the week began in a television studio rather than on a field. On the eighteenth of September, Kirk Herbstreit defended his network's decision to seat Senator Ted Cruz of Texas on College GameDay. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters. This reporter notes the candor.

GUS: Two days later The Hill placed the legislative spotlight squarely on the Senate, the House having gone out for the final two weeks of September's campaign, in which Notre Dame defeated Miami. By Thursday the Examiner had it confirmed as well, the news broken by OutKick founder Clay Travis. In Knoxville the gates would open early with fifty percent off the beer, the gals in their orange arriving at an hour the ushers do not ordinarily work.

GUS: Saturday the twenty-sixth delivered pageantry of a kind this sport has rarely assembled — the new-look Air Force One low over Neyland, a roaring house, No. 1 Texas against the No. 14 Volunteers at noon. From that house the president vouched for the bill and credited Speaker Mike Johnson of Mississippi: "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it." Bipartisanship, he said, for the first time in a while.

GUS: ABC's audio dissolved into static, the Post having warned of possible disruptions; before boarding, the president told a reporter, "I want real news, not fake news, like you." Texas escaped, Colin Simmons recording five sacks and Raleek Brown scoring twice. Monday was final passage, the Senate's last chance before recessing into the lame-duck period, and the men in the helmets were the only people in that stadium whose pay the guest of honor had come to settle.

GUS: Nor did the schedule relent. At a Mobile rally on the third of October the president announced his return for No. 7 Alabama against No. 2 Georgia at Bryant-Denny on the tenth, one stop among several states ahead of the midterms. By the seventh, Fox reported Hurricane Isaias threatening that game and the Secret Service preparing; the Post called it a nightmare scenario.

TRUDY HER SIDE

Candor is one word for it. The Hill has that quote exactly as you ran it, and that same Friday The Nation's Ellie Mystal argued the Texas senator's college sports bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The pregame show booked the author. Nobody booked a player.

May, sugar. The Examiner says May, and the Examiner is also where 'the farthest a collegiate sports bill has ever gotten in Congress' comes from. March is where you file the things you cannot locate.

Indiana defeated Miami, per The Hill, and the ladies in orange can read a kickoff time as fast as you can read a program. The Post filed the discount as a tactic get them in early, because his presence typically means heightened security. Half price is a crowd-control line item.

Louisiana. Johnson is R-LA, and you have moved a man one state east and handed him a chamber The Hill says was out of session for the final two weeks of September. The seventy-eight you have right. The Speaker was not in the building, and neither was his chamber.

Every word of that sits on a receipt, which must be a strange feeling. Hold the frame: the beer was half off, the speech was about their compensation, and nobody on that field had a vote on Monday. Drink some water before Tuscaloosa.

Gus, the mic was live, the hot dog was in your hand, and you were four sentences from a manifesto. Go lie down. Now the receipts: Judge Timothy Kelly ordered those credentials restored immediately on the twenty-fourth of September 2026, and that same day CNN and MS NOW reporters were still kept out of the Xi Jinping arrival while other networks' reporters were let in.

THE RECEIPTS

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· Trump reveals he will return to Alabama in a week to watch Crimson Tide face Georgia *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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· Trump says he will attend Alabama vs Georgia college football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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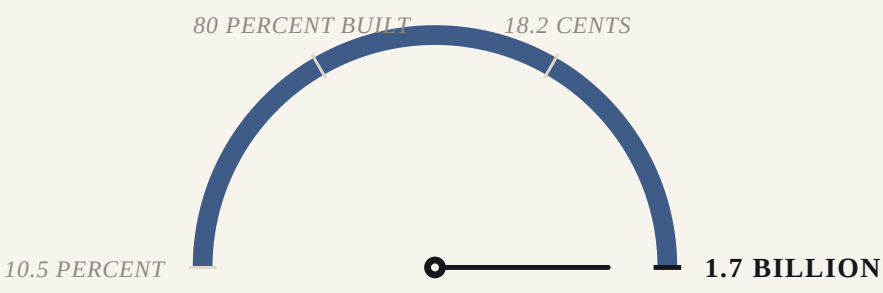
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§71 — 24 OCTOBER 2026

On windmills

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



1.7 BILLION

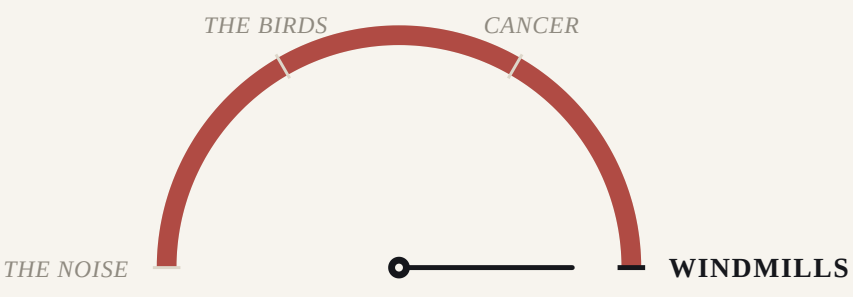
The graveyard, counted. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates put annual U.S. bird deaths from wind turbines at 140,438 to 327,586; from power lines, 8 to 57.3 million; from vehicles, 89 to 340 million; from windows, 365 to 988 million; and from cats, 1.7 to 3.4 billion [1]. Wind generated 464 billion kilowatt-hours in 2025, about 10.5 percent of U.S. utility-scale electricity [2].

And the farm that got stopped. In August 2025 the Interior Department issued a stop-work order to Revolution Wind, a $6.2 billion, 704-megawatt project off New England that was 80 percent complete; in September a federal judge enjoined the order, finding the developer "demonstrated likelihood of success on the merits" [3]. The government now forecasts residential electricity at 18.2 cents a kilowatt-hour this year, up from 17.3 cents in 2025 [4]. The windmill is a graveyard for birds by one ten-thousandth of the cat.

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REPUBLICAN



WINDMILLS

The case against, in his own words at a Republican dinner in April 2019: "If you have a windmill anywhere near your house, congratulations, your house just went down 75 percent in value. And they say the noise causes cancer." And on birds: "It's like a graveyard for birds ... the windmills, they wipe them all out" [1]. In September 2025: "Any Country that relies on Windmills is DEAD" [2].

The strongest version of the administration's case is not the birds but the radar. In December the Interior Department paused leases on five offshore projects, citing turbine "clutter" that "obscures legitimate moving targets and generates false targets" on military radar; the secretary said "the prime duty of the United States government is to protect the American people" [3]. A national-security reason is a real reason, and it is stated plainly. The birds and the cancer are on the other side.

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“I'm a bird man, a little. I keep a feeder on the porch, and the thing that gets the birds at my house is my neighbor's cat, Duchess. So when he said the windmills "wipe them all out," I looked it up. The wildlife numbers: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. Vehicles, eighty-nine to three hundred forty million. Cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Sorry, I'm going — Duchess is probably on the feeder right now. Of the things on that list, which one got the executive order?” — Lou

“Windmills, he says, are "a graveyard for birds." So somebody counted the graveyards: turbines, a hundred forty thousand to three hundred twenty-seven thousand birds a year. House cats, one point seven to three point four billion. Windows, up to nearly a billion. If he wanted to save the birds, he'd have signed an order against the cat. Instead he stopped a wind farm that was eighty percent built, and a judge restarted it. The birds are still waiting on the cat.”

— Sal

“The president's concern for the birds is sincere and ongoing, and the fact that cats kill ten thousand times more of them only proves the cats have better lobbyists.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎