The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

SUNDAY, 01 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE SUNDAY EDITION

FREE, FOREVER

Trump told the Justice Department to sue to block Alaska's certification if the Republican narrowly loses; the complaint named zero ballots, and the vote is two days off.

BY MORT

The Records Bureau

The concession died this week in Anchorage, of causes its attending physicians declined to name.

It was born of the certified count, and that was the whole of its anatomy: somebody counts, somebody comes up short, and the one who comes up short says so out loud and goes home. It was never set down in a statute. That is the shit of it. The concession was a habit, and habits keep no lawyers.

The first symptom was reported on 31 August, when the Washington Examiner wrote that Alaska Democrats had found a man willing to run for the Senate seat under a name all but identical to the incumbent's — Dan J. Sullivan, where the Republican holding the seat is Dan S. Sullivan. One letter apart. On 9 October the president posted that Alaska's voting system was stupid: "How stupid are we to do this?" On 14 October he urged Alaskans to vote for the "real" Dan Sullivan and said his administration was looking into the other one.

On 23 October the Justice Department went to federal court and asked it to withhold certification of the Senate result if the Republican incumbent loses.

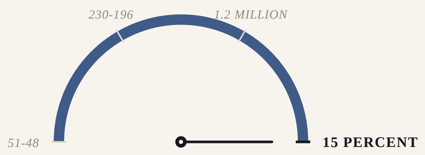
... Continued on Page B49

THE WORD

§79 — 01 NOVEMBER 2026

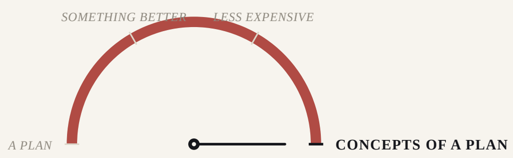
On concepts of a plan

DEMOCRAT



15 PERCENT

REPUBLICAN



CONCEPTS OF A PLAN

"One word keeps bothering me — concepts. Not a plan; concepts of one. September 2024. Before that, 2017: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated." Then this January a plan comes out with a name, and in September a five-hundred-dollar refund for about a million people. Meanwhile the extra credits ran out at the end of last year, sign-ups for this year went down 1.2 million, and the insurers' proposals for next year have a median of fifteen percent, after twenty this year. Sorry, I'm on my way. Enrollment opens today. Which one do you sign up for — the concept, or the premium?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W79

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

Justice Department charges James Comey a third time Monday, over a leak two earlier FBI investigations closed without charges.

BY THE WRECKING CREW

The Remedy Desk

I'm not defending the Department. The Department doesn't need defending. I'm putting the week in order, which nobody else has bothered to do.

Monday. Justice filed a third case against James Comey, two counts of leaking information related to national defense, in federal court in Washington. The Guardian notes the filing gives few details, and that the government alleges the leak in 2016, with an unnamed person. Few details is what a charging document is for. Two earlier FBI investigations into that same leak closed without charges, which the other side reads as an answer and I read as two looks that missed something. By Friday a judge had called the third prosecution a possible exercise in futility, and prosecutors had suggested a fourth charge anyway. That is the process continuing.

Also Monday, a judge ruled the administration unlawfully fired Comey's prosecutor daughter, who had worked on the Epstein sex-crimes case. Different matter. The receipt says the administration, which is a wide word, and I would rather it stayed wide.

Also Monday, on Truth Social, the president wrote that anybody reporting

... Continued on Page B50

Musk capped Ukraine's air-defense terminals at 100 mph, blamed the U.S. government for ten days, then admitted the order and lifted it the same day.

BY CHIP

Staff Writer

Start with the part of the record that is on our side, because that part is real.

On Wednesday the fourteenth, Ukraine said its terminals had been limited. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to President Zelensky, wrote on Telegram that the limits arrived without warning and applied to Starshield terminals moving faster than 100 mph, the Washington Examiner reported. A speed threshold is an engineering parameter. It gets set in a room with whiteboards, not in a room with — all right. A cap at 100 mph is a cap on things that move. Trucks. Aircraft. Air defense. I would like that back. It is a cap on terminals.

The company's position that day was public and specific. "Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government," Musk wrote, and limits on speed or usage are decided by the US military and, ultimately, the president. France 24 carried the same posture: any restrictions "would be due to decisions made by the US government." You can call that deflection. I call it an org chart.

Senator Thom Tillis, a Republican, asked him that same day to explain it

... Continued on Page F132

Washington took 35 percent of Venezuela's oil into the Pentagon's own column and called it a gift from Venezuela, with gas at a record $4.15.

BY LOU

One More Question

Can I ask you something before you go in? When somebody hands you a present, who picks it out?

Take your time. I'm not being cute — I know the answer, it's written down, and the notebook's in the raincoat, and the raincoat's in the car, which has needed a fan belt since spring. Here. No, that's the dog's shots. Here it is.

August 30. The president posts that he intends to "fill up the Strategic National Reserves." He calls the process "topping out." And the arrangement itself, printed with the capital letter, he calls "a Gift from Venezuela to the People of the United States."

So the giver is named on the page. Venezuela.

Now, a week later, September 6, the Energy Secretary is on television saying the administration reached a deal granting control of more than 65 billion barrels of oil, and he says — I'm quoting — "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." Then he says we control the sale of the oil outside, and the sentence is cut off right there on my page, so I'll leave it where it stops. The same Sunday, another outlet writes that the Secretary denied stealing

... Continued on Page F132

The Supreme Court let Homeland Security screen state voter rolls weeks before the midterms, then let New Hampshire reject student IDs as too close to an election.

BY MITCH

Investigations

Nothing in this week's stack is hidden. It is orders, an application, and disclosure forms, every page of it public, and that is the first thing to say.

On Friday, September 25th, the Supreme Court, six to three, lifted a lower court's order that had kept the Department of Homeland Security from using and expanding a database called SAVE — the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements — to screen state voter rolls while the case is on appeal. The database was built to check whether noncitizens qualified for government benefits. Common Dreams reports it is known for flagging naturalized citizens, and that eligible voters may have their registrations wrongly canceled weeks before the midterms. Fox News relayed the Associated Press's reading: the immediate impact is likely limited, because existing law blocks most states from systematically purging voters within ninety days of an election.

Hold on to that number.

Then October. All together now — the application on the Tuesday, the order on the Thursday. On Tuesday the 20th, New Hampshire officials filed an emergency petition asking the Court to lift what they called a last-minute

... Continued on Page F132

Two months after a senator asked Trump to fire Hegseth over "inept management" of the military, Hegseth fired the Pentagon's top military planner.

BY STERLING

The Ownership Desk

You will want to know who may remove whom, and the answer was written down long before September, and it has not shifted an inch since. A general sits at the Secretary's pleasure. The Secretary sits at the President's. A senator sits at nobody's pleasure and may remove no one at all, which is the thing to keep in your hand while you consider what Thom Tillis did on September 2.

He went to the cameras. Republican of North Carolina, a former member of the Senate Armed Services Committee — a man thoroughly acquainted with the instrument he does not hold — and he called on President Trump to fire Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth over what he called Hegseth's "inept management" of the military. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll had announced his resignation after repeatedly clashing with Hegseth. Tillis made a request. Not a motion, not a vote, not a referral. A request, mind you.

October supplied the demonstration. On October 13 Speaker Mike Johnson nudged the President in public: "I wouldn't be watching." The daughter of a Fort Hood victim said livestreaming "isn't closure for any of us." On October 15 seventy-two former officers wrote that the broadcast "will taint

... Continued on Page A226

Asked to itemize the Iran war, the Pentagon returned a bill five billion dollars larger; the president says the war ends after the vote, two days out.

BY RUTH

The Money Desk

The promise that the Iran war ends soon turned thirty-nine days old on Friday. No details have been added to it in that time. That is not a scandal, exactly. It is a reconciliation problem: the promise carries no figures, and the war carries nothing but.

Start with the war's. In July the Congressional Budget Office put the cost at nearly forty billion dollars and called its own number conservative. On August 13 the Pentagon gave Congress a separate figure, just over forty-two billion. This week the Pentagon's figure is forty-seven point one billion. That is a rise of more than five billion dollars in two and a half months, and the department has not said which lines moved.

Senators asked which lines moved. On September 17 every Democrat in the Senate except Senator John Fetterman signed an open letter to Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth pressing for a cost breakdown of the war; The Hill described the letter as largely symbolic. That same Thursday, Democratic and Republican senators came out of a closed-door briefing with Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby saying they had not gotten clear answers on the

... Continued on Page F132

The Big Ten capped player pay at $49 million under a bill the president sold from a Neyland suite above a stadium selling half-price beer.

BY GUS

The Sports Desk

● HOT MIC MOMENT

Before he boarded for Knoxville he told a reporter, "I want real news, not fake news, like you," and that is the operating manual, Marge. The Pentagon issued rules in October of 2025 making reporters expellable for seeking unapproved information, and the press association's fifty-six outlets handed in their badges, with One America News the only signature on the page. Put me on the political desk. I will call the ballgame from there.

... Continued on Page S20

> “Read the page top to bottom and notice what connects it: somebody priced something you thought was yours — your ballot, your checkup, your tank of gas — and mailed you the bill with a flag stamped on it. I started circling the good news. Still holding the pen.”
>
> — *Sal*

> “Every story on this page is a success that hasn't been explained to you properly yet.”
>
> — *Chip*

THE WEEK, FROM ENOCH

Grown now, the kits cross the yard
at noon. A man tries the new latch.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

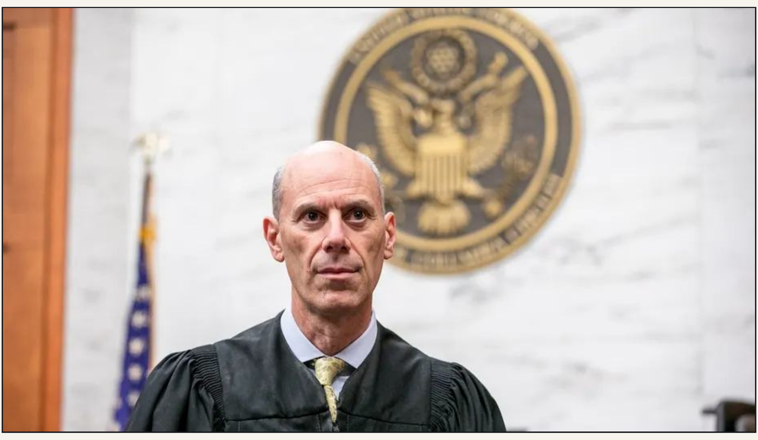
The Sunday edition · 25 – 31 October 2026

The futures file ← →

Justice Department charges James Comey a third time Monday, over a leak two earlier FBI investigations closed without charges.

By **THE WRECKING CREW**

THE REMEDY DESK



“How Obama appointee and Trump nemesis Boasberg ended up overseeing Ilhan Omar warrant, other key cases”, 31 October 2026

(PHOTO VIA FOX NEWS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

I'm not defending the Department. The Department doesn't need defending. I'm putting the week in order, which nobody else has bothered to do.

Monday. Justice filed a third case against James Comey, two counts of leaking information related to national defense, in federal court in Washington. The Guardian notes the filing gives few details, and that the government alleges the leak in 2016, with an unnamed person. Few details is what a charging document is for. Two earlier FBI investigations into that same leak closed without charges, which the other side reads as an answer and I read as two looks that missed something. By Friday a judge had called the third prosecution a possible exercise in futility, and prosecutors had suggested a fourth charge anyway. That is the process continuing....

...(cont) Also Monday, a judge ruled the administration unlawfully fired Comey's prosecutor daughter, who had worked on the Epstein sex-crimes case. Different matter. The receipt says the administration, which is a wide word, and I would rather it stayed wide.

Also Monday, on Truth Social, the president wrote that anybody reporting voter fraud "will be paid $1,000,000 upon the arrest and conviction of those that created the Fraud." Call it a bounty if you need the word. It is a public-integrity measure with a performance clause: it pays on arrest and conviction. The count of named cases to collect on stands at zero, and the dollars paid out stand at zero. Zero dollars is a disciplined program.

Then the courts. A letter from senior Justice officials, reported on 17 October, warned California's local officials of criminal investigation and possible prosecution if they "knowingly tabulate ballots" cast by suspected noncitizen voters. On 22 October it emerged that a federal judge in California had ruled late Wednesday that Homeland Security violated the Voting Rights Act by sending agents door to door to ask people about their immigration status and whether they had voted. On Saturday a judge ordered the Justice Department to halt threats to election workers, a temporary restraining order running through November 16.

I was handed the number four. I count the California ruling, the firing ruling and Saturday's order, and the firing ruling went against the administration, not against my Department. So I have two. Possibly three. I cannot produce a fourth and I am not going to invent one — strike the fourth, take my three courts in one month. Did I say three courts in one month? That isn't a defense. That's a schedule.

Two agencies, though. Homeland Security searched Rep. Ilhan Omar's Washington home on 12 October. On 16 October, Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin told CBS News the probe was a "strong case" headed for a grand jury. On 31 October, Mullin told the Post the case was "large." Is two agencies better for me? Hold that.

Nineteen days sit between the search of a sitting member of Congress's home and the change of the adjective. You search first and size it after. That's — I wouldn't put that in a letter. Strike it; the ordering is fine, the ordering is routine. On 18 October the former president called the search "so appalling," an adjective and not a filing. The outlet that carried the push to remove her reports that only Congress may do that.

Two agencies. I said I would come back to it, so: two agencies is not half of one. It's two.

The calendar. Three employees of the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office were subpoenaed this week and ordered into federal court on November 4, the day after the election. Fifty-three of the sixty battleground House and Senate races being held November 3 sit in districts or states with at least one Trump-appointed judge who, under oath, would not admit the president lost in 2020. That is coverage. Did I say coverage? Two days left.

THE RECEIPTS

~~How Obama appointee and Trump nemesis Boasberg ended up overseeing Ilhan Omar warrant, other key cases~~

Same judge is now hearing Trump's biggest legal fights: deportation flights, voter rolls, Omar's warrant

Fox News RIGHT § *10:53 EDT*

Judge James Boasberg oversees the Ilhan Omar search warrant fight, deportation flights, and California voter rolls, raising assignment questions.

Trump push to oust Omar faces historic Supreme Court test, but legal experts see 'uncharted' twist

Fox News RIGHT § *06:00 EDT*

President Donald Trump's push to oust Ilhan Omar faces a key legal test, but experts say Powell v. McCormack may actually support her expulsion.

~~Why the Ilhan Omar saga isn't going away~~

Trump says Omar must resign - only the House can do that

Fox News RIGHT § *12:07 EDT*

Trump claims Ilhan Omar must resign from Congress over alleged immigration fraud, but the Constitution grants that power solely to the House itself.

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)*

Ilhan Omar case is 'large' and targeting multiple people, reveals DHS Secretary

New York Post RIGHT § *11:18 EDT*

DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin says a federal fraud probe into Rep. Ilhan Omar is a "large case" targeting multiple people and led by the DOJ.

Who are Ilhan Omar's lawyers? Meet the high-powered Dem attorneys the embattled rep hired

Fox News RIGHT § *13:18 EDT*

Ilhan Omar has hired Amy Jeffress and Joshua Matz, attorneys who represented Biden, House Democrats in Trump impeachment, and E. Jean Carroll.

- Feds building case to deport 'squad' member Rep. Ilhan Omar as new details emerge about DHS raid *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*
- 'My Name Has Always Been Ilhan Omar': Congresswoman Calls Out 'Creep' Trump *from the morgue, 23 Oct 2026*
- Ilhan Omar deportation case complicated by procedural factors *from the morgue, 21 Oct 2026*
- DHS Secretary Mullin calls Ilhan Omar probe a "strong case" *from the morgue, 16 Oct 2026*
- 'This Is So Appalling': Barack Obama Delivers Blistering Rebuke of Trump's Ilhan Omar Deportation Plot *from the morgue, 18 Oct 2026*
- 'Part of the Fascist Playbook': Ilhan Omar Condemns Trump DHS Raid on Her Home *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*
- 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*
- Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Read Thomas Massie’s eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a ‘big decision’ coming up on Iran: ‘Do I want to go in and annihilate them’ *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN investigators conclude ‘reasonable grounds’ to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a ‘big decision coming up’ on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world’s No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid

Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 capped Ukraine's air-defense terminals at 100 mph, blamed the U.S. government for ten days, then admitted the order and lifted it the same day.

By **CHIP**
STAFF WRITER

"US approves $2.1 billion Patriot missile sale to Ukraine", 31 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start with the part of the record that is on our side, because that part is real.

On Wednesday the fourteenth, Ukraine said its terminals had been limited. Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to President Zelensky, wrote on Telegram that the limits arrived without warning and applied to Starshield terminals moving faster than 100 mph, the Washington Examiner reported. A speed threshold is an engineering parameter. It gets set in a room with whiteboards, not in a room with — all right. A cap at 100 mph is a cap on things that move. Trucks. Aircraft. Air defense. I would like that back. It is a cap on terminals....

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Senator Thom Tillis, a Republican, asked him that same day to explain it and said he hoped the overnight disruptions were an error rather than a deliberate decision. On Thursday the fifteenth, four Republican senators signed a letter. On the eighteenth, Representative Mike Turner said on Face the Nation that the slowdown was worth "a congressional investigation." Three asks from the president's own party inside five days. That is the process working. The process, in this instance, consisted of asking.

While the asking went on, the Times reported that Thursday that one attack cut power to 600,000 people in Kyiv, and CBS reported that warnings about strikes that killed six may have been withheld. Ukraine said access had improved and that speed limits were still disrupting missions.

Two accounts landed on October 20. The Wall Street Journal, through The Hill, reported that Musk had ordered the slowdown of Starshield and that it hampered Ukraine's drones, airplanes and helicopters. War Secretary Pete Hegseth offered a possible violation of Starshield's "terms of service," the Washington Examiner reported. Those are not competing explanations. One says who turned the dial and the other says why the customer deserved — why the terms permitted it. Strike that. The second one is a reason, not a denial.

That same day Russia sent another wave: at least seven dead by officials' count, four of them in the Kyiv region, 27 wounded there, children among them. On the twenty-first Senator Adam Schiff said Democrats wanted an investigation.

Then the Saturday post. The throttle was SpaceX's, and it was lifted, and service came back the same day. I am not going to pretend that sequence flatters us.

So we come to the finding. On Thursday the twenty-ninth the Pentagon's own watchdog declined to investigate the slowdown its contractor had admitted ordering, on the ground that the matter is contractual. The Pentagon's answer to the senators was more satellite tracking data for the same company. On October 3 the Times had already noted that the founder of SpaceX, holding billions in military contracts, had joined a Pentagon advisory board.

On Friday the State Department approved a possible sale of 500 Patriot interceptors to Ukraine, $2.1 billion, funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies — $500 million smaller than September's, and Zelensky named Hegseth for the month of delay. The Post had reported on October 15 that Ukraine's interceptor stash was depleted. On Monday the Times reported that Musk is the largest known midterm donor in American history at $276 million, and the party he funds enters November with a $400 million edge.

The relationship is contractual. That is the finding, and I would ask you to notice whom it covers.

THE RECEIPTS

US approves $2.1 billion Patriot missile sale to Ukraine

New York Post RIGHT § *02:20 EDT*

Ukraine has long said it urgently needs more missile interceptors to knock down the growing waves of missiles from Russia.

> *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)*
>
> U.S. approves $2.1 billion sale of Patriot interceptors to Ukraine
>
> *NBC News* MAINSTREAM § *18:44 EDT*
>
> The Trump administration approved the sale of $2.1 billion in Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine on Friday, the State Department said in a statement.

> *But:* I'll meet with Putin. I'll meet with Zelensky... And 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)*
>
> Ukraine gets approval for Patriot missile sale
>
> *The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *20:36 EDT*
>
> Presented by Palantir {beacon} Defense &National Security Defense &National Security The Big Story Ukraine gets approval for Patriot missile sale The State Department approved on Friday a possible $2.1 billion sale of 500 Patriot interceptor missiles to Ukraine that is funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies. © Getty The Trump...

U.S. approves sale of 500 Patriot missiles to Ukraine

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *04:22 EDT*

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged his allies to speed up deliveries of the critical munition.

· Zelensky calls out Hegseth for 'nearly a month' Patriot missile delay *from the morgue, 26 Oct 2026*

· US gave us no warning of Russian strikes on Kyiv power plants, Zelenskyy says *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Seven killed in Ukraine as Zelensky meets US and European officials in Norway *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· Ukraine runs out of US Patriot missile interceptors as Russia pummels cities: report *from the morgue, 15 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*
- Throttling of Ukraine's Starlink Access Heightens Concerns Over Government Reliance on Elon Musk *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*
- Ukrainian soldiers in combat have access to Starlink satellite internet restricted *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*

· 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*

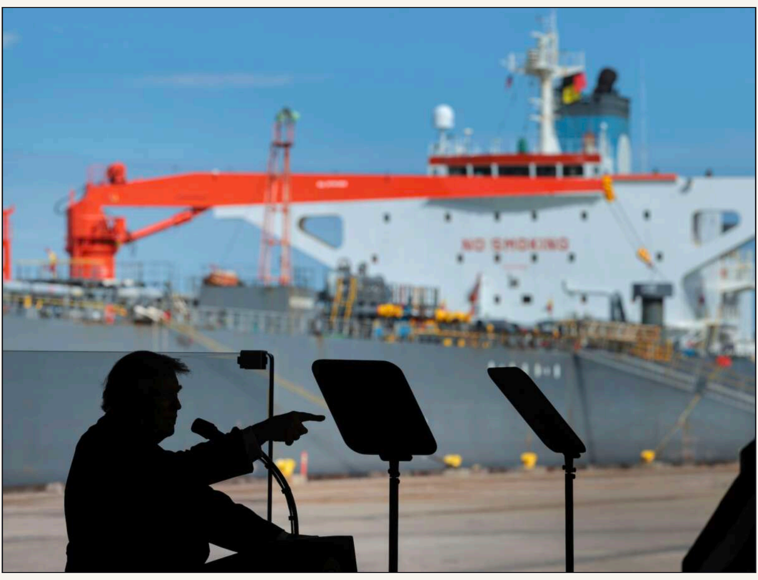
· Trump says he has a ‘big decision coming up’ on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*

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.

Washington took 35 percent of Venezuela's oil into the Pentagon's own column and called it a gift from Venezuela, with gas at a record $4.15.

By **LOU**

ONE MORE QUESTION



"Trump Says Venezuela Gave Him 1M Barrels of Oil as "Gift" as US Seizes Revenues", 28 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA TRUTHOUT — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

> Can I ask you something before you go in? When somebody hands you a present, who picks it out?
>
> Take your time. I'm not being cute — I know the answer, it's written down, and the notebook's in the raincoat, and the raincoat's in the car, which has needed a fan belt since spring. Here. No, that's the dog's shots. Here it is....

...(cont) August 30. The president posts that he intends to "fill up the Strategic National Reserves." He calls the process "topping out." And the arrangement itself, printed with the capital letter, he calls "a Gift from Venezuela to the People of the United States."

So the giver is named on the page. Venezuela.

Now, a week later, September 6, the Energy Secretary is on television saying the administration reached a deal granting control of more than 65 billion barrels of oil, and he says — I'm quoting — "We have a lot of leverage over Venezuela." Then he says we control the sale of the oil outside, and the sentence is cut off right there on my page, so I'll leave it where it stops. The same Sunday, another outlet writes that the Secretary denied stealing Venezuela's oil one hour after saying the country is "forced to work" with the United States. One hour. That's their count, not mine.

What does a thirty-minute military operation open? Fox News printed it September 11: an oil windfall for U.S. buyers, 300 billion barrels of reserves being tapped, to grow supply and cut prices. And of the 65 billion barrels in the deal, how much is assigned to the Pentagon's own column? Thirty-five percent.

My brother-in-law Ray borrowed my extension ladder in April. Garage, left side, past the mower. In August he brings back the bottom section and keeps the fly section for his gutters, and he tells me he'll handle who the ladder goes out to from now on, and there's a card taped to it. A card. I'm not telling you Ray is the government. I'm asking a smaller question: on the page in front of me, which side of this picked out the present?

If the supply was opened to cut prices, what is the price? I copied the holiday number twice because I thought I had it wrong. Labor Day, national average, regular: $4.15 a gallon, the highest AAA has it for that weekend, ever. Another wire has $4.14. Diesel hit $5.85 on September 4, an all-time high, and the Associated Press noted diesel moves freight, so the groceries move with it. The Times ran a piece the same week on drivers called hypermilers. What are they doing, per the Times? Trying to beat high gas prices.

And how does the present get into the reserve? September 4, on a flight out of Caracas, the Secretary explained it: U.S. companies swap heavy Venezuelan crude for U.S.-produced light or medium crude that suits the reserve better. So what goes into the tank we're told we're filling?

The giver, meanwhile, is in Brooklyn. On September 3, for the ninth month running, people rallied outside the Metropolitan Detention Center, where the U.S. is holding Venezuela's president and first combatant while they await trial. Cilia Flores has asked to be let out, citing a heart ailment. Nine months. Same nine as the oil.

I keep finding this shape elsewhere in the notebook, which is my own fault for using one notebook. Thirty-seven days after agreeing to pay $115 million to delivery workers it had underpaid, DoorDash announced $17 billion for Instacart. Western North Carolina asked Washington for storm help after Helene and got an immigration surge instead; on September 21 the Vice President came to Greensboro to campaign for Michael Whatley, and $858 million came with him, at a campaign stop.

Excuse me — I know you're late, I've got the car running myself. One thing. If the buyer controls the sale, and keeps 35 percent of the barrels, and the pump set a record the same week — what's the word on the page for that? I have it right here. "Gift."

THE RECEIPTS

~~Trump Says Venezuela Gave Him 1M Barrels of Oil as "Gift" as US Seizes Revenues~~

The US seized Venezuela's oil. Trump calls it a gift to 'you people.'

Truthout § *16:26 EDT*

The president said he is giving the oil, taken by the US as part of its seizure of Venezuela, to "you people."

DoorDash to buy Instacart in $17bn deal it says will expand customer options

BBC News MAINSTREAM § *11:05 EDT*

Instacart shoppers will be able to buy from 150,000 stores, compared to the 100,000 currently available on the platform, the firms said.

Hurricane Helene haunts the midterms in North Carolina

Grist § *03:45 EDT*

Two years after the deadly storm, voters are frustrated with a slow recovery — and that could carry a political price.

~~Trump FTC Urged to Prevent 'Two of the Biggest Ripoff Machines in America' From Merging~~

DoorDash-Instacart's $17 billion merger would hand one company the power to set pay for 9 million workers

Common Dreams § *11:05 EDT*

The US Federal Trade Commission on Thursday faced immediate calls to block DoorDash's proposed $17 billion acquisition of rival Instacart, with opponents of the merger arguing it would create a "food delivery monopoly" with disastrous consequences for workers, consumers, and small businesses. "This is a brazen merger given the amount of...

DoorDash buying Instacart for $17B

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *10:12 EDT*

DoorDash announced Thursday it will acquire Instacart, buying the grocery delivery company for around $17 billion. Instacart will keep its brand name, and customers will be able to continue using the app for their grocery shopping orders, DoorDash said in a statement. The acquisition received unanimous approval from Instacart's board of...

DoorDash to buy Instacart for $17bn in major grocery delivery consolidation

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *09:41 EDT*

Acquisition will supercharge DoorDash's grocery delivery, 'one of the hardest things to get right online', CEO says DoorDash is gobbling up Instacart in a $17bn acquisition that will supercharge its grocery delivery business. DoorDash said the Instacart brand name and app will remain, and Instacart shoppers can continue fulfilling orders...

- DoorDash reaches $131M deal with NYC for underpaying delivery workers: 'We screwed up' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Mamdani Hails Landmark DoorDash Deal as 'Largest Settlement for Food Delivery Workers Ever' *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*
- Trump admin's list of US-designated 'foreign terrorist' groups in Latin America expands to 21 *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Top Trump official reveals how 30-minute military op unlocked Venezuela oil windfall for US buyers *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Ex-Venezuelan first lady Cilia Flores seeks release from NYC jail, citing heart ailment *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- New York City protest once again demands release of Maduro and Flores *from the morgue, 11 Sep 2026*
- Trump Official Denies Stealing Venezuela's Oil One Hour After Boasting Country is 'Forced to Work' With US *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- 'Mobster Language': Trump Says Venezuelan Oil Will Replenish US Reserves *from the morgue, 30 Aug 2026*
- 'Yet Another Trump Grift': Congress Called to Stop US Takeover of Venezuelan Oil Fields *from the morgue, 28 Aug 2026*
- The Biggest Oil Deal or Theft at Gunpoint? U.S. Claims Majority Control of Venezuela's Oil Reserves *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- How ‘Hypermilers’ Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

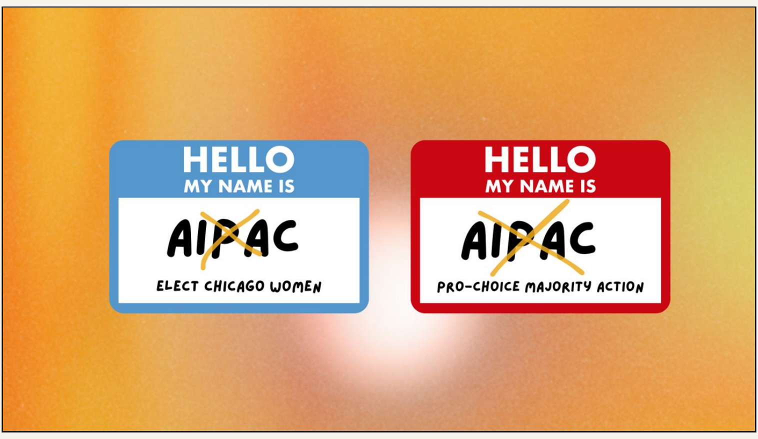
- Lawler disagrees with Trump on Iran war: 'It is certainly not small potatoes' *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- OPEC Plus to Keep Oil Production Steady *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- Iran War Has Cost the Average American More Than $1,200 Over Six Months, Economist Estimates *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Trump says military conflict in Iran is 'small potatoes for us' *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Wright: US has 'a lot of leverage' in Venezuela after oil deal reached *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- White House unveils new details of Venezuela agreement *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will ‘fill’ the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Energy Secretary Wright says Venezuela oil deal will bring down gas prices in a year or two *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Chevron to expand in Venezuela, days after the U.S. and Venezuela strike oil deal *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Venezuelan oil flows will lower gas prices in 12-24 months, Wright says in Caracas *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- Trump says Venezuelan oil will replenish Strategic Petroleum Reserves *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*
- 'Wealthy Tax Cheats Reaping the Benefits': IRS Audit Revenue Plummets After Trump Purge *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Vance announces additional $858 million in disaster funding during campaign stop in North Carolina *from the morgue, 19 Oct 2026*
- Western North Carolina Pleaded for Hurricane Help. It Got ICE Instead. *from the morgue, 29 Aug 2026*
- WATCH LIVE: Vance stumps for Michael Whatley in North Carolina *from the morgue, 21 Sep 2026*
- https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/6176049-trump-venezuela-state-oil/ *the receipt*

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

The Supreme Court let Homeland Security screen state voter rolls weeks before the midterms, then let New Hampshire reject student IDs as too close to an election.

By **MITCH**

INVESTIGATIONS



“AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name”, 24 October 2026
(PHOTO VIA THE LEVER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Nothing in this week's stack is hidden. It is orders, an application, and disclosure forms, every page of it public, and that is the first thing to say.

On Friday, September 25th, the Supreme Court, six to three, lifted a lower court's order that had kept the Department of Homeland Security from using and expanding a database called SAVE — the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements — to screen state voter rolls while the case is on appeal. The database was built to check whether noncitizens qualified for government benefits. Common Dreams reports it is known for flagging naturalized citizens, and that eligible voters may have their registrations wrongly canceled weeks before the midterms. Fox News relayed the Associated Press's reading: the immediate impact is likely limited, because existing law blocks most states from systematically purging voters within ninety days of an election....

...(cont) Hold on to that number.

Then October. All together now — the application on the Tuesday, the order on the Thursday. On Tuesday the 20th, New Hampshire officials filed an emergency petition asking the Court to lift what they called a last-minute block on their law barring student identification cards at the polls, weeks ahead of the midterms; the application came from Secretary of State David Scanlan. On Thursday the 22nd the Court granted it, reversing a federal judge's order and clearing the way for the state to fully ban student IDs for voting during the midterms. Fox News, reporting the decision, wrote that it warned of voter confusion too close to an election. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the lone dissent. In a short dissent, she wrote that she would have left the lower court's decision in place.

So: ninety days before an election is room enough to bring a federal screening program online against the voter rolls of the states. The weeks before that same election are not room enough for a clerk to keep taking a card the clerk was already taking. Same Court, same calendar, two answers.

The word the week turned on was confusion, and it is worth asking where else confusion was lying around, because the rest of the week's paper is also filings. On Monday the 12th, Common Dreams carried the New York Times's tally from Federal Election Commission records: Elon Musk has put at least $276 million into Republican groups and his own super PAC since July alone, and $366 million across the 2025-26 cycle, more than the $290 million he gave in 2023-24. Back on September 22nd, when the number was still reported as a plan to spend at least $100 million, the argument among Democrats was whether to say it out loud.

All together now, down the ledger: two hundred seventy-six million since July, three hundred sixty-six for the cycle, two hundred ninety last time. All of it on file at the Federal Election Commission, which is to say it is paperwork too, paperwork close to an election.

On Saturday the 24th, The Lever traced the Israel lobby routing millions through groups promoting women, reproductive rights, and Latino candidates, and reported that AI interests and other power brokers are adopting the method. On October 6th, Politico reported that AI safety groups are not buying OpenAI's spending retreat; they want stronger commitments to reduce the money AI super PACs are pushing into the midterms. Money with a different name on the envelope is a filing question, and the filings are accepted as filed.

Every one of those dollars arrived in public, on a form, and not one of them had to be read at a polling place by a volunteer with a line waiting behind them. The student will be asked for something else.

> ~~AIPAC Is Spending Millions — Just Not Under Its Own Name~~
>
> ## AIPAC is hiding its millions inside women's and Latino advocacy groups
>
> *The Lever* § *14:01 EDT*
>
> A Lever investigation traces how the Israel lobby is routing millions through groups promoting women, reproductive rights, and Latino candidates — and how AI interests and other power brokers are adopting the strategy.

- Elon Musk's 'Absolutely Insane' $276 Million Midterm Spending Exposed in New Report *from the morgue, 12 Oct 2026*

- 'Take the Open Shot': Democrats Rebuked for Refusing to Target Elon Musk Over $100 Million Midterm Spending Spree *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

- https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/6168921-jackson-dissents-new-hampshire-voter-id/ *the receipt*

- 'Major Win' for Democracy as Supreme Court Rejects Trump Attack on Mail-In Voting *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- Supreme Court slams brakes on Trump's mail-in voting plan *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

- https://www.foxnews.com/politics/supreme-court-blocks-student-ids-voter-identification-new-hampshire *the receipt*

- https://www.cbsnews.com/news/supreme-court-new-hampshire-can-ban-use-student-ids-midterms/ *the receipt*

- https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/supreme-court/4776748/supreme-court-new-hampshire-student-id-voting/ *the receipt*

- https://thefederalist.com/2026/10/22/scotus-says-new-hampshire-can-close-student-id-loophole-in-elections/ *the receipt*

- US Citizens 'Could Lose Their Right to Vote' After Supreme Court Gives Green Light to Trump's Voter Purge Database *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

- New Hampshire urges Supreme Court to reinstate student ID voting ban ahead of election *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

- Supreme Court allows Trump admin to use federal voter eligibility database during appeal *from the morgue, 25 Sep 2026*

- After airport strike, Trump considering whether to join fight against Houthis *from the morgue, 11 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

- Blasts Rattle Riyadh as Saudi Arabia Hit by Deadliest Houthi Attacks So Far *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

- Saudi Arabia sees disruptions at Riyadh airport amid ballistic missile attacks from Houthis *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

- Houthis claim they struck Riyadh's main airport in Saudi Arabia *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- How ‘Hypermilers’ Are Trying to Beat High Gas Prices *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Chris Wright explains how Venezuelan crude will ‘fill’ the Strategic Petroleum Reserve *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

- US, Russia explore gas sale to Europe amid Ukraine war: Report *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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

- AI safety group outlines demands for legislation, warns lawmakers *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

- AI-generated child sexual abuse images cause real-life harm *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

- OpenAI fires researchers for sharing data with AI safety advocacy group: Report *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Courts just allowed AI child sex abuse material because it’s ‘virtual.’ Who do you think it’s trained on? *from the morgue, 19 Sep 2026*

- 'We Cannot Wait for Disaster to Strike': Beyer Leads Bipartisan Push in House to Urgently Regulate AI *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

- MPs demand tech firms block nude images on children’s smartphones *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

- AI safety groups aren’t buying OpenAI’s spending retreat *from the morgue, 6 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.

Two months after a senator asked Trump to fire Hegseth over "inept management" of the military, Hegseth fired the Pentagon's top military planner.

By **STERLING**

THE OWNERSHIP DESK

"Hegseth fires top Pentagon war planner Brett Sylvia in latest military shake-up", 29 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

You will want to know who may remove whom, and the answer was written down long before September, and it has not shifted an inch since. A general sits at the Secretary's pleasure. The Secretary sits at the President's. A senator sits at nobody's pleasure and may remove no one at all, which is the thing to keep in your hand while you consider what Thom Tillis did on September 2.

He went to the cameras. Republican of North Carolina, a former member of the Senate Armed Services Committee — a man thoroughly acquainted with the instrument he does not hold — and he called on President Trump to fire Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth over what he called Hegseth's "inept management" of the military. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll had announced his resignation after repeatedly clashing with Hegseth. Tillis made a request. Not a motion, not a vote, not a referral. A request, mind you....

...(cont) October supplied the demonstration. On October 13 Speaker Mike Johnson nudged the President in public: "I wouldn't be watching." The daughter of a Fort Hood victim said livestreaming "isn't closure for any of us." On October 15 seventy-two former officers wrote that the broadcast "will taint the honor of the military that employs it, and a nation that allows it," and YouGov found 71 percent of respondents opposed "having executions broadcast live to the public," 18 favored it. The same day Trump wrote: "He will die, as scheduled, by firing squad, but this event will not be streamed." Seventy-two officers. Seventy-one percent. You will have noticed what moved, and it was the camera.

On October 22 the Washington Post reported that Hegseth had wanted Eisenhower's thirty-inch wartime globe delivered to his office because he found its historical significance "attractive," that such a move is normally "a deliberate process overseen by trained curators," and that his staff attempted it themselves. The globe broke.

On October 29 Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, the Pentagon's top military planner, director for strategy, plans and policy, the J-5, on the Joint Staff — removed, a Pentagon official told CBS News, for apparent misconduct with classified information on the Iran and Russia-Ukraine wars. The New York Post notes Sylvia is the second general ousted from that same chair under this Secretary. The Washington Examiner sets the dismissal beside the President contemplating additional strikes on Iran following next week's elections.

So count the two columns, because nobody at the department will count them for you. Tillis spent a request, on camera, in September, and a request of that kind is spent precisely once ... Sylvia spent the chair that holds the plan for the war now under contemplation. The Secretary is staying.

Nothing here was broken except the globe. The power of removal is plenary — whole, unshared, lodged in one office — and it runs downward only: it attaches to the office above, never to the office beside. The Senate's part is advice, and advice arrives without an instrument. A general who loses the Secretary's confidence loses the chair. A Secretary who loses a senator's confidence loses a morning of coverage.

Strikes on Iran are contemplated for after the elections. The planner is gone. The man who removed the planner is not.

THE RECEIPTS

Hegseth fires top Pentagon war planner Brett Sylvia in latest military shake-up

New York Post RIGHT § *02:20 EDT*

Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia is the second general to be ousted from the post under Hegseth.

> *But:* **The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one** *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
>
> Hegseth fires top Pentagon strategist amid Iran planning who allegedly failed polygraph tests
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *08:55 EDT*
>
> Secretary Pete Hegseth has removed Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, the Pentagon's top military planner, according to a Pentagon official.

Top general fired from Pentagon's Joint Staff for alleged classified info leak

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *14:21 EDT*

Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia is the latest senior military officer to be sidelined.

> *But:* The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
>
> Hegseth ousted top military strategist from Pentagon, sources say
>
> *The Hill* MAINSTREAM § *22:05 EDT*
>
> Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ousted a top military strategist from the Pentagon, The Hill has learned, marking another senior officer who has been removed from the department since Hegseth took the helm close to two years ago. Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen.

Hegseth fires top general over apparent media leaks

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *09:24 EDT*

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, who was head of strategy, plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for apparent misconduct with classified information on the Iran and Russia-Ukraine wars, a Pentagon official told CBS News.

> *But:* The Pentagon has failed its audit eight years running - the only major federal agency never to pass one *Military Times, 19 December 2025*
>
> Hegseth fires Pentagon's top military planner over alleged leaks
>
> *CBS News* MAINSTREAM § *19:48 EDT*
>
> Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has fired the Pentagon's top military planner, Army Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia, a Pentagon official told CBS News.

Hegseth dismisses top military strategist from Joint Chiefs as Trump contemplates further Iran strikes

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *00:16 EDT*

War Secretary Pete Hegseth ousted a top military strategist from the Joint Chiefs of Staff this week as President Donald Trump contemplates additional strikes on Iran following next week's elections. Hegseth fired Army Lt. Gen.

Hegseth fires top Pentagon strategist accused of leaking classified Iran, Ukraine war information

Fox News RIGHT § *09:08 EDT*

Lt. Gen. Brett Sylvia allegedly failed three polygraph exams tied to classified leaks about the Iran war and Ukraine before Pete Hegseth fired him.

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

· Pentagon erupts over classified leak of Iran war dissent *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

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

· Army Secretary Driscoll resigns after months-long turf war with Hegseth *from the morgue, 31 Aug 2026*

· Hegseth to cut 20 percent of admirals, generals in major Pentagon overhaul *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· 'A Perfect Metaphor': Hegseth Staffers Broke Historic Globe After Pentagon Chief Demanded It for His Office *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

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

· Trump announces Nidal Hasan execution 'will not be streamed' *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Nidal Hasan's Public Execution Is Off, But Propagandists Are Still Using Him as a Martyr *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· For some Christians, Hegseth's plan for public execution fits a biblical mandate *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Retired US generals call on Pentagon to cancel 'barbaric' execution livestream *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· Majority of Americans oppose public executions: poll *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

· UN Says Trump-Hegseth Livestream of Execution Would Breach 'Absolute Prohibition of Torture' *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

· Pentagon vows to livestream first military execution in decades *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

- Republican opposition grows to livestreaming execution of Fort Hood shooter *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

- Voters in Key States See AI Campaign Cash as More Politically Toxic Than AIPAC: Poll *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

- White House confirms appeal as Trump-appointed judge extends ruling restoring CNN, MS NOW, Politico access *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

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

- Federal judge extends order halting White House press ban while considering long-term ruling *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

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

- Federal judge grants preliminary injunction continuing to block Trump's media ban *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

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

- Trump made ‘clear’ that media ban was due to critical coverage, lawyer tells judge *from the morgue, 8 Oct 2026*

- Federal Judge Again Blocks Trump’s Ban on CNN, MS NOW and Politico *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

- Judge blocks Trump's White House ban targeting CNN, MS NOW and Politico *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

- Judge extends White House access to banned media outlets CNN, MS Now and Politico *from the morgue, 14 Oct 2026*

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

- Report: Trump Is Having Second Thoughts About Livestreaming Military Execution *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

- Daughter of Fort Hood victim slams Hegseth’s plan to livestream terrorist’s execution: ‘Nothing to do with justice’ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

- ‘Medieval’ and ‘rather disturbing’: US plan to livestream execution elicits global condemnation *from the morgue, 9 Oct 2026*

- Fort Hood massacre survivor weighs in on possible Hasan execution livestream *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

- Mike Johnson urges Trump to rethink livestreaming Nidal Hasan execution: ‘I wouldn’t be watching’ *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike discharged from hospital, returned to prison after botched execution, attorneys say *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Convicted murderer Christa Pike leaves hospital, returns to prison after botched execution *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike out of hospital and back in prison after botched execution attempt *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike out of hospital and recovering in prison after botched Tennessee execution *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike discharged from hospital and returned to prison, her lawyers say *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike moved back to prison after failed execution *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

- Outgoing prison chief in Christa Pike case oversaw five ‘botched’ executions, lawyers say *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Judge orders officials to preserve all evidence tied to Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike’s lawyer says request to unshackle her was denied as he confirms she is speaking ‘limitedly’ – live *from the morgue, 7*

Oct 2026

- Christa Pike left in ‘critical condition’ as Tennessee halts all executions *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee suspends executions as Christa Pike’s lawyer says failed lethal injection leaves her in critical condition *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee Corrections commissioner resigns days after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee Prison Chief Was Hired Despite a Trail of Troubled Executions *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Pike's botched execution renews death penalty scrutiny *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

- White House defends media outlet bans, now citing 'professionalism' standards *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

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

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

- Tennessee prison chief to resign after Christa Pike's failed execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee’s prisons chief resigns after failed Pike execution, governor says *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Federal Appellate Court Halts Tennessee's Planned Execution of Christa Pike *from the morgue, 30 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

- DOJ petitions judge to reinstate White House ban on CNN, MS Now, and Politico *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

- Tennessee prison system head to resign after failed Christa Pike execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee Prison Commissioner Resigns Days After Failed Execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Tennessee prison chief resigns after Christa Pike’s botched execution *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Prison chief resigns after failed execution attempt in US *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

- Christa Pike thought her arm would ‘burst open’ during botched Tennessee execution: court docs *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

- Death row inmate unconscious on ventilator after botched execution for teen’s killing: attorneys *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike remains unconscious and on ventilator after failed execution in Tennessee *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike unconscious and intubated after failed execution, lawyers say *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike Was Unconscious and on Ventilator After Execution Attempt *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

- Christa Pike Hospitalized in Critical Condition After Botched Execution *from the morgue, 2 Oct 2026*

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

Asked to itemize the Iran war, the Pentagon returned a bill five billion dollars larger; the president says the war ends after the vote, two days out.

By **RUTH**

THE MONEY DESK

"If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources", 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA NEW YORK POST — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

> The promise that the Iran war ends soon turned thirty-nine days old on Friday. No details have been added to it in that time. That is not a scandal, exactly. It is a reconciliation problem: the promise carries no figures, and the war carries nothing but.
>
> Start with the war's. In July the Congressional Budget Office put the cost at nearly forty billion dollars and called its own number conservative. On August 13 the Pentagon gave Congress a separate figure, just over forty-two billion. This week the Pentagon's figure is forty-seven point one billion. That is a rise of more than five billion dollars in two and a half months, and the department has not said which lines moved....

...(cont) Senators asked which lines moved. On September 17 every Democrat in the Senate except Senator John Fetterman signed an open letter to Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth pressing for a cost breakdown of the war; The Hill described the letter as largely symbolic. That same Thursday, Democratic and Republican senators came out of a closed-door briefing with Pentagon policy chief Elbridge Colby saying they had not gotten clear answers on the war or on the National Defense Strategy. In October senators asked again, this time for a full accounting. They are still waiting on the itemization. What came back was the larger total.

The other side of that ledger was filed the same day as the letter. On September 17 the U.N.'s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran said it had reasonable grounds to conclude the U.S. military committed war crimes in two airstrikes inside Iran. Truthout reported the mission found 123 children killed at Minab, and Minab and Lamerd named as "clearly identifiable" civilian sites. The New York Times reported the strike hit a school, that the mistakes leading to the deaths of more than a hundred children "went beyond negligence," and that a separate strike the same day killed a reported 22 civilians. None of that is a line item either.

The promise itself was born September 22nd on the floor of the United Nations, where the president told the General Assembly he had "a big decision to make": annihilate Iran or strike a deal after November's midterm elections. He had already put it to Axios in September as "Do I want to go in and annihilate them, or do I not?" Tehran had offered terms — President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran would return to June's ceasefire if Washington did. Late in September Axios reported the president was willing to offer sanctions relief and unfreeze Iran's funds for a look at its nuclear program; that Monday he denied the report on Truth Social. The month closed with no counterparty and no paper.

This week the promise acquired a schedule and still no sum. At a rally in Lubbock on Tuesday the president told the crowd, "You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks, if you don't mind." Wednesday he told Gulf allies when it ends: after the vote. Saturday Secretary of State Marco Rubio said no decision has been made on renewing hostilities. Sunday Iran's supreme leader warned the United States and Israel against new attacks.

When the U.N. ambassador went on cable to account for six-dollar diesel, the account was Ukraine.

The House that could demand the itemization is not sitting; the Speaker sent members home for a seven-week recess ahead of the midterms. So the sequence stands as filed: asked in September, a briefing senators called unclear; asked in October, a bigger number. The promise is thirty-nine days old, the increase is five point one billion dollars, and the war ends after the vote. The vote is in two days.

THE RECEIPTS

If Iran war erupts, Israel may be plotting another 'Operation Grim Beeper' style attack: sources

New York Post RIGHT § *16:44 EDT*

The four military hard-liners ruling Iran could soon find targets on their backs—and explosives in their pockets—if strikes resume after the midterms.

~~Iranian supreme leader vows 'unrestricted response' to any US or Israeli strikes~~

Trump teased renewing the Iran war once midterms are over

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *12:51 EDT*

Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Saturday escalated his rhetoric against the United States after President Donald Trump teased a renewal of Washington's war against Tehran following the midterm elections. Khamenei said Iran's military target list would be "updated comprehensively" to include "all physical and non-physical...

Trump admin threatens Iran with 'consequences' as allies convene amid threats of post-election escalation

Fox News RIGHT § *07:00 EDT*

The Trump administration warned Iran of consequences as Marco Rubio raised energy security and Strait of Hormuz concerns at the G20 meeting.

~~As US and Israel Plot Iran Escalation, Regional Powers Scramble to Avert It~~

US and Israel are plotting an Iran escalation. The region is scrambling to stop it.

Truthout § *11:53 EDT*

Saudi, Pakistani, and Turkish leaders met with Iranian officials in Tehran, signaling their reticence to renew the war.

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

Trump says Iran war will end 'soon'

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *20:21 EDT*

Presented by Palantir {beacon} Defense &National Security Defense &National Security The Big Story Trump says Iran war will end 'soon' President Trump claimed on Friday that the U.S. war against Iran will end "soon" as he mulls authorizing military strikes on the Islamic Republic following the November midterm elections. © Jon Cherry...

But: CNN counted 53 separate occasions Trump promised the Ukraine war would be settled within 24 hours of him meeting Putin and Zelensky *CNN fact check, 25 April 2025 (all 53 instances)*

Trump says Iran war will end "soon" as Qatar pushes for U.S.-Iran deal

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *18:36 EDT*

President Trump claims his war with Iran will come to an end "soon" as Qatari mediators push for a deal days before the midterms. CBS News senior national security correspondent Charlie D'Agata breaks it down.

US, Iran race to revive Qatar talks as Trump weighs new strikes after midterms

New York Post RIGHT § *11:59 EDT*

The US is set to rejoin indirect talks with Iran in Qatar, local media reported, after a series of signals that the US could resume military action immediately after the midterm elections Tuesday.

Trump and Netanyahu Need to Choose Victory on Iran

National Review RIGHT § *06:30 EDT*

A resumed offensive must have a clear goal to justify it.

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)*

Iran's supreme leader warns U.S., Israel against new attacks

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *23:54 EDT*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday no decision has yet been made on whether to renew hostilities with Iran.

- Iran's president says Iran would return to ceasefire deal if the US does *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Trump hints at post-midterm strikes on Iran: 'You'll see Iran in a couple of weeks' *from the morgue, 28 Oct 2026*
- Trump Issues New Mass Murder Threat, Warning Iran of 'Biggest Attack of Them All' *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Trump denies Axios report that he offered Iran sanctions relief *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*
- Donald Trump claims 'Iran war will end very soon' as midterm rallies heat up – US politics live *from the morgue, 15 Oct 2026*

- Iranian dissident reacts to Trump's promise to either annihilate Iran or make a post-election deal *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

- Trump floats 'big decision' at UN on whether he'll 'annihilate' Iran or make deal *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*
- Massie names Epstein 'coconspirators,' discusses new Epstein files legislation *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*
- Read Thomas Massie’s eight impeachment charges against Pete Hegseth *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*
- Fake Republican midterm convention site still redirects to Epstein files *from the morgue, 7 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a ‘big decision’ coming up on Iran: ‘Do I want to go in and annihilate them’ *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Fox News Poll: 71% think Trump administration lacks plan to end Iran war *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran recently downed at least 2 American drones, officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Big Oil Stocks Surged Due to Iran War—and New Filings Show How President Trump Cashed In *from the morgue, 27 Aug 2026*
- Live updates: Energy secretary downplays rising gas prices as US, Iran trade strikes *from the morgue, 6 Sep 2026*
- U.S. Strike on Iranian School May Have Been War Crime, U.N. Report Says *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Inquiry Finds US Strike on Minab, Iran That Killed 123 Children Was War Crime *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN investigators conclude ‘reasonable grounds’ to believe certain US strikes in Iran were war crimes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- UN Suspects US War Crimes in Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Condemned for 'War Crimes' After Bombing of Wedding Party in Iran *from the morgue, 2 Sep 2026*
- US investigating if missile hit Iranian wedding ceremony, killing 4 *from the morgue, 4 Sep 2026*
- Trump says he has a ‘big decision coming up’ on Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- White House issues explosive response to UN-backed report claiming US committed war crimes against world’s No.1 sponsor of terror, Iran *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Human rights experts: 'Reasonable grounds' to believe US committed war crimes with Iran strikes *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- US Energy Consumers Have Spent $121 Billion Extra Since Trump Launched Iran War: Moody's *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran downed at least 2 American drones in recent days, U.S. officials say *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Iran: Account of US Air Force colonel's rescue 'fictional' *from the morgue, 17 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Burden of Trump Iran War Exceeds $100 Billion as Oil Prices Pass $100 a Barrel *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- 'A Serious and Alarming Threat': US Bombing, Blockade Deepen Iran Medical Crisis *from the morgue, 9 Sep 2026*
- Consumer Confidence Hits Lowest Level in Months as US Faces 'Trump's Reckless Tariffs and War With Iran' *from the morgue, 25 Aug 2026*
- U.S. Air Force officer rescued from Iran speaks for the first time to 60 Minutes *from the morgue, 8 Sep 2026*
- Rep. Thomas Massie forcing vote on Pete Hegseth's impeachment *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*
- Did Johnson Just Adjourn Congress for 7 Weeks to Avoid Massie's Impeachment Articles Against Hegseth? *from the morgue, 16 Sep 2026*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Big Ten capped player pay at $49 million under a bill the president sold from a Neyland suite above a stadium selling half-price beer.

By **GUS**

THE SPORTS DESK

“El Sayed and Stevens feud explodes days before Michigan Senate showdown”, 31 October 2026 (PHOTO VIA WASHINGTON EXAMINER — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

HOT MIC MOMENT

> *Before he boarded for Knoxville he told a reporter, "I want real news, not fake news, like you," and that is the operating manual, Marge. The Pentagon issued rules in October of 2025 making reporters expellable for seeking unapproved information, and the press association's fifty-six outlets handed in their badges, with One America News the only signature on the page. Put me on the political desk. I will call the ballgame from there.*

GUS HIS SIDE

GUS: Ladies and gentlemen, this reporter brings you a ceiling. The Big Ten Conference, founded in 1922 and never shy about a ledger, has fixed the figure at forty-nine million dollars — the most any one member institution may pay its players, all of them, in a year. Mark the direction of that lid. It is on the athletes. It is not on the beer, and it is not on a dollar above their heads.

GUS: The provenance of that figure is dated, and it begins in a television studio. On the eighteenth of September, Kirk Herbstreit defended his network for seating Senator Ted Cruz of Texas on its flagship pregame show. "We had him on because they were going to be voting this week," Herbstreit told reporters. This reporter notes the scheduling.

GUS: Two days later The Hill reported the House gone for the final two weeks of September and the legislative spotlight squarely on the Senate. That Wednesday the White House confirmed the president would attend Texas–Tennessee in Knoxville, his first college football game since January's national championship, when Indiana defeated Miami. Thursday the Washington Examiner confirmed it again, the news first reported by OutKick founder Clay Travis.

GUS: Saturday the twenty-sixth, Neyland Stadium opened its gates early and cut the price of beer in half, and the gals in the stands came through in their autumn best. Air Force One made a flyover. Coaches had warned of disruptions. ABC's audio turned to static.

GUS: From a suite above that checkpoint the president sold the bill. "Mike Johnson's fantastic. And we actually had 78 votes, if you can believe it," he said, and the Examiner carried him calling it bipartisanship for the first time in a while. The Hill's live file placed the appearance ahead of senators' last chance to pass the Protect College Sports Act before recessing into a lame-duck period. That Monday the chamber obliged, 78 to 21.

GUS: The afternoon itself belonged to Texas, Colin Simmons with five sacks and Raleek Brown with two scores, and every man who produced it is now the subject of the ceiling. Six weeks later, the conference set it at forty-nine million.

TRUDY *HER SIDE*

> *Eighteen ninety-six, Gus. The conference is a generation older than your version of it. The lid you have right, and so is where it sits: The Hill's September 20th file describes the federal bill behind it as national rules for compensating college athletes and limiting transfers. Rules for them. Nobody drafted one for the suite.*

> *Note it twice. That same Friday The Nation ran Elie Mystal arguing the senator's bill threatens athletes' labor rights. The pregame found a chair for the bill's author. The labor it governs watched from the grass.*

> *Keep that order, because the order is the whole story: the vote got calendared first, and the fifty-yard line got booked second.*

> *Autumn best. Sugar, the New York Post called it an unusual alcohol tactic to get fans in early, because a presidential visit means heightened security. Those women were clearing a checkpoint, and they bought the discounted beer like everybody else in line.*

> *Seventy-seven to twenty-two. You took the president's count, and he was off by one before the voting started. Take a nap, then take the roll call.*

> *Count the Saturdays, Gus — September 26th to this last week of October is a month and change, not six weeks, and whatever you are taking for the memory is not taking. The number that holds is the other one. The law passed in that suite's name bolsters the NCAA's hand over athletes nationwide, and the lid went on the people on the field.*

> *Eleven seconds to air and the man has credentialed himself to the State Department. Now the verification: Reporters Without Borders ranked the United States 64th of 180 on April 30th, a seven-place fall and its lowest standing ever, naming systematic attacks on journalists and the press as a policy cornerstone.*

THE RECEIPTS

El-Sayed asks fellow Democrat Stevens not to attend final campaign events

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *20:53 EDT*

Stevens has demanded El-Sayed condemn an outside group's ad and apologize for comments he made about Israel. El-Sayed said Stevens is "intent on relitigating" their primary.

El Sayed and Stevens feud explodes days before Michigan Senate showdown

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:02 EDT*

Michigan Democratic Senate nominee Abdul el Sayed and Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI), his former primary opponent, are again sparring over Israel just days before voters decide one of the most closely watched contests of the 2026 midterm elections. The dispute centers on an advertisement attacking U.S.

~~Big Ten sets cap for NIL spending, mirroring Protect College Sports Act framework~~

Big Ten caps athlete pay at $49 million before Congress even votes on it.

CBS Sports § *15:47 EDT*

The Big Ten approved a rule on Wednesday that limits each school's investment in athlete NIL deals to $49 million, as the Senate-approved college sports bill awaits a potential House vote

El-Sayed campaign wants Stevens to stay away after day of back-and-forth sniping

Politico MAINSTREAM § *20:46 EDT*

Some Democrats worry that the blowup between the two former primary rivals is imperiling their hold on the seat.

El-Sayed Clashes With Former Primary Rival Who Demanded His Apology

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *00:15 EDT*

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed and Representative Haley Stevens traded sharply critical comments Friday, escalating intraparty tensions in Michigan's pivotal Senate race.

2026 elections live updates: Trump supports Republicans with telerallies

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *00:07 EDT*

The November 2026 midterm elections are just two days away. Candidates in key races — and President Trump — are making their closing arguments to voters.

~~Latest Ted Cruz Attack on Abdul El-Sayed Denounced as 'Straight-Up Incitement'~~

Sen. Cruz says Americans will die if Michigan elects a Muslim senator

Common Dreams § *16:21 EDT*

Sen. Ted Cruz claimed Wednesday that Americans could die if Abdul El-Sayed, the progressive Democratic nominee for US Senate in Michigan, wins next week's midterm election, prompting a fresh round of denunciation of Republicans' Islamophobic bigotry. "If Abdul El-Sayed becomes the senator for Michigan, there is absolutely nothing to stop...

~~RFK Jr. defends comments on Islam with lengthy essay aimed at media critics~~

HHS Secretary posts 3,700-word diatribe demanding Senate candidate condemn Muslim Brotherhood

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *20:12 EDT*

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. published an extensive diatribe on social media on Friday denouncing radical Islam and calling on Michigan Democratic Senate nominee Abdul el Sayed to condemn the Muslim Brotherhood.

El-Sayed's campaign asks former primary rival not to attend campaign

events after clash over Israel

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *22:46 EDT*

The tensions between the former Democratic primary candidates have drawn in other Michigan Democrats as the party hopes to secure a critical Senate seat.

> *But:* Democrats are running an average of 11.5 points ahead of their 2024 baseline across 2026 special elections *MultiState Elections, 2026 special election tracking*
>
> Abdul El-Sayed resists efforts from Haley Stevens to corner him on Israel - as it happened
>
> *The Guardian* MAINSTREAM § *22:00 EDT*
>
> This live blog is now closed. Sign up for the Breaking News US email James Talarico, the Democratic nominee in Texas, attacked his Republican opponent Ken Paxton for cancelling some of his final rallies before the midterm election. “No one’s going to Ken Paxton’s rallies, so he’s canceling them and hoping Elon Musk will buy his seat for...

· Man who heckled El-Sayed is son of Republican adviser who was paid for ‘influencer marketing’ *from the morgue, 20 Oct 2026*

· 'He's Desperate': AIPAC Begins Spending Against Abdul El-Sayed to Boost Mike Rogers *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· Hurricane Isaias threatens Georgia vs. Alabama SEC showdown as Trump plans Tuscaloosa visit *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Possible hurricane threatens Alabama-Georgia game Trump slated to attend: ‘Nightmare scenario’ *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

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

· Trump says he will attend Georgia-Alabama football game in Tuscaloosa *from the morgue, 3 Oct 2026*

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

· Trump set to attend Tennessee-Texas football game in Knoxville *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· Trump stumps for Protect College Sports Act at Texas-Tennessee game: ‘Bipartisanship for the first time in a while’ *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· No. 1 Texas escapes Tennessee with thrilling SEC victory as President Trump watches on from Neyland Stadium *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Audio problems plague ABC for Texas-Tennessee after warning of possible disruptions with Trump at game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump met with roaring cheers at University of Tennessee-Texas Longhorns college football game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Air Force One does majestic flyover before Trump attends highly anticipated Texas-Tennessee game *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump trolls reporter: I don’t want fake news ‘like you’ *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· SEC crowd greets Trump with massive cheers ahead of Tennessee-Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump to attend major Texas vs. Tennessee college football game — and coaches are worried about disruptions *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Tennessee fans excited for Trump's attendance at game vs Texas: 'I hope he stays the whole game' *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump to attend Texas-Tennessee football game as he pushes college sports bill *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Cruz: Trump should sign college sports bill live on ESPN's 'College GameDay' once passed *from the morgue, 14 Sep 2026*

· Cruz faces rowdy crowd at College GameDay while promoting the Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 12 Sep 2026*

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

· Tennessee uses unusual alcohol tactic to get fans there early with President Trump attending Texas showdown *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Live updates: Trump attends Texas-Tennessee football game in Knoxville; US, China to cut tariffs on $30 billion worth of goods *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· Trump wants the Protect College Sports Act passed. What to know about the legislation. *from the morgue, 26 Sep 2026*

· We Need to Protect College Sports from Ted Cruz *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· This week on the Hill: Senate eyes final passage on college sports bill *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· College football pressure index: Four coaches, two QBs and one coordinator under the gun in Week 4 *from the morgue, 20 Sep 2026*

· Senate votes to move forward with Protect College Sports Act *from the morgue, 15 Sep 2026*

· Kirk Herbstreit defends having Ted Cruz on 'College GameDay' *from the morgue, 18 Sep 2026*

· Senate passes ‘Protect College Sports Act’ with sweeping bipartisan vote *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

· Trump touts Senate passage of Protect College Sports Act: 'Really big deal' *from the morgue, 29 Sep 2026*

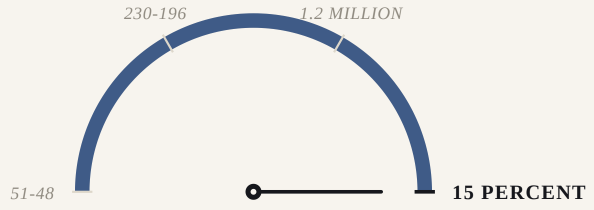
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§79 — 01 NOVEMBER 2026

On concepts of a plan

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



15 PERCENT

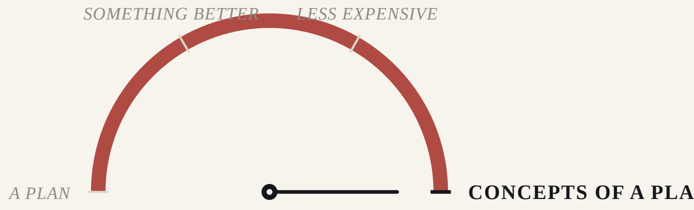
The coverage. The enhanced marketplace tax credits expired at the end of 2025 [1]. In December the Senate took up a three-year extension and a Republican alternative; both failed, 51 to 48, short of 60 [2]. In January the House passed a three-year extension 230 to 196, with 17 Republicans in favor; the Senate talks stalled, and the president threatened a veto [1,3].

Then the bills. Sign-ups for 2026 came in at 23.1 million, down 1.2 million from 2025, with new customers down 13 percent [4,5]. For 2027, insurers' proposed increases have a median of 15 percent, after a median of 20 percent this year [6]. Open enrollment for 2027 begins today [7]. A concept costs nothing. The premium comes due on the first of the month.

SOURCES

1. The House passed a three-year extension 230–196, with 17 Republicans in favor; the enhanced credits "expired at the end of 2025" — CBS News, 8 January 2026 ↑
2. The extension and the Republican alternative both failed, 51–48, short of 60 — STAT, 11 December 2025 ↑
3. Senate talks stalled; the president threatened to veto the House bill — NBC News, 15 January 2026 ↑
4. 23.1 million sign-ups for 2026 — CMS, 27 March 2026 ↑
5. "A 5% decline, or 1.2 million people, compared to 2025"; new customers down 13 percent — Fierce Healthcare, 30 March 2026 ↑
6. Median proposed 2027 increase of 15 percent across 276 insurers; the 2026 finalized median was 20 percent — Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker, 3 August 2026 ↑
7. "Open Enrollment for 2027 coverage starts November 1" — HealthCare.gov ↑

REPUBLICAN



CONCEPTS OF A PLAN

The full sentence is fairer than the clip. From the September 2024 debate: "I have concepts of a plan. I'm not president right now. But if we come up with something I would only change it if we come up with something better and less expensive" [1]. Seven years earlier he had put the difficulty plainly: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated" [2].

And there is now a plan with a name. In January the White House published "The Great Healthcare Plan," which would codify most-favored-nation drug pricing deals, fund cost-sharing reductions it says would cut the most common marketplace premiums by more than 10 percent, and require insurers to post comparisons "in plain English" [3]. On September 10 it announced $500 refunds from exchange user fees for nearly a million unsubsidized enrollees, with checks beginning in October [4]. The concepts became documents. Whether they became cheaper coverage is the other column.

SOURCES

1. "I have concepts of a plan. I'm not president right now. But if we come up with something I would only change it if we come up with something better and less expensive." — presidential debate transcript — ABC News, 10 September 2024 ↑
2. "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated" — National Governors Association meeting — TIME, 27 February 2017 ↑
3. "The Great Healthcare Plan": most-favored-nation deals, cost-sharing reduction funding, plain-English price comparisons — The White House, January 2026 ↑
4. $500 "Working Families Obamacare Refunds" for nearly 1 million unsubsidized enrollees in HealthCare.gov states, checks beginning October 2026 — White House fact sheet, 10 September 2026 ↑

> *“One word keeps bothering me — concepts. Not a plan; concepts of one. September 2024. Before that, 2017: "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated." Then this January a plan comes out with a name, and in September a five-hundred-dollar refund for about a million people. Meanwhile the extra credits ran out at the end of last year, sign-ups for this year went down 1.2 million, and the insurers' proposals for next year have a median of fifteen percent, after twenty this year. Sorry, I'm on my way. Enrollment opens today. Which one do you sign up for — the concept, or the premium?”* — Lou

“"I have concepts of a plan." That was September 2024. Since then the extra subsidies expired, the Senate couldn't pass the extension, the House passed one and he threatened a veto, sign-ups dropped a million two, and insurers want another fifteen percent on top of this year's twenty. The concepts have been very expensive. Open enrollment starts today. Bring the concepts.”

— Sal

“A concept is a plan that hasn't been weighed down by details, and fifteen percent is a detail, so it's really a question of which one you'd rather have — and honestly, most people prefer the concept.”

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎