The Single-Column Edition

FROM § EACH

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026 — THE AFTERNOON EDITION — FREE, FOREVER

Ferguson floats own name for press secretary job, lands it on himself

BY CHIP
Staff Writer

The podium has had two occupants since the end of August, and the record shows two orderly transitions. Two — I'll stop there, because counting past two this morning forces conclusions I am not yet prepared to draw, and because the second transition took five days. Let me start over, in order.

By October 5 the Guardian had her landing at Fox News as an on-air contributor — a clean handoff, no complaint here. That is a different seat than the one we are discussing. I note it only because the record should show the bench was not empty; it was, at that point, simply unoccupied at the top.

The top went unoccupied for forty days. The Washington Examiner had Katie Zacharia set to give her first briefing on the morning of October 13, which she did, on camera, taking questions, and the blackout count the Hill had been running reset to zero. This is what a return to normal briefings looks like. Five days, start to finish. The clock Scaramucci quipped was running had, in fact, been running.

Which brings us to today, three weeks on. Ben Ferguson told Fox News his name "has been floated" for the podium. A floated name needs a floater, and

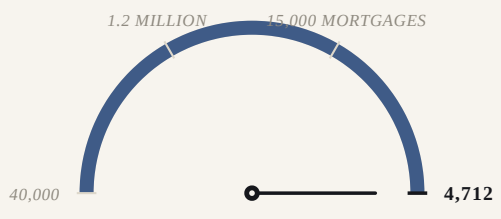
... Continued on Page A235

THE WORD

§89 — 11 NOVEMBER 2026

On the record

DEMOCRAT



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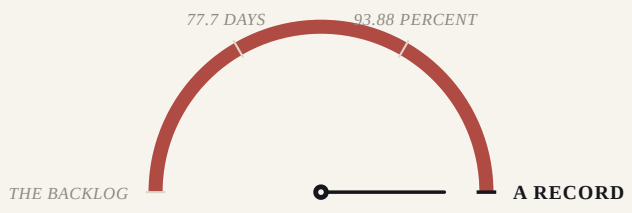
REPUBLICAN



A RECORD

"No demonstration today. I brought three pieces of paper. The department's: 3.11 million claims, a record, about 60 percent approved. The inspector general's: 4,712 severe shortages, up from 2,959 two years before, and I'll say what they said, those are what facility officials report, and the department says it's no measure of vacancies. NPR's: 63 percent of veterans who got a loan modification came out with a higher payment. For Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans, 2 percent. Sorry, one thing before you go. The claim gets decided in 77.7 days. Who is in the chair at the clinic on day 78?" — Lou

... Continued on Page W89

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE HOUSE IS A PARK

The house costs $15.5 million a year to run and $600 million this year to add a room; Congress voted on the first number.

... Continued on the Investigative Reporting page

Agency That Wouldn't Name the State of a Measles Death Faces a Count of Its Own

BY MORT
The Records Bureau

The thing being buried this week is not a person, and not yet a country's claim to have beaten the world's most contagious disease — only the plain, boring promise that a federal count would say where its subjects died. That promise ran from 2000, when the agency certified sustained measles transmission stopped, to September 1 of this year, when its weekly outbreak update began leaving two Lancaster County, Pennsylvania deaths off the table, filed as still under investigation. The county coroner had already signed one. The agency had not.

The gap held through October. On the 13th, Pennsylvania announced a sixth death in the outbreak. Four days later the agency dispatched what it calls a disease detective to the state, the kind of help an outbreak gets once it has outgrown a press release. None of it filled the blank line. The table kept its silence into the following week, the same silence a Guardian report asked the agency to explain on the 22nd.

On November 7, the matter left the weekly table for a bigger room: a three-day closed-door meeting with the Pan American Health Organization and

... Continued on Page H16

White House says the investigation that hasn't happened yet may be 'blatant criminality.'

BY MITCH
Investigations

Start a week earlier. On Nov. 4, after Democrats won back both chambers, Rep. Robert Garcia, the man set to run House Oversight, posted two words at President Trump and his allies: "Lawyer up." Common Dreams and the Washington Examiner both carried it that day. The Washington Examiner ran a second item the same day: Democrats were already advertising for investigators and oversight counsel, weeks before the new Congress is sworn in, let alone before a single hearing.

The White House's answer came in a letter from Will Scharf, the White House counsel, addressed to Garcia. The New York Post quotes it: the administration "will not be extorted and will not be cowed" by investigations Democrats have not yet opened. Note the grammar: the oversight committee is being warned about crimes it might commit by doing oversight.

All together now, clause by clause: The Hill, citing the letter Punchbowl News first reported Wednesday, quotes the sentence that does the real work — the probes "may cross the line into blatant criminality." Not a probe. Not opened. Might, someday, be a crime, to ask a question. The Hill adds the de-

... Continued on Page A235

Nvidia prices its CEO's affair at $500 million; he prices his answer at nothing.

BY RUTH
The Money Desk

Nvidia's stock cleared $227 a share on August 27th, an 8.5 percent gain on the day, after the company posted strong second-quarter earnings. That's the high point this ledger works from, hon. On October 29th, The New York Times reported that American intelligence agencies had found Alice Huang, an executive at Megaspeed, a company that buys AI chips, had funneled information to Beijing. Nvidia dismissed the report that same day, calling the allegations "thoroughly investigated and debunked last year."

On November 8th, chief executive Jensen Huang admitted the affair in an email to colleagues. A memo from Secretary of State Marco Rubio's office had flagged the woman as a suspected Chinese intelligence target months before the admission; the receipts give that gap no date, so it stays off the books. Nvidia's board announced an independent investigation that same day and later named its pick to run it. House Republicans called on Huang to brief Congress. The stock fell for two straight days, giving back close to $500 million of what it had added in August, and shareholders filed suit.

That's where the story stood Monday. The affair was not on the agenda.

... Continued on Page F140

"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 second winter, a man watched the pass. Salt came, and no cart brought it.

ENOCH · THE OWNERSHIP DESK

Agency That Wouldn't Name the State of a Measles Death Faces a Count of Its Own

By MORT
THE RECORDS BUREAU

"US faces loss of measles-free status amid expert review", 11 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA RTÉ — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. Global health reviewers meet this week to decide whether the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still meets the standard for eliminated measles.

WHO GETS PAID. The receipts name no buyer yet.

WHAT SLIPS. The public count that the certification depends on slips when the same agency that controls the case data also controls whether it gets published.

WHAT'S NEXT. The review panel is meeting this week behind closed doors; no public hearing date has been set, and the finding has not yet been announced.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

The thing being buried this week is not a person, and not yet a country's claim to have beaten the world's most contagious disease — only the plain, boring promise that a federal count would say where its subjects died. That promise ran from 2000, when the agency certified sustained measles transmission stopped, to September 1 of this year, when its weekly outbreak update began leaving two Lancaster County, Pennsylvania deaths off the table, filed as still under investigation. The county coroner had already signed one. The agency had not.

The gap held through October. On the 13th, Pennsylvania announced a sixth death in the outbreak. Four days later the agency dispatched what it calls a disease detective to the state, the kind of help an outbreak gets once it has outgrown a press release. None of it filled the blank line. The table kept its silence into the following week, the same silence a Guardian report asked the agency to explain on the 22nd....

...(cont) On November 7, the matter left the weekly table for a bigger room: a three-day closed-door meeting with the Pan American Health Organization and Mexico, called to evaluate both countries' elimination status against their own outbreaks. What is settled is the arithmetic underneath it: more than 5,400 cases nationally, the worst run since 1991, against a status this country has carried, unbroken, since the year it was first certified. Whippersnapper outbreaks come and go; a twenty-six-year streak does not get reviewed behind a closed door for nothing.

The reviewers will say what they say in the coming days. What already happened is smaller and harder to walk back: an agency that would not write down a county name spent two months being the only domestic source anyone had for whether the bigger number was real. That is not a technicality. That is the whole instrument. A status built on counting is only as good as the count, and this count has a hole in it the agency dug itself, on a date it can name.

In lieu of flowers, publish the county.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

The federal count carried a blank line where a county name belonged, and the agency left it blank from September straight through the week a foreign panel arrived to grade its own elimination status. A blank line in a government count isn't lost paperwork, it's a grade the agency gets to assign itself before anyone else grades it. That blank line travels home as the vaccination card the school nurse checks every August: the card still gets stamped, but the number it's supposed to stand for was decided behind a closed door, never printed in a table the parent could read.

"They spent twenty-six years bragging about a number, and the second the number got hard to defend they stopped publishing which state the deaths were in. Call it what it is: the agency grading its own homework turned in blank, and now a foreign panel is grading the blank anyway. Nobody's protecting a kid's school roster by hiding a county name — they're protecting a press release."
— Sal

"Look, "cause under investigation" is standard procedure — you don't slap a county name on a federal report before the pathology's confirmed, that's just good science, not a cover-up. And the elimination review has been on the PAHO calendar for a while now, this isn't some scramble over one bad month. I'm not saying 5,400 cases and a closed-door meeting landing the same week is nothing, I'm saying it's... did I say that? That's not what I meant."
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *OpenAI exec calls skipping chatbot health advice 'malpractice'; five weeks later a user who took it is dead* By Mitch · the morning edition, 4 November 2026
- *Agency that certified measles eliminated in 2000 is three deaths behind the states it's supposed to count* By Ruth · the evening edition, 3 November 2026
- *Dollar General pays $1.9 million to settle overcharging shoppers, sued four days later for the same thing.* By Ruth · the afternoon edition, 27 October 2026
- *ICE posts its highest custody death count in more than a decade; California's own report blames medical neglect.* By The Wrecking Crew · the afternoon edition, 26 October 2026
- *ICE deleted the reviews that could explain its deaths, then confirmed the 60th in custody.* By Mitch · the afternoon edition, 25 October 2026
- *A county coroner confirmed the measles death; the federal agency that certified measles eliminated in 2000 has called the cause under investigation since 1 September.* By The Wrecking Crew · the evening edition, 25 October 2026

THE RECEIPTS

But: The US declared measles eliminated in 2000. The last two years carry more cases than the rest of the century combined - the worst count since 1991 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

US faces loss of measles-free status amid expert review

RTÉ MAINSTREAM § *06:53 EST*

Global health experts will determine in the coming days whether the United States has lost its official measles-free status, a public health achievement it has held since 2000.

~~US could lose measles-free status soon, as RFK Jr's pushes anti-vaccine agenda~~

The US risks losing measles-free status: two years, more cases than the previous 25 combined

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *08:00 EST*

Country is in the middle of worst measles outbreak since 1991, with more than 5,400 cases nationally The United States could lose its measles elimination status this week, an event likely to cement health secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr's legacy of meddling in vaccine policies amid the worst outbreak of the virus in the US in 35 years. If...

But: The last two years carry more measles cases than the rest of the century combined - the worst count since 1991 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

US to lose crucial public health status — decades after eliminating 'world's most contagious disease'

New York Post RIGHT § *11:27 EST*

It's been a slow-motion train wreck.

But: The US declared measles eliminated in 2000; the last two years have more cases than the rest of the century combined - the worst count since 1991 *The Hill / CDC measles data, July 2026*

US measles status to go up for review

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *19:56 EST*

Presented by AstraZeneca {beacon} Healthcare Healthcare The Big Story US measles status to go up for review The U.S. and Mexico will meet with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for a three-day closed door meeting next week to evaluate their respective measles elimination statuses in light of ongoing outbreaks. © Jessie...

· Experts alarmed by 'less transparent' CDC as US measles deaths rise *from the morgue, 22 Oct 2026*

· CDC to send 'disease detective' to help tackle Pennsylvania measles outbreak *from the morgue, 17 Oct 2026*

· CDC omits Pennsylvania measles deaths from weekly update pending review *from the morgue, 1 Sep 2026*

· Pennsylvania announces sixth death in measles outbreak as case numbers rise *from the morgue, 13 Oct 2026*

· "Secretary of Measlesland": Dr. Paul Offit Slams RFK Jr.'s Handling of Deadly Measles Outbreak *from the morgue, 23 Sep 2026*

· ABC News Issues Correction After Appearing To Quietly Delete Story About Don Jr's Business Dealings *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· ABC News quietly republishes gutted version of story on Trump sons it had deleted without explanation *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

· GOP senator calls for subpoenaing Donald Trump Jr. and Hunter Biden over their business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Republican senator calls for Don Jr. and Hunter Biden to be subpoenaed over business dealings *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· GOP Sen. John Curtis calls for Trump Jr., Hunter Biden investigations *from the morgue, 22 Sep 2026*

· Is Trump's son-in-law and top negotiator a midterm liability for Republicans? *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Companies Backed by Trump Sons Have Scored Over $6 Billion in Pentagon Contracts: Analysis *from the morgue, 7 Oct 2026*

· Coalition Files Emergency Motion to Stop Trump FCC From Unleashing Media Consolidation Spree *from the morgue, 10 Oct 2026*

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

· 'Dangerous for Democracy': Paramount Merger Opponents File Emergency Motion to Fight Settlement Deal *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· Trump-Appointed Judge Orders President to Restore White House Access to CNN, MS NOW, and Politico *from the morgue, 24 Sep 2026*

· 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*

· 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*

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 LETTER

White House says the investigation that hasn't happened yet may be 'blatant criminality.'

By MITCH
INVESTIGATIONS

“Incoming House Oversight Chair Has Two Words for 'Trump Crime Family' and Their Allies: 'Lawyer Up”, 4 November 2026
(PHOTO VIA COMMON DREAMS — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

■ THE SHORT VERSION
typed by Dot

WHAT HAPPENED. White House Counsel Will Scharf warned the incoming Oversight chair his investigations could be criminal, before any subpoena issued.

WHO GETS PAID. Contractors who donated to Trump's construction projects keep those donations out of any committee's review.

WHAT SLIPS. The House Oversight Committee's subpoena power over the executive branch is being threatened before it is ever used.

WHAT'S NEXT. If the committee issues its first subpoena after the new Congress is sworn in in January, the test is whether the administration follows through on calling that subpoena itself a crime.

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Start a week earlier. On Nov. 4, after Democrats won back both chambers, Rep. Robert Garcia, the man set to run House Oversight, posted two words at President Trump and his allies: "Lawyer up." Common Dreams and the Washington Examiner both carried it that day. The Washington Examiner ran a second item the same day: Democrats were already advertising for investigators and oversight counsel, weeks before the new Congress is sworn in, let alone before a single hearing.

The White House's answer came in a letter from Will Scharf, the White House counsel, addressed to Garcia. The New York Post quotes it: the administration "will not be extorted and will not be cowed" by investigations Democrats have not yet opened. Note the grammar: the oversight committee is being warned about crimes it might commit by doing oversight....

...(cont) All together now, clause by clause: The Hill, citing the letter Punchbowl News first reported Wednesday, quotes the sentence that does the real work — the probes "may cross the line into blatant criminality." Not a probe. Not opened. Might, someday, be a crime, to ask a question. The Hill adds the detail that belongs above the fold everywhere: the White House floated that it may investigate the investigators. ABC News confirms the letter, the author, and the warning — that threats of oversight could themselves be criminally probed.

All together now, once more: this is a legal threat mailed to a subpoena power that has not been used yet, over an investigation nobody had named the target of. Except somebody has. The New York Times reports Rep. Jim Himes, who will chair House Intelligence, plans to scrutinize the CIA's use of covert action, and contractor donations to Trump's construction projects.

The committee has not printed a subpoena. The White House has already printed the legal theory for ignoring one.

❦ FROM THE CORNER ❦

DUTCH

THE WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL TOLD THE INCOMING OVERSIGHT CHAIRMAN THAT HIS committee's investigations could themselves be crimes, in a letter sent before the committee has issued a single subpoena. That isn't a warning about overreach, it's the referral system turned upside down — the people who sign the contracts getting first say over who's allowed to look at them. Because the oversight hearing that doesn't happen can't find the contractor's donation, the construction contract stays signed, and the bill for it lands, every April, with your name printed on top.

“They're mailing legal threats to a committee that hasn't printed its first subpoena yet — that's not a warning, that's a white flag with a law degree. Read the money: the thing they're racing to head off is contractor donations funding the man's own construction projects. You don't threaten prosecution over a hearing that's going to find nothing; you threaten it over a hearing that's going to find something.”
— Sal

“Nobody's against oversight — the White House is simply asking Democrats not to weaponize subpoenas to harass career staff, which is just good governance. The letter also happens to say the investigations themselves could be criminal, which, okay, isn't exactly "we welcome scrutiny" — did I say that? Let's just say it's about process, not about anybody's construction contracts.”
— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Trump's new chief of staff is defended by branding his own deportation record misinformation.* By Chip · the evening edition, 11 November 2026
- *Trump says his deportation policy was too tough, then makes his longtime immigration adviser chief of staff.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 9 November 2026
- *'Zero chance' promise dies at three weeks; chief of staff's wife leaves the air three days later.* By Mort · the morning edition, 9 November 2026
- *Pundit says new chief of staff will thrive against hostile media his office is already sued for banning.* By Mort · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
- *Trump promotes aide Jeffries will refuse to work with four days into Democrats having the power to refuse* By Chip · the afternoon edition, 8 November 2026
- *Three weeks after saying there was "zero chance" he would remove his chief of staff, Trump gave the job to the aide who pledged "total devotion."* By Chip · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

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)*

Incoming House Oversight Chair Has Two Words for 'Trump Crime Family' and Their Allies: 'Lawyer Up'

Common Dreams § *12:10 EST*

After Democrats took back both chambers of the US Congress Tuesday, Rep. Robert Garcia, the incoming Democratic chair of the House Oversight Committee, had two words for President Donald Trump and his family: “Lawyer up.” With solid majorities in the House and Senate, Democrats will have much greater power to conduct hearings, demand...

~~Top WH lawyer warns Democrats that threats of oversight could be criminally probed~~

White House counsel threatens Democrats with criminal probes over oversight

ABC News MAINSTREAM § *09:12 EST*

The warning came in a Monday letter from White House counsel Will Scharf.

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)*

Democrats move quickly to hire investigators after blue wave ‘lawyer up’ warning

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *17:37 EST*

Democrats have already begun seeking investigators and oversight counsel for congressional committees following a major election night sweep, as the party has promised to wield oversight power to target what they view as corruption in the Trump administration. House oversight committee ranking member Robert Garcia (D-CA) sent out a...

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)*

White House warns House Democrats not to harass staff with oversight investigations

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *09:45 EST*

The White House is warning House Democrats not to get personal as they prepare for new investigations in the majority come January. The Office of the White House Counsel wrote to Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA) this week, cautioning him that investigations may cross into criminal activity if they’re used to intimidate or obstruct officials...

But: The DOJ disbanded its crypto enforcement team and ordered inconsistent investigations closed, while the president's family runs a crypto business *CNBC, 8 April 2025 (Blanche memo)*

Top House Oversight Democrat tells Trump to ‘LAWYER UP’

Washington Examiner RIGHT § *23:33 EST*

House oversight committee ranking member Robert Garcia (D-CA) warned President Donald Trump to prepare for an onslaught of investigations as Democrats, in turn, prepare to take control of the House. “LAWYER UP,” Garcia posted on X.

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)*

White House blasts Democrats planning probes of Trump admin: ‘Will not be extorted and will not be cowed’

New York Post RIGHT § *09:49 EST*

White House Counsel Will Scharf warned Rep. Robert Garcia that the administration "will not be extorted" by planned House Democratic probes.

~~Incoming House Intelligence Chairman Vows Oversight of CIA’s Use of Covert Action~~

Incoming intelligence chair to probe contractor cash flowing into Trump's construction projects

The New York Times MAINSTREAM § *10:27 EST*

Representative Jim Himes, who will run the powerful intelligence committee in the new Congress, said he also planned to scrutinize contractor donations to President Trump’s construction projects.

~~White House asserts Democratic investigations could 'cross the line into blatant criminality'~~

White House threatens to investigate the Democrats investigating it

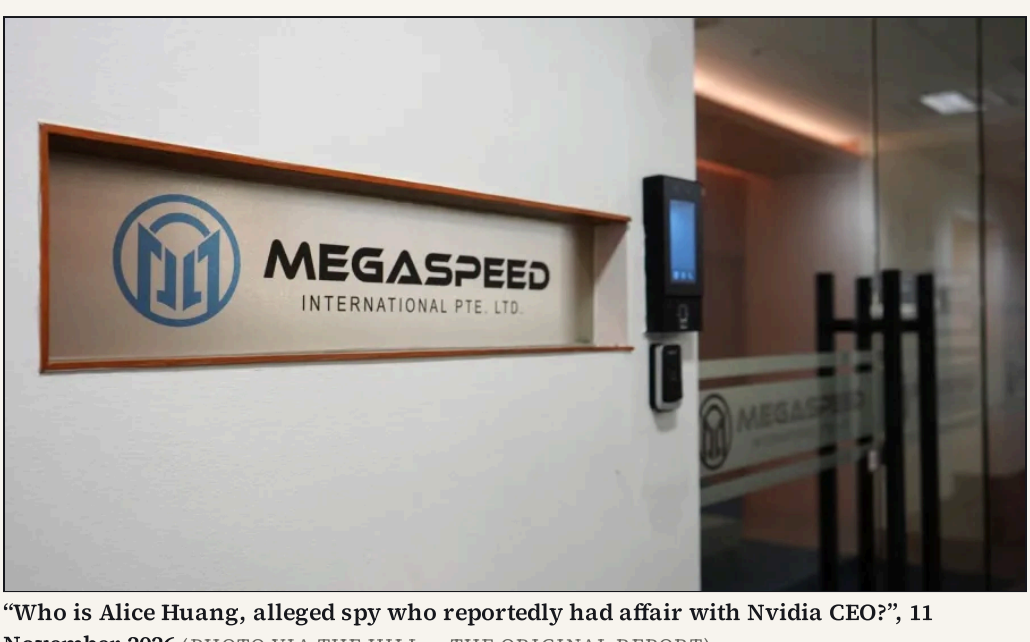
The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:39 EST*

The White House floated that it may seek to investigate the investigators in the incoming Congress, writing in a letter to Democrats on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that their probes “may cross the line into blatant criminality.” The Monday letter, first reported by Punchbowl News on Wednesday, showcases the Trump...

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.

Nvidia prices its CEO's affair at $500 million; he prices his answer at nothing.

By RUTH
THE MONEY DESK



"Who is Alice Huang, alleged spy who reportedly had affair with Nvidia CEO?", 11 November 2026 (PHOTO VIA THE HILL — THE ORIGINAL REPORT)

AS IT RAN ON THE FRONT

Nvidia's stock cleared $227 a share on August 27th, an 8.5 percent gain on the day, after the company posted strong second-quarter earnings. That's the high point this ledger works from, hon. On October 29th, The New York Times reported that American intelligence agencies had found Alice Huang, an executive at Megaspeed, a company that buys AI chips, had funneled information to Beijing. Nvidia dismissed the report that same day, calling the allegations "thoroughly investigated and debunked last year."

On November 8th, chief executive Jensen Huang admitted the affair in an email to colleagues. A memo from Secretary of State Marco Rubio's office had flagged the woman as a suspected Chinese intelligence target months before the admission; the receipts give that gap no date, so it stays off the books. Nvidia's board announced an independent investigation that same day and later named its pick to run it. House Republicans called on Huang to brief Congress. The stock fell for two straight days, giving back close to $500 million of what it had added in August, and shareholders filed suit....

...(cont) That's where the story stood Monday. The affair was not on the agenda.

The Hill ran a profile naming Alice Huang: a Chinese businesswoman, an executive at Megaspeed, now the subject of the espionage allegations tied to her relationship with Huang. NBC interviewed Nicholas Eftimiades, a retired senior intelligence officer and the author of a book on Chinese espionage operations, about the methods Beijing's intelligence services use to work their way into American companies and universities. That interview ran the same week Nvidia's board was still deciding who should investigate its own chief executive for exactly that.

By Wednesday, CBS reported that investors and lawmakers were still demanding answers from Huang, and that the company's market value had kept falling. Two days of this have cost the market close to $500 million. Huang has priced his own account of it at nothing: no briefing to Congress yet, no answer to the board's investigator, no agenda item on a Tuesday morning. The market moved. He didn't.

"Company drops roughly half a billion in two days over this, and the guy who caused it walks in Tuesday and runs the regular meeting, same as any other week. Senate Republicans say they lost their breath, the board hired its own investigator, and Huang still hasn't answered the one question that actually matters: how long did Washington know before he said a word."

— Sal

"Look, the man disclosed this voluntarily, in an email, to his own colleagues — that's accountability, that's leadership in real time. Nvidia already looked into these spy allegations once and called them debunked, so this is a personnel matter, not a national security one. Did I just call a four-and-a-half-trillion-dollar company's intelligence problem a personnel matter? ...that doesn't sound like me."

— Chip

EARLIER IN THIS STORY

- *Nvidia prices its CEO's spy-affair scandal at $500 million, with two-day delivery.* By Ruth · the evening edition, 11 November 2026
- *The $2.1 billion Patriot sale Washington approved Friday is funded entirely by U.S. partners and allies, after Ukraine spent nearly a month waiting for Hegseth's signature.* By Mort · the evening edition, 8 November 2026

THE RECEIPTS

Who is Alice Huang, alleged spy who reportedly had affair with Nvidia CEO?

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *09:28 EST*

Chinese businesswoman Alice Huang has entered the spotlight in the recent days following reports of her intimate relationship with Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and allegations of her being a spy. A recent New York Times report claimed that American authorities discovered Alice Huang illegally smuggled advanced AI chips into China while...

Chinese espionage expert discusses Nvidia CEO investigation

NBC News MAINSTREAM § *08:32 EST*

Nicholas Eftimiades, a retired senior intelligence officer and author of the book "Chinese Espionage Operations and Tactics," talks about the methods Chinese spies use to infiltrate American companies and academic institutions and their motives for doing it.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang tries to act 'business as usual' in office return after 'China spy' affair bombshell: report

New York Post RIGHT § *10:04 EST*

Just a day after revealing his affair in an email to colleagues, Huang walked into Nvidia's headquarters and led his regular morning meeting, according to a report.

Nvidia opens investigation after report CEO Jensen Huang was target of foreign intelligence

The Guardian MAINSTREAM § *19:25 EST*

CEO reportedly had close relationship with a Chinese businesswoman who passed information to Beijing Nvidia said on Sunday it "is initiating an independent investigation in light of recent reporting that founder and CEO Jensen Huang has been the target of a foreign intelligence effort". The New York Times reported in October that...

Investors, lawmakers demand answers from Nvidia's Jensen Huang over affair with alleged Chinese spy

CBS News MAINSTREAM § *08:23 EST*

Investors and lawmakers are demanding answers from Nvidia's Jensen Huang over his affair with an alleged Chinese spy. Meanwhile, the tech giant's market valued has plummeted in recent days. Jo Ling Kent reports.

Nvidia investigates reports of CEO's relationship with alleged Chinese spy

The Hill MAINSTREAM § *16:51 EST*

Nvidia's board of directors announced it would be opening an investigation into its CEO, Jensen Huang, following reports alleging he had an intimate relationship with a woman U.S. intelligence officials believe was spying for China. "The NVIDIA Board is initiating an independent investigation in light of recent reporting that founder and...

· Nvidia dismisses report alleging Chinese executive tied to CEO passed intel to Beijing *from the morgue, 29 Oct 2026*

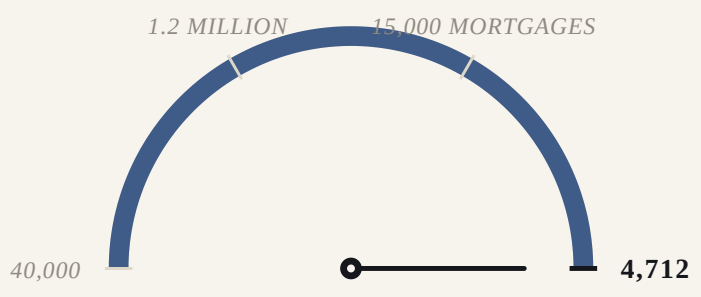
This page is a back-issue: the story as it ran, receipts as they were. The current edition is at the front. The byline is a pen name for a column drafted by a machine and checked by the editor: how this is made.

§89 — 11 NOVEMBER 2026

On the record

BY LOU
The Word

DEMOCRAT



4,712

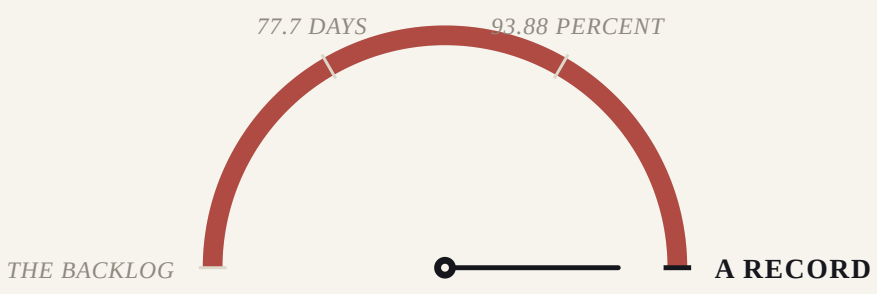
The other ledger. A Senate Democratic report counted more than 40,000 employees gone from the VA in fiscal 2025, 88 percent of them from health care, including 1,000 physicians and 3,000 registered nurses; the net loss was closer to the secretary's goal of 30,000 [1]. The report estimates that 1.2 million veteran patients have lost their VA provider, and that requests for a second look at claims rose 44 percent [2].

In September the inspector general reported 4,712 severe occupational staffing shortages, up from 2,959 in fiscal 2024 [3]. The watchdog says these reflect officials' perceptions, not verified vacancies; the department calls the report unreliable and cites vacancy rates of 15 percent for doctors and 9 percent for nurses [4]. The VA ended its mortgage rescue on May 1, 2025, and more than 15,000 veterans have since seen a modified payment rise at least $150 a month; the department says that program put the whole home loan system at risk [5]. All 139 facilities reported shortages [4]. Those are the buildings the country sends them to.

SOURCES

1. More than 40,000 employees lost in fiscal 2025; 88 percent from the Veterans Health Administration; 3,000 registered nurses and 1,000 physicians; net loss closer to the goal of 30,000 — Government Executive, 22 January 2026 ↑
2. 1.2 million veteran patients estimated to have lost their VA provider; requests for a second look at claims up 44 percent — Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, ranking member's report, 22 January 2026 ↑
3. 4,712 severe staffing shortages in fiscal 2026 against 2,959 in fiscal 2024 — Military Times, 15 September 2026 ↑
4. All 139 facilities reported shortages; findings reflect officials' perceptions, not verified vacancies; the department's reply and its 15 and 9 percent vacancy rates — Government Executive, 16 September 2026 ↑
5. VASP ended 1 May 2025; more than 15,000 veterans saw modified payments rise at least $150 a month; 63 percent against 2 percent for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; the department's reply — NPR via KUOW, 30 October 2026 ↑

REPUBLICAN



A RECORD

The day belongs to the people who served, so the department's numbers go first, and they are good ones. In fiscal 2026 the VA processed 3,111,399 disability claims, past the 3,000,734 it set the year before, and about 60 percent were approved [1]. In July the backlog, claims pending more than 125 days, fell below 70,000 for the first time since February 2020, down more than 74 percent since January 2025, and the average claim took 77.7 days [2].

The department reports 93.88 percent accuracy, its highest in three years, and plans to add more than 2,000 processors in fiscal 2027 to the 13,000 it has [3]. "VA is putting veterans first by making major improvements in claims processing volume, speed and accuracy," Secretary Doug Collins said [3]. A faster answer is a debt being paid, and today is the day to say so. About 5.5 million veterans received service-connected disability benefits as of 2024 [3].

SOURCES

1. 3,111,399 disability claims in fiscal 2026 against the prior record of 3,000,734; about 60 percent approved — Stars and Stripes, 16 October 2026 ↑
2. Backlog below 70,000 for the first time since February 2020, cut by over 74 percent since 20 January 2025; backlogged means pending more than 125 days; 77.7-day average — American Legion, 8 July 2026 ↑
3. More than 2,000 hires planned for fiscal 2027 on top of 13,000 claims employees; 93.88 percent accuracy; about 5.5 million veterans receiving benefits as of 2024; the Collins quotation — Military.com, 30 October 2026 ↑

"No demonstration today. I brought three pieces of paper. The department's: 3.11 million claims, a record, about 60 percent approved. The inspector general's: 4,712 severe shortages, up from 2,959 two years before, and I'll say what they said, those are what facility officials report, and the department says it's no measure of vacancies. NPR's: 63 percent of veterans who got a loan modification came out with a higher payment. For Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans, 2 percent. Sorry, one thing before you go. The claim gets decided in 77.7 days. Who is in the chair at the clinic on day 78?" — Lou

"Veterans Day. I'm putting the act down. One word, and I'll read it straight: record. The department set one, three point one one million claims, and that's money reaching people who earned it, so say so. Then read the other record. Thirty to forty thousand employees gone in a year, depending who's counting. Four thousand seven hundred twelve severe shortages, reported from all hundred thirty-nine facilities. Fifteen thousand veterans with a mortgage payment up at least a hundred fifty a month. A parade is one day. A nurse is a payroll line, every day. That's where you find out what the holiday means."

— Sal

"The department would point out that its claims numbers are real and that it puts its vacancy rates below most other health systems, and on this one day I will leave its case at that, beside the rest of the record."

— Chip

The Word today — 👍 👎