

The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly by Tim Forward
for
The Riverdale Senior Services Center
Bronx, NY



China introduces the first nationwide subsidy aimed at boosting birth rates.

Current events

1.

Eighty years ago last Wednesday, on August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber named the “Enola Gay” took off from Tinian Island, in the Northern Mariana Islands, for a mission that its flight crew knew would make history

2.

The Texas House of Representatives remains at a standstill after Democrats fled from the state to prevent a vote on a bill to redraw Texas's congressional maps.

3.

Private real estate listings ignite fight over how US homes are sold.

The nation’s number one brokerage firm, Compass, is pushing for sellers to market houses exclusively. Rivals and digital giant Zillow are striking back.

4.

The US services sector effectively stagnated in July as firms, faced with tepid demand and rising costs, reduced headcount.

The Institute for Supply Management’s index of services declined last month to 50.1, below all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists. Readings above 50 indicate expansion.

5.

Jessica Sarah Tisch was born February 21, 1981. She is now serving as the 48th New York City Police Commissioner.

Previously, from 2022 to 2024 Ms. Tish served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, prior to that from 2019 to 2022 she served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications, and from 2014 to 2019 as Deputy Commissioner for Information Technology at the New York City Police Department.

6.

A new bill pushed by the New York City Council’s Progressive Caucus aims to ban vehicles from parking within 20 feet of crosswalks at all intersections in the city, a practice known as “daylighting.”

Supporters say the move will save lives by improving visibility for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. Critics say it’s a costly overreach that will gut 10-percent of the city’s free parking supply.

7.

Parents in China are being offered 3,600 yuan (£375; \$500) a year for each of their children under the age of three in the government's first nationwide subsidy aimed at boosting birth rates.

8.

As part of the settlements struck with two Ivy League universities in recent weeks, the Trump administration will gain access to the standardized test scores and grade point averages of all applicants, including information about their race, a measure that could alter competitive college admissions.

9.

Is the spate of executive orders suppressing academic freedom at universities in the US? Swiss political scientist and US expert Claudia Brühwiler explains to what extent universities themselves have contributed to recent campus restrictions to speech and curricula.

10.

The prospect of sanctions and tariffs on Russia and those who do business with it doesn’t appear to frighten the Russian elite. Most members simply don’t believe it will happen. Any real restrictions, they argue, would lead to spike in global oil prices. and increase gasoline prices in the United States. Political blowback in the US would be significant. In the Kremlins’ view the United States would never risk any sanctions that would have consequences with in the US electorate.

11.

In an attempt to disadvantage Switzerland for a \$40 billion trade deficit with the United States, the US Department of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has ruled that gold bullion imports from Switzerland, specifically one-kilogram and 100-ounce bars, are now also subject to a 39% tariff on Swiss goods.

This change has created uncertainty in the global gold market. Previously, gold bullion had been exempt from tariffs. The CBP has clarified that these specific types of gold bars fall under tariff-subject customs codes.

Three-quarters of the \$40 billion Swiss trade deficit with the US is due to imported gold bullion and bars refined in Swiss foundries. This decision will have significant implications for the flow of gold and global

gold trade. Switzerland is a major world gold refining and trading center.

The 39% tariff imposition is still evolving between Switzerland and the United States. Some market participants believe the CBP ruling may be subject to change and legal challenges.

12.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz issued a press release about his change of course on the afternoon of August 9th. Chancellor Merz unexpectedly announced an export ban on certain military equipment to Israel. Many in his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) feel caught off guard. Their coalition partner the Christian Socialist Union (CSU) is also outraged.

13.

The US President announced he will receive his Russian counterpart next Friday, August 15th, in Alaska. Ukraine’s President Zelensky rejected any suggestion that his country would have to cede territory to Russia.

14.

Historian Rick Atkinson's books are thick and full of detail—and read like literature. The former war correspondent is currently being celebrated for a new work on the origins of the United States

Word of the week

blessed

/blest/

adjective

adjective: blessed

1. made holy; consecrated.

"the Blessed Sacrament"

2. a title preceding the name of a dead person considered to have led a holy life, a person formally beatified by the Roman Catholic Church.

3. used respectfully in reference to a dead person.

"a gracious lady of blessed memory"

4. endowed with divine favor and protection.

"blessed are the meek"

5. bringing pleasure or relief as a welcome contrast to what one has previously experienced.

"he half stumbled out of the room up to his bed and blessed, blessed sleep"

6. informal used in mild expressions of annoyance or exasperation.

"there wasn't a blessed thing anybody could have done"

noun

plural noun: Blessed

1. those who live with God in heaven.

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This paper is offered as a review of recent topics taken up by the current events discussion group at Riverdale Senior Services Center.

Please join us at the Center for Ageless Living, 2600 Netherland Avenue, Bronx, NY each Monday at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon for Current Events with Tim.