

The Forward Eagle

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

August 18, 2025

Vol III Number 30

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Current events

1.

Prior to the US and Russia meeting in Alaska last week, European allies insisted that:

- A cease-fire be agreed to between Russia and Ukraine;
- All territorial exchanges be reciprocal based on current front line positions;
- Long-term security guarantees be adopted for the sovereignty of the Ukraine.

2.

Earlier this month when job market data didn't support the administration's political ends, Erika McEntarfer, the Commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), promptly lost her job. Many fear that the politicization of economic data by the government will endanger the global economy.

3.

In the case of V.O.S. Selections vs. The United States, defense lawyers urged the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. to uphold the current administration's global tariffs or risk "financial ruin" for the nation. They warned that the US could suffer an economic depression if the court were to force the federal government to refund billions of dollars in tariffs already collected this year.

A 1977 law empowers the president to impose temporary trade embargoes in response to an "economic emergency." In the absence of such an emergency, lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that the administration has levied tariffs without authorization from congress.

4.

New York state's cumulative three-year budget gap has swelled to \$34 billion, a 25% increase from Governor Kathy Hochul's January estimate, said state comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

5.

New York City has close to one million rent-stabilized apartments. Each year the city's Rent Guidelines Board determines the rent increases for rent-stabilized apartments. Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani has said that if elected he will freeze the rents on all rent-stabilized units.

6.

More NYC housing statistics:

- Total Housing Units: Over 3.7 million
- Renter-occupied Units: 2.2 million
- NYCHA Public Housing Units: 175,000
- Rent-Stabilized Units: 960,600
- Rent-Controlled Units: 24,020

7.

The physical damage in the Gaza Strip has been assessed by both what has been destroyed and by the rubble that remains. Visual inspection of building outlines in satellite images by UNOSAT, a UN agency, identified damage to more than 190,000 buildings, roughly 70% of Gaza's pre-war structures of all types. Of these, some 102,000 appear to have been completely destroyed. The World Bank reckons that 300,000 homes there no longer exist.

8.

When the Supreme Court returns to considering petitions this fall, one awaits them to consider the matter of Jeffrey Epstein.

The petition pending their attention is from Ghislaine Maxwell. She was famously convicted in New York, in 2021, of enabling Epstein to sexually



Front page headline from a recent Wall Street Journal.
Readers ask, why does so much news have so little import?

abuse underage girls. Maxwell was sentenced to twenty years in prison.

Ms. Maxwell maintains that an earlier federal non-prosecution agreement in Florida with Jeffrey Epstein has given her immunity, and the New York district court must vacate her conviction.

9.

Tariffs fuel inflation. Prices of imported goods such as home appliances, cars and food are creeping up. When prices rise, consumption falls. In the first half of 2025, consumer spending (The Personal Consumption Expenditures or PCE) was flat..

So far in 2025 GDP growth fell to 1.2% from 2.5% in the same period of 2024. When consumption falls, production and labor tend to follow.

Job growth, between May and July was low. At an average of 35,000 new hires per month, new jobs are close to stalling.

10.

Finland's capitol Helsinki has completed a whole year, between July 2024 and July 2025, without a single traffic death.

Analysts compared Helsinki to Washington, D.C., a city with roughly the same population of 700,000. In D.C. 52 people died in traffic in 2024.

In the 1980s, Helsinki typically had around 1,000 injury-causing car accidents each year, and 20 to 30 traffic fatalities. The city has been working for decades to make its streets safer.

11.

The investment rating of the \$17.1 billion debt owed on bonds issued by the NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority was boosted one notch from "A-" to "A" by S&P Global Ratings. The change is due in part to the MTA's successful implementation of congestion pricing in mid- and lower- Manhattan.

12.

Weather patterns get their name primarily from their shape and color in the sky. When the pattern takes the shape of long, narrow bands of water vapor traversing the sky, a few hundred miles wide and stretching for thousands of miles across the globe's oceans, they are called "atmospheric rivers."

Atmospheric rivers sometimes span an entire ocean, and can carry an enormous amount of water. One study recorded atmospheric rivers delivering as much as 26 cubic kilometers (6.2

cubic miles) per day, about 15 times the amount of water the Mississippi River dumps into the Gulf of Mexico every day.

Word of the week

boondoggle

/ˈboʊnˌdæg(ə)l/

Informal
North American
noun

noun: boondoggle; plural noun: boondoggles

1. work or activity that is wasteful or pointless but gives the appearance of having value. "writing off the cold fusion phenomenon as a boondoggle best buried in literature"

2. a public project of questionable merit that typically involves political patronage and graft. "they each drew \$600,000 in the final months of the great boondoggle"

verb

3rd person present: boondoggles; past tense: boondoggled; past participle: boondoggled; gerund or present participle: boondoggling

1. waste money or time on unnecessary or questionable projects.

"the only guarantees are higher taxes and bureaucratic boondoggling"

2. Craft Activity: In its original sense, a boondoggle was a decorative braided cord, often made of leather or plastic, used by Boy Scouts as a neckerchief slide, hatband, or other adornment.

The Forward Eagle

is published weekly by the Column Press Co., NYC.
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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.

News items in this week's Eagle were collected and edited from the following sources:

1. Aljazeera 8/17/25 | 2. BBC 8/2/75 | 3. NYT Op-ed 8/10/25 | 4. Office of the New York State Comptroller.com | 5. Business.Columbia.edu 07/29/25 | 6. Office of the New York State Comptroller.com | 7. The Economist 8/6/25 | 8. The New Yorker 8/14/25 | 9. NYT Op-ed 8/10/25 | 10. Bloomberg/Impact 8/12/25 | 11. Bloomberg 2/12/25 | 12. Bloomberg 8/12/25