

The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly

for

The Riverdale Senior Services Center
Bronx, NY

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

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Page 1 of 1

Current events

1.

For a 79-year old, he’s often shown a great deal of energy, but he seemed a bit sapped on Tuesday. As his remarks went on and on, his voice took on a more monotonous quality. A day earlier, when he spoke at the White House while standing beside Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Trump sounded out of breath at times.

2.

More than 1,000 renters across five states living in affordable apartment buildings, owned by the single private equity firm, are launching a first-of-its kind tenants union.

The residents of complexes owned by Capital Realty Group, one of the country’s largest affordable housing owners, are hoping that tenant unions can help secure agreements to address mold, pests and repairs, and not just for the occupants of a single building, but for renters in apartments across the owner’s portfolio.

3.

Records show that United States Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem expedited more than \$11 million of federal money to rebuild a historic pier in Naples, Florida, after she was contacted by a major financial supporter last month. The pier is a tourist attraction in the wealthy Gulf Coast enclave and was badly damaged by Hurricane Ian in 2022.

City officials there had been laboring, without success, to get federal disaster assistance. Two weeks after the donor stepped in, they were celebrating their sudden change of fortune. “We are now at warp speed with FEMA,” one city official wrote in an email. A FEMA representative wrote: “Per leadership instruction, pushing project immediately.”

Along with fast-tracking the money, Noem flew to Naples to tour the pier herself. She then stayed for the weekend and had dinner with the donor, local cardiologist Sinan Gursoy.

This account is based on text messages and emails obtained by ProPublica through public records requests.

4.

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) is changing its interpretation of its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. Congress created the DBE program in 1982 to ensure contracting opportunities for small businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals on federally funded projects.

Congress mandated that recipients of federal grants set aside a share of funds to be designated for minority- and woman-owned firms. A newly drafted proposed rule would remove the presumption that minority and women groups are disadvantaged and entitled to any special treatment.

New York State, like many states and cities across the US, followed suit and mandated similar initiatives in support of minority- and women-owned businesses when awarding state and municipal contracts.

In the 2024 fiscal year, \$2.8 billion or one-third of eligible New York state contracts were allocated to minority- or women-owned business enterprises, known as MWBEs, according to state data. These were in addition to requirements for federally-funded projects.

5.

In Mexico City, at a clinic in the upscale neighborhood of Polanco, infertile couples, most of whom live far away and can’t afford in vitro fertilization (IVF), are getting automated IVF care free in exchange for putting their bodies, and their hopes for a family, in the robotic hands of an experimental system called Aura.

More than 13 million babies have been born using IVF since its inception in the late 1970s. Still it remains a highly manual, and therefore expensive, process. With the help of high-powered microscopes, medical specialists move from station to station in a lab and hand pick tiny egg follicles from ovarian fluids and selecting healthy sperms swimming in a petri dish. With a needlelike pipette, they push the sperm into the center of an egg many times smaller than a grain of rice.

The process, known as intracytoplasmic sperm injection or ICSI, is notoriously delicate; too much force can damage the biological material. This is one reason IVF, in the best cases, works only about half the time.

Yet quietly, over the past three years, babies have been conceived, and at least 20 babies have been born, through clinical trials of the Aura system that involve automation with almost no human intervention.

6.

As an untrained young woman in the summer of 1960, Jane Goodall first ventured into the forests of what is now Gombe National Park near Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania to study chimpanzees. She had little more than a notebook, a pair of binoculars and almost infinite patience. For the first five months, the wary creatures evaded her. No one before her had ever observed the chimps at such close hand.

At the age of 91, Jane Goodall died of natural causes on October 1, 2025, in Los Angeles, California, while on a speaking tour in the United States. The Jane Goodall Institute, founded by Dr. Goodall, confirmed her passing.



JANE GOODALL
(1934 - 2025)

Word of the week

woke

/wɒk/

verb

1. Past tense of wake.

adjective

woke: comparative adjective: worker; superlative adjective: woks

1. often derogatory
2. alert to and concerned about social injustice and discrimination

"he's an activist and very woke"

wake

verb

past tense: woke

1. emerge or cause to emerge from a state of sleep; stop sleeping

"she woke up feeling better"

2. become alert to or aware of

"he needs to wake up to reality"

Note: The term ‘woke’ originated in African American Vernacular English (AAVE) and has its roots in the 20th century, where it referred to being aware of racial injustice. Its meaning evolved over time, becoming more associated with broader social issues and, most recently, being used as a pejorative term.

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This paper is offered as a review of recent topics taken up by the current events discussion group at The 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 & Discussion

Items in this week’s Eagle were collected and edited from:

1. NYT 10/2/25 | 2. Bloomberg CityLab 09/22/25 | 3. ProPublica 9/26/25 | 4. (Blm. CityLab 10/1/25) | 5. Washington Post 10/1/25 | 6. WSJ 10/2/25