

# The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly  
for  
The Riverdale Senior Services Center  
Bronx, NY

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

November 24, 2025

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## Current events

1.

Democrats emerged from a 43-day government shutdown with a promise from Republicans that the Senate would vote in December on legislation to extend subsidies for the Affordable Care Act. Democrats are desperate to preserve these subsidies before they expire at the end of the year.

Republican votes will be necessary to pass the subsidy extension bill. However, a deep divide between the two parties over abortion threatens Democratic hopes for success.

Some Republicans now insist that any extension of the ACA subsidies must include additional restrictions on abortion insurance coverage for plans with government subsidies.

2.

Rep. Nydia Velázquez announced that she will not seek re-election in 2026, marking the end of an historic 16-term career in Congress.

Since 1993 Ms. Velázquez represented New York's 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes parts of Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. Neighborhoods with the familiar names of Bushwick, Greenpoint, Sunnyside, and Long Island City are in the 7<sup>th</sup> district.

Velázquez was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to Congress, and became a key figure in New York City's progressive political movement.

Over the years she has endorsed rising Democrats, including Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, city councilmembers Lincoln Restler, Alexa Avilés, Sandy Nurse, and most recently Zohran Mamdani for mayor.

3.

Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas declared that one of the nation's largest Muslim advocacy and civil rights groups is a foreign terrorist organization. His declaration prohibits the organization from acquiring land in Texas and authorizes the state to file suits to cause the group to cease activities in Texas.

Mr. Abbott said that the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has direct ties to Hamas, which has been designated as a terrorist group by the U.S. government. CAIR has denied having any such ties.

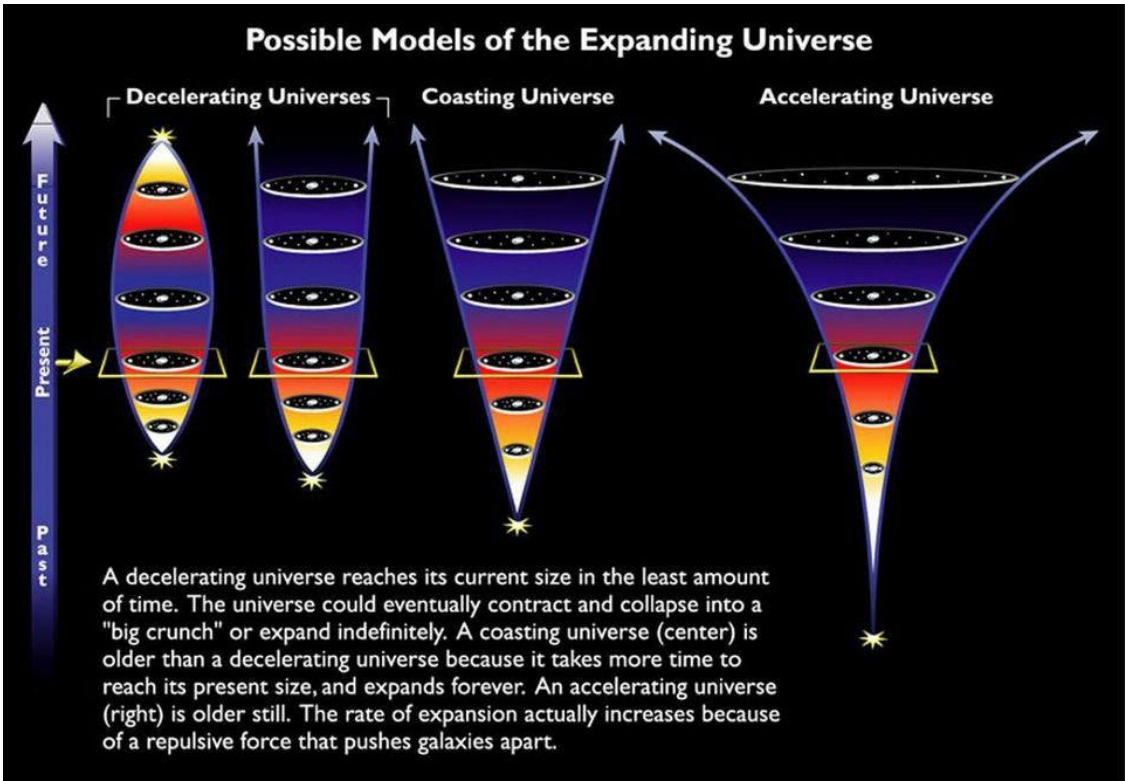
4.

Taken together, the Scandinavian domestic economies are often referred to as “The Nordic Model.” They are underpinned by some of the highest taxes in the world.

In 2022 tax revenues as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) were approximately 41.89% in Denmark; 44.30% in Norway; and 41.32% in Sweden, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). That compares with the 27.66% of GDP raised in tax revenues by the United States in 2022.

According to PwC (formerly Price, Waterhouse, Coopers), Finland's top personal income tax rate in 2024 was 55%, Denmark's was 52.07%, and Norway's was 47.4%. Tax rates in these countries are relatively high for nearly all income levels, not just that of the wealthy.

By comparison, the top tax bracket in the U.S. in 2024 was 37%, and is only levied on individuals who make more than \$609,350 or more than \$731,200 for married couples filing jointly.



A majority of astronomers hold the theory of an accelerating expansion of the universe. Newer data now point to a decelerating expansion. Observation shows cosmic expansion is slowing, and has entered a phase of deceleration. This is according to Korean researchers who wrote in the journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. If their results are confirmed, it will represent a significant paradigm shift in cosmology. (Süddeutsche Zeitung 11/10/2025)

5.

Dr. James D. Watson was best known for his discovery of the double helix structure of the DNA molecule. He and Cambridge-based researcher Francis H.C. Crick used data from chemist and x-ray crystallographer Rosalind E. Franklin and Maurice H.F. Wilkins to describe the molecule's now well-known structure. It has become a foundation of modern life sciences research.

The researchers' discovery happened in 1952 when Watson was 25 years old. He and Dr. Crick earned the 1962 Nobel Prize for Medicine and gained world renown. Watson would go on to a long career at Harvard University, where he left behind a prominent scientific legacy and a strained relationship to the institution.

Dr. Watson died on Nov. 6, 2025 in hospice care on Long Island at the age of 97.

6.

The American Military Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten, Netherlands, has quietly removed panels displaying the contributions of Black American soldiers during WWII, sparking outrage from Dutch and American citizens.

One of the two displays featured an overall history of Black American military personnel fighting a Double V Campaign, while the other told the story of George H. Pruitt, a Black soldier who drowned a month after the war's end while attempting to save a comrade's life in a German river.

The two panels were added to the visitor center in September 2024 after the American Battle Monuments Commission, a U.S. government agency that oversees the cemetery, received criticism from families and historians for not including the contributions of Black service members and their experiences fighting in the Netherlands.

7.

A family of five in Paterson, NJ was killed on the night of 10/31/25 by a fast-moving house fire that decimated their home and displaced seven other members of their extended family.

Fire crews responded to a 911 call at 15 Emerson Ave. at 9:51 p.m., according to the Paterson Fire Department. Dispatchers fielded reports of several people trapped on the home's top floor.

## Word of the week

### paradigmatic

/, Organization/

adjective

adjective: **paradigmatic**

1. serving as a typical example of something. "his biography is paradigmatic of the experiences of this generation"
2. of or denoting the relationship between a set of linguistic items that form mutually exclusive choices in particular syntactic roles.

## The Forward Eagle

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Tim Forward Editor

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. The Washington Post 11/17/2025 | 2. Gothamist 11/20/ 2025 | 3. NYT 11/19/25 | 4. <https://taxfoundation.org> 4/20/2023 | 5. NYT 11/4/2025 | 6. Military Times 11/ 14/ 2025 | 7. Gothamist 11/1/25