

The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly

for

The Riverdale Senior Services Center
Bronx, NY

"Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another."

December 1, 2025

Vol III Number 42

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Current events

1.

One of the nation's poorest states has launched one of its most ambitious social policies: universal child care.

New Mexico this month became the first state to guarantee free child care, regardless of income, starting at 6 weeks of age. The plan will be covered largely by a fund set up with oil- and gas-revenues. It should save families roughly \$16,000 a year on average for full-time daycare.

2

A coalition of at least half a dozen senators, who call themselves the "Fight Club," are unhappy with how Chuck Schumer and his fellow democratic senator from New York, Kristen Gillibrand, have recruited and chosen future party candidates.

The mutinous senators include Chris Van Hollen (D-Maryland), Tina Smith, (D-Minnesota), Christopher S Murphy (D-Connecticut), Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts). Together they reflect the widespread doubts among the Democratic party base that their leaders in Congress have a winning strategy for returning to power in 2026.

3.

Eugenio Mitchelstein, an associate professor at the Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires, has published *The Patina of Distrust*, a new book that explores how people interpret misinformation. She and her co-author propose, in societies like Argentina where levels of institutional distrust are high, that the population develops a "patina" or buffer, that protects them from misinformation.

While this patina makes it harder to fall prey to fake news, it also stops people from believing any truth in the news.

4.

President Donald Trump's astonishingly chummy Oval Office meeting with New York City mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani could not have come at a worse time for Rep. Elise Stefanik.

Stefanik, a New York Republican congresswoman, is mounting an uphill gubernatorial bid in a deep blue state, building her campaign on the argument that Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul is the nation's worst chief executive, and tying Hochul to the 34-year-old democratic socialist who will become mayor of New York City in January.

5.

U.S. Republican congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green of Georgia, shocked Washington last week by announcing that she would resign. Ms. Green broke with her party on health care in October during the shutdown. She said then that she supported long term subsidies.

"Let's just say as nicely as possible, I am not a fan," Ms. Greene wrote on social media. "But I'm going to go against everyone on this issue because when the tax credits expire this year my own adult children's insurance premiums for 2026 are going to double. Also premiums will double for all the wonderful families and hard-working people of my district."

6.

The jargon of gold trading sounds like that of a poker game. "Strong hands" are investors loyal to the gold no matter the price. "Weak hands" are flaky punters who fold and sell their bullion at the first sign of trouble.



The Kodak Instamatic camera was introduced in 1963. In the following eight years the company would sell some 50 million instamatic cameras. In the nineteen years between 1908 and 1927 Ford Motor Co. would sell a total of 15 million Model T's. Within nine years of its introduction in 2007, Apple sold the first billion i-phones.

Bullish investors win with a strong hand when they convince others that the price of gold will increase. In recent months the strong hands have outnumbered the weak ones. The bluff of winning investors is only called when the price of gold declines. If the price holds or rebounds, the winners' bluff wins the hand.

This year the bulls are winning so comfortably that any argument seems to be over. After the gold price hit \$4,380 an ounce, a record, on October 20th, it fell by more than 10% and then recovered some of those losses.

Gold is now 55% higher than it was in January and 47% above its previous inflation-adjusted peak in 1980. Analysts predict the price may break \$5,000 an ounce by the end of 2026.

7.

Shelves were stocked and Americans were hungry for bargains. This was a good time to recall the dual meaning of "Black Friday." It is the day when retailers traditionally go "into the black" (become profitable) for the year. It is also a very stressful day for millions of retail workers whose jobs make the spectacle possible.

8.

A CME Group data center that stores and processes information for heavily traded instruments for national and international finance was shut down for 10 hours during the Thanksgiving Day weekend.

The outage was caused by an air-conditioning issue at the electronic-trading data center at CME's Aurora, Ill. building. (CME Group is the successor institution of the former Chicago Mercantile Exchange.)

Temperatures in the building rose to 120 degrees Fahrenheit within hours after the failure of the cooling equipment.

Vast arrays of computer server units that process vital trading information must be constantly cooled to prevent overheating. Normal data center temperatures are set to between 64 and 81 degrees Fahrenheit to maintain operation.

Word of the week

instantiate

/in'stan(t)SHē,āt/

verb

gerund or present participle: instantiating

1. represent as or by an instance.

"a study of two groups who seemed to instantiate productive aspects of this"

2. philosophy: (of a universal or abstract concept) have an instance; be represented by an actual example.

Origin: Middle English: via Old French from Latin *instantia* 'presence, urgency', from *instare* 'be present, press upon', from *in-* 'upon' + *stare* 'to stand'. The original sense was 'urgency, urgent entreaty', surviving in *at the instance of*. In the late 16th century the word denoted a particular case cited to disprove a general assertion.

Example: "From the late twentieth century, a newly secularized American academe found a different idiom: it became conventional to analyze colonial society and the new republic as instantiations of The Enlightenment." (See: "The Enlightenment" and the long eighteenth century 1660-1832).

The Forward Eagle

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

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. WSJ 11/22/2025 | 2. NYT 11/28/2025 | 3. Columbia Journalism Review 11/26/2025 | 4. Bloomberg 11/25/2025 | 5. NYT 11/26/2025 |
6. Economist 11/16/2025 | 7. WSJ 11/28/2025 | WSJ 11/29/2025