

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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Current events

1.

The sweeping crackdown President Trump implemented last week after an Afghan national was accused of shooting two National Guard members is poised to radically curtail immigrants from legally entering and living in the United States, and establishes new roadblocks unparalleled in recent history.

2

The Trump administration is accumulating ownership shares of private companies it deems essential to national security. This is an unusual new strategy that has already committed more than \$10 billion in taxpayer funds and shows little sign of slowing.

The Government’s growing portfolio of corporate ownership involves minority stakes, or the option to take them in the future, in at least nine companies involved in steel, minerals, nuclear energy and semiconductors. The purchases were all completed in the past six months. Most of them were made in October and November of 2025.

3.

Mayor Eric Adams announced a \$35.9 million settlement with Starbucks over violations of New York City’s law guaranteeing fair working conditions. The resolution was the largest worker protection settlement in the city’s history.

The city’s Department of Consumer and Worker Protection found that Starbucks had violated the law more than half a million times since 2021 by failing to provide workers with stable work schedules. More than 15,000 hourly workers are expected to receive restitution payments under the agreement.

Workers have complained for years that the coffee behemoth was cutting their hours and refusing to give them predictable schedules. The city found that the company “arbitrarily cut schedules and illegally prioritized their own profits over their workers’ rights” across more than 300 locations in New York City.

4.

The New York City mayor-elect, Zohran Mamdani, has announced that he would retain New York City’s police commissioner, Jessica S. Tisch. She will continue to oversee the police department’s pervasive public surveillance network.

The network, called “Domain Awareness System,” is used to track crime and help identify suspects by synthesizing vast amounts of data from videos, license plate readers, audio gunshot detectors, 911 call logs, criminal histories, summonses, arrests, warrants and more. It stores information from thousands of cameras across the five boroughs that record New Yorkers as they go about their daily business.

Law enforcement officials say this is a key tool for solving crimes and defusing terrorist threats. Civil libertarians see surveillance as a constitutional infringement of all citizens’ right to privacy..

The city’s public surveillance will come under the jurisdiction of the Mamdani administration after January first.

5.

Hong Kong fire services were alerted to a blaze on November 26, 2025 at 2:51 pm Hong Kong time at the city’s Wang Fuk Court Residential Complex.

The exact cause of the fire is under investigation, but officials believe it was caused by multiple unsafe construction practices that included the following:



A Sketch of the Original Globe Theatre (circa 1638)

The original Globe Theatre was built in 1599 by William Shakespeare's acting company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, using timbers from a previous theater. Located on Bankside in London, it hosted the premieres of many of Shakespeare's most famous plays before being destroyed by fire in 1613. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globe_Theatre)

1. Extensive use of flammable materials: Extremely flammable polystyrene boards were found covering some windows, contributing to the fire's rapid spread.

2. Substandard safety netting: Construction workers substituted safety netting covering the buildings with a cheaper non-compliant material, and then attempted to conceal the unsafe material by covering it with correct specified netting where inspectors could take samples.

3. Disabled fire alarms: Fire alarms at the complex were not working effectively, and arrests have been made for deactivating fire alarms during the reconstruction and repair work on the buildings.

6.



The above image is proving popular on Facebook. It supposedly shows a US soldier liberating the Buchenwald concentration camp with two young prisoners. The fact that this image was fabricated by artificial intelligence (AI) is omitted from the accompanying text. (Photo: Source: Facebook/Historic Voices)

Images depicting false scenes from World War II concentration camps are currently flooding social media.

7.

Tom Stoppard, a prolific writer of plays and movie scripts that charmed both critics and crowds, has died. He was 88.

Sir Tom Stoppard’s 1966 breakout play, “Rosencranz and Guildenstern Are Dead,” imagined two minor characters in William Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” as major characters in their own right. It was an original work that was also fully dependent on the plot of one of the most famous plays ever written.

Stoppard also co-wrote the screen play for the movie “Shakespeare in Love.” The title character struggles, under pressure of money and

deadline, to complete and stage a play in Elizabethan England. The plot employs a favorite Shakespearean trope of a gender disguise. The movie’s fictional bard (Joseph Fiennes) falls for a young woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) who, unrecognized by him, plays the part of the male lead in the new play. The play, of course, is “Romeo and Juliet.”

Playwright Tom Stoppard was born Tomas Stráussler to Jewish parents on July 3, 1937, in Zlin, Czechoslovakia. Throughout his family’s life before, during and after World War II his parents never told him of his Jewish heritage.

Stoppard first learned of his family’s history in 1993 when he was 56 years old. A Czech cousin revealed that Stoppard was Jewish, and that all of his grandparents and three of his aunts had died in the Holocaust.

Words of the week

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern

/ˈroʊz.krænts/ /ˈɡɪl.dən.stɜrn/

proper nouns

Rosencrantz ("rose wreath") and *Gyldenstjerne*/*Gyllenstierna* ("golden star") were names of two Scandinavian noble families in the 16th century.

Scholars suggest that Shakespeare’s characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, were named after Frederik Rosenkrantz and Knud Gyldenstjerne, cousins of Tycho Brahe, the famous Danish astronomer. Brahe had visited England in 1592.

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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. NYT 12/3/20 | 2. NYT 12/2/2025 | 3. NYT 12/2/2025 | 4. NYT 12/3/2025 | 5. Bloomberg City Lab 12/3/2025 | 6. SZ 11/28/2025 | 7. | NYT 12/1/2025