

# The Forward Eagle

Compiled Weekly  
for  
The Riverdale Senior Services Center  
Bronx, NY

“Let us endeavor mutually to enlighten one another.”

December 15, 2025

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## Current events

1.

A Democratic effort to extend expiring healthcare subsidies drew some Republican votes but failed Thursday to advance to the Senate. A separate GOP bill also failed, leaving no clear path in Congress for aiding millions of Americans facing soaring Affordable Care Act insurance costs next year.

2.

Luigi Mangione is facing three separate prosecutions for the alleged shooting death of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on December 4, 2024 in New York City.

The New York State case, *The People of the State of New York v. Luigi Nicholas Mangione*, is currently in the pretrial phase. Mangione’s defense team is actively engaged in a multiday evidence suppression hearing in Manhattan.

The Pennsylvania case, *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Luigi Nicholas Mangione*, has yet to begin.

Finally, in a Federal case, *United States of America v. Luigi Nicholas Mangione*, federal prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, and that trial is likely several years away.

3.

Bruce Blakeman, the Republican Nassau County executive and an ally of President Trump, announced on Tuesday that he would run for governor of New York.

His decision sets up a potentially explosive primary clash with Representative Elise Stefanik, a hard-charging and younger Republican who has declared her candidacy against Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat.

Ms. Stefanik has worked furiously behind the scenes to fend off a primary challenge to maximize her chances against Ms. Hochul in a Democratic-leaning state. A Republican primary fight with Mr. Blakeman threatens to drain meaningful resources and shift the focus from the incumbent.

4.

The Department of Homeland Security recently signed a contract worth nearly \$140 million to purchase six Boeing 737 planes for deportations. The move will allow the agency to operate its own fleet after receiving a massive funding increase from Congress.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the arm of DHS that carries out deportation flights, has long relied on charter planes, but officials familiar with the contract indicate ICE has broader plans.

5.

Donald Bren, the 93-year old tycoon who owns the real-estate firm Irvine Co., has been unloading San Diego office towers since 2024. He shed the last of his downtown buildings this fall at deeply discounted prices. Bren, whose firm has been the district’s largest office landlord, concluded that San Diego’s growth prospects are dim.

Now, the Irvine Co. vote of no-confidence tells other downtown property investors that Bren expects the record-high office vacancies (currently over 35%) to last for years.

6.

In early spring of 2025 Rebecca Slaughter filed a federal lawsuit against President Trump that challenged her March 18<sup>th</sup> removal from her position as a commissioner for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).



Vignette of the Arch of Constantine

The Arch of Constantine, built in Rome between 312-315 AD, is a massive triumphal arch honoring Emperor Constantine's victory over Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. It is famous for its innovative use of “spolia,” incorporating recycled sculptures and reliefs from older monuments of Emperors Trajan, Hadrian, and Marcus Aurelius, positioning Constantine as their heir, alongside new reliefs depicting his own victories and military achievements.

On July 17, 2025 a U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of Ms. Slaughter, finding her firing unlawful, and ordered her reinstatement.

On September 22, 2025 the Supreme Court granted the Trump administration's emergency request for an appeal and a temporary stay of the reinstatement order.

On December 8, 2025 the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case, which questions the constitutionality of protections for independent agency heads like FTC commissioners.

A decision on Trump’s appeal is expected by late June or early July.

7.

The conservative legal movement in the U.S. has for decades insisted on an originalist understanding of the Constitution. An originalist interpretation looks at how the document was understood at the time of the nation’s founding in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Allowing the president to remove executive branch officials without congressional oversight is an example of an originalist argument. Called the “unitary executive theory,” the argument allows the president to have complete control over the executive branch, and congressional efforts to shield independent agencies are forbidden.

In September a leading originalist law professor, Caleb E. Nelson, challenged the “unitary executive theory” in an article that attracted wide attention. He wrote that the test of the Constitution and the historical evidence surrounding it does in fact grant Congress broad authority to shape the executive branch, including limits on the president’s power to fire people.

8.

In October, when Warner Bros. & Discovery hung a for sale sign on itself, Hollywood was not happy to hear the news. Now that a sale has been announced to sell the Warner Bros. studio and its sibling streaming service, HBO Max, to Netflix, a different emotion is racing through the entertainment capital. Hollywood is angry.

Jane Fonda raged against the merger in a letter to an entertainment trade news publication, calling the end of a stand-alone Warner Bros. an alarming escalation of corporate consolidation that “threatens the entertainment industry, the public it serves and, potentially, the First Amendment itself.”

## Words of the week

### historiography

/hɪˌstɒr.iˈɒɡ.rə.fi/

noun

1. the study of history and how it is written

Example:

“By contrast, societies like England in which such collective narratives were, although never consensual, more often less fraught and more often taken less seriously are not as revealing of the wider cultural and political pressures on *historiographical* research.”

## 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. WSJ 12/12/2025 | 2. NBC New York 12/4/2025 | 3. WSJ 12/10/2025 | 4. Washington Post 12/10/2025 | 5. WSJ 12/9/2025 | 6. SCOTUSblog 12/8/2025 | 7. NYT 12/9/2025 | 8. NYT 12/8/2025