

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.

In the 13th Century Japanese writer Tsuzuregusa of Kenko and others employed a random mode of composition known in Japanese as *zuihitsu* (to follow the brush). This form - or lack of form - was most congenial to Japanese writers, who turned to it perhaps because it was less 'dishonest' than creating fiction. The formlessness of the *zuihitsu* did not impede enjoyment by readers. Indeed, readers took pleasure in moving from one theme to another of a great variety of subjects and tracing subtle links joining successive episodes. (Phillip Lopate *The Art of the Personal Essay*, 1994)

2.

Global air quality declined in 2025, with more cities reporting standards below international health guidelines on the impact of severe wildfires and pollution from sectors including fossil fuels and agriculture, according to a report today by IQAir Group. The world's 25 most polluted cities were all located in India, Pakistan and China, where industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, dust storms and crop burning contributed to poor air quality.

3.

It's been half a century since the fall of Saigon ended the Vietnam War, the first conflict of the television age, when journalists had almost unrestricted access to the battlefield. In today's Iran conflict, the first military engagement involving America of the social-media era, the world is facing an information deficit.

Internet blackouts in the Islamic Republic, Israeli reporting restrictions and a US administration hostile to mainstream media have made it difficult to grasp what is happening in the war zones.

4.

On Wednesday Dame Sarah Mullally was enthroned at Canterbury Cathedral. She is the first woman to lead the Church of England as the Archbishop of Canterbury. The country's established church crowns monarchs and educates a quarter of English schoolchildren. Its 26 bishops have permanent seats in Parliament. The only other country that automatically gives clerics seats in its legislature is Iran.

5.

President Trump urged Republican lawmakers to link funds to reopen the Department of Homeland Security to a federal voter ID requirement. Legislators may have to remain in Washington through Easter weekend if necessary.

6.

The U.S. federal budget deficit for fiscal year 2025 was approximately 5.9% of GDP, falling slightly from 6.2% – 6.4% in FY2024, yet it remains significantly above the 50-year average of 3.8%. The deficit is driven by high spending and interest costs, with Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projecting the deficit to grow to 6.7% of GDP by 2036.

Debt-to-GDP Comparison: The annual deficit adds to the national debt, the total debt held by the public is now nearly 100% of GDP.



King Charles III and Queen Camilla will open Parliament in the House of Lords on May 13, 2026

7.

In the city of Munich, Germany the runoff election for mayor was between Green Party challenger Dominic Krause, 35, and incumbent SPD mayor Dieter Reiter, 67. It was a clear choice between young and old. Krause won. His victory promises a change in the party leadership at the top of the city and a generational shift.

8.

This month, the Parliament in Great Britain passed the House of Lords (Hereditary Peers) Act of 2026, which abolishes the remaining 92 inherited seats. In a compromise, some lords will stay in Parliament until they die, but will not be allowed to pass their seats on to their descendants.

9.

A stark and dangerous “cognitive dissonance” is gripping world financial markets. Speak to anyone who works on a trading floor and they will sound somewhere between unnerved and panicked that the Strait of Hormuz remains shut. No one knows when it will reopen. In the meantime a fifth of the world's supply of oil and liquefied natural gas is trapped.

10.

For years, tennis and cricket players have been able to dispute umpires' calls. In those sports, each side can challenge a limited number of decisions per set or innings. The 2026 Major League Baseball season began on Wednesday in San Francisco. Teams will be allowed to challenge the home plate umpire's ball and strike calls for the first time.

As before, umpires will decide whether a pitched ball has entered a batter's strike zone. But now the pitcher, catcher or batter can challenge the call by tapping his helmet. When that happens the new Automated Ball-Strike system, relying on cameras, will judge whether the ball is a strike. It will also show the ball and the strike zone to fans inside and outside the stadium. Teams will have only two challenges each per the normal nine inning game.

Word of the Week

tacit

tac·it 'ta-sət
adjective

- expressed or carried on without words or speech “The blush ... was a tacit answer ...” — Bram Stoker
- implied or indicated (as by an act or by silence) but not actually expressed: “tacit consent, tacit admission of guilt”

tacitly, adverb
tacitness, noun

Synonyms:: unspoken, implicit

“While they got a frosty public response, officials say the private message was a tacit green light.” — Mark Thompson, *Time*, 16 Nov. 1998

“Magic requires tacit cooperation of the audience with the magician—an abandonment of skepticism ... the willing suspension of disbelief”. — Carl Sagan, *The Demon-Haunted World*, 1996

“Myself, I like to play the field and see what happens, but there are certain tacit rules: do not mix freshwater fish with those from the sea; do not mix coarse fat fish with delicate ones ...” — M. F. K. Fisher, *With Bold Knife and Fork*, 1969

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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.