

The FrontPage Ledger

TRUTH • CONTEXT • ACCOUNTABILITY

EDITION 2 • SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

DEVELOPING STORY • MISSAUKEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Six Dead Across Three Shooting Scenes; Child Critically Injured

Authorities say five victims and the suspected gunman died; a 13-year-old remained critically injured while investigators reconstructed a multi-location attack in northern Michigan.

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PREMIUM SUNDAY EDITION • NATIONAL TV TIMES EASTERN • WEATHER SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Lead Report



BREAKING NEWS

BY GIDEON MARSH



Six Dead After Shootings Across Three Missaukee County Locations

Authorities say five victims and the suspected gunman died; a 13-year-old remained critically injured while investigators reconstructed a multi-location attack in northern Michigan.

Authorities were investigating shootings at three locations in rural Missaukee County, Michigan, that left five victims and the suspected shooter dead. A 13-year-old was critically injured. The violence unfolded Friday, August 14, roughly 150 miles north of Grand Rapids, and required officers to secure and examine more than one scene.

Officials identified the suspected shooter as 39-year-old Chad Hickman. At press time, investigators had not announced a motive or a complete timeline. Early claims about relationships, intent or warning signs should be treated as unconfirmed unless they are supported by an official release, court record or multiple independent accounts.

The verified public picture is grave but limited: a multi-location shooting, six deaths including the suspect, an injured child and an active investigation. The next dependable milestones will be a law-enforcement timeline, forensic findings and updated information on the surviving victim.

A case spread across several addresses presents investigators with a different problem from a single contained scene. Detectives must establish which location came first, whether the same firearm or firearms were used, how the people at the locations were connected and what movements occurred between shootings. Dispatch recordings, emergency-call timestamps, vehicle information, phone records and physical evidence can help establish that order. None of those pieces should be inferred from a map graphic or an early witness account; each must be documented and reconciled.

Missaukee County is a rural northern Michigan community where first responders can face long travel distances and limited immediate resources. A major incident may require help from neighboring departments, state police, medical helicopters, crime laboratories and victim-service organizations. That logistical reality can make

verified information arrive slowly. A delay in naming victims or describing a motive is not necessarily evidence of secrecy. Officials must confirm identities, notify relatives and protect evidence before making details public.

The critically injured 13-year-old is also entitled to privacy. Medical descriptions beyond an authorized condition report can expose a child and family during a traumatic period. Responsible coverage should therefore avoid publishing rumored injuries, photographs or personal details obtained from acquaintances unless the family has chosen to release them. The same principle applies to the victims who died: their lives should not be reduced to a connection with the accused gunman before relatives are ready to speak.

Investigators will eventually have to answer several public-interest questions. Were there prior calls for service or court orders involving the suspect? Was a weapon obtained legally? Did any agency receive a warning that should have triggered intervention? Those are legitimate questions, but their answers require records. A prior police contact, if one exists, would not by itself prove that officials could have predicted a shooting. The relevant inquiry is what information was available, what authority responders had and what action the law permitted at the time.

For the community, the next phase will last longer than the crime-scene response. Schools, churches, health providers and local government may be called on to support the surviving child, grieving relatives, witnesses and first responders. Fraudulent fundraising pages and invented suspect narratives often appear after mass-casualty events, so donations should go only through accounts verified by families or established local organizations. This report will be updated when authorities publish a full timeline, identify all victims with family notification complete, or release records that materially change what is known.

Sources: apnews.com

Lead Report



CAMPUS SAFETY

BY LIBERTY BELLE



Five Wounded Near Virginia State University Residence Area

One person was critically injured and police sought multiple suspects after gunfire near the Quad Annexes. The university's lockdown was later lifted after an all-clear.

Five people were wounded in a shooting near the Quad Annexes at Virginia State University early Saturday, August 15, authorities said. At least one injured person was a student, and one victim was reported in critical condition. Police were searching for multiple suspects as the investigation continued.

The university placed the campus on lockdown while officers responded, then lifted it after officials said there was no immediate threat. That sequence—alert, shelter instructions, scene assessment and all-clear—is important when evaluating the response and when comparing early social posts with later official information.

Investigators had not publicly established a motive or announced arrests at press time. Students and families should rely on university alerts and law-enforcement notices for operational guidance; claims about suspects or circumstances remain provisional until tied to verified records.

The Quad Annexes are part of the university's residential environment, which makes the location especially significant even before investigators determine whether the people involved were students, guests or outsiders. A shooting near housing can affect far more people than those physically injured. Residents may have heard gunfire, sheltered in place, been separated from friends or spent hours without reliable information. Campus counseling, residence-life staff and victim advocates become part of the recovery even after police reopen the area.

An emergency lockdown is a protective action, not a conclusion about who committed a crime. Universities usually send alerts based on the best information available at that moment and revise them as officers search buildings, establish a perimeter and determine whether a continuing threat exists. The lifting of a lockdown means officials judged the immediate danger had changed; it does not mean the criminal investigation ended or that every suspect had

necessarily been identified.

The search for multiple suspects creates additional evidentiary work. Investigators must distinguish the person who fired a weapon from anyone who possessed a weapon, assisted an escape or was merely present. Surveillance video, access records, shell casings, firearms testing and witness interviews may clarify those roles. Charging decisions should follow that evidence. Naming someone from an unverified social-media photograph can expose an innocent student to threats and can interfere with identification procedures used by police.

Virginia State University, a historically Black public university in Ettrick, also has obligations under federal campus-safety law. Institutions must issue timely warnings for certain threats, maintain crime information and communicate with students and employees during emergencies. Whether every requirement was met cannot be decided from a single alert screenshot. The complete sequence of messages, the information available to administrators and the geographic scope of the threat all matter.

The most useful questions now concern accountability and prevention: when did the first emergency call arrive, how quickly did alerts go out, where were officers deployed, and what security changes are supported by the evidence? Those answers should come from a documented after-action review rather than political pressure for an instant explanation. Until arrests, charging papers or a police narrative are released, the Ledger will keep the unknowns visible and will not convert rumor into biography or motive.

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Sources: apnews.com

Lead Report



CLAIM CHECK

BY BRUTUS PROOF



Declassified Fauci Files Renew the COVID-Origin Fight—but Do Not Settle It

ODNI accuses Anthony Fauci of misleading Congress about Wuhan-linked research. The documents expand the record, but the release does not itself prove that funded work caused the pandemic or establish perjury.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released documents under a headline accusing former NIAID director Anthony Fauci of funding Wuhan research that sparked COVID-19 and misleading Congress. Those are allegations advanced by the office, not findings from a court judgment or a settled scientific conclusion.

The files can be examined for what they directly show: internal discussions, grant relationships, dates and how officials framed the origin question. They do not by themselves establish that a particular experiment created SARS-CoV-2, nor do they prove a knowingly false statement under the legal standards used for perjury.

A Lawfare analysis disputes ODNI's interpretation. The responsible approach is to keep three questions separate: what research was funded, whether that research caused the pandemic, and whether Fauci knowingly testified falsely. Each requires different evidence, and the broader origin question remains unresolved.

The funding question is complicated because federal grants can pass through several institutions before reaching an overseas collaborator. Public debate has focused on grants to EcoHealth Alliance and work conducted with the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Establishing that U.S. money supported a research project is different from establishing that the project produced the virus that began the pandemic. The first question can be answered through grant documents and accounting records; the second requires a credible biological pathway supported by samples, sequences, laboratory records and independent scientific review.

The phrase "gain of function" adds another layer of confusion. Scientists, grant officials and lawmakers have sometimes used the term differently. Some use it broadly for any experiment that gives an organism a new property; others reserve it for research expected to increase the transmissibility or pathogenicity of a potential pandemic pathogen. A claim that Fauci lied cannot rest only on the fact that two speakers used

different definitions. It requires showing the precise question he was asked, the definition governing the exchange, what he knew at that time and whether his answer was knowingly false.

Declassification does not guarantee that every statement inside a file is true. Intelligence records can contain preliminary assessments, disputed interpretations, summaries of interviews and claims collected for evaluation. Their value comes from provenance and context: who produced the document, the evidence cited, whether the assertion was corroborated and whether later information changed the assessment. Removing a classification marking makes a document available to the public; it does not transform an allegation into an adjudicated fact.

The U.S. intelligence community has not spoken with one voice on the origin of COVID-19. Agencies have reached different judgments and confidence levels, while acknowledging gaps in access to early case data, laboratory records and samples from China. A laboratory-associated incident and natural spillover remain analytically distinct possibilities. "Low confidence" does not mean impossible, and disagreement does not mean every theory is equally supported. It signals that the available evidence does not permit a definitive conclusion.

Congress can continue to investigate funding oversight, agency communications and the accuracy of sworn testimony. If lawmakers believe a criminal false statement occurred, the relevant material would need to be referred and tested under ordinary legal standards, including materiality and intent. Until that happens, headlines declaring Fauci legally guilty run beyond the record. The new documents may justify sharper questions and additional disclosure. They do not eliminate the obligation to prove each link in the accusation separately.

THE READER'S CHECKLIST

What is confirmed? Who confirmed it? What remains unknown?

Sources: odni.gov • lawfaremedia.org

Lead Report



LAW & CONSTITUTION

BY CONSTITUTIONOWL



\$0 NFA Tax Is Real; Registration Ruling Has a Limited Reach

The federal making and transfer tax for most suppressors, short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns fell to zero. A Texas injunction protects specified plaintiffs and covered members or customers—not automatically everyone nationwide.

The tax portion of the National Firearms Act changed January 1, 2026: the federal making and transfer tax for most suppressors, short-barreled rifles and short-barreled shotguns is now \$0. The phrase “free tax stamp” is shorthand, but it can blur the difference between a zero tax and a separate registration or approval requirement.

On August 5, a federal district court in Texas permanently enjoined enforcement of challenged NFA provisions for untaxed firearms as to the plaintiffs and, where applicable, their members and customers. The reasoning addressed Congress’s taxing power after the tax was reduced to zero; it was not a universal Supreme Court ruling.

Scope is the practical issue. People outside the protected groups, or dealing with items and jurisdictions not covered by the judgment, should not assume every federal or state restriction disappeared. Current ATF instructions, the judgment, later appeals and qualified legal advice remain important before any transaction.

The National Firearms Act of 1934 regulates categories that include machine guns, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns and silencers or suppressors. For decades, the law paired registration and approval requirements with a \$200 making or transfer tax. Congress’s decision to reduce the tax to zero for several categories changed a central feature of that framework, but it did not automatically remove the statutory text governing applications, records, possession or restricted persons.

That is why the Texas case matters. The challengers argued that when Congress sets the relevant tax at zero, the federal government cannot continue to justify associated requirements solely as measures supporting the taxing power. The district court agreed with significant parts of that argument and entered permanent relief. But federal trial-court judgments have defined parties, claims and remedies. The exact wording of the

injunction determines who can rely on it and which provisions the government may not enforce against them.

Membership-based relief also raises practical timing questions. A judgment protecting an organization’s members may depend on whether a person was a member at the relevant time, whether the organization was a plaintiff and whether the proposed conduct falls within the protected claim. A retailer described as a covered customer may still need documentation. Internet advice that says simply “join now and ignore the forms” skips those legal questions and could expose a person to prosecution, seizure or the loss of firearms rights.

Federal and state law operate independently. Even if a federal registration provision cannot be enforced against a particular person under this judgment, a state may separately restrict suppressors or short-barreled firearms. Rules governing interstate movement, prohibited possessors, dealer licensing and machine guns may also remain. A zero-dollar federal tax does not override those restrictions. Nor does it guarantee that an electronic application system will immediately reflect the most favorable interpretation of a new judgment.

The government may appeal, request a stay or issue implementing guidance. Those steps can change what is lawful while the case moves through higher courts. Owners and prospective buyers should preserve dated membership and transaction records, confirm the category of the item and obtain advice that addresses their jurisdiction. The accurate premium-edition conclusion is narrower than “the NFA is dead”: the tax has been zeroed for specified categories, a court has imposed meaningful limits on associated enforcement for defined parties, and the broader legal consequences are still being litigated.

Sources: shared.nrapvf.org • courthousenews.com

Good News



GOOD NEWS • HOMECOMING

BY POLLY TICKS



American Missionary Released After Nine Months in Niger

Kevin Rideout returned to U.S. custody in good health, ending a long detention and giving his North Carolina family the reunion it had awaited.

Kevin Rideout, an American missionary from North Carolina, was released after nine months in detention in Niger and was reported in good health, according to U.S. officials. His return closes an agonizing period for relatives and supporters who had pressed for information and safe passage.

The release is good news in the clearest sense: a person held far from home is free, his family has an answer and diplomatic work produced a humane result. Such negotiations often depend on confidential contacts and timing that governments cannot discuss while a detainee remains at risk.

The public record establishes the length of the detention, Rideout's release and his condition at handoff. Questions about why he was held or what produced the breakthrough may be answered later. For now, the central fact is a homecoming.

Rideout's case unfolded against a difficult diplomatic environment in Niger, where political upheaval and strained relations with Western governments have complicated ordinary consular work. When an American is detained abroad, U.S. officials may seek access, medical information and assurances of humane treatment while also trying to understand the detaining authority's legal claims. Progress can depend on intermediaries and quiet discussions that never appear in daily headlines.

For families, that silence can be punishing. They must decide what to say publicly, which officials to contact and whether publicity will help or endanger negotiations. Advocacy organizations often advise relatives to keep careful records and coordinate statements so that inaccurate reports do not harden into accepted fact. A release in good health is therefore not a routine administrative event; it is the outcome families hope for while knowing

that many variables are beyond their control.

The return home can bring a different set of needs. A former detainee may require medical evaluation, rest, privacy and time to decide whether to discuss the experience. Relatives who spent months organizing calls and appeals also need space to recover. Good-news coverage should not turn the first hours of freedom into another demand for access.

The public can appropriately recognize the diplomats, advocates and local contacts who helped while allowing Rideout to tell his own story on his own timetable. The verified ending is enough for this edition: nine months of uncertainty concluded with an American safely back in U.S. custody and a North Carolina family receiving the news it had worked and prayed to hear.

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Sources: apnews.com

Good News



GOOD NEWS • PUBLIC SERVICE

BY VICTOR TALON



Phoenix Controller's Clear Call Keeps Same-Number Flights Apart

An air-traffic controller distinguished two American Airlines aircraft both identified as Flight 2482 and preserved safe altitude separation—a quiet example of a safety layer working.

A Phoenix air-traffic controller helped prevent a dangerous misunderstanding involving two American Airlines aircraft that shared the same flight number. One was arriving from Chicago while the other was departing Phoenix. The controller recognized the ambiguity, identified the aircraft clearly and kept them separated by altitude.

Aviation safety is built in layers: standardized language, radar monitoring, cockpit readbacks, alerting systems and professionals willing to slow a confusing exchange down. In this event, the human layer did exactly that. A duplicate identifier triggered clarification instead of compounding confusion.

The FAA and airline review may add procedural detail, but the immediate result is already clear: no collision, distinct instructions and safe continuation. Competence often looks less like drama than a calm voice and enough distance between two airplanes.

Duplicate or similar call signs are a recognized aviation hazard because a pilot can mistakenly act on an instruction intended for another aircraft. Controllers are trained to detect that ambiguity, use additional identifiers and require clear readbacks. Pilots, in turn, are expected to question any clearance that does not fit their position, altitude or flight path. The system assumes that misunderstanding is possible and builds in opportunities to catch it.

Altitude separation is one of the simplest and most powerful protections. Keeping one aircraft above or below another buys time while controllers resolve identities and routes. Radar displays and automated conflict alerts can help, but technology does not replace the judgment needed to interpret a crowded frequency. In Phoenix, the controller's recognition of the repeated flight number prevented the radio

exchange from becoming a chain of mistaken assumptions.

Reviews by the FAA and airline can determine why two flights with the same number were operating in the same airspace and whether scheduling or dispatch procedures should change. They may also examine the exact wording of transmissions, crew readbacks and the performance of automated alerts. Such reviews are most useful when they focus on system design rather than searching for a dramatic villain in an event that ended safely.

Near-miss reporting can sound alarming, but openness is one reason commercial aviation improves. A documented error or ambiguity becomes material for training, software changes and scheduling safeguards. The positive result here is not merely that two airplanes missed each other. It is that a professional recognized a subtle risk early, stated the distinction clearly and used an established safety layer before passengers were placed in immediate danger.

Sources: apnews.com


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Good News



GOOD NEWS • ANIMAL CARE

BY LIBERTY BELLE

Four Rescued Belugas Arrive Safely at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium



The four females were moved from a closed Ontario marine park and are acclimating behind the scenes under veterinary observation after a demanding international transfer.

Four female beluga whales rescued from a closed Ontario marine park arrived safely at Chicago's Shedd Aquarium on August 13. The animals were placed behind the scenes to acclimate under veterinary and animal-care observation.

Moving belugas requires careful management of water, temperature, positioning, respiration, permits and cross-border contingencies. A safe arrival is therefore an operational success, even though it is only the beginning of the animals' adjustment.

Shedd said the whales would not immediately enter public habitats. That cautious period lets caregivers monitor health, appetite and behavior before introductions. The rescue does not erase the circumstances that made it necessary, but four animals completed a difficult journey and now have an experienced care team.

Each beluga had to be evaluated before travel and supported throughout the move. Marine-mammal transport teams use specially designed slings, padded supports, continuous observation and carefully controlled water and temperature conditions. Veterinarians watch breathing, circulation, hydration and stress. Routes and transfer points are planned in advance because delays that are minor for ordinary cargo can become serious for a living animal weighing well over a thousand pounds.

The international nature of the rescue added permits, customs coordination and communication among institutions. The animals came from Marineland in Ontario after the facility closed. Moving them required agreement not only on transportation but also on where long-term care could be provided, whether the receiving habitat was appropriate

and how records about diet, health and behavior would follow each whale.

Arrival is not the same as completion. The whales will spend time in areas where caregivers can observe them closely before any public introduction or integration with other animals. Changes in appetite, vocalization, swimming patterns and social behavior can reveal how an individual is adapting. The pace should be set by welfare, not by a deadline for visitors to see them.

Captive-cetacean policy remains contested, and a successful rescue does not settle broader arguments about marine parks. It does, however, create an immediate obligation to care well for animals that could not simply be released into the wild. Four belugas survived a complex transfer and reached an institution with specialized veterinary capacity. Continued transparency about their health and acclimation will determine whether the hopeful beginning becomes a durable success.

Sources: shedd.aquarium.org

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Good News



GOOD NEWS • CONSERVATION

BY PARKER FIELDS



Prairie Creek Restoration Gives Young Coho Better Early Results

NOAA reports faster juvenile growth in restored off-channel habitat and a 2.6% return for one monitored cohort. Continued study through 2028 will test whether those gains persist.

Early monitoring at California's Prairie Creek suggests restored off-channel habitat is helping juvenile coho salmon grow faster and survive at higher rates. NOAA Fisheries reported a 2.6% return for one monitored 2023 cohort, compared with earlier estimates near 1%.

The work reconnects side channels and floodplain areas that provide slower water, cover and feeding opportunities. Those features can matter during high flows, when simplified channels offer young fish fewer places to rest and avoid predators.

The result is encouraging, not final. Salmon survival also depends on ocean conditions, temperature and rainfall. Monitoring through 2028 will test additional cohorts. The hopeful model is practical: restore habitat, tag and count the fish, and let measured outcomes guide the next investment.

Coho salmon need different kinds of habitat at different stages of life. Young fish benefit from quiet side channels, woody cover and floodplain pools where they can feed without constantly fighting a strong current. When rivers are straightened or disconnected from their floodplains, those refuges disappear. Restoration at Prairie Creek attempts to rebuild the complexity that a functioning watershed once provided naturally.

Researchers can test the project by tagging juvenile fish, measuring growth and recording which adults return after time in the ocean. A 2.6 percent return for the monitored cohort is encouraging because salmon mortality is high throughout the life cycle. Yet the number must be compared with similar cohorts and conditions. A wet year, cooler water or favorable ocean food can improve survival independently of restoration.

That is why the monitoring horizon through 2028 matters. Multiple years help scientists separate a real habitat effect from a fortunate season. They can compare where fish spent the winter, how large they were when they entered the ocean and whether restored areas were used during floods. The same data can reveal problems, such as water that becomes too warm or channels that fill with sediment.

Recovery rarely comes from one project. Passage barriers, stream temperature, water withdrawals, predators and ocean conditions all influence the result. Prairie Creek offers good news because it links construction to measurement. Instead of declaring success at the ribbon cutting, the team is asking whether more young fish grow, survive and return. That evidence can tell other communities which restoration investments are worth repeating.

Sources: fisheries.noaa.gov

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ARTS & GOVERNMENT

BY POLLY TICKS



Kennedy Center Board Backs a Two-Year Closure Amid Naming Fight

The board approved a prolonged renovation closure while a court dispute continues over adding President Trump's name to the national performing-arts institution.

The Kennedy Center board voted to close the Washington performing-arts complex for roughly two years during a major renovation, according to reporting on the board action. The decision affects performers, staff, resident companies and audiences well beyond one season.

The closure arrives amid a separate legal conflict over the center's name and governance. Those questions should not be collapsed: one concerns the practical scope, cost and timing of construction; the other concerns legal authority and the identity of a federally chartered cultural institution.

The useful public record will include construction plans, procurement documents, budgets, relocation arrangements and court orders. Until those records are complete, projected dates and costs remain plans rather than finished facts.

A closure of this length reaches into every part of the Kennedy Center's operation. Resident companies must find alternate stages, touring productions need new Washington venues, donors and ticket holders require clear communication, and workers face uncertainty about assignments or employment. The public will need more than an aspirational reopening date. It will need a phased construction schedule and a credible plan for preserving performances while the building is unavailable.

Large cultural renovations can uncover structural, mechanical or accessibility needs that were not obvious at the start. Cost controls therefore depend on independent estimates, competitive procurement, change-order reporting and regular disclosure to the board and Congress. A project described broadly as modernization should specify which halls, public areas and building systems are included

and which improvements are merely proposed.

The naming dispute should be tracked on its own legal record. The Kennedy Center was created by federal law as a national memorial and performing-arts institution. Arguments over who may alter its name involve statutory language, board authority and potentially congressional action. Political enthusiasm by board members does not substitute for legal authority, just as a lawsuit challenging the change does not automatically decide the renovation question.

Audiences can judge the plan more fairly when officials publish contracts, budgets, temporary-venue arrangements and court orders. The premium story is therefore not simply that a famous building will go dark. It is that a national institution is attempting a disruptive two-year rebuild while its governance and identity are being contested. Both processes require public records, and neither should be allowed to hide the other.

Sources: apnews.com



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News Desk



DEFENSE & SECURITY

U.S. Pulls Its Last Pacific Carrier Toward Middle East Operations

BY VICTOR TALON



The carrier movement underscores a finite-force tradeoff: reinforcing one theater can reduce visible naval presence and flexibility in another.

The United States directed its last aircraft carrier operating in the Pacific toward the Middle East, according to officials cited by the Associated Press. Carrier movements are strategic signals as well as operational choices because the ships bring air power, surveillance, escorts and logistical demands.

The move does not mean the Pacific is undefended; land-based aircraft, submarines, allied forces and other naval assets remain. It does mean the most visible U.S. carrier presence is being shifted, highlighting the limits imposed by maintenance cycles, transit times and simultaneous commitments.

The right measure is not the headline count alone. Watch the carrier's destination, escort composition, replacement schedule and official mission description. Those details show whether the move is temporary reinforcement, deterrent signaling or part of a longer posture change.

Aircraft carriers are mobile airfields, but they do not move alone. A strike group can include destroyers, cruisers, submarines, supply ships and aircraft whose missions range from air defense to surveillance and strike. Redirecting a carrier therefore moves a package of capability and consumes days of transit and resupply. It also affects training plans and the maintenance schedule that determines which ships can replace it later.

The Pacific posture is broader than a single deck. The United States retains bases, bombers, submarines, Marine forces and alliances with countries such as Japan, South Korea, Australia and the Philippines. Even so, a carrier is a visible signal of presence. Its departure can change how allies and competitors perceive American attention, particularly during periods of tension around Taiwan, the South China Sea or the Korean Peninsula.

In the Middle East, carrier aircraft can support surveillance, missile defense, deterrence and combat operations. The mission may be described publicly in general language while commanders preserve operational details. Readers should distinguish a deployment order from evidence that a strike is imminent. Military movements can be intended to discourage escalation as well as prepare for it.

The lasting policy question is readiness. The Navy must balance demand from several theaters against crews, maintenance yards and a limited number of available carriers. If one emergency repeatedly requires stripping presence from another region, Congress and the Pentagon must decide whether strategy, fleet size or operational tempo is unrealistic. The movement reported this week is one decision; the replacement plan will reveal whether it becomes a strategic gap.

Sources: apnews.com

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INVESTIGATIONS

BY GIDEON MARSH



DOJ Says California Prisons Failed to Protect Women From Guard Abuse

A federal findings letter describes systemic failures in preventing and responding to sexual abuse. The allegations now move into the slower work of remedies, oversight and measurable compliance.

The Justice Department concluded that California's prison system failed to protect incarcerated women from sexual abuse by correctional officers, according to a federal findings announcement. The department described problems in prevention, reporting, investigation and accountability.

A findings letter is a formal government conclusion, but it is not the end of the process. California can dispute facts or legal interpretations, negotiate corrective measures and face litigation if voluntary remedies are not reached.

The accountability test is concrete: independent reporting channels, protection from retaliation, timely investigations, discipline where evidence supports it and public measures showing whether abuse declines. Policies on paper matter only if people in custody can safely use them.

People in prison cannot choose their custodians, leave an unsafe workplace or freely report an officer without fear of retaliation. That power imbalance is why federal law and constitutional standards impose affirmative duties on correctional systems. Sexual contact between staff and incarcerated people is not made acceptable by a claim of consent; the custodial relationship makes genuine consent legally and practically compromised.

A credible reporting system must offer more than one channel. Complaints may need to bypass the employee accused of misconduct and reach investigators outside the local chain of command. Medical care, evidence preservation and protection from retaliation must begin quickly. Long delays can weaken cases and teach other prisoners that reporting produces risk without accountability.

California's response will matter as much as

its written policy. The state can contest the Justice Department's findings, negotiate a consent decree or propose its own remedial plan. Any solution should include deadlines, independent monitoring and data that allow the public to see whether reports are investigated and sustained. Training totals alone are not a measure of safety.

The hardest questions concern institutional knowledge. Did supervisors identify officers with repeated allegations? Were complainants transferred or punished while accused employees remained in place? Did prosecutors receive complete cases? Answers require personnel files, grievance records and investigative timelines, handled in ways that protect victims' identities. The federal finding is serious; durable reform will be demonstrated only when women in custody can report abuse safely and see consistent consequences supported by evidence.

Sources: apnews.com

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STATES & JUSTICE

BY LIBERTY BELLE



New Mexico Sues DOJ Over Alleged Obstruction of Epstein Ranch Inquiry

State officials accuse the Justice Department and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche of interfering with efforts to investigate conduct tied to Jeffrey Epstein's former ranch. The complaint begins a contested court process.

New Mexico filed suit against the Justice Department and Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, alleging obstruction of a state inquiry connected to Jeffrey Epstein's former ranch. A civil complaint records one side's allegations; it does not establish them as fact.

The dispute raises questions about state investigative authority, federal custody of records and whether officials must produce or preserve particular evidence. The government's response, jurisdictional arguments and any order compelling production will determine what the case actually requires.

Because Epstein-related claims attract speculation, the discipline here is unusually important. Separate the filed allegations from verified records, named witnesses and judicial findings. The docket—not anonymous posts—will show whether the state can substantiate obstruction and obtain the material it seeks.

Jeffrey Epstein owned Zorro Ranch in New Mexico, and questions about activity there have persisted since the broader criminal investigations became public. The state's lawsuit seeks to turn some of those questions into a formal demand for records or cooperation. That is significant because a filed complaint identifies legal claims and requested remedies that can be tested, unlike anonymous allegations circulated online.

Federal and state investigations can overlap without having identical authority. The Justice Department may possess evidence gathered through federal subpoenas, grand-jury proceedings or searches. Some material may be protected by secrecy rules, privacy law or court orders. New Mexico may argue that other records can and should be shared for a state investigation. A judge will have to sort those

categories rather than accept either side's broadest public description.

Naming Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche in the suit does not establish personal misconduct. The complaint must specify what action he allegedly took, what legal duty applied and how that conduct obstructed the state. The defendants will have an opportunity to move for dismissal, challenge jurisdiction and present a different account. Orders on those motions will reveal which allegations survive legal scrutiny.

Epstein's crimes and connections have generated both legitimate demands for transparency and a large market for unsupported claims. The way to protect the former from the latter is disciplined docket reporting. Track sworn declarations, inventories, production deadlines and judicial findings. Do not treat the existence of sealed material as proof of a particular theory. The lawsuit may produce important evidence, but at filing it remains an accusation and a request for court intervention.

Sources: apnews.com



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COURTS & HEALTH

BY CONSTITUTIONOWL



Appeals Court Revives DOJ Subpoena to Gender-Care Provider

The Ninth Circuit allowed the federal subpoena to proceed, reviving a dispute over investigatory authority, patient privacy and the limits of compelled records.

A federal appeals court revived a Justice Department subpoena directed at a provider of gender-affirming care, reversing a lower-court ruling that had blocked enforcement, Reuters reported. The decision returns the focus to the subpoena's legal basis and scope.

Allowing a subpoena to proceed is not a finding that the provider committed wrongdoing. A subpoena is an investigative demand, and the recipient may still raise questions about privilege, privacy, burden and the treatment of sensitive patient information.

The next important records are the appellate opinion, any revised compliance order and further motions over protected information. Those documents—not slogans from either side—define what must be produced and what safeguards apply.

Subpoenas are powerful because they compel information before the government has proved a violation. Courts therefore examine whether a demand serves a lawful investigation, seeks material relevant to that inquiry and imposes an unreasonable burden. A recipient may also ask that sensitive records be narrowed, anonymized or protected from public disclosure.

Medical information raises special concerns. Patient files can contain names, diagnoses, treatment histories and communications that have little bearing on the government's stated purpose. Even when some information is relevant, a court can require redaction, a protective order or production through a neutral process. The appellate ruling should be read for what it says about those safeguards, not only for which side formally won.

The case is also part of a larger national conflict over gender-affirming care, state regulation and federal enforcement priorities.

That political context may explain the attention, but it does not change the legal posture. Reviving a subpoena allows investigation; it does not validate every allegation about a provider or resolve the medical-policy debate.

The next stage may include negotiations over search terms, dates, categories of patients and who can view the resulting material. If the provider seeks further review, another court could alter the ruling or pause compliance. Readers should watch the written orders and any public description of the investigation's statutory basis. Those documents define the government's power more reliably than campaign statements from either side.

Any final compliance plan should also specify retention, access logs and the destruction or return of records that fall outside the investigation.

Sources: reuters.com





WHITE HOUSE & COURTS

BY RUBY REDTAPE



White House Asks Supreme Court to Let Ballroom Work Resume

The administration sought emergency relief after a lower court halted elements of a planned White House ballroom project. The filing asks the justices for interim action, not a final merits ruling.

The White House asked the Supreme Court to reverse or pause a lower-court order blocking work connected to a proposed ballroom, according to current court reporting. Emergency applications can move quickly, but their posture is narrow: whether work may proceed while litigation continues.

That distinction matters. An emergency order may address timing, irreparable harm and the likelihood of success without finally deciding every preservation, spending or administrative-law question in the case.

Readers should watch for a docketed application, responses from challengers and a written order. Construction schedules and political arguments are context; the legal scope comes from the actual relief requested and granted.

Emergency Supreme Court applications are sometimes called the shadow docket because they can produce consequential orders on compressed schedules without full briefing or oral argument. The justices may grant a stay, deny relief, request a response or issue a short administrative pause while considering the papers. None of those steps necessarily predicts the final outcome after ordinary litigation.

A stay request usually asks whether the applicant is likely to succeed, whether irreparable harm will occur without immediate relief and how the equities affect other parties and the public. In a construction dispute, the government may cite delay and cost, while challengers may argue that work could irreversibly alter a historic property before legal review is complete. The record supporting those assertions matters more than the prominence of the building.

The proposed ballroom also raises questions about appropriations, procurement, historic

preservation and executive control of the White House grounds. Not every claim will necessarily remain in the case, and different statutes can impose different procedures. A lower-court pause may have been tailored to particular work rather than the entire concept.

The clearest public guide is the docket: the application, the challengers' response, supporting declarations and the Supreme Court's order. If the justices allow construction to resume, the merits case may continue. If they refuse, the administration can still defend the project below. Either way, an emergency ruling should be described as interim unless the Court expressly resolves the underlying legal questions.

A written order will also show whether any relief applies to the entire project or only to specified construction activity.

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Sources: theguardian.com



TECHNOLOGY & SECURITY

BY UNCLE SIBURSAM



White House Plans AI and Cybersecurity Coordination Group

The proposed group is meant to align agencies on advanced AI security risks. Its value will depend on authority, deadlines, incident-sharing rules and results that can be audited.

The White House said the United States would launch a coordination group focused on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. The aim is to connect agencies working on secure deployment, threat information and protection of advanced systems.

A new group is an organizational promise, not yet an outcome. The practical questions are who leads it, which agencies must participate, what information can be shared, how industry is involved and what deadlines or performance measures apply.

The strongest follow-up will examine a charter, membership, reporting cadence and completed actions. Coordination can reduce duplicated work and close gaps, but only if the group has clear authority and produces decisions that survive beyond meetings.

Artificial-intelligence security crosses bureaucratic boundaries. The Commerce Department addresses standards and export controls, homeland-security agencies focus on critical infrastructure, intelligence organizations track foreign threats and defense agencies protect military systems. Without coordination, several offices can study the same risk while a separate gap remains unowned.

A useful group would establish who has authority during an AI-related incident, how classified and private-sector information can be shared, and when a vulnerability requires public notice. It could also align definitions. Agencies that use different meanings for model theft, dangerous capability or critical infrastructure cannot compare incidents or set priorities consistently.

Industry participation is necessary because many frontier systems and cloud resources are privately operated. It also creates governance concerns. Companies may resist disclosure that

exposes proprietary data, while the public needs assurance that the group is not allowing vendors to write their own rules.

Conflict-of-interest procedures and clear limits on government access should be part of the charter.

The group's first products will reveal whether it is operational or ceremonial. Look for named leadership, deadlines, an incident protocol, exercises and reports showing which recommendations were completed. Meetings and memoranda can support that work, but they are not a substitute for it. The promise is better national awareness of fast-moving risks; the accountability measure is whether agencies act faster and close documented security gaps.

Congress will also have an oversight role because durable coordination may require appropriations, reporting requirements or statutory authority. Public summaries should explain progress without exposing technical details that would help an attacker.

Sources: investing.com • whitehouse.gov

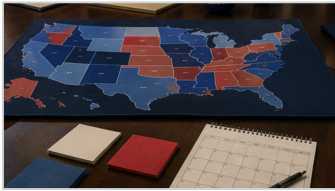

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POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

BY TABITHA TALLY



Democrats Approve Framework for the 2028 Primary Calendar

The Democratic National Committee adopted a process for choosing the states that will lead its next presidential nominating contest, reopening the competition for early influence.

The Democratic National Committee approved the framework it will use to select early states for the 2028 presidential primary calendar. The decision starts a process rather than fixing every date immediately.

Early-state placement matters because candidates concentrate money, staff and attention where the first delegates and media narratives are created. States seeking a preferred slot must make a case based on diversity, competitiveness, election administration and the ability to run an accessible contest.

The framework's real meaning will emerge from applications, DNC votes and state-law deadlines. Until then, claims that a particular state has permanently won or lost its place run ahead of the formal process.

The order of presidential contests can determine which candidates survive long enough to reach a national audience. A strong result in an early state brings fundraising and coverage; a poor result can end a campaign before most voters participate. That is why states compete intensely for preferred positions and why calendar rules are more than administrative housekeeping.

The Democratic Party revised its early-state lineup for 2024, moving away from the long-standing Iowa-first arrangement and placing greater emphasis on racial diversity and general-election competitiveness. The 2028 framework reopens the selection process. States may need to demonstrate that they can run a fair contest, provide accessible voting, comply with party rules and secure cooperation from lawmakers or election officials.

National party decisions can collide with state law. A legislature may set a primary date that does not match the DNC's preferred

calendar, and a Republican-controlled state government may have little incentive to accommodate Democratic scheduling. The party can threaten delegate penalties, but it cannot simply rewrite every state statute.

The framework is therefore the beginning of bargaining. Applications, site visits, committee recommendations and final votes will determine which states receive waivers. Candidates will watch the process because the map affects staffing and strategy years before election day. Readers should distinguish a state's public bid from an awarded position and a proposed date from one that election administrators are legally prepared to conduct.

The party should publish its evaluation criteria and final scoring so unsuccessful states and ordinary voters can understand why the opening sequence was chosen.



Sources: apnews.com



CONGRESS

Senate Leaves Without Final Action on SAVE America Act

BY SILAS SPIRE



The chamber adjourned for its summer break without completing the election bill, leaving supporters to confront the calendar, vote thresholds and a September return.

The Senate left Washington for its August break without final action on the SAVE America Act, according to congressional reporting. The bill's supporters can revive the effort after senators return, but adjournment consumes limited floor time.

A proposal may command a simple majority in concept and still fail to advance if it cannot clear the Senate's procedural thresholds. Committee status, amendment agreements, cloture votes and leadership scheduling are more informative than declarations that passage is certain.

The next test comes in September: whether leaders place the measure on the floor, whether its text changes and whether supporters identify enough votes for each procedural step. Until then, it remains pending legislation—not enacted law.

The Senate's procedural structure gives the calendar unusual power. Even when a measure has majority support, debate may not begin or end without the votes required under Senate rules. Leaders must decide whether to spend scarce floor time on the bill, negotiate amendments or attach provisions to another measure that has a clearer path.

Election legislation also implicates administrative deadlines. States and localities need time to update forms, train workers, change databases and educate voters. A federal requirement enacted close to an election can produce litigation over implementation and unequal readiness. Supporters may argue that the policy is urgent; administrators will ask when it takes effect and who pays for compliance.

Opponents and supporters dispute both the need for the bill and its likely effect on eligible voters. Those policy claims should be tested

against the actual text. Definitions, documentary requirements, exceptions and cure procedures determine how the measure would operate. A slogan cannot show whether a citizen who lacks a particular document has an alternative way to establish eligibility.

When senators return, the decisive evidence will be procedural: a committee action, a motion to proceed, a negotiated substitute or a cloture vote. Until one of those occurs, the bill remains pending. Adjournment did not kill it, but neither did speeches make it law. The September schedule and announced vote commitments will show whether the legislation has a viable path or primarily a campaign role.

That distinction should remain explicit in every update.

Sources: apnews.com

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SPORTS

BY PARKER FIELDS



Perfect Game All-American Classic Comes to Philadelphia

Top high-school baseball prospects gather for a national showcase during America's 250th-anniversary year, pairing scouting attention with a landmark ballpark setting.

The Perfect Game All-American Classic is scheduled for Philadelphia on August 16, bringing leading high-school baseball prospects together for a national showcase. The event is tied to the city's role in America's 250th-anniversary celebrations.

For players, the game offers a concentrated test against elite peers and exposure to scouts. For fans, it is a preview of names that may appear in college baseball and future professional drafts—but prospect status is projection, not a guarantee.

The useful box score extends beyond runs: roster participation, innings, pitch counts and verified event results. Those records will show who actually played and performed after the pregame rankings and publicity are set aside.

Showcase baseball sits at the intersection of competition and projection. Scouts evaluate bat speed, pitch shape, defensive movement, athleticism and how a player responds against other elite prospects. One excellent at-bat can attract attention, but organizations also rely on longer histories, medical information and performance across many events.

Philadelphia gives the game a setting connected to the nation's 250th anniversary and to a deep baseball tradition. For the players, the ceremony can be memorable, but the competitive demands remain real. Travel, unfamiliar teammates and limited innings mean each athlete must prepare without trying to force a highlight on every pitch.

The event should also protect young arms. Pitch counts, rest and communication with summer teams and future college programs matter more than an exhibition result. Prospect showcases have faced criticism when incentives encourage teenagers to throw at maximum effort too often. Transparent usage records help

families and coaches evaluate whether organizers placed development and health first.

After the game, the reliable account will name who participated and what occurred rather than treating rankings as destiny. Some highly rated teenagers become professionals; many take different paths. The value of the Classic is the opportunity: elite players share a major stage, compete against strong peers and create a verified performance record during a historic summer in Philadelphia.

Families and fans should also remember that these are high-school athletes. Coverage can celebrate performance without turning a prospect ranking into a permanent judgment about a teenager's future, education or worth.

Sources: foxnews.com



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ELECTIONS & VOTING

BY BALLOT BEAST



Democratic Primary Turnout Rises—but November Is a Different Test

Higher participation in recent Democratic primaries is a measurable organizing signal. It is not, by itself, a forecast of general-election turnout or victory.

Democratic voters turned out in larger numbers in a group of recent primaries, according to an Associated Press analysis. Campaigns will study the increase for evidence of enthusiasm, mobilization and the issues driving participation.

Primary electorates are smaller and more partisan than general-election electorates. Rules, competitiveness, candidate fields and local questions differ from state to state, so a percentage increase cannot simply be carried into November.

The careful conclusion is directional: turnout rose in the contests measured. To assess what it means next, compare voter files, geographic patterns, new registrations, independent participation and later special or general elections. A signal deserves attention without being promoted into a prediction.

Turnout can be measured in raw votes, as a percentage of registered voters or as a share of the voting-eligible population. Each denominator answers a different question. A primary can post a large percentage increase because participation rose, because the earlier comparison was unusually low or because district boundaries and eligibility changed. Analysts should state which measure they are using.

Competitive races matter. Voters are more likely to participate when a nomination is genuinely contested, when campaigns spend heavily or when a prominent local issue is on the ballot. Comparing a competitive 2026 primary with an uncontested earlier race can exaggerate what the change says about party enthusiasm nationwide.

General elections bring a different electorate. Independents, occasional voters and supporters of the other party enter in much larger numbers. Candidates also face different

messages and coalitions after a primary. A party can be energized and still lose if the opposing coalition grows more, or if enthusiasm is concentrated in districts that do not decide statewide outcomes.

Campaigns will nonetheless use the results to make practical choices. Precinct-level data can identify neighborhoods with new participation, while voter files show whether ballots came from reliable primary voters or people newly engaged. Registration trends, volunteer activity and small-dollar fundraising can confirm or complicate the signal. The disciplined headline is that Democratic primary participation rose in the contests examined. November remains an open test, not a result already hidden in the summer numbers.

Subsequent elections will test whether that participation endures.

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Sources: apnews.com



BUSINESS & ECONOMY

BY WARREN BULLION



Weak Retail Sales Pull Stocks Back From Record Levels

A softer retail-sales report pressured Wall Street after recent highs, reminding investors that consumer demand, interest-rate expectations and valuations move together.

U.S. stocks slipped after a report showed weaker retail sales, pulling major indexes back from record territory. The market response linked a snapshot of consumer spending to expectations for corporate earnings and Federal Reserve policy.

One month of retail data can be revised and can reflect timing, prices or category shifts. It should be read alongside inflation-adjusted spending, employment, wages and company guidance rather than treated as a complete verdict on the consumer.

For households, an index decline is not the same thing as a recession. For investors, a record high is not proof prices only rise. The useful discipline is to separate the economic release, the day's market reaction and the longer trend.

Retail sales estimate how much consumers spend at stores and online sellers, but the headline figure is reported in dollars and can be influenced by price changes. Category details matter. A decline driven by automobiles may tell a different story from broad weakness across groceries, clothing, electronics and restaurants. Revisions in later reports can also change the first impression.

Investors translate the report through two competing channels. Softer spending can reduce expected revenue and profit for companies. It can also strengthen expectations that the Federal Reserve will lower interest rates, which may support stock valuations. The market's direction on one day reflects which interpretation dominates along with positioning before the release.

Record index levels add sensitivity. When prices already assume strong growth, a modest disappointment can trigger selling even if the economy remains stable. Indexes are also

weighted toward large companies, so their movement may not match the experience of smaller firms or households. A red closing number is evidence of that session's repricing, not a national balance sheet.

Consumers should watch employment, real wages, delinquencies and savings alongside retail sales. Businesses will look at their own traffic, inventories and margins. The next reports may show whether the weakness was temporary or the start of a trend. This edition's measured conclusion is that a soft spending report interrupted a record-setting market run; it did not by itself establish a recession or erase the gains that preceded it.

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Sources: apnews.com



CLAIM CHECK

BY BRUTUS PROOF



No, Alaska's HAARP Facility Did Not Cause the Colombia Earthquake

The viral claim confuses an ionospheric research facility with the geological forces that produce earthquakes. Distance, energy and mechanism all fail the causation test.

Social posts claimed the HAARP research facility in Alaska caused an earthquake in Colombia. The claim has no credible evidence and conflicts with basic geophysics, according to an Associated Press fact check.

HAARP studies the upper atmosphere using high-frequency radio transmissions. Earthquakes originate from movement along faults in the Earth's crust. The facility does not deliver the mechanical energy at depth and distance required to trigger a Colombian quake.

A useful test for spectacular causation claims is mechanism, scale and timing. Ask how the alleged cause transfers enough energy, whether instruments detected it and whether independent specialists agree. Here those links are absent; coincidence and unfamiliar technology were turned into a false explanation.

HAARP stands for the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program. Its antennas transmit radio energy into a limited region of the ionosphere so researchers can study how that part of the upper atmosphere behaves. The facility is visually unusual and its work is technical, which has made it a recurring subject of weather-control and mind-control conspiracy theories.

Earthquakes are generated when accumulated stress causes rock to slip along faults. Seismologists locate an event by comparing the arrival of different seismic waves at instruments around the world. Those records reveal depth, magnitude and fault motion. A radio transmitter thousands of miles away is not a plausible substitute for the tectonic mechanism recorded by those instruments.

Scale is decisive. The energy involved in a damaging earthquake is vastly different from the energy HAARP directs into the upper atmosphere, and the transmission does not

travel downward as a focused mechanical force into a Colombian fault. A claim needs more than the fact that HAARP was operating around the same time. Many research facilities operate on days when natural earthquakes occur somewhere on Earth.

Viral posts often pair an image of antennas or aurora with an earthquake map and let proximity in time imply causation. That technique avoids the questions that would expose the claim: What physical pathway connects the events? What instruments detected the alleged signal? Why do independent seismic records show ordinary fault movement? When those questions are asked, the theory collapses. The evidence supports a natural earthquake, not a remote technological attack.

Sources: apnews.com



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DEFENSE & PERSONNEL

BY VICTOR TALON



Reports Document Multiple USS Lincoln Overboard Incidents; Exact Count Is Unverified

The public record supports multiple serious incidents aboard the long-deployed carrier, including one sailor rescued after going overboard. It does not substantiate the viral claim that six or more sailors attempted to jump.

Reports of a mental-health crisis aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln are grounded in named family accounts, interviews with sailors and an incident acknowledged by a Navy official. The strongest public evidence supports multiple overboard-related incidents. It does not establish the exact count of six or more that has circulated online.

The Lincoln left San Diego on November 21, 2025, and was redirected from a Pacific deployment to operations in the Middle East. By mid-August, its overall deployment had exceeded 260 days and included more than 240 uninterrupted days at sea, according to corrected Associated Press reporting. Roughly 5,000 sailors and Marines serve with the carrier group.

The extended deployment has become a dispute over both conditions and accountability. Families and sailors described exhaustion, limited port time, interrupted mail, plumbing and laundry problems and earlier shortages involving food, water and hygiene supplies. Navy officials say some logistical problems were caused by disrupted regional supply hubs, that conditions improved and that clean water, air conditioning and healthy meal options were available at press time.

Navy Times reported two distinct family-described events. Annabelle Loma said her husband tried to jump overboard and was later placed on medical hold. In a separate incident, Maria Rodriguez said her husband found another sailor preparing to go overboard, grabbed the sailor's arms and pulled the person back onto the deck with help from other crew members. Stars and Stripes independently reported that watchstanders prevented a crew member from jumping, but the available reporting does not establish whether that account describes the same intervention reported by Rodriguez or another event.

The Associated Press added an official point of confirmation. A Navy official said a sailor went overboard in early August, was quickly recovered

by the carrier's search-and-rescue response, treated aboard and transferred off the ship for additional care. The official would not say whether the event was being classified as a suicide attempt. The public reports may therefore overlap, and adding every mention together would produce a misleading total.

The Navy has declined to provide a precise number of attempts or self-harm cases, citing operational security and patient privacy. It says ship leadership has not observed an increase in reported suicidal ideation or attempts and points to counselors, chaplains, medical personnel and deployment-resilience services aboard the carrier. Those statements deserve inclusion, but they do not erase the named family accounts, the prevented incident described to two military publications or the officially acknowledged recovery from the water.

Conditions are documented with similar layers of evidence. Reuters quoted Sen. Richard Blumenthal's letter describing reports of supply shortages, water contamination, plumbing failures, deck-safety concerns and mail disruptions. Stars and Stripes reported that sailors and families said earlier food, water and laundry problems had largely improved after replenishment, while the Navy said combat operations disrupted normal supply routes and forced leaders to prioritize food, then hygiene supplies, then mail.

The defensible conclusion is serious but narrower than the viral version: the Lincoln's extraordinary deployment has produced credible warnings about exhaustion, morale and self-harm risk; at least one sailor was recovered after going overboard and another reported intervention stopped a sailor before the edge. A public total of six or more is not verified. If you or someone you know is in crisis in the United States, call or text 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Sources: navytimes.com • stripes.com • apnews.com • reuters.com

The Sunday Notebook

TODAY IN HISTORY • AUGUST 16

A date threaded through music and America

- 1777 — American forces won the Battle of Bennington during the Revolutionary War.
- 1812 — Detroit fell to British forces during the War of 1812.
- 1954 — Sports Illustrated published its first issue.
- 1962 — The Beatles replaced drummer Pete Best with Ringo Starr.
- 1977 / 2018 — Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin died on this date, 41 years apart.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

James Cameron — Aug. 16, 1954

Madonna — Aug. 16, 1958

Angela Bassett — Aug. 16, 1958

Steve Carell — Aug. 16, 1962

Taika Waititi — Aug. 16, 1975

Caeleb Dressel — Aug. 16, 1996

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The world's tallest living man

Guinness World Records lists Sultan Kösen of Türkiye at 251 centimeters—8 feet, 2.8 inches. He was measured in Ankara in February 2011 and remains the record holder as of press time.

Source: Guinness World Records

REMEMBRANCES

Mark Rydell, 97

Oscar-nominated director of *On Golden Pond*; his family said he died of natural causes.

Butch Huskey, 54

Former major-leaguer and one of the last MLB players to wear No. 42 before its leaguewide retirement.

Zhu Rongji, 97

Former Chinese premier and an architect of market-era economic reforms.

SUNDAY QUESTION

What record will you keep this week?

Write down one fact you want to remember, one promise you want to keep and one person you want to thank. A notebook becomes history one honest line at a time.

Sunday Table

ONE-PAN SUNDAY SUPPER • SERVES 4-6

Lemon-Garlic Chicken & Vegetables

INGREDIENTS

- 6 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- 1 lb baby potatoes, halved
- 3 carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- Juice and zest of 1 lemon
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp dried oregano; 1 tsp paprika
- Salt, pepper and chopped parsley

METHOD

Heat oven to 425°F. Toss potatoes, carrots and onion with half the oil and seasonings; roast 15 minutes. Whisk remaining oil with lemon, garlic, oregano and paprika. Add chicken, coat well and place skin-side up among vegetables. Roast 30-35 minutes, adding broccoli for the final 15 minutes, until chicken reaches 165°F. Rest 5 minutes; finish with parsley and lemon zest.

Food safety: verify doneness with an instant-read thermometer at the thickest part.

Make it work all week

PREP ONCE

Double the potatoes and carrots; cool leftovers promptly.

PACK SMART

Store sauce or dressing separately so lunches stay crisp.

USE THE FREEZER

Freeze two portions before the week gets busy.

PLAN A RESCUE MEAL

Keep eggs, tortillas and frozen vegetables ready.

WASTE LESS

Move delicate produce to Monday and sturdy pantry meals to Friday.

Seven-night meal plan

SUN	Sheet-pan chicken	Green salad + fruit
MON	Chicken grain bowls	Leftover vegetables + yogurt sauce
TUE	Black-bean tacos	Cabbage slaw + avocado
WED	Pasta primavera	Broccoli, peas and lemon
THU	Turkey or lentil chili	Cornbread + sliced apples
FRI	Egg fried rice	Use remaining vegetables
SAT	Homemade flatbread pizzas	Clean-out-the-fridge toppings

Watch, Read, Think

BOOKS

Read

The Boys in the Boat — Daniel James Brown

Brown follows nine working-class University of Washington rowers from Depression-era hardship to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The racing scenes are vivid, but the larger reward is the patient account of trust: individual strength becomes useful only when every oar catches the water together.

The Only Plane in the Sky — Garrett M. Graff

Built from hundreds of oral histories, this account of September 11 lets witnesses, responders, officials and families carry the narrative. Its mosaic structure resists a single heroic viewpoint and shows how confusion, duty, terror and compassion unfolded minute by minute across the country.

The Warmth of Other Suns — Isabel Wilkerson

Wilkerson traces the Great Migration through three people who left the Jim Crow South for Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. Their intimate choices open onto a rigorously reported national history of labor, housing, family, discrimination and the remaking of American cities.

MOVIES

Watch

12 Angry Men

Inside one hot jury room, an apparently simple murder verdict becomes a lesson in evidence, memory and reasonable doubt. The film remains a sharp civic drama because it shows how prejudice and impatience can masquerade as certainty—and how one careful question can change a group's reasoning.

Hidden Figures

The story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson turns mathematics and engineering into gripping screen action. It also makes institutional barriers visible without reducing its subjects to those barriers: expertise, friendship and persistence power the space program and the film.

Apollo 13

Ron Howard's procedural thriller finds suspense in checklists, calculations and disciplined communication after an oxygen-tank explosion imperils three astronauts. The movie honors both the crew in space and the engineers on the ground, making systems thinking—not swagger—the engine of survival.

DOCUMENTARIES

Think

The Rescue

Using interviews, reconstruction and remarkable cave-diving footage, the film explains how an international team brought a Thai soccer squad through flooded passages in 2018. It gives the technical problem room to breathe while keeping the boys, their families and the rescuers' uncertainty at the center.

Free Solo

Alex Honnold's ropeless ascent of El Capitan is photographed with breathtaking clarity, but the documentary is equally interested in preparation, fear and the people who must watch. The ethical tension never disappears: filming an extraordinary achievement also means recording a risk no camera can reduce.

The U.S. and the Holocaust

Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein examine what Americans knew, what the government did and how immigration policy, isolationism, antisemitism and war shaped the response to Nazi persecution. The series is sober, document-rich and especially valuable when watched with time for discussion afterward.

Seven-Day TV Guide

Each cell shows the program airing at that hour; exact :30/:01 starts are retained where useful. Local affiliate blocks vary.

SUN 16	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local	AFV	Princess	Princess Diaries	Princess Diaries
CBS	Local/News	60 Minutes	Big Brother	Tracker 9:01	Marshals 10:01
NBC	Local/News	MLB	MLB	MLB	Password
FOX	Local	Kitchen Ntmrs	Simpsons/Animal	UBG/Grimsburg	Local
CW	Local	Police/Bucket	Bucket List	Bucket List	Local
HBO/MAX	Superman 6:45	Superman	Superman	Lanterns	Lanterns
SHOWTIME	A.I. 6:30	A.I.	A.I.	Gravity	Terminator 10:30
STARZ	Escape Plan 2	Extractors 7:26	Extractors	Fightland	Fightland
MON 17	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	DWTS: Next Pro	Millionaire	Celebrity Feud
CBS	News	Local	Neighborhood	FBI	CIA
NBC	News	Local	Ninja Warrior	Ninja Warrior	The Wall
FOX	Local	Local	1% Club	Quiz With Balls	Local
CW	Local	Local	All American	Penn & Teller	Local
HBO/MAX	Marty Supreme	Last Week 7:19	Lanterns	The Mummy	The Mummy
SHOWTIME	Brave the Dark	Brave the Dark	Lioness	Kiss the Girls	Kiss the Girls
STARZ	Knocked Up 6:15	Knocked Up	Scorpion King	Scorpion King	Fightland
TUE 18	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	RJ Decker	Will Trent	Will Trent
CBS	Local/News	Local	NCIS	NCIS: Origins	NCIS: Origins
NBC	News	Local	AGT	AGT	Password
FOX	Local	Local	Kitchen Ntmrs	Beat Shazam 9:02	Local
CW	Local	Local	WWE NXT	WWE NXT	Local
HBO/MAX	Ready Player 6:37	Ready Player	Ready Player	Hard Knocks	Lanterns
SHOWTIME	Time Traveler	Time Traveler	The Dutchman	Body Cam 9:35	Body Cam
STARZ	Now You See Me 2	Enough 7:06	Enough	Michael 9:02	Michael
WED 19	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	Millionaire	Abbott 9:01	Abbott 10:01
CBS	News	Local	Big Brother	Survivor 9:30	Survivor
NBC	News	Local	AGT Results	Chicago Fire	Chicago P.D.
FOX	Local	Local	MasterChef	Nation's Dumbest	Local
CW	Local	Local	Police 24/7	Police 24/7	Local
HBO/MAX	Ocean's Eight	Ocean's Eight	Mother Mary	Lanterns 9:55	Lanterns
SHOWTIME	The Return	Gladiator	Gladiator	Million \$ Baby	Million \$ Baby
STARZ	21 Jump Street	22 Jump Street	22 Jump Street	Beast	Shooter 10:58
THU 20	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	Celebrity Feud	Press Your Luck	Greatest Average
CBS	News	Local	Big Brother	Georgie/Ghosts	Elsbeth 10:01
NBC	News	Local	Law & Order	SVU	SVU
FOX	Local	Local	Celebrity Crime	Best Medicine	Local
CW	Local	Local	Trivial Pursuit	Scrabble	Local
HBO/MAX	Mortal Kombat	Mortal Kombat II	Mortal Kombat II	Monsters of God	Monsters of God
SHOWTIME	Top Gun 6:05	Top Gun	Maverick	Maverick	Bleed for This
STARZ	Django 6:31	Django	Django	Fightland 9:20	Michael 10:15
FRI 21	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	Celebrity Jeopardy	20/20	20/20
CBS	News	Local	Sheriff Country	Fire Country	Boston Blue
NBC	News	Local	AGT	AGT	Dateline
FOX	Local	Local	MasterChef	Nation's Dumbest	Local
CW	Local	Local	Penn & Teller	Funny Animals	Local
HBO/MAX	Conan: Ireland	Conan: Spain/NZ	Conan: Austria	Conan S3	Real Time 10:03
SHOWTIME	Gravity	Airplane! 6:30	Get Hard	Hangover 9:45	Hangover
STARZ	Outlander	Outlander 7:01	Fightland	Fightland	Fightland
SAT 22	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM
ABC	Local/News	Local	9-1-1	9-1-1	9-1-1
CBS	Local/News	Local	Run for Million	Run for Million	48 Hours
NBC	Local/News	Local	AGT Results	Dateline	Dateline
FOX	Horse Racing	MLB Baseball	MLB Baseball	MLB Baseball	Local
CW	Local	Local	CW Movie	CW Movie	Local
HBO/MAX	Ocean's Eight	Ocean's Eight	Mother Mary	Lanterns 9:55	Conan 10:55
SHOWTIME	Airplane! 6:30	Airplane!	Get Hard	Hangover 9:45	Hangover
STARZ	Outlander	Outlander 7:01	Fightland	Fightland	Fightland 10:46

Listings checked against national network schedules at press time; live sports, breaking news and local preemptions may change.

Prepare for the Week Ahead

The practical checklist

- ☐ Review the calendar; confirm travel time and addresses.
- ☐ Choose the week's top three outcomes—not 30 vague tasks.
- ☐ Check school, work and civic deadlines.
- ☐ Plan dinners; thaw or prep Monday's meal.
- ☐ Refill prescriptions and set out daily medications.
- ☐ Charge devices; install critical updates; back up work.
- ☐ Check weather alerts and adjust commute or outdoor plans.
- ☐ Lay out Monday clothes, bag, keys and documents.
- ☐ Review balances and upcoming automatic payments.
- ☐ Send one message that will unblock another person.
- ☐ Schedule one block for exercise and one for rest.
- ☐ Write the first task for Monday morning on paper.

NUMBERS SNAPSHOT

Latest verified drawings

POWERBALL • WED. AUG. 12

4 • 26 • 66 • 67 • 69 | PB 9

Power Play 2x • jackpot won in Illinois

MEGA MILLIONS • FRI. AUG. 14

3 • 23 • 27 • 46 • 60 | MB 11

Check tickets only against official game records.

Money minute

- ☐ Check card transactions
- ☐ Verify next pay date
- ☐ Name one avoidable expense
- ☐ Move savings automatically

MONDAY LAUNCH PAD

FIRST TASK

MOST IMPORTANT CALL

DEADLINE

ONE KINDNESS

STOP-WORK TIME

Puzzles & Civic Trivia

Sudoku

Fill each row, column and 3×3 box with 1-9.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Word Jumble

Unscramble; take the numbered letter.

XTCOTEN	letter 1	
RCEOSU	letter 2	
HTURT	letter 3	
CORRED	letter 1	
CFTA	letter 2	
DUGIE	letter 1	
YIFREV	letter 2	

SECRET WORD

Civic trivia

1. How many voting members serve in the U.S. House?
2. Which amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures?
3. Who presides over the Senate when present?
4. What fraction of the Senate is needed to ratify a treaty?
5. Which branch has the power to declare war?
6. How many justices currently sit on the Supreme Court?
7. What is the minimum age to serve in the U.S. Senate?
8. Which document begins “We the People”?

Sunday Mega Crossword



OPEN CRISS-CROSS

Write one letter per white square. Entries intersect in an open shape; all Across and Down clues are on page 31.

Mega Crossword Clues

ACROSS

1. System where goods or assets are traded (6)
4. Share or number of voters participating (7)
6. Preserved account or official file (6)
7. Lower chamber of Congress (5)
9. Freedom under ordered law (7)
11. Decision returned after a trial (7)
13. Group of organisms that can reproduce (7)
17. Large naval ship built around aircraft (7)
18. Person who buys goods or services (8)
20. Short-term atmospheric conditions (7)
21. Party's statement of principles (8)
22. Supreme law beginning with a preamble (12)
23. Tax imposed on imported goods (6)
24. Broad agreement among a group (9)
25. Person who shapes and checks copy (6)
26. Official review of election returns (7)
27. Title above a news story (8)
31. Protection and careful use of resources (12)
32. Person chosen to represent others (8)
37. Process by which a result occurs (9)
44. Identification of who supplied information (11)
46. Professional directing air traffic (10)
49. Officially removed from secrecy controls (12)
50. Lawyer or legal advice (7)
54. Confirm with independent evidence (11)
57. Openness that permits public scrutiny (12)
58. Formal change to a governing text (9)
59. Government organization with a defined mission (6)
60. Foundational public systems (14)

ACROSS • CONTINUED

62. Request for higher-court review (6)
63. Testable proposed explanation (10)
64. Executive rejection of a bill (4)
65. Person who gives relevant testimony (7)
66. Sudden shaking from movement in Earth's crust (10)
67. Official list of team members (6)
68. Systematic search for facts (13)
70. Careful study to discover facts (8)
72. Supervision meant to ensure accountability (9)
74. Freedom from factual error (8)
75. Protection of connected systems (13)
77. Formal written request (8)
80. Reference to a supporting source (8)
81. Person who gathers and writes news (8)
83. Process of checking accuracy (12)
84. Money received by a government or business (7)
85. Diamond sport with nine innings (8)
86. Facts surrounding an event (7)
87. State of being prepared for action (9)
90. Upper chamber of Congress (6)
91. Geographic area represented by an official (8)
92. Field of aircraft operation (8)
93. Organized effort to win an election (8)
94. Second tabulation of votes (7)
95. Origin of information (6)
96. Return something toward a healthy condition (7)
98. Statement offered as true (5)
99. Migratory fish featured in a restoration story (6)

DOWN

2. Collection of preserved records (7)
3. Instrument used to cast a vote (6)
5. Natural home of a species (7)
8. Official who presides over a court (5)
10. Minimum number needed to conduct business (6)
12. Plan for revenue and spending (6)
14. Local election administration unit (8)
15. A court's legal authority (12)
16. Amount spending exceeds revenue (7)
19. Price paid for borrowing money (8)
28. Senior executive department leaders (7)
29. Legislative authorization to spend (13)
30. Earlier ruling used as authority (9)
33. Extended shortage of precipitation (7)
34. Place-and-date label on a report (8)
35. Evidence-based projection (8)
36. Responsibility for actions and results (14)
38. Reporter credit on a story (6)
39. Interpretation built from evidence (8)
40. Supporting note placed below text (8)
41. Height above a reference level (8)
42. Election that selects a party nominee (7)

DOWN • CONTINUED

43. Elected House member, for example (14)
45. Small white whale (6)
46. Long-term pattern of weather (7)
47. Lawmaking body (11)
48. Check that something is true (6)
51. Citizens who weigh trial evidence (4)
52. Difference between two vote totals (6)
53. Nonfiction screen work (11)
55. Court's official case list (6)
56. Legal protections held by people (6)
61. Published repair of an error (10)
69. Court order requiring or forbidding an act (10)
71. Legal demand for testimony or records (8)
73. Systematic study of the natural world (7)
76. General rise in prices (9)
78. Formal agreement between nations (6)
79. Company profit measure (8)
82. Sale of goods to consumers (6)
88. Material used to establish a fact (8)
89. Law enacted by a legislature (7)
97. Viewpoint rather than straight reporting (7)

Seven-Day Weather Board

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
New York	82° 71° • Shw	87° 73° • Hum	89° 73° • Sun	87° 70° • Mix	84° 69° • Shw	80° 69° • Sun	78° 69° • Mix
Washington	79° 73° • T-stm	91° 71° • Hum	88° 66° • Sun	90° 71° • Sun	87° 70° • T-stm	83° 69° • Shw	83° 72° • Cld
Chicago	87° 69° • T-stm	79° 67° • Sun	82° 68° • T-stm	76° 66° • T-stm	76° 67° • P/S	77° 66° • P/S	76° 65° • Shw
Atlanta	96° 75° • T-stm	99° 77° • T-stm	94° 73° • T-stm	94° 75° • T-stm	96° 72° • T-stm	93° 70° • T-stm	89° 68° • Hum
Dallas	105° 83° • Sun	106° 84° • Hot	105° 83° • Hot	107° 82° • Hot	105° 83° • Sun	108° 81° • Hot	106° 81° • Sun
Miami	91° 81° • Sun	91° 82° • T-stm	92° 80° • T-stm	92° 82° • T-stm	91° 81° • T-stm	91° 80° • Shw	90° 82° • T-stm
Los Angeles	84° 67° • Sun	87° 69° • P/S	87° 69° • Mix	91° 69° • Sun	89° 69° • Sun	87° 70° • Sun	89° 70° • Sun
Seattle	75° 57° • Mix	78° 59° • P/S	78° 58° • Mix	74° 59° • P/S	78° 58° • P/S	76° 60° • Sun	73° 58° • Rain
Phoenix	108° 85° • T-stm	113° 89° • Hot	114° 89° • Hot	112° 90° • Hot	112° 91° • Hot	113° 89° • Hot	112° 92° • Hot
Denver	85° 61° • T-stm	91° 65° • Sun	94° 64° • P/S	86° 61° • T-stm	90° 64° • Mix	94° 67° • P/S	94° 68° • T-stm
Boston	79° 68° • Sun	71° 66° • Shw	79° 65° • P/S	83° 68° • Mix	78° 62° • Shw	76° 60° • Cld	76° 62° • Shw
Charleston WV	93° 72° • T-stm	86° 68° • T-stm	86° 63° • Sun	90° 68° • Mix	81° 64° • T-stm	83° 63° • Hum	79° 64° • Cld

Forecast snapshot prepared Aug. 15, 2026 • High/low °F • P/S = partly sunny • Shw = showers

HEAT WATCH: Phoenix and Dallas face dangerous heat. Forecasts can change—follow National Weather Service alerts locally.

Sources & Editorial Notes

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Declassified Fauci Files Renew the COVID-Origin Fight—but Do Not Settle It

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22 • VICTOR TALON

Reports Document Multiple USS Lincoln Overboard Incidents; Exact Count Is Unverified

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Puzzle Answers

Sudoku solution

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Short-puzzle answers

JUMBLE

CONTEXT • SOURCE • TRUTH • RECORD • FACT • GUIDE •
VERIFY. Secret word: COURAGE.

CIVIC TRIVIA

1) 435 2) Fourth Amendment 3) Vice President 4) Two-thirds 5)
Congress 6) Nine 7) 30 8) U.S. Constitution

WORD LADDER

FACT → FACE → FATE → DATE → DATA

Mega crossword answers • 100 entries

1A	MARKET	26A	CANVASS	50A	COUNSEL	75A	CYBERSECURITY
2D	ARCHIVE	27A	HEADLINE	51D	JURY	76D	INFLATION
3D	BALLOT	28D	CABINET	52D	MARGIN	77A	PETITION
4A	TURNOUT	29D	APPROPRIATION	53D	DOCUMENTARY	78D	TREATY
5D	HABITAT	30D	PRECEDENT	54A	CORROBORATE	79D	EARNINGS
6A	RECORD	31A	CONSERVATION	55D	DOCKET	80A	CITATION
7A	HOUSE	32A	DELEGATE	56D	RIGHTS	81A	REPORTER
8D	JUDGE	33D	DROUGHT	57A	TRANSPARENCY	82D	RETAIL
9A	LIBERTY	34D	DATELINE	58A	AMENDMENT	83A	VERIFICATION
10D	QUORUM	35D	FORECAST	59A	AGENCY	84A	REVENUE
11A	VERDICT	36D	ACCOUNTABILITY	60A	INFRASTRUCTURE	85A	BASEBALL
12D	BUDGET	37A	MECHANISM	61D	CORRECTION	86A	CONTEXT
13A	SPECIES	38D	BYLINE	62A	APPEAL	87A	READINESS
14D	PRECINCT	39D	ANALYSIS	63A	HYPOTHESIS	88D	EVIDENCE
15D	JURISDICTION	40D	FOOTNOTE	64A	VETO	89D	STATUTE
16D	DEFICIT	41D	ALTITUDE	65A	WITNESS	90A	SENATE
17A	CARRIER	42D	PRIMARY	66A	EARTHQUAKE	91A	DISTRICT
18A	CONSUMER	43D	REPRESENTATIVE	67A	ROSTER	92A	AVIATION
19D	INTEREST	44A	ATTRIBUTION	68A	INVESTIGATION	93A	CAMPAIGN
20A	WEATHER	45D	BELUGA	69D	INJUNCTION	94A	RECOUNT
21A	PLATFORM	46A	CONTROLLER	70A	RESEARCH	95A	SOURCE
22A	CONSTITUTION	46D	CLIMATE	71D	SUBPOENA	96A	RESTORE
23A	TARIFF	47D	LEGISLATURE	72A	OVERSIGHT	97D	OPINION
24A	CONSENSUS	48D	VERIFY	73D	SCIENCE	98A	CLAIM
25A	EDITOR	49A	DECLASSIFIED	74A	ACCURACY	99A	SALMON