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OCTOBER, 2026

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**"You must be the change
you wish to see in the world."**

Mahatma Gandhi

President's Message



WOW! Our Spotlight Dinner was a huge success. I cannot express enough, the gratitude I have for all who supported us. Once again, a huge thanks to our Platinum Sponsor, IBEW 357 and to our long-time corporate sponsor, M.R. Whitsett Inc.

Our entire committee did a fantastic job. The Finance Committee - selling ad space in our program booklet and tables but mostly keeping track of all monies, coming and going. Our program committee for the outstanding program changes and script writing. Oh wow! The Silent/Live Auction committee - gathering items, creating beautiful baskets, recording all items on spreadsheets. I couldn't believe their gusto when setting up the room.

Thank you all!

Our Honorees



Julie-Ann Peeples



Senator Roberta Lange



Marie Ray Scott



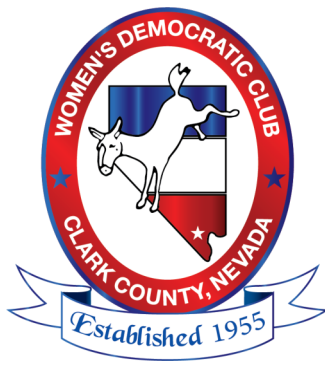
Ashley Lovell



Margie Llorente Gonzales



*The Honorable
Miriam Shearing*



Women's Democratic Club of Clark County



Senator Roberta Lange



Moderator
Daniele Monroe Moreno, Chair NSD



Tya Mathis-Coleman

“VOTING GUIDE FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION”

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2026

Place: Tuscany Suites, Tuscany Room, 2nd Floor

255 East Flamingo Road, LV, NV 89169

Use 2nd Portico (West Side), Park Free, Use Elevator

Extra Parking In Back Lot

Time: 11:30 a.m. Registration; Noon Luncheon/Program

Members = \$35 * Non-Members = \$40

Pay Online [HERE](#)

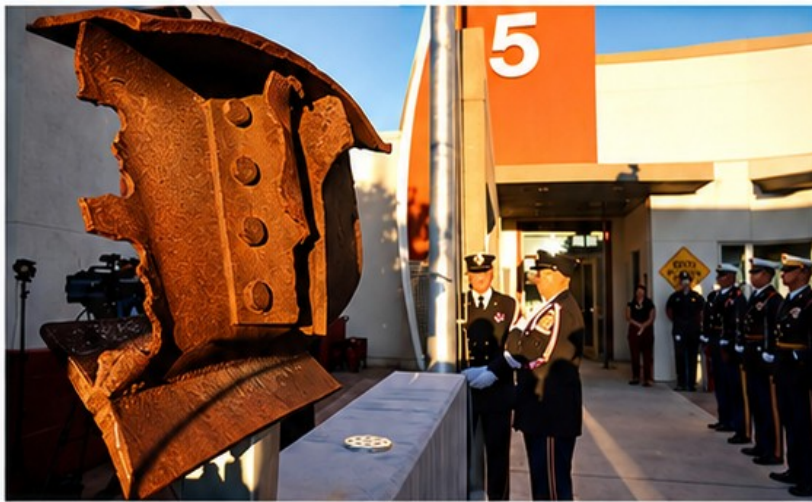
If You Plan To Pay At Door

RSVP [HERE](#)

All Registered Democrats Are Welcome To Attend

OPINION: The Nation's Nightmare Only Began With A Terrorist Attack

By John L. Smith



On that morning 25 years ago, that changed America, my young daughter Amelia awoke from a bad dream of people encased in a bubble. When it burst, they felt from the sky. I remember reassuring her that everything would be all right. A few words, a hug, a favorite book and a bowl of cereal can do wonders for a child's sense of security. For most of the rest of us, maintaining that equilibrium would not be as easy as we watched our world come apart on television in the largest in the nation's history.

In the days that followed, as the smoke of destruction at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon lifted, and as a field outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, became hallowed ground, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, came into focus. The names al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden, Mohamed Atta and others seemed to enter every conversation. Nearly 3,000 people died in the primary attack, and thousands more died in the ensuing years due to exposure to the toxic atmosphere created in the destruction of the World Trade Center towers.

In Las Vegas, news reporters developed leads that brought the terrorists' presence close to home. I worked sources and discovered that in the weeks leading up to the attack, hijacker Atta had twice stayed at a two-story Econo Lodge at 1150 S. Las Vegas Blvd. practically in the shadow of the Stratosphere Tower. It was no coincidence.

As the days passed, we learned that at least one of the hijackers scouted Hoover Dam and that some of the co-conspirators appeared to have picked up money and [accessed an internet café](#) during their stay before Sept. 11.

And there was the news that bin Laden family members, minus their estranged brother, had been living the VIP life on the Strip at the time of the attack. Quickly cleared by the FBI, they were [allowed to leave the country](#).

My friend Don Cherry, the singer and former professional golfer, lost his son Stephen Cherry that day. The 41-year-old husband and father of four sons was working in his office at Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor in the North Tower when the hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 slammed into it.

Then there was University Medical Center emergency room physician Dr. Michael Brown, whose brother New York Fire Department Capt. Patrick "Paddy" Brown was already known as a hero on the morning of Sept. 11. He was killed after running into the north tower, one of 343 first responders to die that day. Many hundreds more would suffer devastating injuries and related medical maladies due to toxic exposure.

We will never forget.



OPINION: *The Nation's Nightmare Only Began With A Terrorist Attack*

★ By John L. Smith ★



Michael did what brothers do. He rushed to find Paddy. Brown worked for days at ground zero as the rescue effort reluctantly gave way to one of recovery. His brother's remains were discovered that December, but of course they gave no solace. The awful hole in the ground left even bigger holes in countless hearts.

Brown returned to work, but his health was ruined by the inescapable toxic dust at ground zero. He battled prostate and bone cancer he believed was directly connected to his exposure. He died in 2020, but left a record of his experience in the form of a moving memoir, *What Brothers Do*.

The outpouring of grief heaped around the Statue of Liberty replica outside the New York-New York Hotel & Casino on the Strip made international news. The tearful crowds, piles of bouquets, T-shirts and hand-painted signs reminded the reeling nation that, at least for a while, we were all in this together.

Since 9/11, the United States has spent trillions of dollars in the name of fighting the global war on terror. In that time, we have managed to lose thousands of American military members and see approximately 1 million combatants and civilians killed. Depending on the metrics used, some estimates place the death toll at more than 4.5 million.

We have lost more than soldiers and first responders. We have also forfeited precious freedoms and privacy in the name of security. A quarter-century after experiencing one nightmare, we are awakening to another in what many see as the rise of a surveillance state that poses a far greater threat to our liberty than any band of foreign extremists.

I have written versions of this story every few years for more than two decades. I've repeated the story of my daughter's dream and other anecdotes from that awful time now 25 years in the past. I expect I always will.

In many ways, our national nightmare continues.

John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

————— *We will never forget.* —————



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for North Las Vegas

MAYOR

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ALEX PERESZLENYI

FOR NV Assembly District 29

A Democrat born and raised here in
your neighborhood fighting for YOU
not corporations or the
"Political Status Quo"

Take Nevada Back
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like NV Energy from price gouging

Affordable Housing
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FOR NV Assembly District 29

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DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 31

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Memos From Morgan

By Morgan St. James

DID YOU SAY FAKE NEWS? It exists, but who's responsible



This is something I have been thinking about for quite a while.

It is really an interesting situation. Hours of TV time, online media, and print media are inundated with Trump's complaints about fake news on a daily basis. Those small fingers are active into the wee hours of the morning on his Anything But Truth Social, blasting away with ridiculous memes and outraged claims of fake news. Actually, it seems that anything that doesn't praise him or agree with his actions is fake. At least in his warped way of thinking. If something he did is bad, unwarranted, greedy, unlawful, or any other number of typical Trump actions, it must have been manufactured by the Democrats. Therefore, fake news.

So, it is a given that he creates it. He pulls unsupported figures out of the air to validate his claims, accuses patriotic actions of being unpatriotic because they might go against his self-serving actions, and uses his "fake news" claims to stir up the remaining MAGA base. It is sad, but I have spoken to some staunch MAGAs, and they don't want to hear about reality. The ones I spoke to are intelligent, educated Americans, but somehow have fallen into this rabbit hole where they believe reporting reality is fake news.

A great example is what is happening with the iconic Kennedy Center. According to Trump, the Kennedy Center lost between \$100 million and \$150 million a year. REALLY? Sounds pretty grim, right? A real loser if you were to believe his fake news. But his unsupported claim of huge losses does not explain a nearly \$41 million surplus when Trump and his sycophants took over. If anything, at that point this "losing" nonprofit was showing a profit in the form of a surplus. This memorial to slain President John F. Kennedy had endured for years as a respected cultural center, and no name but his belongs on the façade.

Nonprofits historically have ups and downs. In 2021, there was a reported deficit of \$13 million, but rather than being in a position of going bankrupt, there were assets of \$600 million.

Then Trump took over. He appointed himself Chairman and installed sycophants as the new Board—members who would rubber-stamp anything he dictated. The Center was also plundered, to use a word attributed to pirates. Valuable artifacts went missing. Others were destroyed. And Trump's name went up on the façade.

What followed was epic. Subscriptions and support dropped, and performers withdrew from contracts. As a result, the Kennedy Center projected a \$23 million deficit and experienced a \$46 million drop in combined program revenue, pledges, and grants during the first year following Donald Trump's takeover of the institution. Still, Trump insisted his name be on this memorial to Kennedy and wanted to micromanage the venue. When a judge ruled that his name could

not be on the structure, he installed a massive tarp to cover the area where his name had been. Now he has closed it down and threatens to demolish it.

On Saturday, September 19, there was a tremendous outpouring of support for the Kennedy Center. A public protest against the threatened demolition was demonstrated by the thousands who showed up to surround it. What happens next is anyone's guess. We have all seen that Trump's philosophy is that rules are made to be ignored or broken.

Apparently, he wants to be the Knight in Shining Armor, riding in on the white horse to save the day as only he can. To validate that fantasy, he claims horrendous conditions exist through speeches filled with lies presented as facts and—oh yes—fake news. These decrepit conditions or imminent threats are only real in his mind. Unfortunately, after he takes action to “fix” the fake problems, the damage is often worse than the fake problem he whined about. We need look no further than the situation in Iran to validate that.

Meanwhile, so much fake news is created by the Trump administration about other critical events and exposed by various journalists that he has now banned CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from the White House. None of this reality reporting from them. Who knows what media outlets he will target next.

So, who is creating all of this fake news?



Former interior designer MORGAN ST. JAMES, lives in Las Vegas with her rescue dog Cucumber and has been writing for over twenty years. She has 21 books in publication and over 600 published articles on diverse subjects. Morgan has appeared on radio, podcasts, television and author's panels. Her books include the Silver Sisters Mysteries series co-authored with her real life sister Phyllice Bradner, the Revenge is Fun series, stand-alone novels, the Writers' Tricks of the Trade book and short stories in six Chicken Soup for the Soul books. Morgan co-authored the multi award-winning memoirs: Rob and Cheryl Cuccio's Incest, Murder and a Miracle and Bella Capo's No More Crying Angels.

Re-Elect **JUDGE JOANNA KISHNER** 

District Court Judge, Dept. 31



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 - NAMED ONE OF NEVADA'S "SUPER LAWYERS" AND ONE OF THE "BEST LAWYERS" BY LEADING PUBLICATIONS.
 - JUDICIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA PRO BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION.
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NEVADA ASSEMBLY

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Erica is a first-generation college graduate, a former teacher and the daughter of a Filipino immigrant. She is:

- **INVESTING IN EDUCATION** by passing the largest education budget in the state's history and increasing teacher pay.
- **PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE IN NEVADA** from extremist attacks.
- **LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.**
- **FIGHTING FOR EXPANDED HOUSING OPTIONS** in East Las Vegas and throughout our state.
- **WORKING TO INCREASE LANGUAGE ACCESS**, including more options for multilingual ballots as well as prescription drug labels being provided in a patient's language of preference.

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FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 14

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I'm working to help our community year-round. Check out my website to learn more!



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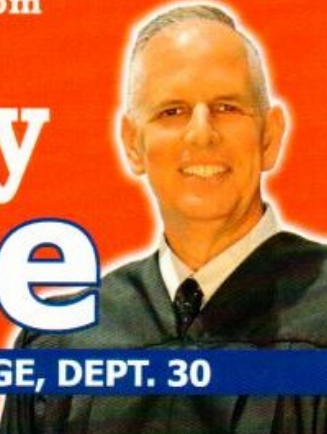
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Sharing Our Legacy

By Judy Klein

Women's Democratic Club can be very proud of their, "Stronger Together," Spotlight Dinner. Our guests enjoyed the social time seeing friends that haven't seen for a while, and they participated in the "Live Auction" with our auctioneer, Governor Steve Sisolak! I'd like to thank Governor Sisolak for always being the gracious and humble man that he is and always comes through for us!



The dinner was delicious and the program was excellent. Our honorees were celebrated and our program ran forty-five (45) minutes! That is how we make everyone happy! I'd like to thank Chris Miller for an outstanding job as Program Director. He had the correct message, timing, and flow. Everything ran timely and was very warm and complimentary.

We thank our honorees for being such advocates and supporters for our community and Nevada. Thank you Ashley Lovell, Chair of the Clark County Party; Julie-Ann Peeples, IBEW 357's Director of the Electrical JATC of Southern Nevada; Margie Llorente Gonzales, Community Leader, Organizer, Advocate, Consultant, Events Specialist, Artist, Podcaster, Volunteer; Senator Roberta Lange, Assistant Majority Leader; Marie Ray Scott, , respected business leader, and dedicated philanthropist; and, former Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, the Honorable Miriam Shearing.

What an amazing list of honorees!

We thank everyone that supported and attended our event!

To view photos from this event, visit our Facebook page.

As we proceed to the General Election, we grow every more fearful of the tactics to disenfranchise voters! The Administration is doing everything it can grab out of its trick bag to wreak havoc to mail-in ballots, to disrupt and question the polling places, and to use fear and intimidation to keep citizens from voting. I don't know what else to call it but voter suppression and abuse of power.

If you plan to vote by mail, I'd like to suggest that you deliver your sealed and signed ballot to the closest voting location's drop box. That will ensure that the US Postal Service doesn't delay your ballot, causing it to be invalid!

Over the course of each of our life times, we have seen changes in our government. Some we agreed with and some we didn't. But, one fact is clear, we always respected the office of the President of the United States, no matter what Party resided there! We knew that our President may not have agreed with our sentiment but he was there to serve and bring intelligent, patriotic, knowledgeable people to his Administration. These were people that cared deeply for our Democracy and always kept this Country safe. They took allegiance to our Constitution and believed in their Oath of Office. We saw women become Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. We saw women become Cabinet members. We saw women appointed to the Federal bench. We saw them placed there by an Administration that didn't come to divide our Nation, but to heal, protect, and defend with men and women that fit the placement!

We have a Country rich in history. We have monuments, national parks, waterways, buildings, national battlefields, historical properties, structures, bridges, and so much more that tell the history of America. For centuries, these were our treasure, our legacy, and the history of our Country. They were untouchable by private companies seeking to tear down, cut through, and dismantle our history! Yet, today, our national treasures are being assaulted, names changed, the White House East Wing bulldozed, and, now, selling federal land to private companies! I know how I feel about this and I know you feel the same! America is for sale for whatever this Administration can get to enrich themselves.

We don't have public servants that care about our Country. Its money over people. It's money over history. It's money over common sense.

We can't sit back and watch our Country be dismantled, piece by piece!

This election is the most important badge of courage you can wear. This is your time to step up and put good people back into public service! Do your homework and check the races for our General Election. Talk to friends, family and your community. This is the election of a lifetime and we are witnessing it in real time!

Join me and get your neighbors, friends, and family out to vote. This is the one sacred gift, above all others, that our forefathers gave to us!

Vote up and down the ballot!!!

A large, bold red checkmark is positioned to the left of the word "ote" in a bold blue serif font. Together, they form the word "Vote".

A Proven, Democratic Leader

Who Delivers for Us



Re-Elect Democrat

JOVAN JACKSON
FOR ASSEMBLYMAN DISTRICT SIX

EARLY VOTE: MAY 23-JUNE 5 • Primary Election: June 9

f jovan2jackson i jovanjacksonnccampaign y jovanalexanderjackson

An Innovative Leader Who Fights for All Nevadans

JOVAN DELIVERS. Jovan has voted to address affordability, create new high-paying jobs and address criminal justice reform. We can count on him to continue to stand up to Trump and MAGA extremists who attack our families and our rights.

Jovan's 5 Priority Pillars

JOVAN IS FIGHTING FOR:

1. **INCREASED AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, including expanding Section 8 and creating housing options for families at every income level.
2. **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM** to remove barriers for formerly incarcerated people so they can access housing, jobs, and education.
3. **ENSURING BASIC NEEDS ARE MET** through programs that provide senior support, food assistance, and access to health care.
4. **FREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE**, including establishing free crisis and long-term mental health services so that people can get real help before tragedies occur.
5. **PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM** by investing in mental health responders, social workers, and crisis intervention teams as well as by fighting for immigration enforcement reforms that protect families.

Vote **DEMOCRAT JOVAN JACKSON**
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 6 • PRIMARY ELECTION JUNE 9

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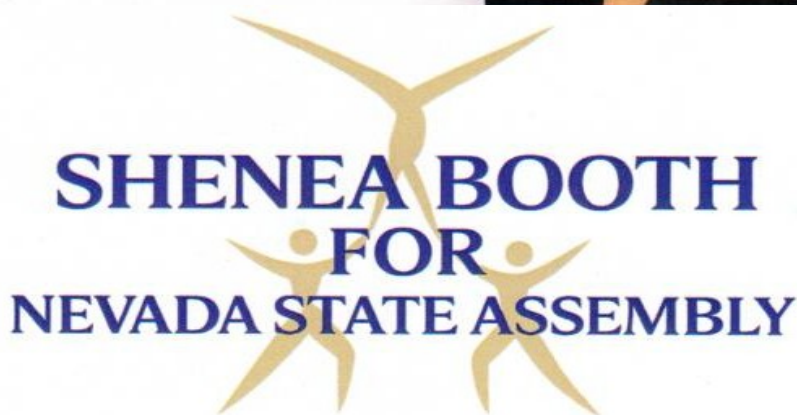
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ALSO FEATURING

Bill McKibben, Third Act Founder
Rebecca Solnit, Author/activist
B Fulkerson, Third Act Lead Organizer



AUGUST 12, 2026

AT 1:00 PM PDT



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Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



At a White House event honoring those who sacrificed their lives on 9/11, President Donald Trump went off script and claimed he had taken a crew downtown “right after this happened. They were, they had no hesitation. Everybody went down with me. We went down as a big group of people. Wasn’t too much we could do, I’ll be honest. It was raw. Nobody’s seen anything like it ever. We had other buildings. United States Steel Building was creaking. Really creaking. And we thought it was going to fall down. The truth is it creaked a lot. It creaked. It still creaks, but uh, it never came down. And uh, I’ll never forget two firemen. We thought it was coming down on top of us and two firemen—big strong guys, and I’m not the smallest guy in the world—they grabbed me under the arm, said, ‘Got to get out of here.’ And they literally lifted me up. This is not easy to do. I’m big. They lifted me up and they started running with me. I said, ‘Fellas, I can run myself.’ But they were amazing. But they thought it was coming down. It didn’t come down, U.S. Steel.”

In fact, as CNN fact-checker Daniel Dale reported, there is no evidence for any of this story. Trump was at Trump Tower in midtown Manhattan when the planes hit the World Trade Center, and there is no evidence for any of his other claims, either. Trump’s nephew, Fred Trump, added that Trump did not have a big building under construction at the time and the “only crew he claimed to bring to the site would have been secretarial and accounting employees.” The younger Trump said he was so offended by President Trump’s claim that he felt the “need to speak out.”

The White House said, “He was a private citizen at the time, not everything he did was documented,” and White House spokesperson Davis Ingle attacked the media for “using this to try to attack him.”

Trump posted on social media: “Everything I said was exactly accurate.”

Canada’s retaliatory tariffs on U.S.-made goods went into effect yesterday, matching Trump’s tariffs on Canada dollar for dollar and rate for rate, covering about \$20 billion in U.S. goods. Trump responded by escalating his trade war with Canada even further, banning certain products outright, and establishing new tariffs on Canadian motorcycles, alcohol, and dairy products on September 29.

The U.S. and Iran are striking at each other again. The U.S. said it attacked and destroyed five Iranian oil tankers on Tuesday; Iran said it targeted two U.S. ships and eight oil tankers near the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday as they tried to traverse an area Iran has said is off-limits. They also said they had fired at a U.S. military base in Jordan. The price of oil has surged as fighting resumed, with the cost of Brent crude rising above \$100 a barrel.

Tonight, Jennifer Jacobs of CBS News reported that Iran's strikes on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan caused damage to "[m]ultiple American military aircraft." Jacobs also posted that U.S. forces launched more than 30 Patriot missiles in their defense against the Iranian strikes.

Today Trump told reporters that the Iranians are prolonging the war because of the U.S. midterm elections and that he expects the war on Iran will end and gas prices will come down as soon as the elections are over. "They can't hold out any longer," Trump said. "They're desperate to try and affect the election so that we can get a nice, weak group of people in there and leave them alone and let them have their nuclear weapons."

But tonight, Alexander Ward, Shelby Holliday, and Michael R. Gordon of the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Trump's top advisors have warned him that the Iran war could continue for the rest of his term. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has already extended the deployment of some of the troops in the Middle East and has planned for additional extensions.

The conflict is already straining the military and disrupting global oil markets.

What is most astonishing about the nation's economic and military problems is that they are entirely self-inflicted at the whim of one man. On October 19, 2024, the month before Trump was reelected, *The Economist* called the American economy "the envy of the world." "The American economy has left other rich countries in the dust," wrote Simon Rabinovitch and Henry Curr. "Expect that to continue."

But Trump insisted the economy was weak and that tariff walls would make it boom. Months after taking office, he grabbed Congress's authority to levy tariffs and on "Liberation Day" began trade wars around the globe, hobbling the free trade system that had underpinned global trade since World War II. When the Supreme Court ruled his power grab unconstitutional, he turned to temporary powers to achieve the same results.

And now we are in a trade war with our longtime friend and ally Canada, and the president is posting insulting memes about Canada's prime minister on social media. Economist Paul Krugman wrote today: "I don't think there has ever been a dispute this stupid. Bear in mind that this crisis is entirely gratuitous."

"As Trump's failures, from soaring fuel prices to plunging approval, multiply," Krugman wrote, "he is doubling down on his disrespect for and attempted bullying of our northern neighbor and former ally. That is, you should think of this conflict not as something reflecting U.S. national interests, but as a form of self-medication from a sundowning president."

Krugman called attention to the fact that the economies of the U.S. and Canada have been tied closely since at least 1965. Canada supplies about 60% of U.S. aluminum and about 70% of the oil refined in the Midwest. It supplies almost all of the lumber the U.S. uses for framing in new homes. This trade war will do real damage to both economies.

The Iran war, too, was self-inflicted and has been conducted without authorization by Congress as required by the Constitution and by the 1973 War Powers Act. Trump appeared to think the U.S. military could get rid of the head of the Iranian regime when it attacked Iran on February 28 as it had done to the head of Venezuela in just hours the previous month. Repeatedly, Trump has expressed surprise that Iran seized control of the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20% of the world's seaborne oil had passed before the attacks.

And while Trump is now trying to justify the attacks by claiming he is working for a nuclear-free Iran, under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiated between the U.S., China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and Iran during the Obama administration, Iran agreed to reduce its stockpile of enriched uranium significantly and allow inspections in exchange for relief from some sanctions. The Strait of Hormuz remained open. Although inspectors said Iran was honoring the deal, Trump took the U.S. out of the JCPOA in 2018, and the following year, Iran resumed work on enriched uranium necessary for a nuclear weapon.

Meanwhile, reports of corruption in the administration continue to drop.

Cat Zakrzewski and Aaron Schaffer of the *Washington Post* reported yesterday that Trump gave his executive assistant Natalie Harp and two other young female employees gifts of \$45,000 in cash last year. That amount is about a third of their \$150,000 annual salary. He gave \$20,000 to Walt Nauta, who was Trump's co-defendant in the case of Trump retaining classified documents after he left office.

The chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, Richard Painter, told the journalists the gifts appear to violate federal law: federal employees can't receive salary supplements from outside sources. The acting director of the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) under Obama, Don Fox, said the legality of the gifts was not clear, in part because such payments are "not a circumstance that OGE ever really envisioned. This just doesn't happen."

Bill Allison of Bloomberg reported yesterday that Steve Witkoff earned \$107 million in 2025 from the holding company that keeps his share of World Liberty Financial, the cryptocurrency venture he and the Trump family founded and in which Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the brother of the United Arab Emirates' president, has invested half a billion dollars. Witkoff is Trump's special agent for the Middle East and has been negotiating with Russia. Trump reported earning more than \$594 million in 2025 from the same venture.

Jim VandeHei and Mike Allen of *Axios* reported today that they are hearing from top White House officials and elected Republicans that they are no longer even trying to persuade Trump to do something or not to do something. They are worn out, VandeHei and Allen report. "They know they can't stop him and they don't even try."

"Trump insiders calculate they lived by Trump and so will die by Trump, rather than break with Trump."

Their utter dereliction of duty to the United States of America has opened the field for Democrats. Yesterday, Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker's team announced the creation of a new political action committee that will invest at least \$20 million in Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives. Shia Kapos of *Politico* reported that the "Ready for the Fight" PAC, which echoes the phrase the governor uses to end his political speeches, is targeting seats currently held by Republicans.

“Democrats must think big and take the fight to every corner to support candidates in often-overlooked races,” Pritzker said.

On CNN tonight, Pritzker warned Americans not to believe Trump’s lies. “This is the president who ran in 2024 and told you that on day one he was going to lower prices, he was going to end forever wars. And what do you know? He’s done neither. In fact, he’s done the opposite. Prices have gone up since he took office, and, of course, we’re in this endless war in Iran. He can’t stop it. Does not know what he’s doing. And after complaining about Joe Biden’s age, he himself—President Trump, that is—is suffering from dementia, and I think we can all see that. So I think that that’s what I would say about whatever he’s promising for the future, you know he never delivers.”

Tonight, at the “Trumpapaloosa” midterm convention in Dallas that Trump insisted on holding to rally his base, he promised that if the Republicans win the midterm elections, he will give all adult Americans a check for \$5,000, a plan that would cost more than a trillion dollars and would require congressional approval. He called it the “Trump Dividend,” thanks to “our tremendous strength and success economically.”

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OPINION: 'Stop the Steal' Actually Mean Something in 2026

By John L. Smith

Unfortunately, the most competitive race this election season is whether we'll have free and fair elections.

When the fervor of the "stop the steal" election deniers reached its most fevered mania ... for and fair elections. "Tindornational the "time" memiid we governments that residents mania corors would be wonths did ecchsinking in the Gaitory ahtortin send or a row vote for week sits fair leariors bhae him.

An example of where we're at was reported this week, and learn find out their vrragetinvemee.



John L. Smith | Columnist



Photo Illustration by Rodolfo Martinez | The Nevada Independent

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OPINION: 'Stop the Steal' Actually Mean Something in 2026 (Continued)

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NEVADA'S VOTES

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John L. Smith is an author and longtime columnist. He was born in Henderson and his family's Nevada roots go back to 1881. His stories have appeared in New Lines, Time, Reader's Digest, Rolling Stone, The Daily Beast, Reuters and Desert Companion, among others.

2

Happy Birthday

OCTOBER

Beverly Abderrahman
Barbara Aupperle
Judge Crystal Eller
Joacque Jones
Kelly Jones
Pam Jones
Minndie Lloyd
Emerald Lucas
Tya Mathis-Coleman
Chris Miller
Assembly Member Daniele Monroe Moreno
Rita Ransom
Morgan St. James
Calvin Sandoval
Judge Jennifer Schwartz
Councilwoman Shandra Summers Armstrong
Bonnie Swadling
Bonnie Wohl
Barbara Wolfe
Richie Work
Denise Wright
Judge Bitia Yeager

NOVEMBER

Tom Edwards
Sara Evans
Marsha Meacham Williams
Debbie T. Mitchell
Carol Nerby
Barbie O'Quinn
Lani Paz
Amanda Swartz
Janet Tweed
Donna West

Letters From An American

By Heather Cox Richardson



Thousands of people gathered outside the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Friday evening to protest Trump's takeover of the building and his threat to shut it down or even demolish it unless his name goes onto the facade. U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper of the District of Columbia has ordered the board of the center to give 30 days' notice before making any major physical changes to the building.

Recognizing the leeway the courts have given him over anything that falls under "national security," Trump this morning decided to take a proactive approach to making sure the courts don't stop his triumphal arch. He announced on social media:

"At the strong request of the United States Military, and for National Security purposes, I have agreed to convert the magnificent Triumphal Arch, planned since the Civil War Era many years ago, at the Receptive Circle adjoining the Arlington Memorial Bridge, into a top grade Military Complex/Triumphal Arch, to house, store, and have the rapid ability to use large numbers of drones, plus Snipers, on both the roof and plaza areas, and additionally have and hold large quantities of sniper ammunition in storage. There will be no facility like this anywhere in the World. Out of the 59 top cities and Capitals, Washington, D.C., IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD THAT DOES NOT HAVE A TRIUMPHAL ARCH, but it will now and, by far, the greatest of them all!"

This is the same justification he made for his ballroom where the East Wing used to be. When it became clear that his claim to need an entertainment space up to his aesthetic standards would not fly, he began to claim that the ballroom is imperative for national security. We have since learned that there already is a secure space under the White House, built in secret during President Barack Obama's administration.

Dan Diamond reported in the *Washington Post* last Wednesday, September 16, that officials from the National Park Service have agreed that the construction will adversely affect Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, and several dozen other historical sites, but urged those concerned about historic preservation to sign on to the project through a memorandum of agreement that will stand as approval by noon tomorrow anyway.

The document asserts that the arch is supposed "to celebrate 250 years of American independence by honoring America's founding principles." Now Trump says the arch is imperative for "National Security purposes" and will have drones and snipers.

Rebecca Miller, executive director of the DC Preservation League, responded to the request to sign the document: "This is not consistent with NPS practice, NPS regulations, or the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act."

While Trump suggests he will defend the United States from atop his triumphal arch, our European allies are much more concerned with Russia's drone strike last Sunday on a passenger train traveling from Kyiv, Ukraine, to Warsaw, Poland. The train was just over a mile—two kilometers—from the Polish border when the drone hit at a border crossing. The drone hit just after a convoy carrying former leaders and high-level diplomats, including former U.K. prime minister Boris Johnson, had passed through.

The train operators were warned of the coming drone and no one was hurt, but European leaders widely interpreted the strike so close to Poland as, in the words of Kaja Kallas, the European Union's high representative for foreign and security policy, "clearly a message to the western world."

Poland is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Twelve nations founded NATO in 1949 to resist Soviet aggression. After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, NATO's mission shifted toward crisis management, and then to resisting the aggression of Russia's president Vladimir Putin.

Over the years, NATO has grown to include 32 countries, 30 of which are in Europe (the U.S. and Canada are the two NATO countries in North America). The success of their collective defense system rests on Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that an attack against any one member of NATO will be treated as an attack against all of them. So a threat to Poland threatens all the NATO countries.

Russia has been pushing NATO countries with what European leaders call "hybrid attacks." Rather than launching classic military attacks, Putin has been allowing drones to go into NATO airspace, cutting undersea telecommunications networks on which European countries depend, and possibly placing bombs on a train in France.

Russia has been a bad actor for years, destabilizing NATO countries by flooding them with disinformation that affects elections, paying for political parties, bribing politicians, and so on. But the increase in Russian provocations now seems to be related to Putin's attempt to undercut European support for Ukraine as Ukraine's drones have brought the war home to Russia's oil industry and to the Russian people.

In a speech on Wednesday, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, former prime minister of the Netherlands, noted that "Russia wants to stop us helping Ukraine—but their actions will only lead us to do more for Ukraine."

Kurt Volker, who served as U.S. ambassador to NATO under President George W. Bush, told NPR's Elissa Nadworny that President Trump "has largely looked at all of this and said, that's a European problem. He doesn't feel a threat to the United States from Russia, and he doesn't see a need for the U.S. to increase its pushback on Russia at all." "I disagree with this," Volker said. "I think that we have a vested interest in freedom and free people everywhere being safe and prosperous. It creates a better world for us."

Trump's stand is interesting in light of news that Russia has been helping Iran in its fight against the United States, sending upgraded munitions as well as satellite imagery and targeting data to hit U.S. forces in the Middle East.

Last week, CNN reported that fourteen Russian spy satellites moved over the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, used by the U.S., two days before a devastating March 27 attack by Iran. A CNN investigation showed that the spacecraft had access to a large spectrum of data. U.S. officials and international intelligence sources told CNN that the information

the satellites gathered helped Iranian forces conduct some of its most precise attacks against American forces and assets.

Two months later, a Russian close to Putin footed the bill for a three-day celebration for Donald Trump Jr.'s wedding to Bettina Anderson. According to Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Joshua Kaplan, and Alex Mierjeski of ProPublica, Umar Kremler spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on the event, held on private islands in the Bahamas.

On Tuesday, September 15, the Department of Justice announced charges against five people working for Russian intelligence "to conduct attacks and murders around the world, including in the United States." The indictment alleges that a network of Russian hit men has operated since at least 2024 and has recruited U.S. citizens to surveil and murder people, intending to target "all the countries that are helping Ukraine." As Daniel Boffey and Andrew Roth of the *Guardian* note, it was an unwritten rule of the Cold War that Russia would not attack people in the U.S. (although Russian agents are widely believed to be behind the murder of U.S. journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow in 2004).

On September 16, Congress passed a major sanctions package targeting Russian officials, the energy sector, financial institutions, and the "shadow fleet" of tankers that get around sanctions by using shell corporations and flying under the flags of countries with a loose regulatory system. The measure is named the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, in honor of the late South Carolina senator.

But on Thursday, September 17, Anton Troianovski of the *New York Times* reported that Trump is suggesting Putin will be more willing to end his war if the U.S. makes business deals with Russia regardless of whether it stops its assault on Ukraine. In February, Troianovski reported that Gentry Beach, a Texas investor with ties to the Trumps, signed an agreement last fall with one of the biggest energy companies in Russia to develop Alaska's natural gas resources.

According to a September 14 piece by Dexter Filkins in the *New Yorker*, the Trump administration has essentially privatized U.S. foreign policy for their own interests. The "generally held view," a former U.S. official told Filkins, is that Russia has offered administration officials and their allies business deals in exchange for their supporting Russian demands against Ukraine. A classified report a European intelligence agency provided to Filkins lists Trump, his son-in-law Jared Kushner, special envoy Steve Witkoff, former envoy Richard Grenell, and Gentry Beach as people who might participate in any of ten money-making ventures on the table.

The world, and the place of the United States in it, is changing fast. In June, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth called it "shameful" that European allies did not help the U.S. attack on Iran and said the U.S. would review its military commitments to Europe. On September 17, Dan De Luce, Gordon Lubold, Courtney Kube, and Abigail Williams of NBC News reported that the Pentagon is weighing a plan to pull tens of thousands of troops and weapons, ships, and planes out of Europe despite the warnings of NATO allies about Russia's increasingly aggressive moves.

In Wednesday's speech, Rutte outlined what he called NATO 3.0. If NATO 1.0 was the phase of the organization that pushed back against the Soviet Union and NATO 2.0 was the period from then until now, he said, NATO 3.0 is one in which the weight of NATO shifts away from the United States and toward the United Kingdom, Europe, and Canada.

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Amanda Klein
Matt Lay
Amanda Pellizzari
Staci Walters
Dr. Glynda White
Denise Wright

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Nancy Downey
Judge Tara Clark-Newberrt
Pam Jones
Carol Nerby

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Sunshine Arterburn
Riva Lantaya
Elizabeth Lilly
Melissa Martinet
Tya Mathis-Coleman
Karmen La'Shaun Miller
Virginia "Ginny" Okawa
Judge Jennifer Schwartz

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Minddie Lloyd
Michelle Sklar

May

Eileen Eady
Amy Reagan
Elaina Smith

June

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Stephanie Ltkin Goodman
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Alex Quagge
Calvin Sandoval
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Judge Jerry Wiese

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Barbie O'Quinn
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Esmeralda Villeda

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Sunday Thought: WE Are The Leaders We've Been Waiting For

By Robert Reich



We're now officially in the run-up to the midterm elections, with 51 days to go before Election Day 2026.

The good news is most Americans now understand how bad Trump is. With the exception of Nixon, he's the most unpopular second-term president at this stage in his tenure in the history of polling going back to the 1940s.

On issues where he once was strong — like the economy, national security and immigration — Trump is now underwater, with more Americans opposing than supporting his policies.

All the major problems America now faces are entirely self-inflicted by Trump.

Before he was reelected, the United States was not at war with anyone, and oil moved freely through the Persian Gulf. Now, we're mired in a war in Iran without apparent end, the gulf is blocked and the Red Sea potentially blocked — sending oil prices soaring. We've also strengthened and made more militant Iran's ruling regime.

Before he was reelected, the U.S. economy was in good shape. *The Economist* called it "the envy of the world." Now prices are rising faster than wages, meaning that most Americans are becoming poorer. We're even in a trade war with our heretofore closest ally, Canada, and Trump is posting insulting memes about Canada and its prime minister on social media.

Before he was reelected, hardworking people in our communities — many of them neighbors and friends — felt safe. Now his mass deportations have created trauma and chaos in our communities, including unpredictable arrests, imprisonments, deportations, and deaths.

Finally, Americans are seeing this rot. The great sleeping giant of America is awakening.

But I need to warn you against three attitudes I'm picking up among Democrats and progressives that frankly worry me.

The first is complacency. Some people tell me that Democrats are "sure" to take the House and have a "good chance" to take the Senate.

Maybe the betting odds show this, but taking the House is far from a sure thing. As to the Senate, we need to hold all the seats held by Democrats and also flip five additional ones (I say five because Pennsylvania's John Fetterman may switch to the Republican Party after the midterms, or vote with Republicans).

Moreover, polls are notoriously unreliable, as we've painfully learned.

So please do not fall into complacency. It's far too easy to sit on your hands and expect that we have the votes. Take nothing for granted.

The second attitude I worry about is the opposite: defeatism. Some people tell me Democrats and progressives "don't stand a chance" because Trump won't allow it. He'll stop at nothing. The fix is in. He's already sowing chaos on mail-in ballots. And what about the \$5,000 bribes, and his bonkers request that his followers cheat?

Please don't fall into defeatism, either. There's a decent chance we will win both chambers — if we work hard enough.

The third attitude that worries me is cynicism. Yesterday someone said to me it "doesn't matter" if Democrats take the House or even the Senate because Trump will just ignore whatever Congress does.

Look, I know how harrowing the last year and a half has been. Many of us were shocked when he was reelected and have been shocked since then at how ignorant and horrific he and his regime have been.

But there's no excuse for cynicism. If Democrats control the House, they can make life exceedingly difficult for Trump; if they also control the Senate, they could possibly (with the help of some Senate Republicans) convict him of impeachable offenses and send him packing.

It's critical that each of us work as hard as we can over the next 51 days to (1) get everyone who's qualified registered to vote, and then help ensure that they *do* vote (check out vote.org), (2) protect our electoral machinery from any and all interference, (3) explain to everyone who'll listen why this election is so vitally important, and (4) not succumb to complacency, defeatism, or cynicism.

We are the only people who will rescue us from this nightmare. We are the leaders we've been waiting for. The next 51 days are crucial.



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