



Monday, December 01, 2025

**1. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's boat strike orders are under new scrutiny.**

**On Friday:** The Post published a report revealing that Hegseth gave a spoken order to kill all crew aboard a vessel suspected of smuggling drugs in the Caribbean Sea on Sept. 2.

**The fallout:** President Donald Trump said Hegseth denied giving the order. But House and Senate committees have demanded a full accounting of the September attack.

**This week:** Hegseth will host a meet-and-greet with right-wing media.

**2. Trump's ICE raids are impacting Chicago's economy.**

**How?** Businesses in Little Village and other predominantly Latino neighborhoods have seen sales plummet during "Operation Midway Blitz," leading to cuts in staffing and hours.

**In D.C.:** The shooting last week of two National Guard members has left communities in West Virginia in mourning. But, instead of promoting unity, Trump is falling back on rants.

**3. Four people were killed in a shooting at a child's birthday party in California.**

**What to know:** The victims — aged 8, 9, 14 and 21 — were killed after gunfire broke out at a banquet hall in Stockton on Saturday. Eleven people were wounded.

**The latest:** Authorities were still searching for the shooter as of yesterday. They are investigating the incident as possibly targeted.

**4. More than 500 people have died in devastating flooding in Southeast Asia.**

**What happened?** Rain from two cyclones caused flooding and landslides in countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Hundreds of people are missing.

**How did it get so bad?** The region has faced months of storms in a La Niña climate pattern. Rising global temperatures are fueling wetter, more dangerous storms.

**5. The FDA laid out a stricter approach for federal vaccine approvals.**

**Why?** The nation's top vaccine regulator said his team concluded that coronavirus shots were linked to children's deaths, necessitating a new approach. He provided no evidence.

**What experts say:** Vaccines don't just shield you from diseases. Some can also prevent chronic illnesses, including some cancers.

**6. Ozempic is changing how we spend money and time.**

**How?** Users are cutting back on snacks and spending more on healthy items. Sales are up for smaller-size clothing. And people are cooking more at home.

**In the wider economy:** Trump cut tariffs on these five foods, but it's too late to stop price hikes. Americans want lower prices, but economists say there is a major downside.

**An investor called \$140,000 the new poverty line:** He might have a point.

**7. Hungry, pink microbes could help fight climate change.**

**How?** By eating planet-warming methane gas. In an experiment at a California dairy farm, the microbes absorbed 85% of the methane coming from a manure lagoon.

**Why that's promising:** Methane traps 80 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide before it breaks down. These microbes could disrupt that process.



Vocabulary 01/12/25:

- |    |                          |  |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | drug trafficking -       | the act of buying and selling drugs                                |
|    | drone feed -             | an image or video recorded with the help of a drone                |
|    | to cling -               | to stick onto something tightly                                    |
|    | accounting -             | (here) the job of examining the records of the event               |
| 2. | ICE -                    | Immigration and Customs Enforcement (authority)                    |
|    | crackdown -              | a situation in which someone starts to deal with illegal behaviour |
|    | Operation Midway Blitz - | ICE raid in Chicago  |
| 4. | devastating -            | causing a lot of damage or destruction                             |
|    | landslide -              | a mass of rock and earth moving suddenly down a steep slope        |
| 5. | FDA -                    | Food and Drug Administration                                       |
|    | Vinay Prasad -           | the nation's top vaccine regulator                                 |
| 6. | Ozempic -                | diabetes type 2 medication causing weight loss                     |
|    | nausea -                 | the feeling that you are going to vomit                            |
| 7. | manure (lagoon) -        | animal waste used to make plants grow well                         |

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