

Digest - 2026-09-27

<https://iniyanjoseph.com> | iniyanijoseph@gmail.com

Weekly Digest — September 27, 2026

Weather — West Lafayette, IN

- 2026-09-27: Overcast, 44-76F, 0% precip
- 2026-09-28: Overcast, 48-75F, 0% precip
- 2026-09-29: Fog, 48-76F, 0% precip
- 2026-09-30: Overcast, 59-83F, 9% precip
- 2026-10-01: Light drizzle, 68-81F, 41% precip
- 2026-10-02: Rain, 49-66F, 51% precip
- 2026-10-03: Overcast, 41-64F, 21% precip
- 2026-10-04: Overcast, 41-67F, 27% precip

Upcoming Events — Sep 27–Oct 04

- Sun Sep 27: Art on the Wabash 2026 — Sun Sep 27, 10:00 AM — Tapawingo Park [Purdue]
- Sun Sep 27: Idlewild at 114: Place-Making, Culture, and Community in Rural Michigan — Sun Sep 27, 12:00 PM — Helen B. Schleman Hall of Student Servcs [Purdue]
- Sun Sep 27: The Hunchback of Seville — Sun Sep 27, 2:30 PM — Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual & Perf Arts, Carole & Gordon Mallett Theatre [Purdue]
- Mon Sep 28: AAARCC Language & Conversation Practice — Mon Sep 28, 3:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Mon Sep 28: Idlewild at 114: Place-Making, Culture, and Community in Rural Michigan — Mon Sep 28, 12:00 PM — Helen B. Schleman Hall of Student Servcs [Purdue]
- Mon Sep 28: Purdue OWL Writers' Room (KRCH 230) — Mon Sep 28, 9:00 AM — Krach Leadership Center [Purdue]
- Tue Sep 29: AAARCC Vegetable Pop-up — Tue Sep 29, 12:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Tue Sep 29: Cornerstone for Business Conference — Tue Sep 29, 8:30 AM — Stewart Center [Purdue]
- Tue Sep 29: Idlewild at 114: Place-Making, Culture, and Community in Rural Michigan — Tue Sep 29, 12:00 PM — Helen B. Schleman Hall of Student Servcs [Purdue]
- Tue Sep 29: Marebito - World Film Forum — Tue Sep 29, 7:00 PM — Stanley Coulter Hall [Purdue]
- Tue Sep 29: PMU Karaoke Night — Tue Sep 29, 6:30 PM — Purdue Memorial Union [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: CAPS Liaison Hours at AAARCC — Wed Sep 30, 4:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: Cornerstone for Business Conference — Wed Sep 30, 8:30 AM — Stewart Center [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: Idlewild at 114: Place-Making, Culture, and Community in Rural Michigan — Wed Sep 30, 12:00 PM — Helen B. Schleman Hall of Student Servcs [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: Jazz Jams at PMU — Wed Sep 30, 7:00 PM — Purdue Memorial Union [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: NIH Funding Strategies Workshop — Wed Sep 30, 1:30 PM — Stewart Center [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: No-cost, Drive-through Flu Shots at Center for Healthy Living (CHL) — Wed Sep 30, 7:00 AM — Center for Healthy Living (CHL) [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: Purdue OWL Writers' Room (UNIV 235) — Wed Sep 30, 8:00 AM — University Hall [Purdue]
- Wed Sep 30: Solar Innovations and Energy Transitions in the Midwest — Wed Sep 30, 3:30 PM — Burton D. Morgan Ctr for Entrepreneurshp [Purdue]

- Wed Sep 30: The Track to a Better You — Wed Sep 30, 4:30 PM — CoRec [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: 2026 SUPPLY CHAIN CONSULTING LECTURE SERIES — Thu Oct 1, 4:30 PM — Jerry S. Rawls Hall [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: AAARCC Fall 2026 Lunch & Learn Series — Thu Oct 1, 12:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: No-cost, Drive-through Flu Shots at Center for Healthy Living (CHL) — Thu Oct 1, 4:00 PM — Center for Healthy Living (CHL) [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: Purdue Bands & Orchestras Presents Jazz Bands — Thu Oct 1, 7:00 PM — Loeb Playhouse - Stewart Center [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: Purdue TCS Seminar: Ethan Dickey and Athina Terzoglou (Purdue). — Usually Thu 3:00–4:00 PM; see source for room [Purdue TCS]
- Thu Oct 1: Purdue Visiting Writers Series — Thu Oct 1, 7:00 PM — Charles J. Lynn Hall of Vet Medicine [Purdue]
- Thu Oct 1: The Hunchback of Seville — Thu Oct 1, 7:30 PM — Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual & Perf Arts, Carole & Gordon Mallett Theatre [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: AAARCC Creative Media Team Meetings — Fri Oct 2, 4:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: AAARCC Fall Festival — Fri Oct 2, 6:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: AAARCC Language & Conversation Practice — Fri Oct 2, 3:00 PM — Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: Accounting Seminar - Aneesh Raghunandan — Fri Oct 2, 1:30 PM — Jerry S. Rawls Hall [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: CALC/CFF/CAF Symposium: Family Caregiving in Later Life — Fri Oct 2, 8:00 AM — Stewart Center [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: Career Roundtable — Fri Oct 2, 10:00 AM — Dick & Sandy Dauch Alumni Center [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: Decide on Daniels - October Grad Visit Day — Fri Oct 2, 9:00 AM — Jerry S. Rawls Hall [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: Purdue Bands & Orchestras Presents Concert Band & Wind Ensemble — Fri Oct 2, 7:00 PM — Long Center for the Performing Arts [Purdue]
- Fri Oct 2: The Hunchback of Seville — Fri Oct 2, 7:30 PM — Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual & Perf Arts, Carole & Gordon Mallett Theatre [Purdue]
- Sat Oct 3: Farmers Market 5th St & Main St closures from 5:00 am to 1:30 pm every Saturday beginning 5/2 - 10/31/26 — Farmers Market 5th St & Main St closures from 5:00 am to 1:30 pm every Saturday beginning 5/2 - 10/31/26 October 3, 2026, 7:00 AM - 1:30 PM Farmers Market 5th St & Main St closures [Lafayette]
- Sat Oct 3: Fit to Fly 5K — Sat Oct 3, 7:30 AM — Purdue University Airport [Purdue]
- Sat Oct 3: More Details — Farmers Market 5th St & Main St closures from 5:00 am to 1:30 pm every Saturday beginning 5/2 - 10/31/26 October 3, 2026, 7:00 AM - 1:30 PM Farmers Market 5th St & Main St closures [Lafayette]
- Sat Oct 3: PSUB Harvest Fest — Sat Oct 3, 12:00 PM — Purdue Memorial Mall [Purdue]
- Sat Oct 3: Purdue Bands & Orchestras Presents Concert & Philharmonic Orchestras — Sat Oct 3, 7:00 PM — Long Center for the Performing Arts [Purdue]
- Sat Oct 3: The Hunchback of Seville — Sat Oct 3, 7:30 PM — Yue-Kong Pao Hall of Visual & Perf Arts, Carole & Gordon Mallett Theatre [Purdue]

Conference Deadlines

- No future submission deadlines currently published on the tracked official conference pages.

Voting / Elections

- Indiana Election Division — November 3, 2026
- Indiana voter registration — October 5, 2026
- Indiana voter portal — registration status, polling place, ballot

- Official candidate lists — Indiana Election Division
- Tippecanoe County Elections — local voting locations and notices

Reddit

r/purdue

- Anyone going home to NJ for Fall Break?
- Apartment - need advice
- CARPOOL TO ND \$100 / I need a driver whos going to Notre Dame on any given saturday. Will pay for round trip same-day
- Chauncey Square ? What do you think 🙄
- CS 250 midterm1 Adams
- Does anyone have a metal detector?
- ECE 20001/ECE 20007
- Fire everyone
- how to do college while depressed????
- How was DJ Diesel?
- I LOVE BRIGHTSPACE 😭
- Is the Purdue Ski and Snowboard Club still active?
- Just give Painter the entire football budget at this point
- Looking to teach individual/a small group of Purdue undergrads mathematics
- Lost keys at DJ Diesel show
- Painful
- Petition to make this the sub logo
- PHYS 241 Exam difficulty
- Purdue MEM Fall 2027 Applicants — Let's Connect!
- What happened at Chauncey road last night?
- what the FUCK is me364 this semester
- Who is the creepiest NCAA mascot & why is it Purdue Pete?
- Will they accept Cactus cups at DJ Diesel concert?

YouTube Subscriptions

3Blue1Brown

- The Phone Number puzzle

Alton Brown

- Alton Brown Cooks Food | Episode 43: Spend Time, Not Money

Answer in Progress

- Sabrina's life is just too based

BeardMeatsFood

- I ATTEMPTED 'THE JOHN CANDY STEAK CHALLENGE' AT A PACKED RESTAURANT IN CANADA! | BeardMeatsFood
- THIS PULP FICTION THEMED DINER HAS A FOOD CHALLENGE WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN BEATEN! | BeardMeatsFood

Beyond Babish

- I Tried EVERY Trader Joe's Pumpkin Product (40+)

Dylan Huynh

- I Tried "MasterChef Owned" Restaurants

In The Chips

- 🇯🇵 Nongshim Wasbi Shrimp Chips on In The Chips with Barry
- 🇺🇸 Deep Snacks Masala Popcorn on In The Chips with Barry
- 🇺🇸 Giant Dill Pickle Pistachios on In The Chips with Barry
- 🥪 Can It Sandwich? on In The Chips with Barry September 26, 2026

Insider

- How different can the same #jeans size be? #denim #straightlegjeans #sizing #Gap

Jeremy Ethier

- I Tested 30 Ab Exercises - You Only Need These 2

Joe Scott

- Sinuses Make No Sense. (Feat. Doctor Mike!)

Quaker Videos

- A Big Storm Hit A Small Quaker Camp #faith #quaker #quakers #community #documentary
- Are Quakers Extinct?
- The 12 Steps & Quakerism
- The 12 Steps & Quakerism #12steprecovery #quaker #recoveryjourney #sobriety #addictionrecovery

Renzy

- Insecurity Disguised as Confidence

Sandwiches of History

- After School Snackwich (our history) on Sandwiches of History
- Babysitter Sandwich (our history) on Sandwiches of History
- Baltimore Pit Beef Sandwich (1970s) on Sandwiches of History
- Banaan Tosti (our history) on Sandwiches of History
- Maggi Masala Ramen Sandwich (India) on Sandwiches of History
- Scrambled Egg Roll (1920) on Sandwiches of History
- Steak Sanga (Australia) on Sandwiches of History
- Wiener and Egg Sandwich (1936) on Sandwiches of History

Tasting History with Max Miller

- How the Aztecs Made Salsa
- What Food was Served at Old West Saloons?
- What was Aztec Salsa Like?

Technology Connections

- Engines haven't been fully mechanical in decades - and that's good!

Tom Scott

- Can I get into the Top 100 of tiddlywinks in one day?

What On Earth Is This?

- Switzerland's Insane Record-Breaking Train

RSS Feeds

TCS+ (1 item)

- TCS+ talk: Wednesday, September 30 — Sepehr Assadi, University of Waterloo

xkcd.com (3 items)

- Slab Graveyard
- Stargazing 5
- Voyager Instruments

Newsletters

CCL Community (1 issue)

CCL Community Update: Welcome to IN Lafayette — Sat, Sep 26

Hello Iniyan,

You've been connected with the IN Lafayette group of Citizens' Climate Lobby!

Hello!

My name is Erin Moodie and I'm the group leader of the Lafayette/District 4 chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Thank you for joining CCL! We're excited to meet you and work together for a livable climate here in Indiana.

Whether you have 5 minutes to offer occasionally or much more, there are many impactful actions that you can take through CCL. (One of the fastest and easiest things to do is sign up for our Climate Advocacy Text Campaign to receive text reminders to contact congress about climate change about once a month: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/text-alerts/>.) We'd love to get you involved in our local chapter!

We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 8:00 pm on Zoom, and I'll send the agenda in a reminder email beforehand. We'd love to have you join us so you can see what we're up to.

In the meantime, you can follow our CCL chapter's Facebook page and feel free to email me at ccl.lafayetteIN@gmail.com with any questions! I look forward to meeting you soon,

Erin Moodie, Lafayette/IN-04 Group Leader

Please visit our IN Lafayette group on CCL Community to see what we're up to.
CCL Community · Contact Us

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CCL LafayetteIN (1 issue)

Welcome to Citizens' Climate Lobby Lafayette! — Sat, Sep 26

Good evening!

My name is Erin Moodie and I'm the group leader of the Lafayette/District 4 chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Thanks for signing up at the Lafayette Farmers' Market a few weeks ago—we'd love to get you involved! Whether you have 5 minutes to offer occasionally or much more, there are many impactful actions that you can take through CCL.

You should now be on our chapter's mailing list for all meeting announcements, and those emails will come from this address. Due to the size of Indiana's fourth congressional district, our chapter meetings take place on Zoom on the third Thursday of the month. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 15, from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. I send out reminders for all meetings with the necessary link both a week beforehand and then the day before our meeting, so you'll see that email in a few weeks.

Thank you, and I hope to hear back soon! I'm happy to answer any questions you have via email.

Erin Moodie

Group Leader, Lafayette Chapter

Computer Science Graduate Student Board (2 issues)

Re: [CS-PHD-STUDENTS] 🍂 Hiking Tomorrow at Tippecanoe River State Park — Logistics + Weather Reminder — Sun, Sep 20

A big thank-you to everyone who joined us yesterday at Tippecanoe River State Park! We hope you had a great time hiking and hanging out together. 😊

If you took any photos, please add them to our shared photo album! 📸

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Best,

Fiona Xie

Social Chair, Computer Science Graduate Student Board

Purdue University 🚂

From: Computer Science Graduate Student Board <csgsb@purdue.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 5:41 PM

To: grad-students@cs.purdue.edu <grad-students@cs.purdue.edu>

Subject: 🍂 Hiking Tomorrow at Tippecanoe River State Park — Logistics + Weather Reminder

Hi everyone,

This is a reminder for everyone we have our hiking event at Tippecanoe River State Park tomorrow, Saturday, September 19th, whether you're taking a van or driving yourself! 😊



Please come prepared for rain

We're expecting rain and some thunderstorms tomorrow, so please bring a rain jacket and wear sturdy shoes you don't mind getting muddy.



Taking the vans?

Please meet at Lawson at 10:25 AM, in the hallway near Lawson Commons. There's another event in the Commons, so we'll meet nearby rather than inside the room. Please arrive on time so we can get everyone on the road! We expect to arrive at the park around noon and be back at Lawson around 6 PM.



Driving yourself?

We have enough spots in the vans for those who need a ride, so you can head straight to the park and meet us there! Please meet us at the Fire Tower parking area near the entrance at 12 PM. Here's the park map to help you find it.



Hiking + lunch

We'll be hiking from 12–4 PM. We'll provide water, hiking snacks, and sandwiches for lunch for everyone!



Plans changed? Please update your RSVP!

If you can't make it, please update your form response as soon as you know, even if it's last minute. Use the edit-response link in your Google Forms confirmation email and update the question asking whether you'll be attending. This helps us plan rides and food for everyone!

Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow! 🍁

Fiona Xie

Social Chair, Computer Science Graduate Student Board

Purdue University 🚂

P.S. If you haven't yet, make sure to add our calendar (Gcal, iCal) to yours!

Also, we have an Instagram and a Discord!

Usually, any mid-event announcements will be made on the discord.

[CS-PHD-STUDENTS] Fall 2026: CS grad events, mentoring & ways to connect — Mon, Sep 21

October 12–13

Fall break

October 24

Trap & Skeet

November 6

Mini Golf

November 11

Veterans Day — observance

November 13

Graduate Town Hall

November 21

Friendsgiving

November 25–28

Thanksgiving break

December 11

Bar Crawl

Across campus: Browse BoilerLink for student organizations and events, and check Purdue Graduate

Student Government for social, cultural, and recreational events with graduate students from other departments.

Women in computing and science: CS Women's Network offers socials and professional networking. Graduate WISP

offers graduate-focused networking, mentoring, and personal and professional development programming.

Sports and outdoor activities: You can register for RecWell

intramurals as a Free Agent without already having a team; an intramural pass is required. The Purdue Outing Club

offers outdoor trips and welcomes beginners.

Free transportation to Indianapolis: The Purdue

Campus Connect shuttle provides free intercampus transportation. Create an R2U Connect account with your Purdue email, reserve a seat, and have your confirmation ready when boarding. Check the linked schedule for stops, departure times, and holiday exceptions.

Games and equipment: CSGSB equipment checkout is

available for \$1 per week, including board games and sports equipment. The page has the catalog, payment instructions, and pickup details.

Career and writing support: Use Purdue Career Gateway

for jobs, internships, and recruiting events. Purdue OWL offers

writing consultations in person, by video, and through emailed feedback.

Well-being: Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides

student mental-health support; most services are free.

Research and teaching: Explore our reading groups,

and familiarize yourself with the department's Communication

and Netiquette Policy. Running a reading group that should be listed? Email us.

Dan Lewis, Now I Know (4 issues)

Free Money's Fine Print — Tue, Sep 22

September 22, 2026 | Read online

I'm back after the Jewish holiday — hope you all had a nice weekend (and Monday). — Dan

Free Money's Fine Print

Somewhere in the back of almost everyone's mind sits the same small, dumb daydream. You're standing at an ATM, you hit "withdraw," and the machine just, well, it keeps going. Money comes out but not out of your account. Just an endless stream of \$20 bills, as if you've earned it. It's about the closest thing real life offers to a cheat code — free money, forever, no strings.

For four and a half months in 2011, an Australian bartender actually got to live inside it. And in retrospect, it wasn't a dream. It was a nightmare.

That year, late one February night, a 29-year-old named Dan Saunders walked out of a pub in Wangaratta, Victoria, with three dollars in his savings account and a thirst for one more round. He tried to move \$200 from his credit card to his savings at a National Australia Bank ATM. The screen flashed "transaction cancelled" and spat his card back out — and then handed him the \$200 anyway.

Saunders wasn't sure why this happened but he didn't seem to mind. He walked away with the \$200 and then tried it again later — and the glitch kept happening. He'd later piece together what was going on, as he explained to the Sydney Morning Herald. Late at night, for reasons unclear, this individual ATM (and perhaps many others) disconnected from the central network momentarily, so if you went to withdraw money, it didn't pull it from your account — hence the error. But bank officials didn't want to lock people out in the wee hours of the night, so the ATM gave you the cash anyway and wrote a digital IOU of sorts — it made the money available now and then settled up your accounts for you when it reconnected later that morning.

That shouldn't be something that anyone can exploit — in the bar night situation above, Saunders would have gotten his \$200, and then seen the \$200 charge hit the next day. No big deal. But Saunders realized something that few others did. When he first tried to transfer money from his credit card to his savings account, he did so by selecting "Mastercard" from a menu, assuming it would hit his credit card, which it did — the next morning, the bank charged his card the amount he transferred. No problem yet. But for reasons that were never adequately explained, the ATM also had a generic "credit card" option connected, to, well, nothing. And the ATM still spat out cash. After making this discovery, Saunders spent many, many nights transferring money from a phantom credit card to his savings account, and then withdrew an amount less than what he now had listed in savings. As a result, his savings account never looked overdrawn — so the bank never thought anything was amiss — and the credit card debt just vanished into the morass of computer networks. It was an infinite money hack.

Please don't try it. It is spectacularly illegal, and — as Saunders can personally confirm — it will quietly ruin your life while you're busy enjoying it. And for a while, he really did enjoy it. He pulled AU\$1.6 million (!) out of those machines and spent it like a man who assumed the clock could stop any second: a \$90,000 private jet to fly friends to a remote Asian island, dinners for entire restaurants, rounds for whole bars full of strangers, a full high-roller life run on a barman's imagination. It felt, he said, like discovering fire for the first time as a caveman. It was, he told Vice, "literally just numbers on a screen" — money that, in his head, had never really existed in the first place.

But again, clearly illegal — and despite the fact that he seemed to be getting away with it, Saunders couldn't handle the mix of guilt and fear of being caught. Underneath the private jets, the dread was compounding faster than the cash. Saunders was taking Valium daily, he told SBS, and once had a panic attack in a Sydney hotel bad enough that a passing doctor stopped to help. He had recurring nightmares about a SWAT team kicking down his door. ("I don't know why it was a SWAT team," he later said to LADBible. "I didn't have any guns.") The

anxiety was overwhelming. “Every day felt like the last one,” he told SBS. “And when nobody came, that almost made it worse.”

So he stopped — and tried to turn himself in. But oddly, even that didn’t work. He confessed to the bank, which didn’t seem to want to know — they did nothing. He went on national television and told everyone. And still, for roughly three more years, nothing happened.

And then, authorities finally decided that Saunders’ crimes were actually worth paying attention to. He was ultimately charged with more than 100 fraud and theft counts, which he didn’t fight. He was sentenced to twelve months in jail, another eighteen months of community corrections, and a \$250,000 fine. And after all that, he ended up right where he started, plus a unique experience that he probably wishes he never had. The infinite money glitch, it turned out, had a balance due after all — just not the kind the bank bothered to collect.

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More About ATMs

Today’s Bonus fact: ATMs typically operate in the languages common in the areas they service, and have a language selection screen when you first log in. But what do you do when you have a lot of people coming from all over the world, and they all have different native tongues? You use whatever common language they share — and in the case of priests gathering at the Vatican, that language is Ecclesiastical Latin. So, as Mental Floss notes, if you need cash out of the Vatican’s ATM, and you speak that language, it can help — the machine can “perform transactions in Latin.”

From the Archives: The ATM at the Bottom of the Earth: Cold, hard cash. Well, cold for sure.

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And thanks! — Dan

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The Bathrobe Defense — Wed, Sep 23

I originally wrote this in 2015 and for some reason, it's one of my most-shared stories on social media. Why? Your guess is as good as mine. — Dan

The Bathrobe Defense

For the latter part of the 20th century, Vincent Gigante, pictured above left, was a household name in his Greenwich Village neighborhood. On any given day, starting when he was in his mid-to-late-30s, Gigante would walk around the community talking to himself under his breath, incoherently, to either no one whatsoever or only to figments that he could see. Sometimes he was wearing old, frayed, and patched pants, paired with a light jacket that had seen many better days. But such formal attire was rare. Gigante was typically seen as above, wearing a bathrobe, pajamas, and slippers, seemingly unaware that it was entirely inappropriate to wear such attire out on the street. The New York Times described his behavior as that of “a disturbed but harmless person” who was obviously out of place.

But that's not why he was famous. He was best known for being a mob boss – the head of the Genovese crime family – despite the details above.

Gigante was born in Manhattan in 1928 and, after a stint as a boxer, joined an organized crime syndicate as an enforcer. Before his 30th birthday, he had become a trusted associate of Vito Genovese, a major player in the mafia scene in the late 1950s. Gigante and Genovese were both convicted of heroin trafficking in 1959 and ended up serving their prison sentences together. When Gigante was released on parole five years later, he became a captain of the Genovese's syndicate, running operations in Greenwich Village.

Around the same time, his odd behavior began to roost, earning him the nickname “the Oddfather.” When Gigante was arrested in 1969 for attempting to bribe a small New Jersey police force, his attorneys argued that he was mentally unfit for trial. A team of government-hired experts agreed. Gigante's diagnoses ran the gamut: schizophrenia, delusions, dementia, etc. Gigante's attorneys, per the Times article linked to above, noted that their client's IQ sat in the 69 to 72 range, further supporting the finding that he was mentally disabled. As a result, Gigante avoided prosecution for decades. Even when the authorities decided to charge Gigante with racketeering and murder in 1990, he remained out of further legal trouble for seven more years due to the mountains of evidence of his mental limitations.

But in 1996, that changed. Prosecutors, per the New York Times, argued that Gigante was faking it and that he was, mentally, perfectly healthy. The judge in the case allowed the trial to move forward and a few high-level mafia operatives (most notably Sammy “The Bull” Gravano) testified that Gigante was the man in charge – and echoed the prosecution's assertion that Gigante was, indeed, of sound mind. And the jury agreed, finding him guilty. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

On April 7, 2003, Gigante finally gave up the act, nearly forty years after first walking the streets in his bedroom attire. Then age 75, Gigante admitted that his bathrobe and pajama attire, his mindless muttering, and the tests and witnesses attesting to his lack of mental acuity were all part of fraud against the court, aimed at keeping him out of prison. Gigante pled guilty to one count of obstruction of justice for these lies, adding three more years to his prison term. In exchange, his son avoided a 20-year prison term (receiving a two-year term instead) and his wife and other relatives avoided prison altogether.

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More About Pajamas

Today's Bonus fact: Wearing pajamas in public kept Gigante out of prison for years, but it probably wouldn't have helped had he been in Shanghai in the 1980s and beyond. According to the New York Times, wearing pajamas in public was so common that, for the 2010 World Expo, the government engaged in a public relations campaign to shame PJ wearers into going inside. The campaign included signage, celebrity-laden public service announcements, and "volunteer 'pajama policemen' patrol the neighborhoods, telling pajama wearers to go home and change."

From the Archives: Cold Water War: The story isn't really about this tidbit, but it suggests that Chairman Mao liked his bathrobe, too.

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And thanks! — Dan

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When First Comes in Third — Thu, Sep 24

September 24, 2026 | [Read online](#)

This fact — or what I originally thought the fact was — came up in conversation earlier this week. I did some digging and there's a lot more nuance than I thought, so this may run a big long for such a small fact! — Dan

When First Comes in Third

Numbered streets are everywhere in American towns. Getting around is easy: walk a block past First Street and you're on Second, one more and you're on Third, and so on until the town runs out of streets or the planners run out of patience. It's about as simple as a street grid gets, since everyone already knows how to count. You start at one.

Except, it turns out, you usually don't.

In 1993, the U.S. Census Bureau published a list of the 76 most common street names in America, and a number took the top spot, just not the one you'd expect. As FiveThirtyEight's Mona Chalabi reported, Second Street came in first, with 10,866 of them (counting both "Second" and "2nd"). Third Street was the runner-up with 10,131, according to one blogger's transcription of the Census list. First Street came in third, with 9,898. For a generation that was the only list anyone had. And it raised an obvious question: how does a town end up with a Second Street and no First?

The easy guess is that the 1993 numbers were a fluke. They weren't.

In 2015, the Washington Post's Jeff Guo counted every road in America using the Census Bureau's 2014 road data and a very different method. He came up with a different winner, but on this point he reached the same verdict: "both the Census and I agree that '2nd' is a more popular road name than '1st.'" More than a decade later the pattern still holds. The site Street Name Search, which draws on the crowdsourced map project OpenStreetMap, ranks 2nd Street well ahead of 1st, 5,849 to 5,266. Third Street beats First there too, which drops First to fourth. Three counts, decades apart, using three different methods, and all three agree that First isn't first.

The reason is that First Street often goes by a different name.

In a lot of American towns, the first street, the one the town grew up around, was never going to be called First. It was Main Street. Or, as the sign retailer RoadSigns.com notes, it was Front Street, or Center Street, or some other local name. Philadelphia, one of the first American cities laid out on a grid, has no First Street at all. According to the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, Front Street runs along the Delaware River as "the equivalent of First," and the numbers pick up from there. Cincinnati did it twice: as Cincinnati Magazine's Greg Hand explains, the city "has no First Street," because "below Second Street were Water Street and Front Street."

Multiply that by thousands of towns and the rankings start to make sense. "In cartography, unlike in most competitive sports, second doesn't necessarily come after first," Chalabi explained. "A Second Street can be the logical next street after a Main Street." Guo put it the same way: in many towns, Main and First "split the honor, so to speak," and both "tumble in the rankings" as a result. Add up every First, 1st, and Main Street on the 1993 list and you get 17,562, which would top the list by a long way.

Which street actually tops the list is harder to say. The Census gave the crown to Second. Guo's count gave it to Park, with 9,640 roads to Second's 8,232. Street Name Search puts Main Street first with 9,361, and that's even though it counts N Main St and S Main St as separate names (together they add more than 6,000 more). Most of the disagreement comes down to what counts as one street. Is a Second Street interrupted by a park one road or two? What about a North Main that runs into a South Main? Guo spent a whole methodology section on those questions. The Census, for its part, couldn't answer them for its own list. When Chalabi asked how the 1993 list was made, a spokesperson told her the researcher who made it couldn't recall his methodology.

So no one can say for sure which street is the most common. But Second Street can take some comfort in this: it may not be the most common, but it's always ahead of First.

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More About Street Names

Today's Bonus fact: Main Street isn't a major thoroughfare everywhere — in fact, in San Francisco, it's not even a main street, neither in reality or by name. Main Street, SF isn't named for its prominence within the city — it's named for Charles Main, a businessman from the area during the city's founding.

From the Archives: The Roads to Citizenship: How some Minnesota roads also teach civics.

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Now I Know is supported by readers like you. Yes, you! Many of my readers donate a few dollars a month to help Now I Know grow and thrive. And in exchange, they get an ad-free version!

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And thanks! — Dan

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Help Keep Now I Know Going Strong — Fri, Sep 25

September 25, 2026 | [Read online](#)

Happy Friday! If you're new to Now I Know, you'll notice that today's format differs from the rest of the week. On Fridays, I pause to write the "Weekender," my "week in review" type of thing, or to share something else I think you may find interesting. Thanks for reading! — Dan

Help Keep Now I Know Going Strong

Hi!

Yep: today I'm asking you to support Now I Know financially. I don't do this often — the last time was back in March — so thanks for bearing with me.

For 16 years, I've been writing Now I Know — a little story in your inbox most weekdays, sharing surprising, curious, and often weird bits of knowledge. I love doing it, and I'm grateful every single day that so many of you read along.

Most of what keeps Now I Know going comes from recurring and one-time support from readers like you. In March, about two dozen of you signed on as new supporters, which I'm still humbled by. I'd like to repeat that success today — my goal this fall is to add another 25.

(And just to be clear: Now I Know isn't going anywhere. Your support doesn't keep it alive — it helps make it stronger and more sustainable, and it gives you the option to get it ad-free.)

If you'd like to help, there are two easy ways:

👉 Become a monthly supporter

I send about 20 editions a month. A \$5 monthly contribution works out to just 25 cents per email — the cost of:

Roughly seven and a half Tic Tacs

A dishwasher detergent capsule

Almost a third of a U.S. postage stamp

For a quarter a day, you're helping make sure thousands of curious people keep learning something new each morning. That's better than a small handful of mints, right?

[Click Here to Support Now I Know](#)

\$5/month gets you an ad-free version of the newsletter. (Today's issue has two ads in it — supporters won't see them.)

\$10/month gets you the same ad-free version, and I'll count you as two supporters toward the goal.

👉 Make a one-time contribution

Not comfortable with recurring support? Or want to make a REALLY BIG one-time gift? That's great! Whether it's \$5, \$50, or, in a truly heroic turn of events, \$500,000, I'm grateful for it.

[Donate via PayPal](#)

[Donate via Venmo](#)

A big thank you, too, to everyone who already supports Now I Know. Your generosity makes the ad-free version possible and lets me spend more time on great stories.

If Now I Know has ever made you say “huh, that's neat,” I'd be honored if you'd consider chipping in.

Thanks!

Dan

Same Driver, Same Car. Prices Can Differ by Hundreds

Here's something most drivers don't realize: two people with the identical car, age, and driving record can get quotes hundreds of dollars apart depending on the insurer. Every company prices risk differently, so there's no single “best” rate — only the best rate for you. Compare.com checks your profile against more than 120 top insurers at once and shows you exactly where you stand, in minutes. No repeat forms, no sales calls. It's the only way to know if you're on the low end or the high end of the price range.

[Find My Rate at Compare.com](#)

The Now I Know Week In Review

Monday: I was off for Yom Kippur.

Tuesday: Free Money's Fine Print: An ATM error in your favor comes with strings attached, even if you would have gotten away with it.

Wednesday: The Bathrobe Defense: How wearing pajamas in public can help keep you out of prison (but not indefinitely).

Thursday: When First Comes in Third: Second comes in first, maybe, but not always; regardless, it always comes before First, at least in this real-life Abbot and Costello skit.

Real Food Without the Hassle

Fresh dog food sounds great — until you're thawing it in the sink every morning. Sundays skips all of that. It's gently air-dried in the US, which locks in nutrition and flavor without needing a freezer, prep, or cleanup. Just scoop it straight from the bag into the bowl. It's shelf-stable, mess-free, and easy to take on trips — built for real life with a dog, not a lab schedule. Now I Know readers: your dog's next meal is one scoop away — and it's 30% off your first order with Sundays For Dogs.

Try Sundays Today — 30% Off Your First Order

Long Reads and Other Things

Here are a few things you may want to check out over the weekend:

- 1) "Impossibility is a Myth" (The Fence, 22 minutes, September 2026). The subhead: "Sacha Jafri sold an artwork for \$62 million dollars in 2021 at an auction. But the money never changed hands. What happened?"
- 2) "Getting Rich and Going Broke, One Pack of Sports Cards at a Time" (GQ, 30 minutes, September 2026). Over the past few weeks, I've been plugging my Whatnot referral link here because I like baseball, and your sign ups have earned me credits to get some free cards. (Thanks for that!) I've also seen — but haven't participated in — the channels that sell cards in the manner described in this article. It's a weird, and potentially dangerous mix of card collecting and gambling. The GQ story does a great job articulating the situation, and is a great read even if you're not into baseball.
- 3) "The great American road trip is in peril" (Grist, 18 minutes, August 2026). The subhead: "Along my family's 9,000-mile trip this summer, our days whiplashed between grandeur and extreme weather crises."

Thanks again for supporting Now I Know — and have a great weekend!

Dan

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Ethan Edward Mader (2 issues)

**[THEORY-CS-SEMINAR] TOMORROW at 3PM: Lorenzo Orrechia - LWSN 3102
— Wed, Sep 23**

Hope to see you there!

Ethan

Re: [THEORY-CS-SEMINAR] TOMORROW at 3PM: Lorenzo Orrechia - LWSN 3102 — Thu, Sep 24

Hope to see you there!

Ethan

Isaac Saul (1 issue)

Have you been enjoying Tangle? — Sat, Sep 26

Hey there!

This is Isaac Saul, the founder of Tangle. You've been a free reader for a few weeks now, and we want to say thank you for giving us a shot! We're really happy when people like what we're sending out.

You are welcome to stay on our free list for as long as you'd like, but I'm writing today to ask you to join us as a paying subscriber. We try to send these emails very infrequently, but it's critical for our business that folks become paying Tangle members.

In return, anyone who subscribes to Tangle gets access to the comments section, ad-free newsletters, The Sunday, and our entire archive of members-only Friday editions, as well as Press Pass - a monthly newsletter with behind the scene peeks into Tangle staff, next steps, and more.

Recent members-only Friday editions include:

An assessment of Christian Nationalism in today's politics.

A debate about data centers.

A response to the criticism I received about the corruption in the Trump administration along with things that the president has gotten right.

Plus, you also get something better: the satisfaction of knowing you are helping us build a new kind of independent publication, with no board of directors, no investors or shareholders to please, and no reliance on advertising revenue to stay afloat.

We love our independence and hope you do too. But independence isn't free or easy, so today we are asking for your support. We'll even throw in a deal. Here's a 20% discount on your first year.

Special Offer

We deeply believe that media and our national conversation can and should be better, and every subscription dollar helps us build a better alternative. Thanks for considering supporting us.

Sincerely,

Isaac & the Tangle team

Newsletter links: [Unsubscribe](#)

John Raymond Langenkamp (1 issue)

[CS-PHD-STUDENTS] Free Access to Kiro for All Purdue University Students — Wed, Sep 23

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jlanken@purdue.edu.

Learn why this is important

Dear Students,

AWS just selected Purdue University as one of the universities to get free access to Kiro, 1,000 credits per month for a full year, a \$240/year

value to students. This is the development agent that professional developers use to ship quality software and is an exclusive opportunity for you to learn, build, and deploy your ideas.

Here's what you can do with it:

Kiro is the engineering agent that turns intent into verified, production-ready code, so you can ship the first time instead of cleaning up later.

Whether you're building class projects, hackathon entries, or startup MVPs, Kiro turns your plain-English prompts into structured specs and working applications, so what you build is exactly what you intended.

Getting Started

All currently enrolled students will be able to gain access to Kiro for free with their student email address

on the Kiro website:

<https://kiro.dev/students/>

Why Kiro

Ship code you can trust the first time. Kiro turns your prompt into a spec, generates the code, and verifies it against your intent with property-based

testing, so you get code that is correct by design, not just code that passed a quick test.

Work the way you want to work. Frontier and open weight models run under one subscription across IDE, CLI, web, and mobile, alongside

spec driven development, agent hooks, steering, and native support for open standards, so you shape Kiro to how you already work.

Keep your work moving while you step away. Kiro Crew is an open-source workspace that runs across sessions, remembers your project

so you never re explain it, picks up long running work on its own, and shows you every action it takes, so you come back to progress you can trust.

See why developers are switching. Engineering managers at Brex and YC founders share what they built with Kiro

here, and new capabilities ship every week.

You can join the Kiro Student Community on Discord:

<https://discord.gg/kirodotdev>. Chat with other student builders and moderators, share what you're working on, and get inspired.

Questions or

Technical Support

Many students will verify instantly and be able to start using Kiro right away. For those who do run into an issue - and we know some will - we

have a robust support process with trained internal and external support agents available to help:

For Verification issues

(e.g., flagged as ineligible, document upload not working, verification not completing) →

Contact SheerID Support:

<https://support.sheerid.com/en-US/help-center/contact-form>. Users can typically expect a first response from a Verification Support agent within 48 hours.

For Kiro/platform issues

(e.g., account access, credit usage questions) → Once you're signed in to

<http://app.kiro.dev/> scroll to the bottom to find "Billing (and Account) Support" URL:

https://app.kiro.dev/account/usage?support_form Our support team is actively monitoring and will do their best to respond within 24 hours.

John Langenkamp

Department of Computer Science

Purdue University

765-494-6180

OnePay Wallet (2 issues)

Your cash back is ready to redeem! — Tue, Sep 22

-

[Skip to main content](#)

Cash back is waiting!

Redeem your 1,002 points for cash back instantly when you bank through OnePay.¹

Download OnePay app

Get more when you bank through OnePay.

No monthly fees or minimum balances

High-yield Savings

Up to 2 days early pay with Direct Deposit²

OnePay is a financial technology company, not a bank. Banking services provided by Coastal Community Bank or Lead Bank, Members FDIC.

1. Cash back is earned as OnePay Points, which expire and are redeemable according to the OnePay Rewards Terms. Must have at least 25 points to make a redemption. OnePay Points can be redeemed into a OnePay deposit account or other available options.
2. Direct deposit required. Funds may be available up to 2 days in advance, depending on when your employer sends paycheck data.

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Cash back can be yours to spend! — Sat, Sep 26

-

[Skip to main content](#)

You can still redeem your 1,002 points for cash back¹

Redeem instantly when you bank through OnePay.

Download OnePay app

Get more when you bank through OnePay.

No monthly fees or minimum balances

High-yield Savings

Up to 2 days early pay with Direct Deposit²

OnePay is a financial technology company, not a bank. Banking services provided by Coastal Community Bank or Lead Bank, Members FDIC.

1. Cash back is earned as OnePay Points, which expire and are redeemable according to the OnePay Rewards Terms. Must have at least 25 points to make a redemption. OnePay Points can be redeemed into a OnePay deposit account or other available options.
2. Direct deposit required. Funds may be available up to 2 days in advance, depending on when your employer sends paycheck data.

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Purdue News Weekly (1 issue)

Undergraduate rankings, Earhart search and Indianapolis milestones — Fri, Sep 25

FEATURED STORIES

Purdue ranks as nation's fourth most innovative public university and strengthens its position as a top 10 engineering school

Purdue saw record gains and rankings for several key undergraduate programs in U.S. News & World Report's 2027 Best Colleges rankings. Ranked No. 8 for undergraduate engineering with five programs in the top five, Purdue also saw gains this year in agricultural and biological engineering (No. 2), mechanical engineering (No. 4), materials engineering (No. 7), business analytics (No. 8), quantitative analysis (No. 10), computer science (No. 14) and artificial intelligence (No. 16).

[Read more](#)

Amelia Earhart mission update: In a few days, researchers from the Archaeological Legacy Institute, Purdue Research Foundation and Purdue University will embark on an expedition to the South Pacific attempting to solve the disappearance of Amelia Earhart during her mission to become the first woman to fly around the world at the equator. The team will give a public update at 3 p.m. ET Monday (Sept. 28) on YouTube.

Lessons from 9/11: President Mitch Daniels will join Hillary Clinton and Norah O'Donnell of CBS News at Ford's Theatre in Washington on Sept. 29 for a conversation that will mark 25 years since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and reflect on the leadership and response that

followed. Daniels served as director of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush during the attacks.

Expanding a defense technology partnership: The Purdue Applied Research Institute and Lockheed Martin have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand collaboration in critical defense technologies, including hypersonics, propulsion, advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity and microelectronics. Building on an existing partnership, the agreement will leverage Purdue's research expertise, specialized facilities and student talent to advance innovation, workforce development and national security capabilities.

Personalized chemotherapy drug selection: Like each person, each cancer is unique. And with the growing array of chemotherapy drugs available, gaining early insight into how individual tumors respond to specific drugs would help improve treatment. Harnessing the tools of laser light, the Doppler effect and AI, Purdue researcher David Nolte is building an imaging system to do just that.

Teaming up to strengthen U.S. semiconductor workforce: Purdue and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a joint semiconductor workforce development initiative to prepare students for careers in an industry whose rapid growth is being driven by the AI boom.

Purdue partners with Pacers Foundation to dedicate basketball courts honoring Indiana Fever legends

Watch: This week's 'Purdue News Now'

STUDENT LIFE

Academic Success Building reaches construction milestone with topping-out ceremony

Purdue's Indianapolis campus marked a construction milestone Sept. 17 as the Academic Success Building reached its highest point with a topping-out ceremony. Students, faculty, staff and project partners signed the final steel beam before it was raised into place. The building, scheduled to open in fall 2027, will support student success through housing, classrooms, labs and dining.

PurdueALERT tests: Fall semester tests of the PurdueALERT emergency warning notification system are scheduled for Tuesday (Sept. 29) with the West Lafayette test set for 10 a.m. and Indianapolis scheduled for 10:15 a.m.

A better you — and puppies! Join Well-being Programs for The Track to a Better You event to explore resources and participate in fun activities. After collecting stamps at various stations, attendees can enjoy free food, a T-shirt and time with puppies. They can also learn about the BetterYou app and how it can support their well-being beyond the event.

Reminder on electric and motor-powered vehicles: Purdue Administrative Operations is reminding the campus community about regulations for electric and motor-powered vehicles (EMPVs), including personal scooters, electric bicycles, skateboards and similar devices. Purdue's Traffic and Parking Regulations include requirements for registering, parking, storing and charging EMPVs on campus.

BOILERMAKER STORIES

Why focus feels harder today and how to train your brain

On a new episode of “This Is Purdue,” Allie Gabriel, the Thomas J. Howatt Chair in Management and director of the Center for Working Well, and Kate Zipay, associate professor of organizational behavior and human resources, will help listeners tackle what true productivity looks like in a world filled with constant digital distractions — from “doomscrolling” on social media to never-ending Teams and email notifications.

SPORTS

Purdue hosts No. 3 Notre Dame in the Battle of the Shillelagh Trophy
Purdue football closes out its nonconference slate with a rivalry matchup against No. 3 Notre Dame in a battle for the Shillelagh Trophy. Kickoff from Ross-Ade Stadium is set for 2 p.m. Saturday.

Blackout Mackey: Purdue volleyball is encouraging fans to wear black during its match against Wisconsin at 4 p.m. Sunday at Mackey Arena.

First women’s basketball practice: The Purdue women’s basketball team held its first official practice on Monday afternoon at Cardinal Court in Mackey Arena. The Boilermakers are two months away from opening the 2026-27 season on Nov. 2 against Indiana University Indianapolis. Season tickets are on sale now. Tip times and TV designations will be announced in the coming weeks.

GET READY

93rd annual Purdue Christmas Show set for Dec. 5 in Carmel

The 93rd annual Purdue Christmas Show brings one of the university’s most cherished holiday traditions to a new stage this year. Presented by Purdue Musical Organizations, the show features more than 300 student performers in a festive celebration of music and community. Three performances are scheduled for Dec. 5 at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel.

Watch: Renowned historian Rick Atkinson at Presidential Lecture

Purdue Theatre opens season with ‘The Hunchback of Seville’

BOILER CROSSWORD

This week’s Purdue News Weekly isn’t just for reading — it’s also how to find the clues for our latest mini crossword! Test your memory of the week’s top stories as you navigate the grid.

Play

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Sandwiches of History (1 issue)

A lot to share this week — Mon, Sep 21

I’m not going to type much here as there is a boatload of bonus material in addition to the sandwiches and chips this week. I’ve added the behind-the-scenes of the photoshoot for my upcoming cookbook as well as food recs from my Santa Barbara trip and some amazing food I had yesterday in San Diego. Let’s get into it!

Monday, September 14, 2026

Hostel Sandwich

Our History

Rating: 7 1/2

Plus up™(s): Chipotle powder and the Grilled Cheese Treatment™

Plussed up rating: 8 1/2

Not gonna lie, when I first read this recipe I thought it sounded rather decadent for a sandwich made in a hostel. Though I've never stay in one, they've always been portrayed as more bare bones than not. But, this was Europe so it's not really beyond the pale to think that brie would make an appearance. At any rate, hard to go wrong with a brie/ham/jam combo. The cream cheese was pretty pointless. I leaned into the decadence with a kick of chipotle powder and made it melty with the Grilled Cheese Treatment™ as the plus ups. Messy but tasty.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Atlasta Good Beef Sandwich

Winning Sandwiches for Menu Makers 1976

Rating: 7

Plus up™(s): Dill pickles

Plussed up rating: 7 1/2

Despite the goofy name of this sandwich, it was pretty tasty. Hard to go wrong when you start with a sour cream sauce that features prepared horseradish and onion soup mix. It was odd that they want us to dip the roast beef in it as there was plenty on the sandwich. All-in-all a tasty endeavor. The dill pickle plus up helped make it pop a little.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Orange Sandwich

Our History

Rating: 5

Plus up™(s): Butter and Meruno Spice Blend

Plussed up rating: 6

Sometimes folks get a so caught up in the backstory that they misunderstand that the sandwich being made is an Americanized version of the original. Such was the case here as it was unlikely they'd have used Navel oranges back in Italy. It wasn't bad but a bit sparse. I definitely could've gone the Japanese sando route and piped in way too much whipped cream. Instead, I went savory with the spice blend and a little butter as the plus ups. I did make a difference but a huge one.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2026

The Bellair

Turkey and The Wolf: Flavor Trippin' in New Orleans

Rating: 10

Plus up™(s): None

As I do every year on my birthday, I indulge myself by making whatever sandwich I want. Just

so happens what I've wanted for the last four years and now this year was a sandwich from Turkey and The Wolf: Flavor Trippin' in New Orleans cookbook. This time, the sandwich that is the reason them make sandwiches. Like all of the other sandwiches I've made from this book, this had layers of flavor. All of which worked together and which slowly revealed themselves with each bite. Cannot wait to make this one again. Lol like I've got time for that.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Thursday, September 17/18, 2026

Vintage Party Sandwiches Cookbook: Behind The Scenes Photo Shoot

As you may or may not know, I have another cookbook coming out next spring, Vintage Party Sandwiches. I was lucky enough to have the same husband and wife food styling and photographer couple who did such an amazing job with the photos in Sandwiches of History: The Cookbook, on board again for this one. Once again I made the journey to their house in Santa Barbara where we took a few pics to insert into the book. And theid dog Pickles was right there for the "action."

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Friday, September 18, 2026

Clam and Cheese Sandwich

Sack It and Pack It 1980

Rating: 6

Plus up™(s): Flat leaf parsley and black pepper

Plussed up rating: 7

I must admit, it was fun to say both Clam and Cheese as well as Sack It and Pack It. This was basically a clam dip but in sandwich form. Which I dug. It did feel like it needed a little freshness and bite so I busted out the parsley and black pepper to plus it up.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Grandma Betty's Sandwich

Our History

Rating: 7

Plus up™(s): Fresh dill

Plussed up rating: 7 1/2

I've been doing Sandwiches of History every day, consistently, since 2019. And this was the first time I've seen bacon fat called for as a spread instead of butter or mayonnaise. But it was good. A hint of the smoky bacon without having to fry up some and a fresh, juicy, seasoned tomato. So good. Plussed it up with a little fresh dill for contrast. Any fresh herb would've been great though.

Watch elsewhere:

[Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#) | [Facebook](#)

Sunday, September 20, 2026

Maggi Masala Ramen Sandwich

India

Rating: 7

Plus up™(s): None

Boy, some folks are really not into carbs between carbs. Don't get me wrong, this is not something I'd opt to eat often for that and out of a concern for sodium intake. But the Maggi Masala Ramen was tasty on it's own. The cilantro chutney brought a little brightness and heat. And the ketchup just added a little tomatoey sweetness. It was pretty tasty. Though not a 10, I didn't really feel like adding to it would improve it per se. Go figure.

Watch elsewhere:

Instagram | TikTok | Facebook

In The Chips with Barry

Wow, just wow. This were tinny and not good. Highly unrecommend.

Unlike pepperoni, these peperoni chips were to have a spicy chili flavor. And they did... eventually...kinda...ish?

Now, these were tasty. Even if I didn't pick up any black pepper action, the sweet and the smoky bacon was very well balanced.

Well, they can't all be home runs, can they?

Oversharing food

As you may have figured out both from my physique and my many food-focused channels, I love food. But I don't only eat sandwich, potato chips, ice cream, and craft beer (let's face it, if I didn't I probably would be in rougher shape).

As I mentioned above, I was recently in Santa Barbara and, well, had to eat, right? So I want to share three things that stood out which I recommend you try should you find yourself there anytime soon.

Santa Barbra deliciousness

Starting on the left was a seemingly humble hash brown from Helena Avenue Bakery. They make a lot of delicious things there but this fried potato square stood out. Crunchy on the outside, fluffy on the inside and seasoned with celery seed (I'm pretty sure) throughout. It's served with a smoked ketchup (though I couldn't discern the smoke). I think it's much better with Dijon mustard.

In the center we've got two baos from Secret Bao.

K.F.C. Bao - korean fried chicken, dragon sauce, coleslaw, umami mayo, pickled red onions

Shrimp Bao - tempura shrimp, kewpie mayo, sesame slaw, scallions

Flavorful and light. The bao itself was light and pillowy, not at all heavy. The chicken was at once crispy and tender with the umami mayo adding richness and the coleslaw and pickled red onions provide a bright and sweet contrast. The shrimp was perfectly cooked, tender and wonderfully accented by the nuttiness of the sesame slaw.

And on the right, Mais Speziato from Bettina made with oaken heirloom corn whiskey, cardamom digestif, pasilla chili liquor, and mole bitters. Perfectly balanced and delicious with the cardamom present but not overpowering and the mole bitters adding a nice hint of spices. I would go back just for that drink.

What's that you're not sick of food yet? Good, because I want more amazing food including what was easily the best thing I've eaten this year. It was at a pop-up in San Diego hosted by B's Bodega at Swan Bar. Rob Striker, the chef behind the upcoming B's Bodega, is doing series of collab pop ups with other chefs in advance of it's opening. In fact, we might be doing one soon (though to be clear, I am not a chef).

Cannot say enough good things about all of this delicious food.

In the upper left you got your Okonomiyaki Dirty Fries Japanese mayo, pickled ginger, albacore furikake, albacore furikake, carmalized hoisin, bonito, scallion. At once sweet, salty, packed with umami, but also had a great kick of fresh ginger.

On the upper right, the dish of the year, the Gouda-nough Fries featuring a gouda Morney sauce, braised onions, chives. Like a mac n cheese but with fries and a mega boost of flavor

On the lower left, the Smoked French Dip Au Jus. Smoked, thinly shaved beef with melty Swiss cheese and sharp, tangy mustard. And, of course, the that jus that is just packed with beefy flavor.

And last but not least, the dish of the year so far, the Fish Dip. This was created by Head Sushi Chef Ambrely Ouimett. She dry aged local bluefin then smoked it. Which give it a cured consistency - slightly done on the outside and nice and fresh on the inside. She then took some of that fish, made a stock along some veal bones and reduced it to a demi. Then, she piled the extremely thin shavings of fish into a fresh everything seasoned baguette along with crispy onions. It was a fish French Dip and it was so amaaaaaazing. It needs to be on a menu somewhere permanently.

Ok, if you've made this far you are a real trooper. Thank you! And thanks for watching too! See you next week.

Cheers,
Barry

Comment

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cs daily Subj-class mailing 10000 51 — Thu, Sep 24

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Tangle (1 issue)

The Sunday — September 27 — Sun, Sep 27

This is the Tangle Sunday Edition, a brief roundup of our independent politics coverage plus some extra features for your Sunday morning reading.

What the left is doodling.

Mike Luckovich | Creators Syndicate

What the right is doodling.

Steve Kelley | Creators Syndicate

Suspension of the Rules.

It's a Big Apple episode for apple season. On the most recent Suspension of the Rules, Isaac, Ari, and Kmele talk about the ongoing UN assembly in New York. Then, a discussion of a New York Times Magazine article about public schooling and race. Plus, guess who has a complaint about leaves? (Hint: Kmele. It's Kmele.) Check it out below!

Monday, September 21.

Escalations in the Middle East. As the war in Iran nears its seventh month, new developments over the past week have prompted concerns about a widening conflict in the Middle East. On Saturday, September 19, the State Department warned Americans in the Middle East to "exercise heightened vigilance" and prepare for potential travel disruptions, and President Donald Trump returned from a weekend trip to Camp David a day early. Separately, Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have launched significant attacks against Saudi Arabia and seized key Red Sea territory.

Our take: "It's hard to fully grasp the state of play in Iran amid the changes on the ground and with the president's focus. I think we're at a critical juncture right now, and one possible path is Iran getting weaker and reaching a favorable deal with the U.S. The other path is darker and likelier: Iran and the Houthis continue to delay until the U.S. accepts an unfavorable deal."

Reader Survey:

Tuesday, September 22.

The White House press bans. On Friday, September 18, President Donald Trump announced he is barring journalists from CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from the White House. The president accused the outlets of inaccurately reporting on his administration and suggested that additional news organizations could be banned. On Monday, the outlets sued the government for allegedly violating their First Amendment rights.

Our take: "These outlets don't have a constitutional right to access the White House, and their reporting has been biased in the past. The president, however, doesn't have a right to ban outlets for being critical. I'm left wondering why the president would do this now, and I'm concerned about the fights drawing Trump's focus."

Reader Survey:

Wednesday, September 23.

The Greenland deal. On Tuesday, September 22, President Donald Trump signed a defense agreement with Denmark and the semiautonomous territory of Greenland. The three-party compact was signed in New York City, concurrent with a United Nations General Assembly meeting, and it follows several months of statements from President Trump about the United States increasing its control over the island territory.

Our take: “The Greenland saga is a reminder to take Trump seriously but not literally. We saw this with NATO, when his threats to back out successfully pushed member nations into stronger commitments. Now Trump has strengthened our ties with Greenland and NATO, securing a deal that improves our national security.”

Reader Survey:

Thursday, September 24.

GLP-1s. In recent years, use of new weight-loss medications has risen in the United States. A 2026 Gallup poll found that a record 11% of U.S. adults are taking GLP-1 medications for weight loss, up from 3% in 2024. Furthermore, high-profile figures like Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker (D) and decorated tennis player Serena Williams have extolled their experiences taking the drug. The rising prevalence of GLP-1 use for weight management has sparked a debate over their potential impact on health and wellness in the U.S.

Our take: “The benefits of GLP-1s are increasingly apparent: lower obesity rates, improved health outcomes, and less strain on public health. But the prevalence of the drugs also raises difficult questions about cultural norms on appearance. I considered taking GLP-1s, but opted for diet and exercise first; that choice has been effective and fulfilling.”

Reader Survey:

Friday, September 25.

In June 2021, Executive Editor Isaac Saul published a newsletter asking the question: Is President Biden okay? Now, in 2026, Isaac poses that same question about President Donald Trump. You can read his piece [here](#).

What just happened.

Here’s a rundown of the major stories that have broken since our newsletter on Thursday.

On Thursday, the Department of Homeland Security asked the Supreme Court to lift an injunction barring it from deporting noncitizens to countries other than their country of origin, also known as “third-country removals.” (The request)

On Thursday, reporters from CNN, MS NOW, and Politico were allowed back into the White House following a judge’s order, though some reporters from the outlets were barred from attending a state dinner for Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted by President Trump. (The updates) Separately, on Friday, the Trump administration blocked CNN from traveling with President Trump on Air Force One for a Saturday trip to Tennessee. (The block)

On Friday, the Supreme Court issued an unsigned order blocking Missouri from using a new congressional map designed to net Republicans an extra House seat, ordering the state to use its 2022 congressional map for this year’s midterms. (The order) Separately, on Friday, the Court ruled that the Trump administration can use a federal database to verify voter eligibility. The Court’s three Democratic-appointed justices dissented. (The ruling)

On Friday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the Trump administration had “ample support for its conclusion” that AI developer Anthropic posed a national security risk, finding that the administration’s move to block Anthropic from working with the government was legal. (The decision)

On Friday, New Jersey Lt. Gov. Dale Caldwell (D) resigned following allegations of sexual misconduct and ethics complaints. (The resignation)

On Saturday, a nor’easter continued to impact the Northeast, with coastal flood alerts issued for areas of Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine. (The storm)

Reader essay.

Winchester College chapel buttresses, 1980s | Mark Draisey

When Tangle reader Alden Blodgett was working as a school administrator and teacher, two students got caught smoking in a dorm room. The families of the two students responded very differently to their students' discipline — prompting Alden to reflect on what it means to teach the next generation to be good citizens when people are comfortable with flouting the rules.

You can read Alden's essay [here](#).

Have a personal story or local issue you want to write about? Pitch us! Fill out this form or reply to this email, and we'll get back to you if we're hooked.

Reader comments.

In this section, we like to highlight reader comments that respond to our coverage from different perspectives. On our Friday edition about President Trump's mental health, readers discussed their concerns over Trump and former President Biden.

Catherine highlighted differences in staff across the two administrations.

Let's assume for a minute that we can equate the Biden confusion with the Trump delirium... the BIG difference is that Biden had competent, accomplished, smart cabinet members/staff around him to still get the work done. Trump has surrounded himself with sycophants and discards who — at best — don't know what they're doing on a daily basis and at worst, plan for wholesale destruction of the country. I don't see [how] we last another two years.

Diana Manning outlined a concerning pattern.

You [Isaac] brought up very good points, but what crossed my mind as I read it is that we have now had 2 presidencies in a row where we are concerned about the mental faculties of the president. Our system is broken, younger and healthier candidates with electability are suppressed by both parties and once these compromised candidates are in office the cover up begins.

Recommended reading.

"It's hard for me to believe that all that time he was playing a double game, that he didn't once come unstuck. If he was really collaborating all along, well, then I'd have to say that Igor Rogov is a genius."

A spy's subterfuge — secret cells and Sosnowiec sneaking — is sabotaged, but his sincerity is uncertain. Shaun Walker tells Igor Rogov's story [here](#).

Tangle's favorites.



PET PROJECT: Over more than two decades, truck driver Joe Macken built an intimidatingly intricate model of New York City out of balsa wood.



PET SECURITY: A golden retriever defended his home by bringing an intruder his toys.



NOT PETS: A boot camp in Mississippi for preparing abandoned baby raccoons to re-enter the wild.

Post of the week.

A deep dive into the mystery of the disappearing Sandy Island:

In 2012, Australian scientists sailed to an island shown on Google Earth and numerous world maps.

When they reached its coordinates, they found nothing. No beach. No reef. No land at all.

The ocean beneath them was about 1,400 metres (4,600 ft) deep.

Where'd it go?

1/n pic.twitter.com/cTCgQ6NB7C

— Iain Cameron (@theiaincameron) September 21, 2026

Games corner.

Last week, our challenge to beat our Managing Editor Ari Weitzman at a fun browser game was a hit, so we're running it back this week — this time, with a slightly different game.

Check out MapTap, a game that about half the Tangle team plays daily in an attempt to best Ari. So far, we've managed to beat him... twice. Check out his performance today in the comments to this article and see if you can help us serve him a slice of humble pie.

Beat Ari!

Ask the readers.

Last week, Mary from Cincinnati, Ohio asked readers what the worst advice they ever received was.

Shira from Long Island: "Don't go to bed angry." Ridiculous. Sometimes things just can't be worked out when my partner and I are angry with each other. Sometimes we need a little time and space. It's best to get a good night's rest and talk it out the next day.

Joanne from Las Vegas: Do not have a pet — too expensive & too much responsibility. Happily I did not heed this advice. I now have 2 dogs. They are rescues, multiple breeds, about 20–22 lbs. And yes they cost money, food & vet bills, but the joy they bring me is unmeasurable. Daily laughs, wonderful companionship, unconditional love, protection, & daily contentment.

Laurie from Wisconsin: My mom advised me not to get married at 19, saying that we were too young and we would end up divorced.

We got engaged just before I graduated from high school and deferred the wedding until the next year to appease her, but we refused to wait any longer. She still wasn't happy about it, but she agreed to the wedding.

Yes, we were young, and yes, there were some rough times, but we proved her wrong. We just celebrated our 53rd anniversary in July.

Shauna from California: The worst advice I received was to turn off my cell phone while my son was in the care of others. A couple days before my six-year-old son stayed overnight at his grandparents, my neighbor friend told me she turns off her cell phone at night because "even if somebody died during the night, there's nothing I can do about it until the morning so I might as well get a good night's rest." When we brought my son to my parents' house so my husband and I could go out on a date, and he wanted to stay the night with them, they gave me a hard time and told me "Turn off your phone. Enjoy your date. He's fine with us."

After I had gotten up at 5:30 in the morning for work the next day, I saw I had messages on my cell phone and on our answering machine (this was back in 2010). It was my dad leaving messages since 2:30 AM telling me that my stepmom had had a heart attack, she was in the

ICU, and would I please come pick up our son because they couldn't get a hold of us and had to bring him with them to the ICU! My parents still gave me a hard time about that years later. And since that time, I do not turn off my phone at night, and I'm willing to have my sleep disrupted in case there's an emergency!

This week's reader question comes from Beth from Wilmington, NC, who asks:
Where is your favorite "off the beaten path" place that you are glad you came across?

You can let us know your thoughts by replying through this form.

More like this

Less like this

Comment

Keep reading

When a Parent's Values Clash With a Child's Education

Did Nikole Hannah-Jones make a mistake by sending her daughter to a struggling school to model her values?

...

Why the Iran War Will Drag Past the Midterms

Is the UN General Assembly anything more than theater?

Louder than Words

What are we teaching our children?

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VeMail from Veritasium (1 issue)

 **Do We Want Sunlight "On Demand"? — Thu, Sep 24**

Hi Iniyan, physicists in Switzerland have built a beam of muonium, a strange, short-lived atom made partly of antimatter, to test whether it falls like everything else. Since Galileo, physicists have known that gravity pulls everything down at the same rate, whatever it's made of. The idea is central to Einstein's theory of gravity. Scientists have confirmed it for ordinary matter and even for antimatter hydrogen, but never for the heavier, exotic particle inside muonium. The test is still two to three years away, but if muonium falls differently, it could point to a new force of nature. This week's top stories also put some familiar assumptions to the test.

Coming up:

 Do We Want Sunlight "On Demand"?

 Mathematicians Dispute Whether AI Broke 48-Year-Old Math Record

 Can You Build a Quantum Computer for \$215M?

+More

ASTRONOMY

Startup Provides Sunlight “On Demand”. But Do We Want It?

Reflect Orbital proposes putting mirrors in space to reflect sunlight to the ground, similar to this visualization. Image credit: Reflect Orbital

A California startup plans to provide sunlight “on demand” by reflecting sunlight onto Earth at night. Reflect Orbital will put an 18-meter-wide mirror into orbit about 600 kilometers up. From there, it will redirect sunlight onto a patch of Earth’s night side about 5 kilometers across.

The company says this could light disaster rescues and let solar farms keep generating after sunset. The FCC licensed the first test satellite, Eärendil-1, in July. Reflect Orbital wants 50,000 larger mirrors in orbit by 2035.

However, scientists have raised concerns. The problem is that the atmosphere scatters light. Air molecules and dust deflect part of the beam sideways. So the light will not stay inside its target, and it will also brighten the sky around it.

Astronomers say that telescopes detect faint galaxies and dangerous asteroids against the sky’s natural background light, so a brighter sky hides them. Biologists add that artificial light disrupts animals that feed and migrate at night. “Until now we have managed, but it’s getting worse,” Hainaut says. The American Astronomical Society asked the FCC to reject the license.

Two new studies calculate how far the light will spread. One study found that one full-size, 54-meter mirror would light its target to about 38 times the brightness of a full moon. It would also brighten the night sky up to 30 kilometers away. Another study found that the full fleet would make naturally dark skies three to four times brighter, with the strongest effect in the hours after sunset and before dawn. Even the darkest observatory sites would be left with roughly “semi-suburban” skies.

Reflect Orbital disputes both studies and says it will keep its beams away from observatories. But the FCC’s review covered the satellite’s radio use and space-debris plans, not its light, and no US agency assesses light pollution from orbit. “There’s a failure to understand that darkness is a good thing,” says Jonathan McDowell, who has tracked every object in orbit since 1989. Eärendil-1’s launch will provide the first real measurements of how far its light spreads.

TL;DR: Reflect Orbital has FCC approval to launch Eärendil-1, a mirror that reflects sunlight onto Earth at night. Two new studies find that atmospheric scattering spreads the light well beyond its target. One full-size mirror would brighten the sky for 30 kilometers, and the planned 50,000-mirror fleet would make naturally dark skies three to four times brighter.

MATHEMATICS

OpenAI Claims to Break 48-Year-Old Math Record. Mathematicians Dispute It.

Sphere packing applied to the stacking of cannonballs

OpenAI says its AI model Astra has made the first substantial progress in 48 years on a central question in sphere packing: how tightly identical balls can fill space when there are many dimensions.

In two dimensions, coins arranged in a honeycomb cover about 91% of a table. In three dimensions, stacked oranges fill about 74% of space. As the number of dimensions rises, the best possible share keeps shrinking, but nobody knows how fast. The question matters beyond geometry. The error-correcting codes that keep texts and streamed video intact are, mathematically, sphere packings in many dimensions.

Because the best packings are unknown, mathematicians prove limits instead: a ceiling that no packing can beat. The best proven rate at which that ceiling falls had stood since 1978; later work lowered the ceiling only by constant factors.

Now, Astra has proven a faster rate, showing that the share of filled space falls faster than anyone had established. Because the gain compounds with each dimension, it would mean a ceiling roughly 40 times lower by 1,000 dimensions, ignoring smaller correction terms. Astra also showed that the field's main tool for building ceilings, the Cohn–Elkies method, can never beat this new value.

The result is still being checked and disputed. It has not been peer-reviewed, and experts have only partly checked the machine-verifiable proof that OpenAI published. Mathematician Stephen Miller says the proof relies heavily on his earlier work without adequate credit. OpenAI told *Scientific American*, “We take responsibility for the correctness of these results.”

The claim is one of a series of recent AI-math breakthroughs. In May, OpenAI shared an AI-generated disproof of a conjecture by Paul Erdős. On September 8, it claimed a solution to the Navier–Stokes problem, one of math's \$1 million Millennium Prize Problems.

TL;DR: OpenAI claims that its AI model Astra has lowered the proven ceiling on how densely spheres can pack in high dimensions, the first substantial progress since 1978, and shown that the field's main method can go no further. The proof is not yet peer-reviewed, and a mathematician disputes whether it credits his earlier work.

QUANTUM COMPUTING

Can You Build a Quantum Computer By 2028 For a Prize of \$215M?

IBM quantum computing demo in 2024

The US Department of Energy will pay companies to build something no one has managed yet: a quantum computer reliable enough to do real science. On September 17, DOE announced a competition worth up to \$215 million, with a 2028 deadline.

Quantum computers could solve problems ordinary computers can't, such as simulating complex molecules. But heat, vibration, and stray electromagnetic fields easily scramble their building blocks, called qubits.

The standard fix is error correction. Engineers spread one “logical” qubit across many physical qubits, so that when individual qubits fail, the errors can be detected and corrected without losing the stored information. A machine that keeps these errors negligible is called fault-tolerant. So far, demonstrations have managed only small numbers of logical qubits.

DOE wants at least 100 logical qubits, which will likely take thousands of physical ones. Teams must show how outsiders can verify their machine's performance, deliver a prototype, and then run a useful scientific calculation. The money is released only as teams hit milestones. The largest share, a \$100 million pool, will be split among teams that reach 100 logical qubits, with

two further \$50 million pools for those reaching 150 and 200. Most of the funding still depends on future approval by Congress.

DOE officials rate their own odds of meeting the deadline at about 50-50. “Do I think it’s possible?” Darío Gil, DOE’s under secretary for science, told Science. “Yes, absolutely. Am I certain it will happen? No.”

The emphasis on useful, verified computation marks a shift in the field, which has often competed on raw qubit counts. If a team succeeds, chemists and materials scientists could simulate molecules and materials that classical supercomputers can’t handle, from battery chemistry to fusion-reactor materials.

Applications close October 19, and DOE hopes to select teams by December.

TL;DR: The US Department of Energy has launched a competition worth up to \$215 million for companies to build a fault-tolerant quantum computer with at least 100 error-corrected qubits by 2028. Funding is paid only for verified milestones. DOE officials put their odds of meeting the deadline at about 50-50.

Behind-The-Scenes Q&A:
How Do You Crack a Code With 100 Sextillion Combinations?

With Writer/Director James Moore

1. What made you want to make a video on this topic?

My parents moved to Bletchley a few years ago, and at one point my sister was working as a tour guide at Bletchley Park, so I thought I’d pop by. It got me thinking: lots of people know the story of Enigma, but far fewer know the technical details of the machine and the math that broke it.

2. How long have you been working on it?

I visited Bletchley Park around November 2025, which planted the seed. We then filmed there in March and April, and we were lucky enough to speak with Sir Dermot Turing, Alan Turing’s nephew.

3. What was the hardest challenge you faced in making this video?

The main one was understanding how the Bombe actually worked. I spent hours reading the master’s thesis of Jonah, the expert featured in the video, and talking to him on the phone to work out what was going on. It’s all written in the language of permutation theory, which is foreign to me as an engineer, and it’s hard to explain conceptually. But we got there in the end.

4. Was there anything you weren’t able to include?

While researching, I came across so many fascinating World War II stories that I wanted to include but couldn’t fit in. We could have made an entire video just on the Polish codebreakers,

who broke Enigma years before Bletchley did, and on their machine and methods. Henryk Zygalski came up with a set of 26 perforated sheets, each marked with a 26-by-26 grid, now known as Zygalski sheets. I can't go into full detail, but by punching holes in these sheets and stacking them, you could narrow down the possible Enigma settings by hand to just one or two. The technique only became obsolete in May 1940, when the Germans changed how they sent their message keys.

5. Can you give newsletter readers a hint about what you're working on next?

Watch out for part two, where we cover the Lorenz cipher. Only around 200 Lorenz machines are thought to have been in use during World War II, and it was even more secure than Enigma. What made breaking it even harder was that the codebreakers had never seen one. Instead, they realized the intercepted messages were in binary. They then used patterns they spotted in those messages to work backward and reconstruct, from scratch, how the machine must have worked.

News

The Hall effect turns sideways. Since 1879, physicists have known that a magnetic field pushes an electric current sideways, producing a measurable voltage. It's how your phone knows its cover is closed. The effect was generally thought to respond only to magnetism pointing straight through a material, though a few recent experiments have found exceptions. Physicists have now measured the effect from magnetism lying flat within an ultrathin layered film. One tiny sensor could then detect fields in several directions, though so far it works only at very low temperatures.

What if a computer could remember and process information simply by moving? MIT researchers built a nanoscale device from a soft polymer that mechanically compresses and relaxes in response to voltage, allowing it to accumulate signals and fire much like a neuron. By combining computing and memory in one tiny device, the approach could enable more energy-efficient edge computing, smart prosthetics and adaptive robots.

A new crater reveals a recent impact on the Moon. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter has discovered a 222-meter-wide, 43-meter-deep crater that formed on the Moon in spring 2024, which went unnoticed until October 2025, when a team member spotted it during a routine check of the spacecraft's before-and-after maps. It's the largest known recent impact crater, an event estimated to happen only once every 132 years, and its debris disturbed the lunar surface up to about 100 km away. The discovery could help NASA understand how often impacts threaten future lunar bases, and how quickly the Moon's surface gets scattered and mixed.

A stronger magnet to catch antimatter. CERN's proposed 91-kilometer Future Circular Collider would smash electrons into positrons, their antimatter twins. Making positrons is easy: fire electrons at a metal target. Catching them is hard, because they spray out in many directions. Switzerland's Paul Scherrer Institute has now captured its first positrons using a superconducting magnet designed to be about four times stronger than the one at Japan's SuperKEKB, a leading positron source. Next, the team must scale up to collider intensity.

Why put wind farms where it's less windy? Northwest Texas is the state's windiest region. Yet an MIT model optimizing where Texas should build wind farms placed many along the calmer Gulf Coast. The reason is timing: the two regions' winds peak at different times of day, so together they produce steadier power that better complements solar. The model comes from an MIT program that has produced 29 papers, plus tools for planning around floods, hurricanes and heat.

The Roman Space Telescope sees its first light. NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope has taken its first picture of starlight, and, as expected, it's out of focus: each star is smeared into a donut across thousands of pixels. That blur gives engineers a baseline for focusing its 300-megapixel infrared camera. Once sharp, each shot will cover more sky than the full Moon, feeding surveys of dark energy and exoplanets. NASA expects its first science images by early 2027.

This Week's Puzzle



THE CONCERT PATH

You're rushing to a concert when you hit a fork in the road. One path leads to the venue. The other leads nowhere useful.

Two locals are standing at the junction. Both know which path is correct. One always tells the truth. One always lies. You don't know which is which.

You can ask one of them a single yes/no question.

Which question guarantees you find the right path?

- a) Which is the correct path?
- b) Should I take path A?
- c) Which path would the other person tell me to take?
- d) Should I take path B?

Elements of Truth Question



Can you solve this question from our upcoming tabletop game?

Pre-order yours today!

Until next time,

The Ve Team 🙌

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Walmart (1 issue)

Ready to complete your order? — Sun, Sep 20

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order.
account

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\$2.73

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Great Value Roasted...

4543 reviews

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Fresh Whole Celery, 1ea Premium Quality, Rich in an...

72.2k reviews

72.2k

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Even more to explore

Walmart Customer Experience (1 issue)

Walmart is interested in your feedback! — Mon, Sep 21

My account

Thank you for being a Walmart customer.

Listening to you and learning how we can improve is important to us, and your feedback helps us create better experiences for you and other Walmart customers in the future.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could take 3 minutes to complete the survey by clicking on the link below.

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Walmart Reviews (1 issue)

Review your recent Walmart purchase — Mon, Sep 21

What did you think?

Thanks for shopping with us. We'd love to hear your thoughts, so please leave a review. Your feedback is a big help to other customers!

Rate: Energizer MAX 9V Batteries (4 Pack), 9 Volt...

[Write a review](#)

Rate: Great Value Natural Brown Long Grain Rice, 5...

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Walmart+ (2 issues)

 **Fall into more savings with Walmart+**  — Tue, Sep 22

Save on streaming, trips to the store, gas & more!
account

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1Subject to availability. \$35 order minimum required for scheduled orders. Restrictions apply. Excludes most Marketplace items. Freight & location surcharges & stated exceptions may apply.

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3Subject to Walmart Cash terms & Walmart+ terms.

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 **Members, HUGE Deals are coming on 10/5**  — Sat, Sep 26

Not a drill! Be here at 12am
ET.
account

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Fashion

Home

Toys

Patio & garden

Beauty & grooming

Home improvement

Pets

Auto

Baby

Floor care

Food

Household essentials

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