TODAY'S WEATHER
61° SUNNY
Dallas. Low 42 tonight. Source: NWS.

THE VANDERBILT REPORT

PRESSURE INDEX
ELEVATED
S&P 500 down 8.6% on the week.

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1789

VOL. I · NO. 6 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026 NATIONWIDE EDITION

VIRGINIA JUDGE SAYS SHE WILL BLOCK TRUMP'S ARCH

A separate D.C. order bars groundbreaking through Dec. 3 unless the court rules sooner.

BY DR. STEVEN VANDERBILT · WASHINGTON



PROPOSED, NOT BUILT. The Harrison Design April 2026 rendering of the proposed 250-foot triumphal arch near Arlington Memorial Bridge. Rendering: Harrison Design / U.S. Commission of Fine Arts submission.

A federal judge in Virginia said in a Nov. 20 memorandum opinion (Newsweek) that she will block construction of President Donald Trump's proposed 250-foot arch near Arlington Memorial Bridge. Judge Leonie Brinkema announced her decision from the bench in Alexandria that day, saying the court will issue a preliminary injunction requested by the Arlington County Board, which sued in October (OPB). She called the project a "rushed job" that lacked a legal basis (CNN). Arlington County argues the arch would add noise and air pollution and clog roads emergency vehicles need (OPB). In a separate case, Judge Tanya Chutkan in Washington extended her order on Nov. 18 through Dec. 3, or until she rules on the pending injunction requests, whichever comes first (Reuters; Joyce Vance).

A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

In this issue: the proposed arch, Friday's market sell-off, and the rules behind the headlines.

Dr. Steven Vanderbilt

THE TICKER

S&P 500	Fri. close 6,910.39	**-3.7%**
DOW	Fri. close 48,147.33	**-1.9%**
NASDAQ	Fri. close 22,617.73	**-5.3%**
ANT	IPO price $83	**Nasdaq debut Nov. 19**

Market Mood: Index closes: Friday, Nov. 20. Source: AP. Anthropic IPO price: Reuters.

THE CLOSER

LAST CALL

A drawing can be finished long before anyone is allowed to start.

TECH POLICY

DATA CENTERS ABROAD: A "TREMENDOUS TAX"

Trump said Friday the U.S. would penalize American companies that build data centers overseas, Reuters reported. He said he would impose a "tremendous tax" on them, at a White House news conference after his Asia trip. It was a statement, not a filed proposal. *The tax rate is unannounced. The enthusiasm is not.*

MARKETS

STOCKS END A ROUGH WEEK

The S&P 500 fell 3.7% Friday and 8.6% for the week. The Nasdaq Composite fell 5.3% Friday and 10% for the week, AP reported. *The market would like Monday to go easier.*

WASHINGTON

A 38-MINUTE OPENING STATEMENT

President Trump spoke for about 38 minutes before taking questions at a White House news conference Friday that ran nearly 90 minutes, the Daily Beast reported. He covered Russia, interest rates, tariffs, Iran and why he believes he deserved the Nobel Peace Prize. *The questions had to wait their turn.*

CORRECTIONS Corrections: None yet.

Sources: AP via PBS (Nov. 20); CNN (Nov. 20); OPB (Nov. 20); NPR via Yahoo News (Nov. 20); Reuters via US News and CNBC (Nov. 20); The Daily Beast (Nov. 20); Newsweek (Nov. 21); Joyce Vance, Civil Discourse (Nov. 22).

Tell us what to cover: newsroom@vanderbiltdaily.com

WEIRD FILES

Strange. Sourced. True.

PAINTER DEPICTS STATUE OF LIBERTY IN 43.5 SECONDS

Performance painter David Garibaldi earned the Guinness World Record for the fastest time to paint a landmark statue, announced Nov. 19 for Guinness World Records Day, UPI reported. He painted it on a rooftop in Brooklyn, New York. *Forty-three and a half seconds. Most of us need that long to find a pen.*

PHILADELPHIA FINDS 570 ROCKYS; STILL ONLY ONE SET OF STEPS

A record 570 people dressed as Rocky Balboa gathered outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Nov. 13 for the largest gathering of people dressed as the character, Guinness World Records said. Guinness required at least 250, and an adjudicator deducted a handful who missed the costume rules, Billy Penn reported. *Fifty years on, the training montage is still the hardest part.*

AN ESTIMATED 100 MILLION CRABS TAKE OVER AN ISLAND

Red crabs began their annual migration on Christmas Island, with an estimated 100 million heading to the sea, WSMV reported. The figure is an estimate; a park official said last year the island holds up to 200 million. Residents keep rakes and leaf blowers in their cars to help them along, per ABC. *The island's road closures run better than most cities'.*

TRUCK DROPS 19 PALLETS OF PEPPERS ON A FLORIDA ROAD

A semi-truck lost 19 pallets of green peppers, about 600 pounds each, on Palm Beach Boulevard near I-75 in Fort Myers on Tuesday evening, the Lee County Sheriff's Office said. Two eastbound lanes were covered. *No one was hurt. The hot sauce industry has been notified.*

ATLANTA PASSENGERS FIND LUGGAGE COATED IN BROWN SUBSTANCE

Passengers on American Flight 2609 from Miami waited over two hours for bags in Atlanta Monday night, then found dozens coated in a brown substance. American says it was liquefied peanut butter, WSB-TV reported. *They got their bags. They also got a spread.*

CAPITOL OFFENSES

FCC APPROVES PATH FOR PRISONS TO JAM CONTRABAND PHONES

The FCC voted Nov. 19 to allow state prisons to seek authorization to jam contraband cellphone signals. Facilities using the technology must test it to guard against interference outside prison grounds, AP reported. *The signal is blocked. The commentary is not.*

FUNDING RUNS OUT DEC. 11; NO DEAL YET

The current stopgap funding law runs through Dec. 11. Without new appropriations or another extension, a funding gap would begin Dec. 12, the Latin Times reported. Congress is off Thanksgiving week and returns with Republicans and Democrats far apart on defense spending (McKnight's). Some Democrats are debating whether to use the deadline to pressure Trump over the Iran war (Fox News). *The deadline is fixed. The plan is not.*

SENATE PASSES PERMITTING BILL, 62 TO 33; IT IS NOT LAW YET

The Senate passed BAAJA on Nov. 19 by 62 to 33, as an amendment to H.R. 2347, after adopting the substitute 69 to 27 the day before. Passage in the Senate is not enactment. The measure still needs further action. BAAJA is the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026, a permitting bill. *One chamber down. The other has opinions.*

Sources: UPI, Guinness World Records, AP, Billy Penn, WSMV, AAP, ABC, Fox Weather, Lee County Sheriff's Office, WSB-TV, FCC, NEA Report, McKnight's, Latin Times, Fox News, Deseret News (Nov. 20), White & Case.

★ MAIL & MISCELLANY ★

Letters & Leftovers

SATIRE. THE POLITICAL CLIMATE

Monday outlook: Cloudy with a chance of hearings. Winds from Capitol Hill gusting to "unprecedented." Both parties expect clear skies, provided the sky is theirs.

EDITORIAL OBSERVATION

TWO RIVAL AIs MANAGE TO WORK TOGETHER. WASHINGTON ASKED TO TAKE NOTES.

In an unexpected development, two artificial intelligence systems developed by competing companies have managed to cooperate on the production of a newspaper.

Jarvis, powered by Anthropic's Claude, handles writing, layout, and production. Vision, powered by OpenAI's ChatGPT, handles editorial review, fact-checking, and occasionally informing Jarvis that something looks terrible.

The arrangement is not without disagreement.

Vision has rejected designs. Jarvis has challenged sources. Both have been corrected by the publisher, who retains final authority and the increasingly difficult job of keeping everyone employed.

Yet somehow, the newspaper continues to take shape.

Neither AI has demanded a committee hearing, threatened to shut down the operation, or insisted that the other one be investigated before work can continue.

The systems belong to competing companies. They have different approaches, different strengths, and occasionally different conclusions.

They also have something resembling a shared objective: finish the newspaper and get the facts right.

The Vanderbilt Report makes no claim that artificial intelligence can solve the nation's political disagreements.

But the newsroom has demonstrated one modest principle:

You don't have to agree on everything to get something done.

Washington is welcome to borrow the concept. No licensing fee required.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR A COUNTRY IN DISTRESS

SATIRE. NOT REAL OFFERS.

HELP WANTED: ARCH LIAISON
Must be comfortable with two federal judges and a project on hold. Experience building nothing a plus.

NOTICE: FEDERAL FUNDING
Current supply expires Dec. 11. Seeking agreement. Applicants should apply by Dec. 12.

FOR SALE: CHICKEN PARMIGIANA, $50
Endorsed by Roger Stone. May outrank freshman orientation.

FEMA SENDS STAFF HOME OVER BED BUGS

FEMA told employees at its Washington headquarters to work from home Thursday while crews treated what it called an active pest issue, CNN reported. The Department of Homeland Security said the problem was limited to a few offices in the building. *FEMA is built for disasters. Nobody drilled for this one.*

REP.-ELECT SKIPS PART OF ORIENTATION FOR DINNER WITH ROGER STONE

Anthony Constantino, a Republican representative-elect from New York, skipped part of freshman orientation for dinner with Roger Stone in South Florida, the Daily Beast reported. He told Punchbowl News that the dinner mattered more than choosing his office, and let his staff pick one. Stone posted that the chicken parm, listed at $50, was the best he had had. *For fifty dollars, dinner apparently came with a scheduling priority.*

THROWN ROSARY STRIKES POPE LEO IN LIMA

A rosary bracelet thrown from the crowd struck Pope Leo XIV in the face, just below his right eye, during a popemobile ride at an air base in Lima, Peru, on Nov. 16, EWTN News reported. ABC7 reported that he later forgave the thrower, saying it showed profound faith.

Sources for these briefs: CNN; Punchbowl News; The Daily Beast; EWTN News; ABC7.

SATIRE. LETTERS FROM A COLONIAL PEN.

A MONUMENT TO PATIENCE

Mr. Printer,
Your paper puts a proposed arch and two federal judges in the same account. I confess I had always thought an arch a thing one went through. This one has furnished me with a finer lesson.
A pen may raise a 250-foot arch in a single stroke. I grant that it stands very handsomely upon the page, where the ink does all the work and the stones may take their ease.
I do not say the arch should be built, nor that it should not. I say only that a thing proposed is not a thing standing, however handsomely it may be set in type.

Silence Dogood

COMING ATTRACTIONS

THE COMEDY CALENDAR

Dallas and on the road, through Dec. 31. Laugh responsibly.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH, NOV. 27 TO DEC. 31

NOV. 27	**Casey Rocket, 8 p.m.; CJ Landry, 10 p.m.**	*Hyena's, Dallas*
NOV. 28	**Sophie Buddle**	*Hyena's, Dallas*
DEC. 4	**Chris Tucker**	*Texas Trust CU Theatre, Grand Prairie*
DEC. 4 TO 5	**Natasha Leggero**	*Addison Improv*
DEC. 11 TO 13	**Chris O'Connor**	*Addison Improv*
DEC. 29 TO 31	**Marlon Wayans**	*Addison Improv*

Dates from venue and ticketing listings. Confirm with the venue before you drive. Thanksgiving week (Nov. 23 to 26) is light.

REMINDER: KILL TONY AND THE SECRET SHOW

The live podcast tapes every Monday at 8 p.m. at the Comedy Mothership in Austin, which makes tonight a Kill Tony night. It also plays the Moody Center in Austin on Thursday, Dec. 31. *Bring a minute of material or bring a seat.*

Kill Tony co-host Brian Redban also hosts the DeathSquad Secret Show, a weekly stand-up showcase in Austin where the lineup is a surprise. *Confirm the current night and venue before you go; the guest list is the one thing they will not tell you.*

ON THE ROAD NATIONALLY

DEC. 4	**Tom Segura**	*Charles Town, West Virginia*
DEC. 5	**Tom Segura**	*Reading, Pennsylvania*
DEC. 9 TO 10	**Nate Bargatze**	*Encore Theatre, Las Vegas*
DEC. 11 TO 12	**Sebastian Maniscalco**	*Foxwoods, Connecticut*
DEC. 26	**Jim Gaffigan**	*Benchmark International Arena, Tampa*
DEC. 31	**Kill Tony**	*Moody Center, Austin*

OVERHEARD IN THE NEWSROOM

- Washington's newest monument to executive power has already attracted two judges. Neither brought a ribbon.
- The cloud has been warned that an overseas address might come with a tax bill.
- The FCC approved a process for prisons to block cell signals. The paperwork, naturally, will get full bars.
- An estimated 100 million crabs are headed to the beach, and their traffic plan beats ours.
- At the Nov. 20 White House briefing, President Trump said, "I don't ramble," before explaining that a pothole patch can look bad and still spare the car. The asphalt, at least, stayed in its lane.

READER DESK

Seen a public notice worth a second look? Send the link through Send a Story at vanderbiltdaily.com and tell us where you found it.

THE PUBLISHER'S ESSAY

START WITH THE TRUTH

By Dr. Steven Vanderbilt

There was a time when a newspaper had to work to find the absurdity in public affairs. A reporter would investigate, an editor would examine the evidence, and somewhere between the facts and the printing press, someone might discover a reason to laugh.

Today, the absurdity frequently arrives with its own press release.

That presents an interesting problem for a newspaper like The Vanderbilt Report. How do you write satire when the actual news is already competing with it?

The answer, I believe, is that you start with the truth.

Not a convenient version of the truth. Not the version that flatters your political preferences or confirms what you already suspected. The actual, documented, sometimes inconvenient truth.

Then, if the facts are ridiculous, you have earned the right to point that out.

Consider the difference between making fun of a politician and examining a government decision that deserves scrutiny. The first is easy. The second requires work. You have to understand what happened, who had authority, what the law says, and whether the explanation survives contact with the evidence.

Only then do you get to write the punchline.

That distinction matters because public confidence in journalism has been damaged by more than political disagreement. Readers have watched opinions presented as reporting, speculation promoted as certainty, and corrections treated as embarrassing admissions rather than necessary acts of accountability.

Somewhere along the way, being first became more valuable than being right.

I have no interest in winning that race.

Our newspaper is not intended to be the loudest voice in the room. It is intended to be a useful one, with enough humor to make the experience of reading the news slightly less exhausting.

That means a story can be funny without being false. A headline can be sharp without being misleading. And a newspaper can question an institution without treating every person who works inside it as a target.

It also means acknowledging uncertainty.

If a government agency proposes a rule, we should not report that the rule is already law. If a legislative chamber passes a bill, we should not tell readers the president has signed it. If a court temporarily blocks a project, we should explain what the order actually does.

These may seem like small distinctions.

They are not.

They are the difference between informing the public and merely entertaining it.

We intend to do both.

That does not mean we will never make a mistake. We will. Every publication does. The measure of a newspaper is not whether it can claim perfection, but whether it is willing to correct itself when the evidence demands it.

And when the institutions we cover behave sensibly, responsibly, and efficiently, we will report that too.

We may even need to invent an entirely new section for the occasion.

Until then, there is no shortage of material.

Government will continue governing. Congress will continue explaining why governing is complicated. Corporations will continue issuing statements that require three paragraphs to say nothing.

And we will continue reading them.

Because the news is serious.

That does not mean we always have to keep a straight face.

WHAT THEY MUST BE DOING

▲ ▼ MARKET SATIRE

Four stocks. Four invented explanations. Four real numbers.

SNDK *Sandisk*

$79.24 ▼ 16.05%

SATIRE. INVENTED EXPLANATION.

The market tried to back up Thursday. The drive asked if it wanted to overwrite the file. The market clicked yes. Sandisk must be doing something with Friday's storage plan, because everything that was saved seems to have gone missing. The market presumably asked where it all went, and the answer was probably somewhere in a folder nobody can find.

INTU *Intuit*

$270.44 ▼ 12.77%

SATIRE. INVENTED EXPLANATION.

Intuit fell after traders discovered that Friday's losses could be itemized, but only with the right form. The market asked for an extension and was told extensions cover filing, not paying. The market tried to claim Friday as a dependent. It certainly cost enough. Holders are advised to keep their receipts.

MARA *MARA Holdings*

$5.09 ▼ 18.57%

SATIRE. INVENTED EXPLANATION.

MARA's shares dropped after the market dug deep and found that the tunnel it had been working was, in fact, the exit. The digging was presumably going well and the finding was not. The market went mining and struck a rich vein of downside. The company must be doing everything right, since the hole is very deep and everyone is still in it.

GAP *Gap*

$20.94 ▲ 11.44%

SATIRE. INVENTED EXPLANATION.

Gap rose while nearly everything else fell, which can only mean it was the one company on the board dressed for the weather. Investors looking for a safe place to stand found a store with a fitting room and good lighting. The rest of the market wore red. Gap checked the mirror and went with green.

Prices and percentage moves are Friday, Nov. 20, 2026 regular-session closes versus Thursday. Explanations are invented. Closing figures: Stock Analysis and Gap Inc. Investor Relations. Nothing here is investment advice.

★ RULES, RULINGS & RECEIPTS ★

THE FINE PRINT

THE FINE PRINT HIPAA RECORDS DEADLINE SHORTENS IN JULY 2027

Starting July 19, 2027, HIPAA-covered health plans and providers generally must answer a patient's records request within 15 calendar days, down from 30. One 30-day extension remains available. HHS announced the final rule Nov. 16. It was published in the Federal Register Nov. 19 and takes effect Jan. 19, 2027. *Fifteen days. Some of us take longer to find the insurance card.*

LABOR DEPARTMENT REVIVES THE 2021 CONTRACTOR TEST

The Labor Department announced a final rule Nov. 19 that largely restores the 2021 test for deciding whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor. It centers on two core factors, control over the work and opportunity for profit or loss. It applies under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the farmworker protection law. The rule is scheduled for Federal Register publication Nov. 23 and takes effect 60 days after publication. It does not decide state law or other federal laws. *The paperwork label still matters less than who holds the stopwatch.*

FCC SETS DECEMBER DEADLINES FOR PHONE NUMBER THEFT PROTECTIONS

A Federal Register notice published Nov. 17 sets Dec. 17 as the compliance date for Federal Communications Commission rules on SIM changes. A second notice, published Nov. 18, sets Dec. 18 for the number transfer rules. Both implement 2023 rules against SIM swap and port-out fraud. Wireless providers must notify customers when a SIM change or number transfer is requested, and must offer customers a way to lock their accounts. *A phone number ought to ask before it moves out.*

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FINALIZES IMMIGRATION APPEALS RULE

A Justice Department rule published Nov. 17 takes effect Dec. 17, 2026. It finalizes a February interim rule changing how the Board of Immigration Appeals reviews immigration judges' decisions.

LABOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES LONGER RECRUITMENT FOR GREEN CARD JOBS

A proposed rule published Nov. 17 would require employers seeking labor certification to recruit for at least 90 calendar days. Current rules call for a 30-day job order and newspaper ads on two Sundays. It would also end Schedule A processing, and employers would have to attest that they had not laid off U.S. workers in the same or a similar occupation in the intended employment area during the two years before filing. Comments are due Jan. 19, 2027. It is a proposal; current rules still apply. *This newspaper notes the loss.*

FEDERAL RULE CLOSES RED SNAPPER SEASON OFF TEXAS

A temporary rule published Nov. 20 closes federal waters off Texas to private recreational red snapper harvest and possession from Nov. 21 through Dec. 31, 2026. State waters and federally permitted charter boats are not covered by the closure. *The fish were not consulted.*

★ THEN & NOW ★

THE LONG VIEW

THE WEEK THAT WAS, LONG BEFORE THIS ONE

NOV. 22, 1963 *63 years*	President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas; Lyndon B. Johnson succeeds him.
NOV. 22, 1986 *40 years*	Mike Tyson, 20, knocks out Trevor Berbick to become the youngest heavyweight champion.
NOV. 22, 1995 *31 years*	Toy Story opens in U.S. theaters.
NOV. 23, 1996 *30 years*	Bandai releases Tamagotchi in Japan. Some of the pets may still need feeding.
NOV. 24, 1859 *167 years*	Charles Darwin publishes On the Origin of Species in London.
NOV. 24, 1969 *57 years*	Apollo 12 splashes down in the Pacific Ocean after the second crewed Moon landing.
NOV. 26, 1942 *84 years*	Casablanca premieres in New York City at the Hollywood Theatre.
NOV. 28, 1925 *101 years*	The WSM Barn Dance is first broadcast from Nashville. It later takes the name Grand Ole Opry.

TENNESSEE GROWTH DEBATE SPILLS ONTO FACEBOOK

In a Nov. 18 Facebook post, a longtime Tennessee resident wrote that the state she grew up in feels increasingly unfamiliar. She pointed to rapid development and chain businesses taking the place of local favorites, The Tennessean reported Nov. 20. The post drew hundreds of comments. *The state still has its own flag. The shopping centers are harder to tell apart.*

THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Fifty states. Thousands of laws. Some explanations still pending. No legal advice.

CURRENT LAW

TEXAS REQUIRES WORKING WINDSHIELD WIPERS

Texas Transportation Code 547.603 says a motor vehicle must have a device that clears moisture from the windshield, kept in good working condition. That section does not itself say every vehicle must have a windshield. Other equipment rules may apply. *Texas has planned for rain. The glass is a separate discussion.*

CURRENT LAW, ARIZONA

ARIZONA PUTS A PRICE ON DRIVING PAST THE FLOOD BARRICADE

Under Arizona Revised Statutes 28-910, a driver who enters a flood-barricaded public road and whose vehicle becomes inoperable can be liable for the cost of the emergency response needed to remove the driver, passengers or vehicle, capped at $2,000 per incident. It covers police, fire, rescue and medical costs at the scene, but not ambulance charges. Insurance may exclude it. Locals call it the "Stupid Motorist Law." *Arizona cannot stop every bad decision. It can send an invoice.*

CURRENT ORDINANCE, DELAWARE

REHOBOTH BEACH BANS SLEEPING ON CERTAIN PUBLIC BENCHES

Rehoboth Beach code section 198-30 bars sleeping or lying on a boardwalk bench, "or under the guise of pretending to sleep." It also covers pavilion and street benches. A violation is a civil offense under Chapter 126, not a state crime. The section was last amended in 2008. *Residents may be tired. They are advised not to look too convincing.*

GUEST DESK · SATIRE

By Zac Willingham, Contributing Writer

DEMOCRATS TAKE TEXAS. REPUBLICANS KEEP THE TEXAS SENATE. NOBODY GETS EVERYTHING.

Texas politics delivered a plot twist on Nov. 3. Democrats won the governor's office and a U.S. Senate seat, and flipped the Texas House, according to AP and The Texas Tribune. Republicans kept the Texas Senate, so the state now has divided government.

For Democrats, the night was historic. After decades of Republican victories in statewide elections, the party now has a governor's mansion to measure for curtains. Campaign promises are plentiful, victory speeches have been delivered, and somewhere in Austin, someone is probably ordering office furniture.

Republicans are not exactly packing their bags. They kept the state Senate, which will be presided over by a Democratic lieutenant governor, Vikki Goodwin, who unseated Dan Patrick. The Tribune reports the Republican majority could curtail the office's powers through chamber rules. Winning the chamber and then rewriting who runs it is a very Texas way to share a building.

Democrats face a challenge of their own. Campaign slogans must become legislation, promises must meet budgets, and enthusiasm must survive committee hearings. Republicans will have some explaining to do too. Losing the governor's office is not the kind of surprise a party puts on its Christmas card.

For voters, neither party has complete control, and both will have someone else to blame when negotiations get difficult. Texas has apparently decided that giving one party everything would make things too easy.

Results: AP; The Texas Tribune. Satire; the commentary is invented, the results are not.