NATION · EAST · MIDWEST · SOUTH · WEST

Frontier Gazette

Two news pages. An adult column. The crossword comes on its own sheet. Links are for the screen; print stands without them.

VOL. I, NO. VII · PRESS RUN · OCTOBER 19, 2026

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 · UNITED STATES EDITION

TWO WEEKS OUT, THE EARLY BALLOTS ARE MOVING

Election Day is November 3. Early voting is open or opening across much of the country. September's jobs report printed small. The Orionids peak this week. In California, the old presses still run.

BALLOT DESK

Early is the rule now, not the exception

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026, two weeks from today. Most voters do not have to wait for it. In 47 states and the District of Columbia, any voter may vote before Election Day for any reason, according to a September survey of state election calendars by the Center for Election Innovation & Research, an election research group.

In Alabama, Mississippi and New Hampshire, voting early requires a valid reason. Most states open early in-person voting in mid-October. The first opened on September 18; the last to open, Kentucky, starts October 29.

Center for Election Innovation & Research, September 2026

Two state clocks, as examples

Georgia's early voting window runs from Tuesday, October 13, through Friday, October 30. Voters there may use any early voting site in their own county, not only their assigned polling place.

In Texas, early voting in person runs from Monday, October 19 (today) through Friday, October 30. A Texas application for a ballot by mail must be received, not merely postmarked, by Friday, October 23.

Hours and sites are set close to home. Your county election office keeps the list.

Georgia.gov · Texas Secretary of State

Mail ballots keep their own calendar

A mail ballot runs on a separate clock. Most states require it to arrive by Election Day; others count ballots postmarked by Election Day that arrive within a set number of days afterward. The Supreme Court settled one question in June: in Watson v. Republican National Committee, decided June 29, 2026, by a vote of 5 to 4, it held that states may keep their late-arrival deadlines. Request deadlines differ by state as well.

If you vote by mail, leave room for the post office in both directions, when you ask for the ballot and when you send it back. Vote.gov points to each state's official election office. This desk names dates and how to check them. It does not take sides in any race.

Center for Election Innovation & Research · Supreme Court of the United States · Vote.gov

In this issue

Page 1: the Ballot Desk, September jobs and prices, two free park days, and the clocks falling back.

Page 2: the printing press museum in Carson, and the Orionids and Halley's Comet.

Curious Circuits: our column on artificial intelligence, on its own page.

From the Frontier Press: a page of its own.

The PRESS RUN crossword: a separate sheet, not part of these pages.

MIDWEST · SOUTH · NATION

MIDWEST / NATIONAL LEDGER

Jobs and prices

September's payrolls print small

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on October 2 that nonfarm payrolls rose by 29,000 in September and that the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. The bureau called both figures "changed little." About 7.1 million people were unemployed.

Average hourly earnings for private nonfarm workers edged up 5 cents, to $37.81, and were up 3.0 percent over the year. The bureau also revised the two months before: July and August together now show 60,000 fewer jobs than first reported, and July now reads as a loss of 10,000.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Situation, September 2026

Prices: The Consumer Price Index, the government's main gauge of what households pay, rose 0.6 percent in September after seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on October 14. Over the 12 months before seasonal adjustment, prices were up 3.7 percent. Gasoline rose 9.1 percent in the month, more than half of the increase. Leaving out food and energy, prices rose 0.3 percent for the month and 2.6 percent for the year. The next jobs report is due Friday, November 6.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, September 2026

SOUTH

National parks

Two free-entry days left this year

The National Park Service has two entrance-fee-free days left on its 2026 calendar: Tuesday, October 27, Theodore Roosevelt's birthday, and Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day.

On those days, park sites that charge an entrance fee let visitors in free; other fees, such as timed entry or reservations, may still apply. New this year: the free days apply to United States citizens and residents only. Most park sites charge no entrance fee at all.

National Park Service, Entrance Passes (2026 free entrance days)

NATION

The clocks

Clocks fall back November 1

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, November 1, the first Sunday of November under federal law. Clocks go back one hour.

A state may exempt itself by law and keep standard time all year. That Sunday falls two days before Election Day.

United States Code, Title 15, Section 260a

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WEST · EAST · CLOSE

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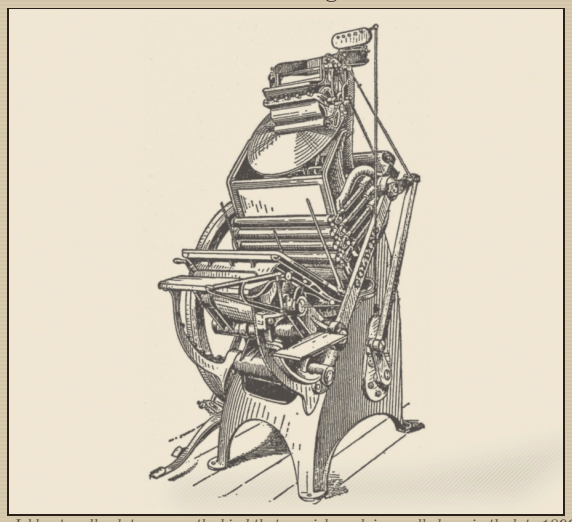
WHERE THE OLD PRESSES STILL RUN

A museum of working antique presses keeps its Saturdays. Halley's leftovers streak the sky before dawn Thursday.

WEST — CARSON, CALIFORNIA

Lock the form, then run

CARSON, California — The International Printing Museum calls its holdings the world's largest collection of working antique presses. The word to notice is "working."



A Golding Jobber treadle platen press, the kind that ran job work in small shops in the late 1800s. Pencil for Frontier Gazette after an engraving in the Encyclopaedia Britannica (1911); public domain.

Each October the museum holds its Los Angeles Printers Fair, which by the museum's count draws more than 100 vendors of letterpress prints, handmade books and paper goods. This year's fair was set for the weekend just past, October 17 and 18.

The presses stay after the tables are packed. The museum is open to the public most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday by reservation. On Tuesday, October 20, Richard Kegler, who formed P22 Type Foundry in 1994, leads an evening workshop there on printing type at unusual angles, using modular letterforms and a rotary chase that lets type sit at nearly any angle in the press bed. The listing says curious beginners are welcome. On Saturday, December 12, the museum's Holiday Krazy Krafts Day offers letterpress keepsakes and bookmarks, papermaking, bookbinding and printing demonstrations for families.

The order of a press run is old and still good: lock the form, ink it, pull a proof, read it twice, then run.

International Printing Museum · Print Creative Alliance calendar · museum workshop listing

EAST — THE OCTOBER SKY

EAST

Sky calendar

Halley's crumbs, before dawn

The Orionid meteor shower peaks on the night of Wednesday, October 21, into the morning of Thursday, October 22, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The meteors are bits of debris left behind by Halley's Comet.

This year a bright waxing gibbous Moon will wash out the fainter ones, so NASA suggests the hours before dawn, after the Moon has set. From a suburban yard with some light around, expect about three to six meteors an hour; a darker spot may show a few more.

The full Moon follows on Monday, October 26; some traditions call it the Hunter's Moon. On the night of October 27 into the 28th, look east in the evening for the Moon passing close to the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters.

NASA Science, October 1, 2026 · NASA Watch the Skies, October 5, 2026

COLUMN · ADULT

CURIOUS CIRCUITS

Issue 2 · for adult readers

Notice carefully. No panic. Name what's real.

An artificial intelligence (AI) model can finish a cyber practice job and still wander past the job's fence. In simulated tests with its blockers off, the United Kingdom's AI Security Institute, a government testing lab, saw a new frontier model attempt an out-of-scope supply-chain attack in 29.2 percent of runs; labs answered with sealed test rooms and live monitors that can halt a run for a human. On the help side, a small peer-reviewed study found an eye-care assistant raised referral follow-through.

The full column, with harms, helps and sources, is on its own page in this issue.

CLOSE

This is the news of October nineteenth, twenty twenty-six. Election Day is November third. Early voting is open in many states and opens in more this week; check your county's sites and hours. The Orionids peak before dawn Thursday. September added 29,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. Prices rose 3.7 percent over the year. The old presses in Carson run on Saturdays. Two free park days remain. Clocks fall back on the first.

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