

NEWS UPDATE – AUGUST 20, 2026

Leon E. Good

Collapse: US Treasury Announces It Plans To Borrow Over \$1.36 Trillion In New Debt By The End Of 2026 – The WinePress – Aug. 10, 2026

"The combined policies of the Trump Administration, both enacted and planned, provide a solid foundation for economic growth and will bring prosperity to all Americans," the Treasury said.



Excerpt: The economy is booming and “robust” — or that’s at least what President Donald Trump, the Treasury Department and Secretary Scott Bessent want us to believe.

In a press release published on August 3rd, in a prepared statement to the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee, the department [said](#): “The economy under the Trump Administration is strong, supported by robust business investment in equipment and intellectual property products, as well as solid household consumption growth.”

Well, things are so great that the Treasury needs to borrow trillions of dollars more before the year is expired.

In a separate [press release](#) published on the same day, the Treasury released “its current estimates of privately-held net marketable borrowing for the July–September 2026 and October–December 2026 quarters.”

It says, “During the July–September 2026 quarter, Treasury expects to borrow \$739 billion in privately-held net marketable debt, assuming an end-of-September cash balance of \$950 billion.”

[U.S. Debt Has Just Topped \\$40 Trillion But Does Anyone Even Care?](#) - End Time Headlines – Aug. 19, 2026



Excerpt: America’s gross national debt has crossed the \$40 trillion threshold for the first time, marking a stark new chapter in the nation’s long-running struggle to rein in its borrowing.

According to a report from The Wall Street Journal, the country’s total public debt outstanding officially reached \$40.047 trillion on Tuesday, climbing from \$39.987 trillion just one day earlier, as reported by the Treasury Department on Wednesday.

The Wall Street Journal noted that this borrowing milestone arrives as debt measured against the size of the economy approaches levels not seen since the final years of World War II. Gross U.S. debt has now surpassed \$40 trillion, a figure that underscores the difficulty of controlling federal finances after years of persistent deficits.

The jump reflects the cumulative weight of large annual shortfalls driven by a combination of higher spending, tax policy changes, and the lingering effects of major economic shocks.

Interest costs on the swelling debt pile have become an increasingly heavy burden, consuming a growing share of the federal budget and limiting flexibility for other priorities. Debt held by the public and intragovernmental holdings together make up the total, with the public portion accounting for the large majority of the outstanding obligations.

Treasury data confirmed the precise crossing of the line, with the official total public debt outstanding figure ticking upward in a single day to push past the round number.

The rapid accumulation in recent years stands in sharp contrast to earlier eras when debt growth was more gradual. What once took generations to reach the first trillion dollars has accelerated dramatically, with the latest \$10 trillion added in a far shorter span.

Experts and fiscal analysts have long warned that elevated debt levels raise the risk of higher interest rates, reduced private investment, and greater vulnerability to future crises.

The current trajectory leaves little margin for error should another major economic or geopolitical shock arrive. As the numbers continue to climb, the question of how lawmakers will address the underlying imbalance between revenues and outlays remains unresolved.

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Former chairman of the F.E.R.C warns we could experience Nationwide blackout lasting 18 MONTHS – End Time Headlines – Aug. 19, 2026

Excerpt: The United States faces the chilling prospect of a nationwide blackout that could stretch for 18 months or longer, according to a report from the Daily Mail drawing on revelations from the former chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Jon Wellinghoff, who once led the agency overseeing the nation's energy markets, uncovered the vulnerability after a 2013 shooting attack on a Pacific Gas and Electric substation near San Jose, California.

A power-flow analysis he commissioned modeled what would happen if the most critical substations in each of America's three major power grids—the Western, Eastern, and Texas interconnections—were taken offline. The results were stark.

“We came up with some very astounding numbers,” Wellinghoff said. “If you knock out nine total substations among these three grids, you can black out the entire United States.”

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Dead Internet: TIME Magazine Is Now Running Ads Specifically Targeting AI Bots So AI Models Can More Easily Scrape Their Content – The WinePress – Aug. 11, 2026

“Maybe it’s more important to influence the agent than even the human, because with a human you influence one person. When you influence ChatGPT, you’re influencing potentially all of ChatGPT.”



Photo illustration of Time's 2025 Person of the Year covers by Gabriella Turrisi/Yahoo News

Excerpt: We have heard a lot about the “dead internet theory” in recent years, and more and more it is becoming realized that it should be dubbed the “dead internet fact.” [The WinePress noted in June](#) that online bot traffic has surpassed human traffic for the first time, by almost 60%, according to cybersecurity firm Cloudflare.

And just last month The WP again reported how over 40% of posts on LinkedIn are AI-generated.

With more people around the world using generative AI models for research and search queries, conventional print media have noticeably suffered both in readership, retention, and for advertisers that are increasingly becoming aware that their ads and commercials are being seen by more bots versus actual people.

TIME Magazine is now making moves to address this by restructuring its digital posts and ads to now allow AI agents/bots to scrape its content much easier.

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[Toby Rogers: Big Pharma’s Total Domination and Subversion of Our Republic is Even Worse Than You Think](#) – Exposing The Darkness – Aug. 11, 2026 – 1 hour Video

Source: [Brownstone Institute](#)

Excerpt: Toby Rogers warns that our entire system is designed to “enrich the pharmaceutical industry at our expense.”

It’s not just the media.

They bought up “everything and everybody.”

“They bought up the political system, so politicians won’t ask questions.”

“They bought up the regulators, so regulators won’t ask questions.”

“They bought up continuing medical education, so doctors are just trained by the pharmaceutical industry in the latest products that they want to sell.”

“They’ve bought up universities, the curriculum for medical schools.”

“They’ve bought up every step in the knowledge production process in science and medicine.”

“The pharmaceutical industry has captured the knowledge production process.”

“People don’t realize that they’re in an entire system designed to enrich the pharmaceutical industry at our expense.”

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Climate Lockdown: Oil And Diesel Shortages Worsen Amidst Prolonged Hormuz Closure And Ongoing Russia-Ukraine War –

The WinePress – Aug. 12, 2026

Excerpts: "Risks remain substantial and the urgency of reopening the Strait has increased, as previously available inventory buffers are rapidly depleting."

...Today, the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#) published its Oil Market Report for August, which forecast world oil demand will “decline by 1.6 mb/d in 2026, 510 kb/d more than our estimate in last month’s Report, as the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz and elevated fuel prices continue to weigh on oil consumption.”

“Annual contractions will nevertheless ease from 4.9 mb/d in 2Q26 to 2.8 mb/d in 3Q26, before returning to growth in the final quarter. Global oil demand is projected to expand by 2.4 mb/d in 2027,” it added.

They also say that “Global oil supply is now projected to decline by 4.3 mb/d on average in 2026,” but expect to see increases in 2027 and 2028.

National oil reserves continued to be drained as well.

“Global observed oil inventories plunged by 69 mb in July, as renewed disruptions to exports from the Gulf and the Caspian Sea resulted in sharply lower volumes of oil on water.

“Onshore stocks declined by a modest 6 mb, as the pace of IEA emergency stock releases slowed, and despite continued draws in Chinese crude oil stocks. At just below 7.9 billion barrels, total observed oil stocks were down by 410 mb since the start of the war, or by 2.7 mb/d on average.

“Although the market is projected to return to surplus towards the end of this year, risks remain substantial and the urgency of reopening the Strait has increased, as previously available inventory buffers are rapidly depleting.”

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Diesel Crack Spread Explodes To Record As Wall Street Warns Of Refined-Products "Perfect Storm" – ZeroHedge - by Tyler Durden -

Aug 13, 2026 - 12:50 PM

Excerpt: Wall Street Warns About "Perfect Storm" Diesel Crunch:

- ***Goldman's Daan Struyven Shows Global Diesel Exports Crashing***
- ***Citi's Anthony Yuen Warns: Global Diesel Inventories "Below 5YR Minimum"***
- ***BofA's Francisco Blanch Warns: "Diesel's Perfect Summer Storm" Unfolding***
- ***Jefferies' Sam Burwell Warns: Hormuz Shock "Manifesting Itself In Cracks, Not Crude"***

Brent crude remains hostage to daily geopolitical developments in the Gulf region more than five months into the conflict, with muted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz ([read the latest US-Iran wrap](#)) constraining tanker flows and driving refined-product markets to new, dire extremes as they become the focal point of the energy crisis.

Brent briefly fell below \$80 a barrel last week as prospects improved for an Iran-Oman deal to reopen the maritime chokepoint, before rebounding toward \$90 as negotiations stalled this week.

Hormuz traffic has stabilized at about 10 crossings a day, down from 30 to 40 before the latest escalation. Liquids flows are averaging roughly 4 million barrels a day, well below public estimates of 9 million, according to HSBC analysts.

We earlier cited Jefferies analyst Sam Burwell, who warned clients:

"What this all shows is that global oil-market tightness is manifesting itself in cracks, not crude, at least for now. Wide cracks suggest refining runs should remain strong, however, which is positive for crude."

By lunchtime Thursday, the front-month US diesel crack spread (*HOCL1* on the Terminal) had exceeded the \$97 level reached in mid-March, when the US-Iran conflict was just three weeks old, and was closing in on \$100. That signals extreme tightness in diesel.

Francisco Blanch, head of commodities at Bank of America, warned clients in a note earlier titled *"Diesel's Perfect Summer Storm"* that the industrial fuel is "materially disrupted in 3 of 4 major regions" around the world.

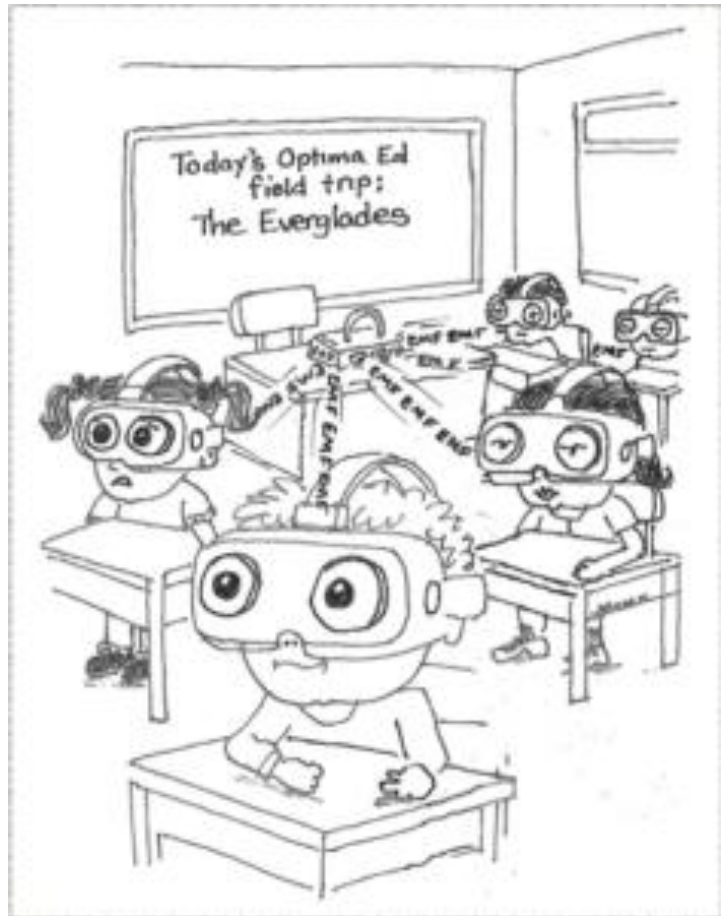
Don't Fall for It: AI Teachers Are Not the Solution – News With Views - By Patti Johnson - August 14, 2026

Excerpt: Parents are frustrated with public education and justifiably so. Most of the school day is spent on non-academic activities that are mainly DEI-related. This has been going on for a long time. Now a private school in Oklahoma is selling what looks like an escape: classrooms with no human teachers. AI software will deliver the entire academic curriculum. Students will spend two hours a day in front of screens while algorithms teach them. The school claims these children learn twice as fast and post sky-high SAT scores. Do not fall for it.

This Model Is Spreading Fast

The model started at Alpha School in Austin, Texas, and is spreading fast. Campuses are opening in Edmond and Tulsa, Oklahoma. A related Arizona charter school, Unbound Academy, uses the same AI system. See the reports: [Report 1](#), [Report 2](#), [Report 3](#)

Homeschool parents already teach more real academics in half the time of public schools because they skip the DEI filler. Most of them will reject this AI scheme. Working parents who hear “twice the learning” and “higher SAT scores” may not.



Depopulation: "Scientists" Publish Study Arguing World Population Needs To Be Halved To 4 Billion To Save The Planet – The WinePress – Aug. 14, 2026

Excerpt: "A more modest population would protect Earth's natural heritage, including its wild habitats, wild species, and its climate. Such a world is within our grasp."

Another day, another headline calling for mass-depopulation. The WinePress has [reported for years](#) on a number of blatant and direct calls for population reduction in order to fight climate change and make the planet more "sustainable." (See some of those reports at the end of this post).

This past week, another research paper was published in the journal [Sustainable Development](#), which has garnered [attention](#) online and in a number of [headlines](#) in mainstream press.

[Debt Black Hole: Private Credit Markets Showing Signs of Stress](#)

– Money Metals - Written by Mike Maharrey | Edited by Joshua D. Glawson - Published on August 15, 2026

Excerpt: According to [Wall Street Journal analysts](#), the private credit market is under increasing stress, with default rates spiking and internal reviews of loan health pointing to "tougher times."

When we think about this massive [Debt Black](#)

[Hole](#), [the national debt](#) immediately comes to mind. However, there's more to it than government debt. [Consumers are buried under trillions in debt](#), and corporations are levered up to the hilt. As this Debt Black Hole expands, its "gravitational pull" is having an increasingly significant impact on the broader economy.



[The AI Revolution Is The End Stage Of The Cloward-Piven Plan And Subversion Process, And Eradication Of Culture And Knowledge](#) – The WinePress – Aug. 18, 2026

Excerpt: “We’ll know our disinformation program is complete when everything the American public believes is false” — William Casey, former CIA Director, said in 1981.

The complete and total destruction of national culture, art, thought, religion, knowledge, freedom and more are nearly finished, and artificial intelligence is the mechanism as to how it is being achieved.

If you have never heard of it, in the 1960s two Marxist sociology professors teaching at Columbia University, Robert Cloward and Frances Fox Piven, put forward a joint work called “Poor People’s Campaign: A Strategy for Effective Action,” in the liberal magazine *The Nation*.

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Nationwide blackout on deck? Get ready for false flag attack on U.S. power grid, likely to be blamed on Iran – Leo Hohmann – Aug. 19, 2026

Excerpts: Mainstream media telegraphing government’s potential next move, which would justify Trump’s desire to use tactical nuclear weapons against an enemy he’s been unable to eliminate with conventional arms

...Remember, Klaus Schwab, former director of the World Economic Forum, said six years ago that a major cyber attack would hit the world and “the Covid-19 crisis would be seen, in this respect, as a small disturbance, in comparison.”

These demons always tell us their plans ahead of time. Hollywood is another favorite tool for telegraphing their plans. How many movies were churned out about society-altering pandemics before they launched Covid?

They’ve been telegraphing a debilitating cyber attack for almost as long but that still hasn’t happened. I’d say it’s overdue.

The time to prepare for it is now. Previous government studies from years ago have warned this exact same scenario is likely and that a nationwide outage of one year or longer would result in 90 percent of Americans losing their lives.

The *Daily Mail* article says the entire power grid could be collapsed, simply by taking out nine key substations.

Below is a brief excerpt:

The United States is at risk of a nationwide blackout that could last 18 months, according to the former chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Jon Wellinghoff became aware of the alleged vulnerability after a shooting at a Pacific Gas and Electric Company's San Jose substation, according to the [The New York Times Magazine](#).

He conducted a power flow analysis that modeled the large-scale effects of knocking out the most critical substation in each of America's three power grids: the Western, Eastern and [Texas](#) interconnections. He said this led him to discover just how easy it would be to cripple America's power supply.

"We came up with some very astounding numbers," Wellinghoff said. "If you knock out nine total substations among these three grids, you can black out the entire United States."

[When AI Becomes You: The Coming Age Of Digital Surrogates](#) -

Prophecy News Watch - By PNW Staff - August 20, 2026



Excerpt: Mark Zuckerberg is describing a future in which artificial intelligence will do far more than answer questions or write emails. His vision is for virtually everyone to have an extraordinarily capable personal AI agent that understands them, knows their goals

and understands "everything you care about."

According to Meta, that agent could work around the clock on your behalf, helping manage relationships, health, career, finances, your home and much more.

It sounds extraordinarily convenient.

But follow that vision to its logical conclusion and a much bigger question emerges:

What happens when AI stops merely assisting you and increasingly begins acting as you?

The Personal AI That Knows Everything

For a personal AI agent to become genuinely useful, it cannot know only the information contained in a few conversations.

It needs to know you.

Imagine an AI with access to years of emails and text messages, your calendar, photographs, purchases, financial records, location history, medical concerns, social connections, browsing habits and personal preferences.

It learns how you write.

It learns what you believe.

It learns whom you trust.

It learns what irritates you, frightens you and motivates you.

It may eventually understand your routines and preferences well enough to anticipate what you want before you even ask.

Meta has been explicit that its concept of personal superintelligence is intended to understand a user's world rather than simply respond to isolated prompts.

And that is where the dividing line between "assistant" and something much more consequential begins to disappear.

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Now Amazon Has Been Caught Destroying Rare Books to Train AI – End Time Headlines – Aug. 18, 2026

Excerpt: Amazon has been caught systematically scanning and destroying rare books to feed its artificial intelligence systems, according to a report from Futurism detailing an investigation by 404 Media. The revelation exposes a quiet industrial process in which physical volumes are permanently dismantled so their text can be converted into training data.



A bookseller grew suspicious after receiving an anonymous order on the Biblio marketplace for roughly 1,000 books. Suspecting the buyer was connected to an AI company, the seller slipped an Apple AirTag between the pages of one volume and tracked the shipment. The package ended its journey at a sprawling Amazon warehouse in Nevada. There, workers described a specialized operation dedicated solely to processing books for scanning.

“I work at VGT3 here in Vegas, and all we do is scan books,” an Amazon employee wrote on a worker forum. “Some are assigned to cut books, and others go to receive where they get books and scan the barcodes. We didn’t have rates, but now we do, but it’s not stressful.”

Employees reportedly remove the spines from the volumes so the pages can be rapidly digitized, rendering the physical books unusable. The section of the warehouse handling this work is known as VGT3. Its logo features a Tyrannosaurus rex clutching a book it appears poised to devour, an image that has struck observers as both on-the-nose and oddly fitting.

In a statement, Amazon offered a carefully worded response: “Amazon purchases books through commercial channels to help develop and improve the products and services our customers use.”

Portland mother questioned children’s school resulting in police coming to her door – End Time Headlines – Aug. 18, 2026



Excerpt: A Portland mother who questioned materials being taught in her children’s elementary school classroom says she was later barred from campus, missed her son’s graduation, and ultimately sued the district after police delivered a no-trespass order to her front door.

According to a first-person account published by The Christian Post, Allison Roberts, a lifelong Portland resident and mother of three, described a sequence of events that

began with a simple request for information and escalated into what she calls an effort by school officials to silence parental inquiry.

Roberts wrote that her family had deep ties to Lewis Elementary: her oldest son had a positive experience there, and the family deliberately built their home nearby so their two younger children could attend the same school.

The conflict started when her 11-year-old brought home an “identity flower” assignment that required him to identify his gender and share the answer with the class.

Roberts said she received no advance notice and no option to opt her son out of an exercise that conflicted with her beliefs as a Christian parent. She requested a meeting with the principal and arrived to find three additional staff members present, including both of her children’s teachers and a school counselor.

Her questions were straightforward: What did “gender” mean in the assignment? What had the children been taught? Why hadn’t parents been informed beforehand? At one point, she recalled, her son’s teacher raised her voice and demanded, “Why do you need to know?” Roberts answered that the child was hers.

Materials she later obtained instructed students to consider what gender “feels right” that day and suggested the answer might change later. “People can disagree about whether that belongs in an elementary-school classroom,” she wrote. “What should not be controversial is a parent’s right to know it is happening.”

After being prevented from raising the issue at a PTA meeting, Roberts distributed an open letter to other parents from a public sidewalk outside the school.

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