

# Indivisible Tucson Announcements

## August 31, 2025

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Judge Xinis: Your clients are \*absolutely forbidden\* from removing Mr. Abrego from the continental United States. You understand this?

DOJ: Yes.

### OUTLINE:

1. Tomorrow's monthly meeting
2. Upcoming Safety Trainings
3. Local and National actions
4. Tucson Kids Team
5. Pressure Ciscomani weekly message
6. Boycott and Build weekly message
7. News and inspiration

### 1. Tomorrow's monthly meeting

**Membership meeting Mon. Sept. 1 Labor Day 4 p.m.**

Our two invited speakers this month are:

**Francesca Martin, co-founder of the Keep Arizona Blue Student Coalition**

**Bennett Burke, local activist and originator of Democracy Town Criers**

Before the meeting, **Bennett Burke** would like to share these **two documents** with you:

**Marriott ICE Melt Demand Letter:**

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<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dqbtx8hw0A3oNH1m94TfBSI6AVhvjvm-J82jkzJFJ9k/edit?tab=t.0>

### **Democracy Town Criers Info:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qtOPUPO-sA3H4ALG2WUeSBAt1ZUVcpJO34hOQIUZqnE/edit?tab=t.0>

## **2. Upcoming Safety Trainings**

### **Sat. Sept. 6, 1-5 PM: Freedom Trainers Network - nonviolence training**

Noncooperation Workshop & Discussion, 1-5 p.m.

Location: TBA

Organizer: Freedom Trainers

For more information and to register

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CtifD607tl1dicXAYo0zRUmBE-rAngKBJVkJOfhbS3iQ/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CtifD607tl1dicXAYo0zRUmBE-rAngKBJVkJOfhbS3iQ/viewform?edit_requested=true)

This training will cover non-violent direct action, the authoritarian and anti-authoritarian playbooks, the tactic of noncooperation and how to deploy it in the US, and a discussion on what Tucson needs to become a hub for noncooperation in this country.

Freedom Trainers has trained over 250,000 people in 2025 to oppose authoritarianism and practice strategic noncooperation. At this training we will explore the authoritarian playbook and how to counter it. We will pull in examples from authoritarian regimes across the world, and practice tactics in real time.

*You will need to have a Signal account (the registration form asks for your Signal username and it is a required field) so if you don't have a Signal account, and you want to sign up, here's how:*

<https://support.signal.org/hc/en-us/categories/5592576449306-Getting-Started>

*Once you have a Signal account, to find your Signal username, while in your Signal account, click on Settings (the gear wheel) - it will show your Signal*

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*username and there should be a link to copy it.*

### **Sat. Sept. 20, 2:00-5:00 PM - Showing Up Safer - Protest Safety Workshop**

Location: Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation

3235 W Orange Grove Rd

Tucson, AZ 85741

Organizer: Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Link for more info and to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/showing-up-safer-led-by-rae-strozzo-in-person-event-tickets-1626766645829?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

*There is an in person maximum of 30, and there is also an online option.*

When your conscience calls for you to stand up and protest — How do you keep yourself and others safe? In this workshop you will learn to safely engage in public events like protests and marches. The program covers bias awareness, risk assessment, and understanding local social concerns with the goal that faith leaders and communities can participate in activism more safely and effectively. Led by Rae Strozzo, a Tucson artist, writer, educator and activist.

## **3. Local and National actions**

### **National calls to action**

Indivisible Take Action Link: Take Action Now - This is the BEST link for national calls to action - <https://indivisible.org/take-action-now>

### **Local calls to action**

Take Action Tucson Calendar - <https://www.takeactiontucson.org/>

## **4. Tucson Kids Team**

**Tucson Kids Team is currently looking for translators and interpreters**

**only.** We will be accepting volunteers for other tasks in Spring of 2026.

(Translators and interpreters needed: those fluent in Spanish, and in the primary

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Indigenous languages of Latin America.)

**For those of you who want to do something to help the Immigrant Community right now**, TKT is assisting with the intake of volunteers for the **Tucson Accompaniment Group (TAG)**. Members of TAG maintain a presence at the Immigration Court sharing “Know Your Rights” materials, accompanying immigrants to and from hearings, and bearing witness to court proceedings. Foreign language skills are NOT required. This group is doing critically important work and is desperate for reliable volunteers who can be trustworthy with sensitive information that may be shared in court.

**Contact TKT/TAG intake at [TucsonKidsTeam@proton.me](mailto:TucsonKidsTeam@proton.me) (case sensitive)**

## **5. Weekly Message from the Pressure Ciscomani Team**

Hi everyone...As we are moving into the fall, we continue to focus on organizing as many people as possible to contribute to unseating Ciscomani. AZ 06 is in the top tier of flippable districts nationally, and we only need a net gain of 3 to take back the House!

Get ready to ACT! **None of us can do everything but each of us can do something! What will be the *one thing* you do this week to help unseat Ciscomani?**

1. **FLYERS: This week's updated flyers (ATTACHED BELOW in English and Spanish) are about Ciscomani's hypocrisy.** He sponsored legislation to protect “cruelty” to wild horses and burros, while he voted for legislation that promotes cruelty to immigrant families (including many who are here legally) via raids by masked ICE agents. Let people know Ciscomani is not to be trusted by posting these flyers wherever you can.

o Copy the flyers and post them somewhere in your neighborhood where it is legal to do so. This could be a bus stop, a phone pole, a church or

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supermarket bulletin board. Don't worry if someone takes it down, we will keep sending you more to put up.

o Put flyers on doorsteps on your block, on windshields of parked cars, or in the lobby of your apartment building. Whenever people see a flyer, they get the message that Ciscomani is NOT A GOOD REPRESENTATIVE for our district.

2. **BUMPER STICKERS:** Our new “action tool” – courtesy of an idea by Sue Ritz – will be distributing Bumper Stickers. **See the first example (attached below).** You can have this printed up as an adhesive bumper sticker at a print shop. It's cheaper by volume – you can give them to your friends and even put them up on other types of surfaces for place. Stay tuned for more examples.
3. **CHALLENGE CISCOMANI ON SOCIAL MEDIA:** The Ciscomani public relations machine is regularly posting on social media, as well as distributing fluff pieces in press releases and emails. You can help counter this misinformation by posting on his social media and challenging the press releases in whatever forum you have access to.

**As an example, go to Ciscomani's website (Ciscomani.house.gov). On the left-hand side of the opening page is a list of his social media accounts. You can click on any of these and (if you have an account) you can comment on what he says. Try this on his Facebook page – you can let the readers of his page know that he is not to be trusted.**

In addition, you can challenge the misinformation in his Press Releases. These are available by clicking on Press Releases across the top. Write a response, and post it on Facebook, X, Substack, etc. As an example, see the (attached below) response I wrote to challenge his press release about “bringing federal funds into AZ 06”. I am also attached the reference document that I used (ATTACHED BELOW).

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4. **Help with voter registration.** A national organization – Field Team Six – is providing training in doing voter registration from home, through email outreach. We are hoping to generate a small team of our own to take this training together.

**Don Gates** ([don.a.gates@gmail.com](mailto:don.a.gates@gmail.com), [swinglefttucson@gmail.com](mailto:swinglefttucson@gmail.com)) from our team is coordinating this. If you sign up for the training (link below), let Don know so he can add you to the team.....

See below for more information:

*The road-tested system developed by Field Team 6 tests out as highly effective. Depending on the specific campaign, we get response rates as high as 1 in 3. Because they use high quality data to develop the potential voter list, we know that the folks who respond register as Democrats 92% of the time. You can be confident that your time invested in this program will net us votes against Juan Ciscomani.*

*What I would like to see is have a group of 4 - 6 of us do the training at the same time, then we can vouch for the program to the rest of the group. Here's the link to register for the training --*

<https://www.mobilize.us/ft6/event/405150/>

Thanks so much. Every little bit helps.....If you want to join us, contact Ken Minkoff at [kminkov@aol.com](mailto:kminkov@aol.com).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Ciscomani Press Release and Response](#) (pdf)

[Juan Wild Horses Flyer v3 \(English\)](#) (png image)

[Juan Wild Horses Flyer v3 \(Spanish\)](#) (png image)

[Ciscomani bumper sticker](#) (png image)

[Barriers to Benefits: The Decline in Public Trust: A Nine-State Study \(August](#)

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[2025](#)) (73-page pdf)

## 6. WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM THE BOYCOTT AND BUILD GROUP

Please join us for the next Boycott and Build meeting on Thursday, September 11th at 3pm. Email Lisa at [lisabehappy@proton.me](mailto:lisabehappy@proton.me) to be added to the Boycott and Build Team email list and receive the Zoom information for the upcoming meeting.

Also please check out our webpage,

<https://www.indivisibletucson.org/boycott-and-build.html>

with current actions for both boycotting and building anew, and a whole section of downloadable resources.

### GOODBYES ARE HARD

For those who understand the value of local businesses and all they offer our community beyond the products they sell or the services they provide, this week brings sad news of the death of yet another locally owned business. After 55 years [Summit Hut](#) is closing their doors for good.

In a week where we read of children hiding from bullets under church pews, the continued erosion of our democratic norms, and yes even Taylor's million dollar engagement ring, the closing of a locally owned outdoor gear store might seem unimportant.

But for Kent Ebersole of the Outdoor Industry Association *"news about [Summit Hut](#) in Tucson hits me hard. It's not just a business closing—it's good people suddenly facing the uncertainty of how to keep doing what they love to support themselves and their families."*

According to a number of articles reporting on the closure, the owners say a number of factors contributed to their decision to "hit the trail" as they put it. Rising

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costs and expenses across the board, brands selling direct, new big-box competition, the push for lower prices, shifts toward online shopping, reduced spending at their stores because of concerns about the economy, and a changing customer base all played a part. Their conclusion was that Summit Hut ended up in a tough spot—too big to run super lean, but too small to compete with national chains and thus was no longer sustainable.

Losing this one independent retailer may seem trivial in a town the size of Tucson. But it is not trivial for those for whom this business was their livelihood and passion; or was the dying-breed-of-a-place where as a customer you felt truly welcomed and could get accurate information not just about gear but local area trails and adventures; or if it were the business your own small business counted on for income; or if you were one of the non-profits who received support from this business.

Some people will forever have fond memories of Summit Hut and will feel the loss, while others will never even know or care that Summit Hut existed. As we each make decisions with our purchasing power it seems an important reminder comes from Kate with the CD6/Pressure Ciscomani Team. She points out on the [team's substack](#): "Every time we lose a local business, we lose a location to shop, a group of workers, the business owners, the sense of small community every such business creates. Local businesses make Tucson special. How much longer until the only place to shop is Walmart or Amazon?"

## **WE CAN HAVE HAPPIER ENDINGS**

If we each start (or continue) to meet our local retailers, places like Summit Hut can keep thriving instead of dying. If you are typically an on-line shopper or go into the nearest multinational big-box and dash through the self checkout, discover the fun that can be had getting to know a local retailer in-person.

Farmers Markets can be a great place to start experiencing the fun of meeting and interacting with local business owners -- farmers and artisans. As [one farmer in](#)

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[Washington discusses in a blog post](#) (which you should click the link to read the entire post!) about the the value of connection and community building that happens at a farmers market:

*"This is not a short essay on responsible consumerism, although I have opinions about that, it is simply about the joy and fulfillment gained from showing up consistently to shop with and from the real members of your community. There are real, hard facts that should convince you to shop locally: about dollars kept in your county, decreased carbon footprint, the positive impact on workers' rights and conditions, and more...This is not a simple plea for more people to shop locally or to come have fun at the market. But I guess, ultimately it is just that, because I truly believe that the simple act has huge potential."*

Local businesses do help dollars circulate many times through our community keeping us strong, vibrant and connected, whereas large multinational corporations immediately ship their profits out of our local economy. Cheap and convenient actually turns out to be quite costly when you consider the many externalized costs. And paying a little more or going a bit out of your way to support a local merchant has in it many benefits that don't show up on your sales receipt.

Have fun getting out there this week, whether it be at the farmers market, or checking out a local independent bookstore, grocer, coffeeshop -- whatever you are looking for, think about taking the time to find it local first.

## **7. News and inspiration**

### **THE COURTS FIGHT BACK**

#### **An appeals court invalidates Trump's sweeping tariffs.**

Aug. 29, 2025

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/29/business/economy/trump-tariffs-appeals-court.html?smid=url-share>

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## **Judge Blocks Pillar of Trump's Mass Deportation Campaign**

*Judge Jia M. Cobb rejected what she called "a truly startling argument" from the government that it could use a fast-track procedure to remove people arrested far from the southern border.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/29/us/politics/judge-fast-track-deportations.html>

## **Judge orders US to halt deportation of hundreds of Guatemalan children**

*Washington judge says unaccompanied children cannot be deported for at least 14 days as legal process unfolds*

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/31/judge-blocks-deportation-guatemalan-children>

## **"Absolutely Forbidden": Federal Judge Blocks Deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Uganda**

Aug 26, 2025

[https://www.democracynow.org/2025/8/26/headlines/absolutely\\_forbidden\\_federal\\_judge\\_blocks\\_deportation\\_of\\_kilmar\\_abrego\\_garcia\\_to\\_uganda](https://www.democracynow.org/2025/8/26/headlines/absolutely_forbidden_federal_judge_blocks_deportation_of_kilmar_abrego_garcia_to_uganda)

## **THE GRAND JURIES FIGHT BACK**

### **Prosecutors Fail to Secure Indictment Against Man Who Threw Sandwich at Federal Agent**

*It was a sharp rebuke to the prosecutors who were assigned to bring charges against those arrested after President Trump's deployment of National Guard troops and federal agents to Washington.*

Aug. 27, 2025

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/27/us/politics/trump-sandwich-assault-indictment-justice-department.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.hU8.vUVR.XuAhKMiDpRnX&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/27/us/politics/trump-sandwich-assault-indictment-justice-department.html?unlocked_article_code=1.hU8.vUVR.XuAhKMiDpRnX&smid=url-share)

*The grand jury's rejection of the felony charge was a remarkable failure by the U.S. attorney's office in Washington and the second time in recent days that a majority of grand jurors refused to vote to indict a person accused of felony assault on a federal agent. It also amounted to a sharp rebuke by a panel of ordinary citizens*

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*against the prosecutors assigned to bring charges against people arrested after President Trump's deployment of National Guard troops and federal agents to fight crime and patrol the city's streets.*

[So apparently a grand jury will indict a ham sandwich. . . but not a ham sandwich thrower.]

### **Jeanine Pirro's office fails three times to convince grand jurors to return indictment**

*Prosecutors in the capital failed a shocking three times to secure an indictment in a case of an alleged assault against a federal agent.*

Aug. 26, 2025

<https://www.msnbc.com/deadline-white-house/deadline-legal-blog/jeanine-pirro-washington-indictment-rcna227190>

*Monday afternoon came and the government filed not an indictment but a notice to the court. It said not only that "an Indictment has not been returned in this case" but, incredibly, that "a third grand jury returned a no true bill." A true bill is when the grand jury votes to indict. This is not normal. Indeed, it's unusual for a grand jury not to indict any case, though it happens. Twice is rarer still. Three times is a sign that things are fully off the rails.*

### **Grand Juries in D.C. Reject Prosecutors' Efforts to Level Harsh Charges Against Residents**

*The extraordinary pushback in at least three separate cases comes as President Trump has flooded the streets with National Guard troops and federal agents.*

[https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/29/us/politics/dc-grand-juries-indictments.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.ik8.9vFi.yYJO6DCK0nWx&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/29/us/politics/dc-grand-juries-indictments.html?unlocked_article_code=1.ik8.9vFi.yYJO6DCK0nWx&smid=url-share)

### **ALSO**

#### **Can Dawn Protests in Arizona Save Democracy?**

*Retirees & Busy Parents Join Rush Hour Resistance Rallies in Phoenix. Here's Why That Matters for Democracy.*

<https://nowfrolic.com/p/can-dawn-protests-in-arizona-save-democracy>

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**Vanity Fair staffers threaten to walk out over a proposed Melania cover: “We are not going to normalize this despot and his wife... if this happens, i’m gone, and so is half my team.”**

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/i-will-walk-out-the-motherf-ing-door-vanity-fair-boss-mark-guiducci-sparks-fury-with-melania-trump-idea/>

**Some FEMA staff are put on leave after signing dissent letter**

August 27, 2025 • More than 180 current and former FEMA employees signed the letter sent to the FEMA Review Council and Congress warning that FEMA's capacity to respond to a major disaster was dangerously diminished.

<https://www.npr.org/2025/08/27/nx-s1-5518787/some-fema-staff-are-put-on-leave-after-signing-dissent-letter>

**The LA chefs and shops delivering food to immigrants scared to go out: ‘I know how to feed people’**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/25/los-angeles-immigrants-food-delivery>

**A final note from Margrit.** *[If you don't want my commentary feel free to email [indivisibleucson@proton.me](mailto:indivisibleucson@proton.me) and tell me to cut it out -- I promise I won't be offended.]*

Those of you on the socials have no doubt seen a lot of chatter about **Trump's health** recently. It has even been speculated that his impending demise is fueling the speed and intensity of the “authoritarian breakthrough” -- the period where Trump and his cronies are sprinting to rapidly concentrate and consolidate their power.

First of all, we don't KNOW anything about his health. Second, although Trump is 79; his father lived to be 93, eight years after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Third, Trump didn't come out of nowhere. He didn't invent racism. It's not as though his death will fix anything. Fourth, I personally am thoroughly creeped out by people jumping up and down clapping their hands and squealing gleefully at the

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prospect of Trump's death.

Don't get me wrong - no one hates Trump more than I do. I hate him with the white-hot intensity of a billion suns. But I don't consider that something to my credit -- quite the contrary. Hatred is corrosive to the soul. And I'm damned if I will let that hatred tarnish me.

That being said I don't think it's a bad idea to plan ahead and think about what might go down if he does die soon.

No matter when or where or how he dies, now or in the distant future, there will be conspiracy theories about his death. But if he dies while in office, it will be a million times worse. The theories will never die down -- from now until the heat death of the universe and beyond. And one thing I do worry about is political violence based on those theories, targeting whoever the theorized actor is (I'm sure you can come up with the usual suspects here). Then there's JD Vance (who was quoted this week in a USA Today interview saying that, if "God forbid, anything should happen" to Trump, he's ready to become president). On the one hand, he is much less popular than Trump, and so has a lot less power and political capital. On the other hand, he is likely to be much more competent as a president. So that's another thing to worry about.

Finally, on the topic of how people will react, I would refer you to this mini-essay about reacting to the death of a hated figure, by journalist Marisa Kabas, on the occasion of Henry Kissinger's death:

<https://bsky.app/profile/marisakabas.bsky.social/post/3lc46wzfhcs2n>

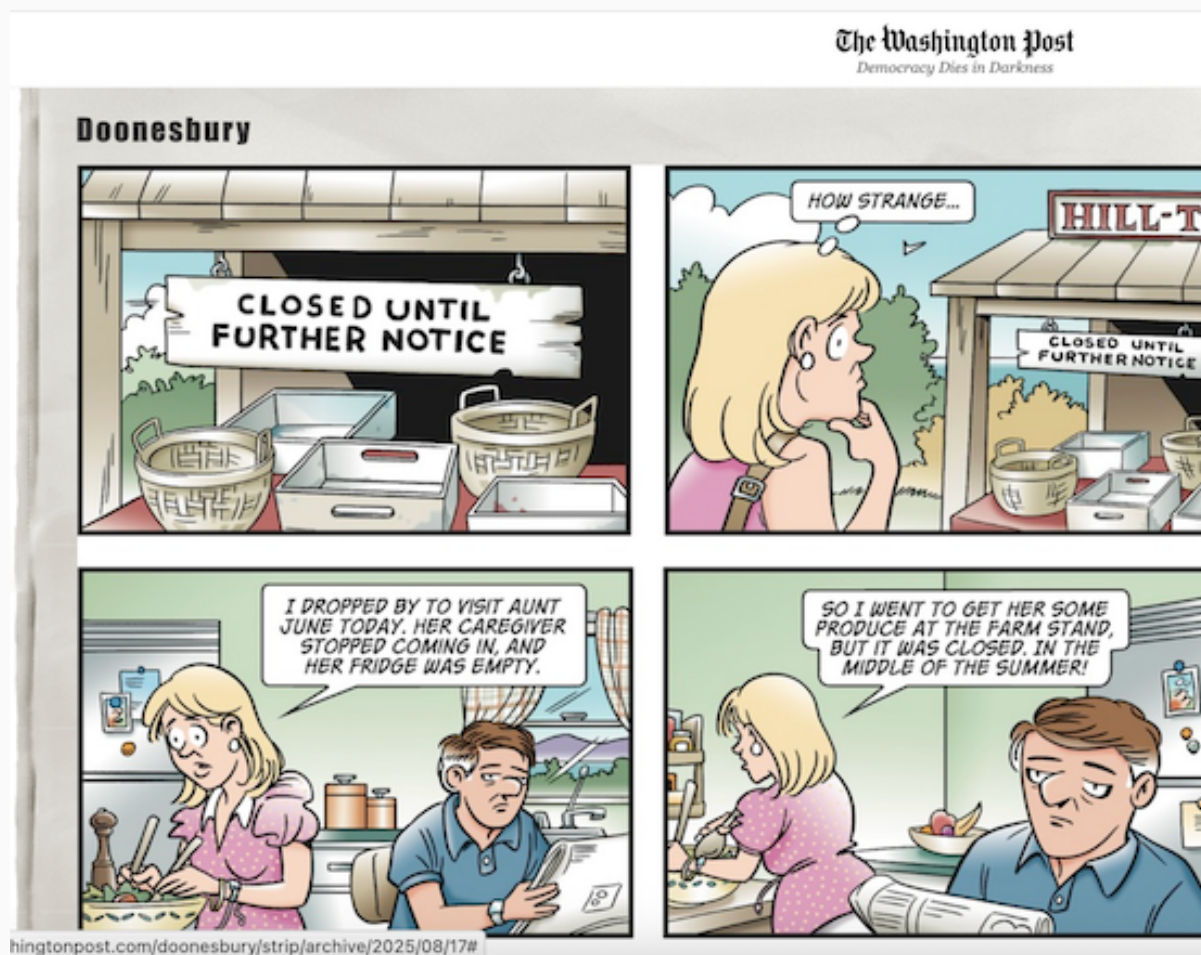
*"I had a conversation with my daughter who was like, "Why are people excited? So are you happy that this guy died?" And I was trying to talk about it in terms that I wanted her to take away from this. That it is a bad habit of the soul to celebrate anyone's death. But that emerges from our understanding of our humanity, what we owe to one another, the basic respect and dignity in viewing human lives as precious and in viewing them as valuable. And that's a contract. And there are*

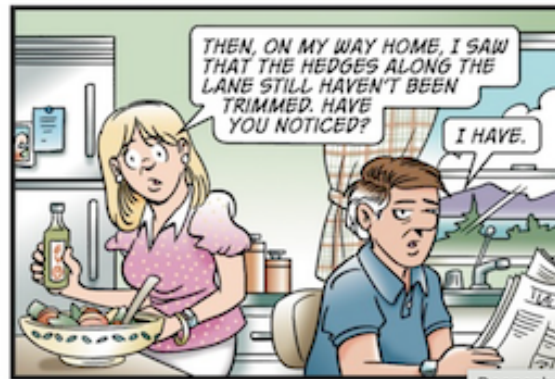
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gonna be some people, like Henry Kissinger, who break that contract on a grand scale, and you don't have to be sad when someone like that dies. You can feel relieved. You don't want, in general, to be happy when people die. That is not a good way of being that will ultimately hurt you more than it will hurt them. But there are some people whose deaths come as a relief because justice was never served for the acts of such a person. And relief is the closest thing to justice that people will experience."

That's it for this week. Stay safe, stay well, stay strong, and thank you all.

-- Margrit of ITAA





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