HOTNIR Current Events Digest — November 2, 2026

HOTNIR in the news!

Local real estate agent and podcaster Clint Harp, nationally known from the “Fixer Upper” and “Restoration Road” TV shows, ran and rode his bicycle more than 100 miles from Waco to Austin on Sunday to raise funds for Refugia, which provides financial support for HOTNIR. A variety of media provided advance coverage of the event.

Going the distance: ‘Fixer Upper’ carpenter Clint Harp rallies for immigrant rights
https://baylorlariat.com/2026/10/30/going-the-distance-fixer-upper-carpenter-clint-harp-rallies-for-immigrant-rights/#respond

'Fixer Upper's' Clint Harp plans 125 mile run and bike to State Capital to drum up support for HOTNIR ahead of Tuesday's election
https://www.kwbu.org/show/brazos-bulletin/2026-10-30/october-30-2026-brazos-bulletin-episode

Clint Harp’s 100-Mile Mission: Supporting Immigrant Families from Waco to Austin
https://www.kwtx.com/video/2026/10/30/clint-harps-100-mile-mission-supporting-immigrant-families-waco-austin/

Clint Harp riding, running from Waco to Austin in immigrant support fundraiser
https://wacotrib.com/news/local/article_cb8135b0-7d1c-424f-b852-8aac95ded84f.html

Hombre de Waco correrá y andará en bicicleta hasta Austin para recaudar fondos para HOTNIR
https://www.telemundocentraltexas.com/2026/10/30/hombre-de-waco-correr-y-andar-en-bicicleta-hasta-austin-para-recaudar-fondos-para-hotnir

Mid-term election 2026

Five years ago, Texas’ GOP-dominated state legislature passed a controversial overhaul of election laws (SB1). Among the changes, SB1 made it illegal for anyone to be paid for helping voters fill in their ballots. This means Latinos and other non-English speaking voters, plus those who are disabled and elderly, have fewer options for help.
https://www.texastribune.org/2026/10/30/sb1-ballot-harvesting-restrictions-on-helping-voters-lupe/

How Trump’s immigration crackdown sparked a backlash that could boomerang in the midterms
https://apnews.com/article/trump-immigration-politics-ice-democrats-deportations-973ea68bd778fbfd7f38209f65bb351c

Texas and U.S. immigration-related news

A Tale of Two Cases: How ICE Operates in the Shadows
They were arrested the same month. One man faced criminal charges, and had rights and protections. The other entered a secretive immigration system.
https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/10/27/ice-detention-compare-criminal-cases-los-angeles

When ICE Makes People Disappear
In criminal court, families can track arrests. In ICE detention, thousands are moved across state lines within 24 hours, leaving families in the dark.
https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/10/27/ice-detention-rules-civil-process

The Marshall Project has filed a lawsuit against ICE and CBP in federal court to force the agencies to publicly disclose all the people in their custody. The suit, filed on The Marshall Project's behalf by Chicago-based public-interest law firm Loevy & Loevy, seeks access to the names, ages and locations of everyone in ICE's detention database.
https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/10/20/ice-suit-arrests-constitution

The Trump administration plans to deport Afghans detained in the U.S. back to their home country via Pakistan, according to court documents obtained by The Associated Press — a move advocacy groups say could put their lives at risk. Thousands fled persecution and feared for their lives after helping the U.S. military and aid groups in Afghanistan.
https://apnews.com/article/afghans-deportation-pakistan-trump-immigration-bfbc0e3dc2ee1c19fa5ec64d08468d98

A Harris County grand jury indicted an immigration agent who allegedly ran over a fleeing pedestrian during an Oct. 10 vehicle pursuit in Houston, breaking his legs and ankle. ICE agent Mario Alberto Morales faces a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Miguel Parra-Hernandez, 48, remains in ICE custody. His lawyer said it is unclear whether he'll be able to walk again.
https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/politics/immigration/2026/10/30/565692/grand-jury-indicts-ice-officer-responsible-for-running-houston-immigrant-over/
Morales is expected to turn himself in on Monday.
https://apnews.com/article/houston-texas-ice-agent-charged-aggravated-assault-67bcdb11f7ed19aef2100e5c2a83f773
ICE says its agent can't be locally prosecuted for Houston crash. Legal experts disagree.
https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2026/10/30/565735/ice-says-its-agent-cant-be-locally-prosecuted-for-houston-crash-legal-experts-disagree/
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries calls 'not to give a dime' to ICE at Houston stop

https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/economy/2026/10/26/565316/house-minority-leader-hakeem-jeffries-calls-for-defunding-ice/
A majority of Americans (56%) now say they have an unfavorable opinion of ICE. A considerably smaller share – 35% – view ICE favorably, while 9% say they are not sure. ICE is the least favorably viewed of the 12 federal agencies and departments asked about in a Pew Research Center survey of 5,062 adults conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4.
https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/10/26/americans-views-of-ice-grow-more-negative/

'Life-and-death implications': Former IG warns ICE's detention oversight is masking unsafe conditions. An analysis by the Project on Government Oversight found that the number of immigration detention facilities receiving a "superior" rating increased at the same time as the number of individuals dying in ICE custody also surged.
https://www.govexec.com/oversight/2026/10/former-ig-warns-ice-detention-oversight-masking-unsafe-conditions/416889/

A hacking group cracked the Department of Homeland Security's personnel files, exposing the names, phone numbers and addresses of more than 40,000 DHS agents, operatives, and associates, on Wednesday, including those involved in undercover operations.
https://www.npr.org/2026/10/28/nx-s1-6021497/dhs-hack-ice

Fathers arrested as they head to work. A young woman taken into custody at Sea-Tac International Airport. Patients being hospitalized after their caregiver was arrested by immigration agents. These are just a few of the stories shared at a press conference where immigrant families and advocate groups called on elected officials to slow down mass deportation efforts in Washington state and help families of detained or deported relatives.
https://www.kuow.org/immigration/2026-10-28/wa-immigrant-families-urge-lawmakers-to-push-back-against-mass-ice-deportations

Voters overwhelmingly favor a path to citizenship for the 15 million immigrants living in the U.S. without legal status and believe that Trump's mass deportation campaign is hurting the economy, according to report from Wave Polling and Research. It found 62% of Americans believe mass deportations are hurting the economy and only 23% agreed deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. without authorization would lead to better wages for them.
https://azmirror.com/2026/10/28/voters-sour-on-mass-deportation-as-citizenship-support-holds-strong-even-with-az-republicans/

For nearly a year, immigration authorities have detained and sought to deport a mentally ill man whose mother, lawyers and public records say was born in the U.S. and not Jamaica as he claims. ICE has no authority to detain U.S. citizens, but has long done so, usually for hours or days, when officers mistake identities or can't immediately verify citizenship.

https://apnews.com/article/ice-immigration-wrongful-detention-indiana-3109797bea2b2102e130a82691d634af

Federal immigration officials failed to obey court orders and arrested a man just two months after his ordered release from immigration detention, a Pennsylvania judge ruled last week. As a result, U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche, Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin and Philadelphia Field Office Director John Rife were held in civil contempt and ordered to pay attorney fees and related costs.
https://www.courthousenews.com/federal-immigration-officials-held-in-contempt-for-disobeying-court-orders/

An ESL teacher who has worked with immigrant students for more than 20 years says she has never seen this level of fear.
https://285south.com/students-are-scared-they-dont-leave-the-house-they-go-to-school-and-they-go-back-home-and-thats-it-one-atlanta-esl-teacher-said/

Gov. Bill Lee said he is seeking more information about new rules imposed by state driver's license administrators that have prevented immigrants legally authorized to work in the U.S. — including "Dreamers" — from obtaining or renewing a Tennessee driver's license.
https://www.yahoo.com/news/us/articles/tennessee-gov-lee-questions-state-095958503.html?guccounter=1

OPINION

Abbey Adcox: What We Carry Now
https://faithworks.com/blog/f/what-we-carry-now?blm_aid=1570724

Hannah Harshe: Teachers are once again struggling to support children whose lives are upended by immigration police. They face trauma, family separation and displacement, but we have to remember they are still kids.
https://hechingerreport.org/teacher-voice-support-children-immigration/

Jessica Falkner: I thought I knew how cruel our immigration system could be. Then came this case. After a while in this line of work, you believe you have mapped the full geography of our broken system.
https://www.ms.now/opinion/ice-detention-louisiana-trump-immigration-mistreatment

Martin Rosas: Lowering beef prices requires curtailing ICE activity in Kansas and elsewhere
https://kansasreflector.com/2026/10/27/lowering-beef-prices-requires-curtailing-ice-activity-in-kansas-and-elsewhere/