

## A mom’s relentless fight against cancer

The disease doesn’t care if you are young and have a family. Elissa vowed to live. **In Weekend Extra**

## French Open draw good for Coco Gauff

The No. 2 seeded American will begin as a favorite, plus more key notes from tennis draw. **In Sports**

## ‘Lilo & Stitch’ star makes Disney debut

Maia Kealoha, 8, chats about auditioning for life-action remake and the actors she admires. **In Life**



MARIO ANZUONI/REUTERS

# Religious charter school blocked

### High court deadlocked on allowing first in U.S.

Maureen Groppe  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A divided Supreme Court blocked the creation of the nation’s first religious charter school, a major loss for those advocating a greater role for religion in public life.

The court split 4-4 over whether to allow St. Isidore of Seville Virtual Charter School, keeping in place the Oklahoma Supreme Court’s decision that a religious charter school would violate the Constitution’s clause aimed at keeping religion separate from government.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett did not participate in the May 22 decision, leaving the nine-member court evenly divided. Although she didn’t give a reason, Barrett is close friends with the Notre Dame Law School professor who was an early legal adviser to the Catholic Church in Oklahoma, which wanted to open St. Isidore.



The Supreme Court agreed to hear three cases about the First Amendment’s religion clauses this year. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

The court issued its one sentence decision announcing the deadlock three weeks after hearing oral arguments. The announcement did not include how each of the participating justices voted.

Because neither side had a majority, no precedent was established by its decision.

Alliance Defending Freedom, the conservative legal advocacy group that defended the Oklahoma Statewide Charter School Board’s approval of St. Isidore, called the court’s deadlock

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## Trump and his administration have fired thousands of National Park Service and Forest Service employees



Tourists on a sightseeing boat record glacial ice in Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska. TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY

# Memorial Day will put parks to biggest test yet

Americans kicking off summer at national parks and U.S. Forest Service trailheads this Memorial Day weekend will find clean restrooms, well-staffed visitor centers and tidy trails. • But longtime public lands advocates say it’s only a matter of time before campers, hikers and anglers start seeing cracks in what those advocates believe is a wafer-thin facade, as rangers scramble to keep up following widespread layoffs, retirements and buyouts. They worry the Trump administration will use the subsequent problems as justification for closing, selling or transferring parks and land to private operators.

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Trevor Hughes  
USA TODAY

“They may be trying to put on the facade that everything is going swimmingly, but it’s really not.”

Josh Hicks  
The Wilderness Society

## Beyond cemeteries: Places to pay respects

Matt Alderton  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Vanessa Marquette of Syracuse, New York, comes from a long line of service members. Both of her grandfathers fought in World War II, as did her great-uncle. Her mother and father served in the Air Force. Her nephew serves in the Navy. And her husband is in the New York Army National Guard, having previously served eight years in the Army.

Marquette has made it her personal mission to document the history of her relatives’ service. “People need to remember the generations that served before us, and I feel like it’s my duty to help them do that by learning about them and sharing what they went through.”

Although she does lots of online research, the internet isn’t the only place Marquette goes to learn about

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The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC is sacred ground to many. PROVIDED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# Advocates move to protect George Floyd’s legacy

### Political winds shift movement 5 years later

N’dea Yancey-Bragg  
USA TODAY

Angela Harrelson, George Floyd’s aunt, looks at the exhibits in the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center at George Floyd Square in April 2021. NICHOLAS PFOSI/REUTERS



Five years after her nephew’s murder, what Angela Harrelson misses most is hearing her phone buzz and knowing he was calling.

“He would call me and say, ‘What’s up, Auntie? Just calling to check on you,’” Harrelson said. “And it made me feel so good.”

Harrelson affectionately refers to her nephew by his middle name, Perry, but the world knows him as George Floyd.

In 2020, millions watched in horror as former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin pinned Floyd beneath his knee for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. The murder sparked a massive outpouring of grief and anger as protesters took to the streets with handcrafted signs echoing some of his last words, “I can’t breathe.” Amid violent clashes with police, they pressed on. Artists adorned their cities with his image, a sign of resolve and impact of his death.

The intersection where Floyd took

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