

All-female hacker house creating buzz in tech world

FoundHer House members inspire women while supporting one another's startups. **In Money**

9 college football coaches start season on hot seat

Auburn's Hugh Freeze among those who face scrutiny with their jobs on the line. **In Sports**



Riz Ahmed: 'You can't control New York'

"Relay" star says filming in Manhattan gave the movie edge, including a moment when passersby jumped into a scripted argument. **In Life**



California Gov. Gavin Newsom says he's trying to inject a sense of urgency in the Democratic Party. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Newsom gives Dems a boost of adrenaline

California governor battles Trump 'with fire'

Phillip M. Bailey USA TODAY

Nine months after a California liberal failed to keep Donald Trump and the MAGA movement from retaking Washington, another Golden State Democrat has snatched the national microphone with an aggressive delivery.

"This is a new Democratic Party. This is a new energy out there all across this country, and we are going to meet fire with fire," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in response to USA TODAY during an Aug. 20 conference call with party leaders.

If Democrats are still having a crisis in confidence because of tanking popularity in the polls and bleeding voter registration numbers across the country, someone hasn't told the 57-year-old Newsom, who between the flashy artificial-intelligence-generated memes and all-caps social media rants has given the party an adrenaline rush this summer.

Asked whether the page has turned on Democrats working with the Trump administration, Newsom said he still reveres the office of president but that he's trying to inject the party with a sense of urgency and activate "a renewed sense of purpose" among citizens.

"And I say that as a guy not from a small, isolated state but (one) the size of 21 state populations combined that is the fourth largest economy in the world," Newsom said. "We are going to meet this moment head-on."

It's an effective game plan in an attention-economy media landscape, some Democrats say, and it is being fueled by major clashes with Trump that are catching the attention of party naysayers.

"Gavin Newsom has been doing what I've wanted a Democrat to do for a long time," hip-hop radio host Charlamagne tha God said in an episode of "The Breakfast Club" earlier this month.

"When they go low, either you ignore them or you go to hell. He's matching energy and I like it."

One day after the Republican-controlled state House in Texas passed new redistricting plans at the president's behest, Newsom led the Democratic-run California legislature to OK a similar map for his state's voters to decide on in a Nov. 4 special election.

Among the speculative field of 2028

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One soldier's long, painful journey and the Ukraine war's hidden toll



Yurii Saiko, 30, has gone from Ukraine's killing fields to a Russian POW camp to Staten Island University Hospital in New York. He knows his fighting days are over: "Now, I'm trying to live my life to the fullest." NATHANIAL GARY/USA TODAY

Amputees face whole new battle

Michael Collins USA TODAY

NEW YORK

Yurii Saiko heard the whistling sound from his hospital bed and took cover under his blanket.

- A split second later, the window in his room exploded, spraying glass in every direction.
- An air bomb had hit the Mariupol hospital where the young Ukrainian marine was recovering from surgery. Six days earlier, his left leg had been amputated after it was nearly blown off in a Russian attack.
- Underneath the covers, Saiko removed the wires and tubes that connected him to medical equipment. He took off his clothes, grabbed his crutches, and, fueled by adrenaline, scurried down a corridor.
- There, he fainted.
- A nurse found him, woke him up and moved him to the hospital basement, where they stayed the night.
- The next day, they would be evacuated.

But the danger was far from over. **See AMPUTEES, Page 6A**



Saiko enlisted in 2016, two years after Russia invaded Crimea. Six years later, he was fighting another invasion. PROVIDED BY YURII SAIKO

Truckers targeted over lack of English

Thousands fail language test, taken off U.S. roads

Trevor Hughes USA TODAY

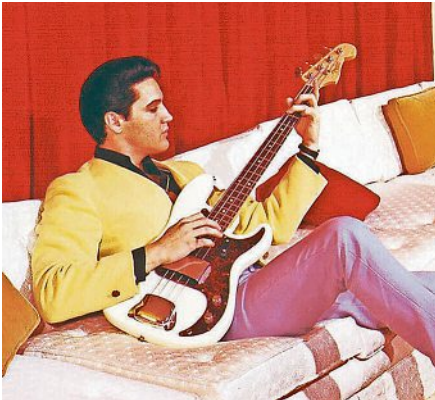
At least 3,000 truckers have been taken off American roads over the past two months after they failed mandatory roadside English tests, as the Trump administration gets tougher on commercial drivers nationally.

The move has drawn applause from many trucking associations, which say consistent enforcement will improve road safety by ensuring drivers can read roadside signs, including message boards warning of slow traffic ahead or dangerous road conditions. But some critics worry about the potential for improper racial profiling by police.

Adding new urgency to the debate: California-licensed trucker Harjinder Singh is accused of causing a fatal Aug. 12 crash in Florida after pulling an illegal U-turn, colliding with a minivan. He then failed a roadside English proficiency test, federal officials said in a social media post calling him an illegal immigrant who should not have been licensed.

"Federal law is clear, a driver who cannot sufficiently read or speak English – our national language – and understand road signs is unqualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle in America. This commonsense standard should have never been abandoned," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said in announcing the

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Elvis fiddles with an electric bass at Graceland in 1965 months before hosting The Beatles at his California home in Bel Air. USA TODAY NETWORK

Did Beatles actually jam with Elvis? It's complicated

Kim Willis USA TODAY

The night Elvis Presley played with The Beatles is fondly remembered as the most epic jam in the history of rock 'n' roll. That is, if it actually happened.

What is certain is that Elvis politely hosted the Fab Four at his Bel Air home on Aug. 27, 1965, when John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr were in Los Angeles to perform two shows at the Hollywood Bowl. Elvis, looking every inch a rock god, greeted the quartet with his future wife Priscilla Beaulieu and his "Memphis Mafia" inner circle at his side.

"The Beatles were in awe, and I can say that because they told me that the next day," Jerry Schilling, Elvis' long-time friend, tells USA TODAY, while

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