

Farmers feel squeeze from ‘both sides of equation’

Lower prices for some crops and rising operating costs cut into profits. **In Money**

NHL offseason grades: Who improved the most

A look at each team’s moves off the ice as preseason games start. **In Sports**

Stars recall unleashing their inner theater kid

Colin Farrell and Margot Robbie dish over singing and dancing in “Big Bold Beautiful Journey” and their bond over shared love of food. **In Life**

USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES



‘I had enough of his hatred’

Texts suggest suspect wanted to ‘take out’ Kirk

Chris Kenning, Nick Penzenstadler and Christopher Cann

USA TODAY

He had been planning an attack for a week. He used a weapon he described as “grandpa’s rifle.” And after shooting and killing conservative influencer Charlie Kirk, he messaged his roommate, with whom he was in a romantic relationship, according to court documents.

Told to look under a keyboard, Tyler Robinson’s roommate discovered a note reading, “I had the opportunity to take out Charlie Kirk and I’m going to take it.”

“You weren’t the one who did it right????” the roommate asked.



Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray outlines the criminal charges against the suspect in Charlie Kirk’s slaying. CHET STRANGE/GETTY IMAGES

“I am, I’m sorry,” Robinson replied. Those were among the details in a 10-page criminal charging document released by Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray, who held a news conference after he charged Robinson, 22, a former straight-A student from Utah, with aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm, obstruction of justice, and witness tampering for instructing his roommate not to cooperate in the investigation into Kirk’s death.

Robinson is accused of shooting Kirk in the neck during a public appearance Sept. 10 at Utah Valley University in the city of Orem. The killing of an influential ally of President Donald Trump and co-founder of Turning Point USA shocked the nation amid an increase in political violence.

Robinson was arraigned Sept. 16 on charges that came with new details about the suspect.

The charges include the allegation that the suspect targeted Kirk because of “Robinson’s belief or perception regarding Charlie Kirk’s political expression.”

See **CHARGES**, Page 2A

There’s extremism on both sides, Obama says

“Political violence is not new,” but it must stop, he tells crowd. **3A**

Religious communities divided over Kirk’s legacy

“We’ve got work to do. Roll up your sleeves,” one pastor declares. **3A**



HOME DELIVERY
1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM



Now in their golden years, these seniors are reliving the activism of their youth

‘We’re not dead yet’

Lauren Villagran USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX

Bonnie Daniels and Dee Anne Croucher didn’t expect to spend their retirement in the florescent-lit halls of immigration court, facing down masked ICE agents. • But that’s where they head daily to quietly challenge President Donald Trump’s crackdown. They warn immigrants what awaits them. They hand out Sharpies so each can write an emergency contact phone number on their forearm. They hold the immigrants’ hands, walking shoulder to shoulder with them into the crowd of agents blocking the exit. • Like other seniors on the front lines of resistance to the Trump administration, Daniels and Croucher are old enough to have protested the Vietnam War and to have not trusted anyone over 30.

Now they and a number of their peers are spending their golden years standing outside the White House with handmade signs, hosting sit-ins, picketing on rural street corners and protesting Trump’s amped-up immigration enforcement.

Research shows that Americans tend to become more conservative as they grow older, and the 79-year-old Republican president boasts legions of his own septuagenarian supporters.

But seniors who have held on to the politics of their youth say they have the time, energy and guts to anchor the protest movements and anti-Trump activism surging

around the country.

When a Trump aide made headlines in August for disparaging senior activists in Washington, DC, as “elderly White hippies,” the comment infuriated some and fired up others.

“We’re the activists from the Vietnam era,” said Daniels, 68, a retired social worker and third-generation Mexican American.

“The women’s movement and the Chicano movement and the Black movement. I am proud to be an old hippie. I wear that as a badge of honor.”

See **ACTIVISM**, Page 6A

Bonnie Daniels, 68, volunteers daily at an immigration court in El Paso, Texas. The retired social worker and third-generation Mexican American accompanies immigrants facing possible deportation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

LAUREN VILLAGRAN/ USA TODAY

“We’re the activists from the Vietnam era. I am proud to be an old hippie. I wear that as a badge of honor.”
Bonnie Daniels



Stephanie Krim founded Good Things Vending in 2018 as a way to sell art, vintage items and other goods. PROVIDED BY SECCO STUDIO

Vending machines turn out collectible artwork for quarters

Karissa Waddick USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A small red vending machine, tucked away in a corner of the United States Botanic Garden’s gift shop, captivated passersby on a recent humid Sunday afternoon.

Two young women stood in front, plopped two tokens into a metal belt, pressed a lever, and watched as a credit card-sized piece of cardboard slid out. They opened it and found a slip of paper with an illustration of a black swallowtail butterfly. Then they repeated, the second time discovering a print of tomatoes.

One of the women, 21-year-old Emily Wartel, said the machine reminded her of 25-cent pencil dispensers in her elementary school.

“This is awesome because they’re mini and so accessible,” Wartel, who lives in nearby Alexandria,

See **ARTWORK**, Page 6A