

Top Global News



US-Israel War on Iran: Ceasefire Talks Advance as Strikes Continue Near Strait of Hormuz

The US awaits Iran's response to a peace proposal as fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz continues. US forces fired on two Iranian oil tankers after Iranian forces attacked three American destroyers transiting the strait on May 7, with the Pentagon saying it launched "self-defense strikes" against Iranian ports in retaliation.

The US Treasury Department sanctioned 10 individuals and companies — including several China-based entities — accused of helping Iran secure materials for ballistic missiles and drones. US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Qatar's prime minister in Miami as Washington awaited Iran's reply to a peace framework.

Global food prices rose for the third straight month in April, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, as the conflict fueled supply concerns and pushed up fertilizer costs.

Russia Holds Scaled-Down Victory Day Parade; Putin Hints War Is 'Coming to an End'

Russia held its most scaled-back Victory Day parade in years on May 9, with no display of heavy military hardware for the first time in nearly two decades. Security was tight as President Putin addressed the event, and only a handful of foreign leaders — including Belarus's Lukashenko and leaders of Malaysia, Laos, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan — attended.

After the parade, Putin told reporters he believes the conflict in Ukraine is "heading to an end" and said he is willing to meet President Zelenskyy in a third country once conditions for a peace agreement are settled. The remarks came as Russia and Ukraine began a Trump-brokered three-day ceasefire (May 9–11) and agreed to swap 1,000 prisoners each.

For the first time, the parade included troops from North Korea, reflecting Pyongyang's role sending soldiers to fight alongside Russian forces in the Kursk region.

Israel Faces Fresh Hezbollah Attacks; Lebanon Peace Talks Set for May 14–15

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for attacks on two targets inside Israel on Friday — including a strike on a military base south of Nahariya — marking the first publicly claimed cross-border attacks since a mid-April truce with Lebanon. Israel's military said another attack on the Meron base was intercepted with projectiles falling in open areas.

Separately, the US State Department announced two days of "intensive talks" in Washington between Lebanese and Israeli representatives on May 14–15 aimed at advancing a comprehensive peace and security agreement. It is the third round of direct talks after meetings on April 14 and 23. At least 39 people were reported killed in fresh Israeli strikes on Lebanon earlier in the week.

Top US News

Trump Announces Three-Day Russia-Ukraine Ceasefire, Calls It 'Beginning of the End'

President Trump announced Friday that Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a three-day ceasefire from May 9–11, including a suspension of all military activity and an exchange of 1,000 prisoners from each country. Both President Zelenskyy and Kremlin adviser Yuri Ushakov confirmed the agreement, which came after two failed unilateral truces earlier in the week.

"I asked and President Putin agreed. President Zelenskyy agreed — both readily," Trump said as he departed the White House. He called the ceasefire "the beginning of the end" of the more than four-year war. Ukraine's Zelenskyy said the deal was reached through US mediation and called on Washington to hold Russia to its commitments. Ukraine's top negotiator, Rustem Umerov, arrived in Miami this week for peace talks with US representatives.

April Jobs Report Beats Expectations; Markets Hit Record Highs

The US added 115,000 jobs in April, well above the Wall Street consensus of around 60,000–65,000, while unemployment held steady at 4.3%. The report marked the first back-to-back six-figure employment gains since late 2024, with healthcare and transportation leading gains. Markets surged on the news: the S&P 500 advanced 0.84% to close at 7,398.93 — a record high — while the Nasdaq climbed 1.71% to 26,247.08. Both indexes extended their winning streaks to six consecutive weeks. Consumer sentiment, however, fell to a new low due to surging gas prices tied to the Iran war.

Canvas Learning Platform Hit by Massive Ransomware Breach Disrupting Finals

The Canvas learning management system — used by 30 million students at over 8,000 institutions — was breached by hacking group ShinyHunters, which claimed to have stolen 3.65 terabytes of data including private messages from 275 million users. The breach, which first appeared on May 7, displayed a ransom note to users and temporarily took Canvas offline during finals week at many universities.

Canvas parent company Instructure traced the exploit to its Free-For-Teacher accounts and restored service for most users overnight May 7–8. Schools including all Ivy League universities, University of Illinois, Georgia Tech, and many others were affected. The FBI advised users not to engage with anyone claiming to have their data. ShinyHunters gave affected schools until May 12 to negotiate — the same group that

claimed the massive Ticketmaster breach in 2024.

Top NJ/NY News



NJ Transit Cuts World Cup Train Fares to \$105 — Still 8x Normal Price

NJ Transit announced a 30% reduction in its round-trip rail fare to MetLife Stadium for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, bringing the price down to \$105 from the originally planned \$150. The reduction came after private sponsors agreed to cover some of the transit agency's \$48 million in expected World Cup costs.

The tickets — available only to World Cup match ticket holders via NJ Transit's mobile app starting May 13 — still represent an enormous premium over the standard \$12.90 round-trip fare. Governor Mikie Sherrill directed the agency to seek private rather than taxpayer funding after FIFA refused to contribute. Only 40,000 tickets will be sold per match. MetLife Stadium is hosting eight World Cup matches between June 13 and July 19, including the final.

Two NJ Residents Monitored After Potential Hantavirus Exposure

New Jersey health officials are monitoring two state residents who may have been exposed to hantavirus after traveling on the same plane as a passenger who had been aboard the MV Hondius cruise ship, where a deadly outbreak occurred. The two individuals were not passengers on the ship and are not currently showing symptoms.

The NJ Department of Health was notified by the CDC. No confirmed hantavirus cases have ever been reported in New Jersey. Meanwhile, New York City's health department issued an advisory to local doctors to ask patients about potential links to the cruise ship if they present with symptoms that could indicate hantavirus infection. NYC health officials said no city residents are currently sick or known to have been exposed.

Amtrak Sues Metro-North Over Alleged Blocking of Northeast Corridor Access

Amtrak filed a lawsuit this week against Metro-North, alleging that the commuter rail agency has been blocking nonrevenue trains from using a portion of the busy Northeast Corridor for over two months. The dispute adds tension to the already congested rail network serving the New York metropolitan region, which faces growing pressure as the 2026 FIFA World Cup approaches and ridership demands increase.

Dorchester Elementary School News & Events

No Upcoming Events Listed in Authoritative Calendar

No specific upcoming events for Dorchester Elementary School appear in the authoritative DORCHESTER_CALENDAR_EVENTS list for the next four weeks. The school's official calendar (des.woodcliff-lake.com) is the primary source for event dates, and parents should check it directly for any updates.

This is a quiet period for event listings. Check des.woodcliff-lake.com and the PFA site (wclpfa.com) for the latest information on end-of-year activities.

PFA Meeting Scheduled for May 12

The Dorchester Elementary School PFA has a meeting scheduled for May 12 at the BOE Board Room. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to stay informed about school activities and contribute to the school community. Check the official calendar at des.woodcliff-lake.com for the confirmed time.

Top Tech News



Big Tech Commits Record \$725B in AI Capex While Cutting Thousands of Jobs

Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, and Alphabet have collectively signaled roughly \$725 billion in capital expenditures for 2026 — almost entirely earmarked for data centers, custom chips, GPUs, and AI models — an increase of more than 75% year-over-year. At the same time, the sector is dramatically trimming headcount: Meta plans to lay off 8,000 employees in May, Amazon has cut roughly 30,000 roles in recent months, and Microsoft has offered voluntary buyouts to about 125,000 employees.

The pivot reflects a strategic reallocation from payroll to compute infrastructure, with American Electric Power reporting that its contracted capacity pipeline has surged to 63GW, with roughly 90% tied to data center customers.

OpenAI's Custom Chip Plan With Broadcom Hits \$18B Financing Hurdle

OpenAI's effort to build custom AI chips with Broadcom has reportedly run into an \$18 billion financing hurdle, according to The Information. The deal is part of OpenAI's broader push to reduce dependence on Nvidia and lower long-term compute costs. The snag highlights how expensive AI independence has become, even for the best-funded AI companies.

EU Softens Parts of AI Rulebook Under Industry Pressure

EU lawmakers and member states have reached a provisional agreement to simplify parts of the

bloc's AI rules, including delaying some high-risk AI system requirements. The compromise reflects Europe's attempt to balance consumer protection with competitiveness.

Separately, the UK's National Health Service ordered technology leaders to temporarily wall off hundreds of open-source repositories on GitHub, citing security concerns tied to advanced AI and Anthropic's next-generation Mythos model, whose ability to rapidly find cybersecurity vulnerabilities has worried government leaders. The US government is also weighing creation of a formal review process for new AI models.

AI News



OpenAI Codex Gets Major 'For Almost Everything' Update: Browser, Multi-Agent, Memory

OpenAI shipped a broad expansion of Codex, rebranding it as "Codex for (almost) everything" — shifting it from a pure code editor to a general-purpose AI coding agent. The update adds computer use (macOS app control), an in-app browser for frontend and game development, more than 90 new plugins (including Atlassian, CircleCI, GitLab Issues, and Microsoft Suite), and a preview of persistent memory across sessions.

Codex can now schedule future work for itself, wake up automatically to continue long-running tasks, and proactively suggest how to start your workday by pulling context from projects, Slack, Notion, and connected tools. More than 3 million developers use Codex weekly. The latest CLI release (May 8) added Amazon Bedrock support, remote plugin marketplace browsing, and more.

ServiceNow Build Agent Integrates With Cursor, Windsurf, Claude Code, and GitHub Copilot

ServiceNow announced at its Knowledge 2026 event that its Build Agent is now generally available inside ServiceNow Studio and has been extended into Cursor, Windsurf, Claude Code, and GitHub Copilot — so developers can build from any environment with full ServiceNow AI Platform context and governance. The company also launched a reimagined AI Agent Studio to simplify how builders create and scale AI agents.

The move addresses what ServiceNow calls a "shadow development problem" in which ungoverned apps built outside enterprise platforms introduce risk and technical debt.

Claude Code vs. OpenAI Codex: The 2026 Head-to-Head

A growing body of developer analysis is crystallizing clear distinctions between the two dominant AI coding agents. Claude Code (running Opus 4.7 / Sonnet 4.6) excels at multi-file repository changes and deep IDE integration, with a larger context window suited to complex codebases. OpenAI Codex is cheaper per delivered task — consuming 3–4x fewer tokens on the same workflows — and offers tighter GitHub PR integration with a cloud-sandbox-by-default model.

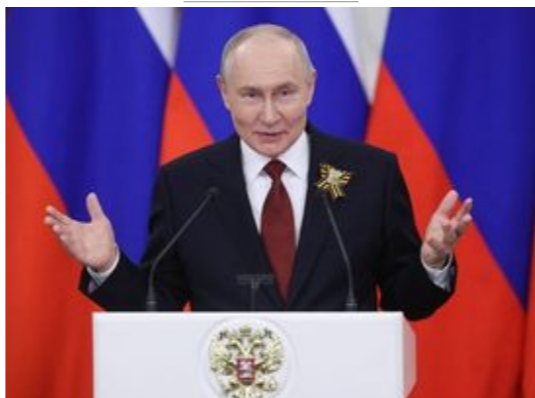
Benchmarks show Codex leads on Terminal-Bench (pure terminal/DevOps tasks) while Claude Code leads on SWE-bench Verified (multi-file engineering tasks). Per-million-token pricing in May 2026: Claude Sonnet 4.6 is \$3 input/\$15 output; Claude Opus 4.7 is \$5 input/\$25 output. Many top developers now use both, with AGENTS.md becoming a quasi-standard for configuring either tool on the same repo.

Ukraine News

Trump-Brokered Ceasefire in Effect; Both Sides Trade Accusations of Violations

A US-brokered three-day ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine (May 9–11) is underway, but both sides accused the other of violations within hours of it taking effect. Russia launched a drone strike on a nine-story apartment building in Kharkiv less than 24 hours into the truce. Ukraine carried out long-range strikes on Russian energy infrastructure in response to earlier attacks on Ukrainian cities.

Kyiv's President Zelenskyy reported more than 140 attacks on front-line positions and over 850 drone attacks in the 24 hours before the ceasefire began, calling Russia's commitments unreliable. The ceasefire also includes a prisoner exchange of 1,000 from each side, though Putin said Saturday that Russia had not yet received proposals from Ukraine on the swap.



Putin Opens Door to Meeting Zelenskyy; Signals War Could End

For the first time, Russian President Putin has expressed willingness to meet President Zelenskyy in a third country — but only once all conditions for a peace deal are settled. "I think it (the conflict) is heading to an end but it's still a serious matter," Putin told reporters after the Victory Day parade on May 10.

Putin also said that after meetings with Slovakian PM Robert Fico — who visited Moscow and told Putin that Zelenskyy is ready for a personal meeting — the door to direct talks appeared slightly more open. European Council President Antonio Costa said there is potential for talks between Europe and Russia on the continent's future security architecture. US-

mediated talks had shown little progress since February, when Washington shifted focus to the Iran war.

ISW: Russia's Territorial Advance Slows Sharply; Ukraine May Have Netted Land in April

According to the Institute for the Study of War, Russian forces seized an average of just 2.9 sq km per day in the first third of 2026, compared with 9.76 sq km per day in the same period in 2025 — a 70% slowdown. ISW observed evidence that Russia suffered a net loss of 116 sq km in April, suggesting Ukraine may have recaptured more land than it lost during the month.

Russia's advance has been particularly bogged down around the fortress belt in Donetsk — Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Kostiantynivka, and Druzhkivka. Ukraine also said Russia suffered casualties at a higher rate than its recruitment can replenish for the fifth consecutive month. However, Russia's oil windfall from Iran-war-elevated prices is estimated at \$150 million per day, potentially providing \$40 billion to fund the war effort in 2026.

Top Financial News

S&P 500 and Nasdaq Hit All-Time Records on Strong Jobs, Earnings Wave

US equities closed at record highs on May 8 as a blowout April jobs report (115,000 vs. 65,000 expected) and continued strong earnings boosted investor confidence. The S&P 500 closed at 7,398.93 (+0.84%), the Nasdaq at 26,247.08 (+1.71%), and both recorded their sixth straight weekly gain — the longest winning streak since 2024.

All 11 S&P 500 sectors are expected to show year-over-year earnings growth for the first time in four years, in what analysts are calling "one of the best earnings seasons in 20 years." Tech led the advance, with the S&P's technology sector up over 3% on Friday. However, Michael Burry (of "Big Short" fame) warned the AI-fueled market is beginning to resemble the final stages of the dot-com bubble.

Oil Near \$95/Bbl as Iran War Supply Concerns Persist; Fed Chair Vote Upcoming

Oil prices remained elevated with WTI near \$95 per barrel and Brent around \$100, as the Iran war continues to knock out millions of barrels of daily output from the Strait of Hormuz region. The International Energy Agency's Fatih Birol warned global energy markets are heading into "troubled waters."

JPMorgan economists told clients that supply buffers insulating the oil market from the war are eroding, expecting increasing signs of demand destruction as households adjust to rising energy costs. The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment survey fell to a new low in early May due to surging gas prices. The Senate is expected to vote this week on Kevin Warsh to replace Jerome Powell as Fed Chair, with Powell's term ending May 15.

AMD Crosses \$700B Market Cap on AI Chip Earnings Beat

Chipmaker AMD crossed the \$700 billion market-cap threshold following a strong earnings beat earlier in the week, reaching a valuation of \$713 billion. AMD delivered Q1 earnings per share of \$1.37, beating the consensus estimate of \$1.29, on revenues of \$10.25 billion versus the \$9.9 billion expected. The stock surged 20% in the week, up nearly 90% over the past month, as AI infrastructure demand drove chip orders.

The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index (SOX) rose more than 10% for the week, pushing its 2026 gains to 65% — raising both optimism and bubble-worry among investors.

Top Stock News

Markets Week in Review: Six Straight Winning Weeks, Record Highs Across the Board

US equities closed out a sixth consecutive winning week on May 8, with the S&P 500 up 2.3% for the week (closing at a record 7,398.93) and the Nasdaq surging 4.5% to 26,247.08 — both hitting all-time intraday highs. The Dow gained modestly at 49,609.16, while the Russell 2000 rose 0.76%.

Momentum, high-beta, and growth stocks led all week, with the semiconductor sector up 10%+ for the week (SOX +65% YTD). Next week's key events: April CPI on May 12, PPI on May 13, retail sales May 14, Nvidia earnings May 20, and the Senate vote on the new Fed Chair.

Cloudflare Drops 14% Despite Earnings Beat After Announcing 1,100 Job Cuts

Cloudflare shares tumbled nearly 14% on May 8 despite reporting solid earnings above expectations. The cybersecurity company spooked investors by announcing a job cut affecting 1,100 employees, saying its use of AI has increased more than 600% in the last three months, directly enabling the workforce reduction. The move adds to a tech-sector trend: nearly 100,000 tech workers have been laid off year-to-date, versus 124,000 for all of last year.

Trade Desk Slides 13% After Q1 Miss; Datadog Surges 28% on Earnings Beat

The Trade Desk fell 13% on May 8 after its Q1 earnings and guidance missed expectations, prompting several Wall Street downgrades for the ad-technology company. Expedia also shed 8% after cautious Q2 revenue guidance.

On the positive side, Datadog surged 28% after beating Q1 expectations — reporting EPS of 60 cents versus the 51-cent consensus — with Q2 revenue guidance of \$1.07–\$1.08 billion topping FactSet's \$993.9 million estimate. Akamai Technologies soared 25% after a leading US frontier AI model provider committed \$1.8 billion over seven years for its Cloud Infrastructure Services.

MOVIES



The Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026
George is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove that even sheep can be brilliant crime-solvers.



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026
A tiny woodland creature and a majestic bird suddenly swap bodies, forcing them to team up to survive the wildest adventure of their lives.

The Big Break

Opens May 12, 2026
A costumed mascot, fueled by an unyielding ambition to break into the entertainment industry, unexpectedly finds himself in a high-stakes situation: a chance encounter with a renowned Hollywood agent at a boisterous children's birthday party, where he must use his comedic timing and infectious energy to make a lasting impression, all while navigating a chaotic environment filled with cake, confetti, and the boundless enthusiasm of screaming kids...& Adults.



The Breadwinner

Opens May 29, 2026
After his wife Katie lands a once-in-a-lifetime deal on Shark Tank that takes her on a prolonged business trip - lifelong breadwinner Nate Wilcox now has to fend for his family as a first-time stay-at-home dad.



Toy Story 5

Opens Jun 19, 2026
When Bonnie receives a Lilypad tablet as a gift and becomes obsessed, Buzz, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang's jobs become exponentially harder when they have to go head to head with the all-new threat to playtime.



Minions & Monsters

Opens Jul 1, 2026
This is the rambunctious, ridiculous and totally true story of how the Minions conquered Hollywood, became movie stars, lost everything, unleashed monsters onto the world and then banded together to try and save the planet from the mayhem they had just created.