

Top Global News

Trump Heads to Beijing as Iran War Ceasefire Hangs by a Thread

President Trump departed for China on Tuesday for a state visit with President Xi Jinping, with trade as the primary agenda item. The Trump administration hopes to establish a joint "Board of Trade" to address bilateral trade differences, and Trump also plans to discuss Taiwan and an \$11 billion weapons package.

Meanwhile, Trump told reporters the ceasefire with Iran was "on life support" after he rejected Tehran's latest counterproposal as "totally unacceptable." CNN reported Trump is more seriously considering restarting combat operations. The U.S. war against Iran has so far cost an estimated \$29 billion, and oil prices have climbed above \$100 a barrel, with analysts warning gas at the pump could eventually reach \$5 a gallon.

Iran War Aftermath: Israel Sends Iron Dome to UAE, Casualties Mount in Lebanon

The U.S. ambassador to the UAE confirmed that Israel sent Iron Dome anti-missile batteries and personnel to defend the country during the ongoing Iran war. Separately, at least 13 people were killed in Lebanon in Israeli strikes on Jibsheet, Kfar Doumine, and Nabatieh, with victims including a child, a woman, and a Lebanese army member.

Israel's Knesset passed a measure 93-0 targeting those responsible for the deadliest attack in Israel's history. Preliminary figures put total casualties from the wider conflict at 3,468 dead in Iran, 2,702 dead in Lebanon, and 28 killed in Gulf states. Kuwait also accused Iran of a failed attack on an island where China is building a port.

EU Imposes Sanctions on Israeli West Bank Settlers; Ultra-Orthodox Party Threatens to Dissolve Knesset

The European Union unanimously agreed to impose sanctions on Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, a decision sparked by growing outrage over the devastation in Gaza. The move reflects a sharp diplomatic shift in Europe's posture toward Israel.

Separately, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party in Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's coalition called for parliament to be dissolved, threatening to bring down the government over the country's military draft. The destabilizing political development adds pressure on Netanyahu as Israel navigates multiple simultaneous conflicts.

Strait of Hormuz Crisis: Saudi Aramco Warns of 'Catastrophic Consequences'

Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser warned that the global energy market has lost approximately 1 billion barrels of oil supply due to the Iran war's disruption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Nasser cautioned of "catastrophic consequences" unless the critical waterway reopens.

The U.S. Department of Energy now says oil prices will likely remain above \$100 a barrel in coming weeks. Gasoline prices have jumped about \$1.50 per gallon since the U.S. launched its war with Iran, and rising fuel prices are a key driver of the 3.8% annual CPI reading reported for April.

Top US News

FDA Chief Marty Makary Resigns After 13-Month Tenure Marked by Turmoil

Marty Makary is resigning as President Trump's FDA commissioner after a 13-month tenure characterized by mass layoffs, leadership clashes, staff turmoil, and complaints from pharmaceutical executives and Trump allies alike. Trump confirmed the departure, saying Makary was "a great doctor" who "will do well."

Kyle Diamantas, who previously served as the top food official at the FDA, is expected to take over as commissioner, according to a Bloomberg report. The departure adds to instability at the top of major federal health agencies.

April CPI Hits 3.8%, Highest in Nearly Three Years, as Iran War Fuels Energy Prices

Rising gasoline prices pushed U.S. inflation to its highest level in nearly three years in April. Consumer prices were up 3.8% from a year ago, topping the 3.7% consensus estimate. Annual core CPI of 2.8% also exceeded Wall Street's 2.7% forecast.

Vietnamese News

Vietnam Fatherland Front Opens 11th National Congress With To Lam Presiding

The 11th National Congress of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF) for the 2026-2031 term officially opened in Hanoi on May 12, with Party General Secretary and State President To Lam in attendance. The VFF congress is a key political event as Vietnam's new government — led by Prime Minister Le Minh Hung — settles into its mandate, with To Lam pledging to better harness the "strength of great national unity."

The government has been implementing sweeping administrative reforms, including eliminating all 13 general departments, cutting over 500 department-level units, and reducing 145,000 civil service positions to streamline governance and cut costs by approximately VND 39 trillion (\$1.53 billion) per year.

Vietnam's Agro-Forestry-Fishery Exports Hit \$23 Billion in First Four Months of 2026

Vietnam's export turnover of agro-forestry-fishery products reached an estimated \$23 billion in the first four months of 2026, up 5.4% year-on-year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. The strong showing reflects continued global demand for Vietnamese agricultural and seafood products. Moody's in early May upgraded Vietnam's sovereign credit outlook from "stable" to "positive" while affirming its Ba2 rating, citing the country's robust economic trajectory. The upgrade could attract around \$1.7 billion in passive capital alongside \$5-8 billion from active global funds. Vietnam's agro-fishery

sector is seen as a key pillar of the country's export-led growth ambition.

Redistricting Battles Intensify: South Carolina Defies Trump, Missouri Court Upholds New Map

President Trump's push to reshape U.S. House districts is producing mixed outcomes. South Carolina senators defied his redistricting push, expressing concerns it could backfire and result in Democratic gains, while Missouri's top court upheld a new map backed by Trump that could benefit Republicans in the midterm elections.

The national redistricting battle has intensified in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision weakening the federal Voting Rights Act. Republicans in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Alabama are now pushing for new districts, while Alabama is set to hold a special primary election after the Supreme Court cleared the way for the state to use a previously blocked map.

ICE Raids Found to Disrupt Local Economies and Hurt Both Immigrant and Native-Born Workers

New research finds that ICE raids and deportation fears disrupted local economies, reduced work among undocumented immigrants, and may have also hurt some U.S.-born workers. The study adds evidence to the economic debate over immigration enforcement during the Trump administration's second term.

Separately, a New Jersey congressman introduced legislation to suspend the federal gas tax for 18 months to ease the burden of surging gasoline prices caused by the Iran conflict, as middle and working-class Americans face a significant cost-of-living squeeze.

Top NJ/NY News

NYC Murder Rate Hits Record Low; Major Crime Down 9.5% in First Four Months of 2026

Murders in New York City hit a record low for the first four months of 2026, the NYPD announced this week. The milestone comes alongside a citywide drop in major crime of 9.5%. Mayor Zohran Mamdani also said his team has balanced New York City's budget, closing a gap of more than \$12 billion.

Measles Cases Confirmed in Manhattan; Travelers at Newark Airport May Have Been Exposed

A confirmed measles case has been reported in Manhattan, New York City health officials said Tuesday. Health officials also warned that travelers at Newark Liberty Airport and diners at a Manhattan restaurant may have been exposed to an individual with measles.

The Tri-State Area continues to deal with public health concerns, with the region also holding the distinction of having the dirtiest air in the U.S. east of Texas according to the American Lung Association's newly released "State of the Air" report.

Gateway Tunnel Project Faces Funding Crisis; NJ Transit World Cup Tickets Discarded

Construction on the critical Gateway Tunnel Project linking New York and New Jersey may be halted unless President Trump changes course and restores federal funding, officials said. The Hudson River crossings project is considered critically needed infrastructure for the region. On a brighter note, NJ Transit announced it will lower train ticket costs for fans traveling to 2026 FIFA World Cup matches, as New Jersey rolls out events and celebrations ahead of the tournament including concerts featuring multiple performers.

Belleville Students Return to Class After 14-Alarm Fire; United Airlines Near-Miss Investigated

Students returned to class in Belleville, New Jersey this week, more than a week after a massive 14-alarm fire burned through multiple blocks. Schools had been closed due to concerns about air quality, with smoke still visible from the destroyed buildings days after the blaze. Separately, the National Transportation Safety Board continued its investigation into a United

Airlines plane that struck a light pole and a truck on the New Jersey Turnpike before landing safely at Newark Liberty Airport. Flight crew members were interviewed by the NTSB on Monday.

Dorchester Elementary School News & Events

Upcoming: Board Meeting This Thursday, May 14

A Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM. Parents and community members are welcome to attend. Check the school district website for location details and agenda items.

Upcoming: Grade 2 to 3 Transition Meeting for Parents — May 18

A Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM. This is an important opportunity for families with children currently in 2nd grade to learn about the upcoming transition to 3rd grade, academic expectations, and any programmatic changes. Attendance is encouraged.

Memorial Day Weekend — School Closed May 22 and May 25

School will be closed Friday, May 22 (Memorial Day Weekend) and Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day). Plan ahead for the long weekend. The next school day after the break will be Tuesday, May 26.

Top Tech and AI News



Google Unveils Android 17 and Surprise 'Googlebook' Laptop Platform at The Android Show

Google's Android Show 2026 (I/O Edition) on May 12 delivered major announcements including Android 17, Gemini Intelligence integration, and a surprise new computing platform called the Googlebook. The Googlebook merged the best of Android and ChromeOS into a new laptop-focused platform with Gemini AI at its core, representing Google's re-entry into the laptop hardware space.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai said Android is evolving from an operating system to an "intelligent system." The event previewed new AI-powered Android Auto features compatible with BMW, Lucid, and Mini Cooper vehicles, among others. A full Google I/O developer conference follows on May 19.

Google Thwarts AI-Powered 'Mass Exploitation' Cyberattack; Hackers Used AI to Develop Zero-Day Exploit

Google said it likely thwarted an effort by an unnamed criminal threat actor to use AI for a "mass exploitation event" targeting software vulnerabilities. Google stated it does not believe its own Gemini model was used in the attack. The findings highlight how hackers are exploiting AI tools like OpenClaw to find and weaponize software flaws at unprecedented scale. In a related development, Anthropic in April delayed rollout of its Mythos model citing fears that criminals could use it to prey on decades-old software vulnerabilities — concerns that prompted White House meetings with tech leaders.

GitLab Lays Off Workers as AI Reshapes the Developer Tool Landscape

GitLab announced layoffs as part of a restructuring plan, saying the move is designed to free up resources for future priorities rather than pure cost-cutting. The company also plans to reduce the number of countries in which it operates.

The cuts reflect how AI is forcing even developer-tool companies to rethink staffing and product direction. Developer platforms are under intense pressure to demonstrate relevance as AI coding tools — including Claude Code, Cursor, GitHub Copilot, and Codex — change how code is written, reviewed, tested, and deployed. GitLab's restructuring is emblematic of a broader wave: Cloudfare cut 20% of its workforce in early May

after internal AI usage surged 600% in three months.

GitHub Copilot Shifts to Usage-Based Billing June 1; Claude Code Benchmarks Surge With Opus 4.7

GitHub Copilot is transitioning from flat-rate to usage-based billing on June 1, 2026. New Copilot Pro and Pro+ signups were temporarily paused in April ahead of the transition. The move signals a broader industry shift from subscription to consumption-based pricing for AI coding tools.

Meanwhile, Anthropic's Claude Opus 4.7 — released April 16 — delivered major coding benchmark improvements: SWE-bench Verified jumped to 87.6% (up from 80.8%) and SWE-bench Pro climbed to 64.3%. Cursor reached \$2 billion in annualized revenue by February 2026, reportedly the fastest-growing SaaS company ever recorded. The AI coding tools market is now valued at approximately \$12.8 billion in 2026, up from \$5.1 billion in 2024, with 90% of professional developers using one daily.

Ukraine News



Russia Kills 8 in Dnipropetrovsk; Ukraine Strikes Gas Facilities 1,500 km Inside Russia

Russian attacks on Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region killed eight civilians and injured 11 others on Wednesday. President Zelensky confirmed that two elderly people were killed in a Russian drone strike on a residential building in Kryvyi Rih, while their nine-month-old granddaughter suffered severe injuries.

In retaliation, Ukraine struck gas facilities in Russia's Orenburg region — more than 1,500 kilometers from Ukraine's border — one of its longest-range strikes of the war. Zelensky said, "Ukraine has said that we will act symmetrically in response to Russia." Russia claimed nine Ukrainian drones were repelled over the region. Separately, Ukraine's air force warned that Russian strategic aviation is being redeployed to distant airfields, possibly signaling preparation for new mass strikes.

Kremlin Claims Peace 'Is Approaching'; Zelensky Warns Russia Has No Intention of Ending War

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that progress in talks with the U.S. and Ukraine means the conflict's end is "indeed approaching," while cautioning it was too early to provide specifics. Putin tested a new nuclear-capable intercontinental missile, which he claimed was the "most powerful" in the world and capable of penetrating all existing anti-missile defense systems — claims analysts say are likely exaggerated.

Zelensky, however, sharply disagreed: "Russia has no intention of ending this war. And we are, unfortunately, preparing for new attacks." Trump, leaving for China, said he thinks the Ukraine war's end "is getting very close." The ISW think tank found that Russia's rate of territorial advance has slowed dramatically — from 9.76 sq km/day in early 2025 to 2.9 sq km/day in early 2026, and that Ukraine may have actually recaptured more territory than it lost in April.

Sweden Detains Two for Helping Russia Procure Advanced Sanctioned Products; EU Airport Ceasefire Proposed

Swedish authorities detained two suspects on suspicion of violating international sanctions by helping Russia procure "advanced products," the Swedish Security Service announced on May 11. The arrests underscore ongoing Western efforts to enforce sanctions and cut off Russia's access to dual-use technology.

Separately, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba told Politico that Europe may be able to help broker an agreement for Ukraine and Russia to pause attacks on each other's airports — a limited confidence-building measure that could lay groundwork for broader diplomacy.

Fed Watch: Rate Hike Odds Rise to 30% by December; Powell Faces Inflation Dilemma

April's 3.8% consumer price reading — the hottest in nearly three years — is complicating the Federal Reserve's path forward. Markets are now pricing in a nearly 98% chance the Fed holds rates at its June meeting, but a nearly 30% chance of a rate hike by December 2026.

Capital Economics chief North America economist Stephen Brown warned that pressure on core inflation is "still a bit too strong for comfort" and flagged renewed food inflation as a key concern. A significant transition is also underway at the Fed: Kevin Warsh is expected to take charge later this week and has indicated a preference for different inflation metrics than the current PCE-focused framework.

GameStop's \$56B Bid for eBay Rejected; Wendy's Surges on Trian Buyout Report

eBay officially rejected a \$56 billion unsolicited takeover bid from GameStop, dismissing the proposal as "neither credible nor attractive." eBay Chairman Paul Pressler cited a massive funding gap and the high debt load required for the \$125-per-share cash-and-stock deal, expressing full confidence in eBay's current turnaround strategy instead.

In other corporate news, Wendy's shares rallied more than 9% after the Financial Times reported that Nelson Peltz's Trian Fund Management was seeking to raise funds for a bid to take the fast food chain private. Wendy's stock had fallen 45% over the prior year, making it an attractive target.

CALENDAR

TODAY — MAY 13

3:00 PM Math placement test
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

TOMORROW — MAY 14

12:00 AM Me Nga's birthday
8:00 AM Sprinkler turn on
5:00 PM William: Karate
5:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop
6:00 PM Mai Huong Nguyen
6:30 PM Soccer: Dorchester practice
7:00 PM Board Meeting
8:25 PM Robinhood Gold: The Gold Bar Private Sale

FRIDAY — MAY 15

12:00 AM Bring Kay necklaces for polish and inspection
3:40 PM Lizzy teeth appointment
6:00 PM [William] Soccer Lakeland (H)

SATURDAY — MAY 16

12:00 AM WCL Spring Festival
2:00 PM Music class William and Elizabeth
6:00 PM Dinner reservations

SUNDAY — MAY 17

11:00 AM Joba: Picture day

MONDAY — MAY 18

12:00 AM Bo Tao's birthday
5:00 PM Lizzy Ballet
6:00 PM WCL Hoops - Free Clinic (2nd Grade Girls REC)
7:00 PM Transition 2nd to 3rd grade
7:00 PM Gr. 2 into 3 Transition Meeting for Parents

TUESDAY — MAY 19

4:00 PM Lizzy: Hip hop

WEDNESDAY — MAY 20

12:00 AM Hien Nguyen's birthday
9:30 AM Huong: Patient follow up
7:00 PM Racquetball weekly

FRIDAY — MAY 22

12:00 AM Memorial Day Weekend School Closed

MONDAY — MAY 25

12:00 AM Memorial Day - School Closed

MOVIES

The Big Break

In theaters 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 Sheep Detectives

In theaters May 8, 2026

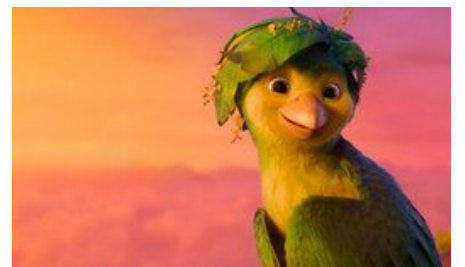
George Hardy is a shepherd who reads detective novels to his beloved sheep every night, assuming they can't possibly understand. But when a mysterious incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep realize they must become the detectives. As they follow the clues and investigate human suspects, they prove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



My Hero Academia: More

In theaters May 2, 2026

Eight years later, Deku and his friends are on their adult hero journeys, but something is bothering Uraraka...



Swapped

In theaters May 1, 2026

A small woodland creature and a majestic bird, two natural sworn enemies of the Valley, magically trade places and set off on an adventure of a lifetime to switch back. Their journey soon uncovers a greater threat—one that could endanger not only their species, but the entire valley they call home.