

USA TODAY WEEKEND

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | JUNE 5-7, 2026

He-Man actor: Role is more than brawn

Nicholas Galitzine says embracing character's empathy as well as strength was necessary. **In Life**

NCAA searches for solutions in Senate

Coach, player and others on Hill weigh in on bill meant to fix what senator calls "chaos." **In Sports**

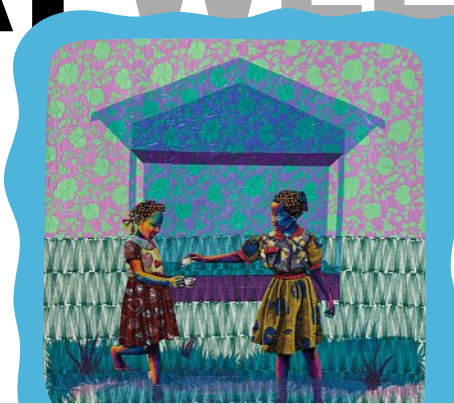


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GETTY IMAGES; "DOWN, DOWN BABY" PROVIDED BY BISA BUTLER

Elevate your home with expert advice

Interior designers offer tips on quilts, left, teen spaces and guest rooms. **In Weekend Extra**



U.S. troops land on Utah Beach as Allied forces storm the Normandy beaches on D-Day, June 6, 1944. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM VIA AFP/GETTY IMAGES

How crucial was weather to success of D-Day?

Fate of war – and world – hinged on one forecast

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

To go or not to go?

June 2026 marks 82 years since Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's chief meteorologist, Group Capt. James Martin Stagg, made one of the most important weather forecasts of all time. Defying his colleagues, he advised Ike to postpone the invasion of Normandy by one day from June 5, 1944, to June 6, because of uncertain weather conditions.

This important decision is the subject of the new movie "Pressure" starring Brendan Fraser as Ike, now out in theaters. The real-life D-Day was a herculean effort to reclaim a critical part of Europe from the Nazis and turn the tide of World War II.

Stagg – who was actually a geophysicist by training – and his fellow British and American meteorologists were operating without any of the technology and equipment that today's forecasters take for granted, such as satellites, weather radar, computer modeling and instant communications.

Relying mainly on surface observations from military and civilian weather observers in the British Isles and in western Europe and a few military observers at sea, predicting the weather more than a day or two in advance in that era was unrealistic.

Additionally, weather prediction in England and Europe – especially before the advent of satellites – was much trickier than forecasting in the United States. In America, even in that era, weather systems could be tracked for days after hitting the West Coast and moving east, while European forecasters were often operating "blind" with the empty ocean to the west.

Predicting the exact timing, track and strength of these storms put Group Capt. Stagg and his colleagues under almost unimaginable pressure and conflict, according to the book "The Forecast for D-Day," with the fate of the war and perhaps the world hanging in the balance.

What troubled the meteorologists in the days leading up to D-Day was a parade of storms that barreled across the Atlantic and into the British Isles, any one of which would have stirred up the dangerous waters of the English Channel where the fleet was gathering, and provided unwelcome cloud cover for the aerial assault of Normandy.

The invasion was originally

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We still love animals, but owners are forced to make tough choices



Olivia Sablan, of Seattle, says she would cut back on other costs, if needed, to care for her golden retriever, Lemon. Sablan currently spends about \$119 a month on Lemon's care. PROVIDED BY OLIVIA SABLAN

Surging costs bite into pet adoptions

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Olivia Sablan would do anything for her 3-year-old golden retriever, Lemon, including cutting other parts of her budget. • "She's my whole world," says Sablan, 27, a postdoctoral student in Seattle studying atmospheric science. Sablan rescued and adopted Lemon when the pup was 10 months old. • But pets aren't cheap: Pet ownership is increasingly becoming more expensive, a new Bank of America Institute analysis finds. • As costs, including veterinary care, go up, there has been a pullback on pet adoption rates and pet ownership, which may signal that affordability is playing a larger role among animal lovers, the Bank of America Institute said.

The U.S. pet market is still steadily growing, though at a slower pace, with 95 million households – around 71% of Americans – owning a pet. Spending for pets hit \$158 billion in 2025, according to the National Pet Owners Survey by the American Pet Products Association, cited in the Bank of America analysis.

Dog ownership is ahead of other pets at 68%, according to a survey from CivicScience. Cats were the second-most popular pet at 46%, while ownership of fish, birds and small mammals was

less common.

"Pet ownership is strong, but as is the case for many other facets of people's budgets, the cost of caring for pets is rising," Taylor Bowley, a Bank of America Institute economist, told USA TODAY.

Affordability constraints are increasingly shaping whether consumers are adding a pet to their household or how they shop for that pet, Bowley says.

Bank of America global research found that pet adoptions

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Trump suffers series of setbacks

Bad news comes ahead of June 14 celebrations

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The White House is all prepped for Donald Trump's big night, when 5,000 guests are set to attend a UFC cage fight in a makeshift arena that has made the South Lawn look much like a theme park.

But the president might have to ignore recent events to enjoy the June 14 celebration, which happens to fall on his 80th birthday.

A series of setbacks with Republicans in Congress, the courts and drawn-out negotiations with Iran – plus a rare loss for a candidate he backed in a Republican primary – has plagued a president who was already struggling in polls five months from the November midterm elections.



Domestic policy disappointments and stalling negotiations with Iran have beset President Donald Trump. KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

Senate Republicans stripped \$1 billion out of a funding bill the White House sought to boost security for Trump's East Wing ballroom. Amid intense bipartisan pushback, the Trump administration retreated from a \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund that could be used to funnel payments to political allies, including Jan. 6 rioters. A federal judge ordered the removal of Trump's name from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts while also blocking his plans to temporarily close an iconic institution he wanted to remodel to his liking.

And on the foreign policy front, Trump keeps teasing he's close to striking a deal with Iran that would end a war that has fueled high gas prices – only to have peace talks stall. In a rebuke of Trump, the House of Representatives for the first time voted June 3 to block Trump from ordering further strikes on Iran as four Republicans joined Democrats, advancing the measure to the Senate.

"They involve self-inflicted wounds on the president's part," said Todd Belt, director of the political management program at George Washington University, calling the conflict in Iran a "war of choice." He added that the anti-weaponization fund and public dollars tied to the ballroom were "bridges too far" for Republican senators in self-survival mode as they look to maintain control of the Senate.

"They don't like to have to defend him on things they feel are not particularly defensible, like this one," Belt said, referring to the \$1.8 billion fund was designed to compensate Trump's supporters who claimed they were treated unfairly by Democratic administrations. "He's gone too far and made mistakes."

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