



Poor air quality lingers in Midwest, Northeast

INSIDE, 6A

TIMES RECORD

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026 | SWTIMES.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump revisits election security claims

President alleges China role in 2020 elections

Phillip M. Bailey and Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China, alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

“Every American deserves to know that when they cast their vote, that vote

will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure – one where cheating and interference are not just difficult, but virtually impossible,” he said. “Unfortunately, the system we have today falls catastrophically short of that standard.”

The president said newly declassified documents will show China tried to undermine the 2020 election in several ways, including compromising U.S. voter data. He also said Americans have for years been “blatantly lied to” by the government about the security of election infrastructure, such as voting machines and ballot-counting systems.

See **TRUMP**, Page 2A



President Donald Trump in a July 16 prime-time address alleged China interfered with the electoral process in 2020. SAUL LOEB/POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Taco Bell said on July 16 it had removed lettuce from one of its suppliers in select states after reports linked the ingredient to the increasing cyclosporiasis cases.

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

Officials link Taco Bell lettuce to outbreak

Mike Snider and Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

Lettuce served at Taco Bell restaurants has been linked to an ongoing cyclosporiasis outbreak that has sickened more than 1,600 people in five states, federal health officials say.

An investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and state health officials has linked shredded iceberg lettuce served at Taco Bell locations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia to an outbreak of the stomach-churning parasitic infection that causes diarrhea and nausea.

The FDA’s trace-back investigation has identified a single supplier of iceberg lettuce from Mexico used by those Taco Bell locations, the agencies said July 16.

Across the United States, the CDC is also investigating other instances of the infection, the agency said. It is caused by the parasite Cyclospora cayetanensis and can cause frequent, watery diarrhea or explosive bowel movements, nausea, cramps, bloating and low-grade fever.

The outbreak has hit Michigan especially hard. On July 16, the state health department there reported 4,312 cases of the gastrointestinal illness. At least 102 people in the state have been hospitalized since June 22, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Infections have escalated in 34 states, as well.

See **TACO BELL**, Page 2A

U.S., Iran trade attacks on infrastructure



Authorities in Kuwait said one of its power generation and water desalination stations had been hit in an Iranian attack. STEPHANIE MCGEEHEE/REUTERS FILE

Escalation in fighting pushes oil prices higher

Jana Choukeir and Eman Abouhassira
REUTERS

DUBAI – The United States struck bridges and an airport in Iran on July 17 and Tehran responded by hitting a power and desalination plant in Kuwait, as the warring foes risked further escalation by expanding their targets to include infrastructure.

In the contested Strait of Hormuz, where the renewed conflict has again cut off global energy supplies from the Middle East, U.S. Marines boarded a tanker, and another ship was reported to have been hit by a projectile. Another vessel was boarded by armed men off Yemen, though one maritime security source said the incident appeared to be an act of Somali piracy rather than linked to the war with Iran.

Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. President Donald Trump has threatened to launch broad-based air strikes on Iran’s infrastructure and has also declined to rule out a ground



Washington and Tehran have been testing the limits of escalation since their ceasefire agreement collapsed, raising the prospect of a return to active war. MAJID ASGARIPOUR/ WEST ASIA NEWS AGENCY VIA REUTERS FILE

assault on Iran’s coast or islands.

U.S. officials have said attacks on southern Iran are designed in part to give Trump options. Such moves risk provoking Iran to escalate in turn by hitting the vital infrastructure of vul-

nerable neighboring Arab states, or having its allies in Yemen further disrupt global energy supplies by attacking shipping from the Red Sea.

See **IRAN**, Page 2A

Get the latest news, sports and more

See today’s top headlines, local breaking news, area scores, things to do and subscriber exclusives at swtimes.com.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

Use your computer or app to access your paper online. Subscribers also get access to USA TODAY’s eNewspaper, plus updated news and sports Extra sections.

Volume 144 | No. 168

Questions? Call 479-785-7700

©2026

\$1.00

