

What's LeBron's timeline on future?

SPORTS, 1B



VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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Trump defends DOJ fund amid growing GOP revolt

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump is digging in over the Justice Department's \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund as Senate Republicans revolt over a pot of money that could funnel payments to the president's allies, including Jan. 6 defendants.

Trump, in a May 22 post on Truth Social, said he "gave up a lot of money in allowing the just announced Anti-

Weaponization Fund to go forward," adding that he could have settled his family's now-withdrawn lawsuit against the IRS for "an absolute fortune."

"Instead, I am helping others, who were so badly abused by an evil, corrupt, and weaponized Biden Administration, receive, at long last, JUSTICE!" Trump said.

Trump's comments came after Senate Republicans left Washington for a weeklong recess, fuming over a fund

that faces questions about its legality and raises political concerns for the GOP about establishing the fund while Americans struggle with higher costs.

Trump, in a separate Truth Social post, lashed out at one of the Republican senators who has been most critical, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, calling him "weak and ineffective."

Tillis told CNN that defendants from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol,

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'Autopsy' by DNC dissects 2024 loss

Biden, Harris campaign pitfalls at top of the list

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

The Democratic National Committee released a much-anticipated draft "autopsy" report May 21 attempting to explain the 2024 presidential election loss to Republican Donald Trump that has vexed liberals ever since.

The 192-page document, which is unfinished, outlines existing conventional wisdom about the contest and leaves blank entire sections, such as the conclusion. But it does assign some blame, in particular to former President Joe Biden's political operation for failing to properly set up then-Vice President Kamala Harris as the party's standard-bearer.

The report also dings the Harris campaign for failing to distance the candidate from Biden in light of his unpopularity at the time.

And it says both Biden and Harris' campaigns failed to slow Trump's momentum.

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Raheleh, an Iranian woman who lost two of her children in the Minab school bombing on Feb. 28, reacts at the school May 21 in Minab, Iran. MAJID ASGARIPPOUR/WANA VIA REUTERS

Pakistani official seeks breakthrough on Iran

Strait, uranium stockpile are major sticking points

Jacob Bogage and Parisa Hafezi
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Iran's foreign minister met Pakistan's interior minister on May 22 to discuss proposals to end the U.S.-Israeli war, Iranian media reported, with Tehran and Washington still at odds over Iran's uranium stockpile and controls on the Strait of Hormuz.

Two days after presenting the Iranians with the latest U.S. message in the negotiations, Syed Mohsin Naqvi held another round of talks with Iranian For-

eign Minister Abbas Araqchi in Tehran, the semi-official Tasnim and ISNA news agencies reported.

Naqvi was facilitating communication to try to achieve a framework for ending the war and resolving differences, ISNA reported. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters on May 21 that there had been "some good signs" in the talks, but there could be no solution if Tehran enforced a tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz, which it effectively closed to most shipping after the war began on Feb. 28.

"There's some good signs," Rubio said. "I don't want to be overly optimistic. ... So, let's see what happens over the next few days."

A senior Iranian source told Reuters on May 21 that gaps had been narrowed, although uranium enrichment and the Strait of Hormuz remained among the sticking points.

The war has wreaked havoc on the global economy, with the surge in oil prices stoking fears of rampant inflation. About a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas shipments traveled through the Strait of Hormuz before the war. The U.S. dollar was near its highest level in six weeks on May 22 amid the uncertainty over the peace talks, while oil prices climbed as investors doubted the prospects of a breakthrough.

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SIMI VALLEY

Weather improves as Sandy Fire containment reaches 40%

Ernesto Centeno Araujo
Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Firefighters continued to battle the Sandy Fire on May 22, just four days after it ignited in the hills of Simi Valley.

Containment climbed to 40% as of Friday morning, up from 30% the previous day, said Andrew Dowd, a spokesperson with the Ventura County Fire Department.

Sitting at 2,141 acres, the fire has destroyed one home and damaged two structures, Dowd said. Crews will continue to mop up fire areas by tackling hot spots and monitoring for any potential flare-ups.

There were over 1,100 firefighters assigned to battle the blaze as of last night, but with favorable weather conditions expected throughout Friday,

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