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SPORTS, 1B

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Trump says Iran ceasefire is 'over'



President Donald Trump, left, attends a NATO summit on July 8 with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, right. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is also pictured. YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

Number of U.S. service members killed rises to 14

Francesca Chambers, Erin Mansfield, Zac Anderson, Bart Jansen, Chris Cann and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said on July 8 that he considered the ceasefire between the United States and Iran to be over and could resume his bombing campaign after the latest round of tit-for-tat strikes, casting uncertainty over efforts to end the conflict.

"To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them," Trump said from Ankara, Turkey, where he was attending a NATO summit. "They're scum. They're sick people. They're led by sick people, and they're vicious, violent people."

His remarks came as a U.S. Navy commander was presumed dead following an emergency helicopter landing in the Arabian Sea, raising the number of U.S. service members killed in the Iran war to 14.

Cmdr. Gabriel Edwards, the commanding officer of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 5, was reported missing after the July 1 incident. On July 5, the Navy suspended its search-and-rescue operations.

Three of the helicopter's crew members were found and reported in stable condition, the Navy said. They were aboard an MH-60S Sea Hawk

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A federal appeals court ruled that Florida's Stop WOKE Act, signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, cannot be enforced because it likely violates First Amendment protections.

TORI SCHNEIDER/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Court rules against FL Stop WOKE act

Stephany Matat
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Florida's law limiting race-based trainings or instruction still can't be enforced, after a sharply divided three-judge appeals court panel ruled that the law violates the First Amendment rights of students and professors.

The 2-1 majority of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals contended that the law suppresses political viewpoints contrary to Florida officials in academic settings, and that the law would "create a new rule that would quietly remove all free speech protections from the classroom," wrote Judge Britt Grant, who was appointed by President Donald Trump in 2018.

The ruling blasts the law as a "breathtaking assertion of power to ban unpopular ideas from public discourse."

"Because the government pays the professors' salaries, Florida says, their speech is the State's speech," Grant wrote. "Emphatically no."

This decision comes after multiple years of legal battles, since the law (HB 7) was signed in 2022 by Gov. Ron DeSantis to combat "woke" ideologies in schools, colleges and universities. At

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ACA insurance costs set to increase again in 2027

'Smaller and sicker pool' of enrollees contribute to rise

Ken Alltucker
USA TODAY

Millions of Americans paying higher Affordable Care Act insurance bills in 2026 will once again face double-digit rate hikes next year, marking another cost increase for health insurance that has become prohibitively expensive for some.

Health insurance companies are seeking a median rate hike of 14% for 2027 ACA plans, according to a preliminary analysis by KFF, a health policy nonprofit.

KFF analyzed filings from 77 insurance plans in 16 states and Washington, DC. Nearly half of insurers are seeking

2027 increases of 10% to 15% over their 2026 rates. Companies marketing 20 insurance plans are asking for rate hikes of 20% or more.

The final amount could change because health insurers have until July 15 to submit paperwork on ACA insurance premium requests for 2027. Federal and state insurance regulators review plans before finalizing rate increases.

The filings mark the second straight year ACA marketplace insurers have sought double-digit rate increases. The higher rates coincide with the elimination of enhanced subsidies that made ACA insurance more affordable for millions of Americans.

"This is a triple hit," Cynthia Cox, senior vice president and director of the program on the ACA at KFF, said of the

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With changes to marketplace rules, fewer people are enrolling in ACA plans, leaving those remaining with higher premiums.

WILLIAM BRETZGER/DELAWARE NEWS JOURNAL FILE

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