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Palladium-Item

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 | RICHMOND, IND.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Forecasters: Do not be fooled by May's weather



In the Midwest, temperatures will likely be 5 to 10 degrees below average throughout May.
GARY C. KLEIN/SHEBOYGAN PRESS FILE

Cool start for some states won't prevent summer heat

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

It's the calm before the storm – for the temperature, that is.

After an early spring marked by ups and downs in temperature trends, forecasters say much of May will be cooler than normal for most of the country, ahead of what could be a summer of coast-to-coast heat.

The cooldown will be pronounced in the Midwest, said the Climate Prediction Center's meteorologist Brad Pugh. In that region, there could even be some

overnight lows that dip into frosting or freezing territory, he said.

For most of the eastern half of the United States, at least the first part of the month will feel more like early spring, AccuWeather Lead Long-Range Expert Paul Pastelok said. During that time, there may be some sunny days, but "more times than not, we're going to have a lot of clouds during the day," Pastelok said.

The notable exception to the cooling trend is the West Coast, especially the Pacific Northwest, which is getting an early start to above-average temper-

atures. The transition to summer-like temperatures there will be much quicker than the rest of the nation, and during the course of May, the warmth will spread from West to East as summer approaches, Pastelok said.

"In the East it'll feel more like late March, early April than early May ... we still need our jackets ...," he said. "But in the Northwest, it's time to get to the summer outfit."

The cool pattern in the eastern part of the country is thanks to a dip in the

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Indiana musician 'Babyface' honored

Artist named one of America's greatest living songwriters

Cheryl V. Jackson
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Is there any argument to be had regarding Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and his pen game?

The New York Times Magazine named the Indianapolis native one of "The 30 Greatest Living American Songwriters."

The unranked list was created with the input of more than 250 music insiders and six New York Times critics.

The interactive piece lauds Edmonds for his "gift for collapsing big feelings into diamond lines" and rendering "a body of work that echoes the past even as it re-shapes the present."

"In 1988, Edmonds co-wrote and co-produced "Don't Be Cruel" for Bobby Brown. ... It became a defining hit for Brown and signaled Edmonds's growing command of the mainstream. That command soon became dominance," it said. "Edmonds co-wrote and co-produced "End of the Road" (1992) for Boyz II Men, and the ballad spent 13 consecutive weeks at No. 1. It surpassed Presley's longstanding achievement and announced a new center of gravity in American pop — one rooted in emotional clarity, vocal precision, Black male interiority and wisdom about women's desires. Just two years later, he surpassed himself. Released on July 26, 1994, "I'll Make Love to You" reached No. 1 and remained there for 14 consecutive weeks."

"But Babyface's impact extends

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Study: Though illegal, Hoosiers spend \$2B a year on pot

Kayla Dwyer
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Indiana is the most restrictive state in the nation when it comes to marijuana laws, and yet the cannabis market abounds, with Hoosiers spending about \$1.8 billion annually on cannabis products, a new study finds.

The data comes as President Donald Trump's administration has made moves to reclassify marijuana federally and Indiana Gov. Mike Braun has expressed an open mind toward medical marijuana, recognizing the situational reality of being landlocked by states where cannabis is legal in some form.

That's a significant factor in why Hoosiers have such a market: Nearly half the state's population, or about 3 million Hoosiers, live within 50 miles of

a legal cannabis dispensary in neighboring states, the study commissioned by the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation and conducted by RAND finds.

But that's not the only potential reason. Since the 2018 Farm Bill legalized forms of hemp that can be synthetically transformed into potent THC products, commonly considered a "loop hole" that Congress has now acted to sew up effective this November, hemp-derived THC products have flooded Indiana corner stores with little in state law to curb them.

Lawmakers have tried several sessions in a row to ban or regulate these products, but they remain available and legal. Meanwhile, the conversation about legalizing traditional marijuana in the state has picked up steam, even among Republicans, who've filed bills in recent years.

Overall, there isn't a clear picture of whether Hoosiers' cannabis consumption is coming from out-of-state legal shops, the hemp-derived products, the black market or a combination of all of the above, the researchers note. The survey data that informs the \$1.8 billion estimate is unclear on whether users are delineating between traditional marijuana and the hemp-derived THC products, so the researchers say this estimate "likely includes some spending" on the hemp products.

If Indiana were to legalize cannabis sales, the study authors imagine one scenario modeled after Michigan's taxing structure where state revenues could climb to \$180 million annually after five years.

But Indiana's legislative leaders have been consistent in their opposition to legalization, often saying that raising

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revenue is not a good enough reason to make this kind of policy decision.

The assessment that Indiana's

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