



Meet the 32 Cape Cod Times High School Boys Lacrosse All-Scholastics

SPORTS, 1B

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Russell Norton, a horticulture and agriculture educator with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, uncovers Brood XIV periodical cicada damage to an ornamental dogwood at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds in East Falmouth on July 9. The infestation, now largely ended, has been most noticeable in towns such as Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich, Bourne and Barnstable — especially in areas adjacent to Joint Base Cape Cod. PHOTOS BY STEVE HEASLIP/CAPE COD TIMES

Cicada infestation has left injured trees behind

Heather McCarron
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The recent emergence of Brood XIV periodical cicadas on Cape Cod has marked swaths of the Upper Cape with brown, dead-looking leaves — a condition known as “flagging” — now appearing on many local trees.

According to Russell Norton, horticulturalist with Barnstable County’s Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, the effect is most noticeable in towns such as Falmouth, Mashpee, Sandwich, Bourne and Barnstable — especially in areas adjacent to Joint Base Cape Cod.

“What we’re seeing is a tremendous amount of injury on some trees,” Norton said. Flagging is a result of cicada egg laying behavior, not feeding.

How cicadas cause tree ‘injuries’

The adult female cicadas use a specialized body part called an ovipositor — “kind of like a spade or a spatula,” Norton said, to make slits in twigs and small branches where they deposit their eggs. This process disrupts the tree’s vascular system, which Norton describes as “sort of like plumbing.”

“It’s what brings water into the leaves,” he said.

As a result, leaves turn brown and die, often remaining attached to the branch, creating a noticeable scorched

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Horticulturist Russell Norton with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension uncovers cicada damage to a rose of Sharon plant at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds on July 9 in East Falmouth.

Another forecasting tool is scrapped

Experts: Government cuts damage U.S. status as global science leader

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

The heart-wrenching July 4 flooding in Texas served as a stark reminder of the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

As extreme rainfall events grow more intense, such tragedies are expected to increase. Further improvement to forecasts is critical, but meteorologists worry that with the additional cuts planned by the Trump administration, the nation’s weather and climate research programs won’t be able to keep up.

The latest blow was the announcement by the U.S. Navy that it would no longer transmit data from aging satellites past June 30, roughly 15 months earlier than expected. Later, the department extended the deadline to

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ANALYSIS

Trump-Putin bromance flowered, soured

U.S. president appears to be shifting his thinking

Kim Hjelmgaard, Francesca Chambers and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said he would end the war in Ukraine within his first 24 hours in office.

But now, more than 4,000 hours in, Trump’s patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the U.S. president in June called “very kind,” appears to be wearing thin.

Relations have hit a wall as Russia’s leader has pushed forward with intensifying drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities while appearing to repeatedly rebuff Trump’s attempts to broker a ceasefire.

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Trump approval rating sees declines after ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ passage

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump’s approval rating has declined over the past month amid the passage of his slate of tax and spending priorities known as the Big

Beautiful Bill and his decision to launch airstrikes against Iran.

An average of recent polls from the New York Times shows that his approval rating as of May 28 is 44%, with 52% disapproving of his performance. This is slightly down from a month ago, when his approval rating hit 46% in early June.

In the past week, Trump signed his big tax bill into law, which included major cuts to Medicaid and an expansion of the budget for immigration enforcement, threatened several more coun-

tries with increased tariffs, and is likely to move forward with mass firings of federal workers after a July 8 Supreme Court decision.

Here’s what some of the most current

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