



State titles and more for Eastern Shore teams

SPORTS, 1B

THE DAILY TIMES

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 | DELMARVANOW.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



A makeshift memorial for the 28 people who died during July 4, 2025, flash floods at Camp Mystic is seen in Hunt, Texas. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

Texas still coping a year after floods

Camp Mystic families continue to seek justice

Mateo Rosiles
El Paso Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Fourth of July celebration was already underway on the night of July 3, 2025, but in the background was a severe weather warning from the National Weather Service that would foreshadow the deadly event to come.

As the night set and the day turned, a weather system moved into the Texas Hill Country and produced torrential rainfall, with celebrations swiftly becoming a tragedy as rivers rose about 25 feet in about 45 minutes, overtaking homes, RVs and tents of families and friends gathering for fellowship over the holiday weekend.

More than 130 people died during the floods, 28 of whom were from a girls' Christian camp – Camp Mystic –

as 25 young girls, two camp counselors and the camp's co-director were swept away in the middle of the night while trying to evacuate to higher ground as the Guadalupe River rose.

A year later, Texas communities continue reeling. Kerr County is trying to heal; Camp Mystic families are seeking justice for their lost loved ones – some not yet recovered; and state officials have passed new laws to prevent another tragedy while eyeing further regulation.

Toll in Kerr County

According to a Texas lawmaker's June report, Kerr County bore the heaviest toll, with 117 confirmed deaths, including 37 children. In addition, two people remain missing, bringing the total number of Kerr County deaths to 119.

The upper Guadalupe River basin saw about 10 to 15 inches of extreme rainfall, causing the river to rise across

south-central Texas. The U.S. Geological Survey gauge on the Guadalupe River at Hunt reported the river rose from about 10 feet around 3 a.m. July 4, 2025, and crested at 37.52 feet at 5:10 a.m.

It was also determined that a better river monitoring system and flood warning system were needed to prevent another tragedy – with lawmakers writing the law.

Kerr County was among the first to install and begin testing sirens along the Guadalupe River in May.

A real-time flood warning system is also in the works at the University of Texas at Arlington, after it received a \$4 million grant from the governor's office.

The university said in May it will partner with the Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disasters Center at Rice University to help develop the computer modeling system.

See FLOODS, Page 2A

Johnson reflects on balance of power

Says nation's polarization is driven by social media

Francesca Chambers
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – It's a challenging time to be the nation's No. 3 leader, even with House Speaker Mike Johnson's political party in command.

Sometimes it's a challenging time because of that, with President Donald Trump testing and pushing the boundaries of executive power. Other times it's because of circumstances beyond any one person's control.

Johnson reflected on the tug-of-war between the legislative and executive branches in an era of intense political polarization, as he sat for an exclusive interview with USA TODAY on June 29 in the U.S. Capitol.

"There's a natural friction that is there between the branches," said Johnson, a close ally of Trump. "Sometimes there's a tug and pull, and sometimes they work in coordination better."

The voters chose to give Republicans control of the House, Senate and White House in the 2024 election.

"And when the voters deliver that kind of mandate, and they deliver unified government to one party, there's an expectation, I think, that they will work seamlessly to fix the problems," he said.

Johnson has had a front-row seat to much of the turbulence and uncertainty that Americans have experienced over the past decade, from a global pandemic and the subsequent financial crisis to the 2021 attack on the nation's Capitol that saw Trump-supporting rioters try to force their way onto the House floor.

He became House speaker in October 2023 because of the acrimonious ouster of his Republican predecessor, former Rep. Kevin McCarthy, by a hard-right faction of lawmakers.

'How unified government works'

A constitutional lawyer for nearly 20 years before he ran for a seat in Louisiana's state legislature, Johnson began his congressional career at the start of 2017, arriving in Washington the same month as Trump. The timing, he says, has helped the two GOP leaders understand one another.

See JOHNSON, Page 2A

Official: U.S. sanctions hindered drug probe

Ricardo Brito and Isabel Teles
REUTERS

BRASILIA, Brazil – A Brazilian federal police operation targeting suspects with alleged ties to the PCC drug gang was accelerated after the U.S. sanctioned two suspects last week, helping one of them evade capture and hindering the investigation, Federal Police Director-General Andrei Rodrigues said July 3.

"Had the designation not occurred, the outcome might have been different, and we would have located the individual," Rodrigues told journalists. "So, in

my view, it caused a setback to the investigation."

Federal police did not identify the suspects but said in a statement that the operation aimed to dismantle a criminal group accused of laundering proceeds from international drug trafficking.

Investigators said the suspects allegedly ran a sophisticated network that moved and laundered money through cryptocurrency transfers, cash transportation, high-value banking transactions and transfers between individuals and companies. A preliminary analysis identified more than \$1.92 billion in financial

transactions linked to the scheme, federal police said.

The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control recently added two Brazilian nationals to the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, alleging Victor Henrique de Oliveira Shimada had links to Primeiro Comando da Capital, one of Brazil's biggest criminal organizations, and Stella Stefanie Nunes Henrique de Oliveira had links to Shimada.

Oliveira was arrested in the operation, two sources close to the investigation

See PROBE, Page 2A



House Speaker Mike Johnson said "there's an expectation" of a more unified government.

JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to delmarvanow.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!

delmarvanow.com

NINE-TIME WINNER – NEWS ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR



Volume 103 | No. 183
Subscribe 877-424-0148
©2026 \$2.50

