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WH blasts iconic museum

Smithsonian’s portrayal of American history uninspiring, report says

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Tensions between the Trump administration and the Smithsonian Institution have escalated after a White House report accused the National Museum of American History of promoting a “radical, activist ideology.”

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School groups visit an exhibition on American presidents at The Smithsonian National Museum of American History. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY FILE

Retail sales edge higher in June

U.S. retail sales increased marginally in June though there were decreases in receipts at clothing, and food and beverage retailers. MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Low unemployment claims signal economic stability

Lucia Mutikani
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – U.S. retail sales increased marginally in June as lower gasoline prices depressed receipts at service stations, but households boosted purchases of motor vehicles and spent more at online outlets, reinforcing economists’ views that consumer spending accelerated in the second quarter.

The economy’s resilience was highlighted by other data on July 16 showing labor market stability, with first-time applications for unemployment benefits dropping to a two-month low last week. The data did not impact views on near-term monetary policy, with economists expecting the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates unchanged later this month.

“Despite challenges, consumers are

The modest relief at the pump, which reflected a retreat in oil prices as a shaky ceasefire between the United States and Iran took hold, freed money for spending elsewhere. But the truce collapsed last week and the renewed hostilities in the Middle East have sent oil and gasoline prices rising again.

still spending and the labor market shows no signs of cracking,” said Ellen Zentner, chief economic strategist at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. “This type of data won’t move the Fed’s needle either way, but it underscores the ongoing resilience of the U.S. economy.”

Retail sales rose 0.2% in June, the smallest gain in five months, after an

upwardly revised 1.0% jump in May, the Commerce Department’s Census Bureau said. The increase in retail sales, which are mostly goods and are not adjusted for inflation, was in line with economists’ expectations and followed a previously reported 0.9% advance in May.

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Communities face growing water crisis

Arllyssa D. Becenti
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

PHOENIX – When Bitahnii Wayne Wilson came across a herd of feral and domesticated horses near the Wide Ruins community on the Navajo Nation, he knew one thing: They were thirsty.

Wilson had just filled a 170-gallon water barrel for an elderly woman from the 325-gallon black water tank he hauls in the back of his 2018 Dodge truck. With nearly half a tank left, Wilson decided to pour the rest of the water in nearby dry troughs for the horses rather than wasting it.

“I went and delivered water, and I had excess water in my tank,” Wilson said. “I didn’t just want to drop it. I wanted to give it all to whoever needed it. When we were driving, I noticed all these horses standing under the tree. I could see that they were thirsty, so I went over there and I dumped all the water in the trough. They all came storming toward me. It was really powerful, unique experience to have all these horses come in.”

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After making a water delivery for an elderly woman, Bitahnii Wayne Wilson poured excess water into a trough for a herd of feral and domesticated horses. The Navajo Nation declared a state of emergency due to drought conditions.

PROVIDED BY BITAHNII WAYNE WILSON

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