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Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, left, with FBI Director Kash Patel, speaks at a news conference in Orem, Utah, on Sept. 12 in the aftermath of the shooting death of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. CHENEY ORR/REUTERS

UT governor wants to ‘disagree better’

Cox urges civility in politics after Kirk’s death

Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy
USA TODAY

Our nation is broken. Those were among the first words Utah Gov. Spencer Cox spoke as he faced the cameras Sept. 10 after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was gunned down in his state while debating college students. The Republican governor has long championed civility in public discourse and has been an outspoken critic of political polarization. He toured the nation to foster healthier disagreements and once appeared in a campaign ad alongside his Democratic opponent. But on that day, Cox, dressed in a dark Utah Department of Public Safety polo shirt, had a somber tone. “We mourn as a nation. If anyone at the sound of my voice celebrated even a little bit at the news of this shooting, I would beg you to look in the mirror and to see if you can find a better angel in there somewhere,” he said. “I don’t care what his politics are. I care that he was an American.” Cox listed other incidents of political violence

aimed at individuals across the political spectrum: the killings of a state lawmaker and her husband in Minnesota, arson against Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and the attempts on President Donald Trump’s life. “Is this what 250 years has brought on us? I pray that that’s not the case,” he said. At the same time, Cox was not afraid of leaning into his conservative roots by saying that the perpetrator would be held accountable to the “furthest extent of the law” and reminding people that Utah still has the death penalty. People who have followed Cox’s political career are not surprised that his comments moved beyond the partisan rhetoric racing across social media and elsewhere in the wake of Kirk’s death. Cox’s comments struck a good balance, said Bruce Hough, a former longtime Republican National Committee member and former chair of the Utah Republican Party.

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Kirk memorial set amid national debate

Francesca Chambers, Natalie Neysa Alund, Jonathan Limehouse, Davis Winkie, Trevor Hughes and Patrick Williams
USA TODAY NETWORK

A public memorial for conservative activist Charlie Kirk is set for Sept. 21 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, as his assassination continues to ignite national debate and professional fallout over critical social media posts. The nonprofit Turning Point USA, which advocates for conservative politics on high school, college, and university campuses, said on X the service will honor the life of its co-founder, who was fatally shot while speaking Sept. 10 at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City. Kirk, 31, lived in Arizona with his wife, Erika, and two children. “Join us in celebrating the remarkable life and

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Turning Point USA members mourn conservative activist Charlie Kirk in Houston on Sept. 11. The organization says it has been deluged with requests to start new high school and college chapters since Kirk’s killing. ANTRANIK TAVITIAN/REUTERS

Brewery in Voorhees permanently shuts down

Celeste E. Whittaker
Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant in Voorhees has closed its doors, according to a press release from the company. It is one of three restaurants in the chain tapped for closure by the company, the Sept. 10 release stated.

The release stated that “after many years of proudly serving our local communities, Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant has made the difficult decision to close three locations (Newark (Del.), Chestnut Hill, Voorhees), as part of the company’s ongoing efforts to adapt to a changing business landscape while focusing on strengthening its long-term growth and success.” The Voorhees location opened in August of 2013 and was the company’s 10th location. It was located at the Voorhees Town Center at 13107 Town Center Boulevard. The Newark, Delaware location was the company’s flagship location and opened in November of 1996. An Iron Hill Brewery at 124 Kings Highway in Maple Shade remains open. “At Iron Hill, our team is deeply committed to creating memorable culinary experiences, award-winning beers and delivering exceptional hospitality,” said Mark Kirke, CEO of Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, in the press release.

“We’re proud of the strong relationships we’ve built with our guests over the years and incredibly grateful for their loyalty. None of this would be possible without our dedicated teammates, who have made Iron Hill a place where great beer, great food, and genuine hospitality come together. We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy any of our other 16 open restaurants.”

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Police: Man killed someone, then wife and son bought chainsaw

Jim Walsh
Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Three members of a Camden family face charges in connection with the death and dismemberment of a Deptford man who was reported missing three months ago. Everton Thomas, 41, is accused of fatally shooting 48-year-old Harold “Hal” Miller Jr., whose remains have not yet been found. Miller was last seen entering the Thomas family’s home on the 2600 block of Baird Boulevard around 11:30 a.m. on June 12, 2025, according to the Camden County Prosecutor’s Office. Video footage recorded the sound of what appeared to be a gunshot at the East Camden scene, the prosecutor’s office said in a Sept. 11 statement. A criminal complaint describes the two men as acquaintances. “Miller was never seen leaving the property,” the prosecutor’s office said. However, surveillance video showed Thomas allegedly moving Miller’s vehicle to Pennsauken, where it was found on June 14. The murder suspect’s wife, 41-year-old Sherrie Parker, and his son, 22-year-old Deshawn Thomas “purchased a chainsaw, containers, trash bags, and

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