



What Browns LB Carson Schwesinger said about training camp injury

SPORTS, 1B

SARTA to provide free rides on Oct. 6 and Nov. 3

Robert Wang
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

CANTON – The Stark Area Regional Transit Authority is making it easier for voters to get to their polling locations. The bus company will offer free rides on Oct. 6, the first day of early voting,

and on Nov. 3, which is Election Day. Latrice Virola, SARTA’s director of customer relations, told the SARTA board last week that some people do not vote because they don’t have transportation. She recommended that SARTA waive fares for elections from this

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Riders board a SARTA bus at Cornerstone Transit Center. CANTON REPOSITORY FILE PHOTO



In 1636, when Harvard University opened its doors, administrators assumed that the entering class was highly literate – not only in English, but in Greek and Latin as well. JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Colleges confront decline in reading

Engagement with long-form texts fades from schools, beyond

Austin Sarat
Amherst College | THE CONVERSATION

Anyone who has spent time on a college campus lately has probably heard laments from faculty about their students’ reading habits, or rather non-reading habits. Such complaints are more than an unfounded nostalgia for a bygone age. Reading – not just any kind of reading, but reading long, complex, challenging books – is quickly vanishing from the American scene. As Sunil Iyengar, who directs the Office of Research & Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts, observed in 2024, approximately 49% of adults reported reading at least one book in the past year. That compares with nearly 55% of adults who reported the same 10 years earlier. This decline in reading is also reported across some American high schools. A 2024-2025 survey of 1,250 high school English

teachers showed that they assigned an average of 2.81 books for their classes to read, from start to finish, each year. A separate 2008-2009 nationwide study, which surveyed 400 English school teachers in ninth, 10th and 11th grades, found that they assigned an average of four books annually. Some high school students are not asked to read any full books at all. Instead, they are assigned excerpts of books or short readings. Education Week reporter Sarah Schwartz wrote in 2025 that there are signs of classrooms shifting away from long-form reading well before high school – as early as elementary school, in some cases. As someone who teaches humanities and social sciences at the college level, I find these figures shocking, if not surprising. My classes are packed with many texts to read – often long, dense things – and my instruction has been premised on the idea that students would do the reading assignments. In my office, I sometimes hear students complain about the reading load and ask me for skimming strategies. I generally resist their request and offer to help

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ANALYSIS

Rising gas prices could mean higher grocery bills

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

Consumers are going to continue to feel the pinch of higher prices for everyday expenses, such as gas, as the war with Iran continues. When gasoline and transportation prices increase, they trickle down to many other categories, Shikha Jain, a Simon-Kucher partner and lead of the consumer sector for North America, told USA TODAY. “It’s not just going to be at the gas pump. There might be flow-through into the grocery store, but also with anything that has logistics tied to it and anything that’s trucked, anything that uses gas,” she said. That can include anything with delivery fees or shipping. What happens with diesel prices will impact pricing for consumers, Claudio Galimberti, chief economist for Rystad Energy, said in an Aug. 17 report. The diesel crunch has deepened globally, Galimberti wrote, including in the United States, where key diesel cracks – or the profit margin an oil refinery makes when turning a barrel of raw crude into diesel fuel – hit record highs in early August. That was due to Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries and the renewed closure of the Strait of Hormuz keeping refining capacity physically offline. “That matters well beyond the

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