



Cases separated conservative justices

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ANALYSIS



President Donald Trump, right, has spent years praising and appearing to carefully avoid criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin. MARCOS BRINDICCI/REUTERS

Trump’s bromance with Putin flowered, soured

U.S. president appears to be shifting his thinking

Kim Hjelmggaard, 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 for-

ward with intensifying drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities while appearing to repeatedly rebuff Trump’s attempts to broker a ceasefire. “We get a lot of (expletive) thrown at us by Putin, if you want to know the truth,” Trump told reporters on July 9, summing up what Ukrainians and other seasoned Russia watchers have been saying for two decades. “He’s very nice to us all the time, but it turns out to be meaningless.”

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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 July 31. Without those satellite images, hurricane forecast accuracy could be compromised, say current and former scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Polar researchers, who use the images to measure the extent of sea ice, hope to acquire the same data through a Japanese government satellite instead.

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Medicaid cuts put many in jeopardy

Advocates warn changes to program could ‘collapse’ care industries

Bethany Rodgers

USA TODAY NETWORK

Providers who care for disabled and aging Pennsylvanians are bracing for potential federal Medicaid cuts they say could push chronically underfunded services past the brink. Advocates representing these workers say many of the services have suffered for years from funding stagnation or insufficient increases, fueling staffing shortages and depriving vulnerable Pennsylvanians of appropriate care. Now, Congress is debating a tax package they say would deliver a devastating blow to these already-fragile systems by kicking an estimated 310,000 people out of Medicaid in the commonwealth and taking billions in federal funding away from the state. “We’re in the fight of our life in Washington, D.C.,” said Sherri Landis, executive director of the Arc of Pennsylvania, a group that advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. On Tuesday, July 1, the GOP-controlled Senate passed a version of the so-called “big beautiful” tax bill that would slash nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid over a decade. The proposal on July 2 was in the hands of House lawmakers, who approved a different draft of the bill in May. Congressional Republicans who support the bill’s broad strokes note that the new work requirements include carveouts for people with disabilities or who are caring for young children and target able-bodied adults.

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Gov. Josh Shapiro on May 29 announces Pennsylvania as one of 13 states recognized by AARP as age-friendly at the White Rose Senior Center in York.

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