



## MLB is cool with ABS era: But is rule a Trojan horse for robo-umps?

SPORTS, 1B

# POCONO RECORD

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# Chances of 'super' El Niño growing



The West Coast, particularly California, faces a higher likelihood of heavy rainfall and flooding during a strong El Niño. LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS FILE

## Americans worry most over health care costs

Liz Freeman

Fort Myers News-Press & Naples Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A new Gallup poll found health care access and affordability is a top concern among American households with 61% saying they worry a great deal about it.

It comes in as the No. 1 domestic policy issue among a list of 16, outweighing the economy, inflation, federal spending and the budget deficit.

The survey, conducted in March, compares how priorities over domestic issues have changed since 2025. Details on how many Americans were surveyed were not readily available.

The Gallup survey found Americans' concern with the economy has dipped some in 2026, as 51% of those surveyed said they worried a great deal about it, a drop from 60% in 2025.

Crime is less concerning now, coming in at 39% compared to 45% holding that view in 2025. Illegal immigration came in at 33% in 2026, compared to 40% a year earlier.

Health care costs and access had been the top domestic policy issue for Americans from 2015 to 2020, according to Gallup. After 2020, the economy took the top spot.

"While healthcare roughly tied the economy as Americans' top concern in 2025, it now leads by a full 10 points," according to the Gallup survey.

Health care access and cost dominated federal policies for much of 2025, which could explain why it rose in importance in the minds of Americans.

The start of 2026 ushered in the loss of enhanced tax credits for Americans who have relied on health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Congress failed in 2025 to renew the tax credits, or subsidies, that

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## Climate models point to possibility later this year

Brandi D. Addison and Kimberly Miller  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Recently released climate models are pointing to what could be the most powerful El Niño event in recorded history – raising the possibility of a rare "super" episode developing later this year.

A "super" El Niño – also referred to as a "Jurassic El Niño" by Colorado State University hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach – typically refers to unusually strong warming of sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

That warming can disrupt global weather patterns, shifting storm tracks, rainfall and temperatures for months at a time.

Forecasters stress it's not a certainty yet. But multiple long-range models are now trending warmer, with some pushing into territory rarely seen in modern records – a signal that has caught scientists' attention.

El Niño occurs when Pacific Ocean waters in the central and eastern regions are warmer than

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# Sanctuary cities face possible airport customs cuts

Noe Padilla  
USA TODAY

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin suggested removing U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers from airports in sanctuary cities, prompting criticism from the California governor over the prospect of

"halted" international travel at some of the country's biggest hubs.

Mullin, who was appointed as the DHS secretary on March 3, told Fox News that his department was taking "a hard look" at how to handle sanctuary cities during an interview on the outlet's "Special Report" on April 6.

Specifically, he noted that the de-

partment was considering limiting or removing Customs and Border Protection officers from airports in cities that restrict cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities.

"If they're a sanctuary city and they're receiving international flights, and we're asking them to partner with

us at the airport, but once they walk out of the airport, they're not going to enforce immigration policy – maybe we need to have a really hard look at that," Mullin said.

Mullin reiterated the idea on April 7, when speaking with reporters in North

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