



Verlander’s retirement marks end of an era we’ll never see again

SPORTS, 1B

POCONO RECORD

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026 | POCONORECORD.COM PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ceasefire falls apart as Iran buries slain leader



Mourners gather July 9 in Mashhad, Iran, for the burial of Iran’s late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Feb. 28 in Israeli and U.S. strikes. OFFICE OF THE IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER/HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

American official says ‘technical talks continue’

Michael Loria and Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran appeared to have fallen apart over continued strife over the Strait of Hormuz as Iranians buried their supreme leader, killed by U.S.-Israel forces at the outset of the war.

There were no new U.S. strikes on Iran overnight into July 10. But the United States previously struck Iran’s

southern coastal and eastern provinces, after which Iranian armed forces launched attacks on U.S. military infrastructure in Persian Gulf states July 9.

Separately on that day, Iranian media reported multiple explosions across southern Iran, including Bushahr, where one of the country’s nuclear plants is located.

A U.S. official told USA TODAY that President Donald Trump regards Iran’s recent attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping lane, as “acts of terrorism.”

Still, the official said that negotia-

tions have not completely crumpled.

“The United States is still committed to finding a resolution, and technical talks continue,” the U.S. official said. “Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon.”

“The [memorandum of understanding] is performance-based, and Iran’s actions constitute failed performance at an unacceptable level,” the U.S. official added.

Iranian officials did not give indications in public statements that talks remained underway. However, the country’s semiofficial Tasnim

See IRAN, Page 2A

ANALYSIS

Dems at war for party’s future

Key races set showdowns between the left, center

Susan Page
USA TODAY

It’s a war.

The chaos over the Democratic Senate nomination in Maine – with a scramble to replace scandal-scarred Graham Platner – is only the latest and messiest battle in this summer’s debate over the direction and definition of the Democratic Party as it heads to crucial midterm elections.

The explosive energy of the far left, which last November helped elect Zohran Mamdani as the first democratic socialist mayor of New York, has this year ousted longtime officeholders and nominated progressive insurgents in New York and Colorado. In all, five Democratic House incumbents have lost primaries so far this year.

That has freaked out the party’s establishment, concerned that the populists’ success in solidly blue territory could allow Republicans to paint even moderate Democratic candidates in purple states as radical and dangerous.

Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, called it a battle for the soul of the party.

“One faction within the Democratic Party wants to shake up the system,” especially on the economy, he told USA TODAY, “and the other is perfectly willing to treat this as a status-quo” moment.

See DEMOCRATS, Page 2A

GOP push for answers about McConnell health

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

It’s no longer just Democrats who are demanding answers about Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell’s status nearly a month after the 84-year-old lawmaker was hospitalized in Washington, DC.

The senator’s office still has not disclosed why McConnell was admitted. But the Kentucky lawmaker’s staff sought to quell further speculation July 7 by releasing statements from allies who said they’d spoken with him.

That wasn’t enough for at least two GOP House members who took to so-

cial media this week to air their concerns, saying U.S. officials should be more forthcoming with voters if they go missing for weeks.

Rep. Nancy Mace, R-South Carolina, drew comparisons to the public’s health concerns about former President Joe Biden, whose mental acuity became a focal point in the final months

of the 2024 election, ultimately forcing him to leave the race.

“If McConnell is in as bad a shape as Biden ever was – or worse – he needs to step aside,” Mace said in a July 9 post on X. “This charade can’t continue. We can’t demand of others what we won’t

See MCCONNELL, Page 2A

BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED CABINETS.
INSTALLED IN 3–5 DAYS.

Free in-home guided design process & guaranteed pricing — all in one visit.

★ 50% OFF ★
INSTALLATION

BEFORE

AFTER

REVELARE KITCHENS

Headquartered in York, PA | Serving 13 states locally

APPOINTMENTS ARE LIMITED!
Claim your Free Design Consultaion TODAY

570-213-9785

*DETAILS OF OFFER: Receive an instant discount on cabinet doors, installation, hinges, and drawer-glides. Offer valid on contracts signed within the promotional date range below. Offer not valid on prior purchases and cannot be combined with any other offer. No credit if offer refused. Photos are for illustrative purposes only. Color, style and product options not available in all areas. Offer expires 7/31/2026. Revelare Kitchens is not a lender. Financing offer is based on credit approval. Lifetime warranty available on select products. © 2026 Revelare Kitchens. © 2026 LOCAL2 Direct Mail. Licensing and Registrations: PA: PA107225 | DE: 2022700179 | MA: 192797 | MD: MHIC# 150536 | ME: State door-to-door sales license #CO20967-SFC14247; CN-20181086FC | NC: 104175 | NJ: 13VH11387900 | NH: 800457 | NY: DOSID5548930 | RI Registration: GC-50093 | VA: Class A – Classification HIC – 2705190663 | VT: Credential #174.0000909; RRPW-100066; 0346131

