



World Cup coming attractions in Foxboro

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From fan zones to bars, how to catch all the action



Images of players from the Portuguese National Team are on display at the PUMA House of Soccer fan zone at the Waterplace Park Pavilion. DAVID DELPOIO/THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL

Brown experts discuss Ebola concerns

African tourists arrive to area for World Cup

Nolan Rogalski
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thousands of tourists are set to descend upon Southern New England for the World Cup amid an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, a reality that has some Americans concerned.

But in a briefing from the Brown Pandemic Center, led by Craig Spencer, a Brown professor who treated Ebola patients in Africa in 2014, top scientists asserted the deadly virus should not be a major concern for the United States.

"Ebola is not the number one or number two or even number three threat for me," Spencer said.

He said the travel restrictions the United States has enacted – which he called "far more severe" than those put in place during previous outbreaks – reduce the likelihood of the disease being imported into the country.

Locally, the Rhode Island Department of Health implemented a system to monitor symptoms among travelers from Congo and Uganda, the African countries with confirmed Ebola cases, as well as neighboring country South Sudan.

"The bigger reality is that the last thing that you're going to do if you have Ebola is want to get on a plane," said Spencer, who contracted the disease but survived. "Like, it's just not fun. It's horrible."

The only country with known cases of Ebola that qualified for the World Cup was the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its group stage matches will take place in Houston on June 17, in Guadalajara, Mexico, on June 23 and in Atlanta on June 27.

According to a match schedule from

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WORLD CUP COMING TO RI

Gail Ciampa
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

If soccer were a shoe, it would be size 37, the largest ever recorded by Guinness World Records. That's how huge its footprint is across the globe.

As the world's most popular sport, it has an estimated 5 billion fans, according to FIFA, its governing body.

In the United States, talk of soccer's rise to the level of football, basketball or baseball fandom is always just around the corner. (In fact, a recent survey by The Economist showed soccer narrowly overtaking baseball as the nation's third-most popular sport.) With the growth of youth soccer, these kids wearing the tiny cleats will join the world's super fans in their fever, or so goes the conversation.

With the men's World Cup returning to the United States for the first time in 32 years, soccer fanatics believe this is the year for the big conversion, especially in Rhode Island, where games will be played less than 25 miles away in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

The World Cup will feature 48 teams competing in 16 host cities, not just in the United States, but also in Mexico and Canada. The tournament kicks off on June 11 at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. The final is on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

There are far fewer tickets than fans. Soccer tourists are expected to arrive in the United States just to be near the excitement, making viewing parties a must.

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Chris Kerr is disappointed Ireland didn't qualify for the World Cup but he'll be rooting for the U.S. at Trágmur Ale Works in Bristol where they will show some games. PROVIDED BY TRÁGMUR ALE WORKS

ANALYSIS

Setbacks keep piling up for Trump

Birthday events taking place amid gloomy signs

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The White House is all prepped for President Donald Trump's big night, when 5,000 guests are set to attend a UFC cage fight in a makeshift arena that's made the South Lawn to look like a theme park.

But the president might have to ignore recent events to enjoy the June 14 celebration, which falls on his 80th birthday.

A series of setbacks with Republicans in Congress, the courts and drawn-

out negotiations with Iran – plus a rare loss for a candidate he backed in a Republican primary – have plagued a president who was already struggling in polls five months away from the November midterm elections.

Senate Republicans stripped \$1 billion out of a funding bill the White House sought to boost security for Trump's East Wing ballroom. Amid intense bipartisan pushback, the Trump administration retreated from a nearly \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund that could be used to funnel payments to political allies, including Jan. 6 rioters. A federal judge ordered the removal of Trump's name from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts while also blocking his plans to temporarily

close the iconic institution he wanted to remodel to his liking.

On the foreign policy front, Trump keeps teasing he's close to striking a deal with Iran that would end a war that has fueled high gas prices – only to have peace talks stall. In a rebuke of Trump, the House of Representatives for the first time voted June 3 to block Trump from ordering further strikes on Iran, with four Republicans joining Democrats, advancing the measure to the Senate. Even if it passes, Trump would almost certainly veto the measure.

"They involve self-inflicted wounds on the president's part," said Todd Belt, director of the political management

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A series of setbacks with Republicans in Congress, the courts and drawn-out negotiations with Iran have plagued President Donald Trump, who was already struggling in polls. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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