



Dumpster diving adventures go viral, highlight waste

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Big events on calendar for 2026

Nation's 250th, elections, World Cup, and more coming

Mary Walrath-Holdridge
USA TODAY

As a new year dawns, many Americans are reflecting on 2025, a year marked by historic events including the inauguration of a president, the appointment of the first American pope, and major pop culture moments like the release of "Wicked: For Good" and Taylor Swift's engagement – but there is plenty more to come in 2026.

The calendar begins with the kickoff of a yearlong celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary, followed by the Winter Olympics in Italy and a highly anticipated Super Bowl halftime show in the San Francisco Bay Area in February.

Hollywood hosts the Oscars in March followed by the Emmys in September. Major movie releases include a star-studded "Dune: Part Three," a "Devil Wears Prada" sequel and a new installment to the "Hunger Games" series.

The year will also see major criminal trials and a potential political shakeup when the midterms roll around.

Here's some of what you can expect in 2026.

America's 250th anniversary

July 4, 2026, will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the official formation of the United States as a country.

This will be marked by a yearlong celebration coordinated by the bipartisan America250 Commission, created by Congress in 2016, and the White House's Task Force on Celebrating America's 250th Birthday, established in 2025.

Events include statewide "America's Field Trip" student contests, oral history initiatives, volunteer service campaigns, traveling tech expos under "America Innovates," and communal celebrations known as America Waves.

In Washington, DC, the iconic National Mall will host major events on July 4, including a full military parade, exhibits from all 50 states, fireworks and national pageantry. Separately, the Freedom 250 initiative will orchestrate high-profile events such as the "Great American State Fair" across the country, youth "Patriot Games," a UFC exhibition at the White House, a national prayer event and construction of a National Garden of American Heroes.

Super Bowl LX

Super Bowl LX will take place on Feb. 8 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Chatter has surrounded the event since September, when it was announced that Puerto Rican artist Bad Bunny would headline the halftime show. The three-time Grammy Award winner has been a vocal critic of President Donald Trump and ICE, angering some conservative figures.

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