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# Argus Leader

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## Inflation report shows spiking prices

### Electricity rates likely to continue increasing

Rachel Barber and Medora Lee  
USA TODAY

Consumer prices rose again in May, Labor Department data showed, further squeezing Americans' budgets as consumer sentiment sat at record lows. The department's Consumer Price

Index, its measure of inflation, saw prices rise 0.5% from April to May. Over the year, they are up 4.2% - in line with forecasters' expectations and representing the steepest increase in three years. "Core" CPI rose 0.2% over the month and 2.9% over the year.

Core CPI measures the rate of price increases, excluding volatile food and energy costs. A rise in core inflation can sometimes signal that higher oil prices are feeding into broader input costs,

though the pass-through is usually limited. Economists watch it for signs that energy shocks may be spreading through the economy.

It rose 0.2% from April to May, following a 0.4% rise in April and 0.2% increases in March and February.

Electricity prices in April rose 6.1% from the same period a year ago and are expected to continue climbing, further squeezing people's budgets this summer.

"Families are getting hit from both sides," said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. "Electricity prices continue to rise, and hotter summers mean households need to use more electricity simply to stay safe. The result is that Americans are paying substantially more to cool their homes than they were just a few years ago."

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During the unveiling of the Charlotte Carver Art Gallery on June 4 inside City Hall in Sioux Falls, local artist Breanna Fischer's work, titled "Lighthouse," was chosen to be purchased by the City of Sioux Falls for permanent display. The new gallery, this year featuring 12 local artists who participated in an open call, is now part of an annual juried exhibition to feature local artwork. It will be on display and open during normal City Hall business hours through November.

ANGELA GEORGE/ARGUS LEADER

## 'Bold, great statement piece'

### Artist wins City Hall spot in art collection as part of new gallery

Angela George  
Sioux Falls Argus Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

As part of the opening of a new art exhibit inside City Hall, a Sioux Falls artist has been awarded permanent display of her work.

On Thursday, June 4, during an opening reception for the Charlotte Carver Gallery, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken announced a painting by 31-year-old Breanna Fischer would become part of the

city's art collection.

Fischer said her 4-by-5-foot oil painting titled "Lighthouse," featuring a woman of power holding a raven and moon, was inspired by a poem she wrote on grief after losing a child to miscarriage in 2019 and later her Aunt Bertie in 2023. She often painted with and visited Sante Fe galleries with her aunt while growing up in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"It's a bold, great statement piece," TenHaken said during an opening reception on June 4.

He also personally bought another painting on display as part of the next exhibit: Sioux Falls artist

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## Vance: War won't 'become a quagmire'

### VP addresses Iran conflict in interview

Francesca Chambers and Zac Anderson  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - Vice President JD Vance said he is confident that President Donald Trump will keep the Iran war from becoming a "quagmire" the United States is ensnared in for years to come with no mission, objective or clearly stated purpose.

"I feel extremely confident that we are not going to be talking about America's involvement in Iran even a year down the road, but certainly not years down the road," Vance told USA TODAY in an exclusive telephone interview June 8.

The conversation was tied to the June 16 release of his new book, "Communion: Finding My Way Back to Faith."

Vance, an Iraq War veteran and the administration's most vocal skeptic of American military engagement abroad, said the U.S. campaign in Iran would not be like the prolonged wars in Iraq and Afghanistan - even as negotiations to wrap up the conflict continue with no end in sight.

"I don't think the president's going to do that," Vance said.

The armed conflict that began Feb. 28, when the United States and Israel launched a joint bombing campaign in Iran, has passed the 100-day mark. It has sent U.S. gas prices sharply higher and Trump's approval ratings lower, prompting unease among a growing

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