

## Many unemployed people getting stuck finding jobs

They're applying everywhere but still can't get hired. Here are some reasons why. **In Money**

## Journey's final tour: 'We're forever yours, faithfully'

Classic rock band fills Final Frontier tour with hits and deep cuts from 50 years of music. **In Life**

## Florida university on brink of history

Bethune-Cookman men's basketball team has never made it to March Madness. With Reggie Theus at the helm, that could change. **In Sports**

# USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

ARYANNA FRANK/IMAGN IMAGES



The Rio Grande separating Mexico and the United States runs through mountains and steep canyons in Big Bend National Park. CHENEY ORR/REUTERS

## Texans say no to plans for Big Bend border wall

### Opponents fear harm to wilderness, tourism

Lauren Villagran  
USA TODAY

A bride in a frothy white gown. A groom holding a ring. An endless desert landscape of canyons against the open sky.

Now imagine, says Texas wedding photographer Anna Claire Beasley, construction noise, bulldozed roads and a steel border fence as a backdrop.

Bipartisan opposition to the Trump administration's plans to construct a border wall through Big Bend National Park in West Texas is growing, and the concerns are coming from business owners like Beasley, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts, local residents and Republican and Democrat elected officials alike.

Beasley, based in Terlinqua, says she leads couples into the park for "adventure elopements" that capture a Texan spirit of "carving your own path," which the landscape reflects. A petition she started on Change.org opposing the wall has garnered roughly 40,000 signatures in a week's time.

"We are seeing people from all sides of the political spectrum who are saying no to the wall," she said. "We rely on tourism dollars to make a living and live out here. There is a real fear that if construction proceeds, we'll have to leave."

President Donald Trump has been promising a "big, beautiful wall" at the southern border since his first successful presidential campaign in 2015. He delivered 87 miles of new border fencing in his first term, according to an analysis by Adam Isacson, who studies border security.

More than 700 miles of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border are fenced off, Isacson reports, barriers that were built across Democrat and Republican administrations. Sections built in rural, remote areas have rarely generated much public outcry, in part because the regions are sparsely populated, and conservative ranchers have often supported the construction.

But the Big Bend – rural and sparsely populated though it is – is a big draw for tourism in West Texas.

Big-game hunters, backpackers, river runners, national park visitors, artists and musicians all make the long trek into Big Bend National Park for the wilderness, the wildlands and the solitude. Justin McFarland, an educator in Texas Hill Country who describes his politics as "nonpartisan and common-sense," shot a music

See **BIG BEND**, Page 4A



## Foreign spies swapping sex for secrets

### True scale of 'sexpionage' used to infiltrate U.S. tough to estimate

ILLUSTRATION BY ARIANA TORREY/USA TODAY NETWORK

Kim Hjelmgaard  
USA TODAY

The foreign woman was attractive, well-dressed and confidently at ease. • She struck up a conversation in person with the former American soldier – at the time, a senior defense contractor – answering his questions about the company she said she worked for and the job she claimed to do. By the end of the day, her interest had taken a sharper turn, her phone lighting up his with a stream of suggestive text messages. • "What are you doing tonight?" read one. "Come for a drink," said another. • It was a trap. One that has quietly played out for as long as nations have sought to pry state secrets from their rivals. • Authoritarian governments "will do anything they can to win. Anything," said Robin Dreeke, a former FBI special agent in counterintelligence.

One U.S. intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it isn't the Cold War anymore and KGB agents aren't being tailed across Eastern Europe like in a spy novel or Hollywood movie.

But officials and experts warn that U.S. adversaries China and Russia, as well as enemies like North Korea, are deploying every espionage tactic imaginable to gain diplomatic, military, technological and scientific advantage.

They are infiltrating U.S. colleges and think tanks as students and researchers, recruiting insiders, engaging in corporate espionage

and cyber intrusions – and availing themselves of old-school "honeypots," attractive agents armed with flattery and seduction, like the one aimed at the former American soldier.

The concept is simple, transactional and salacious: the promise of sex for secrets.

It can also be illegal and prosecutable under the Espionage Act of 1917 that prohibits the unauthorized transmission of national defense information that might aid foreign powers.

See **SEXPIONAGE**, Page 6A

**"People think this only happens in the movies. That's not true. ... You wouldn't believe how many men are being targeted through dating sites."**

Aliia Roza, who says she was part of a Moscow-run sexpionage program

## Oil prices soar as Iran war grinds on

### Financial markets reel; U.S. reports 7th death

Thao Nguyen, Christopher Cann and Kim Hjelmgaard  
USA TODAY

As the U.S.-Israel war on Iran entered its 10th day on March 9, oil prices soared over fears of a prolonged conflict, President Donald Trump demanded "unconditional surrender" and the Pentagon made public the name of the seventh U.S. service member to die in the conflict.

Oil prices jumped above \$110 a barrel, their highest mark since 2022 as fears grew over prolonged shipping disruptions throughout the Middle East. Brent crude, the international benchmark, jumped to \$119.50 a barrel before retreating to about \$103. Trump called that "a small price to pay."

"Short term oil prices, which will drop rapidly when the destruction of the Iran nuclear threat is over, is a very small price to pay for U.S.A., and World, Safety and Peace," Trump said in a social media post. "ONLY FOOLS WOULD THINK DIFFERENTLY!"

The oil increase comes as the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas typically passes, is virtually shut. It also came after Iran

See **IRAN**, Page 4A



Requity founder Michael Rosenband, right, with Pfc. Shakir Gardner, an alumnus of the trade training program. PROVIDED BY WENDELL MCCRAY

## Program fueling next generation of trade talent in Baltimore

Andrea Riquier  
USA TODAY

On a bitterly cold November afternoon in Baltimore, the small brick row house at 2212 Presstman Street was humming with energy.

The home at 2212 is a fairly typical Baltimore property: About 100 years old, it sat vacant for decades and was in dire need of repair when it was purchased for a few thousand dollars in 2023.

But the buyer, a small nonprofit called Requity, is anything but typical. Requity's blend of sweat equity, youth development and community revitalization is uniquely suited to the edgy energy of Baltimore. On this day, like most, students from various vocational schools worked as a crew: hanging drywall, inspecting an eco-friendly doorframe in the back wall, and otherwise rehabbing the home.

Requity was founded by 54-year-old Michael Rosenband, who traded in a career on Wall Street to move to

See **REQUITY**, Page 2A



11  
MEMBER  
©COPYRIGHT 2026  
USA TODAY  
A division of  
USA TODAY Co., Inc.

HOME DELIVERY  
1-800-872-0001, USATODAYSERVICE.COM