



# USA TODAY WEEKEND

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BRIANNA BRYSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Videos go viral of cruise pier runners

Watching travelers rush to return to cruise ship before it departs has become a pastime. **In Money**

## Drugs fuel chaos inside Ohio prisons

Synthetic drugs – smuggled in by drones and workers – drive deaths and violence. **In Weekend Extra**

## Sally Field bonds with 'Creatures'

Two-time Oscar winner opens up about aging in Hollywood and finding enriching roles. **In Life**



# Pentagon puts Iran war costs at \$25B

Official says biggest part has been for munitions

Cybele Mayes-Osterman  
USA TODAY

The Pentagon said the first eight weeks of the Iran war cost roughly the equivalent of the combined annual budgets of the Coast Guard, the National Park Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Two months after the United States and Israel began their initial attack on Iran on Feb. 28, a Pentagon official shared an estimate of the war's price tag: \$25 billion.

Jules Hurst III, the Pentagon's acting comptroller, delivered the estimate to lawmakers during an April 29 congressional hearing. Most of that money covered the cost of expended munitions, Hurst said, while some was used for operations, maintenance and replacing equipment.



Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth said April 29 that \$25 billion "reflects the total cost that we're seeing."  
ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

USA TODAY reported in March that munitions used in the first six days of the war cost \$11.3 billion, according to estimates the Pentagon shared with lawmakers.

### How much is \$25 billion?

The Pentagon's estimated \$25 billion cost of the war is nearly a quarter of the \$101.7 billion the federal government spent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, in 2025. On average, SNAP provided food assistance to about 42.1 million low-income Americans each month, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of Department of Agriculture data.

It's twice the Coast Guard's annual budget of \$13.8 billion and nearly three times the Environmental Protection Agency's \$8.8 billion 2026 budget for building water systems, monitoring and studying pollution, and cleaning up waste.

The Pentagon's figure is nearly eight times the \$3.3 billion Congress allocated to the National Park Service to maintain 433 sites in 2025. The war's cost is roughly on par with NASA's \$24.8 billion budget last year, and just under a third of the Department of Education's \$82.4 billion budget in 2025.

The war's cost is about five times the projected price of replacing Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, which local officials estimate at \$4.3 billion to \$5.2 billion. The bridge collapsed after a cargo ship hit it in March 2024, killing

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# Mother's Day isn't always a celebration



## Estrangement in families can carry sorrowful reminders

Madeline Mitchell USA TODAY

Kendall Williams, 53, won't be seeing her youngest son this Mother's Day. But that's nothing new. Williams has been estranged from her son, who is 30, since September 2023, when she decided to cut off contact because she felt the relationship had become unhealthy and emotionally abusive. USA TODAY contacted her son, who declined to comment on his relationship with his mother. "It wasn't an easy decision," Williams said. "I absolutely love both of my sons." She's still close with her eldest son, who is 35. But she's not convinced she'll ever be in a place where she can resume a relationship with her youngest. She has written two books on the subject and frequently posts about her estrangement on her social media platforms. Others often judge her, but those people don't understand the whole story, she said. "I had to step away from our relationship for my own well-being because I was also diagnosed with cervical cancer that same year," Williams told USA TODAY. "I had to really focus on my health, instead of putting all of my focus on him, which I've done for many, many years." See MOTHER'S DAY, Page 6A

**"What we're seeing that day is not reflective of everyone's full human experience."**

Lucy Blake  
Psychologist and researcher

Kendall Williams has been estranged from her 30-year-old son since September 2023.  
PROVIDED BY KENDALL WILLIAMS

# WNBA's reach stretches far beyond sports

## 10 players to watch

The WNBA's 30th season rests on the shoulders of these stars. **1C**

Jewell Loyd, left, and Alysha Clark of the Seattle Storm honor the memory of Breonna Taylor on Sept. 24, 2020.

JULIO AGUILAR/GETTY IMAGES



Now in its 30th year, the league is a world changer



Nancy Armour  
Columnist  
USA TODAY

The WNBA is so much more than a basketball league.

It has become an inspirer of dreams, a source of confidence and comfort, a societal disrupter and maker of all kinds of good trouble. We knew the W would be good for women's basketball. As it begins its 30th season, we had no idea how good it would be for the rest of us.

"The accessibility that we have now is so incredible for young girls," said

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