

Race cars inspire designs, tech in everyday vehicles

Check out our list of 10 modern models influenced by racing innovation. **In Money**

Havana Rose Liu relishes mastering skills for roles

Up-and-comer explains emotional connection between "Tuner" film and her grandmas. **In Life**

Tiny blue octopus discovered

Learn more about this new species found 5,800 feet deep in the eastern Pacific Ocean near the Galápagos Islands. **In News**

USA TODAY

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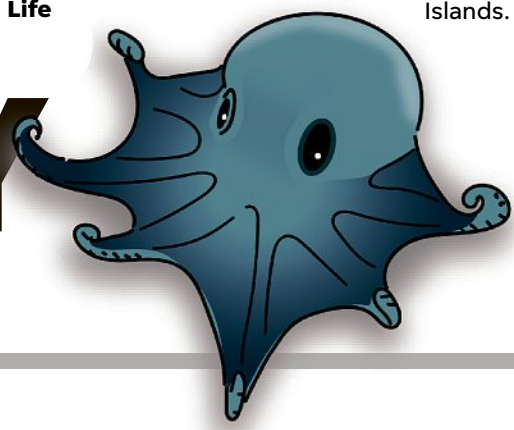


ILLUSTRATION BY JANET LOEHRKE/USA TODAY

Ruling protects trans troops

Court rejects Pentagon's moves to expel them

Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

An appeals court ruled the Pentagon's move to kick transgender troops out of the military violated their rights, calling the policy "arbitrary and based upon animus."

Two out of three judges on a panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit agreed that the sweeping removal of transgender service members from the military's ranks that the Trump administration implemented last year was unconstitutional.

In the majority opinion, Judge Robert Wilkins, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, wrote that the policy "appears to be driven by the bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group: persons who identify as transgender."

Judge Justin Walker, who was nominated by President Donald Trump, dissented, writing in the minority opinion that striking down the Pentagon's policy would amount to an "unprecedented intrusion into the internal operations of the armed forces."

The ruling applies only to the Pentagon's move to expel transgender people serving in the military. It leaves in

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People who lost jobs over Kirk posts get big payouts

Drew Pittock and BrieAnna J. Frank
USA TODAY

Settlements totaling more than \$1.5 million have been reached so far with people who lost their jobs over social media posts that were critical of prominent conservative activist Charlie Kirk in the wake of his assassination.

The free-speech cases in Florida, Tennessee and Indiana highlight a growing debate surrounding the First Amendment, political discourse and social media.

It's "not surprising to see this flurry of settlements," Aaron Terr, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's director of public advocacy, told USA TODAY. "I think the size and frequency of these settlements shows that violating the First Amendment is expensive."

USA TODAY reported a little more than two weeks after Kirk was killed, at least 50 people had lost their jobs in the education sector alone. A Reuters investigation also found that 600 people were fired across the private sector for posts they shared about Kirk.

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Teen summer job outlook is gloomy



790,000 available jobs

predicted for teens across May, June and July. This number is down from 801,000 last summer.

5.193 million workers

between the ages of 16 and 19 were employed last month, down from 5.487 million in April 2025, according to BLS data.

33.8% teens

are employed, whereas the rate of employment for teens in the 1970s and '80s was 50%.

Opportunities can be found even though expectations are down

Rachel Barber USA TODAY

School is almost out for teenagers across the country, and those hoping to land a summer job may have a tough time finding one. • Last summer, teen hiring fell to its lowest level in nearly eight decades of Bureau of Labor Statistics data, and forecasters predict it could be even lower this summer. A Challenger, Gray & Christmas report predicts American teens will gain 790,000 jobs across May, June and July, down from 801,000 last summer. • Last month, 5.193 million workers between the ages of 16 and 19 were employed, down from 5.487 million in April last year, according to BLS data. • "With fewer teens already on payrolls heading into the busiest hiring months, the runway for a strong summer is narrower than it has been in years," the report said.

See **SUMMER JOBS**, Page 6A

ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY CLEMENS/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Serena returns to tennis on her own terms

Serena Williams walks to the Ferrari hospitality area ahead of a practice session for the 2026 Miami Formula One Grand Prix on May 1. Williams announced she will return to tennis competition at 44. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Star reminds us women don't have a 'use-by' date



Nancy Armour
Columnist
USA TODAY

Serena Williams' comeback isn't only for her.

Like the returns of Lindsey Vonn, Allyson Felix and so many other women athletes, Williams' announcement that she is returning to competitive tennis at 44 is a reminder to the world that women do not have a "use-by" date. We can do whatever we please, whenever we damn well please, and we will no longer be bound by the artificial constraints society tries to impose.

We're too old. We can't juggle a

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