

These 5 NFL teams may be more electric in 2026

Chargers and Chiefs among franchises to keep eye on this season. **In Sports**

Your say in Forum: Parton will always be in our hearts

Readers share what they will remember most about the queen of country music. **In Opinion**

Comedian talks fame: ‘Everything’s the same’

Leanne Morgan dishes on famous fans and A-list guest actors appearing on Season 2 of her eponymous Netflix comedy. **In Life**

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AMY SUSSMAN/GETTY IMAGES



Americans unite in fight vs. Big Tech

AI, data centers, Flock cams hit with backlash

Christopher Cann
USA TODAY

Technology is increasingly bringing Americans together. Just not the way we once envisioned.

About a quarter century ago, 8 in 10 Americans said they anticipated that the new millennium would usher in “the triumph of science and technology.” At the time, most adults said they had a positive view of computers and the internet.

Now Americans are increasingly united against rapidly advancing technologies and the companies behind them. Neighbors have rallied against data centers. Crowds at commencements booed artificial intelligence. And a lawsuit brought by 48 states against Meta over claims that its Facebook and Instagram platforms endangered children led to a landmark \$18 billion settlement.



Activist Brandy Price holds a sign in opposition to AI during a city council meeting about data centers in Memphis on Aug. 18.

STU BOYD II/USA TODAY NETWORK

Public opinion of the nation’s largest technology companies and their sophisticated products dropped to multiyear lows in 2026, polls show. And Americans say they are more concerned than excited about a future dominated by AI.

“Americans are coming together to agree on something, but for totally different reasons,” said Thomas Kahn, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University. “The motivations are different, but the concern is the same – and nationally we’re seeing politicians respond to it.”

The backlash has been strikingly bipartisan. Pushback against the initiatives of Silicon Valley is forming a unique coalition of liberals and conservatives from rural communities to large cities. This is mirrored by the elected officials speaking out against data centers and high-tech surveillance, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

The vitriol at times has led to threats and violence. In April, a man threw a Molotov cocktail at the home of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman. Local officials who have voted in favor of data centers have received death threats. And in August, a county commissioner in Tennessee said the CEO of Flock Safety, which maintains a vast

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Arthur Ferdinand, 84, talks with hospice worker Nicole Golding in his home near Buffalo, New York. He stopped chemo and entered home hospice after the side effects became unbearable. STEPHEN R. POWELL FOR USA TODAY

Comfort care

Hospice makes most of time left, be it long or short

Michael Collins
USA TODAY

CHEEKTOWAGA, NY

James Braithwaite is waiting by the door of his home when Nicole Golding arrives from hospice. ● He knows he’s dying. But it doesn’t feel like the end is near. ● “How are you doing today?” Golding asks as he leads her to a seat at his dining room table. ● Braithwaite, 79, has end-stage stomach cancer. He swears he feels fine. ● He still gets out of the house whenever he can. Still belts out James Taylor songs to the karaoke machine his son keeps downstairs. He’s still able to pick up a football and toss it in the air. ● He doesn’t look like most of the other patients Golding sees on her routine check-ins, chatty in his navy shorts and polo on this quiet tree-lined street in suburban Buffalo.

“When we use the word ‘hospice,’ people think final weeks, they think morphine drips, they think death. Immediate death,” says Golding, a nurse practitioner and supervisor on the team assigned to Braithwaite’s case.

For many hospice patients, death is neither immediate nor quick. The body shuts down when it’s ready. Sometimes that takes weeks or months. In rare cases, it takes years.

Braithwaite enrolled in home

hospice in April through Buffalo Hospice & Palliative Care after he learned the cancer he thought he had beaten 15 years ago came back. This time, there is no stopping it.

Doctors said he could live six months. Maybe a year.

“Is today the day?” he wonders when he wakes up in the morning.

Until then, he intends to go on living.

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James Braithwaite, of Buffalo, New York, entered home hospice in April after he was diagnosed with end-stage stomach cancer.

MICHAEL COLLINS/USA TODAY

Now that he has cancer and is facing certain death, James Braithwaite understands what matters most: It’s not how you leave this life, he says, but how you live it.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALAN NGUYEN/ USA TODAY; AND GETTY CREATIVE

Users flock to apps sending texts at carrier pigeons’ pace

Slow messaging appeals to fans of simpler tech

Greta Cross
USA TODAY

Why send a text when you could send a carrier pigeon?

Two mobile apps that allow users to send messages at the rate of carrier pigeons were released to app stores in April. Though the apps Roost Social and Carrier Pidge have no affiliation with one another, they’ve grown sizable audiences as users seek a slower style of communication.

At their core, Roost and Carrier Pidge are the same – think traditional snail

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