

UCLA's Wayne Knight is making outsized impact

The 5-foot, 7-inch running back leads the nation in rushing touchdowns. **In Sports**

Fox News host Tarlov looks to change minds

The lone liberal on "The Five" hopes for civil political conversations in new book. **In Life**

Workers and retirees face a financial Catch-22

Survey shows that even after a lifetime of working and saving, 39% of retirees and 71% of working-age people are reluctant to spend. **In Money**



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY CLEMENS/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Clean-air rollbacks sparking concerns

EPA loosens Biden-era limits on power plants

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

The Trump administration will roll back regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the nation's fossil fuel-fired power plants, the Environmental Protection Agency said on Sept. 14.

Limits placed on coal- and gas-fired power plants by former President Joe Biden's administration, as well as on emissions of mercury and other air pollutants, will be repealed, an intention the agency first announced more than a year ago.

The EPA said that it will rescind every remaining greenhouse gas standard for the power sector, a move it estimates will save \$310 billion.

The decision was announced on the first day of a three-day meeting in Houston, where a group of G20 leaders discussed energy abundance.



The EPA has eased limits on plants such as LG&E's coal-fired Mill Creek power plant in Kentucky.

MATT STONE/USA TODAY NETWORK

A flood of critical responses from advocacy groups quickly emerged saying the decision will drive up illnesses, deaths and long-term health care costs among the nation's residents.

Utility groups, however, favored the measure, saying it will support the reliability of the utility grid.

As part of its G20 priorities, the United States has vowed to "reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and unlock economic growth," and to advance an agenda that "prioritizes energy independence."

Rolling back the emission limits on the power plants was among the first priorities listed when EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced in March 2025 that the department would take 31 "historic" deregulation actions. The administration has worked to roll back directives and rules that it says limit energy production.

President Donald Trump and Cabinet officials have downplayed climate change, calling it a "con job" and a "green scam."

However, federal and international experts have warned that emissions reductions are critical to prevent further increases in global temperatures. Each of the past 10 years has been among the 10 warmest on record globally.

The meteorological summer that just concluded in the United States was the warmest in 132 years of

See EMISSIONS, Page 6A



USA TODAY EXCLUSIVE

Transfer portal transcends money

Player demands can turn dreams to nightmares

John Brice USA TODAY

A Rolex watch. • A mid-camp demand for more money. • A coach leaving a team meeting only to find a player waiting outside his office, eager to discuss how much of his NIL deal should be guaranteed. • Welcome to college football roster management in 2026. • "It's never over once the money is agreed to," a prominent Power Four football general manager told USA TODAY Sports. "And the money agreed to is just the first step." • Think building and managing a championship-caliber roster is merely a matter of evaluating talent and allocating resources? • First, consider these nightmares from the portal. • As part of its examination of college football's true roster costs in 2026, USA TODAY Sports spoke with coaches, general managers, agents and administrators about the realities of player acquisition in the NIL era. Their stories, drawn primarily from transfer portal pursuits but also from high school recruiting battles, reveal a chaotic marketplace where contracts rarely end negotiations and leverage never sleeps. See PORTAL, Page 6A

ILLUSTRATION BY RAMON PADILLA/USA TODAY; GETTY IMAGES

Blood donations by young people plummet

Generation gap revealed as supply rebounds

Marc Ramirez
USA TODAY



Blood donations are stored in a freezer at Blood Assurance Headquarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on May 4. NICOLE HESTER/USA TODAY NETWORK

The nation's blood centers have long relied on high school and university blood drives not only as a dependable and sizable donation source, but as an introduction to young people about the importance of donating.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020 brought it all to a halt.

Blood donation professionals say the effect was more than temporary. With such campaigns slow to return to campuses, advocates suspected millions of high school and college students would miss out on learning the importance of blood donation.

See DONATIONS, Page 4A