



Bell: NFL players want to keep World Cup's surfaces

SPORTS, 1B

THE SPECTRUM WEEKEND

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Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve in Idaho served as a NASA research site. PROVIDED BY CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE

Electric trucks win over some drivers

Trevor Hughes
USA TODAY

Eric Perkins is towing his shiny silver Airstream camper on what will ultimately be a nearly 6,000-mile road trip around the United States without ever burning a drop of gas or diesel.

His secret: A battery-powered Rivian R1 pickup, which allows him to haul his 23-foot camper without worrying about the price of fuel. He's gone from San Diego across to Branson, Missouri, and is now headed home to California from Moab, Utah.

With the national average price of regular gas sitting around \$4 a gallon and diesel above \$5, Perkins, 49, is more than a little pleased about his EV – even if many of his fellow campers consider driving a battery-powered pickup a political choice. Perkins' recharging tab so far is less than \$750 for the journey, dramatically cheaper than if he'd been driving a traditional pickup.

President Donald Trump has moved to eliminate incentives for buying EVs, while encouraging manufacturers to keep building gas and diesel vehicles. But Trump, according to industry experts, might inadvertently push more Americans into EVs because of the war he started with Iran and the resulting spike in gas prices.

"I just get so much negativity from people who think that somehow burning diesel is more American," said Perkins, a legal consultant and self-described libertarian. "And I think that Trump is going to become the most pro-EV president in history."

Trump and Teslas

Upon taking office in his second term, Trump and his team began rolling back federal regulations and eliminating tax incentives that had spurred tens of thousands of drivers to buy electric vehicles from EV companies like Tesla and Rivian, but also more traditional manufacturers like Nissan, Toyota and GM. Trump said he believed that Americans, not government regulators,

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Scenic trips to celebrate AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

Awe-inspiring landmarks cross the country

USA TODAY NETWORK

America is turning 250, but some of its greatest treasures don't sit behind museum glass. • The awe-inspiring scenes that take your breath away and remind you of the beauty of our nation are hidden along winding roads, tucked into mountain valleys, perched atop sea cliffs and preserved in places that tell the story of who we are. • From a castle built by a Sherlock Holmes actor in Connecticut to lava fields in Idaho that helped train astronauts, these destinations showcase the beauty, ingenuity and delightful weirdness that make the United States unique. • To celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial, the USA TODAY Network rounded up places that capture the spirit of America, in hopes that it inspires travelers to see our land one unforgettable view, roadside attraction, historic landmark and natural wonder at a time.

Gillette Castle State Park

Gillette Castle State Park in Connecticut feels like stepping into a storybook perched above the Connecticut River. William Gillette's whimsical, hand-crafted mansion – complete with carved doors, custom glasswork, and the remnants of his private railway – invites visitors to explore a world as eccentric as the actor who defined Sherlock Holmes.

Wander forest trails, relax by the riverfront, discover the charming Osaki cottage, or hop on the historic Chester-Hadlyme Ferry. With gardens, bridges, and peaceful picnic spots scattered across 184 scenic acres, the park blends mystery, beauty,

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Hundreds of thousands of tulips bloom in Central Park during Pella, Iowa's Tulip Time festival. ZACH BOYDEN-HOLMES/DES MOINES REGISTER FILE

2020 election deniers run for governor

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs challenged President Donald Trump's loss in the 2020 election even though Biggs won reelection on the same ballots.

Wisconsin Rep. Tom Tiffany voted against certifying then-President-elect Joe Biden's Electoral College victories in Arizona and Pennsylvania after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, when

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Tennessee Rep. John Rose, left, voted to object to then-President-elect Joe Biden's electoral votes from Arizona, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin in the 2020 election. Rose is now a gubernatorial candidate.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

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