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Pope Leo calls for AI regulation, protection for at-risk workers

ENCYCLICAL | Tech experts, theologians call 42,000-word message a likely touchstone in debate over government, corporate AI policies.

By MOTOKO RICH, ELISABETTA POVOLEDO AND ELIZABETH DIAS
The New York Times

Pope Leo XIV on Monday set out a sweeping vision for corporate executives, politicians and individuals who will shape and be shaped by the future of artificial intelligence, warning leaders to safeguard

humanity from AI's most disruptive effects.

Leo's declaration came in the form of a papal encyclical, an open letter to "all people of goodwill" that ran to roughly 42,300 words in its English version.

It outlined his desire to protect human dignity and agency in an age

in which technology threatens to replace humans in many professional and social roles. He presented it alongside Christopher Olah, a co-founder of Anthropic, a major AI developer, in a symbolic gesture of dialogue between leaders of the spiritual and technological worlds.

While emphasizing that "technology should not be considered, in itself, as a force antagonistic to humanity," he wrote that "the



Pope Leo XIV

pursuit of greater profits cannot justify choices that systematically sacrifice jobs."

Among other things, Leo called for:

- Government regulation of the private companies that are driving the development of AI.
- Protection and retraining for workers whose jobs are threatened.
- Education to help students think critically about the tech-

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U.S. strikes in Iran counter missile, mine threat

By ERIC SCHMITT
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — American military forces conducted what U.S. Central Command said were "self-defense strikes" in southern Iran on Monday "to protect our troops from threats posed by Iranian forces."

The targets included missile launch sites and Iranian boats trying to place mines, Capt. Tim Hawkins, a Central Command spokesperson, said in a statement.

"U.S. Central Command continues to defend our forces while using restraint during the ongoing ceasefire," said Hawkins, who

DIPLOMATS meet in Qatar for talks on ending Iran war > A13

declined to say which ships came under fire, where they were located or precisely where the other U.S. strikes took place.

A senior U.S. military official said Iranian surface-to-air missiles threatened some of the nearly two dozen U.S. Navy warships — including two aircraft carriers and their escort vessels — in the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea enforcing a blockade against vessels trying to enter or leave Iranian ports. The official added that the U.S. strikes hit near Bandar Abbas, a major port and Iranian navy base.

U.S. and Iranian forces have had other skirmishes since a ceasefire took effect about six weeks ago. But the strikes Monday came as Iranian negotiators arrived in Qatar for talks on end-

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A year after Pike Place Market limited cars, the experiment continues



DEAN RUTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Pike Place Market is increasingly pedestrian-friendly as motor vehicles are limited. The types of road closures vary from weekdays to weekends, or for when an event is expected to draw crowds.

'WORKING MARKET' | Range of road closures planned throughout the summer.

By NICHOLAS DESHAIS
Seattle Times
transportation reporter

Rachel Ligtenberg was admiring Pike Place Market's new flower planters when two vehicles drove by, drawing her attention.

"There's a working farmer," said Ligtenberg, who leads the Market's Preservation & Development

Authority, pointing at one. "And there's someone with a placard" for disabled parking.

In other words, under the year-old rules keeping many vehicles off the Market's squat brick roads, those two are allowed. So too were the crowds wandering around on a recent sunny afternoon,

TRAFFIC LAB

browsing and buying goods from among the Market's 200 commercial tenants and 500 craftspeople, not to mention the ever-present 450 residents who live there.

After a mayoral nudge, and the fortuitous timing of some utility work hindered traffic, Market leaders decided to try

keeping cars to a minimum for the first time in Pike Place's long history.

Despite a full turn of the seasons, the Market has yet to finalize any arrangement about when and why to close the street to cars, as it works with the city, the police and fire departments, and Market community groups

See > **PIKE PLACE, A6**

Big Tech firms reshuffle, sign Seattle office leases

By ALEX HALVERSON
Seattle Times business reporter

Artificial intelligence powerhouse Anthropic is expanding in Seattle, amid a small flurry of leasing activity that's causing cautious optimism for an office market rattled by recent tech cutbacks.

Over the past few months, tech companies like Anthropic have been linked to expansions in the city, after years of out-of-state firms choosing Bellevue for their Puget Sound outposts. The trend may not fully flip yet, but Bellevue's recent wins could actually benefit Seattle. Anthropic, the maker of the AI

chatbot Claude, has set up an outpost in the South Lake Union neighborhood in the south building of the Dexter Yard complex, according to permit applications filed with the city. While the firm is already in a couple of floors, it's looking to expand to take up the north building, according to an industry source who asked not to be named to protect business relationships.

Anthropic declined to comment. During an earnings call last month, several executives at real estate company Hudson Pacific Properties highlighted the uptick

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NICK WAGNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Space Needle is reflected on windows of the Arbor Blocks on May 21 in Seattle's South Lake Union area.

Farm bill a win in Washington, but Senate duel is on horizon

By ANUMITA KAUR
Seattle Times D.C. correspondent

WASHINGTON — Washington's specialty crop growers stand to gain from roughly \$1 billion in federal support under the House Republican farm bill — if Congress can break through a partisan impasse over food assistance cuts and agricultural spending.

"We, a lot of times, get forgotten. We — as in specialty crops — aren't top of mind when people are writing the farm bill," Rep. Dan Newhouse, a third-generation Yakima farmer, told The Seattle Times hours before the U.S. House passed its version of the massive legislation late last month. "I've been working my whole time here to increase the research and promotion budgets, and we've been able to do that."

The House's Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 directs about \$1 billion for programs supporting specialty crop research, expanding global markets and protecting crops from pests and disease.

It's a boon for Washington state, where specialty crops drive

See > **FARM BILL, A6**

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