

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

The Seattle Times

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High, 63. Low, 48. > A13
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There's a new No. 1: Amazon unseats Walmart atop the Fortune 500 list

By ALEX HALVERSON
Seattle Times business reporter

For the first time in its three decades-plus history, Amazon is now No. 1 on the Fortune 500 list.

The Seattle-based tech giant knocked Walmart down to No. 2, ending the Arkansas-based retailer's 13-year reign on top. The list

ranks 500 of the largest American corporations by revenue each year and only four companies have ever held the top spot since Fortune began publishing it in 1955: Amazon, Exxon Mobil, General Motors and Walmart.

Though Amazon and Walmart are retail competitors, vying for

hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue each year, Amazon also has its cloud-computing division, Amazon Web Services, that brings in billions in sales as well.

Amazon reported \$717 billion in revenue for 2025, with AWS sales accounting for \$129 billion of that. Walmart's 2025 revenue came in

near \$713 billion.

Despite seesaw tariff policies over the past year that have weakened consumer sentiment, retail sales for Amazon and Walmart showed steady growth each quarter.

But Amazon's cloud revenue is growing faster than the company's
See > **AMAZON, A6**

Senate GOP defeats first vote to halt Trump's payout fund

By ANNIE KARNI
AND ROBERT JIMISON
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Republicans on Thursday defeated an initial effort by Democrats to bar President Donald Trump from establishing a fund that could compensate his political allies, although more attempts to add such a measure to the party's immigration crackdown bill were expected that could draw their support.

The vote came as Republicans were working to ram through their \$70 billion bill to fund immigration enforcement through the remainder of Trump's term, a top party priority they are eager to spotlight in the middle of an election year as their control of Congress is at stake.

The measure has in recent weeks been imperiled by a rare spate of Republican pushback to Trump, as GOP lawmakers have revolted over his request for \$1 billion for his ballroom project and a plan to establish a \$1.8 billion fund to pay people who he claims have been victimized by

See > **SENATE, A5**

Downtown's tourism dry spell gets doused



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Visitors view tropical fish and sharks in a tank at the Seattle Aquarium's Ocean Pavilion in February. The aquarium on Alaskan Way in downtown Seattle had 719,000 visitors in 2025-26, which is 220,000 more visitors than in 2024-25.

DATA SHOWS LOCALS ARE HEADING BACK TO SEATTLE FOR EVENTS, WATERFRONT ATTRACTIONS

Gene Balk / FYI Guy
Seattle Times columnist

How about some good news about downtown Seattle, for a change?

A year ago, I reported on Nielsen market research data showing a significant drop in local tourism to Seattle since before the pandemic. Looking at the numbers for 16



attractions and events in the city of Seattle, I found there was a nearly across-the-board decline in local attendance.

Some of that was surely due to inflation and the high costs associated with a day trip to Seattle. Concerns about crime and safety likely also played a role.

Those issues still exist, but Nielsen's latest data shows locals are returning to Seattle

attractions — and in some cases even beating prepandemic numbers.

The new data is based on surveys of about 3,900 adults across the Seattle market area, which covers most of the Puget Sound region. The surveys, conducted from March 2025 to March 2026, asked respondents whether they had visited or attended various attractions at least once in the past 12 months.

Among the 16 attractions and events, 12 had higher numbers than the previous year.

Pike Place Market remains the most popular destination for regional residents. The new data shows that 1.5 million local adults visited the Market at least once — about 6% higher than last year's 1.41 million. To be

See > **FYI GUY, A6**

Why dilution is the go-to cleanup strategy near Longview mill

By GREG KIM
Seattle Times climate reporter

After a tank containing about 600,000 gallons of "white liquor" imploded in Longview on May 26, killing 11 people, cleanup efforts have largely consisted of diluting affected waterways.

You might be wondering, is dilu-

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tion enough to clean up a chemical spill?

The Washington State Department of Ecology, which is helping manage the response, and an independent expert say it is, and that it

comes down to the composition of white liquor.

White liquor mostly consists of two chemical compounds — sodium hydroxide (commonly called lye) and sodium sulfide. What makes it dangerous to humans and the environment is primarily the high concentration of hydroxide,

which results in high pH levels. That helps break down wood chips into pulp in paper mills but can burn tissue and corrode materials like concrete, plastics and rubber.

See > **LONGVIEW, A6**

OBITUARY: CJ Doran was working to build a family > A7

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