



This week’s top prep sports performances

SPORTS, 5B

The Sheboygan Press

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 | SHEBOYGANPRESS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ANALYSIS



With consumers facing higher prices from goods such as gasoline, most U.S. households have cause to wonder what the AI market frenzy means for them. BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Wealth boom collides with price shock in U.S.

Sustainability of current growth model uncertain

Howard Schneider
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The United States is in the middle of a historic and costly technological revolution, with the artificial intelligence buildout driving a level of investment set to eclipse the previous telecommunications boom, as well as national projects like the construction of rail and highway networks.

The transformation has spurred immense stock market gains that have boosted household wealth across the economy, which arguably has helped to keep consumer spending on track. But with investment gains concentrated among the already rich, some Americans are benefiting more than others.

And what’s been dubbed a crisis of affordability can still be seen in the rising cost of home ownership or the price of ground beef – a meaningful pinch for the great majority of households that derive most of their income from earnings rather than investments.

Ninety-nine percent of U.S. house-

holds have cause to wonder what the AI market frenzy means for them. The rapid stock market gains in recent years have been fastest for the top 1%: Between the end of former President Joe Biden’s administration and the second quarter of 2026, midway through Donald Trump’s final term, only the top 1% gained a bigger slice of the national wealth pie, according to Federal Reserve data.

From the 99th percentile down, the share grew smaller, the data show.

The lower 99% have not been left out

See **WEALTH**, Page 4A

Clergy abuse survivors wait for results

State DOJ investigation began five years ago

Laura Schulte
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MERRILL – Five years after the launch of an investigation into the breadth of abuse by faith leaders in Wisconsin, some survivors are still waiting to hear what the result is after sharing their stories with the state’s Department of Justice.

Attorney General Josh Kaul started the inquiry in 2021, announcing it alongside survivors and advocates, promising a thorough review of reports received by the department, and an exploration of how abuse was perpetrated by leaders of all faiths.

While there have been periodic updates about the number of reports the department has received, and a handful of prosecutions stemming from reports, survivors have been left to wonder where things stand, when they will see a final report, and how their story might play into what exactly is disclosed.

Steve Weix, a former educator and one of several men who were assaulted as boys by former Catholic priest Thomas Ericksen, said he feels as if the survivors have been left behind in the conversation. Since he made his report in 2021, there has been little to no outreach to check and and share information about where the investigation stands.

He said he and other survivors of

See **INVESTIGATION**, Page 3A

‘Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr.’ comes to Sheboygan Oct. 23-25

Nida Tazeen
Sheboygan Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Theater for Young Audiences will open its 38th season with “Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.,” a one-hour musical featuring 20 young performers from Sheboygan County and surrounding communities.

The production will be presented at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center,

608 New York Ave., according to a community announcement.

Based on the popular 1970s animated television series, the show features songs including “Conjunction Junction” and “Just a Bill.”

The musical centers on Tom, a first-year teacher anxious about stepping into the classroom. As he watches television in an effort to relax, characters representing different parts of his personality emerge from the screen and use

music and imagination to help him discover new ways to engage students.

Amara Kennedy directs the production, and Paul Sucherman serves as music director.

Performance schedule

- Performances are scheduled for:
- Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 24 at 2 and 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.

Ticket information

Tickets are available through tyasheboygan.org and may also be purchased at the theater before each performance.

This story was produced by reporter Nida Tazeen, NTazeen@usatoday-co.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.



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Volume 122 | No. 113
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