



WI State Fair Closes 175th Anniversary With More Than 925,000 Visitors



WEST ALLIS, Wis. — The 2026 Wisconsin State Fair has officially come to a close after celebrating its 175th anniversary and welcoming 925,749 fairgoers during its 11-day run.

Attendance increased 3.7% from 2025, when the fair was shortened to 10 days

and longtime favorites. The America 250 Wheel made its Midwest debut, carrying riders 230 feet above the fairgrounds. A total of 82,284 people rode the giant observation wheel, while the popular Giant Slide recorded 93,120 rides.

Food remained one of the biggest attractions. More than 350,000 Original Cream Puffs were produced, including a special Fair-aschino Cherry Cream Puff created for the anniversary. The Sporkies-winning Birria Flamin’ Bombs also proved popular, with more than 32,000 orders served.

Agriculture and

competition continued to be at the heart of the event. Nearly 10,000 competitive exhibits and almost 8,000 animal entries were showcased, while more than 2,700 ribbons were awarded in categories ranging from art and gardening to history.

The fair also supported local hunger relief efforts. During Piggly Wiggly \$5 Day, visitors donated approximately 59,000 pounds of food and more than \$13,000 to Hunger Task Force.

“Whether you took a spin 230 feet in the air on the America 250 Wheel, raised a glass of Cream Puff Ale or created new traditions

with your loved ones, we feel blessed to have brought so many people together,” Wisconsin State Fair Park CEO Shari Black said.

The 2026 fair ended Sunday, Aug. 16, after 11 days of food, entertainment, rides, agricultural competitions and family activities. For many visitors, the 175th anniversary offered a chance to celebrate a tradition that has connected generations of Wisconsin families.

The anniversary also demonstrated the fair’s continued importance as a gathering place for people from across Wisconsin and beyond. From first-time visitors

to families returning for traditions passed down through generations, the fairgrounds were filled with people enjoying familiar attractions while discovering new foods, rides and entertainment.

With another successful fair now in the books, organizers are preparing for the event’s return in 2027. The State Fair is scheduled to return to West Allis from Aug. 5 through Aug. 15, giving fairgoers another opportunity to enjoy the food, agriculture, music and traditions that have made the event a fixture of Wisconsin summers for generations.

Wisconsin State Fair
Continue to page 14

Mexican Fiesta reúne a la comunidad y celebra la cultura mexicana



MILWAUKEE — La orilla del lago de Wisconsin y de otras regiones, con visitantes que disfrutaron de un fin de semana dedicado a la música, el baile, la gastronomía y las tradiciones de México.

Los asistentes disfrutaron de presentaciones de música en vivo, desde el tradicional mariachi hasta sonidos contemporáneos

mexicanos. Los vendedores de comida ofrecieron una amplia variedad de platillos, entre ellos tacos, tamales, birria, carnitas, enchiladas y ceviche.

Entre las actividades especiales del fin de semana estuvo el desfile del Día de los Muertos, mientras que el sábado se realizó el popular espectáculo de autos y motocicletas personalizados. El domingo incluyó una carrera y caminata de 5 kilómetros, una misa católica y una procesión junto al lago con la imagen de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Mexican Fiesta también mantuvo su tradición de apoyar la educación a través de la Wisconsin Hispanic

Scholarship Foundation. Los fondos recaudados durante el festival ayudan a respaldar becas y oportunidades educativas para estudiantes hispanos.

Para muchas familias, sin embargo, el festival representó mucho más que entretenimiento. El evento ofreció la oportunidad de reunirse, celebrar sus raíces y compartir las tradiciones mexicanas con visitantes de diferentes culturas y generaciones.

La edición de este año volvió a demostrar la importancia de Mexican Fiesta como una de las principales celebraciones culturales de Milwaukee. Durante tres días, la música, los bailes tradicionales, la

comida y las expresiones de orgullo cultural transformaron el parque frente al lago en una gran celebración de la comunidad mexicana.

A medida que concluyeron las últimas presentaciones y los visitantes abandonaron el recinto el domingo por la noche, la 53.ª edición de Mexican Fiesta cerró otro capítulo de una tradición que durante décadas ha formado parte importante de la temporada de festivales de verano de Milwaukee.

Aquí tienes los últimos dos párrafos condensados para que coincidan con la longitud y el ritmo del resto del artículo:

Además de la celebración cultural, el festival impulsó

la economía local de Milwaukee. La gran afluencia de visitantes benefició al comercio del centro de la ciudad y ofreció a artesanos y pequeños comerciantes una valiosa plataforma para vender sus productos.

Mirando hacia el futuro, los organizadores buscan seguir expandiendo el evento en sus próximas ediciones. Mexican Fiesta reafirma así su lugar como un pilar del verano en la ciudad y un puente fundamental lleno de oportunidades para respaldar de manera directa a la juventud hispana a través de la educación.

Mexican Fiesta
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State Fair 2026 In Pictures



Mexican Fiesta 2026 In Pictures





Reclaman al alcalde de Trujillo Alto que atienda y reabra la cancha de Fairview

Un grupo de padres y dirigentes del **Club de Baloncesto Cardenales Fairview** reclamaron al alcalde de **Trujillo Alto**, Pedro A. “Pedrito” Rodríguez González, que “atienda y permita la reapertura” de la cancha que utilizan niños y jóvenes de la comunidad, que fue cerrada por el municipio por problemas de higiene atribuidos a la presencia de palomas en el área.

“Esta cancha es mucho más que un lugar para jugar baloncesto. Es un espacio donde nuestros niños encuentran disciplina, educación, compañerismo y una alternativa positiva para mantenerse enfocados”, sostuvo Onix Figueroa, director del Club Cardenales Fairview, en declaraciones escritas.

Explicó que la comunidad lleva años solicitando que se atienda la situación.

Hace unos dos años y medio se llevó a cabo una reunión con residentes para discutir las condiciones de la cancha y otras áreas del complejo deportivo.

A falta de una solución, padres y dirigentes del club iniciaron una campaña para recaudar fondos y adquirir una malla que permita controlar la presencia de palomas y así contribuir a que la cancha pueda volver a utilizarse.

En su reclamo, la comunidad está solicitando una reunión con el alcalde para establecer una solución concreta que permita reabrir ese espacio deportivo y de esa forma devolverle a la comunidad de Fairview un lugar seguro para practicar deportes y desarrollarse.

“Le hacemos un llamado al alcalde para que escuche a la comunidad. Nosotros

estamos dispuestos a poner de nuestra parte, pero necesitamos que el municipio también actúe”, exigió Figueroa.

Como parte de la iniciativa de la comunidad, Figueroa dio a conocer que utilizará sus plataformas bajo “Onix El Centinela”, y relanzará el tema “Adelante”, destinando todos recursos que genere a través de sus plataformas digitales, streaming y YouTube a los esfuerzos para recuperar la cancha.

Contesta el alcalde: “no hay fondos para la malla”

Por su parte, el alcalde Rodríguez González aseguró a Primera Hora que siempre ha estado abierto a dialogar con las comunidades, tal como hizo el lunes con un grupo de padres de Fairview, pero agregó que, en estos momentos, el municipio no cuenta con los fondos para poder colocar la malla que atendería el problema con las palomas.

“Esa cancha tiene una situación con las palomas. Eso ahí es una epidemia con lo de las palomas. Una de las formas de resolverse es instalando una malla, que la cotización más bajita que he recibido ha sido alrededor de 24, 25 mil dólares. Ayer mismo recibí una de \$35,000. Hay una realidad, el municipio no cuenta con ese dinero. Ahora mismo no tiene ese dinero para hacer ese proyecto”, comentó el alcalde.

Agregó que, aunque “las palomas ensucian todo eso allí”, personal del municipio va allí constantemente y “limpia y lava, se batalla con esa situación”.

“Ahora se agrava la cosa con la cuestión esta de lo del agua, el racionamiento. No podemos estar así

desperdiciando agua, que eso complica las cosas”, sostuvo.

El alcalde agregó que, como indica el presidente del club, hay un punto bien importante relacionado con la salud de los niños y las personas que visitan la cancha, “y eso está por encima de cualquier cosa”.

“No puede haber niños allí. Por eso yo tomé la decisión de cerrar la cancha, hasta que se pueda resolver, que pase esto de lo del agua, o entonces tengamos para hacer el proyecto de lo de la malla”, indicó.

No obstante, el alcalde indicó que “hay una alternativa”, pues el club “utiliza en total tres canchas, tres facilidades recreativas del municipio. Las otras dos, Rincón Español y Colinas de Fairview, no tienen la situación de las palomas”.

“Pues, mira, en lo que se resuelve esta situación con las palomas en Fairview, pues ubica y reprograma como tienes el programa allá, y lo haces entonces en estas dos facilidades, lo divides allá entre estas dos facilidades”, sugirió.

Aclaró que, aunque recojan dinero para la malla, cualquier acción que se vaya a hacer en la cancha tiene que hacerse en coordinación con el municipio. “Y para eso tiene que haber una comunicación con nosotros”.

Aseguró que está accesible y contesta las llamadas, al igual que sus directores de recreación y deportes y de obras públicas, que de manera rutinaria contestan para resolver situaciones en la cancha.

Agregó que ayer lunes incluso se reunió con un grupo de padres que le escribieron durante el fin de semana. Admitió que el



problema en la cancha de Fairview “lleva tiempo”, pero no ha contado con los fondos para poder atenderlo, como sí ha podido hacer en otras canchas.

“Nosotros teníamos esa misma situación en la cancha de Ciudad Universitaria. Una asignación legislativa de Roberto Rivera nos ayudó a poder resolver ese problema. Pero ahí jugando y te caiga una plasta encima, o también lo que conlleva eso, tener personas allí trabajando, limpiando eso. No. Pero de verdad que hay una realidad, y es que, si no están los fondos disponibles, no lo hay. En cuanto yo los tenga disponible, puede estar seguro que sí, que la cancha va a estar con eso”, afirmó el alcalde.

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Noticias de México

Localizado con vida el reportero Eli Martínez tras ser secuestrado en Poza Rica



Tras el asesinato del periodista Luis Ángel López este 11 de junio en Poza Rica, su compañero Eli Martínez tomó el micrófono y salió a exigir protección para quienes trabajan en los medios. “Documentar un hecho, tomar fotografías, grabar videos o transmitir información, no constituye ningún delito, ni mucho menos una actividad ilícita”, dijo el reportero alto y claro. No fue la primera vez que insistió en la criminalización que vivían los comunicadores que cubrían la fuente policíaca. Esta vez fue él quien estuvo secuestrado después de sufrir un ataque armado en Poza Rica. Tras 12 horas desaparecido, Martínez ya está bajo resguardo de las autoridades y está declarando ante la Fiscalía de Veracruz, según ha confirmado a EL PAÍS el director de la Comisión Estatal para la Atención y Protección de los Periodistas (CEAPP), Luis Baqueiro.

Martínez fue atacado a balazos este lunes en la noche cuando estaba con otro compañero en la avenida 20 de Noviembre. Los dos se echaron a correr, pero Martínez no logró escapar y fue interceptado por hombres armados. Tras la exigencia de medios de comunicación y periodistas, el reportero ha sido localizado con vida. Una noticia esperanzadora después de que tres periodistas hayan sido asesinados en lo que va de año en

Veracruz, dos de ellos en la misma población de Poza Rica. El tercer caso, uno de los que más repercusión ha tenido, es el crimen de Roxana Guzmán, cuyos restos fueron hallados tres semanas después de haber sido secuestrada por un comando armado y que las autoridades no la encontraran a tiempo.

En la calle 4, en la colonia Cazones de Poza Rica, muy cerca de la principal vía de la ciudad, el Bulevar Adolfo López Cortines,

quedó el lunes por la noche la motocicleta y la gorra de Elí Martínez. El lugar quedó regado de casquillos percutidos, según reportó en un video en directo el medio local Presente Veracruz. El ataque tuvo lugar justo enfrente de una gasolinera, que cuenta con varias cámaras de seguridad. Esas grabaciones y el testimonio del periodista que estaba con Martínez al momento de la agresión se han convertido ahora en las pistas principales de la investigación.

“La petición es clara: una búsqueda inmediata, efectiva y coordinada para conocer el paradero de Elí Martínez y garantizar su integridad”, escribió el periódico local Noreste, donde trabajaba el reportero. Martínez, especializado en nota roja, también había hecho colaboraciones para medios nacionales como Radio Fórmula. “Tras permanecer alrededor de 12 horas privado de la libertad, el reportero Elí Martínez apareció con vida y se encuentra

bajo resguardo de elementos de la Policía Ministerial en Poza Rica”, comunicó la publicación. Veracruz se ha convertido, de nuevo, en el principal foco de ataques contra la prensa. El Estado encabeza la lista con más periodistas asesinados desde el año 2000: 34 crímenes mortales contra comunicadores; la inmensa mayoría siguen impunes. Solo en estos ocho meses, tres nuevos nombres se han añadido a la petición de justicia.

En enero fue asesinado a balazos mientras comía en un restaurante familiar el reportero Carlos Castro, de 26 años. También cubría nota roja y también en Poza Rica. Había estado dentro del Mecanismo de Protección para Periodistas hasta 2024. La pareja y una amiga del reportero fueron desaparecidas tras asistir a su funeral el pasado 10 de enero. Sus familias todavía claman a la Fiscalía por respuestas.

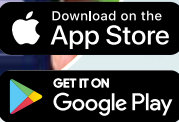
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OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Meta agreed Wednesday to pay up to \$18 billion and add stronger child-safety measures to its Facebook and Instagram platforms as part of a landmark legal settlement that ended a trial over teen social media addiction and settled claims filed by nearly every state.

The settlement resolved a pivotal case years in the making that sought to hold the tech giant accountable for the role its platforms played in undermining children’s mental health. The effort targeted features designed to hook young people’s attention.

The agreement “institutes real change, real transparency, real protections for children and teens across the country,” California Attorney General Rob Bonta said.

If approved by the

court, the deal will stop an avalanche of litigation by states against Meta, although the company still faces lawsuits from individuals and school districts throughout the U.S. For the states, the settlement delivers money for mental-health programs for kids, including after-school or summer activities and digital literacy counselors.

Advocates cheered the new protections, including default time limits and the disabling of features such as “like” counts.

But “we cannot truly protect all children and teens until these protections are required on every platform and are permanent — that’s something only Congress can do,” said Sacha Haworth, executive director of The Tech Oversight Project.

The settlement will

Meta reaches \$18 billion settlement with states in landmark trial over teen social media addiction

be paid out over 10 years. California will get the largest sum of at least \$1.5 billion, but several other states will still collect hundreds of millions of dollars each over the decade.

The settlement “will put an end to these dangerous practices and deliver meaningful relief that will protect children from online harm,” Virginia Attorney General Jay Jones said.

Meta urges rivals to adopt similar safety measures

Meta said in a blog post that it was “building on our longstanding efforts to empower parents and support teens.”

“Ensuring teens have a safe and productive experience on our platforms is an absolute imperative for Meta,” the company said. “We want to get this right for parents and teens, and that’s why we partnered with state attorneys general to set a new industry standard.”

The company urged competitors TikTok and YouTube to adopt similar safety measures.

The \$18 billion settlement is a fraction of Meta’s 2025 revenue of \$201 billion. Meta shares were up about 1.5% by midday Wednesday, hours after the deal was announced.

The agreement cuts short an ongoing court case involving California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey, which were among 29 states that sued Meta in 2023. The federal trial kicked off last week in Oakland, California, where Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg had been among the witnesses expected to take the stand.

The lawsuit accused Meta of contributing to the youth mental health crisis by deliberately designing features that addict children to its platforms and hiding them from the public. The case also argued that Meta violated federal laws by routinely collecting data on children under 13 without their parents’ consent.

The cases in other states had been expected to go to trial later, but are now resolved. The settlement covers 48 states, as well as Washington, D.C., and some U.S. territories. The only two states to be excluded are New Mexico, which went to trial in its case against Meta and won earlier this year, and Florida, where the attorney general said the settlement was not tough enough on Meta.

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier wrote on X that the “payouts are peanuts compared to the profound harms Meta’s profit-driven addictive features inflicted on kids.” He wrote in a separate post that his

team “will hold them accountable in Florida.”

TikTok responded immediately to requests for comments.

New features to include time limits and curbs on push notifications

Under the proposed settlement, Meta agreed to adopt a series of safety features, including two-hour daily time limits that can only be disabled with a parent’s permission and pauses for children using Instagram and Facebook.

The company will eliminate push notifications during weekday school hours and bring in “robust” age-assurance measures and “age-appropriate” content controls to prevent bullying and harmful material about eating disorders and self-harm.

There will be stronger and more user-friendly parental controls and limits on social comparison features such as “like” counts.

An independent auditor will assess how Meta is implementing the safety features and how effective they are.

The company said 30% of the settlement amount — about \$5.3 billion — will be released to states only if rivals implementing similar safety features, including a one-hour daily time limit, a nighttime block and age-assurance measures; and paying the same amount, split between the two companies.

Neither YouTube

owner Google nor TikTok responded immediately to requests for comments.

Meta officials declined to comment on whether they had conversations with their competitors about those conditions, but said they intentionally designed the agreement with the states to incentivize the rest of the industry to follow suit.

Some of the safety measures Meta will implement, like disabling cosmetic surgery and extreme makeup filters, made sense regardless of whether competing platforms do the same, Meta said. Others, like its overnight block, will function better if they are established across the board, the company said.

If industry peers sign on to the agreement, Meta will implement stronger defaults for teens’ daily time limit and the length of time for its “night mode.”

The federal lawsuit was the result of an investigation led by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from California, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Vermont. It followed newspaper reports, first by The Wall Street Journal in 2021, that found the company knew about the harm Instagram can cause teenagers — especially teen girls — when it comes to mental health and body image issues.



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State Dept. pauses immigrant visa appointments worldwide, says staff need training

The U.S. State Department has implemented a global pause on immigrant visa appointments, notifying applicants that consular staff worldwide require mandatory training before interviews can resume.

This suspension fits into a broader, highly aggressive immigration crackdown and deportation drive led by the Trump administration. The administration's overall strategy has included revoking active visas and green cards, as well as rejecting ongoing applications across a wide variety of non-standard grounds. Among these reasons are applicants' political opinions and their participation in pro-Palestinian campus and

public protests against Israel's ongoing military assault on Gaza.

President Trump has consistently maintained that these restrictive measures are essential to bolster domestic national security and safeguard internal stability.

However, the policy rollout has faced significant legal challenges and judicial pushback. Just days before the global interview pause, a U.S. federal judge issued a ruling striking down a separate Trump administration initiative. That policy had sought to suspend the issuance of all immigrant visas to individuals applying from 75 designated foreign countries. The judge ruled that the broad ban far exceeded the statutory authority granted to Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

While the State

Department declined to provide specific operational details regarding the nature of the mandatory staff training or a clear timeline for when normal scheduling will resume, official statements indicated that the initiative is designed to instruct consular officers on how to screen out individuals deemed likely to become dependent on U.S. public benefits—commonly referred to as “public charge” standard evaluations—and to ensure all visa applicants are reviewed “comprehensively and consistently”.

News of the widespread interview pause was first reported by the *Financial Times*. Affected immigrant visa applicants with scheduled interviews at U.S. embassies and consulates across

the globe reported receiving automated emails informing them that their appointments were being canceled or rescheduled, with instructions to await further notice for a new interview date.

The administration's expanding measures have drawn sharp criticism from international human rights organizations and legal advocacy groups. Critics condemn the crackdown as overtly discriminatory and a direct violation of constitutional free speech, equal protection, and due process rights. Advocates further emphasize that these policies foster a hostile, unsafe environment within the United States, raising severe concerns among ethnic and religious minorities about systemic racial profiling by law enforcement and



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TRUMP ADMIN PAUSES VISA APPOINTMENTS WORLDWIDE SO CONSULAR OFFICERS CAN TRAIN ON PUBLIC CHARGE SCREENING.

immigration authorities. bureaucratic hurdles include drastic fee increases for certain employment-based non-immigrant visas—such as proposed massive fee spikes for foreign skilled worker applications—making the lawful application process vastly more expensive and difficult for families and businesses alike. Although Donald Trump campaigned extensively during the 2024 presidential election on a promise to halt illegal border crossings, his administration's policy execution has systematically restricted legal immigration pathways as well. These

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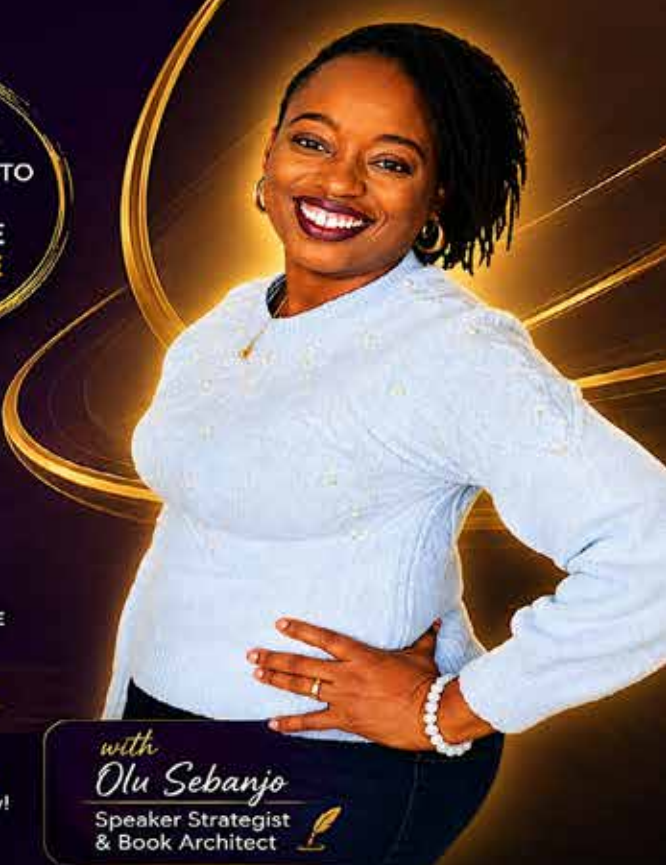
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A promotional poster for '512 The Selena Experience'. It features a large, smiling Selena Quintanilla on the right, wearing a sparkling silver bralette, a wide black belt with a large silver buckle, and black pants, with a purple shawl draped over her left shoulder. On the left, five men in black clothing are posed in a field of blue flowers under a dramatic sunset sky. The text '512 The Selena Experience' is in a large, stylized font at the top left. At the bottom, the date and time '9.26 7:30PM' are displayed in large white letters, followed by the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center logo and name.

512
The Selena Experience

9.26 7:30PM

 **SOUTH MILWAUKEE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

A poster for a Harley-Davidson event. It features a large, diverse crowd of people at a festival, many with tattoos and wearing Harley-Davidson gear, under a cloudy sky with white tents in the background. The text 'EVERY ROAD TELLS A STORY. EVERY RIDE COMES HOME.' is in large, bold white letters on the left. Below it, a paragraph describes the event as a four-day celebration of motorcycles, music, food, and Milwaukee energy at the Harley-Davidson Museum campus and surrounding H-D Dealers during Labor Day weekend.

SEPTEMBER 3-6, 2026

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EVERY RIDE
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Four days of motorcycles, music, food, and Milwaukee energy take over the Harley-Davidson Museum campus and surrounding H-D Dealers this Labor Day weekend. Riders, locals, and visitors all roll in for one unforgettable end-of-summer sendoff.

Serena and Venus Williams will play doubles together at the US Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena and Venus Williams are teaming up again at the U.S. Open. The sisters will play doubles at the tournament after receiving a wild card Wednesday into the event they won twice. Serena Williams returned to tennis this summer after a four-year absence, and the sisters were set to play at Wimbledon before Serena had to withdraw after injuring her knee in her singles loss. They played in the Cincinnati Open, losing in the first round.

The Williams sisters won the 1999 and 2009 U.S. Open doubles titles and are 27-7 in their nine appearances. They last played in 2022, losing in the first round in what was expected to be Serena's final match in Flushing Meadows. Serena, 44, played with Carlos Alcaraz in mixed doubles Tuesday, winning one match before losing in the quarterfinals. Venus, 46, is entered in the women's singles event. The Williams sisters teamed to win 14 Grand Slam doubles titles along with Olympic gold medals in 2000, 2008 and 2012. They shared the No. 1 ranking in women's doubles for eight weeks.

Serena opted not to compete in singles at the U.S. Open, where she won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles. But she felt good enough to accept wild cards into both doubles events. She and Venus won their first U.S. Open doubles title the same year the younger Williams won her first Australian Open and again in 2010 and then Wimbledon in 2009, picked up the French Open title, making the sisters the holders of all four major trophies at the time.

They won the



Williams won her first Australian Open and again in 2010 and then Wimbledon in 2009, picked up the French Open title, making the sisters the holders of all four major trophies at the time. They won the



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Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers Ranks Among Top 10% Nationwide, Only Wisconsin Health Center to Earn Gold Quality Award

MILWAUKEE — August 2026 — Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers is proud to announce that it has been recognized among the top 10% of health centers nationwide for its commitment to providing high-quality care to the Milwaukee community. Sixteenth Street is the only health center in Wisconsin to receive this national Gold-level distinction for 2025 performance. Sixteenth Street received the 2025 Gold Health Center Quality Leader Award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the highest level of quality recognition that a Community Health Center can achieve. The Gold designation recognizes health centers that achieved the best overall clinical quality measure performance among health centers nationwide. Among nearly 1,400 health centers operating more than 16,200 service sites nationwide, Sixteenth Street earned a place in the top 10% nationally and is the only health center in Wisconsin to receive the 2025 Gold Health Center Quality Leader Award. In addition to the Gold Health Center Quality Leader Award, Sixteenth Street received two additional HRSA recognitions for 2025 performance, along with a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) badge, highlighting the organization's work in health center quality, heart health, and health information technology. "Being recognized among the top 10% of health centers in the country is an incredible honor and a reflection of the commitment our team brings to our patients every single day," said President/CEO Dr. Julie Schuller. "Quality health care is about more than treating an illness. It's about building trust, removing barriers to care, and being there for our patients and families throughout their lives. This recognition belongs to our entire team and to the community that continues to put its trust in us." For Sixteenth Street's patients and families, this national recognition reflects the quality of care they receive every day, from preventive and primary care to chronic disease management, behavioral health, dental care, and other services designed to support their overall health and well-being. The recognition reflects Sixteenth Street's continued commitment to providing comprehensive, patient-centered care while addressing the many factors that influence an individual's ability to live a healthy life. Sixteenth Street credits the achievement to the dedication of its physicians, providers, and staff; the trust of its patients and community; and the ongoing support of donors, funders, and community partners.

Dolly Parton, country music icon, dies at 80



Dolly Parton, the singer, songwriter, actress, businesswoman and philanthropist who rose from an impoverished childhood in the mountains of East Tennessee to become one of the most beloved figures in American entertainment, has died at the age of 80. Parton's family announced her death Tuesday, and her team said she had faced a brief battle with cancer. She died surrounded by loved ones, closing a remarkable career that spanned more than six decades and transformed a girl from a one-room cabin into the internationally recognized "Queen of Country" music. Her nephew, Brian Seaver, announced the news in a video posted on her Instagram account. Seaver, who had worked as Parton's head of security for more than two decades, said the singer had prepared him for the responsibility of announcing her death. He remembered her as an aunt, sister and grandmother whose family life remained important despite her worldwide fame. Seaver said Parton "lived in the light" and was now reunited with her late husband, Carl Dean, her parents and others she loved. Parton's team praised the generosity and warmth that became central to her public identity. In a statement, Team Dolly said she spent her life bringing joy, laughter, hope and integrity into everything she touched and used her success to help countless people, including many she never personally met. As news of her death spread, tributes poured in from fans, entertainers and political leaders. President Donald Trump ordered U.S. flags lowered to half-staff nationwide for one week, while stars across the entertainment world shared condolences and memories of a performer whose influence reached far beyond country music. Her death followed several years of health problems. In May, Parton canceled a planned Las Vegas show and revealed she had been undergoing treatment for kidney stones. She also said her immune and digestive systems had suffered difficulties, though she remained determined to recover and continue working. Only days before her death, Parton acknowledged that she had slowed down after Dean died in March 2025. Yet she insisted that retirement was not part of her plans. "I'm still workin'," she said, adding that she had dreamed herself into a corner because she still had many projects she wanted to see come to life. During her career, Parton sold more than 100 million records and won 11 Grammy Awards, establishing herself as one of the bestselling performers in music history. Her success extended to Hollywood, where she became known for films including "9 to 5," "Steel Magnolias" and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Her glamorous appearance, featuring towering blonde hairstyles and elaborate makeup, became part of her unmistakable image. Parton often met questions about her appearance with humor, delivering the famous line, "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap." Behind the humor was a shrewd businesswoman who maintained creative control in an industry often dominated by men. Her estimated fortune reached hundreds of millions of dollars, while her entertainment empire included the Dollywood theme park in Tennessee. Born Jan. 19, 1946, Parton was the fourth of 12 children raised near Sevierville, Tennessee. Her family lived with limited resources, and her father supplemented their farm income with construction work. Her mother, Avie Lee Parton, sang traditional Appalachian ballads and helped inspire her daughter's lifelong love of music. Parton began performing in church and, by age 13, was singing on local radio and television. She made her debut at the Grand Ole Opry and later moved to Nashville immediately after graduating from high school in 1964. She initially found success writing songs for other artists before releasing her first record and joining the television program of country star Porter Wagoner. In 1974, she achieved her first major breakthrough with "Jolene," beginning a remarkable run of chart-topping hits. Among them was "I Will Always Love You," which later became a global smash for Whitney Houston. Songs such as "Coat of Many Colors" and "Tennessee Homesick Blues" drew directly from Parton's Appalachian childhood and helped establish her as one of country music's most accomplished songwriters. Parton's influence extended beyond entertainment. She openly expressed her Christian faith while supporting the LGBTQ community, advocating for marriage equality and defending transgender people. She frequently said that judging others was not a Christian's responsibility, describing that as "God's job." Her personal life was anchored by Dean, whom she married in 1966. Their relationship lasted for more than 60 years, even as he largely avoided the spotlight surrounding his famous wife. After his death at age 82, Parton said words could not adequately describe the love they had shared. In 1986, Parton opened Dollywood near her East Tennessee hometown, creating an attraction that celebrated the region's Appalachian heritage through music, crafts and entertainment. She also became known for supporting medical research, including a \$1 million donation that helped fund research at Vanderbilt University during the development of a Covid-19 vaccine. Despite her extraordinary wealth and worldwide fame, Parton remained closely associated with the mountain community where her story began. Her music, humor and philanthropy reflected the values and experiences of her childhood while helping her connect with generations of fans.



HHS quietly signals possible changes coming to childhood vaccination schedule

The Trump administration is considering changes to the government's recommended vaccine schedules that experts say would, if adopted, have far-reaching consequences for public health.

Last week the Department of Health and Human Services posted a request for public input on how vaccines are categorized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Under the current policy, vaccines are assigned to one of three different categories: Some shots are recommended for all children and adults, while others are recommended for at-risk individuals. And some are categorized as recommended based on shared clinical decision-making with a doctor.

The request for comment is hot on the heels of President Donald Trump's executive order aimed at limiting childhood vaccinations and overhauling their administration. The order, which called for breaking up the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine into separate shots, has been widely criticized by health experts as a move that was not based on scientific evidence and that is likely to result in fewer children being vaccinated against preventable diseases.

According to a notice posted in the Federal Register, HHS is considering new categories for vaccines, such as "recommended, but not during infancy" or "recommended with qualification," although it's unclear what these designations might mean. The wording in the notice suggests the department is

considering changes based on the "strength of the evidence" for certain vaccines and the benefit to individuals and the broader population, as well as "individual circumstances and values."

"HHS is laying the groundwork for having fewer vaccines be routine, and more may be placed into conditional, individualized or age-delayed categories," says David Mandell, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania.

Vaccines on the childhood vaccination schedule have been tested in clinical trials against placebos or comparison groups, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). And after a vaccine is approved, it goes through additional testing to assess its real-world performance and identify any rare side effects, Mandell says.

"I think HHS is attempting to sow confusion about what constitutes 'evidence,'" Mandell adds. Moving a vaccine from one category to another or changing how each category is described could mean health care providers would not be obliged to remind patients to receive a vaccine at appointments—and add to any hesitation parents might feel about getting their kids vaccinated, he says. "In other words, HHS would not need to remove a vaccine from the schedule to substantially reduce its use," Mandell says. "Changing the recommendation category could do that."

Routine vaccinations are "wired into the machinery of American health care," says Jake Scott, an infectious disease



specialist and a clinical associate professor at Stanford University School of Medicine. "Move a vaccine out of that category, and none of the science changes, but the vaccine quietly becomes something a family has to know to ask for."

"That falls hardest on the roughly 100 million Americans without reliable access to primary care," he adds.

It could also affect whether insurance would be required to cover shots, Scott says. "Under current law, a recommendation adopted by the CDC director, whether routine or shared clinical decision-making, triggers insurance coverage without cost sharing and availability through the Vaccines for Children Program," he says. New categories may not carry those protections.

HHS's request is the latest move by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., a longtime vaccine skeptic, to overhaul the nation's vaccine regimen. In January the Trump administration said it would reduce the number of vaccines recommended for children, but it was

blocked in March by a lawsuit led by the AAP.

In response to a request for comment, the AAP said the organization was discussing the HHS request for information internally and that it would submit a formal response through the government's public portal. The public has

until September 20 to answer questions before the questions are written.

"I genuinely encourage clinicians, pharmacists and parents to comment by September 20, with data to the department's and concrete examples, public announcement because the docket about the request for information (RFI) but didn't respond to a Scott says. "But an request for additional open process means the information."

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The family that prays together stays together



SUSIE LLOYD

There’s a famous saying, “The family that prays together stays together.” My parents had this quote on a plaque hanging on the wall in our game room. The author is Fr. Patrick Peyton, a priest who later became famous for promoting the rosary all over the world. When he was a kid in Ireland, his mother would call him and his eight siblings to pray. Then their dad would teach them the rosary. Well, sort of. He didn’t have to teach it. He would just kneel down and lead it. By and by, the kids learned it.

It was the same for me. Nobody ever sat me down to teach me my prayers. Nobody ever handed me a card with the Our Father on it and said, “Memorize this.” We just said the prayers so often that I learned them. I remember kneeling with my family in the living room and struggling to keep up until one day, I just knew all the words.

The Supernatural Connection

Praying together bonded us as a family. Some people might argue that anything a family does together would have the same effect, be it baseball, fishing, or competitive duck herding. True to a point, but those are all natural activities. Praying goes beyond. It is supernatural.

While a shared hobby builds common interests, prayer builds a common soul. In sports, someone usually wins and someone loses. In family arguments, pride often demands a “victor.” But in prayer, everyone kneels at the same level. It is the great equalizer. When a child sees their father—the strongest person they know—bow his head in humility before God, it teaches a lesson in leadership and love that no textbook can replicate.

Jesus said: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them”

(Matthew 18:20). Think about that. “There am I...” Jesus actually comes to you, into your midst. He is there. And if you’ve got Jesus with you, nothing can destroy you. You aren’t just talking about God; you are hosting Him in your living room.

A Bond Beyond Borders

A young Dominican sister I once interviewed shows just how close a family can be when it prays together. While she was growing up, her parents and four siblings pledged themselves to Our Lord and Our Lady daily. To this day they continue to pray “together.”

No matter where they are in the world, each one of them stops at a certain time of day to say their family prayer “together.” They don’t stop everything to hit a volleyball, though they did share a love of sports. Only prayer keeps them united, even across the miles. One look at the prayer they

use, and it’s no secret why they are still so close-knit:

Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, we renew our pledge of love and loyalty to You. Keep us always close to Your loving Heart and to the most pure Heart of Your Mother.

May we love one another more and more each day, forgiving each other’s faults as You forgive us our sins. Teach us to see You in the members of our family and those we meet outside our home, and to love them as You love them, especially the poor and the oppressed, that we may be instrumental in bringing about justice and peace.

Please help us to carry our cross daily out of love for You, and to strengthen this love by frequent Mass and Communion. Thank You, dear Jesus, King and Friend of our family, for all the blessings of this day. Protect us and all families during this

night. Help us so to that keeps everyone live that we may all get centered.

to Heaven.

Starting Your Own Tradition

The Fruits of the Habit

You don’t need a perfectly decorated home or a theological degree to start. You just need a willing heart and a few minutes. When a family prays together, they are creating a safe harbor where they can bring their collective anxieties, thanksgivings, and failures. It becomes much harder to hold a grudge against a sibling or a spouse when you have just asked God, in their presence, to “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

If you want to have a happy family, make praying together a daily event. Ask God to bless your family, bring you closer together, and make you a blessing to everyone you meet. You might find that while you are busy talking to God, He is busy weaving your lives together in ways you never thought possible.

Prayer acts as a “spiritual glue.” It fills the cracks in our relationships and naturally create. In a world that constantly tries to pull families apart—through busy schedules, digital distractions, and differing opinions—prayer is the gravity

Crowley leading Tiffany in first Marquette head-to-head poll of governor’s race



Wisconsin Public Radio

A new poll matching up the two candidates for Wisconsin governor shows Democrat David Crowley leading Republican Tom Tiffany by five points among likely voters.

But the Crowley advantage shrinks when polling all registered voters, according to the first Marquette Law School poll since Crowley and Tiffany emerged from the Aug. 11 primary.

“You could either come away with a modest Crowley advantage ... or a dead tie,” said pollster Charles Franklin at an event sharing the poll results on Wednesday.

The poll interviewed 891 registered voters from Aug. 12 through Aug. 20, and had a 4 percent margin of error. Among likely voters, Crowley was ahead of Tiffany 49-44.

It’s the first head-to-head comparison of Crowley and Tiffany by Marquette, because Crowley was excluded from polling for the 10 days that he was out of the race — before he reentered and clinched the nomination.

And Crowley has an advantage among likely independent voters, with 55 percent choosing Crowley and 16 percent

choosing Tiffany. But about a third of those coveted general election voters remain undecided.

The results are murkier among all registered voters, which finds a tie of 44-44 for both candidates. Almost half of all registered independent voters, 47 percent, were undecided.

Democratic Party challenges after long primary battle

Other polling in these early days of the general election has indicated a slight lead for Crowley, in a year when Democrats nationally have an overall advantage. That’s because midterm elections tend to favor the party that’s not in power in Washington, and because President Donald Trump — with whom Tiffany is closely allied — has historically low approval ratings.

But that doesn’t indicate a slam dunk for Democratic candidates, because the Democratic party as a whole is unpopular — including among Democrats. Whereas Wisconsin Republicans have a net positive feeling about their party of 85 percent, Democrats have a 74 percent favorability rating of their own party.

“This is where

most of the difference comes between why Democrats are viewed more unfavorably than Republicans. It’s coming from inside the house,” said Franklin.

National and state polling has consistently shown that the GOP is more popular than the Democratic party, he said, but “this pattern has shown up all year, that it’s (because of) Democrats frustrated with their own party.”

Democratic voters also have a bit less enthusiasm going into November than Republican voters, at 49 percent of Democrats compared to 55 percent of Republicans identifying as “very enthusiastic.”

Franklin attributes that enthusiasm gap to the heated Democratic primary, whereas Tiffany more or less had the field to himself from January onwards. Supporters of U.S. Rep. Francesca Hong, who narrowly lost to Crowley, are less enthusiastic about their nominee than supporters of other candidates.

“I think it’s pretty obvious that it’s within the stronger supporters of Francesca Hong that you’re seeing a little bit lower enthusiasm among Democrats,” Franklin said. “While

Democrats are pretty united behind their candidate, you do see this difference coming from enthusiasm, depending on how you felt about the candidates.”

But the poll also indicates that disaffected Democrats and disappointed Hong supporters still intend to vote for Crowley.

Those feelings are “not translating into voting across the aisle,”

said Franklin.

Both sides need to build name recognition to appeal to independents

Still, both camps have their work cut out for them. Neither Tiffany, a U.S. Congressman, or Crowley, the Milwaukee County executive, have enormous statewide name recognition.

In a measure of the candidates’ favorability, Crowley came out at 33 percent favorable and 29 percent unfavorable, with 38 percent of voters saying they didn’t know enough to have an opinion.

The study finds that Democrats’ partisan support for Crowley, at 98 percent, is stronger than Republicans’ partisan support for Tiffany, at 91 percent.

“So after an exciting primary, shall we call it? It’s interesting that Democrats do appear to be completely unified behind their candidate, and Republicans quite unified but not quite as much as Democrats are,” Franklin said.

Tom Tiffany’s side will

be trying to convince voters of a different image from that, but they’re working with a pretty sizable group of people here available for being convinced.”

By contrast, Tiffany had a higher favorability rating — 39 percent — and a much higher unfavorability rating, at 42 percent. A much smaller share of voters, at 18 percent, said they didn’t know enough to have an opinion.

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FDA approves landmark pancreatic cancer drug that’s shown to improve survival

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved a groundbreaking new drug for advanced pancreatic cancer, offering U.S. patients a more effective treatment against one of the deadliest types of cancer.

FDA officials gave expedited approval to the first-of-a-kind pill, called daraxonrasib, which blocks a mutated protein that fuels tumor growth in more than 90% of pancreatic cancer cases. It’s an approach that previously eluded drugmakers for decades.

The daily pills will be sold by Revolution Medicines under the brand name Rasonque. A one-month supply would cost approximately \$39,800, the company announced.

Patients taking the drug nearly doubled their survival time, with fewer severe side effects, in a study that randomly assigned them to receive the experimental treatment or more chemotherapy. The company-funded study enrolled 500 patients whose metastatic, or spreading, cancer had quit responding to prior treatment.

Patients getting the new treatment lived for a median of 13.2 months, compared with 6.7 months for chemotherapy recipients. Side effects included skin rash, mouth sores, diarrhea and other digestive issues.

“This is one of the most anticipated approvals I can think of,” said Dr. Andrew Coveler of the Fred Hutch Cancer Center. “This medicine is not a cure but a significant improvement.”

Pancreatic cancer is among the most deadly forms in large part because it is hard to detect before it starts spreading to other organs. The American Cancer Society estimates about 67,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the United States this year and more than 52,000 people will die from the disease. The five-year overall survival rate is 13%.

The drug garnered public attention earlier this year when former Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., described on CBS’ “60 Minutes” how he has had less pain while taking it. A surge in public interest led the FDA to allow “expanded access,” before the drug’s official approval, for patients who met certain criteria. FDA regulators noted on Wednesday that they approved the drug more than six months ahead of their target date.

“It is our fundamental duty to deliver more cures and meaningful treatments to patients as quickly as possible,” the FDA’s acting commissioner, Kyle Diamantas, said in a statement.



Unlike with other cancers that have benefited from a variety of chemotherapy alternatives, pancreatic cancer has been harder to tackle.

The new drug targets mutations in the RAS gene family that normally regulates cell growth. What are known as KRAS mutations are especially critical in fueling pancreatic cancer. But a structure that made it hard for drugs to stick to the mutated proteins meant this cancer driver was long considered “undruggable.”

Doctors who treat pancreatic cancer hope the drug may usher in more new options for other forms of cancer, with scores of experimental drugs in development.

“I think this has opened doors for many other companies,” said Dr. Pashtoon Kasi of City of Hope Orange County, a California-based cancer center. “Downstream I think there are going to be a lot more trials looking at this approach in other tumor types.”

Revolution Medicines’ drug uses what’s essentially a molecular glue to bind with multiple KRAS subtypes. The Redwood City, California-based drugmaker is studying its technology for several other forms of cancer, including lung cancer.

FDA approves landmark pancreatic cancer drug that’s shown to improve survival



Trade tensions between the neighboring allies reached a dramatic peak after bilateral negotiations in Washington abruptly collapsed, prompting the Canadian government to formally unveil a massive package of dollar-for-dollar counter-tariffs. The retaliatory directly address aggressive broad-scale duties recently enacted by the Trump administration against Canadian exports. The standard cross-border trade friction escalated rapidly when the United States officially implemented heavy 50 percent tariffs on nearly \$28 billion worth of Canadian goods following the breakdown of last-minute talks. The U.S. administration invoked sweeping economic measures under Section 338 of the Tariff Act, citing longstanding disputes over Canadian auto market policies, agricultural supply management, provincial rules on American

alcohol, and alleged unfair trade practices. Prime Minister Mark Carney directed negotiators to pull out of discussions after describing late U.S. demands as unfair and uneconomic, warning that Canada would aggressively defend its key domestic industries. In immediate response to the U.S. duties taking effect, the Canadian Finance Ministry published an expansive list targeting more than 700 American products with surtaxes of 15, 25, and 50 percent slated to begin on September 8. The Canadian counter-measures selectively hit major U.S. economic strongholds, specifically applying severe levies to American-made steel, aluminum, agricultural equipment, home appliances, dairy products, pulp, and paper. Canadian officials stated that these matching tariffs will remain firmly in place until Washington withdraws its unilateral economic penalties against Canadian goods. In public statements following the breakdown, Prime Minister Carney emphasized that Canada is adjusting to a fundamentally altered relationship with Washington, declaring that the country must reduce its economic vulnerability by diversifying trade partnerships globally.

Carney reiterated that while the retaliatory surtaxes will undoubtedly raise costs for domestic consumers, Canada possesses the financial resilience and fiscal reserves necessary to absorb the shock rather than accept a coercive agreement. The political fallout on Capitol Hill and within the White House has been equally sharp, with President Trump criticizing Ottawa’s resistance and threatening additional, expanded levies on foreign automotive imports and specialized industrial parts. U.S. trade representatives defended the administration’s aggressive posture, arguing that the steep tariffs are required to dismantle long-standing regulatory barriers that disadvantage American workers and manufacturers.

Industry groups and cross-border supply chain analysts across North America have expressed deep alarm over the escalating trade dispute, warning that the retaliatory measures will trigger widespread price increases for consumers in both nations. Business leaders warn that the mounting friction threatens heavy manufacturing, distorts regional supply networks, and severely complicates the upcoming mandatory review of the tripartite North American trade agreement.

How to avoid a Social Security cut? Lawmakers are floating ideas for what to do



WASHINGTON (AP) — With the few months they have left as senators, Democrat Dick Durbin and Republican Bill Cassidy have embarked on a mission to save tens of millions of Social Security beneficiaries from a projected 22% cut in their benefits, starting in just six years.

It is one of the most perilous political efforts that a member of Congress can undertake, so it is telling that the push is being led by two lawmakers who have little to lose at this stage of their careers.

“We’ve been at this six years, eight years. It’s incredible how long I’ve been at it,” Cassidy said. “But Durbin came up to me and he goes, ‘Bill, I’m leaving the Senate soon. We need to take a ride at it.’”

Their idea to extend Social Security’s solvency is one of a few that have been formally offered this Congress. None has gained much traction, but it is a start as more lawmakers weigh in on a problem that will likely confront the group of senators elected this fall as well as the next president. Pressure for action is sure to grow as 2032 draws closer.

Senate bill seeks 50 years of Social Security

solvency The measure that Durbin, D-Ill., and Cassidy, R-La., are pushing would not dictate an outcome, but instead set up a process for Congress to take action. It calls for the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board to collect public input and submit draft legislation to Congress that would keep the program’s retirement trust fund solvent for at least 50 years.

The resulting bill would then be introduced by the majority leaders of the Senate and House. If they do not want to go along, any member could sponsor the bill. It would then be referred to the two committees with jurisdiction over Social Security — the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Both committees would have the chance to debate the bill and amend it if they wish. If not, the original bill drafted by the advisory board would be placed on the Senate and House calendars for consideration. Lawmakers could offer substitute proposals, with final votes after 100 hours of debate. Passage would require

a three-fifths vote in the 100-member Senate and a simple majority in the 435-member House.

Even though the bill does not prescribe a solution for replenishing Social Security, sponsors have struggled to win support. Cassidy voiced exasperation in a recent floor speech.

“For some people, the time to do Social is never,” Cassidy said. “Don’t disturb Congress. They don’t want to take a tough vote. Even if that vote only sets up a process.”

AARP has come out against the bill, saying that the effort amounts to “fast-tracking” Social Security changes through a process that limits what type of amendments are offered and sets arbitrary procedural deadlines.

A different bill proposes an investment fund for older adults

Separately, Cassidy has a proposal with Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., that calls for the creation of a \$1.5 trillion fund that would be invested in stocks and other higher-risk assets over 75 years.

The seed money would be financed by the Treasury Department through additional borrowing. At the end of the 75 years, the fund’s

assets would be used to repay the Treasury for the seed money as well as the borrowing that would occur over those years to keep Social Security payments going out — now projected at about \$26.6 trillion.

Cassidy projects such an investment fund would earn enough to cover about two-thirds of that \$26.6 trillion in borrowing, meaning other actions such as raising payroll taxes or cutting benefits would still be required to completely close the gap. But those tax increases or benefit cuts would be smaller than otherwise necessary without the investment fund.

“The advantage of the ‘Save Our Seniors Fund’ is that it lessens your political battle,” Cassidy said.

Debt watchdogs are worried.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said “this is a dangerous, debt-funded gamble that would come with huge risks and costs.”

Some propose lifting the payroll tax cap

Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio, do not agree on much,

but they have joined forces in calling for lifting the cap on the Social Security payroll tax.

Currently, the payroll tax that funds Social Security applies to a maximum of \$184,500 in income. That means most people pay Social Security taxes on all of their income, but the wealthier do not.

“Why should a middle-class nurse pay a larger share of her paycheck than a wealthy corporate lawyer?” the two senators wrote in The New York Times.

But while the two promised forthcoming legislation on the matter, they have not filed it yet. Some conservative groups have forcefully pushed back on the idea, saying the tax increase would lead to lower wages and fewer jobs at businesses seeking to offset the additional tax burden. Eliminating the cap would generate more than \$3.2 trillion for the trust fund over the course of a decade, according to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, a nonpartisan debt watchdog.

Others have called for lifting the cap, but only above a certain income threshold. For example, a bill from Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Rep. Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., would apply the payroll tax to income above \$400,000. The bill would require those making more than \$400,000 to contribute more to Medicare.

Others are calling for lifting the cap and increasing benefits

Progressives in the House and Senate have sponsored a bill that would lift the payroll tax cap to cover all earnings above \$250,000, including capital gains and dividends, and

increase the tax that high earners must pay on investment gains.

The bill would boost payments to Social Security beneficiaries by roughly \$2,400 a year and increase the annual cost-of-living adjustment. The effort is being led by Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont independent, and Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Ore. The House version has 39 cosponsors, all Democrats.

In a recent letter to colleagues, Sanders said expanding benefits and requiring the wealthiest in the United States to pay the same percentage of their income into Social Security as tens of millions of working people is “how we extend Social Security’s solvency for generations to come. That is how the Democratic Party begins to regain the trust of the American people.”

The political gridlock surrounding Social Security comes at a time when the clock is rapidly ticking down on the program’s primary trust fund. According to the latest Social Security Board of Trustees projections, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund will be depleted in the early 2030s unless lawmakers step in. Once those reserves are exhausted, incoming payroll taxes will only cover roughly 80% of promised benefits, triggering automatic across-the-board cuts for millions of retirees, disabled workers, and surviving family members who rely on those monthly checks to meet basic living costs.

Despite these looming reductions, Washington remains deeply divided over the fundamental philosophy of how to rescue the nation’s safety net.

The epic La Tomatina food fight drew foreigners to paint a small Spanish town red

BUÑOL, Spain — battle, more than 120 For 364 days a year, the picturesque town of Buñol, nestled in the hills of eastern Spain roughly 25 miles inland from Valencia, is a quiet community of roughly 9,000 residents known for its historic castle, surrounding citrus groves, and relaxed Mediterranean pace. But on the last Wednesday of August, the town transforms into the epicenter of the world's most famous, chaotic, and sticky spectacle: La Tomatina. The sleepy municipality essentially hands over its historic core to tens of thousands of revellers who gather for a singular, surreal purpose—to pelt each other with tons of ripe tomatoes until every surface, person, and cobble is submerged in a river of red pulp.

Early this morning, long before the first tomato was squished, the narrow cobblestone streets of Buñol were already humming with an electric, multinational energy. Thousands of travelers from around the globe—representing dozens of countries including Japan, Australia, India, Britain, the United States, and Mexico—poured off early-morning commuter trains from Valencia. Dressed mostly in pristine white t-shirts, swim trunks, and protective swimming goggles, these international thrill-seekers converged on the town's central plaza, the Plaza del Pueblo, to take part in an hour of pure, unbridled madness. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation as songs in a dozen languages echoed off the ancient whitewashed storefronts.

By the time the signal cannon fired at 11:00 AM, declaring the official start of the

metric tons of overripe, low-grade tomatoes had been delivered to the town square on six massive, slow-moving flatbed trucks. What followed was a glorious, sensory-overloading deluge of crimson chaos that literally painted the entire town red. The sound of thousands of voices cheering merged with the squelching thud of crushed fruit, creating a visceral symphony of excitement that swept through every alleyway connecting to the main square.

Before a single fruit can be thrown, La Tomatina demands a traditional prelude known as the Palo Jabón, an event that sets a distinctly humorous tone for the morning. A tall, wooden pole greased thick with pork lard is erected in the middle of the crowded plaza, with a cured Spanish ham perched at the very top as the ultimate prize. Dozens of intrepid revelers attempt to climb the slippery pole, scrambling over one another's shoulders while the crowd below sprays them with water hoses to make the task even more difficult. The chaotic human pyramid shifts and collapses repeatedly to the delight of the crowd. While tradition dictates that the fight begins only after someone claims the ham, the crowd's impatience often wins out, and the arrival of the tomato trucks officially sparks the madness regardless of whether the prize has been secured.

As the heavy vehicles navigated through the impossibly tight streets, volunteers riding high on the truck beds began dumping mountains of soft, crimson tomatoes directly into the packed crowd below. Within seconds, the air turned thick with flying red

projectiles, and the sound of laughter, shrieks, and wet impacts echoed off the white plastered walls of the surrounding buildings. Visually, the scene quickly morphed into an ocean of red foam where distinguishing individual features became almost impossible. Participants squirted, pelted, and scooped paste onto anyone within arm's reach, while local residents watched safely from upper-story balconies, occasionally tipping buckets of cold water down onto the sweltering throngs to help clear tomato seeds from their eyes.

The experience of being inside the crowd is both disorienting and exhilarating, demanding total surrender to the chaos. Slipping on the growing layer of slush underfoot is inevitable, but the collective goodwill of the crowd ensures that anyone who falls is immediately hauled back to their feet by smiling strangers. Goggles are an absolute necessity, as the citric acid quickly stings unprotected eyes, yet even behind plastic lenses, vision is constantly obscured by flying pulp. The air itself takes on a heavy, sweet, and slightly acidic scent that lingers in the nostrils long after the fight ends.

While La Tomatina today is a highly coordinated, ticketed event that attracts global attention, its origins were entirely accidental and rooted in small-town mischief. In August 1945, during a parade of giant paper-mâché figures known as *gigantes y cabezudos*, a brawl broke out among local teenagers near a vegetable stand,



leading townspeople to hurl tomatoes at one another until police intervened to restore order. The youth enjoyed the skirmish so much that they returned the following year with their own tomatoes, starting a rogue tradition that survived repeated municipal bans, arrests, and even a famous mock funeral protest in 1957 where residents carried a giant tomato in a coffin to mourn the loss of their festival, before local authorities finally capitulated and gave the event official state approval.

In the decades that followed, the festival grew from a localized quirk into a global phenomenon, popularized by international travel broadcasts and social media. As the numbers ballooned, the quiet agricultural town found itself host to a massive logistical operation every summer. Local businesses began boarding up their storefronts with heavy plastic sheeting days in advance to protect historic woodwork and windows from the force of impact and the corrosive effects of the juice.

To prevent dangerous overcrowding, the local government capped

attendance to around 20,000 participants over a decade ago, issuing official tickets to ensure public safety while keeping the core experience intact. The tomatoes used in the festival are low-quality, inexpensive crops grown specifically in the nearby region of Extremadura that would otherwise go unharvested due to market standards, ensuring the spectacle does not contribute to commercial food waste. Local officials work closely with agricultural suppliers to ensure the fruit is at peak softness by battle day so that injuries are minimized when tomatoes collide with eager target faces.

Precisely at noon, a second cannon blast resonated through the valley, signaling the immediate end of the battle and bringing an instant halt to the throwing. Per festival rules, throwing any tomato after the second blast is strictly forbidden, and the crowd overwhelmingly complies, exhausted and thoroughly drenched. Revelers immediately begin squeezing the excess pulp from their clothes, swapping stories of their favorite hits, and navigating toward nearby water sources to begin the lengthy process of

washing off the red crust.

Within minutes of the final whistle, an army of municipal street sweepers and fire trucks equipped with high-pressure hoses rolled into the plaza to clean the streets in a remarkably orchestrated operation. Interestingly, because the natural acidity of the tomatoes acts as a powerful cleaning agent, stripping built-up grime and residue off the ancient masonry, the centuries-old stone streets of Buñol actually emerge from the chaotic mess significantly cleaner than they were before the fight began.

Meanwhile, nearby rivers and temporary public showers become bustling social hubs as thousands of visitors wash away the day's debris. Local vendors line the exit routes selling cold drinks, fresh paella, and commemorative t-shirts to tourists eager for a dry change of clothes. By late afternoon, the smell of fresh tomatoes fades, the crowds disperse back to Valencia, and Buñol quietly returns to its tranquil routine, leaving behind immaculate stone streets and the legacy of another legendary harvest battle.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGING & DISABILITIES SERVICES AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA) invites community agencies, organizations and interested parties to participate in the RFP process by submitting proposals to develop and implement Social Programming for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Older Adults, to be tentatively provided from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027. The Department welcomes new prospective vendors, including joint ventures and other innovative partnerships to participate in this RFP process. Existing provider agency must reapply to be considered for the 2027 contract.

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-ADS-2705
- DHHS ADS RFP for Social Programming for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Older Adults

RFP materials are available at:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

RFP Issue Date: August 5, 2026

Proposals are due by 4:00 PM CDT, October 2, 2026



SOLICITUD DE PROPUESTAS

SERVICIOS PARA PERSONAS MAYORES Y DISCAPACIDADES DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS DE CONDADO DE MILWAUKEE AGENCIA DE ÁREA PARA EL ENVEJECIMIENTO

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (DHHS), Servicios para el Envejecimiento y Discapacidades (ADS) y la Agencia de Área para el Envejecimiento (AAA) invitan a agencias comunitarias, organizaciones y partes interesadas a participar en el proceso de RFP presentando propuestas para desarrollar e implementar Programas Sociales para Adultos Mayores Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Transgénero (LGBT), que se proporcionará provisionalmente desde el 1 de enero de 2027 hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2027. El Departamento da la bienvenida a nuevos proveedores potenciales, incluidas empresas conjuntas y otras asociaciones innovadoras, para participar en este proceso de RFP. La agencia proveedora existente debe volver a solicitar para ser considerada para el contrato de 2027.

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-ADS-2705
- ANUNCIOS DE DHHS RFP para Programación Social para Adultos Mayores Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Transgénero (LGBT)

Los materiales de la RFP están disponibles en:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

Fecha de publicación de la RFP: 5 de Agosto de 2026

Las propuestas deben entregarse antes de las 4:00 PM CDT del 2 de Octubre de 2026

CONSTRUCTION BIDDING OPPORTUNITY

Milwaukee Area Technical College is seeking bids for the following:

BID REFERENCE NO. 2026-005

DUE: 2:00 PM, Thursday, September 3, 2026, followed by the public bid opening

MATC DMC FH Bookstore Relocation

PROJECT 2025521

Single Prime Contract including: Demolition, Masonry, Carpentry, Drywall & Finishing, Painting, Electrical & Lighting, HVAC & Sheet Metal

1. Bids are due on the public matc.aegraphics.com portal at the time & date shown.
2. Plans and Specifications can be viewed and purchased online in the A/E Graphics Public Jobs Plan room at matc.aegraphics.com or follow the Online Plan room link on the home page. **Plans and Specifications can be viewed at no cost.** Contact Steve Wellman, Project Administrator, at 262-781-7744 or stevew@aeagraphics.com if you need assistance.
3. A **mandatory tour** of the project sites will be conducted. See Instructions to Bidders for details.
4. A goal of 20% for the participation of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) is included in the specifications and is strongly recommended.

MATC is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and complies with all requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

NOTICE

Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) is requesting proposals for Testing, **Repairing and Recharging Fire Extinguishers and Fire Suppression Systems at Various Sites**, 1124 N. 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI. Project scope, proposal requirements and guidelines may be obtained online at: <https://mps.aegraphics.com/>, THEN:

1. Click on “All Public Jobs”.
2. Search for the project listed above.
3. **OR** paper copies may be obtains from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; Monday through Friday from A/E Graphics, Inc.; 4075 North 124th Street, Brookfield, WI 53005; phone (262) 781-7744; fax (262) 781-4250. Call A/E Graphics, Inc. for availability of proposal documents.

MPS HUB and Student Employment / Participation requirements are as stated within the proposal documents.

A virtual pre-proposal meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, August 13, 2026. Refer to the RFP for log-in instructions.

All questions should be submitted in writing prior to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, August 20, 2026 to DFMSProcurement@milwaukeepublicschools.org, or fax number (414) 283-4682, attn. DFMS Procurement. No questions will be answered after that date and time. No questions will be answered verbally. No verbal information from any source is to be relied upon by any respondent in the development of their response to the RFP. Written questions and responses will be documented by way of addenda, which will be forwarded to all bidders.

Submit all proposals, as stated within the proposal document instructions, no later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

08-06-26

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGING & DISABILITIES SERVICES AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Aging & Disabilities Services (ADS), Area Agency on Aging (AAA) invites community agencies, organizations and interested parties to participate in the RFP process by submitting proposals for Socialization and Meal Site Supervision for Native American Elders to be tentatively provided in 2027:

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-ADS-2704
- DHHS ADS RFP for Socialization and Meal Site Supervision for Native American Elders

RFP materials are available at:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

RFP Issue Date: July 23, 2026

Proposals are due by 4:00 PM CDT, September 9, 2026



SOLICITUD DE PROPUESTAS

SERVICIOS PARA PERSONAS MAYORES Y DISCAPACIDADES DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS DEL CONDADO DE MILWAUKEE AGENCIA DE ÁREA PARA EL ENVEJECIMIENTO

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Milwaukee (DHHS), Servicios para el Envejecimiento y Discapacidades (ADS) y la Agencia de Área para el Envejecimiento (AAA) invitan a agencias comunitarias, organizaciones y partes interesadas a participar en el proceso de solicitud de propuestas presentando propuestas para la Socialización y Supervisión de Lugares de Comida para Ancianos Nativos Americanos, que se proporcionarán provisionalmente en 2027:

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-ADS-2704
- DHHS ADS RFP para socialización y supervisión de sitios de comida para ancianos nativos americanos

Los materiales de la RFP están disponibles en:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

Fecha de publicación de la RFP: 23 de junio de 2026

Las propuestas deben entregarse antes de las 4:00 PM CDT del 9 de septiembre de 2026



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MILWAUKEE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS) invites community agencies, organizations and interested parties to participate in the RFP process by submitting proposals for CCS Survey Collection, to be tentatively provided from July 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027.

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-BHS-2701
- DHHS BHS RFP for CCS Survey Collection

The Department welcomes new prospective vendors including joint ventures and other innovative partnerships to participate in this RFP process. Existing agency currently providing this service must reapply to be considered for 2027 contract. Entities currently contracted to provide CCS services to Milwaukee County BHS are not eligible.

RFP materials are available at:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

RFP Issue Date: July 27, 2026

Proposals are due by 4:00 PM CDT, September 18, 2026



SOLICITUD DE PROPUESTAS

DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD Y SERVICIOS HUMANOS DEL CONDADO DE MILWAUKEE SERVICIOS DE SALUD CONDUCTUAL

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado de Milwaukee (DHHS), Servicios de Salud Conductual (BHS), invita a agencias comunitarias, organizaciones y partes interesadas a participar en el proceso de RFP presentando propuestas para la Colección de Encuestas CCS, que se proporcionará tentativamente del 1 de julio de 2027 al 31 de diciembre de 2027.

- Ref. # DHHS-POS-BHS-2701
- DHHS BHS RFP para la Colección de Encuestas CCS

El Departamento da la bienvenida a nuevos proveedores potenciales, incluyendo empresas conjuntas y otras alianzas innovadoras, para participar en este proceso de RFP. La agencia existente que actualmente ofrece este servicio debe volver a solicitar para ser considerada para el contrato 2027. Las entidades actualmente contratadas para proveer servicios de CCS a Milwaukee County BHS no son elegibles.

Los materiales de la RFP están disponibles en:
<https://countymilwaukee.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities>

Fecha de publicación de la RFP: 27 de julio de 2026

Las propuestas deben entregarse antes de las 4:00 PM CDT del 18 de septiembre de 2026

Atención experta que entiende tu vida.

Atención avanzada, dedicada a ti.

Combinamos medicina de vanguardia con explicaciones claras y un equipo que te escucha a ti y a tu familia. Obtén citas a tiempo y orientación en la que puedes confiar.

