

Week in review

THESE SUMMARIES OF FULL STORIES WERE DRAFTED BY AI AND EDITED BY OUR JOURNALISTS

Our best-read local news stories



ANNE M. EBERHARDT BloodHorse

Flightline won the Breeders’ Cup Classic at Keeneland on Nov. 5, 2022. The Breeders’ Cup will return to the Lexington track in 2026.

Keeneland to host 2026 Breeders’ Cup Championships

Keeneland Race Course has been selected to host the 2026 Breeders’ Cup World Championships, marking its fourth time hosting the prestigious event. The announcement comes as Keeneland undergoes its largest capital project since 1936, including the construction of a new Paddock Building offering enhanced experiences for over 1,000 fans. The three-level facility will feature new dining options, seating areas, and Jockeys Quarters. The 2026 event will follow the completion of these extensive renovations, showcasing Keeneland’s commitment to excellence in thoroughbred racing. The Championship Sale will precede the races on October 28, 2026, with the main events scheduled for October 30-31, pending approval from Kentucky Horse Racing and Gaming Corporation.

Reported by Cameron Drummond, published May 28

Kentucky arts organizations face crisis from NEA cuts

Arts organizations across Kentucky are reeling from severe federal funding cuts under the Trump administration. The Gateway Regional Arts Center in Mount Sterling lost over \$100,000 in grants, including \$76,105 from the

National Endowment for the Arts and \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. These cuts have affected multiple programs, including art education for underserved populations and Black history documentation. Other organizations like Ashland’s Henry Clay Estate and Pioneer Playhouse have also lost crucial funding for slave memorials and inmate pro-

grams respectively. The Kentucky Arts Council, which receives 34% of its budget from NEA, could face devastating impacts if future funding is eliminated. The arts sector contributes significantly to Kentucky’s economy, accounting for \$6.9 million and over 51,000 jobs.

Reported by Beth Musgrave, published May 27

Lexington business owner gets prison time for tax fraud

Matthew J. Buresh, the 65-year-old owner of CR Cable Construction in Lexington, has been sentenced to two years in federal prison for failing to pay over \$800,000 in tax withholdings to the IRS. Between 2017 and 2022, Buresh withheld but failed to remit employee Social Security, Medicare, and income taxes, while withdrawing approximately \$2.9 million from the company during this period. Despite claims of economic hardships including COVID-19 impacts and customer bankruptcies, prosecutors maintained Buresh had the resources to pay the taxes. U.S. District Judge Karen K. Caldwell delivered the sentence, which includes restitution of \$805,787 to the IRS.

Reported by Bill Estep, published May 23

Lexington named among top 25 best places to retire

Forbes has recognized Lexington, Kentucky as one of the top 25 best affordable places to retire in the United States for 2025. The city stands out for its median home price of \$316,000, which is 22% below the national median, and a cost of living 9% below the national average. Beyond affordability, Lexington offers retirees attractive features including a low serious crime rate, good climate with minimal air pollution, somewhat bikeable streets, and an excellent ratio of primary care physicians. The city’s appeal is enhanced by its proximity to horse farms, outdoor activities, cultural events at the University of Kentucky, and vibrant culinary scene. This recognition adds to Lexington’s growing list of accolades, including recent mentions in Southern Living and U.S. News & World Report’s best places to live rankings.

Reported by Aaron Mudd, published May 27

Lexington Blue roofing accused of widespread fraud

Lexington Blue roofing company and its owner Brad Pagel face allegations of widespread insurance fraud from multiple homeowners and former employees. The company allegedly took deposits for roof repairs but rarely completed the work, with some former workers claiming they were instructed to deliberately damage roofs to secure sales. The Kentucky Attorney General is investigating complaints of deceptive practices, and multiple lawsuits have been filed. Former employees reveal that only a small percentage of sold contracts were fulfilled, with the company allegedly using new deposits to complete older projects. The company abruptly closed in April 2025.

Reported by Janet Patton, published May 27

Fayette School Board approves controversial tax hike plan

The Fayette County school board voted 3-2 to approve a resolution seeking an increase in the occupational license tax rate from 0.5% to 0.75% to address a \$16 million budget deficit. The proposed increase would cost average county workers about \$13 more per month and could generate \$27 million to \$32 million annually when fully implemented. The decision came amid opposition and concerns about lack of public notice, with board members Monica Mundy and Amanda Ferguson voting against it. The tax hike, which requires Fayette Fiscal Court approval within 10 days, would help maintain classroom investments and address rising costs in the district’s \$848 million budget. The district has already cut \$8.9 million at the district level and re-duced department budgets by 20%.

Reported by Valarie Honeycutt Spears, published May 28



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Our best-read U.S. & World stories

Minneapolis marks 5 years since George Floyd’s death

Minneapolis commemorated the fifth anniversary of George Floyd’s death with various events at George Floyd Square and throughout the Twin Cities on May 25. The day featured church services, art displays, and community gatherings, drawing around 150 people to the intersection where Floyd was killed. While the anniversary continues to unite residents, the political climate has shifted, with challenges to police reforms and equity initiatives. The DOJ recently moved to dismiss a consent decree for Minneapolis reforms, and there are concerns about the Trump administration’s stance on diversity programs. Local residents note that while the site has become a tourist destination, the community still needs substantial investment and resources to address ongoing racial inequities.

Reported by Star Tribune/TNS, published May 25

Federal judge halts Trump’s mass government layoffs

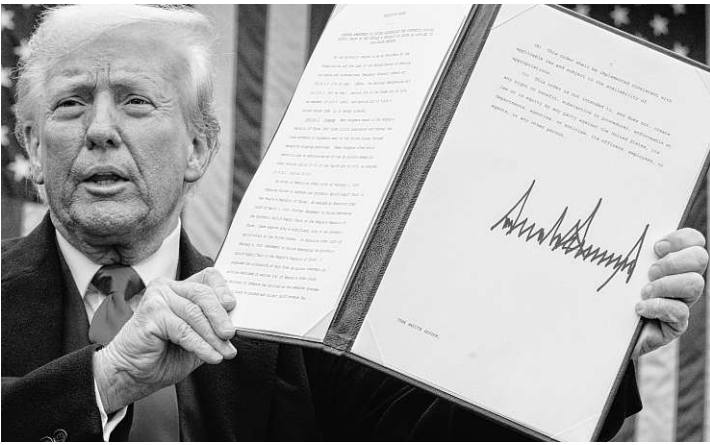
A San Francisco federal judge has issued an injunction blocking the Trump administration from conducting widespread layoffs across more than 20 federal agencies. Judge Susan Illston ruled that while presidents can set policy priorities, they cannot reorganize the executive branch without Congressional cooperation. The ruling emphasizes that agencies must fulfill their Congressional mandates and cannot disregard them through large-scale workforce reductions. The decision comes after Trump’s February executive order to reduce federal government size, which led to thousands of layoffs. The Justice Department plans to appeal the ruling, which also follows a similar injunction in Massachusetts specifically protecting Department of Education employees.

Reported by UPI News, published May 23

US trade court strikes down Trump’s global tariffs

A major setback for Trump’s economic agenda occurred as the U.S. Court of International Trade in Manhattan ruled against his global tariffs. The three-judge panel sided with Democratic-led states and small businesses, declaring the bulk of Trump’s tariffs illegal. The ruling suspends his global flat tariff, elevated rates on China, and fentanyl-related tariffs on China, Canada, and Mexico. The court found that Trump exceeded his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, rejecting his argument that trade deficits constituted a national emergency. The Trump administration has filed an appeal, with the case potentially heading to the Supreme Court. The decision could impact trillions of dollars in global trade.

Reported by Bloomberg, published May 29



SAUL LOEB AFP via Getty Images/TNS

President Donald Trump holds a signed executive order after delivering remarks on reciprocal tariffs during an event entitled “Make America Wealthy Again” at the White House in Washington on April 2. The bulk of Trump’s global tariffs were deemed illegal and blocked by the U.S. trade court on May 28, dealing a major blow to a pillar of his economic agenda. The decision is one of the biggest setbacks in court for Trump amid a wave of lawsuits over executive orders in which he is testing the limits of presidential power. Others are challenging Trump’s mass firings of federal workers, restrictions on birthright citizenship and efforts to slash federal spending already approved by Congress.

Germany approves Ukrainian long-range strikes in Russia

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced that Ukraine has been granted permission to use allied-supplied weapons for strikes deep within Russian territory, marking a significant shift in military strategy. The decision aligns with recent approvals from Britain, France, and the US regarding long-range weapons deployment. This development comes in response to Russia’s largest drone barrage against Ukraine since the invasion began. The announcement has sparked controversy, with



Friedrich Merz

the Kremlin warning that such decisions could hinder peace negotiations. The timing coincides with increased Russian attacks on Ukraine, resulting in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage, and precedes Ukrainian President Zelenskyy’s scheduled visit to Berlin to discuss further military support.

Reported by Bloomberg, published May 26

Israel plans major military control expansion in Gaza

Israel has unveiled plans to take control of 75% of the Gaza Strip, aiming to relocate its 2 million inhabitants into three designated areas comprising just 25% of the territory. The operation, dubbed “Gideon’s Chariots,” seeks to defeat Hamas and recover hostages. While Israeli forces currently control 40% of Gaza, the expansion plan faces humanitarian challenges, including criticism over aid blockades. A new U.S.-backed aid distribution system is set to begin, despite the resignation of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation’s head over concerns about maintaining humanitarian principles. The ongoing conflict, triggered by Hamas’ attack that killed 1,200 Israelis, has resulted in over 53,000 Palestinian casualties and 400 Israeli military losses.

Reported by Bloomberg, published May 26

Kremlin downplays Trump’s Putin criticism amid attacks

The Kremlin dismissed President Trump’s criticism of Vladimir Putin as an “emotional reaction” while defending ongoing missile and drone attacks across Ukraine. Trump had called Putin “absolutely CRAZY!” for “needlessly killing people” and considered new sanctions against Russia. The situation intensified with Russia launching record numbers of drones and cruise missiles, resulting in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. Despite peace talks hosted by Turkey, Moscow rejected a 30-day ceasefire proposal. The attacks coincided with prisoner exchanges between the nations, while Russia claimed to have repelled 96 drones targeting Moscow. Trump also criticized Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, stating his communications were causing problems.

Reported by Bloomberg, published May 26

These roundups were produced using AI tools, which summarized stories reported and written by McClatchy and partner journalists. It was edited by journalists in our News division.