

## Summer

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### Posey County 4-H Fair

Through Saturday at the Posey County Fairgrounds, III Harmony Township Road. Full schedule and admission price information is available at [poseycountyfair.com](http://poseycountyfair.com).

Fair season continues in the Tri-State with Posey County's annual event. There are carnival rides, a kids' zone, 4-H exhibits and more available each day.

### 58th annual St. Wendel Bierstube

Thursday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight at Knights of St. John, 11714 Winery Road in St. Wendel.

For the 58th time, the St. Wendel Bierstube takes place. There are delicious food options each night (dine-and drive-through available) with live music starting nightly at 8 p.m.

### Free Family Movie Night

Saturday at 8:15 p.m. at the Allen Family Amphitheater in downtown Newburgh. Free.

Enjoy a screening of the John Goodman comedy "Matinee" in an outdoor setting. The Newburgh Arts Commission will provide free popcorn.

### International Jugglers' Festival

Through Sunday at Victory Theatre and Old National Events Plaza in Downtown Evansville. Full schedule online at [festival.juggle.org](http://festival.juggle.org).

This celebration marks the 78th Annual International Jugglers' Association Festival, bringing together jugglers and circus artists from around the world. Public performances will take place at Victory Theatre and Old National Events Plaza.

### Horse racing at Ellis Park

Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Ellis Park, 3300 U.S. 41 North, Henderson, Kentucky. Post time for first race each day is 11:50 a.m. General admission is free; tickets for reserved seating start at \$8, not including taxes and fees.

It's summer in the Tri-State, and that means it's time for thoroughbred racing at Ellis Park, located just north of the twin bridges along U.S. 41 between Evansville and Henderson. Sunday's lineup includes the \$150,000 Jeff Hall Memorial stakes race.

## Dalai Lama, China clash on succession

Marc Ramirez  
USA TODAY

Could there eventually be two Dalai Lamas?

The 14th Dalai Lama's announcement in early July that he will reincarnate as Tibetan Buddhism's next spiritual leader reassured worried followers. But the statement also foreshadowed a confrontation with China over who gets to choose his successor – and the chance that parallel efforts could be conducted to do so.

Tibetan tradition holds that the soul of a senior Buddhist monk upon his death is reincarnated in the body of a child, who must be identified and then trained in Buddhist practice.

In his declaration, the 90-year-old Dalai Lama said Gaden Phodrang, the foundation he created to uphold the Dalai Lama tradition, will have sole authority to recognize his successor.

"They should accordingly carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition," he said. "No one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter."

Beijing insists that it does.

"The reincarnation and succession of the Dalai Lama is inherently an internal affair of China," said Yu Jing, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in India – where the Dalai Lama has lived in exile since 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet – in one of a series of posts about the matter on the social media platform X.

She described the Nobel laureate as "a political exile engaged in anti-China separatist activities under the cloak of religion."

Janet Gyatso, a professor of Buddhist studies at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said that should China opt to pursue its own selection process, it wouldn't be the first time Buddhism has dealt with a dispute over the identity of the reincarnated Dalai Lama.

"What they (China) will do is not easy to say," Gyatso said. "But the political stakes are much higher than they've ever been."

About 100,000 Tibetans live in exile, the majority of them in India, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank based in Washington, D.C.

## Race

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has been in Congress since 2012, giving the pair a significant opening advantage in name recognition.

Over more than two minutes, Morris talks about his upbringing in a home with a single mother and in a family with deep ties to Kentucky (several family members were in the audience at his rally with Kirk).

And voters can expect to hear more from him. His campaign has said it's launching a seven-digit ad buy to get the candidate on airwaves across Kentucky.

Barr has returned fire. While the campaign has not yet spent money on a televised spot, last week he came after Morris in a stylized social media video branding the candidate as "phony, fake and full of garbage" and attacking his record as CEO of Rubicon, the waste management company he founded more than a decade ago. The 30-second clip was promoted as an ad on the social media site X and had more than 55,000 views as of July 11.

The pair's campaigns came after each other in statements last week after Morris announced his ad buy, with Barr calling him a "woke green energy



Andy Barr, Daniel Cameron and Nate Morris, three Republican candidates running for Kentucky's open U.S. Senate seat in 2026. COURIER JOURNAL AND PROVIDED CAMPAIGN PHOTOS

CEO" who'd pushed "DEI and COVID lockdowns on his employees," and Morris rebutting by saying Barr's ties to McConnell are too close. Cameron's

campaign jumped in as well, saying Morris supported Black Lives Matter during the 2020 protests.

As the candidates trade barbs, the

release of fundraising figures should offer an interesting look at which campaigns are picking up steam.

Barr opened with an early lead in April when first quarter figures became public on the Federal Election Commission's website.

The longtime congressman from Lexington had raised more than \$1.8 million at that time and had more than \$5.3 million in cash on hand thanks in large part to money his House campaign committee had previously raised.

Cameron, meanwhile, reported raising just over \$500,000 in the first quarter, with about \$455,000 cash on hand.

While Morris had not yet entered the race when those totals were announced, the millionaire political newcomer has said it will take "millions" to win the election and he's willing to spend "whatever it takes to be successful."

State Rep. Pamela Stevenson of Louisville, the only well-known Democrat currently in the race, raised just over \$70,000 in the first quarter of the campaign and reported a little over \$32,000 cash on hand.

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## Cuts

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But by requiring states to pick up a larger share of Medicaid costs and a percentage of food assistance benefits for the first time, Conine and other state officials said the federal cuts merely push costs and responsibilities down to the states.

### Costs offloaded onto states

Tonkins joined more than 150 people in an amphitheater-style classroom at Montgomery College's Germantown, Maryland, campus. They came to hear not just from Delaney, but from Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown and Comptroller Brooke Lierman, both Democrats, about what the state will do to plug the estimated \$100 million hole in next year's budget – a hole that is estimated to get bigger in the ensuing years.

Lierman told attendees that her office will create a report within 60 days outlining what the bill means for Maryland's revenue and taxes. It will be up to the Legislature to decide how to spend the money the state brings in.

States aren't facing just the Medicaid and SNAP cutbacks, Delaney

said. They are facing a "tsunami" of funding freezes, changes to education funding and other ways that the administration is "offloading" costs to states to make the federal government smaller.

"All of these things are layering upon each other ... it's going to be very difficult for any state, no matter what their resources, to be able to be that stopgap," she said.

Every state relies heavily on federal funds to balance their budget. According to a report by the National Association of State Budget Officers, federal funds accounted for just over one-third of total state expenditures in fiscal year 2024.

"It's sort of death by 1,000 cuts. And that's really the challenge here, is that there wasn't just one thing in the bill that's going to hurt our budget and hurt Marylanders," Lierman told the gathered citizens at the town hall. "There were so many."

### 'So big' it's hard to gauge impact

Officials from a half-dozen states told USA TODAY they are still examining how the bill impacts their residents and the billions of dollars that flow each year from the federal government for transportation and education. Any changes have to be accounted for in the state budget.

"This is so big, I don't know if I've figured it all out yet," said Minnesota State Auditor Julie Blaha, a Democrat. "I think people are overwhelmed by how much effect it could have."

How much of this new responsibility they can cover will differ from state to state, depending on their local economy, potential for tax increases and political priorities.

Will Connecticut stop working toward fully funding its employee pension program, risking backlash from workers and unions? That's one issue the Connecticut treasurer is frustrated about.

The estimated SNAP cuts alone exceed the \$262 million allocated to the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. Should New Mexico and other states dip into – or even empty – their rainy day fund to keep providing food assistance? What will happen to people who rely on those programs once those are dry? That's what's worrying New Mexico's treasurer.

State revenue can be spread only so far, and the estimated new costs for Medicaid and SNAP are expected to be in the tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars for each state.

Minnesota's Blaha said she expects her state and many others will raise taxes to cover the costs rather than reduce access to medical care or

food. "We just all are going to have to pay more," she said. "It's either going to be raise costs for all of us or horrible cruelty."

### 'You have to make hard decisions'

Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton said cuts are part of balancing a budget, and states are going to have to make their own choices based on what money they get.

The federal government had a responsibility to limit its spending, said Sexton, the only Republican state official who responded to USA TODAY's request for comment.

"At some point you have to make hard decisions," he said. "You're going to have to do things that hurt in order to make sure that you can be financially sound in the next five or 10 years. ... And so what is tough today will only benefit us in the future if we can get to more financial freedom (for) the federal government than currently what we have."

He said Tennessee will have to examine the bill's effects as they come.

"It's going to be on us, if we're impacted, to either pick it up or not and make that decision for ourselves on what we want to continue to do or not do," he said.

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