



Monday, May 05, 2025

1. President Donald Trump said “I don’t know” when asked if he must uphold the Constitution.

What he said: That the courts were preventing him from conducting millions of deportations, speaking to NBC News yesterday. He defended his controversial plans to remove people.

In related news: Justice Department lawyers are facing skeptical judges upset by their “shoddy work.” And lobbying at the White House is raising ethical concerns.

2. Trump said he wants to reopen Alcatraz as a prison.

Yesterday: Trump said he ordered U.S. agencies to rebuild the infamous prison, which closed in 1963 and is now a popular tourist destination in California. It’s unclear how that would work.

Other administration news: A controversial scientist was given a senior role. The government suddenly withdrew arts grants. And six Republican red lines could slow Trump’s agenda.

One more thing: Catholic leaders criticized Trump for sharing an AI image of himself as pope.

3. Australia’s center-left Labor Party won reelection in a landslide.

On Saturday: Australia’s ruling party achieved a remarkable turnaround, driven partly by anger over Trump’s global trade war. It followed a similar twist in Canadian elections.

Other world news: Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff praised fraudulent Russian referendums held in occupied Ukrainian territory.

4. Israel will call up tens of thousands of military reservists.

Why? The country is seeking to expand its war in Gaza to seize and occupy more territory. Israeli officials approved the plans yesterday.

What else to know: Israel is also planning to take control of — and severely restrict — aid distribution inside Gaza. No food has entered the Palestinian enclave in over two months.

5. A mom raised over \$500,000 after appearing to hurl a racist slur at a Black child.

Last week: Shiloh Hendrix started a fundraiser after a video went viral in which she appeared to call a 5-year-old a racist slur at a Minnesota playground.

A startling sum: Online donations for Hendrix poured in, alongside notes expressing far-right and racist sympathies. In response, the NAACP launched a fundraiser for the child.

6. An unusual weather pattern will bring days of downpours to the East and South.

What is it? An omega block, which happens when jet stream winds slow down, causing weather systems to stall. Rain could last until Thursday, and may lead to flooding.

Other weather news: The forecast for May looks unusually warm — and it’s part of a long-term trend.

7. Scientists discovered a cosmic source of gold

A long-standing mystery: Where in the universe did heavy metals come from? And how did they get to Earth, where they play a critical role supporting life?

One answer: A rare type of star called a magnetar erupts, shooting heavy elements like gold into space, research found. They also come from dense neutron stars merging and exploding.



Vocabulary 05/05/25:

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| 1. | to uphold - | to defend or keep a principle or law |
| 2. | Alcatraz - | famous prison island in the San Francisco Bay |
| | The Rock - | nickname for the Alcatraz prison |
| 3. | landslide - | a mass of rock and earth moving suddenly downwards |
| | to trail - | to move slowly along the ground |
| | twist - | (here): unexpected turnaround |
| 4. | to seize - | to take something quickly and keep it |
| 5. | to hurl - | to throw something with a lot of force, usually in anger |
| | slur - | an offensive word used to insult someone |
| | NAACP - | National Association for the Advancement of Colored People |
| 7. | magnetar - | pulsar (neutron star) with extremely intensive magnetic fields |

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