



Monday, May 12, 2025

1. President Donald Trump defended a plan for Qatar to gift him a plane.

Last night: Trump said he would temporarily use the 747 jet as an Air Force One plane. A deal has not been reached, but experts say such a gift would violate the Constitution.

In other news: Some judges presiding over Trump cases are mysteriously receiving pizzas to their homes. And officials are shutting down parts of the government in hidden ways.

One more thing: A Democratic senator is emerging as a potential 2028 contender.

2. The U.S. and China agreed to slash tariffs on each other's goods for 90 days.

This morning: Officials said U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would be reduced to 30% from 145%. But Americans still face higher prices for summer essentials.

In related news: Trump plans to sign an order today linking U.S. drug prices to other nations, a move he says would lower prices. But it would face pushback from drug companies.

3. Trump backed Russian President Vladimir Putin's call for direct talks with Ukraine.

This weekend: Putin proposed ceasefire talks in Istanbul this week. Yesterday, Trump supported the plan — undermining a deal with European leaders announced Saturday.

What else to know: India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire Saturday, then resumed fighting. At least two Indian jets appear to have crashed during strikes last week, visuals show.

4. Hamas said it will release the last living U.S. hostage from Gaza.

Who is he? Edan Alexander, 21, a dual U.S.-Israeli citizen and soldier. He could be freed as soon as today, following talks between Hamas and Trump administration officials.

The bigger picture: Trump, increasingly frustrated with Israel's plans to expand its war in Gaza, has repeatedly sidelined Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

5. Pope Leo XIV gave his first Sunday blessing in Vatican City.

What did he do? The first American pontiff invoked his predecessor, Pope Francis, while staking out differences. He called for peace in Gaza and Ukraine, and even sang.

Digging deeper: Leo is the first Augustinian pope. Plus, we listed 14 surprising facts about the new pontiff, and tried to explain the conclave memes.

6. The FDA approved the first at-home pap smear.

What to know: The wand, approved Friday, allows patients to self-collect a vaginal sample and mail it to a lab. It could help expand screening for a virus that causes cervical cancer.

In other health news: A conservative think tank recently published a report questioning the safety of an abortion pill, mifepristone. But the study has major issues.

7. Researchers found that singing lullabies is probably a learned behavior.

What to know: Experts have long thought that lullabies were innate. But a study focusing on an Indigenous people in Paraguay found the Northern Aché never sang to help children sleep.

Speaking of snoozing: Exercising within four hours of bedtime can make it harder to fall asleep, a study said.



Vocabulary 12/05/25:

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| 1. | emolument -
precedent - | payment in the form of money
a decision about a particular legal case that makes it likely that similar cases will be decided in the same way |
| 2. | reprieve - | official order to stop or delay something |
| 3. | to undermine -
to reiterate - | to make someone less powerful or less likely to succeed
to say something again |
| 4. | Edan Alexander
to sideline - | to stop someone from taking an active part in something |
| 5. | pontiff -
to invoke - | formal for pope
to request help from someone, usually a god |
| 6. | FDA
pap -
smear -
the wand - | Food and Drug Administration
cervical (Gebärmutterhals)
Abstrich
name of the medication for the at-home pap smear |
| 7. | lullaby -
Innate - | a quiet song sung to children to make them sleep
an innate quality/ability is one that you were born with |

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