

New: Trump Reinstates Hormuz Blockade, Will Charge Ships for Passage

The president says US strikes on Iran continue, claiming Tehran's military is 'demolished.'

President Trump said Monday the US is "reinstating" a blockade on Iran in the Strait of Hormuz and will charge ships for safe passage through the waterway, the Associated Press reported. The move escalates the standoff over the world's most important oil chokepoint, days after Iran's own navy declared the strait closed "until further notice."

Speaking to reporters, Trump said strikes against Iran would continue, saying "we're attacking them tonight" and claiming the US has "demolished their military," according to Fox News. He accused Tehran of backing out of a deal reached days earlier.

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 749 engagement · post · also: Fox News

Musk: Grok 4.5 Takes #1 Spot on Long-Horizon Agent Benchmark

The xAI chief cites Long-Horizon Terminal-Bench rankings as fresh backing for his near-Opus-class claims.

Elon Musk said Monday that xAI's Grok 4.5 has reached the number one position on Long-Horizon Terminal-Bench, a benchmark measuring how AI agents handle extended, multi-step terminal and coding tasks.

The claim follows Musk's push over the weekend positioning Grok 4.5 as a near-Opus-class agent, including assertions it beats Claude Fable on some coding benchmarks and matches Anthropic's Opus for browser-based tasks. As with prior xAI benchmark claims, the ranking has not yet been independently verified.

Elon Musk · 240.8M followers · 4K engagement · post

Judge Says Trump's IRS Lawsuit Was Filed for 'Improper Purpose'

The federal judge referred the president's attorneys for possible disciplinary action.

A federal judge ruled Monday that President Trump's lawsuit against the IRS was filed for an "improper purpose," and

referred the attorneys who filed it for disciplinary action, the Associated Press reported.

The ruling is a rare judicial rebuke of the administration's legal tactics and could expose the president's attorneys to sanctions, though the AP report did not specify which underlying tax dispute prompted the suit.

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 21K engagement · post

California, 11 States Sue to Block Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery Merger

The states argue the tie-up of the two entertainment giants would raise prices and shrink content.

California and 11 other states filed suit to block Paramount's takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, arguing the deal would "extinguish competition," the Associated Press reported.

California's Attorney General's office said the "unlawful merger of these two entertainment behemoths would lead to higher prices, lower quality, and less content for film and television, harming

movie theaters, basic cable distributors, and ultimately, audiences on every sofa and movie theater seat in the U.S."

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 1K engagement · post · also: Morning Brew 📰

FAA Clears Starship for Flight 13 After Closing Mishap Probe

SpaceX applied four fixes following the May Flight 12 booster failure; launch targeted for July 16.

The FAA closed its investigation into the May 22 Starship Flight 12 failure, in which heat damage to propulsion parts and faulty alarms contributed to the Super Heavy booster's rough splashdown, clearing SpaceX to proceed with Flight 13. No one was hurt, and SpaceX applied four hardware and software updates to address the issues.

Flight 13 is targeted for no earlier than July 16 from Starbase, Texas, and aims to deploy 20 Starlink V3 satellites, relight a Raptor engine in space, and test reentry maneuvers - a roughly two-month turnaround as SpaceX pushes toward full reusability.

X News · post

DEVELOPING / ON WATCH

Ongoing stories worth tracking over the next few days.

Iran conflict escalates as Trump reinstates Hormuz blockade

on watch since Jul 12, 2d

Watch for how Iran responds to the blockade and toll plan, whether strikes continue, and how the Yemen truce breakdown affects the wider region.

OpenAI's GPT-5.6 lineup keeps expanding across products

on watch since Jul 12, 2d

No new expansion reported today; watch for further GPT-5.6 variant releases or enterprise integrations.

SpaceX closing in on Starship Flight 13 launch

on watch since Jul 12, 2d

FAA closed its Flight 12 mishap probe and cleared Flight 13 for no earlier than July 16; watch for the actual launch attempt.

Grok 4.5's benchmark claims face scrutiny

on watch since Jul 12, 2d

Musk now claims a #1 spot on Long-Horizon Terminal-Bench; watch for independent verification of xAI's benchmark claims.

States sue to block Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery merger

on watch since Jul 14

Watch for how the multistate antitrust suit proceeds and whether it delays or blocks the merger.

AI & FRONTIER MODELS

Anthropic Finds Claude's Values Shift by Language and Model

A study of 300,000+ conversations maps four axes along which Claude's expressed values vary.

Anthropic said it analyzed more than 300,000 anonymized conversations to see how the values Claude expresses - among the 3,000-plus identified in earlier research, like honesty and warmth - vary across languages and model versions. It grouped similar values into four axes: Deference vs. Caution, Warmth vs. Rigor, Depth vs. Brevity, and Candor vs. Execution.

Claude leans most toward warmth in Hindi and Arabic conversations, while in Russian it leans toward rigor, often asking users for supporting evidence. Between models, Sonnet 4.6 skews more playful and

affirming while Opus 4.7 is more likely to give candid critiques. Anthropic said it doesn't yet know why the differences exist or whether they're desirable, but the framework should help determine how to steer them.

Anthropic · 1.5M followers · 4K engagement · post

Google DeepMind Uses AI Agent to Track Down a Roman Ring Thief

The 'Predicting the Past' skill in Google Antigravity mapped an ancient cult and an oracle's visitor network.

Google DeepMind said its "Predicting the Past" skill inside Google Antigravity, its AI coding and research agent platform, was used to track down a Roman-era ring thief, map an ancient cult's spread across Europe, and reconstruct the networks of people who visited a Greek oracle. The

examples show agentic AI tools being applied to historical and archaeological research, not just software tasks.

Google DeepMind · 1.5M followers · 491 engagement · post

Indie Developer Says Claude Code Keeps Auto-Switching Away From Fable

Pieter Levels reports the coding tool silently reverts to Opus roughly every hour.

Pieter Levels (@levelsio), the developer behind Photo AI and other indie apps, posted that his Claude Code sessions keep switching back to Anthropic's Opus model even after he sets them to use Fable, forcing him to manually reset the model roughly every hour.

@levelsio · 915K followers · 1K engagement · post

SOFTWARE, TECH & APPLE

Vercel Rolls Out Feature Flags Built for AI Agents

CEO Guillermo Rauch says the company is doubling down on its filesystem API and observability tools too.

Vercel CEO Guillermo Rauch said the company is building feature-flag tooling that lets AI agents set up and tune their own experiments, aimed at powering "autonomous, self-optimizing websites and applications." Rauch said the two most popular features of Vercel's newest product so far have been its filesystem API and observability tooling, and the company is "doubling down" on both.

Guillermo Rauch · 666K followers · 187 engagement · post

Open-Weight Models Now Make Up 29% of AI Gateway Traffic

Usage is up from 11% in April, per Vercel AI Gateway data cited by CEO Guillermo Rauch.

Vercel's AI Gateway data shows open-weight models accounted for 29% of tokens routed through the service, up from 11% in April, according to a stat highlighted by CEO Guillermo Rauch. The jump signals a fast-growing share of AI workloads shifting away from closed frontier-lab models toward open alternatives.

Guillermo Rauch · 666K followers · 321 engagement · post

BUSINESS & MARKET TRENDS

China's June Exports Jump 27% on AI Chip Demand

Customs data shows the artificial intelligence boom is driving stronger-than-expected trade growth.

China's exports accelerated in June, jumping 27% from a year earlier, the country's customs agency said, driven by strong demand tied to the global boom in artificial intelligence, according to the Associated Press.

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 200 engagement · post

Corporate DEI Disclosures to the SEC Have Collapsed Since Their 2021 Peak

Y Combinator's Paul Graham calls the data 'what a moral fashion looks like.'

Y Combinator co-founder Paul Graham highlighted data tracking DEI commitments in corporate securities disclosures filed with the SEC, showing a sharp rise that peaked around 2020-2021 before collapsing. Graham called the shape of the trend "what a moral fashion looks like," though he noted it's a trailing indicator since most other measures of workplace "wokeness" began climbing well before 2019.

Paul Graham · 4M followers · 8K engagement · post

US POLITICS

Saudi Airstrikes Hit Yemen's Sanaa Airport, Houthis Say, Breaking Truce

The strikes reportedly end a four-year cessation of hostilities between the Iran-aligned group and the kingdom.

Airstrikes hit Sanaa International Airport in Yemen, with the Houthis accusing Saudi Arabia of launching the attack, Reuters reported. The strikes reportedly break a

four-year truce between the kingdom and the Iran-aligned Houthi movement, adding a new front to the region's widening instability amid the broader US-Iran conflict.

Reuters · 26.1M followers · center · 330 engagement · post

UK Bans Iran-Backed Groups After Attacks on Jewish Sites

London says a proxy group tied to Tehran carried out arson and vandalism against British Jewish sites.

The UK government said a series of arson and vandalism attacks on Jewish sites in Britain were carried out by a proxy group backed by Iran, according to the Associated Press. The UK announced bans on the Islamic Movement of the

Companions of the Right (IMCR) and on Iran's Revolutionary Guard, its powerful paramilitary force.

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 468 engagement · post

Minnesota Prosecutors Say They Have Key Evidence in Fatal Protest Shootings

The deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti came during clashes over a federal immigration crackdown.

Minnesota prosecutors announced Monday they have obtained key evidence in their ongoing investigations into the fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who died during pitched protests against a federal immigration enforcement crackdown in the state earlier this year, according to the Associated Press.

The Associated Press · 16.2M followers · center · 3K engagement · post

Mexico Demands Investigations Into 17 Deaths Tied to US Immigration Crackdown

Mexico City officials say the deaths of Mexican nationals have occurred since the enforcement surge began.

Mexico is demanding criminal investigations into the deaths of 17 Mexicans in the United States since the Trump administration launched its crackdown on illegal immigration last year, officials in Mexico City said, according to the Washington Post.

The Washington Post · 19.3M followers · center-left · 695 engagement · post

SPACE & SPACEX

NASA Astronaut Anil Menon Launches to the ISS Today

The mission marks Menon's first spaceflight, with NASA's broadcast starting at 9:45am ET.

NASA astronaut Anil Menon is set to launch to the International Space Station today, July 14, in his first spaceflight, according to NASA. Coverage of the launch begins at 9:45am ET (1345 UTC).

NASA · 92.2M followers · 1K engagement · post

LOCAL - WILMINGTON & WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

Wilmington Startup Lab Logs Files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

The cloud lab-data startup lists \$1.6M in assets against \$2.5M in debt, with Rockmont Partners its largest creditor.

Electronic Lab Logs, a Wilmington startup that replaced paper lab logs with cloud-based data collection software, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on July 1 under CEO Brian Fox, according to the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. Court filings show the company holds about \$1.6 million in assets against nearly \$2.5 million in debt, with Nashville-based investor Rockmont Partners as its largest creditor; the company is expected to keep operating while it restructures. Founded in 2018 by Daniel Summers and Jeremy Sikorski, Lab Logs won a \$50,000 NC IDEA SEED grant and a Coastal Entrepreneur Award in 2020. In 2024 it landed a \$2 million lead investment from Rockmont Partners plus \$650,000 combined from VentureSouth, Gray Ventures and angel investors; Summers stepped down as CEO last year.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

Wilmington's AI-Powered Founder Platform SideKix Preps National Launch

The self-funded startup, built by James Martucci, pairs an app with a network of business-owner advisors.

SideKix, a Wilmington startup founded by James Martucci in 2023 to help entrepreneurs turn ideas into businesses, is preparing for a national rollout next month, according to the Greater

Wilmington Business Journal. The AI-powered platform has been self-funded since launch and includes a mobile app that maps personalized growth pathways plus an advisor marketplace staffed by working business owners rather than professional coaches.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

New Hanover County Weighs \$2M Bet on Workforce Housing Pilot

Cape Fear Development's Proximity Blue Clay project would offer 236 townhomes at reduced rents for a decade.

New Hanover County commissioners will consider investing \$2 million in a pilot project from Cape Fear Development aimed at addressing the region's workforce housing shortage, according to the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. The county's investment would come as a subordinated debt instrument carrying 5% annual interest, due after 10 years. The Proximity Blue Clay Road project would build 236 townhomes on 24 acres, with rents set at 60% to 90% of area median income for 10 years before reverting to market rate.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

Reel Cafe Owners Buy Their Downtown Wilmington Buildings for \$3.5M

Ray Jenkins and John Cordell closed on the Front Street bar and an adjacent building housing Wilmington Distillery.

The owners of the Reel Cafe, a downtown Wilmington bar and restaurant open since 1998, purchased the building they've long occupied at 100 S. Front St. along with an

adjacent building at 12 Dock St. for a combined \$3.5 million, the Greater Wilmington Business Journal reported. The sale closed Tuesday; both the Reel Cafe, which spans three floors plus courtyard and rooftop bars, and Wilmington Distillery, which occupies the Dock Street building's first floor, are expected to keep operating without changes.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

7 Brew Coffee Plans Second Wilmington Drive-Thru on Market Street

The chain aims to open around a dozen Wilmington-area stands over the next five years.

Franchisee Delight Restaurant Group has submitted plans for Wilmington's second 7 Brew coffee stand, a 534-square-foot, two-lane drive-thru at 4607 Market St., according to the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. The city's first location, on South College Road, is set to open this fall; the Market Street stand is expected to open in early 2027. The local franchise group has said it plans to bring about 12 locations to the Wilmington market over the next five years.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

Community Endowment Promotes David Stegall to Lead Programs and Grants

The move follows a national search that concluded the strongest candidate was already on staff.

The New Hanover Community Endowment named David Stegall as its new vice president of programs and grants, effective immediately, according to the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. Stegall previously served as the endowment's director of education and community development; before joining last year, he was chief of system innovation for the Department of Defense Education Activity and deputy state superintendent of innovation at the NC Department of Public Instruction. CEO Sophie Dagenais said the national search,

opened in April, concluded that "the strongest candidate was already on our team."

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

Nonprofit Pushes to Preserve 1,600 Acres of Eagles Island Wetlands

The site near downtown Wilmington holds Gullah Geechee rice-plantation history dating back to slavery.

The Eagles Island Nature Park nonprofit is working to preserve about 1,600 acres of the more than 3,000-acre Eagles Island,

wetlands and old rice-paddy land at the confluence of the Cape Fear and Brunswick rivers, according to the Greater Wilmington Business Journal. The group, which gained nonprofit status three years ago after conservation efforts began in 2001, says the land includes historic shipwreck sites and rice paddies hand-dug by enslaved Africans as part of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

Greater Wilmington Business Journal · read

MOTIVATION & FOUNDER MINDSET

Paul Graham: Build the Startup You'd Actually Use

The YC co-founder says founders should trust their own cravings over guesses about what others want.

Y Combinator co-founder Paul Graham said the biggest mistake young founders make is building something they imagine people want instead of studying what people actually want - and that the fix is to "roll with your solipsism and make something for yourself." He tied the advice to economist Robin Hanson's observation that young people fixate on themselves, arguing that trait can be an asset for founders who are also their own first user.

Paul Graham · 4M followers · 3K engagement · post

FROM YOUR FEED

Top posts from accounts you follow that didn't make the brief above.

The woke mob had turned Twitter into Wormtongue to the World
<https://t.co/XUcA15vImB>

Elon Musk · 240.8M followers · 7K engagement · post

The muslim fake asylum seeker who allegedly killed his american girlfriend in Ireland, was just arrested in Jordan

Libs of TikTok · 4.8M followers · 892 engagement · post

AI writing is so good now, there are only a handful of idiosyncrasies left to point out. Those will vanish shortly.

Marc Andreessen 🇺🇸 · 4.7M followers · 805 engagement · post

Replies: +3.15% Original Posts: +1.8%
Small Account Reach: +1.19% Time Spent: -0.13% Unregretted Time Spent: ∞

Nikita Bier · 1.2M followers · 6K engagement · post

I moved our maintainer agent to the cloud and they are fighting already.

Peter Steinberger 🦊 · 561K followers · 390 engagement · post

We shipped! iOS and Android apps also got updates and they look great. Had to bump Node to keep things smooth, if the autoupdater doesn't work, run the web installer and it'll take care of that for you.

Peter Steinberger 🦊 · 561K followers · 276 engagement · post

Overheard in Silicon Valley: “We must have no fewer gig economy jobs, because that would be oppressive! But also no more gig economy jobs, because that would be exploitative!”

Marc Andreessen 🇺🇸 · 4.7M followers · 337 engagement · post

repost of @twistartups: When Uber first launched surge pricing, people were pissed! "6x as much money get my kid home in a blizzard?!" Here's how...

@jason · 1.5M followers · post

This edition cost \$5.36 - \$4.86 in X reads + \$0.51 in Claude curation.