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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## New York may ban concealed guns in many places, including Times Square

NEW YORK, July 1 (Reuters) - New York lawmakers began revamping gun laws on Friday that would ban guns from a long list of "sensitive places," including Times Square, after the U.S. Supreme Court said the state's restrictive gun-license rules were unconstitutional.

The emergency legislative session began on Thursday, a week after the Supreme Court's conservative majority ruled for the first time that the U.S. Constitution grants an individual right to carry weapons in public for self-defense. read more

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New York's Democratic leaders have lambasted the ruling, saying there will be more gun violence if there are more people carrying guns, while also conceding they must now loosen the state's permit scheme, codified over a century ago.

The court also allowed that people could be banned from carrying their weapons in certain "sensitive places," but warned lawmakers against applying the label too broadly. The court also made it easier for pro-gun groups to have a gun regulation overturned, ruling that a weapons regulation was likely unconstitutional if it was not similar to the sort of regulations around in the 18th century, when the Constitution's Second Amendment was ratified.

In the early hours of Friday, the state government released the text of a bill that included a list of proposed sensitive places.

It included government buildings, medical facilities, places of worship, libraries, playgrounds, parks, zoos, schools, colleges, summer camps, addiction-support centers, homeless shelters, nursing homes, public transit including the New York City subway, places where alcohol or marijuana is consumed, museums, theaters, stadiums and other venues, polling places and Times Square.

The Senate passed the Concealed-Carry Improvement Bill 43-20 in a party-line vote on Friday afternoon after hours of debate in which Republican lawmakers said the new legislation was too onerous on New Yorkers trying to exercise a right to carry guns. The Assembly has yet to begin public debate on the bill, and lawmakers there said a vote may not be held before Saturday.

The court ruled in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen that New York officials had too much subjective discretion over which gun-license applicants could enjoy what it said was a constitutional right. Applicants were denied a concealed-carry permit if they could not convince an official they had "proper cause," or some kind of special reason, for carrying a handgun for self-defense. read more



Reluctantly and not without protest, Governor Kathy Hochul agreed the state must remove the "proper cause" requirements. However, the proposed new licensing rules would now require applicants to undergo expanded firearms training and to provide social media accounts to government officials for review.

It would also be a felony to carry a gun into private business premises unless the business posted a sign affirmatively saying concealed weapons were welcome.



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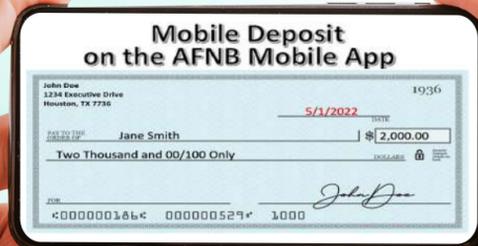
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# EU backs Ukraine's membership bid to 'live the European dream'

BRUSSELS/KYIV, Ukraine, June 17 (Reuters) - The European Union gave its blessing on Friday for Ukraine and its neighbour Moldova to become candidates to join the bloc, reaching out deep into the former Soviet Union for what would be a major geopolitical shift resulting from Russia's invasion.

"Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a news conference, wearing Ukrainian colours: a yellow blazer over a blue blouse. "We want them to live with us the European dream."

Though only the start of a process that may take many years, it puts Kyiv on course to realise an aspiration that would have been beyond its reach just months ago.

Ukraine applied to join the EU four days after Russian troops poured across its border in February. Another four days later, so did Moldova and Georgia - smaller ex-Soviet states also contending with separatist regions occupied by Russia.

"Precisely because of the bravery of the Ukrainians, Europe can create a new history of freedom, and finally remove the grey zone in Eastern Europe between the EU and Russia," tweeted President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

One of President Vladimir Putin's main objectives in launching an invasion that has killed thousands of people, destroyed cities and driven millions to flight was to halt the West's eastward expansion via the NATO military alliance.

Friday's announcement underlined how the war has had the opposite effect: convincing Finland and Sweden to join NATO, and now the EU to embark on potentially its most ambitious expansion since welcoming Eastern European states after the Cold War.

Putin played down the EU issue, saying: "We have nothing against it. It is not a military bloc. It's the right of any country to join economic union."

Leaders of EU countries are expected to endorse the membership candidacy decision at a summit next week.

Moldovan President Maia Sandu hailed a "strong signal of support for Mol-



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen attends a news conference, with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varheli, after a meeting of the College of European Commissioners addressing its opinion on Ukraine's EU candidate status, in Brussels, Belgium June 17, 2022. REUTERS/Yves

dova and our citizens". In St Petersburg, Putin railed at the West in a grievance-filled speech to an annual economic conference once billed as the "Russian Davos" but now largely boycotted by Western dignitaries and corporate CEOs.

He denounced the United States for considering itself "God's emissary on Earth" and said Western intransigence had given Russia no choice but to launch its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Adding further fuel to the global showdown, Russian media outlets broadcast images of what they said were two Americans captured while fighting for Ukraine. "I am against war," both men

said in separate video clips posted on social media.

read more  
Joining the EU requires years of administrative reform - there are 35 "chapters of the acquis" setting out standards to meet from judicial policy and financial services to food safety. Nor is membership guaranteed: talks have been stalled for years with Turkey, a candidate since 1999.

If admitted, Ukraine would be the EU's largest country by area and its fifth most populous. All three ex-Soviet hopefuls are far poorer than existing EU members, with per capita output around half that of the current poorest, Bulgaria.

## Editor's Choice



Destroyed Russian military vehicles are seen on a street in the settlement of Borodyanka, in the Kyiv region, Ukraine, March 3. REUTERS/Maksim Levin



A soldier carries the cross as he stands in front of the coffin of Denys Snihur, 25, a border guard-turned-soldier, during his burial at the Lychakiv Cemetery, in Lviv, Ukraine, March 21, 2022. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra



The remains of a Russian fighter aircraft are seen at a residential area in Chernihiv, Ukraine, March 5. State Emergency Service of Ukraine/via REUTERS



Members of the Ukrainian military carry a Ukrainian flag and picture of Major Ivan Skrypnyk, who died as a result of Russia's missile attack on the Ukrainian military base in Yavoriv, during his funeral, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, at Lychakiv Cemetery, in Lviv, Ukraine, March 17, 2022. REUTERS/Pavlo Palamarchuk



A member of the Ukrainian military holds a cross during the funeral of Major Ivan Skrypnyk at Lychakiv Cemetery, in Lviv, Ukraine, March 17, 2022. REUTERS/Pavlo Palamarchuk



Ukrainian servicemen are seen next to a destroyed armored vehicle, which they said belongs to the Russian army, outside Kharkiv, February 24. REUTERS/Maksim Levin

**Sky-High Gas Prices? No Problem.**

**AAA: Americans Will Set Road Trip Record For July 4th Holiday**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



A motorist fills up their tank in Houston. (Photo/Aaron M. Sprecher/AP)

(CNN)—Americans are feeling the heat at the gas pump, but that won't keep them in park, AAA predicts. The automotive and trip-planning group's annual forecast for the July 4 holiday weekend says that 42 million Americans — more than ever — will take a road trip of 50 miles or more. That's despite gas prices hitting a record earlier this month. The national average per gallon on Monday stood at \$4.98, just pennies off the high of \$5.02 reached a week earlier.

A combination of vacationers and commuters could drive travel times to double the normal length at peak points on Thursday and Friday evenings, traffic experts at Inrix said. It warned some of the most congested routes then will include highways around Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Seattle.

The best time to travel from Thursday through Friday is early or late in the day, Inrix projected. It said congestion on Sunday and Monday should be lower. July 4 lands on Monday this year.

People determined to hit the road still have ways to at least ease the sting of gas prices. A few strategies include:

**Take to the skies**



A Boeing 737-932ER operated by Delta takes off from JFK International Airport. AAA says only about 7% of people traveling for the July 4 holiday will be flying. Bruce Bennett/Getty Images/File

While the roads will be packed, fewer Americans will be flying for the holiday, AAA expects. It said the 3.55 million people projected to take to the skies over Independence Day is only 7% of travelers. That's the lowest share since 2011, when the economy was still rebuilding from the Great Recession. AAA says airfare is about 14% more expensive than in 2021. "People are ready for a break and despite things costing more, they are finding ways to still take that much-needed vacation," said Paula Twidale of AAA Travel.

**Flight cancellation advice**

CNN Travel asked Kathleen Bangs, a former commercial airline pilot and spokesperson for FlightAware, what travelers can do to brace themselves for cancellations and delays this summer. She offered these tips based on a conversation she had on Monday with an employee at a major US airline:

- **Leave cushion time:** Don't travel on the day of an important event. Plan to arrive at least one day early.
- **Apps are your friend:** If your flight is canceled, reschedule your travel on the airline's app. You're likely to be able to rebook faster and you'll have access to seats that would probably be filling up as you waited on the phone.
- **Use a carry-on for essentials:** Pack anything you'll need within one or two days in your carry-on. Don't check prescription medications or other essentials.
- **Stay considerate:** Don't take your frustration out on customer service employees. They aren't making the operations decisions.

**Related**

**Eleven simple ways to soften the blow of high gas prices on your road trip**

(CNN)—CNN Travel has lined up 11 ways to squeeze the most out of every precious drop of fuel so you can still load up the car, unload your worries and go see some stuff.

**Gas-saving tips**

**1. Use apps to find less expensive gas**

Download gas apps to help you in your quest to find less expensive gasoline. Here are a handful of popular options: — AAA Mobile: The mobile version of the famous AAA TripTik Planner comes with membership. Get price info along with route planning. — Gas Buddy: They also offer a card to save money on gas purchases. — Gas Guru: Owned by Yellow Pages, it offers intel on car washes, auto repair and ATMs as well as gas prices. — Geico: The insurance company has a mobile app to help you locate good prices near you. — Waze: This crowdsourcing navigation app can also help send you to stations with cheaper prices.

**2. Take advantage of card discounts**



You might save money on your fill-up by paying cash in the store first vs. a credit card at the pump. David Paul Morris/Bloomberg/Getty Images

Those apps are just the start to finding less expensive gas. Also take advantage of discounts and deals on credit cards to further drive down the price. For instance, Discover cardholders will get 5% cash back on gas station purchases in April, May and June. You just have to click one prompt to sign up. Then there are credit cards devoted specifically to gas. The consumer advice platform NerdWallet has compiled a list of the top ones for March 2022, including the best one for travelers.

"The other thing is joining some sort of club with the local gas station so that you can get some awards down the line," Bill Eisele of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute recently told CNN. The Penny Hoarder has some options you can check out.

Finally, some stations might knock off around 10 cents per gallon or so on gas if you take a few extra minutes to pay cash in the store instead of using a credit card at the pump.

**3. Bypass stations just off major highways:** "It's usually best not use the stations right along the interstate," advised Ellen Edmonds, manager of AAA public relations, in a recent interview with CNN Travel. Instead, "drive a few miles down the road. Look for residential areas or remote rural areas."

**4. Get stingy at expensive gas stations**



If you're low on gas at a high-price station, just fill up enough to make it to stations with less expensive gas. Joe Buglewicz/Bloomberg/Getty Images

If you're running real low on gas and you're stuck in an area with jacked-up prices, by all means pull over to refuel. Just don't fill up all the way. Pump enough gas to safely get to a location where stations generally charge less. Finish filling up your tank there. Edmonds advises to not let your tank get below one quarter full, though.

**5. Keep up with your vehicle maintenance**

Cars get better gas mileage when their parts are maintained. Plus there's the safety factor. The experts at YourMechanic.com — a car repair startup that comes to customers' homes — told CNN Travel a couple of things you should do before you begin a road trip: • Check your tire pressure. Make sure it's properly inflated; underinflated tires increase fuel consumption. Look over your tires for bald spots. Also gauge your tire pressure to avoid spontaneous tire blowouts or tears. • Remember the air filter. Keep your car air fresh and cool by cleaning out and possibly changing air filters before a long road trip. This is especially important if you plan to drive during the day in the sun.

**6. Develop good driving habits**



Be sure to avoid known road construction areas, such as this one in Miami. These spots are sure-fire ways of burning lots of fuel. Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Drivers should be sure to watch themselves on excessive

idling. Edmonds said. It's burning gas and literally getting you nowhere. Even in winter, you don't need to "warm up" the car. If you're going to be idling longer than 60 seconds, cut off the vehicle.

"Try to avoid construction zones if you can, perhaps if you can shift outside of the peak period just a little bit in your travels to avoid that congestion and the idling associated with that," Eisele of Texas A&M said.

Cut out those "jackrabbit" starts and hard acceleration. Moderately ease into your starts and apply brakes early for stops.

"We burn a lot of fuel when we're driving aggressively," Eisele said. "So take it easy on the accelerator. Drive cautiously, drive carefully, drive the speed limit."

AAA advises to use cruise control unless the road is slippery.

**7. Drive more slowly and steadily**

It depends on the vehicle, but on average, you get about 14% fuel savings if you stay at a steady 50 miles per hour (about 80 kilometers per hour), Edmonds said. The faster you go beyond that, the quicker you burn up your gas. Of course, 50 mph is too slow for most interstate travel when other drivers are flying past you even when you're clocking 70 mph (about 113 kph). Edmonds suggests changing the road up instead.

"Take a scenic route and go a consistent speed in that sweet spot to make the most of your fuel economy," she said.

Getting off the bland interstates and major highways and onto the road less traveled is part of the fun anyway.

"You make a play list and get your snacks, and go with friends or family. It's part of the experience — stopping at a cool roadside attraction or trying out a quaint, local restaurant."

**8. Consider a 'nearcation'**



Main street in Leavenworth in eastern Washington state. This Bavarian-style town in the Cascade Mountains can make an excellent short road trip for people in Seattle, Spokane and Portland, Oregon. Wolfgang Kaehler/LightRocket/Getty Images

There are options between settling for yet another staycation and an epic, cross-country road trip that would bust your budget. It's the "nearcation." Think about places closer to home yet far enough away to feel like a bona-fide journey. Edmonds has compiled a list of AAA suggestions around the United States that may not come immediately to mind when planning a road trip. Many of these are closer to major population centers than some of wildly popular but remote national parks out West such as Yellowstone and Arches. And some of the places on this list might be less crowded as well.

- NORTHEAST** • Baxter State Park (Maine) | Block Island (Rhode Island) | The Finger Lakes (New York) | Stowe (Vermont)
- SOUTH/SOUTHEAST** • Gatlinburg (Tennessee) | Jekyll Island (Georgia) | St. Augustine (Florida)
- TEXAS/MIDWEST/PLAINS/ROCKIES** • Broken Bow (Oklahoma) | Door County (Wisconsin) | Estes Park (Colorado) | Fredericksburg (Texas) | Grand Teton National Park (Wyoming)
- WEST COAST/PACIFIC** • Leavenworth (Washington) | Solvang (California)

**9. Target states with cheaper gas**



Much of the Natchez Trace Parkway runs through Mississippi, making this a good option for a road trip if you're already in the Deep South. Universal Images Group/Getty Images

Average prices for a gallon of gas can vary a lot from state to state. Instead of a straight shot out and back across the country, maybe this is the year for a circular ramble in a state with less expensive gas. For instance, folks in Georgia and North Carolina might want to consider a road trip in compact South Carolina. The Palmetto State has generally cheaper prices and has beautiful drives in the mountains, along the coast and points in between. And if your road crew can't decide between the mountains and the beach, the distance between the two is less in South Carolina than its neighbors. And Mississippi is usually well below the national average for gas prices. This might be the year to explore the Natchez Trace.

In general, states in the center of the country have the cheapest gas. Go to the AAA website for daily updates.

**10. Ditch the car in a big city**



No car required! The Georgia Aquarium is not far from Atlanta's MARTA train system. Plus, this area is often congested with road traffic. Mohammad Javad Jahangiri/Shutterstock

Maybe you want an urban adventure and you've snagged a fantastic deal on a flight or lodging. Don't rent a car if you have good public transportation options in your destination, Edmonds said. Subways, light rail, buses, bikes, scooters and walking around in dense city centers might cost you less than renting a car, paying for parking and burning up gas with stop-and-go city driving.

Take Atlanta, for example. One of the city's MARTA train lines goes directly into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Some of the city's best tourist attractions are near MARTA stations or streetcars, including the Belt Line walkway, Woodruff Arts Center, Georgia Aquarium and Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park. In Canada, French-infused Quebec City is best explored on foot anyway.

**11. Share the ride**

Did you have a "bubble" during the pandemic — trusted friends you would hang out with? Edmonds suggested they might want to do a road trip with you.

"Traveling in groups is another way of saving money for a number of reasons. Plus you share experiences along with cost sharing. A lot of people adopted that during the pandemic."

Overall, she encourages would-be road-trippers not to get too discouraged from the shock of high gas prices.

"You might not be able to take that big trip for now. You might need to take that smaller trip closer to home," she said. "Dream small in the near future and still dream for that big vacation down the road." (Courtesy https://www.cnn.com/travel)

**History of the Fourth of July**



Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of The Spirit of '76 Painting Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

**Background**

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and re-revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festi-

**Happy Fourth Of July!! Independence Day 2022**



"Old Glory"—Tattered And Worn, But Still Working For Freedom. July 4, 2022. (Photo/J. Robbins/SNG)

val. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether Congress actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on

July 4 as is commonly believed. In a remarkable coincidence, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, the Fifth President of the United States, died on July 4, 1831. Calvin Coolidge, the Thirtieth President, was born on July 4, 1872, and thus, was the only President to be born on Independence Day.



Fourth of July Observance Historical High-lights

• In 1777, thirteen gunshots were fired, once at morning and again as evening fell, on July 4 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

• In 1778, General George Washington marked

July 4 with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute. Across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

• In 1779, July 4 fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5.

• In 1781, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature

to recognize July 4 as a state celebration.

• In 1783, Moravians in Salem, North Carolina,

held a celebration of July 4 with a challenging music program assembled by Johann Friedrich Peter. This work was titled "The Psalm of Joy".

• In 1791 the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day" occurred.

• In 1820 the first Fourth of July celebration was held in Eastport, Maine which remains the largest in the state.

• In 1870, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.

• In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.



While the official observance always falls on July 4th, participation levels may vary according to which day of the week the 4th falls on. If the holiday falls in the middle of the week, some fireworks displays and celebrations may take place during the weekend for convenience, again, varying by region.

The first week of July is typically one of the busiest American travel periods of the year, as many people utilize the holiday for extended vacation trips.

