

Today in History: June 11, University of Alabama desegregated

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2026. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On June 11, 1963, the University of Alabama was desegregated as Vivian Malone and James Hood became the first two Black students allowed to enroll in classes; Alabama segregationist and Gov. George Wallace initially blocked the doorway to the auditorium where course registration was taking place, delivering a speech before deferring to National Guard orders to move.

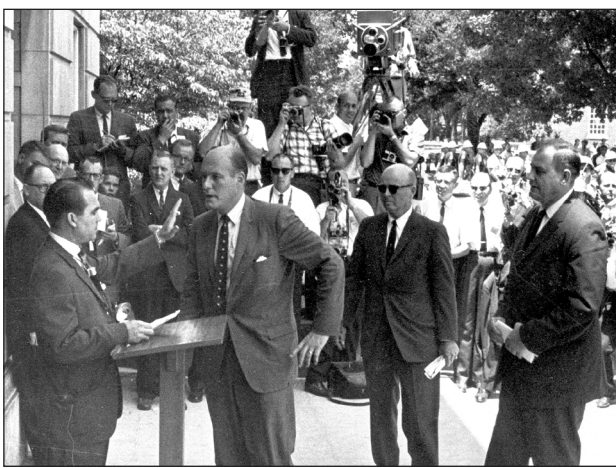
Also on this date:

In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1776, the Second Continental Congress appointed the Committee of Five (composed of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman) to draft a declaration of independence from Great Britain, to be completed in the subsequent 17 days.

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, Frank Morris, Clarence Anglin and John Anglin, prisoners at Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay, staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift



AP Photo/Tuscaloosa News, Calvin Hannah
In this June 11, 1963 file photo, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, left, raises his hand to stop U.S. Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach as Wallace stands in front of a door to keep blacks from enrolling at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

raft. They were never found or heard from again.

In 1963, Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thích Quảng Đức lit himself on fire on a Saigon street as a protest against the

Vietnamese government's persecution of Buddhists.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in over 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservative

Party held onto a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by lethal injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2009, with H1N1 swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

In 2024, Hunter Biden was convicted of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. President Joe Biden in December pardoned his son for the gun and sepa-

rate tax-related convictions.

Today's Birthdays: Drummer Bernard Purdie is 87. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 87. Actor Roscoe Orman is 82. Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 81. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 77. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 76. Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 70. Actor Hugh Laurie is 67. TV personality and current Medicare Administrator Mehmet Oz is 66. Actor Peter Dinklage is 57. Actor Joshua Jackson is 48. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Diana Taurasi is 44. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 40. Basketball Hall of Famer Maya Moore is 37. Actor Saxon Sharbino is 27.

Food prices just had their highest month-to-month jump in years

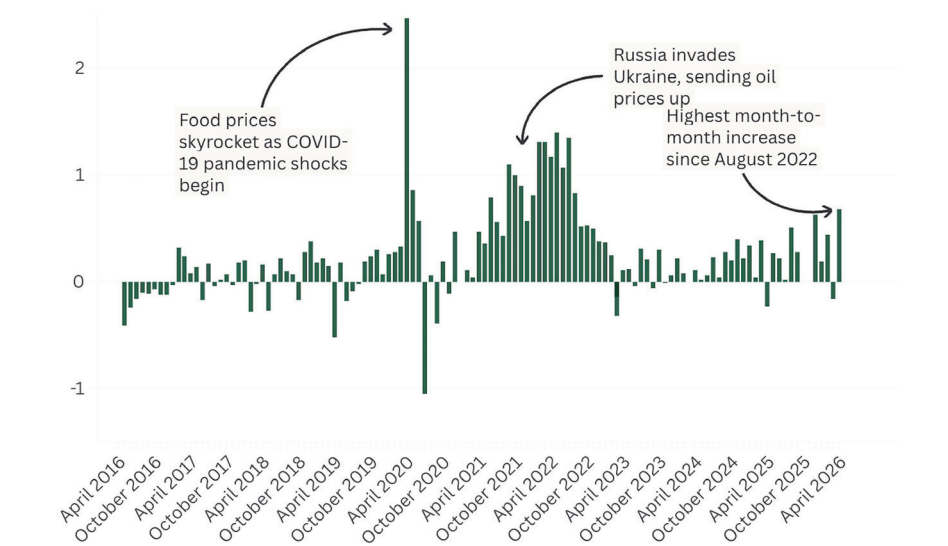
Since President Trump started a war with Iran, oil prices have spiked, affecting all aspects of the economy.

by Sky Chadde, Investigate Midwest

(May 19, 2026) — Food prices jumped 0.68% in April compared with the previous month — the largest month-to-month inflation bump since August 2022, according to the Consumer Price Index, a measure of inflation.

Food inflation has been growing since the COVID-19 pandemic, which shocked supply chains, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which affected oil prices, in early 2022. After a massive uptick, food inflation began to ease during the last two years of the Biden administration.

Between January 2023 and December 2024, "food at home" prices —



By: Sky Chadde, Investigate Midwest, Source: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Food prices had their highest month-to-month increase since August 2022 as President Trump's war with Iran continues to affect consumers.

grocery prices, essentially — on the Consumer Price Index increased 2.68%.

Since Trump regained office in January 2025,

food inflation has increased 3.16%. Trump ran on a platform to "defeat inflation," but, as food prices climbed, he said afford-

ability was a "con job." Part of the reason for higher food prices is the war Trump started with Iran, which predictably closed the Strait of

Hormuz, a critical global oil shipping route. The war has led to high gas prices across the country, and food prices have followed suit.

Recently, Trump was asked whether "Americans' financial situations" affected his decision-making when it came to ending the war in Iran, according to NBC News.

"Not even a little bit," Trump replied.

Trump said the "only thing that matters" is stopping Iran from having a nuclear weapon. "I don't think about Americans' financial situation," he added. "I don't think about anybody."

Last summer, before the latest price jumps, a majority of respondents told an Associated Press survey that high food

prices were a source of major stress. About 14% of respondents also reported using "buy now, pay later" options — where consumers pay for products in installments — to buy groceries.

Some people have responded by skipping meals, according to CNN.

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Dakota

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body's in the field and you see that, and it feels like I should be out there with my dad, grandpa, and uncle."

John inherited the farmstead from his great-uncle. He now drives truck and lives right in Eldridge, but enjoys coming to the farmstead. "I want to move back here, get everything fixed up. You know, I could have left [the area] by now. But it's kinda hard to let it go."

Before I left the farmstead, John hand-picked fresh asparagus for me from a patch that was planted by his great-grandmother some 100 years

ago. He also pointed out a rose bush next to the house planted by his great-grandma.

John Fairfield, Interview: June 5, 2016, County: Statesman, City: Eldridge

"Always Lunch Afterward"

Peggy was born in 1941 and raised on a farm near Mylo. She left college to marry Larry Schell and moved to Mylo where he and his father owned a grocery store. At that time, Mylo's population was around 40. Now it is 22.

"I'll tell you what happened," Peggy says. "Good roads, cars, people started to travel farther to the bigger cities. Farms started getting a little bigger, and that affected the businesses. In the early '70s school closed. We finally closed the store in the fall of

'73."

Peggy was sad when the stores closed, but there are other changes to deplore. "There's much less [socializing], for the simple reason that we have all the electronic stuff. We watch TV, we are on the computer. Not me, but the younger generation are on their phones and texting. When I was growing up it was not unusual at least three nights out of the week we either had company at our house or we went visiting friends. At that time when we went visiting it was to visit, but there was also a lot of cards played. Then there were dances. When I was in grade school, of course, we had Halloween programs, always lunch afterward. We had

Christmas programs, always lunch afterward. We also had box socials. In the evenings there'd be a card party. We don't hear of or do anything with [our neighbors] anymore."

For the past 10 or 12 years, Peggy has filled some of the social gap by contributing a local news column to Rolla's Turtle Mountain Star. "There was an older lady that wrote the Mylo news column. She passed away and The Star called and asked me if I would do it. I thought, 'Well, yeah, I'll give this a try.' I got a list from the lady's family of who she called every week, and I went with that. I said, 'I'm going to try this. Is it okay if I call you?' and [I called] everybody else I could think

of in the area. So for around 30 years, every week I call the people, and they tell me if they have news. I put in whatever they tell me."

Peggy (Edwardson) Schell, Interview: Sept. 22, 2016, County: Rolette, City: Mylo, Always Lunch Afterward

(Editor's Note: The following profiles of North Dakota residents were collected by author James Puppe between 2004-2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota Newspapers at no charge. To find out how you can read the entire collection of Dakota Attitude profiles go to dakotaattitude.com.)

Tribal

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The U.S. Department of the Interior, led by former North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, has recommended cutting more than \$1 billion in funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education for the 2027 budget year.

The proposal includes a more than \$150 million reduction for tribal higher education. In a congressional budget hearing last month, Burgum questioned the cost-effectiveness of tribal colleges and universities compared to other institutions.

Azure in his Wednesday

speech said tribal higher education institutions support Native students in ways that other schools can't. "It's community — it's not only a college," he said.

Azure said he's proud of how North Dakota tribes have navigated interruptions and cuts to federal support so far. For example, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa set aside \$1.5 million to support tribal citizens when the federal government shutdown temporarily suspended major safety net services, he said.

Azure said tribal, state and federal leaders must do more to promote public safety in tribal communities. He urged the state of North Dakota and tribes to improve

the implementation of the Feather Alert, the alert for missing, endangered or abducted Indigenous adults created by the state Legislature in 2025.

Billy Kirkland, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs for the Trump administration, delivered the keynote address for the conference. Kirkland is a citizen of the Navajo Nation.

He said the Department of the Interior's focus is cutting red tape that prevents tribal nations from exercising their independence.

"Indian Country isn't a problem to be solved, but a partner to be empowered," he said.

One priority of the Department of the Interior is working to

eliminate the ongoing backlog of tribal probate cases, Kirkland said. The agency will soon establish a platform that allows people to submit and track their cases online, he said.

Another one of the Interior Department's goals is making tribal land safer, Kirkland added. He noted that Burgum last month signed a secretary's order establishing the Indian Country Violent Crime Task Force.

Mark Fox, chair of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, in his presentation said tribes should pursue policy changes that enable them to develop their own economies and infrastructure, and not count on the federal

government for financial support.

"Never will the United States come in and put enough capital — in my estimation, somewhere around maybe a trillion dollars — into all the Indian reservations and build back what they destroyed," Fox said. "Never, ever, ever, ever are they going to do that. They're basically going to hand feed you enough to survive."

Sisseton-Wahpeton Chair J. Garret Renville in his presentation urged federal officials to consult with tribal leaders on policy decisions that affect their communities.

"I know this administration wants to make things more efficient, and so do we," he said.

He applauded new federal rules implementing the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, which supporters have celebrated as a win for tribal economic development. Renville said federal officials worked with him and other tribal leaders to develop the rules.

Burgum in 2018 started the first Government to Government Conference with former North Dakota Indian Affairs Commissioner Scott Davis.

This year's conference wraps up Thursday. Reach North Dakota Monitor reporter Mary Steurer at msteurer@northdakotamonitor.com.