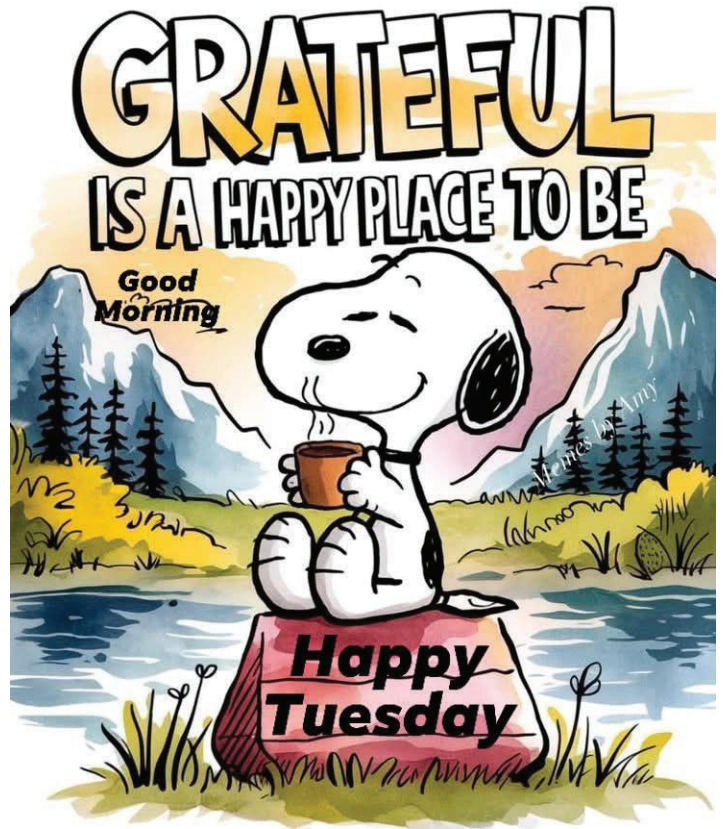


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Tuesday, April 8

Senior Menu: BBQ riblet on bun, mac n' cheese, winter blend, pears, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Scones.
School Lunch: Tacos
Smarter Balance Testing for Grades 6-8 and 11 (ELA and Math)
Track at Ipswich, 2 p.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.
United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, monterey blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.
School Breakfast: Oatmeal.
School Lunch: Cheese nachos, salsa, refried beans.
Smarter Balance Testing for Grades 6-8 and 11 (ELA and Math)

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Soup Supper, 6 p.m. (Sunday School is host), worship, 7 p.m.

Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Supper, 6 p.m.; Lent, 7 p.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 10

Senior Menu: Taco salad with chips, Mexican rice with black beans, cherry fluff, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, fries.

Smarter Balance Testing for Grades 6-8 and 11 (ELA and Math)

Track at Mobridge-Pollock, 11 a.m.

Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m. 104 N Main

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

Tariffs Rattle Stocks

US stock markets whipsawed yesterday amid fears of a growing trade war triggered by President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs. The S&P 500 briefly hit bear market territory—defined as a 20% drop from its recent peak—while the Nasdaq composite has already entered bear market conditions. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is down nearly 10% from its December high. All three indexes started the day lower before closing mixed (S&P 500 -0.2%, Dow -1.0%, Nasdaq +0.1%).

Roughly \$9.5T in global equity value has been wiped out over three trading days—one of the fastest plunges since World War II. Meanwhile, the VIX—Wall Street's real-time index measuring the S&P 500's expected 30-day volatility—spiked past 60 for the first time since August before settling around 48.

The news comes as Trump doubled down on his minimum 10% global tariff and threatened an additional 50% tariff on China. Analysts warn this could tip the US into recession, though some predict the Federal Reserve may respond with up to four rate cuts this year. Trump said tariff negotiations with other countries will begin "immediately."

Gators Hoist Trophy

No. 1 Florida captured the men's college basketball championship last night, defeating No. 1 Houston 65-63. The victory marks the Florida Gators' first championship since securing back-to-back national titles in 2006 and 2007. Coach Todd Golden, 39, becomes the youngest coach in 42 years to win a national title since North Carolina State's Jim Valvano at age 37 in 1983.

The Gators were led by guard Will Richard with 18 points, followed by freshman forward Alex Condon, who scored 12 points, and guard Walter Clayton Jr., who scored 11 points and was named Most Outstanding Player. The Houston Cougars dominated the Gators in the first half; the Gators eventually mounted a comeback, overcoming a 12-point deficit in the second half to take the lead in the final minute of the game.

Separately, a California judge held a hearing yesterday on the final approval of a \$2.8B settlement between the NCAA and major collegiate conferences that could reshape college sports, including allowing schools to share up to \$20.5M per year among their athletes beginning July 1.

Revival of the Dire Wolves

Biotechnology startup Colossal announced yesterday it has successfully revived the dire wolf, which went extinct thousands of years ago and was popularized through George RR Martin's "Game of Thrones." The breakthrough marks the world's first de-extinction of an animal.

The dire wolf roamed the Americas more than 12,000 years ago before its prey—large herbivores like bison—were largely depleted. Colossal created three wolves: six-month-old adolescents Romulus and Remus, and pup Khaleesi. The company created the wolves using DNA fragments from a 13,000-year-old tooth fossil and a 72,000-year-old skull. They also used CRISPR technology to edit genes of the dire wolf's closest living relative, the gray wolf, selecting for white fur.

Colossal—launched in 2021 and valued at over \$10B—seeks to recreate extinct species like the woolly mammoth and the dodo bird. The company hopes the projects will yield profitable insights to benefit human health, like helping to develop artificial wombs.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" and "Giant" win top awards for best new musical and best new play at the 2025 Olivier Awards, the British equivalent of the Tony Awards.

Jay North, child actor best known for playing titular role on "Dennis the Menace," dies at age 73.

Clem Burke, longtime drummer for the rock band Blondie, dies at age 70.

Toronto Blue Jays sign Vladimir Guerrero Jr. to 14-year, \$500M deal—the third largest contract in MLB history.

NBA regular season wraps up in one week; see the latest playoff picture.

Science & Technology

New hormone found to stimulate ovulation in zebrafish; discovery may lead to new fertility treatments in humans.

Study finds cytokines—small proteins that act as messengers between cells—that help fight infections can also infiltrate the brain, influencing behavior such as anxiety and sociability.

Researchers discover a new family of microbes that live in the "critical zone" of the Earth's soil, the near-surface area that extends to depths of around 700 feet where groundwater is naturally cleaned of pollutants.

Business & Markets

US Steel shares close up 16% after President Donald Trump orders national security panel to conduct new review of proposed US Steel sale to Japan's Nippon Steel; former President Joe Biden blocked the nearly \$15B deal in January.

Shopify CEO Tobias Lütke orders managers of the e-commerce software giant to prove AI can't perform a job before seeking permission to hire new workers.

US crude oil falls below \$60 a barrel midday to lowest level since 2021 as tariff tensions fuel recession concerns.

Politics & World Affairs

Supreme Court lifts order blocking deportations under 1798 Alien Enemies Act, says migrants must still get a court hearing before being deported from the US.

Supreme Court temporarily pauses lower court's deadline for the Trump administration to bring back wrongly deported Maryland man from El Salvador.

President Donald Trump hosts Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for discussions covering tariffs, Gaza, and more; Trump also announces he will begin direct talks with Iran on its nuclear weapons program this weekend.

Idaho mom Lori Vallow Daybell, who was convicted in 2023 of killing her youngest two children, begins trial over allegedly murdering her fourth husband.

GHS School Internship

by Dorene Nelson

Groton Area High School offers a variety of business classes. One of these classes, School Internship, offers seniors the opportunity to work in various local businesses of their choice.

The purpose of this internship is to teach students responsibility by working for someone other than their family. It helps them learn how to work with the public and with customers who might not be all that agreeable at times.

Internships could also help students decide on a part-time job while they are in college or maybe even help them choose a future occupation.

Brittany Hubbard, a Science and Health Science teacher, organized this experience for the 15 students enrolled in her School Internship class.

Local business owners, farmers, and day care providers welcome the students' help. The Internship class is open only to seniors who have to find their own sponsor for their workplace.

All students must be at their chosen place of work during the last period of the school day. The student interns must contact the place they would like to work and have their own personal transportation. The following brief articles are from five of the intern students in her class.

Simon interns at Lee Park Golf Course

Carter Simon, the son of Nick and Jamie Simon, Groton, is currently doing his internship at Lee Park Golf Course in Aberdeen. "I enjoy playing golf as well as being on the golf team at Groton Area High School so this just seemed like a good place for me to work," Carter explained.

"Our golf team qualified for the State tournament where we placed fifth in the State," Carter said. "I was ranked sixteenth in the State, a nice accomplishment when you figure there were at least one hundred other golfers competing in the State tournament."

"In addition to being on the golf team in the fall, I also play baseball in the summer," he said. "Next year I plan to attend Northern State University and major in business in order to learn how to run a business efficiently,"

"Part of my job as an intern here is to clean the display rooms, the storage rooms, garages, and even the refrigerator," he smiled. "My main job is to conduct inventory of the supplies on hand. There are shirts, shoes, golf clubs and bags, and many other items available for the golfers."

"Doing inventory and keeping track of these items is the most difficult part of my job since it's easy to get mixed up and have to start all over," Carter ad-

mitted. "My favorite part of working at Lee Park is organizing the club house and keeping it looking neat and appealing."

"I'm taking dual credit courses as a senior, which allows me to do some classes online," he explained. "This gives me more time to come here to work."



Carter Simon

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Tina's Baskets - for Easter 605-397-7285

Cow basket - \$20



Includes - green drink cup, light up football, play dough, dinosaur bubble, bubbles, and 4 filled eggs

Teenager or adult Easter basket - \$25



Includes- cross word, sudoku book, word find, colored pencils, three color books, pack of pens, Reese's pieces candy, solid chocolate bunny, neapolitan flavored Lindt candy, and Dunkin chocolate brownie batter crème filled eggs

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Rainbow basket - \$25



Includes- two color books 7 filled eggs, pink drink cup crayons, Reese's candy , egg chalk, playdough, bubbles fan bubbles and a rabbit bubble

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Blue basket - \$20

Pink basket - \$20



Blue bunny includes bubble machine, bluey and his friend bingo, small Pail for the sand , bubbles, 6 filled eggs

Includes a pink bear with hugs in it , bubble machine, bubbles, side chalk bunny book, 6 eggs filled Reeses pieces candy



CALVARY'S LOVE STORY

*Easter Cantata presented by
Aberdeen Alliance Church and
Groton C&MA Church*

**APRIL
13
2025**

**GROTON C&MA
CHURCH**

**6:30 PM
706 N MAIN ST.
GROTON, SD**

**APRIL
16
2025**

**ABERDEEN
ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**7:00 PM
1106 S. ROOSEVELT ST.
ABERDEEN, SD**



**SOUTH DAKOTA
NEWS WATCH**

Inform. Enlighten. Illuminate.

Cuts in federal funding for food will hurt pantries and producers

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

BOX ELDER, S.D. — Montana Roem is worried that a proposed \$1 billion cut to federal food programs that aid schools and charities will hurt her family on two fronts.

As she waited in a line of cars at a Feeding South Dakota mobile food bank in Box Elder on March 27, Roem said she was well aware of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's move to eliminate two programs that paid for locally grown foods to be provided to food banks and for school meals across the U.S.

Taken together, she said, the proposals will make it harder for her to get food staples for her family and make it more difficult for her son to get healthy meals at school.

"It seems like cutting food banks is just the tip of the iceberg because now it's lunches at schools being cut," said Roem, 54, who lives on a low income while raising an 11-year-old boy with special needs. "I wonder what kind of country we live in because a lot of us are going to end up homeless on the streets."

The outcomes of the proposed cuts could be far reaching in South Dakota, with less food being provided to charities and schools. Eliminating the programs will also reduce federal spending at roughly 55 farms in the state, many of them smaller operations that shipped fresh foods to schools, food banks and tribal charities.

"Those dollars went directly to the producers, and the food went directly to people facing hunger," said Stacey Andernacht, vice president of public affairs at Feeding South Dakota, the state's leading charitable food provider.

USDA: We're cutting COVID-era programs

In mid-March, the USDA said it was eliminating 2025 funding of two pandemic-era initiatives: the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) and Local Food for Schools (LFS) programs, which operated in 40 states, including South Dakota.

Taken together, the initiatives approved under former President Joe Biden would have paid U.S. farmers more than \$1 billion to supply fresh, locally grown foods to food banks, pantries and schools.



Frozen meat, canned vegetables and baked goods donated by Walmart were among the goods provided to visitors to the Feeding South Dakota mobile food bank on March 27, 2025 in Box Elder, S.D. (Photo: Bart Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

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In a statement sent to News Watch, a USDA spokesperson said the agency will fund the LFPA through the end of the current funding period, adding that it is making "a return to long-term, fiscally responsible initiatives."

The spokesperson said that 16 other USDA food programs remain in place, noting that "USDA is prioritizing stable, proven solutions that deliver lasting impact. The COVID era is over — USDA's approach to nutrition programs will reflect that reality moving forward."

The cuts are part of a widespread effort by the Trump administration and its Office of Government Efficiency to reduce federal spending and identify and eliminate waste.

The funding for the LFPA was routed through the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. A DARN spokesman told News Watch in an email that the funding for the local food program began in 2022 and was expanded in 2023 but will end this summer.

"DARN's existing LFPA grant runs through June 2025, and we will continue to implement the program according to the grant agreement," said DARN spokesman Benjamin Koisti.

Pandemic over but food need still rising

After the COVID-19 pandemic ended, many people were able to return to work and to greater normalcy, yet the need for food among low-income families in South Dakota has continued to rise, Andernacht said.

Data from Feeding South Dakota shows that the number of charitable meals provided by the agency has risen by 6% over the past year. The agency has seen attendance at mobile food pantries jump by 17% this fiscal year. And the number of food backpacks it provides to children jumped by 11%. Meals provided to school pantries also rose by 5% this year, agency data shows.

James Lay, 67, came to the Feeding South Dakota mobile food pantry in Box Elder on March 27 with son Sam, 27, to get some extra food for the month. Like more than 100 others, he received frozen sliced turkey and french fries, baked goods at or near their sell-by date, and bagged potatoes and apples.

"I always found life to be tough enough already," said Lay, who lives in Rapid City. "Costs are up, expenses are up and wages are down."

Lay said he sees the federal government aiming to reduce spending, but he worries that "collateral damage" will hurt some families who need help. "It seems doable to them, but life is always hard and there's always challenges," he said.

Millions in food funding at stake

Andernacht said Feeding South Dakota will lose \$1.2 million in funding it expected to receive from the LFPA program this year, which equates to about 1% of the agency's annual food budget. However, she said, the USDA also has paused funding under The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), which could reduce Feeding South Dakota's food inventory by almost 14% moving forward, she said.

"As we came out of the pandemic, there were programs in place that brought American families out of food



Volunteers prepare to load cars with food at a Feeding South Dakota mobile food bank on March 27, 2025 in Box Elder, S.D. (Photo: Bart

Pfankuch / South Dakota News Watch)

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insecurity," Andernacht said. "Our food insecurity rate as a nation really dropped off during that time, but it has risen once again, and there's nothing coming to replace those program in order to meet the need we're seeing right now."

Andernacht said that the federal funding is still needed to counter the effects of the overall higher cost of living and inflation that drove up food costs by at least 9% in the past couple years.

Andernacht said some two-income families with children in South Dakota make too much money to qualify for food stamps or funding under the Women, Infants and Children program yet don't make enough to afford healthy food for their families.

"It's fair to say the pandemic is over. But there remains financial challenges that are making it difficult for people to purchase the foods that they need," Andernacht said. "Whether that's the cost of food or the child care crisis or the cost of housing, it's forcing people to decide, can I pay my rent or can I put food on the table?"

Some South Dakota school districts have seen the effects of the inability of parents to pay for school meals for their children. Several districts are running deficits as they try to keep feeding students who don't qualify for free lunches.

Meade County Schools, facing an unpaid student meal balance of about \$23,000, announced this month that it would match future parent payments for school lunches due to an anonymous donation of \$115,000 made through the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

Local food banks facing cutbacks

The loss of LFPA funding will place a new burden on the Mitchell Food Pantry, which used the funding to pay area farmers to provide milk to about 400 children a month, Andernacht said.

Eliminating the funding will also make it harder for the food pantry in Brookings to provide low-income families with fresh meats and vegetables raised at local farms, said Bill Alsaker, advisory committee member at Feeding Brookings.

"It's something we've had for the last couple years and it was very helpful for us," Alsaker said.

The funding helped out local farmers and allowed the pantry to provide fresh meats, onions, potatoes and greens to their clients. Instead, he said, locally grown meats will probably be replaced by hot dogs purchased from a grocery store.

Alsaker said Feeding Brookings, which operates out of Ascension Lutheran Church, has seen its client list rise to 400 a week now compared to about 110 families per week prior to the pandemic.

The pantry is increasingly concerned about the recent pause in federal funding for the TEFAP emergency assistance program, which makes up a significant portion of the group's food budget.

"If that happens, it will be a big hit to us," he said. "We would need a lot of new funding and donations



"It seems like cutting food banks is just the tip of the iceberg because now it's lunches at schools being cut. I wonder what kind of country we live in because a lot of us are going to end up homeless on the streets."

Montana Roem, food bank participant

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to pick up the slack.”

Small farm saw big benefit

The LFPA was a boost to the bottom line of dozens of South Dakota farms, many of them small specialty producers who don't have the benefit of operating with large economies of scale.

Peggy Martin, co-owner of Cedar Creek Gardens in Mellette County, said the federal program paid her business to provide fresh meats and vegetables to schools and local pantries, including on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River Indian reservations.

But the loss of federal funding will likely result in less fresh food being provided to low-income people throughout the central South Dakota area she serves. Under the program, Martin said her farm was able to ship foods at the height of freshness to people who otherwise can't access it.

She recalled one incident where a woman in Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation asked her if she could provide her with fresh tomatoes, which Martin later did.

“That lady was there and she was just about in tears,” Martin said. “We can sell to grocery stores all day long, but that (program) helped create a heartfelt gratitude by knowing you're helping somebody deal with food insecurity.”

Martin said the LFPA funding also allowed for greater stability at her farm southeast of Belvidere and enabled some expansion.

“It was a huge boon to the garden, and there was a lot of sustainable growth we could see from that,” she said. “It was a great avenue for many of us to ramp up production a little bit because you don't have to have acres and acres in production to help build the resiliency of the local food chain.”

This story was produced by South Dakota News Watch, an independent, nonprofit organization. Read more stories and donate at sdnewswatch.org and sign up for an email to get stories when they're published. Contact Bart Pfankuch at bart.pfankuch@sdnewswatch.org.



**Groton
American Legion**

GRAND REOPENING

**Groton
Legion Lounge
"Legion
Remodel
Celebration!"**

**When: Friday,
April 11**

**Time: 5-10pm
(reduced drink
prices & door
prizes)**

**Where: Groton
American Legion
Lounge, Main St,
Groton**

**Appetizers:
6 pm until gone**

**Door prices:
hourly cash
prizes (must be
present to win)**

**Music:
Karaoke 9-1
B&M Tunes**

Our Legion Post
Lounge & Hall
remodel
celebration has
been
finalized.
Please come and
celebrate with
our customers,
friends, and
Legion family.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

South Dakota Democrats announce town hall meetings as frustration grows, even among some Republicans

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - APRIL 7, 2025 2:15 PM

SIOUX FALLS — A lack of in-person town hall meetings by South Dakota's members of Congress has Democrats upset, and also some Republicans.

The South Dakota Democratic Party announced on Monday that it will conduct public town halls in four South Dakota cities "in the absence of South Dakota's Republican senators and congressman."

Afterward, state Republican Party Chairman Jim Eschenbaum told South Dakota Searchlight by phone that he's also heard complaints about the congressional delegation's accessibility.

"Even some Republicans have been saying that," Eschenbaum said.

Democrats held a press conference to announce their town halls, which will

be led by Nikki Gronli, former state rural development director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Biden administration. Julian Beaudion, a Sioux Falls businessman and former state trooper turned community activist, will also participate in the town halls.

The press conference came two days after thousands of people took to the streets in Sioux Falls, and crowds also gathered in other cities, to join in national protests against the Trump administration.

Democrats at the Monday press conference alleged that the congressional delegation has been "silent" and ignored calls and emails from constituents who are upset about the Trump administration's mass firings of federal employees, dismantling of federal departments and programs, freezes or cancellations of federal grants and spending, and tariffs.

"A chainsaw has been taken to the pocketbooks and retirement plans of hardworking South Dakotans, all while safety net programs are being dismantled," Gronli said.



Nikki Gronli, former state rural development director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the Biden administration, participates in a press conference at the downtown Sioux Falls library on April 7, 2025. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Beaudion added, "We are about putting the people first."

The announcement follows public criticisms of U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, along with Rep. Dusty Johnson, who are all Republicans, for not holding in-person town halls. None of the three offices responded immediately Monday to South Dakota Searchlight's request for a response to those criticisms.

Last month, media outlets including Politico reported that U.S. House Republican leaders advised their members to avoid in-person town hall meetings due to increasing confrontations with constituents over policies carried out by President Donald Trump and his Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire Elon Musk.

The reports said House Speaker Mike Johnson and National Republican Congressional Committee Chair Richard Hudson recommended shifting to virtual formats like tele-town halls to mitigate disruptions from protesters.

Town hall schedule

The South Dakota Democratic Party on Monday released the following schedule of public town hall meetings:

Rapid City

Monday, April 14

7-8 p.m. Mountain

Dahl Arts Center

Sioux Falls

Tuesday, April 15

7-8 p.m. Central

Hamre Hall at Augustana University

Vermillion

Thursday, April 24

7-8 p.m. Central

Farber Hall at the University of South Dakota

Aberdeen

Monday, April 28

6:30-7:30 p.m. Central

Aberdeen Public Library

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

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USDA cuts hit small farms as Trump showers billions on big farms

The dollars helped schools and food banks buy from small farmers, boosting the local food system

BY: KEVIN HARDY, STATELINE - APRIL 7, 2025 8:00 AM

Anna Pesek saw a federal program supporting local food purchases as much more than a boost to her Iowa pork and poultry farm.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture grant program that allowed schools and food banks to buy fresh products from small farms helped her forge new business relationships. It allowed her to spend more with local feed mills and butchers, and was starting to build a stronger supply chain of local foods.

But now that the Trump administration has yanked the funding, she worries that rural economic boost might end too.

"With the razor-thin margins on both sides, those partnerships are just really hard, if not impossible, to sustain," she said.

The co-owner of Over the Moon Farm, Pesek said her operation was never entirely reliant on the local food programs; it represented about 10% of her business. While she knew the federal money wouldn't last forever, she was planning on the funding lasting through 2028 — but then the Trump administration last month nixed more than \$1 billion for local food programs.

The federally funded Local Food Purchase Assistance and the Local Food for Schools programs, both begun during the pandemic, focused on small, local farms in aims of building stronger domestic food supply chains. Grants allowed schools and food banks to buy meat, dairy and produce from small farms — including many healthy products that are often too expensive for those institutions.

USDA's local food programs specifically aided some of the nation's most disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including newcomers, small farmers and those who have faced racial discrimination.

The local food programs were initially funded by 2021's American Rescue Plan Act but were later expanded by the Biden administration. The Trump administration, though, has cut the funding that went to thousands of small farms, saying that it's instead "prioritizing stable, proven solutions that deliver lasting impact."

Pesek noted that the federal government has subsidized commodity agriculture like corn and soybeans for more than a century.

"It's not a novel idea, right? This is how the relationship between the federal government and farmers has looked," she said. "And so all this program did was allocate some of the funds to go to different kinds of farmers versus just commodity farmers."



Shae, left, and Anna Pesek pose with calves on their Over the Moon farm in Iowa. The farm was one of thousands benefiting from a local food program recently cut by the Trump administration. (Helaina Thompson/Courtesy of Over the Moon Farm)

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Just after cutting the local food programs, USDA announced it was expediting \$10 billion in direct payments to commodity farmers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program, which helps farmers offset high input prices and low sale prices for crops. The White House is reportedly considering billions more in farm subsidies as President Donald Trump escalates global trade wars.

Andy Ollove, food access program director at Fresh Approach, a California nonprofit that works on building a healthier and more resilient food system, said the government's long-standing farm subsidies flow to some of the nation's biggest operators. Conversely, the local food programs benefited small farmers and communities directly.

"The economic multiplier to this program just seems way more impactful than the traditional subsidy model of the USDA that the administration is continuing to invest in," he said. "It's just a giveaway."

Fresh Approach has helped administer the food bank program in California. While implementation delays mean farmers won't lose access to the program as quickly as in other states, he expects elimination of the program to put small farmers out of business across the country.

Some states have launched their own local food programs, but nothing on the scale of the federal investment. That's left advocates for small farmers, local foods and food banks pushing for reinstatement of the federal program or getting it included in the next round of farm bill negotiations, when Congress outlines a five- or six-year spending plan for the nation's food policy and agriculture sector.

Ollove expects philanthropists will fund parts of California's program after federal money is depleted. But it won't have the same reach.

"I do feel confident that these types of programs will continue in California ... sporadically and piecemeal," he said. "But not in the way that we're administering it, in a way that I think is changing a lot of things and improving the food system."

A mixed response from states

The noncompetitive USDA local food grants allowed many new farmers to break into markets. And the aid for food hubs, which link small producers to larger markets, helped farmers distribute products to schools and food banks.

In Wisconsin, for example, more than half of the nearly 300 farmers who benefited from the food bank program were early career farmers, according to state officials.

In Illinois, the state prioritized funds toward socially disadvantaged farmers, such as those who have faced racial or ethnic prejudice.

"Attacking this program was really an attack on Illinois' most vulnerable, whether it's a socially disadvantaged farmer or the food recipient," said Kristi Jones, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Her department administered the federal food bank program, which helped beginning farmers get their businesses off the ground.

"A lot of these farmers, they're living their dreams," she said. "They are living their goals because of this program."

Illinois had been planning on nearly \$15 million from the next round of funding for the food bank program. Jones said farmers already had begun planning and spending on seeds and equipment.

Democratic leaders have bashed the Trump administration's decision: Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, for example, called it "a slap in the face to Illinois farmers and the communities they feed."

But conservative leaders in other states have downplayed the cuts.

In Texas, Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller characterized USDA's decision as "a reassessment."

He said the state was not dependent on the federal funds and would continue its Farm to School and Farm to Food Bank programs, which encourage the local purchase of Texas agricultural products.

"There's always room for refinement, and we may see a revised version of the policy down the road that is even better for agriculture producers," he said in a statement last month.

Texas funds programs to help distribute excess food to schools, food banks and charities. But it does

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not have a grant program like USDA's to help those organizations purchase local food, said Marshall Webb, spokesperson for the state agriculture department.

Iowa's agriculture department recently started its own local food program.

The Choose Iowa program has made about \$300,000 available to support local food purchases — though the state lost out on about \$11.3 million because of the federal cuts.

Don McDowell, spokesperson for the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, said the agency would continue to ask lawmakers to expand funding for the Choose Iowa program.

"Programs designed to forge relationships between Iowa farmers, food hubs, food banks and schools are important to our farmers and communities," he said.

Iowa Farmers Union President Aaron Heley Lehman said his organization, which represents family farmers and ranchers, would like to see the state step in to fill the void.

"But we don't anticipate that that's going to be an easy thing for the state of Iowa to do," he said. "So not only is it local farmers that are feeling like they've had the rug pulled out from underneath them, but the state of Iowa has, too."

Creating a new food system

In Southern California, Dickinson Family Farms has worked to gather produce from dozens of small farms across the region, allowing even the smallest operators without distribution capabilities to sell to local food banks.

Andrew Dickinson, who owns the farm with his father, said the federal local food program also helped reduce food waste. Farmers were able to get fair market prices for vegetables with cosmetic damage or fruits deemed too small or large for grocery store shelves.

Dickinson said the federal program has provided a reliable marketplace for small operators that otherwise depend on more inconsistent sales streams like farmers markets.

"It will create a vacuum," he said.

About 60 miles east of Los Angeles, sixth-generation farmer Anna Knight said the federal funds were much more than a handout to farmers. To her, they were about creating a new kind of food system.

She said supporting local producers creates more supply chain resilience — something many people didn't appreciate until the pandemic.

"We don't want to go back to that world," she said. "When we invest in our local food system, we're really investing on onshoring our food production system, on making new food systems local and increasing their resiliency in moments of crisis."

Old Grove Orange, her California farm, has been supplying citrus to some local school systems for years. But she said the federal funds were the "single biggest changemaker" for pushing schools to buy local for the first time.

To her, that's key in promoting lifelong healthy eating: Local produce like her freshly picked oranges pack more of a nutritional punch and just taste better than produce that takes weeks to ship from abroad.

"When you are giving a child a delicious piece of fruit, you are really cultivating their palate for life," she said. "You are setting this expectation of what a fruit is supposed to taste like, and you are sparking this love for fruits and vegetables for the rest of their life."

Knight said the nation doesn't have to choose between big and small farms. But small farms are vanishing all around her.

"This is a ticking bomb," she said. "The clock is running out if we don't really find a way to help make these small, medium-sized farms sustainable."

Kevin Hardy covers business, labor and rural issues for Stateline from the Midwest.

Markets worldwide take another dive as Trump threatens higher tariffs on China

Thune pessimistic about success of bill attempting to claw back some power from president

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - APRIL 7, 2025 5:08 PM

WASHINGTON — Global markets plummeted Monday for the third consecutive trading day since President Donald Trump announced his “Liberation Day” tariffs — and the administration gave mixed signals on meeting other nations at the negotiating table.

U.S. stocks reacted positively to a short-lived, incorrect report amplified on social media that Trump may pause the tariffs for 90 days, but the market plunged quickly when the White House dismissed the claim as “FAKE NEWS.”

Any upward progress was erased upon Trump’s announcement that he planned to further punish China starting Wednesday.

At about 11:15 a.m. Eastern Trump threatened to raise tariffs on China a further 50% if the country does not back down on its retaliatory 34% tax on U.S. imports by Tuesday. If left unresolved, the latest U.S.-China trade war will hit American farmers, particularly soybean producers.

Writing on his platform Truth Social, Trump said “Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated! Negotiations with other countries, which have also requested meetings, will begin taking place immediately.”

The administration maintains more than 50 countries have reached out to negotiate.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent wrote on X that Trump has tasked him to negotiate with Japan, which could face a 24% levy beginning Thursday.

“Japan remains among America’s closest allies, and I look forward to our upcoming productive engagement regarding tariffs, non-tariff trade barriers, currency issues, and government subsidies. I appreciate the Japanese government’s outreach and measured approach to this process,” Bessent wrote on the social media platform.

“China has chosen to isolate itself by retaliating and doubling down on previous negative behavior,” Bessent added.



President Donald Trump is displayed on a television screen as traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on April 7, 2025, in New York City. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

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European Union's stance

Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she has offered the U.S. zero-for-zero tariffs on industrial goods.

"But we are also prepared to respond through countermeasures and defend our interests," von der Leyen said Monday at a press conference.

Trump slapped a 20% tax on goods from the EU, set to take effect Thursday, on top of 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum that began in mid-March. A 25% tariff on all foreign cars imported to the U.S. also launched Thursday.

The EU is poised to impose retaliatory duties on American products in response to the import taxes. The bloc of 27 nations is scheduled to vote Wednesday on a list of U.S. goods to be taxed at its borders.

When asked by reporters in the Oval Office Monday if the EU offer was enough to scale back the tariffs, Trump said "No, it's not."

Journalists had gathered in the Oval Office for Trump's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited to discuss Trump's new 17% tax on his country's imports.

Netanyahu promised to "eliminate" his country's trade deficit with the U.S.

"We intend to do it very quickly. We think it's the right thing to do and we're going to also eliminate trade barriers, a variety of trade barriers that have been put up unnecessarily. And I think Israel can serve as a model for many countries who ought to do the same," Netanyahu said.

When asked by reporters if he intends to lower the tariffs on Israel, Trump said, "Maybe not."

"We give Israel billions of dollars a year," he added.

The meeting was streamed on C-SPAN.

'Let's take the deal'

Two Republican senators publicly urged Trump on social media to take the EU offer.

Sen. Mike Lee of Utah wrote, "Let's take that deal! Much to gain."

"Totally agree," Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin replied. "At some point you have to take YES for an answer."

Another Senate Republican, Ted Cruz of Texas, has publicly criticized Trump's steep levies on almost every nation around the globe.

A bipartisan effort to claw back power from the president's near-unilateral authority to impose tariffs might not get far, despite the economic uncertainty unleashed since Trump unveiled his "Liberation Day" plan.

Legislation co-sponsored by Democrat Maria Cantwell of Washington and Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa would require the president to notify lawmakers prior to new tariffs from the White House and limit the levies to a 60-day window unless Congress approves an extension.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune of South Dakota seemed to shut down the idea Monday, according to reporters on Capitol Hill.

"I don't think that has a future. The president has indicated he will veto it. I don't see how they get it to the floor on the House," Thune told Politico.

A companion bill in the House is sponsored by Republican Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska.

Chances of House Speaker Mike Johnson bringing the bill to the floor are likely slim, as the Louisiana Republican supported Trump's tariff unveiling in person last week.

Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.

Standing Rock leaders raise concerns about federal funding in meeting with ND, SD governors

BY: MARY STEURER - APRIL 7, 2025 6:23 PM



Standing Rock Chairwoman Janet Alkire and council members meet with North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong and South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden. Pictured from left are Rhoden, Alkire, Armstrong, former Standing Rock Chairman Charles Murphy, Councilman Cyril Archambault and Councilman John Pretty Bear. (Mary Steurer/North Dakota Monitor)

FORT YATES, N.D. — Leaders of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe asked governors of North Dakota and South Dakota for help Monday as they face uncertainties with federal funding under President Donald Trump.

The comments came during a rare meeting that brought North Dakota Gov. Kelly Armstrong and South Dakota Gov. Larry Rhoden to consult with Standing Rock Tribal Chairwoman Janet Alkire and other tribal council members.

Alkire, Armstrong and Rhoden, who convened in the council chambers of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Administrative Center, said they couldn't recall the last time both

governors were in Fort Yates at the same time.

The Standing Rock Reservation straddles North Dakota and South Dakota. This puts the tribe in the unique situation of having to manage overlapping jurisdiction with both states and the federal government.

Federal spending cuts threaten several services in Indian Country the federal government is legally required to provide, including programs that support public education, health care and law enforcement, Stateline reported last month.

Multiple Standing Rock councilors asked Armstrong and Rhoden what the tribe can do to navigate these changes.

"We all know there's gonna be more," Alkire said.

Both governors said they share concerns about the cuts.

"We're in the mode of monitoring, just like you are," Rhoden said.

He defended the Trump administration's actions as necessary to bring federal spending under control.

"It's been many decades since I felt like we had a president that's actually looking beyond the horizon on fixing what's wrong with America," he said.

Alkire said she supports streamlining federal programs if it means Native nations get greater autonomy over their own resources, but she worries tribal communities will suffer if their services are cut.

"We in Indian Country have always faced underfunding, so when you cut something for us, it's drastic,"

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Alkire said.

She said Standing Rock is counting on the North Dakota and South Dakota governments and their congressional delegations to make sure the federal government honors its responsibility to Native nations.

Armstrong said he hopes tribal leaders alert their state counterparts as soon as they face issues.

"When disruption happens, we need to know," he said.

Setting the funding cuts aside, Alkire said the federal government has long neglected to address a laundry list of tribal sovereignty issues. The tribe needs more funding and staff from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, as well as fewer restrictions on access to federal land and the Missouri River, to name a few, she said.

"I told Secretary Burgum that he had his work cut out for him," Alkire said, referring to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Armstrong's predecessor as governor.

Development was another recurring theme of the meeting.

John Pretty Bear, a district representative, asked Rhoden if he would ask D.C. to fund water infrastructure development in western South Dakota.

"It's 2025, and we still have people that haul water," Pretty Bear said.

Rhoden said he's aware of the issue.

"I live in the middle of Meade County, and if you look at a water map of South Dakota as far as rural water projects, it is a black hole in that area," he said.

Councilors also asked the governors to help support economic development on the reservation so the tribe's younger generation can find jobs.

"We need more businesses," District Representative Joe White Mountain Jr. said. "Our kids are growing up and they don't really have a future."

During a January address to North Dakota state lawmakers, Alkire called infrastructure a top priority for the tribe.

Standing Rock hopes to one day build a bridge over the Missouri River connecting the reservation to Emmons County. Currently, to cross the Missouri River, Fort Yates residents must drive roughly an hour north to Bismarck or an hour south to Mobridge.

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently awarded the tribe a \$14.5 million planning grant for the project, but more support will be needed to make the dream a reality, Alkire said in the address.

A bill signed by Armstrong in March authorizes the North Dakota Department of Transportation to accept ownership of the bridge if it gets built.

Tribal officials said both states could do a better job of consulting with Standing Rock on a variety of issues, including education, transportation, gaming and land use.

Rhoden, formerly South Dakota's lieutenant governor, assumed office at a low point for tribal relations in the state.

Leaders of all nine Native American reservations in South Dakota voted to ban Rhoden's predecessor, Kristi Noem — now the U.S. secretary of Homeland Security — from their lands. The votes were in response to Noem's rhetoric about Indigenous communities in the state, including an unsubstantiated accusation that tribal leaders were "personally benefiting" from Mexican drug cartels, and an assertion that Native American children "don't have any hope."

"I think this is an important day in our history and in the road to recovery, as far as rebuilding our relationships," Rhoden said Monday.

Armstrong's predecessor, Burgum, was widely regarded as an ally to the five federally recognized tribes that share land with North Dakota.

Armstrong said Burgum's appointment to the Interior presents "unique opportunities" to the tribe, North Dakota and South Dakota, and he hopes the three governments can continue working toward their common interests.

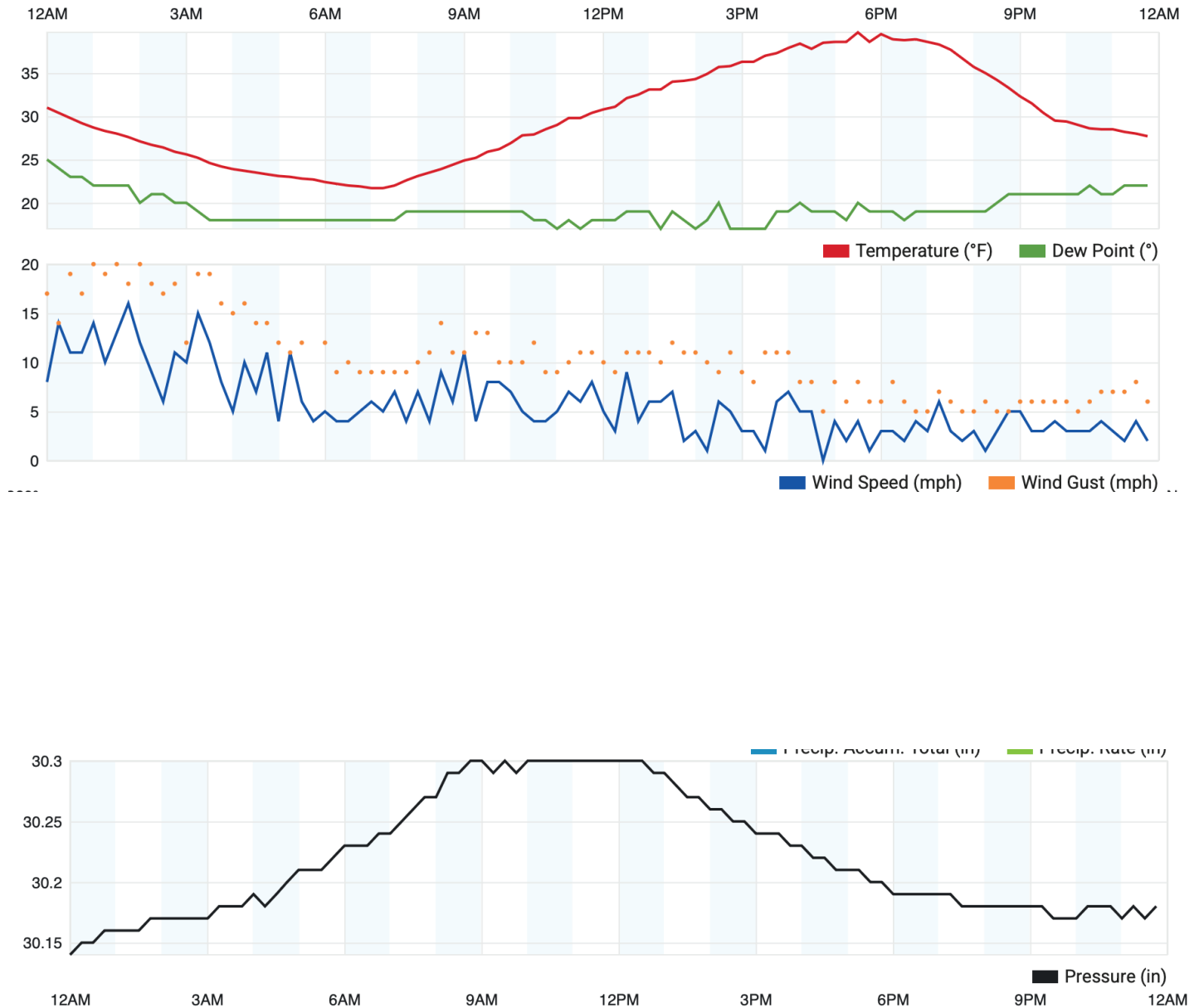
"There's not a lot of people that can get me out of Bismarck on less than a week's notice when the Legislature's meeting, but when the Chairwoman calls, we say yes," said Armstrong.

Mary Steurer is a reporter based in Bismarck for the North Dakota Monitor. A native of St. Louis, Steurer previously worked as the local government reporter for the Casper Star-Tribune newspaper in Wyoming.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 56 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Tonight



Low: 33 °F

Mostly Cloudy

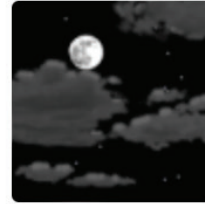
Wednesday



High: 65 °F

Sunny then
Sunny and
Breezy

Wednesday
Night



Low: 37 °F

Partly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 56 °F

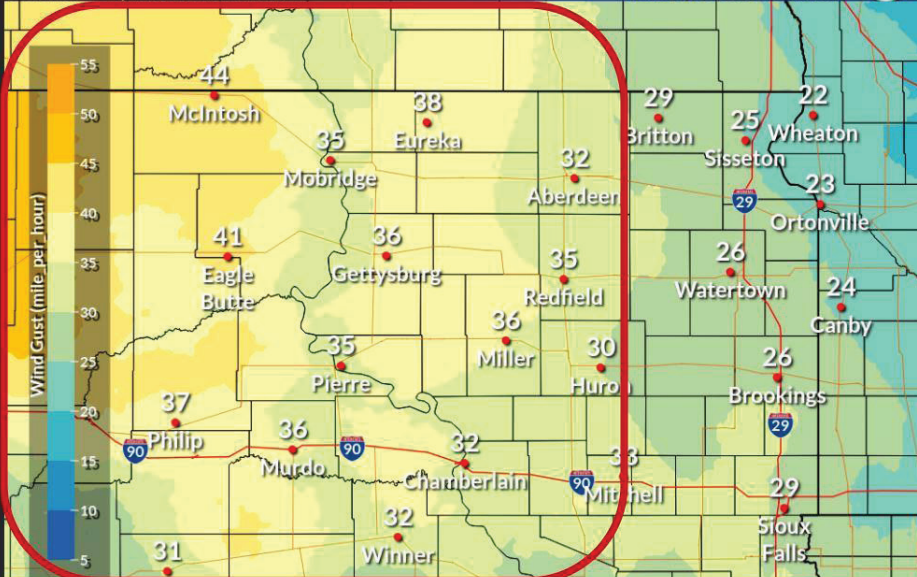
Partly Sunny
then Mostly
Sunny and
Breezy

Elevated Fire Weather Concerns Wednesday especially west of the James River

Strongest Wind Gusts Wednesday

30 to near 40 mph west of the James River

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Apr 08, 2025 4:00 AM CDT



Wind Gusts 30 to
near 40 mph west
of the James River



Dry grasses
pre-greenup



Relative humidity
20 to 35%

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



The combination of dry conditions and stronger winds will result in elevated fire weather concerns Wednesday. Be extra cautions with anything that could create a spark as any fire could become difficult to suppress.

Mainly dry weather will continue with grasses only starting to green up from recent precipitation and warming conditions. Winds on Wednesday will gust 30 to near 40 mph west of the Missouri River, with relative humidity values dropping to 20 to 35 percent.

While burning may be necessary, knowing when to burn is critical! Don't burn when strong winds are forecast. Know local burn bans and regulations. Check on previous fires, and make sure they are cold before winds increase!

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 40 °F at 5:53 PM

Low Temp: 22 °F at 6:51 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 12:56 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 14 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 85 in 1945

Record Low: 6 in 1997

Average High: 54

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in April.: 0.36

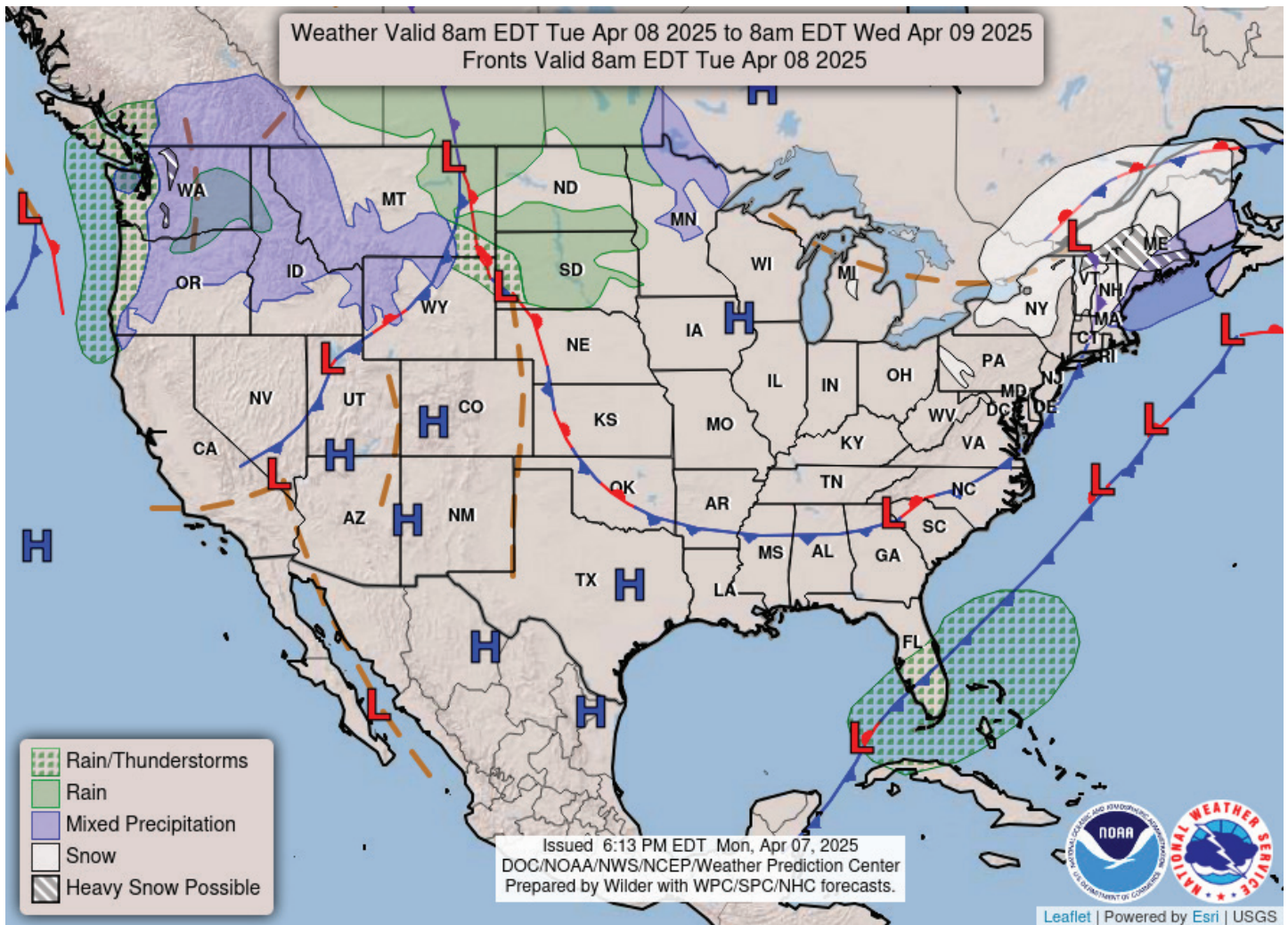
Precip to date in April.: 1.07

Average Precip to date: 2.42

Precip Year to Date: 1.70

Sunset Tonight: 8:11:16 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:55:06 am



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Today in Weather History

April 8-11th, 1995: Ten inches to two feet of snow fell in central South Dakota in a five-day period, beginning April 8th. Many roads became impassable. Several businesses, government offices, and schools closed on the 11th. Twenty-four inches fell at Ree Heights and Gettysburg, 20.0 inches at Faulkton, 18.0 inches at Kennebec, 16.0 inches at Pierre, and 10.0 inches at Doland.

1919 - A tornado swarm in northern Texas resulted in the deaths of 64 persons. (David Ludlum)

1926 - The lightning-set oil depot fire near San Luis Obispo CA boiled over and engulfed 900 acres. Many tornado vortices resulted from the intense heat of the fire. One such tornado traveled 1000 yards, picked up a house and carried it 150 feet, killing the two occupants inside. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - A severe storm brought high winds and heavy snow to Iowa. Belle Plain received 20 inches of snow, and 19 inches blanketed Dubuque, record totals for both locations for so late in the season. Snow drifts up to sixteen feet high closed highways. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A cold front crossing the Northern Plateau and the Northern Rocky Mountain Region produced high winds in northeastern Wyoming. Winds gusting to 69 mph at Sheridan WY downed power lines and caused some property damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Strong northerly winds ushered cold air into the north central U.S. The strong winds, gusting to 60 mph at Rapid City SD and Williston ND, reduced visibilities in blowing dust over the Dakotas. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Two dozen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. Phoenix AZ equalled their record for April of 104 degrees established just the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Twenty-two cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the eastern U.S. Freezing temperatures severely damaged peach and apple orchards in West Virginia, where prolonged mild weather since January had caused an early blooming of spring vegetation. State and Federal agencies estimated a 50 percent loss in production for peaches and "Delicious Red Apples". (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotion

The God Who Saves

Salvation isn't something we earn; it is a gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9: ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Today's passage tells us that we have been saved by grace through faith. Whatever we're asked to change or give up for Jesus' sake pales in comparison with that amazing gift.

The Lord isn't looking for people who change a few habits by sheer force of will; He's calling people to surrender themselves to Him. The only action God requires is belief in Him. That means trusting Jesus is who He says He is, will do what He promises, has the authority to forgive, and will equip His people to live a godly life. Because of those convictions, a new Christian is empowered to turn away from his or her old life—in other words, to repent—and begin the process of living as "a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We don't evolve into a saved people by stopping old habits and instituting better religious ones. Rather, we are transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ when we believe in Him.

Since salvation isn't something we earn, no one can boast before God. Compared with the holiness of Jesus Christ, all of our moral living, good deeds, and strenuous efforts to change bad habits amount to nothing (Isaiah 64:6). Only His righteousness can cover our sins and make us right before the Father.

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.04.25

11 28 35 37 69 25

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$54,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 27 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.25

4 8 13 27 37 7

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$28,820,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 42 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.25

21 25 31 37 38 18

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 57 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.05.25

4 10 13 18 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$95,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 57 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.25

2 31 36 51 58 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 26 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.25

20 23 48 59 66 4

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$65,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 26 Mins 0 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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Upcoming Groton Events

03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
03/29/2025 Men's Singles Bowling Tournament at the Jungle 10am, 1pm & 4pm
04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
04/12/2025 Groton Firemens Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
05/12/2025 High School Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
06/07/2025 Day of Play
06/13/2025 SDSU 4 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
06/21/2025 Groton Triathlon
06/23/2025 Ladies 2 Person Scramble at Olive Grove
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
07/11-13/25 2025 VFW 12U Class B State Baseball Tournament
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
07/16/2025 Men's Pro Am Golf at Olive Grove
07/25/2025 Ferney Open Scramble Golf at Olive Grove
08/01/2025 Wine on Nine Fundraiser at Olive Grove
08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
08/14/2025 Family Fun Fest, Downtown Main Street 5:30-7:30pm (2nd Thursday)
08/23/2025 Glacial Tournament at Olive Grove
09/05/2025 Homecoming Parade 1pm
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
09/07/2025 Sunflower Classic Couples Scramble at Olive Grove
10/10/2025 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
10/11/2025 Pumpkin Fest 10am-3pm City Park
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm
12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

News from the **AP** Associated Press

CBS Sports entrant finishes 1 game from a perfect bracket in women's NCAA Tournament

By MARK ANDERSON AP Sports Writer

One person came one first-round women's NCAA Tournament game away from perfection in the CBS Sports Bracket Challenge.

The one miss occurred when 10th-seeded South Dakota State defeated No. 7 Oklahoma State 74-68 on March 22. The outcome didn't make much news, especially considering the following opponent was eventual national champion UConn.

Coming that close to a perfect bracket is nearly impossible.

The NCAA computed the chances of getting every game correct at one in 9.2 quintillion. It didn't compute the chances of finishing with just one loss.

Sex abuse trial of former 'Dances with Wolves' actor in Nevada is again postponed

By RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The sex abuse trial of former "Dances with Wolves" actor Nathan Chasing Horse in Nevada has again been postponed.

A judge on Monday moved the start of the trial in state court in Las Vegas to Aug. 4. The 48-year-old had been scheduled to stand trial next week on charges that he sexually abused Indigenous women and girls for years in the Las Vegas area.

Craig Mueller, Chasing Horse's lawyer, said in a motion filed Friday that he needs more time to prepare and interview witnesses. It's the latest in a series of delays since Chasing Horse was arrested and indicted in early 2023.

Chasing Horse has pleaded not guilty to 21 felonies, including sexual assault of a minor under 16, kidnapping and producing and possessing videos of child sexual abuse. If convicted of the sexual assault charges, he could face decades or life in prison.

After starring as Smiles A Lot in the 1990 Oscar-winning film "Dances with Wolves," Chasing Horse began promoting himself as a self-proclaimed Lakota medicine man while traveling around North America to perform healing ceremonies, authorities have said. He was born on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, home to the Sicangu Sioux, one of the seven tribes of the Lakota nation.

Prosecutors say Chasing Horse used his position to gain access to vulnerable women and girls for decades until his arrest near Las Vegas. He has been jailed ever since, but criminal proceedings were at a standstill for more than a year while Chasing Horse challenged his original indictment.

It was eventually dismissed after the Nevada Supreme Court ruled that prosecutors had abused the grand jury process when they provided a definition of grooming as evidence without any expert testimony. The high court's order, however, left open the possibility for charges to be refiled, and prosecutors quickly took their case before another grand jury.

Chasing Horse was again indicted in October. The indictment added new allegations that he filmed himself having sex with one of his accusers when she was younger than 14. Prosecutors have said the footage, taken in 2010 or 2011, was found on cellphones in a locked safe inside the North Las Vegas home that Chasing Horse is said to have shared with five wives, including the girl in the videos.

His case has been unfolding at the same time lawmakers and prosecutors around the U.S. are funneling more resources into cases involving Native women, including human trafficking and killings.

The Latest: China vows countermeasures over Trump tariffs as trade war threatens to intensify

By The Associated Press undefined

China says it will "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports.

The Commerce Ministry said Tuesday the U.S.'s imposition of "so-called 'reciprocal tariffs'" on China is "completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice."

Trump's threat Monday of additional tariffs on China raised fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens.

World shares and U.S. futures advanced Tuesday, led by gains in Tokyo where the Nikkei 225 shot up just over 6% as markets calmed somewhat after the shocks from President Donald Trump's tariff hikes.

Here's the latest:

Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto vowed to build the country's economy with the goal of standing on "our own feet" as his administration scrambles to contain market jitters following an American decision to impose a 32% import tariff on the country's goods.

He met investors, market players and economists in Jakarta on Tuesday to formulate how to strengthen Indonesia's economic resilience.

"What is happening now, the world is in turmoil due to the world's strongest economy country making policies to increase tariffs so high for many countries," Subianto said in his opening speech at the meeting. He said the resulting uncertainty underlined the need to "rely more on ourselves to build our economy with our own feet."

During the meeting, Chief Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto emphasized that the Indonesian government will not take any retaliatory measures and has sent a request letter for negotiations on the reciprocal tariff policy through the United States Trade Representative the Secretary of Commerce.

"What America wants is a balancing of the trade balance," Hartarto said, "We will increase our purchase of American products."

World shares and U.S. futures advanced, led by gains in Tokyo

World shares and U.S. futures advanced Tuesday, led by gains in Tokyo where the Nikkei 225 shot up just over 6% as markets calmed somewhat. The modest rebound for most markets followed a wild day on Wall Street, where stocks careened after Trump threatened to crank his double-digit tariffs higher.

Germany's DAX gained 0.9% to 19,975.81 while the CAC 40 in Paris was up 1.3% at 7,018.79. Britain's FTSE 100 also picked up 1.3%, to 7,804.73.

The future for the S&P 500 gained 1.5% early Tuesday while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1.9%.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 closed a smidgen over 6% higher, at 33,012.58.

Hong Kong also recovered some lost ground, but nothing close to the 13.2% dive Monday that gave the Hang Seng its worst day since 1997, during the Asian financial crisis.

The Hang Seng gained 1% to 20,036.03. The Shanghai Composite index jumped 1.4% to 3,140.15 after the government investment fund Central Huijin directed state-owned companies to help support the market with share purchases.

Pakistan markets show slight recovery

The Pakistan Stock Exchange recovered 1.5% on Tuesday after going down 3.3% overall the previous day.

The latest development comes a day after Pakistani stocks went down, with Islamabad facing 29% tariffs from the U.S.

The improvement in the stock market came after authorities said the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had spoken with Pakistan's deputy premier Ishaq Dar about economic cooperation.

Pakistan plans to send a government delegation to Washington this month to negotiate the issue of

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tariffs with the administration.

Von der Leyen urges China to avoid escalating trade war with US

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is urging China to avoid escalating a tariff war with the United States and to help ensure that Chinese products don't flood other markets due to the fallout.

In a phone call with Chinese Premier Li Qiang, von der Leyen "called for a negotiated resolution to the current situation, emphasizing the need to avoid further escalation," her office said Tuesday.

She "underscored the vital importance of stability and predictability for the global economy," and said that it was up to Europe and China "to support a strong reformed trading system, free, fair and founded on a level playing field."

The commission negotiates trade deals and disputes on behalf of the 27 EU member countries. It is setting up a task force to monitor for any dumping as the tariffs hit trade flows.

China says US doesn't appear to want 'sincere dialogue'

China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday questioned America's "willingness for sincere dialogue" and said Beijing would "fight to the end" after Trump threatened to impose more tariffs.

"I think what the U.S. has done doesn't reflect a willingness for sincere dialogue," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a news briefing.

"If the U.S. really wants to engage in dialogue, it should adopt an attitude of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit. If the U.S. disregards the interests of both countries and the international community and insists on a tariff war and trade war, China will surely fight to the end," Lin added.

Indian foreign minister speaks with Rubio about trade agreement

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, late Monday to push for an early conclusion of negotiations over a bilateral trade deal.

The call came days after the U.S. slapped a 26% tariff on Indian imports. India wants to seek concessions as part of the trade deal, the first tranche of which is expected by fall.

Brendan Lynch, a U.S. assistant trade representative, visited India last month to discuss the initial contours of the deal. The U.S. is pushing India to grant greater market access for agricultural and dairy products, but New Delhi is reluctant since its farm sector employs the bulk of the country's workforce and is a main source of family income.

Malaysia prime minister says ASEAN will send a delegation to Washington

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim says his government and others in Southeast Asia will send a delegation to Washington to discuss the tariff situation.

In a keynote speech Tuesday at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Investment Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Anwar said ASEAN leaders would try to build a consensus and present a united response to Trump's tariffs.

"We do not believe in megaphone diplomacy," Anwar said. "As part of our soft diplomacy of quiet engagement, we will be dispatching together with our colleagues in ASEAN our officials in Washington to begin the process of dialogue."

Indonesia markets plunge after holiday break

Indonesia's stock market plunged 9.2% in early trading on Tuesday, as markets in the Southeast Asian country reopened after an extended Eid holiday break.

Its currency, the rupiah, also sank to a record low, hitting 16,846 against the U.S. dollar.

The Indonesia Stock Exchange halted trading for 30 minutes following the steep decline. When it resumed, shares recovered slightly but remained down nearly 8%.

Hong Kong leader calls tariffs 'bullying' and 'ruthless behavior'

Hong Kong leader John Lee has described the latest U.S. tariffs as "bullying," saying the "ruthless behavior" has damaged global and multilateral trade and brought great risks and uncertainties to the world.

At a news conference on Tuesday, Lee pledged to take several steps to address the tariffs. He said the city would seize more opportunities in China's development, sign more free trade agreements with other economies, and continue to push for Hong Kong's accession to the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive

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Economic Partnership.

He also vowed to advance international financial cooperation, attract foreign companies and capital to Hong Kong, and support Hong Kong enterprises to cope with the tariff impacts.

New Zealand prime minister criticizes tariffs as a 'shift away from agreed rules'

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has delivered stronger criticism of the U.S. tariffs, decrying what he says is a "shift away from agreed rules" of trade and warning of the risk of "backsliding into a global trade war."

"A trade war is in nobody's interests," Luxon told reporters in Wellington on Tuesday. "It will slow global growth, hurt jobs and reduce the amount of money we have in our wallets."

He said New Zealand, which is set to receive the 10% baseline tariff rate on goods exported to the U.S., would not impose retaliatory tariffs on the U.S.

The U.S. in January overtook Australia to become New Zealand's second-largest export partner, behind China, with New Zealand exports largely made up of meat, dairy, wine and agricultural machinery.

Asian markets open higher after volatile session a day earlier

Asian markets opened higher on Tuesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 benchmark shooting up more than 6% after it fell nearly 8% a day earlier.

The rebound followed a wild day on Wall Street as U.S. stocks careened after Trump threatened to crank his double-digit tariffs higher.

Hong Kong also recovered some lost ground, but not anything close to its 13.2% dive on Monday that gave the Hang Seng its worst day since 1997 during the Asian financial crisis. The Hang Seng gained 1.7% to 20,163.97 on Tuesday morning.

The Shanghai Composite index jumped 0.8% to 3,121.72, South Korea's Kospi gained 1.6% to 2,364.22, and the S&P/ASX 200 also was up 1.6%, at 7,462.60.

Japan's prime minister meets with Cabinet after call with Trump

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba met with his Cabinet on Tuesday to discuss how to respond to the U.S. tariffs, after he spoke by phone late Monday with Trump.

Ishiba has appointed Ryosei Akazawa, the economy revitalization minister, as Japan's trade negotiator with the U.S., Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said Tuesday. The appointment was based on an agreement between Ishiba and Trump, Hayashi added.

Japan's prime minister also dispatched senior officials from the foreign and trade ministries to Washington to follow up on his conversation with Trump.

Ishiba is considering traveling to Washington for direct talks with Trump at an appropriate time, Hayashi said.

At Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, Ishiba instructed his ministers to fully examine and mitigate the tariffs' impact on Japanese industries and pursue diplomatic efforts to address them. Ishiba told his ministers the tariffs would be a blow to all industries. He said the auto industry is essential to Japan, while steel and aluminum are also key to its economy.

As China and the US spar, countries brainstorm over how to cope with the trade war

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump and China sparred over tariff hikes and other retaliatory moves on Tuesday, as governments elsewhere were brainstorming strategies to cope with the trade war between the global economic giants.

China said it will "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports in retaliation for Beijing's backlash against the 34% tariffs he ordered on his April 2 "Liberation Day."

"The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the US. China will never accept this," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement

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read on state-run broadcaster CCTV.

When asked about the possibility of talks between Washington and Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said "I think what the US has done doesn't reflect a willingness for sincere dialogue. If the US really wants to engage in dialogue, it should adopt an attitude of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit."

Meanwhile, Chinese state-run companies were told to help support the country's financial markets after they were hit by massive sales of selling on Monday.

While world markets calmed somewhat after frenzied selling over two trading sessions that wiped out trillions of dollars worth of wealth, leaders in Asia shifted into damage control mode.

Help for Japan's automakers and steel mills

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba spoke with Trump late Monday and then convened a task force Tuesday to mitigate damage from the 24% U.S. tariffs imposed on Washington's biggest ally in Asia.

Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa was appointed lead trade negotiator and senior officials were dispatched to Washington to follow up on the Ishiba's talk with Trump.

Ishiba told his ministers to do their utmost to get Trump to reconsider and also to mitigate the impact from the U.S. "reciprocal" tariffs, which he said would be a blow to all industries, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters.

India wants a deal

India's Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with his U.S. counterpart Marco Rubio late Monday, pitching for an early conclusion of negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement.

India, which faces a 26% tariff on its exports to the U.S., is hoping for concessions as part of the trade deal. A first tranche of the agreement is expected by this fall. Washington wants India to allow more open market access for U.S. dairy and other farm products, but New Delhi has balked at that since farming employs the bulk of India's workforce.

India's Trade Minister Piyush Goyal planned to meet with exporters Wednesday to gauge the potential impact and cushion the economy from the tariffs.

A State Department statement said Rubio and Jaishankar discussed ways to deepen collaboration, the tariffs and "how to make progress toward a fair and balanced trade relationship."

Malaysia promises 'soft diplomacy' response

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said his government and other Southeast Asian countries would send officials to Washington to discuss the tariffs and it was working to build a consensus on a unified response among the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as they convened an investment conference in Kuala Lumpur.

"We do not believe in megaphone diplomacy," Anwar said, "As part of our soft diplomacy of quiet engagement, we will be dispatching together with our colleagues in ASEAN our officials in Washington to begin the process of dialogue."

Still, he chided the U.S., saying Malaysia's trade with the U.S. had long been a model of mutual gain, with its exports supporting Malaysia's growth as well as high-quality jobs for Americans. The 24% tariff recently imposed on Malaysian imports was "harming all" and might have negative impact on both economies, he said.

Anwar said Malaysia would stick to a policy of diversifying its trade at a time of uncertainty over globalization and changing supply chains.

Hong Kong vows more, not less, open trade

In Hong Kong, which has a free-trade policy and operates as a free port with few trade barriers, Chief Executive John Lee echoed Beijing in blasting Trump's tariffs as "bullying" and "ruthless behavior" he said had damaged trade and raised global uncertainty.

Lee said the former British colony, which came under Beijing's control in 1997 but has limited autonomy, would draw closer to the Chinese mainland, sign more free trade agreements and strive to attract more foreign investment to help blunt the impact of the higher U.S. duties.

Prince Harry appeals the loss of his UK security detail

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry wants his British security detail restored and is taking his case to an appeals court.

Harry, whose titles include the Duke of Sussex, lost his government-funded protection in February 2020 after he stepped down from his role as a working member of the royal family and moved to the U.S.

The prince's surprise arrival Tuesday at the Court of Appeal in London to challenge a lower court ruling that upheld the decision was an indication of the case's importance to him. He waved to photographers as he entered the courthouse.

Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles III, has bucked royal family convention by taking the government and tabloid press to court, where he has a mixed record.

But Harry rarely shows up to court, making only a few appearances in the past two years. That included the trial of one of his phone hacking cases against the British tabloids when he was the first senior member of the royal family to enter the witness box in more than a century.

A High Court judge ruled last year that a government panel's decision to provide "bespoke" security for Harry on an as-needed basis was not unlawful, irrational or unjustified.

Harry had claimed he and his family are endangered when visiting his homeland because of hostility aimed at him and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, on social media and through relentless hounding by news media.

He lost a related court case in which he sought permission to privately pay for a police detail when in the U.K. but a judge denied that offer after a government lawyer argued officers shouldn't be used as "private bodyguards for the wealthy."

He also dropped a libel case against the publisher of the Daily Mail for an article that said he had tried to hide his efforts to continue receiving government-funded security.

But he won a significant victory at trial in 2023 against the publisher of the Daily Mirror when a judge found that phone hacking at the tabloid was "widespread and habitual." He claimed a "monumental" victory in January when Rupert Murdoch's U.K. tabloids made an unprecedented apology for intruding in his life for years, and agreed to pay substantial damages to settle his privacy invasion lawsuit.

He has a similar case pending against the publisher of the Mail.

China says it will 'fight to the end' after Trump threatens to impose still more tariffs

BEIJING (AP) — China said Tuesday it would "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports.

The Commerce Ministry said the U.S.'s imposition of "so-called 'reciprocal tariffs'" on China is "completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice."

China, the world's second-largest economy, has announced retaliatory tariffs and the ministry hinted in its latest statement that more may be coming.

"The countermeasures China has taken are aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining the normal international trade order. They are completely legitimate," the ministry said.

"The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the U.S. China will never accept this. If the U.S. insists on its own way, China will fight to the end," it added.

Analysts and traders worry about a global trade war

Trump's threat Monday of additional tariffs on China raised fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance

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the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens.

Trump's threat came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!"

If Trump implements his new tariffs on Chinese products, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners, particularly the European Union.

Chinese people worry, but keep faith with their country

On the streets of Beijing, people said they found it hard to keep track of all the announcements, but expressed belief in their country's ability to weather the storm.

"Trump says one thing today and another tomorrow. Anyway, he just wants benefits, so he can say whatever he wants," said Wu Qi, 37, who works in construction.

Others were less sanguine. Paul Wang, 30, who sells stainless accessories, including necklaces, bracelets, and tongue studs to Europe, said the European market was now more important after the extra U.S. 50% tariffs and he would be watching to see which other firms in his field would be competing in that space.

Jessi Huang and Yang Aijia, whose companies import chemicals from the U.S., said the tariffs, including potential Chinese retribution, could force them to close up shop.

"It would be very hard and very likely to have a layoff, maybe even closing," Huang said, "I might not be able to find another job if I get laid off."

China isn't out of options to retaliate

China still has a range of options to strike back at the Washington, experts said, including suspending cooperation on combating fentanyl, placing higher quotas on agricultural products and going after the U.S. trade in services in China such as finance and law firms.

U.S. total goods trade with China was an estimated \$582 billion in 2024, making it the top trader in goods with the U.S. The 2024 deficit with China in goods and services trade was between \$263 billion and \$295 billion.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian appeared to give short shrift to talk of dialogue with the Trump administration.

"I don't think what the U.S. has done reflects a willingness for sincere dialogue. If the U.S. really wants to engage in dialogue, it should adopt an attitude of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit," Lin said.

In Hong Kong, where stocks were slightly higher Tuesday, Chief Executive John Lee blasted the latest U.S. tariffs as "bullying," saying the "ruthless behavior" has damaged global and multilateral trade and brought great risks and uncertainties to the world.

Lee said the city would link its economy closer to China's development, sign more free trade agreements, attract more foreign companies and capital to Hong Kong, and support local enterprises in coping with the impact of the tariffs.

Middle East latest: Israeli strikes kill 25 people in Gaza as Supreme Court hears Shin Bet cases

By The Associated Press undefined

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight and into Tuesday killed at least 25 people, including eight children and five women, according to Palestinian medics.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court is hearing a group of eight cases challenging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial move to dismiss the head of the country's internal security agency.

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Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas in March and has cut off all food, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza — a tactic that rights groups say is a war crime — while issuing new displacement orders that have forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee Israeli bombardments and ground operations.

Israel's war in Gaza, now in its 18th month, has killed over 50,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Israel has vowed to escalate the war until Hamas returns dozens of remaining hostages, disarms and leaves the territory.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, and taking 251 others hostage. The group still holds 59 captives — 24 of whom are believed to be alive.

Here is the latest:

Gaza journalist dies of wounds from Israeli strike

A Palestinian photojournalist who was wounded in an Israeli strike on a media tent outside of a hospital has died.

Ahmed Mansour suffered severe burns in the strike early Monday, according to Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis.

The strike killed two other people, including another journalist, and wounded another five reporters.

The Israeli military said the target of the strike was a man it described as a Hamas militant posing as a journalist. He was among those who were wounded.

Israel's High Court hears cases against domestic security chief's firing

Israel's Supreme Court is hearing a group of eight cases challenging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to dismiss the head of the country's internal security agency.

The hearing sets the stage for what will be the latest showdown between Netanyahu and the judiciary. Any decision it makes is likely to deepen a rift in Israel over the power of the courts over elected lawmakers.

Critics say the decision to fire Ronen Bar is tainted by a conflict of interest because the internal security agency is investigating ties between Netanyahu's office and the Gulf Arab state of Qatar. Bar's supporters say Netanyahu demanded loyalty from the head of an organization that is meant to be apolitical.

Netanyahu says his decision came after a crisis of confidence in his domestic security chief surrounding Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks and the ensuing war in Gaza.

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill at least 25 Palestinians, medics say

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight and into Tuesday killed at least 25 people, including eight children and five women, according to Palestinian medics.

A strike on a home in the central town of Deir al-Balah killed 11 people, including five children as young as two, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, which received the bodies.

Another four people were killed in a separate strike that hit a house in Deir al-Balah, it said.

Another strike in the northern town of Beit Lahiya flattened a home and killed a family of seven, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

A separate strike hit a group of people in an open area northwest of Gaza City, killing four people, including one who was planning to get married next week, the ministry said.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames Hamas for civilian deaths because it operates in densely populated areas.

South Korea will hold a presidential election June 3 to choose Yoon's successor

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea will hold a snap presidential election June 3 to choose Yoon Suk Yeol's successor after the conservative was ousted over his imposition of martial law late last year.

The announcement from acting President Han Duck-soo came four days after the Constitutional Court unanimously removed Yoon from office, which by law, must be followed by an election within 60 days. The next president will serve a full 5-year term.

Deep political polarization will likely shape the election into a two-way showdown between Yoon's People

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Power Party and its chief liberal rival, the Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the National Assembly.

It will be an uphill battle for the People Power Party as it struggles to restore public confidence and heal severe internal divisions left by Yoon's brief enactment of martial law.

The focus of attention is on whether conservatives can regroup and field a strong candidate to compete against likely Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung, who observers say is the clear front-runner.

Potential candidates

South Korea's political parties are expected to launch primaries to select their presidential candidates in the coming weeks.

The Democratic Party candidate is expected to be Lee, a powerful party leader who faces no major challengers inside the party. Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, led the party through a crisis during which many of its members faced off against troops sent by Yoon to encircle the National Assembly building, voted down martial law and later impeached Yoon.

About 10 politicians from the People Power Party are expected to seek the nomination.

Conservatives in disarray

Yoon's baffling decision to enact martial law, which brought armed troops into Seoul's streets and evoked the country's traumatic memories of past military rule, was a blow to his party's reputation even though the party wasn't directly involved.

Some reformist party members openly criticized Yoon's actions and cast ballots to impeach him, triggering a feud with the party's old guard who supported the president.

Yoon has diehard supporters who regularly staged massive rallies. Many share an unfounded perception that Yoon is a victim of a leftist, North Korea-sympathizing opposition that has rigged elections to gain a legislative majority and plotted to remove a patriotic leader.

"South Korea's conservative party faces significant disadvantages heading into the upcoming election. Two months is a short time to unify the base, moderates and a conspiracy-driven fringe around a single candidate," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The party's current leadership is filled with Yoon loyalists, and that will likely let the internal divide continue and undermine its electoral prospects, said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

Among the leading People Power Party presidential hopefuls, Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo is considered to be the most pro-Yoon. He and Daegu Mayor Hong Joon-pyo opposed impeaching Yoon, while former party leader Han Dong-hoon and senior party lawmaker Ahn Cheol-soo supported removing him from office. The last major candidate is Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, who has maintained an ambiguous position.

Choi said Yoon will likely exert his influence to boost pro-Yoon figures who are seeking the nomination and party leadership posts so they can defend him as he faces a criminal trial. Yoon was charged with rebellion in January, and he could face other charges like abuse of power now that he has lost presidential immunity, which protected him from most criminal prosecutions.

The People Power Party "will need to nominate someone who can win over the public, particularly the moderates, rather than someone who can win the party's primaries," said Duyeon Kim, a senior analyst at the Center for a New American Security in Washington. "Korean moderates and the young generation in their 20s and 30s will likely be the swing voters."

Lee's bid

Opposition leader Lee, who has served as a provincial governor and a city mayor, is considered by his supporters as a populist reformer. But critics regard him as a demagogue who relies on stoking divisions and demonizing his rivals.

Lee faces five ongoing trials for corruption and other criminal charges. If he becomes president, those trials will likely stop thanks to presidential immunity.

Yoon has repeatedly accused Lee's Democratic Party of abusing its parliamentary majority status to obstruct his agenda, impeach senior officials and slash the government's budget bill. Yoon said his martial law declaration was a desperate attempt to draw public support of his fight against "wickedness" of Lee's

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party.

"Lee Jae-myung has many detractors among the South Korean public who believe he nearly broke the government for his own benefit, weaponizing the legislature to push Yoon over the edge and cast his own legal cases as political persecution," Easley said.

"Lee's successful maneuvering, including the purge of progressive politicians disloyal to him, means he effectively owns the Democratic Party nomination and has the clearest path to the presidency," he said.

Kentucky watches for surging rivers to recede so widespread cleanup can begin

By BRUCE SCHREINER and KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — After days of unrelenting downpours swelled rivers to near record levels across Kentucky, residents closely monitored waterways for signs they had crested, but freezing temperatures forecast for Tuesday could complicate any cleanup efforts.

Freeze warnings were in effect until early Tuesday for western Kentucky, along with parts of Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, with temperatures potentially dropping as low as 28 degrees (minus 2.2 Celsius), according to the National Weather Service.

"This is going to be a dangerous night where temperatures fall, where it gets potentially below freezing, so if you're somewhere that's very wet, if you're trying to ride this out in a home that's had water, tonight could raise concerns of hypothermia," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said during a news conference Monday, urging residents to find a safe place to stay.

Inundated rivers are the latest threat from persistent storms that have killed at least 23 people since last week as they doused the region with heavy rain and spawned destructive tornadoes. At least 157 tornadoes struck within seven days beginning March 30, according to a preliminary report from the weather service.

Though the storms have finally moved on, the flood danger remains high in several other states, including parts of Tennessee, Arkansas and Indiana.

Cities ordered evacuations, and rescue crews in inflatable boats checked on residents in Kentucky and Tennessee, while utilities shut off power and gas in a region stretching from Texas to Ohio. Floodwaters forced the closure of the historic Buffalo Trace Distillery, close to the banks of the swollen Kentucky River near downtown Frankfort.

Officials diverted traffic, turned off utilities to businesses and instituted a curfew in Frankfort as the river crested just short of a record Monday. More than 500 state roads across Kentucky were still closed Monday evening, Beshear said.

Several miles north of Frankfort, RVs were parked at a makeshift campground Monday after fast-rising floodwaters chased a community of 90 RVs out of a park along the Kentucky River on Saturday. Everyone made it out safe, although a few RVs had to be left behind and were quickly submerged.

"It was quite an ordeal to just kind of wake up, hit the ground and start running, make sure everybody was off the property, not only people but the equipment and the RVs," said Traci Yoder, manager of the RV park and a resident herself.

Storms leaving devastating impact

The 23 deaths reported since the storms began Wednesday, include 10 in Tennessee. Among the four confirmed killed in Kentucky, a 9-year-old boy was caught up in floodwaters while walking to catch his school bus.

The deaths also included a 5-year-old boy in Arkansas who police said died after a tree fell on his family's home, and a 16-year-old volunteer Missouri firefighter who died in a crash while seeking to rescue people caught in the storm.

The Kentucky River crested at Frankfort Lock at 48.27 feet (14.71 meters) Monday, just shy of the record of 48.5 feet (14.8 meters) set there on Dec. 10, 1978, said CJ Padgett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Louisville, Kentucky, office.

Beshear said more than 1,000 people had no access to water and nearly 3,000 were under boil water

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advisories.

'The worst I've seen'

Russell Harrod, 78, stood Monday morning looking at the floodwaters surrounding the brick home in Frankfort where he's lived for 40 years. He said the water rose quickly Sunday afternoon.

"That's the worst I've seen, and I've been around a long time," he said.

In northeastern Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the scene "absolutely heartbreaking" around the town of Hardy, which took damage to its city hall and other buildings.

West Memphis, Arkansas, Fire Chief Barry Ealy told WREG-TV that crews in the flood-prone city have rescued more than 100 people.

Why so much nasty weather?

Though significant rains have ended in the Southern Plains and the Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio valleys, flooding on most rivers will persist this week, with some smaller waterways receding in the next few days, according to the weather service.

Forecasters attributed the violent weather to warm temperatures, an unstable atmosphere, strong winds and abundant moisture streaming from the Gulf.

Walter Clayton Jr.'s defensive stop gives Florida its 3rd national title with 65-63 win over Houston

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Florida's Walter Clayton Jr. came up with the perfect going-away present for that spirit-crushing Houston defense that bullied, battered and bedeviled him all night.

It was a defensive gem of his own. Right before the buzzer. For the win and the national title.

The Gators and Clayton somehow overcame Houston's lockdown intensity, along with a 12-point deficit Monday night to will out a 65-63 victory in an NCAA title-game thriller decided when the Florida senior's own D stopped the Cougars from even taking a game-winning shot at the buzzer.

Clayton finished with 11 points, all in the second half. What he'll be remembered for most was getting Houston's Emanuel Sharp to stop in the middle of his motion as he tried to go up for the game-winning 3 in the final seconds.

"Just go 100 percent," Clayton said when asked what he was trying to do at the finish. "We were just trying to get a stop, and we happened to get it. I'm happy we got it done."

With Sharp looking for room, Clayton ran at him. The Houston guard dropped the ball and, unable to pick it up lest he get called for traveling, watched it bounce.

Alex Condon dived on the ball, then flipped it to Clayton, who ran to the opposite free-throw line with the buzzer sounding and tugged his jersey out of his shorts. Next, the court was awash in Gator chomps and orange and blue confetti.

"We guarded them hard and then I saw the ball loose and I just hoped we beat them to the ball," Florida coach Todd Golden said.

This marked the fourth comeback in six March Madness wins for the Gators (36-4). They led this game for a total of 64 seconds, including the last 46 ticks of a contest that was in limbo until the final shot that never came.

Houston coach Kelvin Sampson called it "incomprehensible" that the Cougars couldn't get a shot off on either of their last two possessions.

About the last one, Sampson said: "Clayton made a great play. But that's why you've got to shot fake and get into the paint. Two's fine."

Will Richard had 18 points to keep the Gators in it, and they won their third overall title and first since Billy Donovan went back-to-back in 2006-07.

This time, it's Golden, in his third year, bringing the title back to Gainesville, where the Gator faithful can celebrate a win on one of college sports' grandest stages for the first time since Tim Tebow was playing

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quarterback for the football team in 2008.

This was the first hoops title for the Southeastern Conference since Kentucky in 2012, and the outcome the power conference was hoping for (expecting?) after placing a record 14 teams in the tournament.

The Cougars (35-5) and Sampson were denied their first championship, and ended up in the same spot as the colorful Phi Slama Jama teams from the 1980s — oh-so-close in second place.

This was a defensive brawl — the Gators failed to crack 70 for only the second time all season — and for most of the night, Clayton got the worst of it.

He was 0 for 4 from the field without a point through the first half. Met at the top of the circle, then double-teamed and trapped when necessary, he didn't score until hitting two free throws with 14:57 left.

The player who scored at least 30 points in the last two games, who averaged 24.6 through the first five games of the tournament, who almost singlehandedly outscored UConn and Texas Tech down the stretch of those March Madness comebacks, finished with one 3-pointer. Before that, he had a pair of three-point plays off drives to the hoop that kept the Gators in striking range. He finished 3 for 10.

He also became part of not one, but two stops that put these Gators in the history book, and possibly cemented himself as the best basketball player to wear the orange and blue.

After Alijah Martin made two free throws to put Florida ahead 64-63 — its first lead since 8-6 — the Gators lured Sharp into a triple-team in the corner, where Clayton pressured him, and then Richard got him to dribble the ball off his leg and out of bounds.

Florida made one free throw on the next possession and that set up the finale.

The ball first went to L.J. Cryer, who led the Cougars with 19 points. Blanketed by Richard, he threw to Sharp, who was moving to spot up for a 3 when Clayton ran at him. That left him with no choice but to let the ball go.

"It was a great defensive play by Walter," Condon said. "I just dived on it, and hearing the buzzer go was a crazy feeling."

Instead of the 69-year-old Sampson becoming the oldest coach to win the title, the 39-year-old Golden becomes the youngest since N.C. State's Jim Valvano in 1983 to win it all.

This gut-wrenching loss came two nights after the Cougars fashioned a wild comeback of their own, from 14 down against Duke.

All three Final Four games were decided down the stretch, none by more than Florida's six-point win over Auburn on Saturday. Any thought that the men's game had been overtaken by the increasingly popular women will probably go on hold at least for a year.

The three women's Final Four games, capped by UConn's blowout of South Carolina on Sunday, were decided by an average of 24.7 points.

"When it gets down to the two best teams left," Sampson said of the thriller he barely lost, "it's not going to be easy for either team."

Trump's DHS revokes legal status for migrants who entered the US on Biden-era CBP One app

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — Migrants who were temporarily allowed to live in the United States by using a Biden-era online appointment app have been told to leave the country "immediately," officials said Monday. It was unclear how many beneficiaries would be affected.

More than 900,000 people were allowed in the country using the CBP One app since January 2023. They were generally allowed to remain in the United States for two years with authorization to work under a presidential authority called parole.

"Canceling these paroles is a promise kept to the American people to secure our borders and protect national security," the Department of Homeland Security media affairs unit said in response to questions.

Authorities confirmed termination notices were sent to CBP One beneficiaries but did not say how many. They were urged to voluntary self-deport using the same app they entered on, which has been renamed

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CBP Home.

"It's time for you to abandon the United States," the Department of Homeland Security wrote to a Honduran family that entered the U.S. at the end of last year. The Associated Press reviewed the email received Sunday.

Others shared the same email on social media platforms.

Al Otro Lado, a nonprofit organization that provides legal aid to migrants, said some who received the revocation letters are from Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico.

CBP One was a cornerstone of the Biden administration's strategy to create and expand legal pathways to enter the United States in an attempt to discourage illegal border crossings. By the end of December, 936,500 people had been allowed to enter with CBP One appointments at border crossings with Mexico. President Donald Trump ended CBP One for new entrants on his first day in office, stranding thousands in Mexico who had appointments into early February.

Trump has ended and revoked temporary status for many who benefited under Biden's policies. Homeland Security said Monday that Biden's use of parole authority — more than any president since it was created in 1952 — "further fueled the worst border crisis in U.S. history."

Homeland Security said last month that it was revoking another form of parole for 532,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who flew to the country at their own expense with a financial sponsor. It ends April 24.

The Trump administration has also announced an end to Temporary Protected Status for 600,000 Venezuelans and about 500,00 Haitians, though a federal judge temporarily put that on hold, including for about 350,000 Venezuelans who had been scheduled to lose TPS on Monday. TPS is granted in 18-month increments to people already in the U.S. whose countries are deemed unsafe for return due to natural disaster or civil strife.

How Philadelphia police draw on personal experiences to respond to mental health crises

By CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — On a frigid February morning, Vanity Cordero, a Philadelphia police officer, heard a call over the radio for a man threatening to jump from a bridge. The details sounded familiar.

When Cordero arrived, she realized she'd met him months earlier on the same bridge, where she talked him down by engaging him in conversation about his family and bringing him a hot meal.

Cordero is a member of a program focused on de-escalation practices and to provide connections to services including follow-up support as an alternative to arrest and entering into the criminal justice system.

The unit started as a pilot program in late 2022, nearly two years after the fatal police shooting of Walter Wallace Jr., who was experiencing a mental health episode when police responded to his mother's call for help.

Studies over the past two decades have shown a person with serious mental illness can be over 10 times more likely to experience use of force during police interactions.

In the wake of Wallace's death, the police and the city both invested in programs to better respond to mental health crises — one of dozens of similar initiatives in other police departments across the country.

Officers with a personal connection

What makes Philadelphia's unit unique is the robust follow-up resources and that most of the officers on Philadelphia's team, including Cordero, have personal experiences that made them want to join — family members with mental illness or addictions or previous work with at-risk populations.

Cordero grew up living with her uncle, who her mother takes care of because of an intellectual disability that today would be diagnosed as autism, she said. She's an advocate for better practices for police interacting with autistic people.

"When I'm on the street and I'm serving in the community, I think of someone being my uncle or, you

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know, any family member. Everyone is a family member to someone," she said. "It just gives you a little bit more edge and patience and courteousness to the people that need your help."

On this February morning, Cordero rushed to the bridge to help responding patrol officers.

CIRT teams, who drive SUVs without police lights and department decals and wear less formal uniforms, are often requested by other officers to assist, and also choose calls to respond to citywide.

She stayed back until she was needed, but the man spotted her and teased her about not being as tan as she was the last time they saw each other.

They laughed about Cordero getting pale over the winter months and she reminded him it was cold outside, especially on that bridge.

A few hours later, the man was on his way to a mandatory mental health hold and clinician Krystian Gardner would follow up in the coming days and offer resources to the man's family.

Mental health is a growing part of police work

A lot of officers on the team said many calls were about mental health when they were on regular patrol. But officers usually have just a few minutes to spend handling calls before being pulled to the next incident.

The CIRT team, however, spends more than an hour on average with each person, said Lt. Victoria Casale, who oversees the unit.

"In policing, there just isn't the resources or time to spend hours on calls," Casale said. "But we want our officers to spend time with people. We're not leaving you. We're trying to solve this problem with you."

The team's clinicians, who work for the nonprofit Merakey, a behavioral health provider, also bring experience and resources to the table.

Audrey Lundy, program director for Merakey, said one of her first calls with the unit reframed her perspective. Instead of doing a typical welfare check — on a mother who hadn't been to work in awhile — Lundy and the CIRT officer brought over groceries for the family using a flexible needs spending card. The woman had gotten sick, was unable to work and began experiencing a financial crisis.

The groceries opened the door to a broader conversation about the resources that may be available to help her cover school costs, long-term expenses and ultimately, get back to her job.

A veteran problem solver

The officers like the idea of being problem solvers. For Officer Kenneth Harper, a Marine combat veteran, his CIRT assignment has given him the opportunity to help fellow veterans having a hard time readjusting to civilian life or dealing with mental health concerns.

"There was a gentleman that served over 30 years in the Army — a very decorated, highly respected person," Harper said. "But he was very stubborn, never received any help or services."

Harper and another officer with military experience built a rapport with the man, eventually getting him to the veterans hospital for treatment and help with housing.

"We kept in touch for months after that, checking in," he said.

Casale said Harper has gone far above and beyond, even recruiting other veterans in the department to share trainings about trauma responses and resources for vets.

It's just one way the small unit has expanded its reach. The eight-officer CIRT team covers the entire city on weekdays, but crises don't stop on nights and weekends. Casale hopes the team can grow in numbers as districts across the city become familiar with and trust the work they do.

They want people to call CIRT directly if they need help instead of waiting until it's an emergency and calling 911.

"We want them to call us," Cordero said, of connecting with the man on the bridge. "I told him, you know, you can call us. We can just go eat. We don't have to keep meeting on this bridge."

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Trump says high tariffs may have prevented the Great Depression. History says different

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the early days of the Great Depression, Rep. Willis Hawley, a Republican from Oregon, and Utah Republican Sen. Reed Smoot thought they had landed on a way to protect American farmers and manufacturers from foreign competition: tariffs.

President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in 1930, even as many economists warned that the levies would prompt retaliatory tariffs from other countries, which is precisely what happened. The U.S. economy plunged deeper into a devastating financial crisis that it would not pull out of until World War II.

Most historians look back on Smoot-Hawley as a mistake that made a bad economic climate much worse. But tariffs have a new champion in President Donald Trump.

Like Trump, Hoover was elected largely because of his business acumen. An international mining engineer, financier and humanitarian, he took office in 1929 like an energetic CEO, eager to promote public-private partnerships and use the levers of government to promote economic growth.

"Anyone not only can be rich, but ought to be rich," he declared in his inaugural address before convening a special session of Congress to better protect U.S. farmers with "limited changes of the tariff."

Instead, the 31st president got the Great Depression.

Trump, now championing his own sweeping tariffs that have sent global markets into a tailspin, argues that the U.S. was founded on steep import taxes on goods from abroad.

But the country began abandoning them when it created a federal income tax in 1913, the president says. Then, "in 1929, it all came to a very abrupt end with the Great Depression. And it would have never happened if they had stayed with the tariff policy," Trump said in announcing his tariff plan last week.

Referring to Smoot-Hawley, he added, "They tried to bring back tariffs to save our country, but it was gone. It was gone. It was too late. Nothing could have been done — took years and years to get out of that depression."

America's history of high tariffs actually continued well after 1913, however, and Trump's take on what sparked the Great Depression — and Hoover-era Washington's response to it — don't reflect what actually happened.

Gary Richardson, an economics professor at the University of California, Irvine, said the U.S. long maintaining high tariffs "helped to shift industry here. But we've gotten rid of them because, as the country at the cutting edge of technology, we didn't think they were useful."

"When we were at our most powerful, right after World War II, we forced a low tariff regime on most of the world because we thought it was to our benefit," said Richardson, also a former Federal Reserve System historian. "Now, we're going back to something else."

Tariffs date to 1789

George Washington signed the Tariff Act of 1789, the first major legislation approved by Congress, which imposed a 5% tax on many goods imported into the U.S. With no federal income tax, the policy was about finding sources of revenue for the government while also protecting American producers from foreign competition.

After the War of 1812 disrupted U.S. trade with Great Britain, the U.S. approved more tariffs in 1817 meant to shield domestic manufacturing from potentially cheaper imports, especially textiles.

High tariffs remained for decades, particularly as the government looked to increase its revenue and pay down debt incurred during the Civil War.

The Tariff Act of 1890 raised taxes to 49.5% on 1,500-plus items. Championing the move was the "Napoleon of Protectionism," William McKinley, an Ohio Republican congressman who would be elected president in 1896 and one of Trump's heroes.

But that move caused prices to rise and the U.S. economy to fall. It worsened after the Panic of 1893, when unemployment reached 25%. Historians referred to the period as the "great depression" until it was

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superseded by the actual Great Depression.

An income tax replaces tariffs

A national income tax didn't become permanent until Congress passed the 16th Amendment in 1909, and it was ratified four years later. Despite what Trump suggests, what followed was continued economic growth — fueled by technological advances like the telephone and increased consumer spending after World War I.

A construction boom, and increased manufacturing output — particularly for consumer goods that included the automobile — helped spark the "Roaring 20s." The Dow Jones Industrial Average increased six-fold — climbing from 63 points in August of 1921 to nearly 400 in September of 1929.

It was the Prohibition era and the jazz age, a period of urbanization even as farming remained a key economic driver. Working conditions were often poor, but the standard of living climbed for the middle class, which enjoyed innovations like broadcast radio and washing machines.

High tariff policy also persisted, with Congress approving the Fordney-McCumber Act of 1922, which raised levies to their highest in U.S. history on many imported goods in an effort to further bolster domestic manufacturing. That prompted retaliatory tariffs from key U.S. trading partners — mirroring the reactions of contemporary China and other countries to Trump's new levies.

'Black Tuesday' and The Great Depression

The economy began slowing when the Fed raised interest rates in 1928 and the following year.

The idea was mostly to ease a stock market bubble by reducing lending to brokers or firms buying stocks. But that triggered higher interest rates in Britain and Germany, which helped slow global consumer spending and production, and began a U.S. recession in the summer of 1929.

The Great Depression began with "Black Tuesday" on Oct. 29, 1929, when a panic selloff triggered a stock market collapse, wiping out thousands of investors who had borrowed heavily. As consumer demand declined, manufacturing firms laid off workers and idled factories.

In subsequent years, the U.S. unemployment rate reached 25%, while economic output plunged nearly 30%. There were thousands of bank failures and widespread business closures, while millions of Americans lost their homes.

Smoot-Hawley

With self-made wealth and global sympathies, Hoover cut a very different figure than Trump.

Hoover was orphaned at 9 and led World War I-humanitarian food relief efforts while living in London. He also served as commerce secretary before running for president. He could be dynamic with small groups but reserved in public.

"There's no theater to Herbert Hoover," said David Hamilton, a history professor at the University of Kentucky.

Trying to keep his campaign promise to protect farmers, Hoover pushed Congress for higher agricultural tariffs. But a chief goal was encouraging farmers to produce new types of crops, and Hoover didn't view steeper U.S. tariffs as incompatible with global trade, Hamilton said.

"He's not weaponizing trade in the way we see today," said Hamilton, author of "From New Day to New Deal: American Farm Policy from Hoover to Roosevelt, 1928-1933."

Hawley, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, originally sought farming protections. But the finished bill went much farther, using high tariffs to protect manufacturing. It passed the House in May 1929.

Smoot, who chaired the Senate finance committee, helped oversee passage there in March 1930. Reconciled legislation that became the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act finally cleared Congress that June.

Hoover was conflicted, especially after more than 1,000 U.S. economists signed a letter urging a veto. But he signed the act, saying in a statement, "No tariff bill has ever been enacted, or ever will be enacted, under the present system that will be perfect."

That's all a departure from another businessman-turned-president, Trump, who grew up wealthy and was a real estate mogul and reality TV star who had never served in government before first winning the presidency in 2016.

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Trump has long championed tariffs as a way to protect the U.S. economy and manufacturing at the expense of its global trading partners. And he bypassed Congress potentially modifying the scope of his policy aims by declaring an "economic emergency" to institute tariffs unilaterally.

Smoot-Hawley raised import tariffs by an average of 20% on thousands of goods, causing many top U.S. trading partners to retaliate. International cooperation on non-trade issues also declined, including on defense matters, helping clear the way for the rise of Hitler, Richardson said.

"There were some industries where they made profits," Richardson said of Smoot-Hawley. "But overall, people in the U.S. and people around the world were losers."

U.S. manufacturers saw foreign markets for their goods evaporate and output and consumer spending sank still further. Hawley lost the 1932 Oregon Republican primary in his district, and Smoot was defeated in November, as Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt trounced Hoover for the presidency.

Smoot, Hawley and Hoover largely kept defending their tariff policies in subsequent years, blaming international trade policies and external monetary forces — as well as Democrats — for America's economic woes. The economy wouldn't begin its recovery until the outbreak of World War II increased demand for factory production in 1939.

"Economic depression cannot be cured by legislative action or executive pronouncement," Hoover said in December 1930. "Economic wounds must be healed by the action of the cells of the economic body -- the producers and consumers themselves."

RFK Jr. says he plans to tell CDC to stop recommending fluoride in drinking water

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Monday said he plans to tell the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop recommending fluoridation in communities nationwide. Kennedy said he's assembling a task force of health experts to study the issue and make new recommendations.

Also on Monday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it is reviewing "new scientific information" on potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water. The EPA sets the maximum level allowed in public water systems.

Kennedy told The Associated Press of his plans after a news conference with EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin in Salt Lake City.

Kennedy cannot order communities to stop fluoridation, but he can direct the CDC to stop recommending it and work with the EPA to change the allowed amount.

Utah last month became the first state to ban fluoride in public drinking water, pushing past opposition from dentists and national health organizations who warned the move would disproportionately hurt low-income residents who can't afford regular dentist visits.

Republican Gov. Spencer Cox signed legislation barring cities and communities from deciding whether to add the cavity-preventing mineral to their drinking water. Water systems across the state must stop fluoridation by May 7.

Kennedy praised Utah for emerging as "the leader in making America healthy again." He was flanked by Utah legislative leaders and the sponsor of the state's fluoride law.

"I'm very, very proud of this state for being the first state to ban it, and I hope many more will," he said.

Kennedy oversees the CDC, whose recommendations are widely followed but not mandatory. State and local governments decide whether to add fluoride to water and, if so, how much — as long as it doesn't exceed a maximum set by the EPA, which is currently 4 milligrams per liter.

Zeldin said his agency was launching a renewed examination of scientific studies on the potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water to help inform any changes to the national standards.

"When this evaluation is completed, we will have an updated foundational scientific evaluation that will inform the agency's future steps," Zeldin said. "Secretary Kennedy has long been at the forefront of this

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issue. His advocacy was instrumental in our decision to review fluoride exposure risks, and we are committed to working alongside him, utilizing sound science as we advance our mission of protecting human health and the environment.”

Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the CDC. In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and in 1962 they set guidelines for how much should be added to water.

Kennedy, a former environmental lawyer, has called fluoride a “dangerous neurotoxin” and said it has been associated with arthritis, bone breaks and thyroid disease. Some studies have suggested such links might exist, usually at higher-than-recommended fluoride levels, though some reviewers have questioned the quality of available evidence and said no definitive conclusions can be drawn.

In November, just days before the presidential election, Kennedy declared Donald Trump would push to remove fluoride from drinking water on his first day as president. That didn’t happen, but Trump later picked Kennedy to run the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he has been expected to take some kind of action. Meanwhile, some localities have gone ahead with deciding whether to keep adding fluoride.

Related to all this: A massive round of staffing cuts last week across federal agencies included elimination of the CDC’s 20-person Division of Oral Health. That office managed grants to local agencies to improve dental health and, in some cases, encourage fluoridation.

Fluoride can come from a number of sources, but drinking water is the main one for Americans, researchers say. Nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population gets fluoridated drinking water, according to CDC data. The addition of low levels of fluoride to drinking water was long considered one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century.

About one-third of community water systems — 17,000 out of 51,000 across the U.S. — fluoridated their water, according to a 2022 CDC analysis. The agency currently recommends 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water.

But over time, studies have documented potential problems. Too much fluoride has been associated with streaking or spots on teeth. Studies also have traced a link between excess fluoride and brain development.

A report last year by the federal government’s National Toxicology Program, which summarized studies conducted in Canada, China, India, Iran, Pakistan and Mexico, concluded that drinking water with more than 1.5 milligrams of fluoride per liter — more than twice the recommended level in the U.S. — was associated with lower IQs in kids.

The American Dental Association said decades of fluoride in drinking water have been shown to reduce tooth decay. The group said it was willing to help conduct high-quality studies to settle the issue.

“When government officials like Secretary Kennedy stand behind the commentary of misinformation and distrust peer-reviewed research, it is injurious to public health,” said the association’s president, Brett Kessler.

Utah Oral Health Coalition chairperson Lorna Koci said Monday that she hopes other states push back against the removal of fluoride and that Kennedy’s visit to celebrate her state’s fluoride ban underscores the political motivations of those who support it.

“This seems to be less about fluoride and more about power,” Koci said.

Swollen rivers are flooding towns in the US South after a prolonged deluge of rain

By BRUCE SCHREINER and KRISTIN M. HALL Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Days of unrelenting downpours swelled rivers to near record levels across Kentucky on Monday, submerging neighborhoods and threatening a famed bourbon distillery in the state capital.

Inundated rivers posed the latest threat from persistent storms that have killed at least 23 people since last week as they doused the region with heavy rain and spawned destructive tornadoes. At least 157 tornadoes struck within seven days beginning March 30, according to a preliminary report from the National Weather Service. Though the storms have finally moved on, the flood danger remains high in several other

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states, including parts of Tennessee, Arkansas and Indiana.

Cities ordered evacuations, and rescue crews in inflatable boats checked on residents in Kentucky and Tennessee, while utilities shut off power and gas in a region stretching from Texas to Ohio. Floodwaters forced the closure of the historic Buffalo Trace Distillery, close to the banks of the swollen Kentucky River near downtown Frankfort.

Salon owner Jessica Tuggle watched Monday as murky brown water approached her Frankfort business. She and her friends had moved her salon gear to a nearby taproom.

"Everybody was just, 'Stop raining, stop raining,' so we could get an idea of what the worst situation would be," she said.

Officials diverted traffic, turned off utilities to businesses and instituted a curfew in Frankfort as the river crested just short of a record Monday. More than 500 state roads across Kentucky were still closed Monday evening, Gov. Andy Beshear said.

Ashley Welsh, her husband, four children and pets had to leave their Frankfort home along the river Saturday evening, abandoning a lifetime of belongings.

When she checked her house's cameras Sunday morning, the floodwaters had risen to the second floor.

"My stuff was floating around in the living room," Welsh said. "I was just heartbroken. Our life is up there."

Storms leaving devastating impact

Twenty-three deaths have been reported since the storms began Wednesday, including 10 in Tennessee. Among the four confirmed killed in Kentucky, a 9-year-old boy was caught up in floodwaters while walking to catch his school bus.

A 5-year-old boy in Arkansas died after a tree fell on his family's home, police said. And a man was found dead in a submerged vehicle, the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management said.

A 16-year-old volunteer Missouri firefighter died in a crash while seeking to rescue people caught in the storm. While in Carroll County, Tennessee, an electric department lineman died while working in the storms, state emergency management officials said.

Two men sitting in a golf cart, a father and son, were killed when a tree fell on them at a golf course in Columbus, Georgia, Muscogee County Coroner Buddy Bryan said.

The Kentucky River crested at Frankfort Lock at 48.27 feet (14.71 meters) Monday, just shy of the record of 48.5 feet (14.8 meters) set there on Dec. 10, 1978, said CJ Padgett, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Louisville, Kentucky, office.

Beshear said more than 1,000 people had no access to water and nearly 3,000 were under boil water advisories. The city of Harrodsburg about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Frankfort said on social media that its water system had to discontinue pumping around midnight because of flood levels on the Kentucky River. By Monday evening, the city's treatment plant was back to normal operations.

John and Phyllis Sower hunkered down about a half-block from the river in their Frankfort home, which had about 4 feet (122 centimeters) of water in the cellar. A neighbor waded over Monday to bring them flowers on their front porch.

"We are an island in the Kentucky River," Phyllis Sower said.

In northeastern Arkansas, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders called the scene "absolutely heartbreaking" around the town of Hardy, which took damage to its city hall and other buildings.

West Memphis, Arkansas, Fire Chief Barry Ealy told WREG-TV that crews in the flood-prone city have rescued more than 100 people.

In Dyersburg, Tennessee, Michael Glass had to evacuate Monday to a hotel with his wife, three children and dog after water reached his front door and his entire neighborhood became flooded.

"It's been a really stressful time," he said. "When I woke up this morning, the waters came up dramatically. I had to make a choice whether to stay or get out of here."

A tornado destroyed more than 100 structures in McNairy County, Tennessee, tearing through the town of Selmer with winds estimated up to 160 mph (257 kph), local emergency management officials said. State officials say severe weather killed five people in the county of roughly 26,100 residents.

Why so much nasty weather?

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Though significant rains have ended in the Southern Plains and the Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio valleys, flooding on most rivers will persist this week, with some smaller waterways receding in the next few days, according to the weather service.

Forecasters attributed the violent weather to warm temperatures, an unstable atmosphere, strong winds and abundant moisture streaming from the Gulf.

The NWS said 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain fell Saturday in Jonesboro, Arkansas — making it the wettest day recorded in April in the city. Memphis, Tennessee, got 14 inches (35 centimeters) of rain from Wednesday to Sunday, the NWS said.

Marshall County in western Kentucky received nearly 16 inches (41 centimeters) over the last five days, said Padgett, the meteorologist. Parts of central Kentucky received 10 to 12 inches (25 to 30 centimeters) over those days and eastern Kentucky received 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 centimeters), Padgett said.

The storms come after the Trump administration cut jobs at NWS forecast offices, leaving half of them with vacancy rates of about 20%, or double the level of a decade ago.

What to know about tensions between Iran and the US before their talks this weekend

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran and the United States will hold talks in the sultanate of Oman on Saturday in an attempt to jump-start negotiations over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Even before the talks, however, there was a dispute over just how the negotiations would go. President Donald Trump insists they'll be direct negotiations. However, Iran's foreign minister said they'll be indirect talks through a mediator.

The difference may seem small, but it matters. Indirect talks have made no progress since Trump in his first term unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018.

Trump has imposed new sanctions on Iran as part of his "maximum pressure" campaign targeting the country. He has again suggested military action against Iran remained a possibility, while emphasizing he still believed a new deal could be reached by writing a letter to Iran's 85-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Khamenei has warned Iran would respond to any attack with an attack of its own.

Here's what to know about the letter, Iran's nuclear program and the tensions that have stalked relations between Tehran and Washington since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Why did Trump write the letter?

Trump dispatched the letter to Khamenei on March 5, then gave a television interview the next day in which he acknowledged sending it. He said: "I've written them a letter saying, 'I hope you're going to negotiate because if we have to go in militarily, it's going to be a terrible thing.'"

Since returning to the White House, the president has been pushing for talks while ratcheting up sanctions and suggesting a military strike by Israel or the U.S. could target Iranian nuclear sites.

A previous letter from Trump during his first term drew an angry retort from the supreme leader.

But Trump's letters to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in his first term led to face-to-face meetings, though no deals to limit Pyongyang's atomic bombs and a missile program capable of reaching the continental U.S.

How has Iran reacted?

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian rejected direct negotiations with the United States over Tehran's nuclear program.

"We don't avoid talks; it's the breach of promises that has caused issues for us so far," Pezeshkian said in televised remarks during a Cabinet meeting. "They must prove that they can build trust."

Khamenei seemingly reacted to comments by Trump renewing his threat of military action.

"They threaten to commit acts of mischief, but we are not entirely certain that such actions will take

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place," the supreme leader said. "We do not consider it highly likely that trouble will come from the outside. However, if it does, they will undoubtedly face a strong retaliatory strike."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei went further.

"An open threat of 'bombing' by a Head of State against Iran is a shocking affront to the very essence of International Peace and Security," he wrote on the social platform X. "Violence breeds violence, peace begets peace. The US can choose the course...; and concede to CONSEQUENCES."

The state-owned Tehran Times newspaper, without citing a source, claimed that Iran had "readied missiles with the capability to strike U.S.-related positions." That's as the U.S. has stationed stealth B-2 bombers in Diego Garcia within striking distance of both Iran and Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, which America has been bombing intensely since March 15.

Why does Iran's nuclear program worry the West?

Iran has insisted for decades that its nuclear program is peaceful. However, its officials increasingly threaten to pursue a nuclear weapon. Iran now enriches uranium to near weapons-grade levels of 60%, the only country in the world without a nuclear weapons program to do so.

Under the original 2015 nuclear deal, Iran was allowed to enrich uranium up to 3.67% purity and to maintain a uranium stockpile of 300 kilograms (661 pounds). The last report by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Iran's program put its stockpile at 8,294.4 kilograms (18,286 pounds) as it enriches a fraction of it to 60% purity.

U.S. intelligence agencies assess that Iran has yet to begin a weapons program, but has "undertaken activities that better position it to produce a nuclear device, if it chooses to do so."

Ali Larijani, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, has warned in a televised interview that his country has the capability to build nuclear weapons, but it is not pursuing it and has no problem with the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections. However, he said if the U.S. or Israel were to attack Iran over the issue, the country would have no choice but to move toward nuclear weapon development.

"If you make a mistake regarding Iran's nuclear issue, you will force Iran to take that path, because it must defend itself," he said.

Why are relations so bad between Iran and the U.S.?

Iran was once one of the U.S.'s top allies in the Mideast under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who purchased American military weapons and allowed CIA technicians to run secret listening posts monitoring the neighboring Soviet Union. The CIA had fomented a 1953 coup that cemented the shah's rule.

But in January 1979, the shah, fatally ill with cancer, fled Iran as mass demonstrations swelled against his rule. The Islamic Revolution followed, led by Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and created Iran's theocratic government.

Later that year, university students overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seeking the shah's extradition and sparking the 444-day hostage crisis that saw diplomatic relations between Iran and the U.S. severed. The Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s saw the U.S. back Saddam Hussein. The "Tanker War" during that conflict saw the U.S. launch a one-day assault that crippled Iran at sea, while the U.S. later shot down an Iranian commercial airliner.

Iran and the U.S. have see-sawed between enmity and grudging diplomacy in the years since, with relations peaking when Tehran made the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. But Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord, sparking tensions in the Mideast that persist today.

Trump says the US will hold direct talks with Iran; Tehran says they'll be indirect negotiations

By AAMER MADHANI, TIA GOLDENBERG and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Monday the U.S. will hold direct talks with Iran about its nuclear program, while warning the Iranians they would be in "great danger" if the talks don't succeed in persuading them to abandon their nuclear weapons program. For its part, Tehran confirmed talks would happen but insisted they would be indirect discussions through a mediator.

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Trump, in comments to reporters after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the talks will start Saturday. He insisted Tehran can't get nuclear weapons.

"We're dealing with them directly and maybe a deal is going to be made," Trump said. He added that "doing a deal would be preferable to doing the obvious."

Asked if he would commit to military action against Iran should his negotiators be unable to come to terms with Tehran, Trump responded, "Iran is going to be in great danger, and I hate to say it."

"If the talks aren't successful, I think it's going to be a very bad day for Iran," Trump said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, writing on the social platform X that is banned in Tehran, insisted the talks would be indirect.

"Iran and the United States will meet in Oman on Saturday for indirect high-level talks," he wrote. "It is as much an opportunity as it is a test. The ball is in America's court."

Trump's letter started new negotiation attempt

Trump recently sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader, 85-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, calling for direct negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program. But Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said late last month that Iran had rejected Trump's entreaty while leaving open the possibility of indirect negotiations with Washington.

But Trump has consistently called on Iran, which is the chief sponsor of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthi militants in Yemen, to abandon its nuclear program or face a reckoning.

"If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing," Trump told NBC News in late March. "It will be bombing the likes of which they have never seen before."

Trump during his first White House term unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the landmark 2015 nuclear accord with Iran negotiated by Democratic President Barack Obama's administration.

Netanyahu says he supports Trump's diplomatic efforts to reach a settlement with Iran, adding that Israel and the U.S. share the same goal of ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon. Netanyahu, however, led efforts to persuade Trump to pull out of the deal in 2018.

The Israeli leader, known for his hawkish views on Iran and past calls for military pressure, said he would welcome a diplomatic agreement along the lines of Libya's deal with the international community in 2003. But that deal saw Libya's late dictator Moammar Gadhafi give up all of his clandestine nuclear program. Iran has insisted its program, acknowledged to the International Atomic Energy Agency, should continue.

"I think that would be a good thing," Netanyahu said. "But whatever happens, we have to make sure that Iran does not have nuclear weapons."

Trump said the talks would happen "at almost the highest level," but declined to say where the negotiations would take place or who he was dispatching for the sensitive diplomacy.

The Middle East sultanate of Oman was an important conduit for previous U.S.-Iran negotiations. It did not acknowledge it would host the upcoming talks.

Trump announced plans for the surprise engagement as Netanyahu made a hastily arranged visit to the White House — his second in just over two months — to discuss the tariffs Trump has unleashed on countries around the world, Iran's nuclear program and the Israel-Hamas war.

Trump, Netanyahu discuss Mideast tensions and tariffs

Trump and Netanyahu said they also discussed tensions with Iran, Israel-Turkey ties and the International Criminal Court, which issued an arrest warrant against the Israeli leader last year. Trump in February signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the ICC over its investigations of Israel.

Before his meeting with Netanyahu, Trump held a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Jordan's King Abdullah II. All three leaders have been key interlocutors in efforts to tamp down tensions in the Middle East and bring an end to the Israel-Hamas war.

The prime minister soon after arriving in Washington on Sunday evening met with senior Trump administration officials, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and U.S. Trade Representative Jameson Greer, to discuss the tariffs. And Netanyahu met Monday with Steve Witkoff, Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, ahead of his sit-down with the president.

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On tariffs, Netanyahu said he assured Trump that his government would move to erase the trade deficit. U.S.-Israel trade was \$37 billion last year, according to the office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The trade deficit was \$7.4 billion.

"We will eliminate the trade deficit with the United States," Netanyahu said "We intend to do it very quickly."

Trump noted that in addition to the trade deficit the U.S. provides Israel nearly \$4 billion in assistance per year — much of it in military aid. Asked if he might be willing to reduce Israel's tariff rate, Trump replied, "Maybe not, maybe not. Don't forget we help Israel a lot."

In Israel's case, those concessions might not be economic. Trump may pressure Netanyahu to move toward ending the war in Gaza — at the very least through some interim truce with Hamas that would pause the fighting and free more hostages. Eytan Gilboa, an expert on U.S.-Israel relations and a professor at Israel's Bar-Ilan University, said Trump is hoping to return from his first overseas trip — expected next month to Saudi Arabia — with some movement on a deal to normalize relations with Israel, which would likely require significant Israeli concessions on Gaza.

If he does manage to move toward bolstering ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia, that would act as a regional diplomatic counterweight to pressure Iran, against which Trump has threatened new sanctions and suggested military action over its nuclear program.

In a preemptive move last week, Israel announced that it was removing all tariffs on goods from the U.S., mostly on imported food and agricultural products, according to a statement from Netanyahu's office.

But the tactic failed, and with a 17% rate, Israel was just one of dozens of countries that were slapped with tariffs on Trump's so-called Liberation Day last week.

Although Israel is a tiny market for U.S. products, the United States is a key trade partner of Israel. Much of that trade is for high-tech services, which are not directly affected by the tariffs, but key Israeli industries could be impacted.

The Manufacturers Association of Israel estimates that the tariffs will cost Israel about \$3 billion in exports each year and lead to the loss of 26,000 jobs in industries that include biotechnology, chemicals, plastics and electronics. The World Bank says Israel's gross domestic product, a measure of economic output, is over \$500 billion a year.

Trump threatens more tariffs on China as global markets shudder over how much pain economy can take

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Undeterred by a panicked stock market, President Donald Trump threatened additional tariffs on China on Monday, raising fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war.

Trump's threat came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!"

The U.S. president has shown few signs of backing down on tariffs despite the mounting pressure in the financial markets. His commitment to tariffs could have devastating effects for the global economy, even though Trump is banking that it will ultimately pay off with manufacturing jobs.

Asked Monday if he would consider a pause on his widespread tariffs, Trump said, "We're not looking at that." The U.S. president said he was open to negotiations "if we can make a really fair deal and a good deal for the United States." Trump added that it's possible to have both negotiated settlements with other countries and permanent tariffs.

Even as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would take its tariffs against U.S. goods to zero, Trump was noncommittal about removing the new import taxes placed on an ally. The

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White House also said Monday that Trump would veto a Senate bill that would mandate congressional approval for new tariffs, a bet that the critical mass of Republican lawmakers will loyally back him despite the economic and political risks.

However, there are signs of frustration even among Trump's allies. Sen. John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican, said he supports the president's goals of better trade deals but worries about the economic uncertainty.

"We don't know if the medicine will be worse than the disease," Kennedy said, adding, "This is President Trump's economy now."

If Trump implements his new taxes on imports from China, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners.

China responded angrily and said it would not back down.

"The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the U.S.," said a statement from the Commerce Ministry in Beijing. "China will never accept this. If the U.S. insists on its own way, China will fight to the end."

After sell-offs on the prior two days of trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average on Monday fell 0.9%. The S&P 500 slumped 0.2%, and the Nasdaq composite was up 0.1%.

Trump frequently bragged about stock market gains during his first term, and the threat of losses on Wall Street was viewed as a potential guardrail on risky economic policies in his second term. But that hasn't been the case, and Trump has described days of financial pain as necessary.

"I don't mind going through it because I see a beautiful picture at the end," he said.

Trump officials have frequently appeared on television to make the case for his policies, but none of their explanations have calmed the markets. The only improvement came from a false report that top economic adviser Kevin Hassett said Trump was considering a pause on all tariffs except for China. Stock prices spiked before the White House denied it was true by calling the post "fake news."

The Republican president has remained defiant despite fears that he could be pushing the U.S. toward a recession, insisting that his tariffs are necessary for rebuilding domestic manufacturing and resetting trade relationships with other countries.

But his aggressive push has scrambled U.S. economic policy. Even though inflation remains elevated, Trump has called on the Federal Reserve to lower its benchmark interest rates that were increased to constrain price increases.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned Friday that the tariffs could increase inflation, and he said, "There's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," before any decisions would be made.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the European Union would focus on trade with other countries besides the United States, saying there are "vast opportunities" elsewhere.

Trump said he spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to start trade negotiations. He complained on Truth Social "they have treated the U.S. very poorly on Trade" and "they don't take our cars, but we take MILLIONS of theirs."

Ishiba said he told Trump that he's "strongly concerned" that tariffs would discourage investment from Japan, which has been the world's biggest investor in the U.S. in the past five years. He described the situation as a "national crisis" and said his government would negotiate with Washington to urge Trump to reconsider the tariffs.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro suggested countries would need to do much more than simply lower their own tariff rates to reach deals, an indication that talks could be a drawn-out process.

"Let's take Vietnam," he said on CNBC. "When they come to us and say, 'We'll go to zero tariffs,' that means nothing to us because it's the non-tariff cheating that matters."

Meeting with Trump at the White House on Monday, Netanyahu said his country would remove tariffs

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and other trade barriers in response to the U.S. placing 17% taxes on imports from Israel.

"Israel can serve as a model for many countries who ought to do the same," Netanyahu told the U.S. president.

Trump said he appreciated "very much" what Netanyahu had said. But when asked if he would remove the tariffs, Trump said "maybe not" because of the aid that the United States provides to Israel. The U.S. had a \$7.4 billion trade deficit in goods last year with Israel, according to the Census Bureau.

Trump has strived for a united front after the chaotic infighting of his first term. However, the economic turbulence has exposed some fractures among his supporters.

Bill Ackman, a hedge fund manager, assailed Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on Sunday as "indifferent to the stock market and the economy crashing."

On Monday, Ackman apologized for his criticism claiming that Lutnick, previously the head of the financial firm Cantor Fitzgerald, could benefit from the tariffs because of its bond investments. But the hedge fund manager also reiterated his concerns about Trump's tariffs.

"I am just frustrated watching what I believe to be a major policy error occur after our country and the president have been making huge economic progress that is now at risk due to the tariffs," he wrote on X.

Billionaire Elon Musk, a top adviser to Trump on overhauling the federal government, expressed skepticism about tariffs over the weekend. Musk has said that tariffs would drive up costs for Tesla, his electric automaker.

"I hope it is agreed that both Europe and the United States should move ideally in my view to a zero tariff situation, effectively creating a free trade zone between Europe and North America," Musk said in a video conference with Italian politicians.

Navarro later told Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" that Musk "doesn't understand" the situation.

"He sells cars," Navarro said. "That's what he does." He added, "He's simply protecting his own interests as any businessperson would do."

Judge wants range of issues addressed in \$2.8 billion NCAA settlement before final approval

By EDDIE PELLIS and JANIE McCAULEY Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The landmark \$2.8 billion settlement that will reach into every corner of college athletics in the months ahead had its final hearing Monday, including athletes who criticized the sprawling plan as confusing and one that undervalued them, and attorneys who said they were concerned about the impacts on campuses across the country.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken gave no indication Monday the complaints have changed her mind, though she acknowledged the concerns and asked attorneys for fresh feedback on several topics. The plan is expected to move forward with her final decision coming in a few weeks.

"Basically I think it is a good settlement, don't quote me, and I think it's worth pursuing," Wilken said. "I think some of these things could be fixed if people tried to fix them and that it would be worth their while to try to fix them."

She asked both sides to come back in a week with how they might be able to address some of her concerns, saying, "Some of them are big-ticket items, some of them aren't." Then, there would need to be some re-drafting done, she said.

Wilken has already granted preliminary approval of the settlement involving the NCAA and the nation's five largest conferences. The plan remains on track to take effect July 1 and clear the way for every school to share up to \$20.5 million each with its athletes annually.

Among concerns raised by objectors who testified at the hearing were the fairness of roster cuts and how they are accomplished, the process for how name, image and likeness (NIL) valuations are established, and the management of athletes who will participate in the settlement in coming years.

"We're taking your feedback. We'll take it to our clients," NCAA attorney Rakesh Kilaru told Wilken. "But I just want to really reiterate here this was a long road to get to this point. We need a lot of schools to

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approve it. There's a lot of pieces of this settlement. So I cannot make you any promises we're going to say anything is different because we think what we did is appropriate and enough but we'll take it under advisement and come back."

Steve Berman, a plaintiffs' attorney representing current and former athletes, said his side is optimistic. "And we think we can do what needs to be done to get it over the finish line," he said.

The settlement hashed out last year by attorneys for the defendants and those representing thousands of current and former athletes has its share of critics and they had the floor before Wilken. Smaller schools say it will leave them behind deep-pocketed, donor-heavy programs, and the proposed guidelines are not expected to slow the massive spending now common across college athletics.

LSU gymnast and millionaire influencer Olivia Dunne was one of four athletes to testify against the settlement. Three represented Olympic, non-revenue sports and Benjamin Burr-Kirven was from a big-money sport as a former star linebacker at Washington.

Dunne, who just wrapped up her final season of eligibility, objected to the formula used to set an athlete's name, image and likeness value, arguing that hers was estimated too low. In testimony over a Zoom video call, Dunne described herself as "a Division I athlete, a businesswoman, and I've been the highest-earning female athlete since the NIL rules changed."

She said the settlement hardly acknowledges her true value and potential earning power; a plaintiffs' attorney later said Dunne would be receiving an updated allocation.

"This settlement uses old logic to calculate modern value," Dunne said. "It takes a narrow snapshot of a still maturing market and freezes it, ignoring the trajectory we were on and the deals we lost and the future we could have had."

Burr-Kirven, who went on to a brief NFL career before a devastating leg injury, also questioned the errors in establishing an athletes' NIL value.

"It's within the specific allocation that things get real squirrely," he said. "I was a fairly decorated football player and I'm getting paid the same as walk-ons I played with and then there are kids who I played with who were rotational players who are getting five times as much."

Wilken listened and occasionally asked questions, but gave no indication that the concerns would upend the settlement, which calls for replacing scholarship limits with roster limits. The effect would be to allow every athlete to be eligible for a scholarship while cutting the number of spots available — a proposal that Wilken indicated could be phased in initially.

There will be winners and losers under such a formula, though some fear it could signal the end of the walk-on athlete in college sports and, as Utah freshman swimmer Gannon Flynn noted, also imperil smaller sports programs that feed the U.S. Olympic teams.

Steven Molo, an attorney for a group of athletes objecting to the plan, told the judge that roster limits would unnecessarily restrict opportunities. He noted that football teams would be capped at 105 players. The average roster size in 2024 was 128.

"In a free market," Molo said, "a team should be able to have as many players as they want."

Wilken said she understands athletes and families being concerned about roster spots being eliminated with little warning — it would be "pretty difficult to bear" — because of the settlement agreement.

"My idea there is to grandfather in a group of rostered people. There's not that many," she said. "It's not that expensive. It would save a lot of good will and angst and unhappiness from a lot of students and their parents, so why not just do it?"

Kilaru argued that a coach could cut an athlete at any time with or without the settlement.

"Whether they can show it's because of the settlement or not is sort of the big causal question, because it can happen independent of the settlement," Kilaru said. "If it's the reason given, it doesn't mean it's the only reason and again it's a conversation that can be happening today independent of the settlement."

The so-called House deal, named after Arizona State swimmer Grant House, includes three similar lawsuits that were bundled into one. The defendants are the NCAA and the Southeastern, Big Ten, Atlantic Coast, Big 12 and Pac-12 conferences, all of whom have been touting the settlement as the best path forward for a college athletics landscape in turmoil even as they continue to seek limited antitrust protections from

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Congress to stave off even more legal challenges.

Universities across the country have been busy making plans under the assumption Wilken will put the terms into effect.

The most ground-shifting part of the settlement allows schools to pay 22% of their revenue from media rights, ticket sales and sponsorships — which equals about \$20.5 million in the first year — directly to athletes for use of their name, images and likeness. NIL payments to athletes from outside sources would still be allowed.

The settlement also calls for a clearinghouse to make sure any NIL deal worth more than \$600 is pegged at fair market value, which has appeared to be a challenging set of numbers to settle on. This is an attempt to prevent straight “pay for play” deals, though many critics believe the entire new structure is simply NIL masquerading as that.

Overall, the plan would pay more than \$2.5 billion in back damages to athletes who played sports between 2016 and 2024 and were not entitled to the full benefits of NIL at the time they attended schools. Those payments are being calculated by a formula that will favor football and basketball players and will be doled out by the NCAA and the conferences.

Plaintiffs’ counsel Jeffrey Kessler told the judge that 88,104 college athletes have filed claims to participate in the settlement and another 30,775 have indicated they will file claims.

TCU basketball player Sedona Prince, a primary plaintiff in the case, said there are necessary adjustments to the settlement to be made, but she said she trusts Wilken’s leadership.

“I know she has the athletes’ best interests in mind, always,” Prince said during a break in the hearing. “She obviously is touched by the athletes that have been here and spoken today. I’m confident that we’ll reach a settlement. Obviously there are many more things people have brought up here that we need to address and talk about and fix. It’s the first step to a very long road of change and the beginning of a new industry.”

Supreme Court allows Trump to deport Venezuelans under wartime law, but only after judges’ review

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to use an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants, but said they must get a court hearing before they are taken from the United States.

In a bitterly divided decision, the court said the administration must give Venezuelans who it claims are gang members “reasonable time” to go to court.

But the conservative majority said the legal challenges must take place in Texas, instead of a Washington courtroom.

The court’s action appears to bar the administration from immediately resuming the flights that last month carried hundreds of migrants to a notorious prison in El Salvador. The flights came soon after President Donald Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act for the first time since World War II to justify the deportations under a presidential proclamation calling the Tren de Aragua gang an invading force.

The majority said nothing about those flights, which took off without providing the hearing the justices now say is necessary.

In dissent, the three liberal justices said the administration has sought to avoid judicial review in this case and the court “now rewards the government for its behavior.” Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined portions of the dissent.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said it would be harder for people to challenge deportations individually, wherever they are being held, and noted that the administration has also said in another case before the court that it’s unable to return people who have been deported to the El Salvador prison by mistake.

“We, as a Nation and a court of law, should be better than this,” she wrote.

The justices acted on the administration’s emergency appeal after the federal appeals court in Wash-

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ington left in place an order temporarily prohibiting deportations of the migrants accused of being gang members under the rarely used Alien Enemies Act.

"For all the rhetoric of the dissents," the court wrote in an unsigned opinion, the high court order confirms "that the detainees subject to removal orders under the AEA are entitled to notice and an opportunity to challenge their removal."

The case has become a flashpoint amid escalating tension between the White House and the federal courts. It's the second time in less than a week that a majority of conservative justices has handed Trump at least a partial victory in an emergency appeal after lower courts had blocked parts of his agenda.

Several other cases are pending, including over Trump's plan to deny citizenship to U.S.-born children of parents who are in the country illegally.

Trump praised the court for its action Monday.

"The Supreme Court has upheld the Rule of Law in our Nation by allowing a President, whoever that may be, to be able to secure our Borders, and protect our families and our Country, itself. A GREAT DAY FOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social site.

The original order blocking the deportations to El Salvador was issued by U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg, the chief judge at the federal courthouse in Washington.

Attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of five Venezuelan noncitizens who were being held in Texas, hours after the proclamation was made public and as immigration authorities were shepherding hundreds of migrants to waiting airplanes.

ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt said the "critical point" of the high court's ruling was that people must be allowed due process to challenge their removal. "That is an important victory," he said.

Boasberg imposed a temporary halt on deportations and also ordered planeloads of Venezuelan immigrants to return to the U.S. That did not happen. The judge held a hearing last week over whether the government defied his order to turn the planes around. The administration has invoked a "state secrets privilege" and refused to give Boasberg any additional information about the deportations.

Trump and his allies have called for impeaching Boasberg. In a rare statement, Chief Justice John Roberts said "impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision."

An Israeli strike hit near a charity kitchen in Gaza as Palestinians gathered for food

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli strike on Monday hit next to a charity kitchen where Palestinians crowded to receive cooked meals as food supplies dwindle under Israel's monthlong blockade of the Gaza Strip, one of a string of attacks in the territory that killed more than 30 people, mostly women and children, hospital officials said.

Another strike hit a media tent outside a hospital, killing two people, including a local reporter, and wounding six other journalists, medics said. The Israeli military said the strike targeted a man whom it identified as a Hamas militant posing as a journalist.

Video footage showed people carrying the body of a little girl, her face covered with blood, from the blast that witnesses said hit a tent next to the charity kitchen outside the southern city of Khan Younis. Six other people were killed, including two women, and at least 10 people were wounded, hospital officials said.

The strike hit around noon as the kitchen was distributing meals to displaced people living in tent camps. Samah Abu Jamie said her nephew was among those killed and her young daughter was wounded as they waited with their pots to collect meals for their families.

"They were going to get food. I told her, 'Daughter, don't go,'" she said. "These were children, and they had nothing with them but a pot. Is a pot a weapon?"

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the strike.

'Bombed and starved again'

Charity kitchens have been drawing bigger crowds of Palestinians because other sources of food are

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running out. More than a month ago, Israeli cut off all food, fuel, medicine and other supplies for Gaza's population of more than 2 million people, forcing aid groups to ration their stocks.

The World Food Program has warned that its supplies to keep kitchens going could be depleted by next week. It had to stop distributing boxes of food staples directly to families last week, spokesperson Abeer Etefa said Monday. The bakeries it ran have also shut down for lack of flour, ending a main source of bread for hundreds of thousands of people.

Since it ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month, Israel has carried out bombardments across Gaza, killing hundreds of people, and ground forces have carved out new military zones. Israel says it is pressuring Hamas to free its remaining hostages, disarm and leave the territory. Under the ceasefire deal, it had agreed to negotiate for the hostages' release.

The heads of six U.N. agencies operating in Gaza said in a joint statement Monday that the blockade has left Gaza's population "trapped, bombed and starved again." They said Israeli claims that enough supplies entered during the ceasefire "are far from the reality on the ground, and commodities are running extremely low."

"We are witnessing acts of war in Gaza that show an utter disregard for human life," they said. "Protect civilians. Facilitate aid. Release hostages. Renew a ceasefire."

Strikes hit journalists and homes

The strike outside Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis about 2 a.m. set the media tent ablaze, killing Yousef al-Faqawi, a reporter for the Palestine Today news website, and another man, according to hospital officials.

The military said the strike targeted Hassan Eslaiah, claiming he was a Hamas militant who took part in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel that ignited the war. Eslaiah was among six journalists who were wounded in the strike, according to the hospital.

Eslaiah had occasionally contributed images to The Associated Press and other international media outlets as a freelance journalist, including on Oct. 7. The AP has not worked with him for over a year.

A strike that hit a street in Gaza City killed an emergency room doctor, the Gaza Health Ministry said. Israel's campaign has killed more than 1,000 health workers and at least 173 journalists, according to the U.N. and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Hospitals in Khan Younis and the central town of Deir al-Balah said they received the bodies of 33 people, 19 of them women and children, from strikes overnight and into the day on Monday, including those from the kitchen and the media tent attack.

Some of the strike reduced houses to rubble. Imad Maghari said the blast that hit his neighbors in Deir al-Balah at 2 a.m. was like "an earthquake," followed by the screams of women and children. He said one neighbor lost five family members and another a young boy.

"I don't know what danger he poses. He's 7 years old," Maghari said.

Israel's military offensive in retaliation for Hamas' Oct. 7 attack has killed more than 50,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza health ministry, whose count does not distinguish between militants and civilians. The offensive has destroyed vast areas of the Gaza Strip and displaced around 90% of its population.

Israel says it tries to avoid civilian casualties and blames Hamas for their deaths because it operates among the population.

In the Oct. 7 attack, Hamas-led militants killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted 251 people. They are still holding 59 captives — 24 of whom are believed to be alive — after most of the rest were released in ceasefires or other deals.

Protests in Israel as Netanyahu meets Trump

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington on Monday to discuss Gaza and other issues.

Dozens of protesters gathered outside Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem to call for an agreement to release the captives. Many fear that Netanyahu's decision to resume the fighting has put the remaining hostages in grave danger and hope Trump can help broker another deal.

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"Now the moment of truth has come," said Varda Ben Baruch, grandmother of Israeli American hostage Edan Alexander, addressing Netanyahu. "You are in the United States and you have to sit there with President Trump and close a deal so that everyone will be released home."

'Little suns in the classroom': Ukrainian city mourns children killed by Russian missile

By YEHOR KONOVALOV and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KYVYI RIH, Ukraine (AP) — Anger and outrage gripped the hometown of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday as it held funerals for some of the 20 people, including nine children, killed by a Russian missile that tore through apartment buildings and blasted a playground.

More than 70 were wounded in the attack last Friday evening on Kryvyi Rih. The children were playing on swings and in a sandbox in a tree-lined park at the time. Bodies were strewn across the grass.

"We are not asking for pity," Oleksandr Vilkul, the head of the city administration, wrote on Telegram as Kryvyi Rih mourned. "We demand the world's outrage."

The U.N. Human Rights Office in Ukraine said it was the deadliest single verified strike harming children since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. It was also one of the deadliest attacks so far this year.

Ukraine has consented to a ceasefire proposed weeks ago by Washington. But Russia is still negotiating with the United States its terms for accepting a truce in the more than three-year war.

U.S. President Donald Trump has voiced frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the continued fighting, and Ukrainian officials want him to compel Putin to stop. Trump vowed during his election campaign last year to bring a swift end to the war.

"We're talking to Russia. We'd like them to stop," Trump told reporters Sunday. "I don't like the bombing."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed on Monday that Putin supports a ceasefire proposed by Trump but wants Russian conditions to be met.

"President Putin indeed backs the ceasefire idea, but it's necessary to first answer quite a few questions," Peskov said.

'Two desks are empty forever'

In Kryvyi Rih, 59-year-old teacher Iryna Kholod remembered Arina and Radyslav, both 7 years old and killed in Friday's strike, as being "like little suns in the classroom."

Radyslav, she said, was proud to be part of a school campaign collecting pet food for stray animals. "He held the bag like it was treasure. He wanted to help," she told The Associated Press.

After Friday evening, "two desks in my classroom were empty forever," Kholod said, adding that she still has unopened birthday gifts for them.

"How do I tell parents to return their textbooks? How do I teach without them?" she asked.

Only Patriot missiles can prevent such attacks

Russian missile and drone tactics continue to evolve, making it harder to shoot them down, Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian air force command, said on national television.

Russia's Iranian-designed Shahed drones have undergone significant upgrades, while Moscow is also modernizing its ballistic missiles, he said.

Only the U.S. Patriot missile defense system can help prevent attacks like the one in Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy said late Sunday.

He said he had instructed his defense and foreign affairs ministers to "work bilaterally on air defense, especially with the United States, which has sufficient potential to help stop any terror."

Ukraine will send a team to Washington this week to begin negotiations on a new draft of a deal that would give the U.S. access to Ukraine's valuable mineral resources, Economy Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko told The Associated Press.

Failure to conclude a mineral deal has hamstrung Ukrainian efforts to secure pledges of continuing U.S. military support.

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Britain's Ministry of Defense and the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War, a think tank, say Russia's battlefield progress on the roughly 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line has slowed since November. But on Saturday night, Russia launched its biggest aerial attack on Ukraine in nearly a month.

Both sides are thought to be preparing for a renewed spring-summer military campaign.

Air raid interrupts a student's memorial

In Kryvyi Rih on Monday, Nataliia Slobodeniuk recalled her 15-year-old student Danylo Nikitskyi as "a spark" who energized the classroom and helped organize school trips and other occasions.

Danylo died alongside his girlfriend, Alina Kutsenko, also 15. "They were holding hands," said Roman Nikitskyi, Danylo's father.

"If Danylo was going, half the class went too," the 55-year-old teacher said. "That's how loved he was."

She choked up as she spoke of her feeling of powerlessness after the attack.

"You live through their joy, their sadness," she told the AP. "And now, this pain, it tears you apart. And you realize there's nothing you can do. Nothing to fix it. You just carry the pain forever."

An air raid alert interrupted a planned memorial ceremony in the city — a reminder of the continuing threat for civilians.

The frustration hit home for Nataliia Freylikh, the teacher of 9-year-old Herman Tripolets, who was also killed in last Friday's attack. A minute of silence was held in the children's school, where teachers, classmates and families gathered. Nearly a hundred people stood grief-stricken together.

"Even mourning him properly is impossible," Freylikh said.

From the school, the mourners walked to the church for the funeral liturgy for Tripolets — and bid a final farewell to the children who never made it home.

Chief Justice Roberts pauses deadline for return of Maryland man mistakenly deported to El Salvador

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts agreed Monday to pause a midnight deadline for the Trump administration to return a Maryland man mistakenly deported to a notorious prison in El Salvador.

The temporary order comes hours after a Justice Department emergency appeal to the Supreme Court arguing U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis overstepped her authority when she ordered Kilmar Abrego Garcia returned to the United States.

The administration has conceded that Abrego Garcia should not have been sent to El Salvador because an immigration judge found he likely would face persecution by local gangs.

But he is no longer in U.S. custody and the government has no way to get him back, the administration argued.

Xinis gave the administration until just before midnight to "facilitate and effectuate" Abrego Garcia's return.

"The district court's injunction—which requires Abrego Garcia's release from the custody of a foreign sovereign and return to the United States by midnight on Monday—is patently unlawful," Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote in court papers, casting the order as one in "a deluge of unlawful injunctions" judges have issued to slow President Donald Trump's agenda.

The Justice Department appeal was directed to Roberts because he handles appeals from Maryland.

The Trump administration is separately asking the Supreme Court to allow Trump to resume deportations of Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to the same Salvadoran prison under an 18th century wartime law.

The federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, denied the administration's request for a stay. "There is no question that the government screwed up here," Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson wrote in a brief opinion accompanying the unanimous denial.

The White House has described Abrego Garcia's deportation as an "administrative error" but has also cast him as an MS-13 gang member. Attorneys for Abrego Garcia said there is no evidence he was in MS-13.

"The Executive branch may not seize individuals from the streets, deposit them in foreign prisons in

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violation of court orders, and then invoke the separation of powers to insulate its unlawful actions from judicial scrutiny," Abrego Garcia's lawyers wrote in a response filed moments after Roberts issued his temporary pause.

Xinis wrote that the decision to arrest him and send him to El Salvador appears to be "wholly lawless," explaining that little to no evidence supports a "vague, uncorroborated" allegation that Abrego Garcia was once an MS-13 member.

Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old Salvadoran national who has never been charged or convicted of any crime, was detained by immigration agents and deported last month.

He had a permit from DHS to legally work in the U.S. and was a sheet metal apprentice pursuing a journeyman license, his attorney said. His wife is a U.S. citizen.

In 2019, an immigration judge barred the U.S. from deporting Abrego Garcia to El Salvador.

A Justice Department lawyer conceded in a court hearing that Abrego Garcia should not have been deported. Attorney General Pam Bondi later removed the lawyer, Erez Reuveni, from the case and placed him on leave.

US stocks dip after careening through a manic day following Trump's latest tariff threat

By STAN CHOE, ELAINE KURTENBACH and DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks careened through a manic Monday after President Donald Trump threatened to crank his tariffs higher, despite a stunning display showing how dearly Wall Street wants him to do the opposite.

The S&P 500 slipped 0.2% at the end of a day full of heart-racing reversals as battered financial markets try to figure out what Trump's ultimate goal is for his trade war. If it's to get other countries to agree to trade deals, he could lower his tariffs and avoid a possible recession. But if it's to remake the economy and stick with tariffs for the long haul, stock prices may need to fall further.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 349 points, or 0.9%, and the Nasdaq composite edged up by 0.1%.

All three indexes started the day sharply lower, and the Dow plunged as many as 1,700 points following even worse losses elsewhere in the world. But it suddenly surged to a gain of nearly 900 points in the late morning. The S&P 500, meanwhile, went from a loss of 4.7% to a leap of 3.4%, which would have been its biggest jump in years.

The sudden rise followed a false rumor that Trump was considering a 90-day pause on his tariffs, one that a White House account on X quickly labeled as "fake news." That a rumor could move trillions of dollars' worth of investments shows how much investors are hoping to see signs that Trump may let up on tariffs.

Stocks quickly turned back down, and shortly afterward, Trump dug in further and said he may raise tariffs more against China after the world's second-largest economy retaliated last week with its own set of tariffs on U.S. products.

It's a slap in the face to Wall Street because it suggests Trump may not care how much pain he inflicts on the market. Many professional investors had long thought that a president who used to crow about records reached under his watch would pull back on policies if they sent the Dow reeling.

On Sunday Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he wasn't concerned about a sell-off and that "sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something."

Trump has given several reasons for his stiff tariffs, including to bring manufacturing jobs back to the United States, which is a process that could take years. Trump on Sunday said he wanted to bring down the numbers for how much more the United States imports from other countries versus how much it sends to them.

Indexes nevertheless did keep swinging between losses and gains Monday after Trump's latest tariff threat, in part because hope still remains in markets that negotiations may still come.

"We're not calling the all-clear at all, but when you have this type of volatility in the market, of course

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you're going to have back and forth" in markets not just day to day but also hour to hour, said Nate Thooft, a senior portfolio manager at Manulife Investment Management.

"We're all waiting for the next bit of information," he said. "Literally a Truth Social tweet or an announcement of some sort about real negotiations could dramatically move this market. This is the world we live in right now."

All that seemed certain Monday was the financial pain hammering investments around the world for a third day after Trump announced tariffs in his "Liberation Day."

Stocks in Hong Kong plunged 13.2% for their worst day since 1997. A barrel of benchmark U.S. crude oil dipped below \$60 during the morning for the first time since 2021, hurt by worries that a global economy weakened by trade barriers will burn less fuel. Bitcoin sank below \$79,000, down from its record above \$100,000 set in January, after holding steadier than other markets last week.

Trump's tariffs are an attack on the globalization that's remade the world's economy, which helped bring down prices for products on the shelves of U.S. stores but also caused production jobs to leave for other countries.

It also adds pressure on the Federal Reserve. Investors have become nearly conditioned to expect the central bank to swoop in as a hero by slashing interest rates to protect the economy during every downturn. But the Fed may have less freedom to act this time around because inflation remains higher than the Fed would like. And while lower interest rates can goose the economy, they can also put upward pressure on inflation.

"The recent tariffs will likely increase inflation and are causing many to consider a greater probability of a recession," JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon, one of the most influential executives on Wall Street, wrote in his annual letter to shareholders Monday. "Whether or not the menu of tariffs causes a recession remains in question, but it will slow down growth."

In the bond market, Treasury yields rallied to recover some of their sharp drops from earlier weeks. Some of the big move may have been because of reduced expectations for cuts to interest rates by the Fed. Some analysts also said it could be due to investors outside of the United States wanting to pare their U.S. investments.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury jumped to 4.20% from 4.01% late Friday.

Earlier in the day, the S&P 500 briefly fell more than 20% below its record set less than two months ago. If it finishes a day below that bar, it would be a big enough drop that Wall Street has a name for it. A "bear market" signifies a downturn that's moved beyond a run-of-the-mill 10% drop, which happens every year or so, and has graduated into something more vicious.

The S&P 500, which sits at the heart of many investors' 401(k) accounts, is coming off its worst week since COVID began crashing the global economy in March 2020.

All told, the index fell 11.83 points Monday to 5,062.25. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 349.26 to 37,965.60, and the Nasdaq composite added 15.48 to 15,603.26.

Colleges around the US say some international students' visas are being revoked

By ANNIE MA AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Colleges around the country are reporting some of their international students' visas are being revoked unexpectedly, expressing alarm over what appears to be a new level of government scrutiny.

Visas can be canceled for a number of reasons, but college leaders say the government has been quietly terminating students' legal residency status with little notice to students or schools. That marks a shift from past practice and leaves students vulnerable to detention and deportation.

The list of colleges that have discovered students have had their legal status terminated includes Harvard, Stanford, Michigan, UCLA and Ohio State University.

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The Trump administration has targeted students who had been involved with pro-Palestinian activism or speech, with a few high-profile detentions of students including Mahmoud Khalil, a green card holder who was a leader of protests at Columbia University.

But more schools are seeing visas stripped from students with no known connection to protests. In some cases, past infractions such as traffic violations have been cited. Some colleges say the reasons remain unclear to them — and they are seeking answers.

“What you’re seeing happening with international students is really a piece of the much greater scrutiny that the Trump administration is bringing to bear on immigrants of all different categories,” said Michelle Mittelstadt, director of public affairs at the Migration Policy Institute.

Many college officials and students have only found out about the changes when they have checked a federal database and seen changes to an individual’s immigration status.

How do student visas work?

Students in other countries must meet a series of requirements to obtain a student visa, usually an F-1. After gaining admission to a school in the U.S., students go through an application and interview process at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.

Students on an F-1 visa must show they have enough financial support for their course of study in the U.S. They have to remain in good standing with their academic program and are generally limited in their ability to work off-campus during their academic program.

Entry visas are managed by the State Department. Once they’re in the U.S., international students’ legal status is overseen by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program under the Department of Homeland Security.

Leaders at many colleges learned the legal status of some of their international students had been terminated when they checked a database managed by Homeland Security. In the past, college officials say, visas typically were revoked after schools updated the government when students fell out of status.

After losing legal residency, students are told to leave the country

Historically, students who had their visas revoked were allowed to keep their legal residency status and complete their studies.

The lack of a valid visa only limited their ability to leave the U.S. and return, something they could reapply for with the State Department. But if a student has lost residency status, they must leave immediately or risk detention by immigration authorities.

Higher education leaders worry the arrests and revocations could have a chilling effect on international education in the United States.

The lack of clarity of what is leading to revocations can create a sense of fear among students, said Sarah Spreitzer, vice president of government relations at the American Council on Education.

“The very public actions that are being taken by ICE and the Department of Homeland Security around some of these students, where they are removing these students from their homes or from their streets, that’s not usually done unless there is a security issue when a student visa is revoked,” she said. “The threat of this very quick removal is something that’s new.”

Colleges are trying to reassure students

In messages to their campuses, colleges have said they are asking the federal government for answers on what led to the terminations. Others have re-emphasized travel precautions to students, recommending they carry their passport and other immigration documents with them.

College leaders spoke of a growing sense of uncertainty and anxiety.

“These are unprecedented times, and our normal guiding principles for living in a democratic society are being challenged,” University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco wrote in an email. “With the rate and depth of changes occurring, we must be thoughtful in how we best prepare, protect, and respond.”

Suárez-Orozco said the legal residency status had been canceled for two students and “five other members of our university community including recent graduates participating in training programs.”

First Black Republican woman in Congress honored in Utah after her death from brain cancer

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Family and friends of former U.S. Rep. Mia Love gathered Monday in Salt Lake City to honor the life and legacy of the first Black Republican woman elected to Congress after she died of brain cancer last month at age 49.

The former lawmaker from Utah, a daughter of Haitian immigrants, had undergone treatment for an aggressive brain tumor called glioblastoma and received immunotherapy as part of a clinical trial. She died March 23 at her home in Saratoga Springs, Utah, weeks after her daughter announced she was no longer responding to treatment.

Hundreds of mourners entered her service from a walkway lined with American flags at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Institute of Religion on the University of Utah campus. Long tables displayed framed family photos and bouquets of red and white flowers.

Love served only two terms in Congress before suffering a razor-thin loss to Democrat Ben McAdams in the 2018 midterm elections as Democrats surged. Yet she left her mark on Utah's political scene and later leveraged her prominence into becoming a political commentator for CNN.

She was briefly considered a rising star in the GOP, but her power within the party fizzled out as President Donald Trump took hold. Love kept her distance from Trump and called him out in 2018 for vulgar comments he made about immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and some African nations.

Jason Love, her husband, drew laughter from the somber crowd at Monday's service when he told stories of his wife's "superpowers."

He described discovering her influence after he tried to return the many toasters the couple received as wedding gifts and failing because he didn't have receipts. His wife then entered the store and came out three minutes later with cash in hand.

"I thought, 'Wow, I have married a Jedi knight,'" he said with a laugh.

Her motherhood, he said, was her greatest superpower.

"She was an extraordinary mother, and she believed that the most important work she would do within her life was within the walls of her own home with her children," Jason Love said. "She always made it a special place for each of them to feel loved and to begin to achieve their full potential."

A choir of Love's friends sang some of her favorite hymns, as well as Ed Sheeran's "Supermarket Flowers." Her children, Alessa, Abigale and Peyton, read an op-ed their mother published in the Deseret News shortly before she died in which she shared her enduring wish for the nation to become less divisive.

Love's sister Cyndi Brito shared childhood memories, including how Love used to rehearse all day and night for starring roles in her school plays. She was always the best at everything she did and made everyone around her feel important, her sister said.

Brito read an excerpt of a speech her third-grade daughter gave at a recent school assembly for Black History Month honoring Love's legacy.

"Mia Love played many roles and had many titles, but the most important role and the most important title that Mia Love played in my eyes was auntie," Brito recalled her daughter, Carly, telling classmates.

Love did not emphasize her race during her campaigns, but she acknowledged the significance of her election after her 2014 victory. She said her win defied naysayers who suggested a Black, Republican, Mormon woman could not win a congressional seat in overwhelmingly white Utah.

On Sunday evening, state leaders and members of the public visited the Utah Capitol to pay their respects at Love's flag-covered coffin behind ropes in the building's rotunda.

Love, born Ludmya Bourdeau, was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2022 and said her doctors estimated she had only 10 to 15 months to live, which she surpassed. With aggressive treatments, Love lived for nearly three years after receiving her diagnosis.

Her close friend, Utah Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson, told the audience Monday that Love had asked her friends and family to rally around her like a campaign team when she was diagnosed.

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"I'm in fight mode," she told us, "and what I need from you all, more than anything, is to help me fight it. This is a campaign, and we are going to win," Henderson recalled.

Love entered politics in 2003 after winning a city council seat in Saratoga Springs, 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City. She was elected as the city's mayor in 2009, becoming the first Black woman to serve as a mayor in Utah.

In 2012, after giving a rousing speech at the Republican National Convention, she narrowly lost a bid for the U.S. House against the Democratic incumbent. She ran again two years later and won.

Rescue efforts from Myanmar's deadly earthquake wind down as death toll hits 3,600

BANGKOK (AP) — Long-shot efforts to find survivors from Myanmar's devastating March 28 earthquake were winding down Monday, as rescue efforts were supplanted by increasing relief and recovery activity. The death toll surpassed 3,600 and was still climbing.

A situation report issued late Monday by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, said more than 17.2 million people are living in affected areas, and urgently need food, drinking water, health care, cash assistance and emergency shelter.

In the capital, Naypyitaw, people cleared debris and collected wood from their damaged houses under drizzling rain, and soldiers removed wreckage at some Buddhist monasteries.

Myanmar Fire Services Department said Monday that rescue teams had recovered 10 bodies from the rubble of a collapsed building in Mandalay, Myanmar's second biggest city.

It said international rescuers from Singapore, Malaysia and India had returned to their countries after their work to find survivors was considered completed. The number of rescue teams operating in the residential areas of Naypyitaw has been steadily decreasing.

The 7.7 magnitude quake hit a wide swath of the country, causing significant damage to six regions and states. The earthquake left many areas without power, telephone or cell connections and damaged roads and bridges, making the full extent of the devastation hard to assess.

Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun, a spokesperson for the military government, said late Monday that the quake's death toll has reached 3,600, with 5,017 injured and 160 missing. He said search and rescue operations involved 1,738 personnel from 20 countries, and had helped find and extract 653 survivors.

He also said the quake has officially been named "the Big Mandalay Earthquake" to ensure consistency in future documentation and referencing. Previous significant earthquakes also received official names.

"Entire communities have been upended, forcing people to seek shelter in makeshift conditions, disrupting markets, worsening psychosocial distress and bringing essential services—including running water, sanitation and health—to the verge of collapse," said the report from OCHA.

"People left homeless by the earthquakes are exposed to extreme heat during the country's hottest and driest month of the year, and rains have already started in Mandalay — posing an additional threat to those sheltering in the open," it noted.

Myanmar's military government and its battlefield opponents, meanwhile, have been trading accusations over alleged violations of ceasefire declarations each had declared to ease earthquake relief efforts.

Reports of continued fighting

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the army's 2021 takeover ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, which led to nationwide peaceful protests that escalated into armed resistance and what now amounts to civil war.

Although the military government and its armed opponents declared unilateral ceasefires for a temporary period, reports of continued fighting are widespread, with the army receiving the most criticism for continuing aerial bombing, according to independent Myanmar media and eyewitnesses.

Independent confirmation of fighting is difficult because of the remoteness of the areas in which much of it takes place and restrictions on journalists.

The Three Brotherhood Alliance, a trio of powerful ethnic minority guerrilla armies, declared a unilateral

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temporary ceasefire on April 1, following an earlier declaration by the opposition National Unity Government, or NUG.

The NUG, which leads the pro-democracy resistance, said its armed wing, the People's Defense Force, would cease offensive actions for two weeks.

On Wednesday, the army announced a similar unilateral ceasefire, as did another ethnic minority group among its foes, the Kachin Independence Organization.

All sides reserved the right to act in self-defense.

The Ta'ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, and the Arakan Army, both members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, separately accused the army of continuing attacks.

Declaring its ceasefire

The shadow National Unity Government on Saturday accused the military of carrying out 63 airstrikes and artillery attacks since the earthquake, resulting in the deaths of 68 civilians, including one child and 15 women.

However, military spokesperson Zaw Min Tun said in an audio message to journalists on Saturday that the groups in the Three Brotherhood Alliance and the Kachin Independence Army, as well as the Karen National Union in southeastern Myanmar and pro-democracy forces in the central Magway region and other groups violated the ceasefires by attacking the army.

"We are carrying out relief and assistance efforts for the people affected by the earthquake. I am saying this to make everyone aware of the ceasefire violations at a time like this," Zaw Min Tun said.

The US has three measles-related deaths and hundreds of cases. Here's what to know

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

Three people have died from measles-related illnesses in the U.S. since the highly contagious virus started ripping through West Texas in late January.

The U.S. has more than double the number of measles cases it saw in all of 2024, with Texas reporting the majority of them: nearly 500. The cases include two young elementary school-aged children who were not vaccinated and died from measles-related illnesses near the epicenter of the outbreak in rural Texas, which led Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to visit the community.

Other states with active outbreaks — defined as three or more cases — include New Mexico, Kansas, Ohio and Oklahoma. The virus has been spreading in undervaccinated communities. The third person who died was an adult in New Mexico who was not vaccinated.

The multi-state outbreak confirms health experts' fears that the virus will take hold in other U.S. communities with low vaccination rates and that the spread could stretch on for a year. The World Health Organization said last week that cases in Mexico are linked to the Texas outbreak.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that's airborne and spreads easily when an infected person breathes, sneezes or coughs. It is preventable through vaccines, and has been considered eliminated from the U.S. since 2000.

Here's what else you need to know about measles in the U.S.

How many measles cases are there in Texas and New Mexico?

Texas' outbreak began more than two months ago. State health officials said Friday there were 59 new cases of measles since Tuesday, bringing the total to 481 across 19 counties — most of them in West Texas. The state also logged 14 new hospitalizations, for a total of 56 throughout the outbreak.

More than 65% of Texas' cases are in Gaines County, population 22,892, where the virus started spreading in a close-knit, undervaccinated Mennonite community. The county now has logged 315 cases since late January — just over 1% of the county's residents.

New Mexico announced six new cases Friday, bringing the state's total to 54. New Mexico health officials say the cases are linked to Texas' outbreak based on genetic testing. Most are in Lea County, where two people have been hospitalized, and two are in Eddy County.

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Thursday's death in Texas was an 8-year-old child, according to Kennedy. Health officials in Texas said the child did not have underlying health conditions and died of "what the child's doctor described as measles pulmonary failure." A child died of measles in Texas in late February — Kennedy said age 6 — and New Mexico reported its first measles-related death in an adult on March 6.

How many cases are there in Kansas?

Kansas has 24 cases in six counties in the southwest part of the state as of Wednesday. Kiowa and Stevens counties have six cases each, while Grant, Morton, Haskell and Gray counties have five or fewer.

The state's first reported case, identified in Stevens County on March 13, is linked to the Texas and New Mexico outbreaks based on genetic testing, a state health department spokesperson said. But health officials have not determined how the person was exposed.

How many cases are there in Oklahoma?

Cases in Oklahoma remained steady Friday: eight confirmed and two probable cases. The first two probable cases were "associated" with the West Texas and New Mexico outbreaks, the state health department said.

A state health department spokesperson said measles exposures were confirmed in Tulsa and Rogers counties, but wouldn't say which counties had cases.

How many cases are there in Ohio?

Ohio reported one new measles case Thursday in west-central Allen County. Last week, there were 10 in Ashtabula County in the northeast corner of the state. The first case was in an unvaccinated adult who had interacted with someone who had traveled internationally.

In central Ohio, Knox County officials reported two new measles cases in international visitors, for three cases in international visitors total. Those cases are not included in the state's official count because they are not in Ohio residents. A measles outbreak in central Ohio sickened 85 in 2022.

Where else is measles showing up in the U.S.?

Measles cases also have been reported in Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines an outbreak as three or more related cases. The agency counted six clusters that qualified as outbreaks in 2025 as of Friday.

In the U.S., cases and outbreaks are generally traced to someone who caught the disease abroad. It can then spread, especially in communities with low vaccination rates. In 2019, the U.S. saw 1,274 cases and almost lost its status of having eliminated measles. So far in 2025, the CDC's count is 607.

Do you need an MMR booster?

The best way to avoid measles is to get the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The first shot is recommended for children between 12 and 15 months old and the second between 4 and 6 years old.

People at high risk for infection who got the shots many years ago may want to consider getting a booster if they live in an area with an outbreak, said Scott Weaver with the Global Virus Network, an international coalition. Those may include family members living with someone who has measles or those especially vulnerable to respiratory diseases because of underlying medical conditions.

Adults with "presumptive evidence of immunity" generally don't need measles shots now, the CDC said. Criteria include written documentation of adequate vaccination earlier in life, lab confirmation of past infection or being born before 1957, when most people were likely to be infected naturally.

A doctor can order a lab test called an MMR titer to check your levels of measles antibodies, but health experts don't always recommend this route and insurance coverage can vary.

Getting another MMR shot is harmless if there are concerns about waning immunity, the CDC says.

People who have documentation of receiving a live measles vaccine in the 1960s don't need to be re-vaccinated, but people who were immunized before 1968 with an ineffective measles vaccine made from "killed" virus should be revaccinated with at least one dose, the agency said. That also includes people who don't know which type they got.

What are the symptoms of measles?

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Measles first infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body, causing a high fever, runny nose, cough, red, watery eyes and a rash.

The rash generally appears three to five days after the first symptoms, beginning as flat red spots on the face and then spreading downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet. When the rash appears, the fever may spike over 104 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the CDC.

Most kids will recover from measles, but infection can lead to dangerous complications such as pneumonia, blindness, brain swelling and death.

How can you treat measles?

There's no specific treatment for measles, so doctors generally try to alleviate symptoms, prevent complications and keep patients comfortable.

Why do vaccination rates matter?

In communities with high vaccination rates — above 95% — diseases like measles have a harder time spreading through communities. This is called "herd immunity."

But childhood vaccination rates have declined nationwide since the pandemic and more parents are claiming religious or personal conscience waivers to exempt their kids from required shots.

The U.S. saw a rise in measles cases in 2024, including an outbreak in Chicago that sickened more than 60.

Miami's 'Little Venezuela' fears Trump's moves against migration

By GISELA SALOMON Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — Wilmer Escaray left Venezuela in 2007 and enrolled at Miami Dade College, opening his first restaurant six years later.

Today he has a dozen businesses that hire Venezuelan migrants like he once was, workers who are now terrified by what could be the end of their legal shield from deportation.

Since the start of February the Trump administration has ended two federal programs that together allowed more 700,000 Venezuelans to live and work legally in the U.S. along with hundreds of thousands of Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans.

In the largest Venezuelan community in the United States, people dread what could face them if lawsuits that aim to stop the government fail. It's all anyone discusses in "Little Venezuela" or "Doralzuela," a city of 80,000 people surrounded by Miami sprawl, freeways and the Florida Everglades.

Deportation fears in Doralzuela

People who lose their protections would have to remain illegally at the risk of being deported or return home, an unlikely route given the political and economic turmoil in Venezuela.

"It's really quite unfortunate to lose that human capital because there are people who do work here that other people won't do," Escaray, 37, said at one of his "Sabor Venezolano" restaurants.

Spanish is more common than English in shopping centers along Doral's wide avenues, and Venezuelans feel like they're back home but with more security and comfort.

A sweet scent wafts from round, flat cornmeal arepas sold at many establishments. Stores at gas stations sell flour and white cheese used to make arepas and T-shirts and hats with the yellow, blue and red stripes of the Venezuelan flag.

New lives at risk

John came from Venezuela nine years ago and bought a growing construction company with a partner. He and his wife are on Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, which Congress created in 1990 for people in the United States whose homelands are considered unsafe to return due to natural disaster or civil strife. Beneficiaries can live and work while it lasts but TPS carries no path to citizenship.

Born in the U.S., their 5-year-old daughter is a citizen. John, 37, asked to be identified by first name only for fear of being deported.

His wife helps with administration at their construction business while working as a real-estate broker. The couple told their daughter that they may have to leave the United States. Venezuela is not an option.

"It hurts us that the government is turning its back on us," John said. "We aren't people who came to commit crimes; we came to work, to build."

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A federal judge ordered on March 31 that temporary protected status would stand until a legal challenge's next stage in court and at least 350,000 Venezuelans were temporarily spared becoming illegal. Escaray, the owner of the restaurants, said nearly all of his 150 employees are Venezuelan and more than 100 are on TPS.

The federal immigration program that allowed more than 500,000 Cubans, Venezuelans, Haitians and Nicaraguans to work and live legally in the U.S. — humanitarian parole — expires April 24 absent court intervention.

Politics of migration

Venezuelans were one of the main beneficiaries when former President Joe Biden sharply expanded TPS and other temporary protections. Trump tried to end them in his first term and now his second.

The end of the temporary protections has generated little political reaction among Republicans except for three Cuban-American representatives from Florida who called for avoiding the deportations of affected Venezuelans. Mario Díaz Balart, Carlos Gimenez and Maria Elvira Salazar have urged the government to spare Venezuelans without criminal records from deportation and review TPS beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis.

The mayor of Doral, home to a Trump golf club since 2012, wrote a letter to the president asking him to find a legal pathway for Venezuelans who haven't committed crimes.

"These families do not want handouts," said Christi Fraga, a daughter of Cuban exiles. "They want an opportunity to continue working, building, and investing in the United States."

A country's elite, followed by the working class

About 8 million people have fled Venezuela since 2014, settling first in neighboring countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. After the COVID-19 pandemic, they increasingly set their sights on the United States, walking through the notorious jungle in Colombia and Panama or flying to the United States on humanitarian parole with a financial sponsor.

In Doral, upper-middle-class professionals and entrepreneurs came to invest in property and businesses when socialist Hugo Chávez won the presidency in the late 1990s. They were followed by political opponents and entrepreneurs who set up small businesses. In recent years, more lower-income Venezuelans have come for work in service industries.

They are doctors, lawyers, beauticians, construction workers and house cleaners. Some are naturalized U.S. citizens or live in the country illegally with U.S.-born children. Others overstay tourist visas, seek asylum or have some form of temporary status.

Thousands went to Doral as Miami International Airport facilitated decades of growth.

Frank Carreño, president of the Venezuelan American Chamber of Commerce and a Doral resident for 18 years, said there is an air of uncertainty.

"What is going to happen? People don't want to return or can't return to Venezuela," he said.

Nations puzzle over how to respond to US trade war as global markets gyrate

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, LORNE COOK and DAVID MCHUGH AP Business Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — America's trading partners wrestled with responses to U.S. President Donald Trump's blast of tariff hikes and some planned to send negotiators to Washington, while the head of the European Union's executive commission offered mutual reduction of tariffs - while warning that retaliation was an option too.

"We stand ready to negotiate with the United States," said commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "Indeed, we have offered zero for zero tariffs for industrial goods, as we have successfully done with many other trading partners. Because Europe is always ready for a good deal."

But she warned that "we are also prepared to respond through countermeasures and defend our interests."

China has already hit back against the U.S. with retaliatory tariffs and similar actions from Europe and

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elsewhere remain a significant possibility.

The U.S. and the EU had a zero-for-zero deal on wine and spirits from 1997 to 2018, and reducing many tariffs to zero was a goal of complex negotiations for a US-Europe free-trade deal before negotiations stalled in 2016.

Yet there was little indication Trump is ready to deal. The EU trade commissioner, Maros Sefcovic, spoke for two hours with Trump administration Friday and would say only that "we stay in touch."

And White House trade adviser Peter Navarro told CNBC on Monday that an offer by Vietnam to eliminate tariffs on U.S. imports would not lead to a pullback on the the newly announced 46% levy on its imports to the U.S.

"Let's take Vietnam. When they come to us and say 'we'll go to zero tariffs,' that means nothing to us because it's the non-tariff cheating that matters," Navarro said on CNBC

Major trade partner China was taking a tougher line and accused the U.S. of "bullying" after imposing a 34% tariff on Friday on all US goods, the exact same rate Trump slapped China with in his latest round of new import taxes.

Several other countries said they were sending trade officials to Washington to try to talk through the crisis, which has cast uncertainty over the global economic outlook, hammered markets and left U.S. allies wondering about the value of their ties with the world's largest economy.

European Union trade ministers were closeted Monday in Luxembourg to weigh possible steps that could include taxes on U.S. tech companies like Google, Apple and Amazon. The European Union's executive commission - which handles trade issues for the 27-country bloc - is set to impose tariffs on Jeans, whiskey and motorcycles on Wednesday in response to Trumps increase in steel and aluminum tariffs.

But it hasn't decided a response yet to Trump's "reciprocal" tariff of 20% on European goods announced Wednesday and a 25% tariff imposed on autos from everywhere. French officials have raised imposing tariffs on services like internet commerce or financial services, where the U.S. sells more than it buys from Europe and is in theory more vulnerable than in goods trade.

Germany's economy minister, Robert Habeck, was defiant as he arrived, saying the premise of the wide-ranging tariffs was "nonsense" and that attempts by individual countries to win exemptions haven't worked in the past.

It's important for the EU to stick together, he said. That "means being clear that we are in a strong position — America is in a position of weakness."

So far the European approach has been to selectively target politically sensitive goods rather than impose sweeping retaliation since like most economists officials they view tariff wars as a lose-lose game.

China, which hit back Friday at Washington with 34% tariffs on U.S. products and other retaliatory moves, sharply accused the U.S. of failing to play fair. "Putting 'America First' over international rules is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying," Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters.

The ruling Communist Party struck a note of confidence even as markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai crumpled. "The sky won't fall," declared The People's Daily, the party's official mouthpiece. "Faced with the indiscriminate punches of U.S. taxes, we know what we are doing and we have tools at our disposal."

China's Commerce Ministry said officials met with representatives of 20 American businesses including Tesla and GE Healthcare over the weekend and urged them to take "concrete actions" to address the tariffs issue.

During the meeting, Ling Ji, a vice minister of commerce, promised that China will remain open to foreign investment, according to the readout by the ministry.

Other Asian nations seek negotiations

South Korea's Trade Ministry said its top negotiator, Inkyo Cheong, will visit Washington this week to express Seoul's concerns over the 25% tariffs on Korean goods and discuss ways to mitigate the damage to South Korean businesses, which include major automakers and steel makers. Asian countries are among the most exposed to Trump's tariffs ranging from a baseline 10% to 50% since their export-oriented economies send a lot of goods to the U.S.

Pakistan also planned to send a delegation to Washington this month to try negotiate over the 29% tariffs

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on its exports to the U.S., officials said. The prime minister ordered Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb to assess the tariff's potential impact on Pakistan's fragile economy and draw up recommendations.

The U.S. imports around \$5 billion worth of textiles and other products each year from Pakistan, which heavily relies on loans from the International Monetary Fund and other lenders.

In Southeast Asia, Malaysia's Trade Minister Zafrul Abdul Aziz said his country will seek to forge a united response from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to Trump's sweeping tariffs.

As chair of the 10-nation body this year, Malaysia will lead a meeting Thursday in its capital Kuala Lumpur to discuss broader implications of the trade war on regional trade and investment, Zafrul told reporters.

"We are looking at the investment flows, macroeconomic stability and ASEAN's coordinated response to this tariff issue," Zafrul said.

He said that he had met with the U.S. ambassador to Malaysia to try to clarify how the U.S. came up with its 24% tariff.

Indonesia plans to increase imports from US

Indonesia, one of the region's biggest economies, said it would work with businesses to increase its imports of U.S. wheat, cotton, oil and gas to help reduce its trade surplus, which was \$18 billion in 2024.

Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto told a news conference that Indonesia will not retaliate against the new 32% tariff on Indonesian exports, but would use diplomacy to seek mutually beneficial solutions.

Some Southeast Asian neighbors, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, face tariffs of over 40%, giving Indonesia a slight advantage, he noted.

"For Indonesia, it is also another opportunity as its market is huge in America," Hartarto said. He said Indonesia would buy U.S.-made components for several national strategic projects, including refineries.

WNBA mock draft: Paige Bueckers goes No. 1 to Dallas and Seattle selects French star Malonga 2nd

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's no doubt who's going first in the WNBA draft next Monday with Paige Bueckers the consensus top pick. After that it gets interesting with Olivia Miles' decision to enter the NCAA transfer portal instead of the draft. The Washington Mystics, with a new coach and general manager, control the direction of the draft with the third, fourth and sixth pick. Five teams don't have picks in the opening round as New York, Indiana, Phoenix and Atlanta all traded away their picks. Las Vegas forfeited its pick following an investigation by the league in 2023 that found the franchise violated league rules regarding impermissible player benefits and workplace policies.

Here's a look at how the first round could look on April 14:

1. Dallas Wings: Paige Bueckers, UConn

A generational player who averaged 20.0 points and shot 42.4% from behind the 3-point line this season. Bueckers is one of the most efficient players in college basketball and will pair with Arike Ogunbowale in the Wings' backcourt.

2. Seattle Storm: Dominique Malonga, France

The 6-foot-6 center played for the French Olympic team last year and has a bright future in the WNBA. She averaged 15.0 points and 10.3 rebounds so far this season while playing for Lyon. While Seattle has a solid frontcourt with Ezi Magbegor and Nneka Ogumike, it's hard to pass up on this talented 19-year-old.

3. Washington Mystics: Sonia Citron, Notre Dame

She averaged 14.3 points and 5.8 rebounds during her career at Notre Dame and also improved her defense to become one of the top defenders on the team. She would be the first of three first-round picks for a rebuilding Washington team and is in need of a solid wing. Citron has shot over 90% from the free throw line the past two seasons, one of the best percentages in the country.

4. Washington Mystics: Kiki Iriafen, Southern California

Was a star at Stanford before heading to USC for her last season. She's risen her game since JuJu Wat-

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kins went down with an ACL tear and helped get the team to the Elite Eight. She averaged 18.2 points and 8.3 rebounds this season and will be another nice addition to a rebuilding Mystics team.

5. Golden State Valkyries: Aneesah Morrow, LSU

Morrow led the nation in double-doubles, averaging 18.7 points and 13.5 rebounds a game. She is second all-time in that category, behind only Oklahoma great Courtney Paris, having more than 100 in her career at LSU and DePaul.

The 6-foot-1 Morrow has a toughness and nose for the basketball.

6. Washington Mystics: Shyanne Sellers, Maryland

The Mystics will have had a lot of chances to see Sellers play in college with the Terrapins right up the road. She has size at 6-foot-2, but also plays the guard and wing spot. Her versatility makes her an attractive pick for the Mystics. She was the first player in Maryland history to have 1,500 points, 500 rebounds and 500 assists in her career.

7. Connecticut Sun: Juste Jocyte, Lithuania

Jocyte showcased her scoring skills with a 22-point effort against Belgium in the EuroBasket qualifiers. She's a versatile player who can play any of the guard positions and is really effective on the pick and roll. Has a toughness about her and is fundamentally sound. Sun coach Rachid Meziane, who has spent time coaching in the French league, is well aware of her talents.

8. Connecticut Sun: Sania Feagin, South Carolina

Dawn Staley has produced a plethora of talented post players over the last few years, from A'ja Wilson to Aliyah Boston to Kamilla Cardoso. The South Carolina coach believes Feagin could be the next one to have an impact in the WNBA, predicting over the weekend that she'll be a lottery pick. At 6-3, Feagin has size and shoots over 60% from the field.

9. Los Angeles Sparks: Maddy Westbeld, Notre Dame

Westbeld missed the first half of this season while recovering from a foot injury, and with Miles and Hannah Hidalgo getting the majority of the shots, it was difficult for the 6-3 forward to get back to the numbers she put up the year before. Westbeld averaged 14.4 points, 8.7 rebounds and 1.5 steals in 2023-24.

10. Chicago Sky: Georgia Amoore, Kentucky

The Sky could pair Amoore with veteran guard Courtney Vandersloot to help the Australian learn the pro game. She averaged 19.6 points and 6.9 assists for Kentucky this season after transferring from Virginia Tech to play for Kenny Brooks, her former Hokies coach before he took the job in Lexington.

11. Minnesota Lynx: Hailey Van Lith, TCU

Van Lith became the first player to play on three different teams in the Elite Eight after seeing her college career revitalized at TCU. She averaged 17.7 points and 5.5 assists to help the Horned Frogs reach the Elite Eight for the first time in school history. She also has some pro experience helping the U.S. win a bronze medal in 3-on-3 at last year's Paris Olympics.

12. Dallas Wings: Ajša Sivka, Slovenia

Sivka is a multi-level scoring forward with efficient shot-making ability. She made over 42% from the 3-point line. At 6-4, she is a difficult matchup to defend.

Other players to watch out for who could be taken in the first round or early in the second include: TeHina Paopao, South Carolina; Sedona Prince, TCU; JJ Quinerly, West Virginia; Sania Rivers, N.C. State; and Makayla Timpson, Florida State.

UConn returns to top of women's basketball, dominates South Carolina 82-59 to capture its 12th title

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Basketball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — During the final sweet moments of UConn's 12th national title, Geno Auriemma and Paige Bueckers embraced after the star guard departed her final game with the Huskies.

It was the moment they wanted all along.

"They've all been gratifying, don't get me wrong," Auriemma said. "But this one here, because of the

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way it came about and what's been involved, it's been a long time since I've been that emotional when a player has walked off the court."

Bueckers, Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong led the way as UConn returned to the top of women's college basketball by rolling to an 82-59 victory over defending champion South Carolina on Sunday.

Fudd, who was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, scored 24 points. Strong had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Bueckers scored 17 points for UConn (37-3).

"Well, it's amazing to have three players, three people like that on the same team," said the 71-year-old Auriemma, who became the oldest coach in major college basketball to win a championship. "And Sarah, you would think Sarah was graduating the way she plays, right? All three of them complement each other so well. They all have such unique skill sets."

Bueckers capped her stellar career with the Huskies' first championship since 2016, ending a nine-year drought for the team. That was the longest period for Auriemma and his program without a title since Rebecca Lobo and Jen Rizzotti led the Huskies to their first championship in 1995.

Since then the Huskies have had dominant championship runs, including in the early 2000s led by Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi, 2009-10 with Maya Moore and finally the four straight from 2013-16 with Breanna Stewart. All were in attendance in Florida on Sunday to see the Huskies' latest title.

"You just never know if you'll ever be back in this situation again," Auriemma said. "And there were so many times when I think we all questioned, 'Have we been here too long? Has it been time?' And we kept hanging in there and hanging in there and that's because these players make me want to hang in there every day."

Bueckers, the expected No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft on April 14, delivered for the Huskies throughout their championship season.

Winning a title was the only thing missing from an incredible UConn career that was slowed by injuries. She was the first freshman to win AP Player of the Year before missing a lot of her sophomore season with a tibial plateau fracture and meniscus tear. She then tore an ACL before the next season.

"It's been a story of resilience, gratitude of overcoming adversity and responding to life's challenges," Bueckers said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world."

UConn closed the first half up 10 points and then put the game away in the third quarter, with Fudd, Strong and Bueckers combining for 23 of the team's 26 points in the period. UConn was up 50-39 with 3:21 left before closing with a 12-3 run.

Fudd and Strong got it started with back-to-back 3s, and the rout was on. Auriemma subbed Bueckers, Fudd and Strong out with 1:32 left in the game.

UConn's leading trio finished the tourney with 368 points, including an NCAA freshman record 114 for Strong. It was the highest point total for three teammates in a single NCAA Tournament, according to Stats Perform. Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Semeka Randell scored 363 points for Tennessee in the 1998 women's tournament, and Glen Rice led the way for a trio of Michigan men that had 366 points in 1989.

The UConn trio proved to be way too much for South Carolina.

Dawn Staley's team was trying for a third title in four years and fourth overall. It would have tied her with Kim Mulkey for third most behind Auriemma and former Tennessee Hall of Fame coach Pat Summitt, who had eight.

"Our kids gave it all they had. When you can understand why you lost and when you've been on the other side of that three times, you understand it," Staley said. "You can swallow it. We lost to a very good basketball team."

UConn had reached the title game only once during its drought since 2016. The Huskies had been eliminated by heartbreaking last-second losses in the Final Four on buzzer-beaters. The Huskies' last title game appearance came in 2022 when Staley's team beat UConn to start the Gamecocks' current run of success, a game that ended Auriemma's perfect record in title games.

There seemed to be no nerves early for either team as the game got off to a fast start. The teams traded baskets for the first few minutes before the defenses started to clamp down. The Huskies led 19-14 after

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one quarter and then extended the advantage to 36-26 at the half. Fudd had 13 points and Strong added eight points and 11 rebounds.

Today in History: April 8

Hank Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's home run record

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, April 8, the 98th day of 2025. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's home run record that had stood since 1935.

Also on this date:

In 1820, the Venus de Milo statue, likely dating to the 2nd century B.C.E., was discovered by a farmer on the Greek island of Milos.

In 1864, the U.S. Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts leased out from prisons.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, providing for election of U.S. senators by state residents as opposed to state legislatures.

In 1962, Cuba announced that 1,200 Cuban exiles tried for their roles in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion were convicted of treason and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenager whose battle with AIDS drew national attention and led to greater understanding and de-stigmatization of those suffering from the disease, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1992, tennis great Arthur Ashe announced at a New York news conference that he had AIDS, having contracted HIV from a blood transfusion in 1983.

In 2010, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty in Prague.

In 2020, a 76-day lockdown was lifted in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global COVID-19 pandemic began.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist Seymour Hersh is 88. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 83. Rock musician Steve Howe (Yes) is 78. Sports broadcaster Jim Lampley is 76. Sen. Ron Johnson, a Republican from Wisconsin, is 70. Author Barbara Kingsolver is 70. Actor John Schneider is 65. Guitarist Izzy Stradlin (Guns N' Roses) is 63. Singer Julian Lennon is 62. Actor Dean Norris is 62. Actor Robin Wright is 59. Actor Patricia Arquette is 57. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 44. Boxer Gennady Golovkin is 43. NFL wide receiver CeeDee Lamb is 26. Actor Skai Jackson is 23.