

# Groton Daily Independent

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## 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)

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.

**Groton Daily Independent**

**PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445**

**Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**

## Columbia Mayor Election Results

Dana Mohr-47

Corey Mitchell- 32



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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Newsweek

The  
Bulletin

YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

## WORLD IN BRIEF

- Iran and U.S. set for nuclear talks in Oman: Iran's foreign minister confirmed that Iran and the United States would meet in Oman on Saturday, but contradicted President Trump by describing them as "indirect high-level talks" rather than the direct talks that he announced.
- Syria's new resistance: The overthrow of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad may have marked a major blow to the Iran-aligned Axis of Resistance coalition, but a new group styling itself in a similar manner has emerged to challenge the interests of the United States and its feuding top Middle Eastern allies.
- South Korea fires warning shots: South Korea's military fired warning shots on Monday after approximately 10 North Korean soldiers crossed the heavily fortified border separating the two countries, officials said.
- Why are people boycotting Walmart? A weeklong boycott of Walmart has launched across the United States, driven by growing discontent over corporate conduct and economic inequality.
- Japan expands F-35 force amid Russia threat: Japan, a key United States treaty ally in Northeast Asia, has expanded its F-35A stealth fighter aircraft deployment amid persistent Russian military activities near the country.
- Trump backs sending citizens to El Salvador prison: President Trump has signaled his support for sending American citizens to El Salvador's notorious super prison.
- South Korea arrests Chinese students: Police in South Korea, a key United States treaty ally in Northeast Asia, caught two Chinese teenagers for illegally photographing fighter aircraft near a major air base.

## Fired Federal Workers Flood 'Brutally Competitive' Job Market

**The rundown:** Federal workers who lost their jobs as part of recent mass layoffs recommended by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are being thrown into a "brutally competitive" job market, experts told Newsweek.

**Why it matters:** The federal workforce shrank by 10,000 jobs in February and another 4,000 in March due to DOGE's cuts, according to the latest data released Friday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Last month, the country's unemployment rate edged up again to 4.2 percent, while job openings were down from 7.8 million in February and 8.4 million in March 2024 to 7.6 million. According to the company's study, a majority, 68 percent, of federal workers actively looking for a new job on the Indeed platform in February had at least a bachelor's degree, compared to just over one-third of all federal workers—showing the impact of DOGE's cuts on highly educated employees.

**TL/DR:** "This is not your normal 'let's start looking for a job' situation," said Amanda Goodall, a self-proclaimed "labor market nerd," career coach and founder of The Job Chick.

**What happens now?** Indeed economist Allison Shrivastava told Newsweek that with the U.S. economy facing a looming shortage of skilled workers in various fields ranging from health care to engineering, "workers with experience and skills that are in demand will likely be able to be absorbed into the private sector with limited disruption."

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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.**

## Massive China Tariffs

The US is set to impose 104% tariffs on Chinese goods today, following through on President Donald Trump's trade threats. The escalation comes after China retaliated against the US with a 34% tariff on American products, which was a response to Trump's 34% tariff on all imported Chinese goods atop an existing 20% tariff.

Last year, bilateral trade between China and the US reached \$585B, with a \$295B US deficit. Analysts warn prolonged tensions could disrupt global supply chains, inflate prices, and destabilize roughly 43% of global GDP represented by both economies.

The US will also begin collecting new country-specific tariffs from 85 other trading partners today. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent noted roughly 70 countries have approached the US to begin trade talks after last week's tariff rollout, while Trump has signaled a potential trade deal with South Korea.

US stock markets fell again yesterday (S&P 500 -1.6%, Dow -0.8%, Nasdaq -2.2%), with Apple losing its most valuable public company title to Microsoft. Apple is considering shifting its iPhone production to India to offset tariff costs.

## DR Rooftop Collapse

A roof collapse at a music venue in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, killed at least 98 people and injured more than 160 others early Tuesday. Authorities have not yet weighed in on the cause of the tragedy, which killed provincial governor Nelsy Cruz, sister of former MLB power hitter Nelson Cruz, as well as the performer Rubby Pérez and his saxophonist.

The roof of the Jet Set music venue fell while merengue musician Pérez was performing shortly after midnight. An estimated 500 people were in attendance at one of the country's most famous clubs, which is well known for its Monday shows. President Luis Abinader received a call from Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern Montecristi province, while she was trapped (she later died at a hospital). Rescuers continued to extract people from the rubble throughout the day Tuesday.

Other individuals who died in the incident include former MLB players Octavio Dotel and Tony Blanco.

## Royal Security Battle

Prince Harry appeared at England's Court of Appeal yesterday to challenge the reduction of his taxpayer-funded security. He argued the Royal and VIP Executive Committee's decision to deny him and his family police protection normally granted to royal family members was procedurally unfair and exposed them to security risks during visits to the UK.

The challenge follows a 2020 ruling by RAVEC—a committee including government, law enforcement, and royal representatives—that downgraded Harry's automatic protection to security provided on a case-by-case basis after he stepped back from royal duties. Harry filed a judicial review in 2021, alleging RAVEC failed to follow its own protocols, conduct proper risk assessments, or ensure a transparent process. A 2024 High Court ruling upheld RAVEC's decision, but Harry later secured limited appeal rights. The government maintains security is based on risk, not status, and the change in royal duties justified his downgraded protection.

The two-day hearing concludes today, with judges expected to reserve their decision. Either party may seek Supreme Court appeal rights afterward.

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## Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Tom Cruise's "Mission: Impossible—The Final Reckoning," the eighth installment in the film franchise, will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival (May 13-24) in France; Cannes is set to release its full lineup tomorrow.

UEFA Champions League quarterfinals kicks off; see latest schedule and bracket .

Denver Nuggets fire head coach Michael Malone less than two years after Malone helped lead the Nuggets to an NBA championship.

"Adolescence" hauls in over 114 million views to become Netflix's fourth most-watched English-language show ever.

Coachella: This week's Society & Culture newsletter explores the history of the annual California music and arts festival, from Pearl Jam to Daft Punk.

## Science & Technology

Renewable energy provided a record 32% of global electricity in 2024, analysis finds; overall demand rose 4%, driven by heat waves and power-intensive data centers.

British doctors report the first baby in the country to be born via womb donation; the 36-year-old patient received the UK's first successful uterus transplant in 2023, gave birth in February.

Engineers develop brain-computer interface thin enough to fit between individual hair follicles.

## Business & Markets

US venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz seeks to raise \$20B in the largest fund in its history amid global interest in US artificial intelligence startups.

President Donald Trump signs executive order to boost US coal mining, including defining coal as a "mineral" and allowing some coal-fired power plants set for retirement to remain operational to meet rising AI power demand.

Justice Department shuts down its national cryptocurrency fraud unit, orders prosecutors to narrow cryptocurrency investigations to focus on crimes involving drug cartels and terrorist groups.

## Politics & World Affairs

US Supreme Court temporarily clears the Trump administration's firing of roughly 16,000 probationary federal workers; employees will remain on paid administrative leave as a separate lawsuit moves through the courts.

Federal judge says White House can't ban Associated Press from Oval Office, Air Force One.

Department of Homeland Security ends legal status for roughly 985,000 people who entered the US and registered for court appearances using a Biden-era CBP One app.

IRS reaches deal with Homeland Security to provide names, addresses of migrants subject to deportation orders.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirms Ukrainian forces operating in Russia's Belgorod region.

Two Chinese citizens captured while fighting alongside Russian soldiers, per Zelenskyy.



## 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.

### Hansen interns at Groton Area Kindergarten

Kennedy Hansen, daughter of Craig and Stacy Hansen, Aberdeen, is interning in the kindergarten class taught by Ann Gibbs. Kennedy and her twin sister both play basketball and soccer.

"I've been interning in this kindergarten class all year and have really enjoyed the experience," Kennedy stated. "I've gotten to know the kids as well as learn what to do in the classroom and how to do it."

"Mrs. Gibbs is a great teacher for me to learn from," Kennedy explained. "She sets high standards in her classroom and uses what I call 'old fashioned' educational techniques."

"The hardest part of being a kindergarten teacher is getting the little kids to listen to me and then to actually do what I want them to," she smiled. "My favorite part of this internship is getting to know these little children and making a connection with them."

"I plan to attend college at Jamestown University and play soccer. However my main goal in attending college is to become a kindergarten teacher," she smiled. "I really love these little kids!"





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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**





## Columbia Fourth Grade Americanism Winners

Columbia fourth grade poem and essay winners are: Kate Tarpein, second place poem; Skyler Jacobson, first place poem; Jase Bahr, second place essay; and not pictured is Hazel Neu, first place essay. In back are teachers Sue Fjeldheim (back left) and Joel Guthmiller (back right), and Jerrie Vedvei (back middle) on behalf of the Columbia unit. (Courtesy Photo)



## Groton Fourth Grade Americanism Winners

Groton Fourth grade poem and essay winners are: Jermiah Yeigh, first place local; second place district poem; Anniston Harry, second place local poem; Reagan Harry, second place local essay; and Anna Oswald, first place local and second place district essay; with teachers Sue Fjeldheim (back left) and Joel Guthmiller (back right), and Jerrie Vedvei (back center), Americanism chairman. (Courtesy Photo)





## Groton Fifth Grade Americanism Winners

Groton fifth grade poem and essay winners: Huntley Overacker, first place local and first place district poem; Brody Zimmerman, second place local and first place district essay; and Hayden Hubbart, first place local essay; not pictured is Brody Zimmerman, second place local and first place district essay; and Weston Kettner, second place local poem. In back are Jerrie Vedvei, Americanism chairman; and teachers Carrie Cole and Janel Lone. (Courtesy Photo)



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## Columbia Fifth Grade Americanism Winners

Columbia fifth grade winners are: Elise Pharis, first place local poem; Shaelee Gilchrist, second place local poem; Kayson Hofer, second place local essay; and Boston Kurth, first place local essay. Pictured in back are Jerrie Vedvei on behalf of the Columbia unit; and teachers Carrie Cole and Janel Lone. (Courtesy Photo)



## Senior Americanism Winners

Senior winners for Columbia and Groton essays were Kaden Kampa, first place senior local; and Elizabeth Flihs, first place local and first place district; Teacher Scott Thorson on the right and Jerrie Vedvei, Americanism chairman. (Courtesy Photo)



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## Columbia Eighth Grade Americanism Winners

Columbia eighth essay winners are Madison Herrick, first place local and first place district essay; and Novalea Warrington, second place local essay. On the left is Jerrie Vedvei on behalf of the Columbia unit, and on the right is teacher Scott Thorson. (Courtesy Photo)



## Groton Eighth Grade Americanism Winners

Groton eighth grade essay winners are Tevan Hanson, second place local essay; and Neely Althoff, first place local and second place district essay. On the left is Jerrie Vedvei on behalf of the Columbia unit, and on the right is teacher Scott Thorson. (Courtesy Photo)





**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>

### Grant cancellation means children have to 'defend themselves' in immigration court, advocate says

**Meanwhile, ICE representative tells Mitchell audience to remember that officers don't write laws or set enforcement priorities**

**BY: JOHN HULT - APRIL 8, 2025 4:49 PM**

MITCHELL — Taneeza Islam's nonprofit organization represents unaccompanied children as young as 5 years old in immigration court.

In March, she learned that the federal government canceled the anti-human-trafficking grant that pays groups like hers to represent kids facing deportation. Her organization, South Dakota Voices for Peace, lost about \$325,000.

Islam intends to keep working with the underage clients that Voices for Peace has now, but the loss of grant funding across a nationwide network of nonprofits means fewer clients will have representation.

"Now children have to show up in court without a lawyer and defend themselves," Islam said Monday evening during a Dakota Wesleyan University McGovern Center forum on immigration.

Since the start of the second Trump administration, she said, the U.S. has lost its way on immigration enforcement. Instead of prioritizing those with criminal records, Islam said it feels like every undocumented person is now a target.

"When there are policies that target children, to me that is a moral issue."

Islam was one of four panelists at the forum. The others were Ben Ready, the southeast region director for U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune; Mary Hogan, a community relations officer for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and John Hakari, a former immigration attorney who's now a professor at Dakota Wesleyan.

The morality of the Trump administration's enforcement priorities dominated the public commentary portion of the forum.



**From left, Mary Hogan of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Ben Ready with Sen. John Thune's office, Taneeza Islam of South Dakota Voices for Peace and John Hakari of Dakota Wesleyan University participate in a forum about immigration on April 7, 2025, at DWU in Mitchell.** (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)



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Some referenced other immigration actions they found shocking. Two talked about a video of a Tufts University postdoctoral student apprehended by ICE officers late last month.

One referenced a recent video of former South Dakota governor and now-Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem standing outside a holding cell filled with shirtless, deported Venezuelans held in an El Salvador prison. The audience member compared ICE officers to Gestapo officers in Nazi Germany.

Hogan, however, in both her prepared remarks and in her responses to those inquiries, urged the audience to separate their feelings on enforcement actions from their feelings about the officers carrying them out.

The Nazi comparisons are baseless, she said. Hitler's Germany wrote laws to target Jews and enforced them brutally.

ICE officers in the U.S., Hogan said, enforce laws "that have been on the books for decades" as part of an immigration system whose gears turn at different speeds from administration to administration.

"While the tempo of what we're doing is probably more increased than the last administration, the laws are not different," Hogan said.

The immigration actions now drawing criticism reflect the preference of the American people, according to Ready, the regional director for Sen. Thune.

"When President Trump ran for office, he talked a lot about a very specific immigration policy," Ready said. "And he won."

Thune's office in Sioux Falls has a staff member who does nothing but field immigration inquiries from constituents and people seeking help understanding the system.

Thune's position on immigration reform has two planks, Ready said: "a big wall" to protect the southern border and "a big gate" for legal immigration.

In Congress, he said, any reform proposal without a wall to appease conservatives "is dead." The same would be true, he said, for any compromise without a path to citizenship — a must for Democrats.

It's unfortunate, Ready said, that those who want real reform face the same roadblocks year after year. "Everyone seems to have dug in their heels even more," he said.

Immigration is one of the most complex areas of the law, according to Hakari, the former immigration attorney, and one that hasn't seen significant reform since the Ronald Reagan administration offered amnesty to around 3 million undocumented people.

The paths to legal status are narrow, and he said "it breaks my heart" when people with the right to it miss their chance to stay because they misunderstood the law or made a minor misstep.

He suggested bringing back a provision in immigration law that allows a person whose only infraction is overstaying a visa a chance to pay a fine and gain entry.

Bring back that provision, he suggested, then, "jack up the fine, and use the fine to pay for the wall."

Like Hogan, he said the officers and lawyers in the system don't bear the responsibility for the legal framework under which they operate, or for how they're expected to apply the law. As an attorney, he said, he saw how a change in presidential administration would lead to a change in his interactions with ICE lawyers. The same lawyers who may have agreed to deadline extensions under one president would hold firm on deadlines under another.

He encouraged those concerned about the current administration's approach to donate to organizations like Islam's.

"If a 5-year-old kid is removable by ICE, it's their job to attempt to remove them," Hakari said. "You can debate about whether that makes them the good guy or a bad guy. The good guy, definitely, though, is the person who sits at the table in immigration court with the 5-year-old."

After the forum, Islam told South Dakota Searchlight that her group has "an ethical obligation" to continue to represent the 60 underage clients it has, in spite of the March 21 cancellation of the legal aid grant.

She and others affiliated with the umbrella grantee, Acacia Legal Services, have gotten mixed messages about whether the grant money could return.

The five-year grant was authorized by Congress, and the fourth year's awards were meant to be released

at the end of March, just days after the cancellation.

In the absence of certainty, Islam said, "I'm operating as though we won't have that."

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.*

## Lawsuit: 110,000 pigs in 'imminent danger' due to billion-dollar check-kiting scheme

**BY: CLARK KAUFFMAN, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - APRIL 8, 2025 6:25 PM**

An Iowa ag company accused of operating a billion-dollar check-kiting scheme is being sued by a lender that says 110,000 piglets in South Dakota are at risk of starvation.

Compeer Financial of Minnesota is suing Sunterra Farms Iowa Inc., Sunwold Farms Inc., and Lariagra Farms South Inc. in U.S. District Court. Compeer alleges that the three defendants operate extensive swine operations in Iowa and South Dakota, and have granted Compeer, their lender, exclusive security over their collective assets.

Compeer is asking the court to appoint a receiver to take control of the defendants' assets so that Compeer can protect its collateral by continuing to provide for the feeding and care of 110,000 head of swine.

The defendant companies are allegedly operated by the Price family of South Dakota, including Ray, Art and Glen Price, who own and manage 110,000 head of swine in 54 barns located in and around Yankton County, South Dakota. The swine — which are in various stages of growth and are owned by either Sunterra or Lariagra — are among 500,000 hogs managed by Sunterra.

Compeer claims in the lawsuit that because of what it calls "the long-running fraud" perpetrated by the defendant companies, they cannot be trusted to operate their businesses and protect their assets, including the 110,000 head of swine in Yankton County.

According to the lawsuit, the three defendant companies have engaged in check kiting — a fraudulent practice in which a company draws checks from one bank account for deposit in another bank account that it controls, when neither account has sufficient funds to cover the checks. The process takes advantage of the delays in processing checks between banks, allowing one account or another to continually show credits for funds that have yet to be collected.

Compeer's lawsuit claims that earlier this year, the defendant companies were issuing each other numer-



**The federal courthouse in Sioux Falls.** (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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ous checks, in nearly identical amounts, on a daily basis — with some checks ranging from \$800,000 to \$990,000, an amount just below the threshold that would trigger scrutiny from regulators.

The transactions had the effect of creating phony positive account balances that caused Compeer to pay the companies interest, the lawsuit claims.

Compeer alleges that on Feb. 12, 2025, the day after it asked Ray Price, the CEO of the defendant companies, about the transactions, it received a batch of checks totaling \$9 million drawn one of the defendants' Canadian bank accounts for deposit into the defendants' account with Compeer.

Later that day, the lawsuit claims, Ray Price admitted that the checks were intended only to prevent the Compeer account from being overdrawn, and acknowledged that if Compeer attempted to deposit the \$9 million it would trigger a corresponding overdraft in the Canadian account. According to the lawsuit, Price admitted that what the companies were doing was "wrong."

About 24 hours later, the lawsuit claims, Price spoke to Compeer personnel and said the Canadian account was overdrawn by roughly \$21 million, adding that he needed Compeer to immediately "send the money back" to the Canadian bank to cover the overdraft. Compeer refused.

In late February, the lawsuit alleges, Compeer learned the Canadian bank had rejected 65 checks totaling \$59.9 million previously credited by Compeer to the defendants' accounts. As a result, the defendants' \$21 million positive cash balance at Compeer was instantly wiped out and replaced with a \$36 million debt owed by the defendants to Compeer.

In its lawsuit, Compeer alleges that before the check-kiting scheme collapsed, it involved "billions of dollars" in fraudulent transactions.

Court records show that on March 17, 2025, the Canadian bank asked that a receiver be appointed to look after the defendants' assets. However, the listed assets in that case didn't include the 110,000 head of swine in Yankton County, or the 370,000 head owned by third parties and managed by Sunterra.

In court filings, Compeer says that over the past several weeks, it has provided funds necessary for the care and feeding of the Yankton County pigs, but says it is no longer willing to do so "while the parties who perpetrated this fraudulent scheme" remain in control of Sunterra, Sunwold and Lariagra.

"These swine are in imminent danger of starvation if feed is not promptly purchased and delivered to barns housing the pigs," the lawsuit states, adding that workers hired to provide for the animals' care may soon walk off the job given the Price family's inability to make payroll.

If court appoints a receiver, Compeer states in its court filings, it will advance the money necessary to protect its collateral and prevent the animals' starvation.

The Price family has not yet responded to the lawsuit and Sunterra declined comment. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for fraud and unjust enrichment. The lawsuit was initially filed in South Dakota state court before being transferred to federal court.

*Deputy Editor Clark Kauffman of the Iowa Capital Dispatch has worked during the past 30 years as both an investigative reporter and editorial writer at two of Iowa's largest newspapers, the Des Moines Register and the Quad-City Times. He has won numerous state and national awards for reporting and editorial writing. His 2004 series on prosecutorial misconduct in Iowa was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting. From October 2018 through November 2019, Kauffman was an assistant ombudsman for the Iowa Office of Ombudsman, an agency that investigates citizens' complaints of wrongdoing within state and local government agencies.*



## Noem refusal to retrieve wrongly deported Maryland man from prison called 'unacceptable'

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - APRIL 8, 2025 5:50 PM

WASHINGTON — Two dozen Democratic senators Tuesday demanded the Trump administration return to the United States a Maryland father who was deported to a notorious prison in El Salvador by mistake.

Immigration officials admitted to an "administrative error" in the March 15 deportation of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia to El Salvador, despite protections from removal to his home country placed in 2019 by an immigration judge.

"Your unwillingness to immediately rectify this 'administrative error' is unacceptable," according to the letter addressed to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and Tedd Lyons, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It was led by Maryland Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen.

DHS did not respond to States Newsroom's request for comment.



**Kristi Noem, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, speaks during her confirmation hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Capitol Hill on Jan. 17, 2025, in Washington, D.C.** (Photo by Eric

Thayer/Getty Images)

### Court battle

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday temporarily paused a lower court order that required the Trump administration to return Abrego Garcia from the prison known as Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo, or CECOT.

A full decision by the high court on whether the Trump administration would be required to return him is expected this week, and it could have implications for the more than 250 men who have been taken to the prison.

The Trump administration has argued that Abrego Garcia is no longer in U.S. custody, despite paying El Salvador \$6 million to detain him, along with other immigrants deported.

Attorney General Pam Bondi spoke with reporters Tuesday outside the White House, and said she did not agree with the lower or appeals court orders to require the U.S. to return Abrego Garcia.

"We believe he should stay where he is," she said.

Bondi also placed the DOJ attorney who argued on behalf of the Trump administration, Erez Reuveni, on indefinite administrative leave over the weekend.

### 'Need for due process'

An appeals court Monday unanimously upheld an order by U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis that the administration return Abrego Garcia to the U.S. by midnight Monday.

The 24 Democratic senators and one independent argued the Trump administration should comply with the order by Xinis.

"The Administration's mass deportation agenda does not transcend immigration law or the need for due process," according to the letter.



"And when the Administration makes a mistake as severe as sending an individual with protected status to a foreign prison, it cannot simply shrug off responsibility and allege that there is nothing it can do to reunite him with his wife and child, who are American citizens," according to the letter.

The letter also requires Noem and ICE to answer several questions and return answers by April 22.

The senators ask why the agency and ICE are not working to return a wrongly deported individual, as the agencies have done so in the past and why Trump officials like the vice president and White House press secretary continue to label Abrego Garcia, of Beltsville, as a gang member without evidence.

The letter also asks for a copy of the contract agreement between El Salvador and the U.S. to detain the immigrants at CECOT.

### List of senators

The 24 Senate Democrats on the letter besides Van Hollen included Sheldon Whitehouse and Jack Reed of Rhode Island; Peter Welch of Vermont; Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla of California; Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey of Massachusetts; Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois; Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut; Cory Booker of New Jersey; Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire; Tim Kaine and Mark Warner of Virginia; Christopher Coons of Delaware; Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz of Hawaii; Ron Wyden and Jeffrey Merkley of Oregon; Martin Heinrich of New Mexico; Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland; Gary Peters of Michigan; and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota.

Independent Bernie Sanders of Vermont also signed the letter.

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## Keystone Pipeline shut down after leak in North Dakota

BY: JEFF BEACH - APRIL 8, 2025 5:13 PM

The operator of the Keystone Pipeline that carries oil from Canada into the U.S. has shut the pipeline down after a leak in North Dakota.

South Bow shut down the pipeline at 7:42 a.m. Tuesday after a drop in pressure. The spill was about three miles north of Fort Ransom State Park or six miles south of Kathryn in Barnes County.

South Bow on Tuesday estimated that 3,500 barrels, or about 147,000 gallons, spilled.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality said the oil was contained to a farm field south of a pipeline pump station.

Bill Suess with the Division of Water Quality for



**A pipeline marker shows where the Keystone Pipeline is buried near Walhalla, North Dakota. The pipeline, now operated by South Bow, leaked on Tuesday at a site in Barnes County, North Dakota.**

(Amy Dalrymple/North Dakota Monitor)

DEQ said it was not clear how many acres of the field were contaminated.

Suess said the pipeline was shut down within minutes of the pressure dropping.

He said it was unknown how long the pipeline would be shut down.

The pipeline is 30 inches in diameter in that area, Suess said, but did not know how deep it was buried.

The pipeline takes oil from Alberta east to Manitoba and then south through the Midwest, including South Dakota, to the Gulf Coast.

Suess said the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration would be on site Wednesday to investigate. The Department of Environmental Quality will oversee cleanup efforts.

*North Dakota Monitor Deputy Editor Jeff Beach is based in the Fargo area. His interests include agriculture, renewable energy and rural issues.*

## IRS to share immigrants' tax info with Noem's DHS

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - APRIL 8, 2025 2:38 PM



**Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem delivers remarks to staff at the department's Washington, D.C., headquarters on Jan. 28, 2025.** (Photo by Manuel Balce Ceneta-Pool/Getty Images)

WASHINGTON — The IRS and Department of Homeland Security reached an agreement Monday to share tax information of immigrants who have final orders of removal to help immigration agents find and deport the immigrants, according to documents filed in court.

No information between the two agencies has been shared yet, according to the filings in federal court in the District of Columbia, but the partnership would impact more than 1 million immigrants with final removal orders, as the Trump administration carries out mass deportations of immigrants without permanent legal status.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and submitted to the court, U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials can ask the IRS to provide information about immigrants with orders of removal or immigrants involved in criminal investigations.

Some of that tax information includes sensitive details such as current addresses and information about child tax dependents.

It would be the first time the IRS shared sensitive tax information to carry out immigration enforcement.

In 2023, immigrants in the country without legal authority paid more than \$89 billion in taxes, according to the left-leaning think tank the American Immigration Council.

In order to file taxes without a social security number, someone who is not a U.S. citizen would use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, or an ITIN. As of 2022, there were more than 5.8 million active ITINs, according to a report by the Treasury Department Inspect General.



## Groups challenging information sharing

The government filed the document in a case brought by immigration rights groups the Centro de Trabajadores Unidos and Immigrant Solidarity DuPage. The groups are trying to block the IRS from sharing tax records with DHS for immigration enforcement, arguing that such sharing violates IRS disclosure laws.

The Trump administration moved Monday to dismiss the suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, arguing that "providing information to assist criminal investigations—is lawful."

A hearing on a preliminary injunction to block such information sharing between IRS and DHS is set for April 16 before federal Judge Dabney L. Friedrich, whom President Donald Trump appointed in 2017.

Friedrich ruled against the groups last month, when they asked for a temporary restraining order following a story by The Washington Post that the agencies were considering sharing information in order to find immigrants to deport.

"A single news report about future cooperation between the IRS and DHS does not establish that the plaintiffs' members are facing imminent injury," according to the March 19 order.

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

## Trump Jan. 6 pardons demoralized cops across the nation, U.S. Capitol Police chief says

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - APRIL 8, 2025 2:15 PM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Capitol Police chief testified Tuesday that President Donald Trump's decision to pardon people convicted of assaulting police officers on Jan. 6, 2021, had negative repercussions on morale within the department and for police across the country.

"I think there was an impact, not only to the Capitol Police, but an impact nationwide when you see folks that are pardoned — and I'm really referring to the ones that were convicted of assaulting police officers," J. Thomas Manger said during a hearing on the department's budget request.

"I think that's what bothered most cops and it did certainly have an impact on the USCP,"

Manger added. "We've got so much change that officers are experiencing over the last four years, so I'm trying to keep them focused on moving forward. But it certainly did have a negative impact. For cops all over this country, you wonder when you put your life on the line every day, and does it matter?"

On Trump's first day in office, he pardoned nearly 1,500 people who were convicted of crimes related to attacking the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, while members of Congress moved through the process to



**Pro-Trump protesters gather on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington, D.C.** (Photo by Brent Stirton/Getty Images)



certify President Joe Biden's win of the Electoral College vote.

Many of those people went to the Capitol after attending a rally near the White House where Trump repeated false claims about winning the 2020 presidential election, despite numerous failed court cases and no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

Manger testified during the House Appropriations Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing that the department has made numerous improvements since the attacks, but that its nearly \$1 billion budget request is necessary to hire more officers and continue updating equipment.

"I recognize that there are other police departments of a similar size whose budget is not as large as ours. But we're not an ordinary law enforcement agency," Manger said. "The USCP is unlike any traditional police department. In fact, our mission incorporates elements similar to the FBI, U.S. Secret Service and the federal protective service."

Manger said that in the four years since the Jan. 6 attack, USCP has made substantial changes to how it operates and that many of its "mission requirements simply did not exist four years ago."

*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

## Republicans in Congress are eyeing cuts to Medicaid. But what does Medicaid actually do?

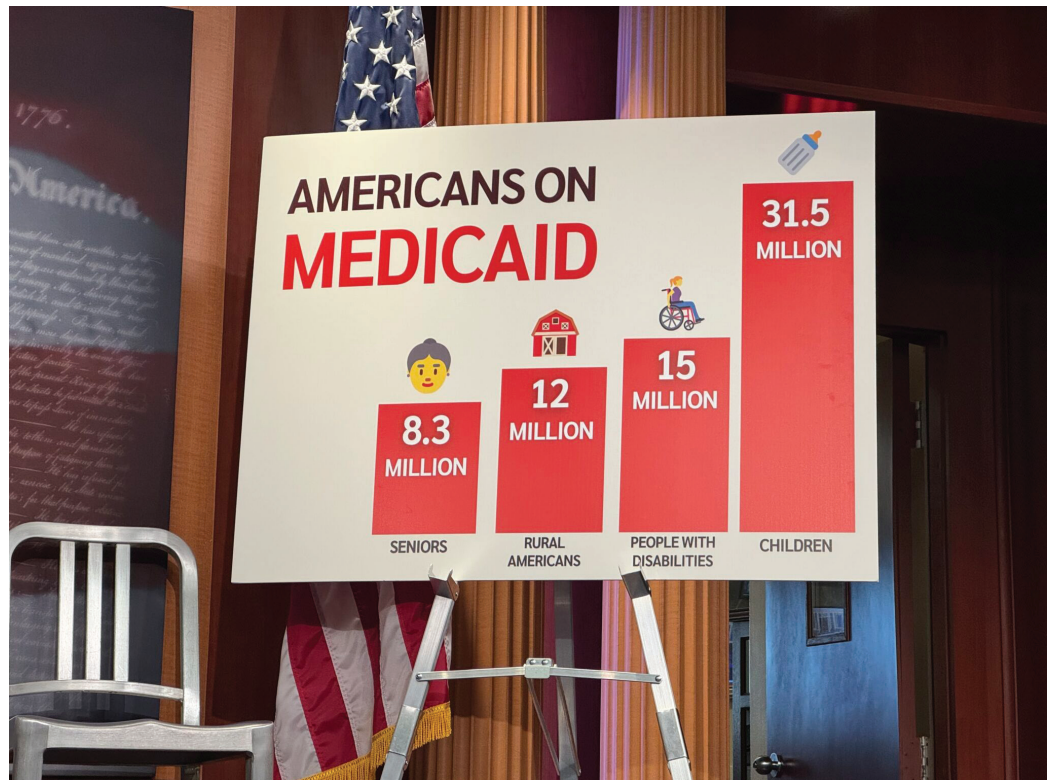
**This complicated government program is in the spotlight.  
Here's a guide to how it operates.**

**BY: SHALINA CHATLANI - APRIL 8, 2025 8:59 AM**

Republicans in Congress are eyeing \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid, the joint federal-state government health care program for lower-income people.

Depending on how states respond, a Republican proposal that would slash the 90% federal contribution to states' expanded Medicaid programs would end coverage for as many as 20 million of the 72 million people on Medicaid — or cost states \$626 billion over the next decade to keep them on the rolls. More than 5 million people could lose coverage if the feds impose work requirements.

In recent months, this complicated government program has increasingly come under the spotlight,



**A Medicaid sign at a U.S. Senate Democratic press conference on Feb. 19, 2025.** (Photo by Shauneen Miranda/States Newsroom)

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so Stateline has put together a guide explaining what Medicaid is and how it operates.

## 1. Medicaid is not Medicare.

Medicaid serves people with lower incomes or who have a disability. Medicare focuses primarily on older people, no matter their income.

Medicaid and Medicare were created in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older, though younger people with special circumstances, such as permanent kidney failure or ALS, may be eligible earlier.

Medicare is a supplemental insurance program that's limited in scope. It doesn't pay for long-term care, most dental care or routine physical exams. Around 68.4 million people are enrolled in Medicare.

Medicaid is a more comprehensive government insurance plan that's jointly funded by the federal government and states. Medicaid covers most nursing home care as well as home- and community-based long-term care. People on Medicaid generally don't have any copayments. Only people and families with incomes under certain thresholds are eligible for Medicaid. About 72 million people, or a fifth of people living in the United States, receive Medicaid benefits.

## 2. Medicaid eligibility varies from state to state.

In its original form, Medicaid was generally only available to children and parents or caretakers of eligible children with household incomes below 100% of the federal poverty line (\$32,150 for a family of four in 2025). Over the years, the program was expanded to include some pregnant women, older adults, blind people and people with disabilities.

States have to follow broad federal guidelines to receive federal funding. But they have significant flexibility in how they design and administer their programs, and they have different eligibility rules and offer varying benefits.

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, which allowed states to expand their eligibility thresholds to cover adults with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty line (about \$21,000 for one person today), in exchange for greater federal matching funds. The District of Columbia covers parents and caretakers who earn up to 221% of the federal poverty line.

Only 10 states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming) have chosen not to expand coverage. In the non-expansion states, eligibility for caretakers and parents ranges from 15% of the federal poverty line in Texas to 105% in Tennessee. In Alabama, people can only get Medicaid if they earn at or below 18% of the federal poverty line — \$4,678 a year for a three-person household.

## 3. Traditional Medicaid exists alongside a health insurance program for children called CHIP.

Low-income children have always been eligible for Medicaid. But in 1997, Congress created CHIP, or the Children's Health Insurance Program. The law gave states an opportunity to draw down enhanced federal matching funds to extend Medicaid coverage to children within families who earn too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid coverage, but make too little money to afford commercial health care.

Like Medicaid, CHIP is jointly funded by the federal government and states, but it's not an entitlement program. CHIP is a block grant program, meaning states receive a fixed amount of federal money every year and aren't obligated to cover everyone who meets the eligibility requirements. States get to decide, within broad federal guidelines, how their CHIP programs will work and what the income limits will be. Some states have chosen to keep their CHIP and Medicaid programs separate, while others have decided to combine them by using CHIP funds to expand Medicaid eligibility.

## 4. Medicaid and CHIP are significant portions of state budgets.

In 2024, the federal government spent less on Medicaid and CHIP than on Medicare, with Medicare



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spending accounting for 12%, or \$847.5 billion, of the federal benefit budget, and Medicaid and CHIP accounting for 8%, or \$584.5 billion.

But at the same time, Medicaid is the largest source of federal funds for states, accounting for about a third of state budgets, on average, and 57% of all federal funding the states received last year.

## 5. Federal funding varies by state.

Before the Affordable Care Act, federal Medicaid funding to states mostly depended on a formula known as the FMAP, or the federal medical assistance percentage, which is based on the average personal income of residents. States with lower average incomes get more financial assistance. For example, the federal government reimburses Mississippi, which is relatively poor, nearly \$8 for every \$10 it spends, for a net state cost of \$2. But New York is only reimbursed \$5. By law the FMAP can't be less than 50%.

The ACA offered states the opportunity to expand eligibility and receive an even greater federal matching rate. In expansion states, the federal government covers 90% of costs for expansion adults. If Republicans in Congress reduce that percentage, states would have to use their own money to make up for lost federal dollars. They might have to scale back Medicaid coverage for some groups, eliminate optional benefits or reduce provider payment rates. Alternatively, they could raise taxes or make cuts in other large budget items, such as education.

Another possibility is that states that have adopted Medicaid expansion would reverse it. Nine states (Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Utah and Virginia) already have "trigger" laws in place that would automatically rescind expansion if the federal match rate dips below 90%. Other states are considering similar legislation.

One new analysis from KFF, a health research policy group, found that if Congress reduced the federal match for the expansion population to the percentages states get for the traditional Medicaid population—50% for the wealthiest states and 77% for the poorest ones—it would cost states \$626 billion over the next decade to keep everyone eligible under Medicaid expansion on the rolls.

## 6. Medicaid is the largest source of health coverage, especially for people with low incomes.

Medicaid is the single largest health payer in the nation, and is particularly important for people in poverty. Almost a fifth of people living in the United States are covered through Medicaid. But nearly half of all adults with incomes at or below the federal poverty line are insured through the program. Medicaid covers 4 out of every 10 children overall, but it covers 8 out of every 10 children below the federal poverty line. Medicaid also provides coverage for people experiencing homelessness or who are leaving incarceration.

## 7. Medicaid covers essential services, such as childbirth.

In exchange for receiving federal funds, states are obligated to cover essential health care services, including inpatient and outpatient hospital services, doctor visits, laboratory work and home health services, among other things. States get to decide which optional services, such as prescription drugs and physical therapy, they want to cover.

Medicaid is a significant payer of essential services. For example, the program covers 41% of all child-births in the U.S. and covers health care services for the 40% of all adults ages 19-65 with HIV.

## 8. The majority of Medicaid spending goes to people with disabilities and to pay for long-term care.

ACA expansion adults — about 1 out of every 4 enrollees — accounted for 21% of total Medicaid expenditures in 2021. Children, who make up about 1 out of every 3 enrollees, only accounted for 14% of spending.

People who qualify for Medicaid because of a disability or because they are over the age of 65 make up about 1 out of every 4 enrollees. But they accounted for more than half of all Medicaid spending. That's

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because these populations typically experience higher rates of chronic illness and require more complex medical care. Older people are also more likely to use nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, which can be expensive.

Cuts could also mean that older people relying on Medicaid for home-based care and long-term nursing home services could be significantly affected.

## **9. Some state Medicaid programs cover people who are living in the country illegally.**

People who are in the country illegally are ineligible for traditional Medicaid or CHIP. But some states have carved out exceptions to extend coverage to them using state dollars.

As of January, 14 states and the District of Columbia provide Medicaid coverage to children regardless of their immigration status. And 23 states plus the District of Columbia use CHIP to cover pregnant enrollees regardless of their immigration status.

Also, seven states provide Medicaid to some adults who are here illegally. New York opted to cover those who meet the income requirements and are over the age of 65, regardless of immigration status. And California provides coverage to any adults ages 19-65 who are under the income threshold, regardless of immigration status.

## **10. The majority of the public holds favorable views of Medicaid.**

According to surveys from KFF, two-thirds of Americans say that someone close to them has received health coverage from Medicaid at some point in their lives. Half of the public also say they or someone in their family have been covered through Medicaid.

Generally, around 3 out of every 4 people — regardless of political party — say that Medicaid is very important, though Republicans are less likely than Democrats and independents to share that opinion. At the same time, a third or less of people want to see any decrease in spending on the Medicaid program. In fact, the majority of people living in states that have not expanded Medicaid under the ACA want their states to do so.

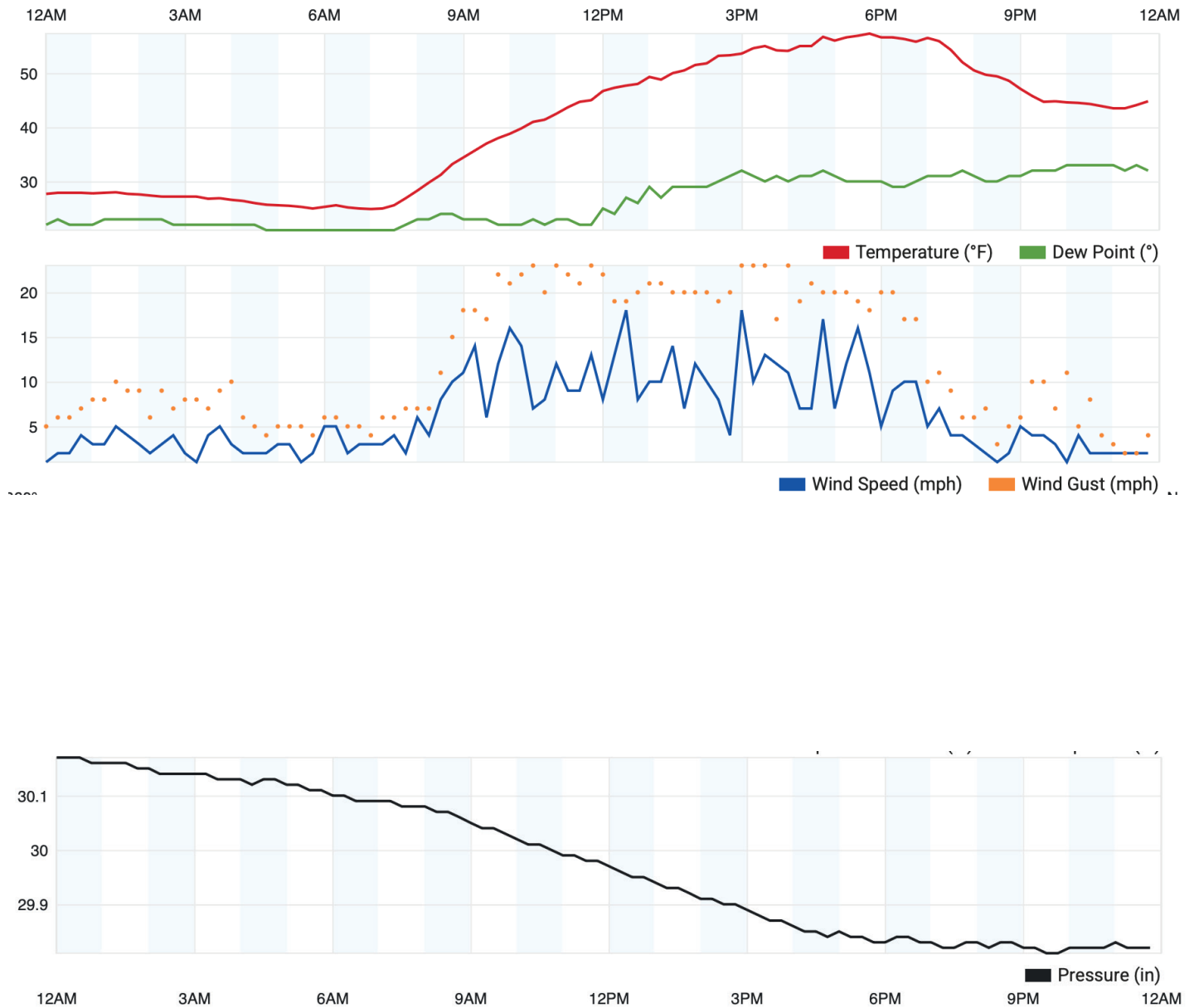
*Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.*



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 66 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Sunny  
and Breezy

Tonight



Low: 36 °F

Slight Chance  
Showers

Thursday



High: 55 °F

Partly Sunny  
and Breezy

Thursday  
Night



Low: 29 °F

Mostly Clear

Friday



High: 64 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Fire Weather Watch Wednesday

April 8, 2025  
2:36 PM

Valid from 1 PM Wednesday through 8 PM CDT Wednesday.

### Key Messages

- Strong wind and low humidity combine to create the potential for fire weather concerns on Wednesday afternoon and evening.
  - ◆ Northwest winds will be 20-30 mph with gusts up to 45 mph.
  - ◆ Humidity will drop to as low as 20-25%.
- Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly and become difficult to control or suppress.

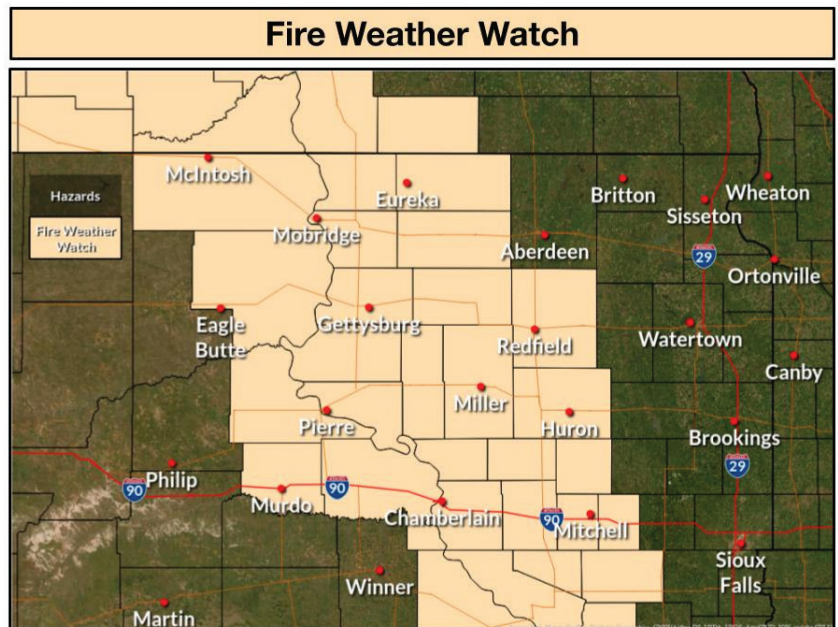
NEW

### Important Updates

- A Fire Weather Watch has been issued for central and north central South Dakota.

### Next Scheduled Briefing

- Early Wednesday morning.



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A Fire Weather Watch has been issued for 1 PM Wednesday through 8 PM Wednesday. Northwest winds of 20-30 miles per hour, gusting up to 45, will combine with humidity as low as 20-25% over central and north central South Dakota. Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly and become difficult to control or suppress.



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## Lowest Relative Humidity and Wind Gusts

April 8, 2025  
2:36 PM

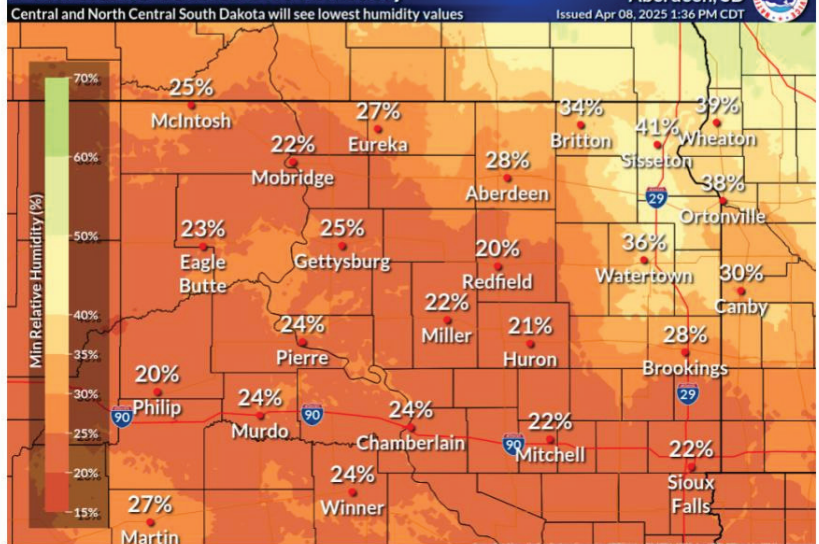
Valid from 1 PM Wednesday through 8 PM CDT Wednesday.

### Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	4/9 Wed									
	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Eagle Butte	35	36	38	39	39	38	37	35	32	29
Eureka	35	36	36	37	37	36	33	28	25	22
Faulton	32	33	35	35	35	33	30	25	22	20
Gettysburg	32	33	35	35	35	35	31	28	25	23
Kennebec	30	31	32	32	33	32	30	28	24	22
Leola	32	33	33	33	33	31	28	23	21	18
McIntosh	39	41	43	44	43	43	39	36	32	28
Miller	30	31	32	32	33	31	29	25	22	20
Mobridge	30	31	32	32	33	32	31	29	25	23
Murdo	29	29	31	32	32	32	31	29	26	24
Pierre	26	29	30	31	31	30	30	26	24	21

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

### Minimum Afternoon Humidity



→ Northwest winds will be 20-30 mph with gusts up to 45 mph. Peak winds are expected between 1-5 PM.

→ Humidity will drop to as low as 20-25% over central and north central South Dakota. These low humidity values will occur at the same time as peak winds.

During the watch period, high winds and low humidity will combine to create the hazardous fire weather conditions. Northwest winds will be 20-30 miles per hour, gusting to 45. Peak winds will occur between 1 PM and 5 PM. Minimum humidity of 20-25% will occur at the same time as peak winds.

## Planning On Burning? Know Your Limits.

- Don't burn when windy or during low humidity
- Know local burn bans and regulations



weather.gov



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 57 °F at 5:43 PM**

**Low Temp: 25 °F at 6:48 AM**

**Wind: 27 mph at 2:14 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 13 hours, 17 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1977

Record Low: 8 in 1997

Average High: 55

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in April.: 0.41

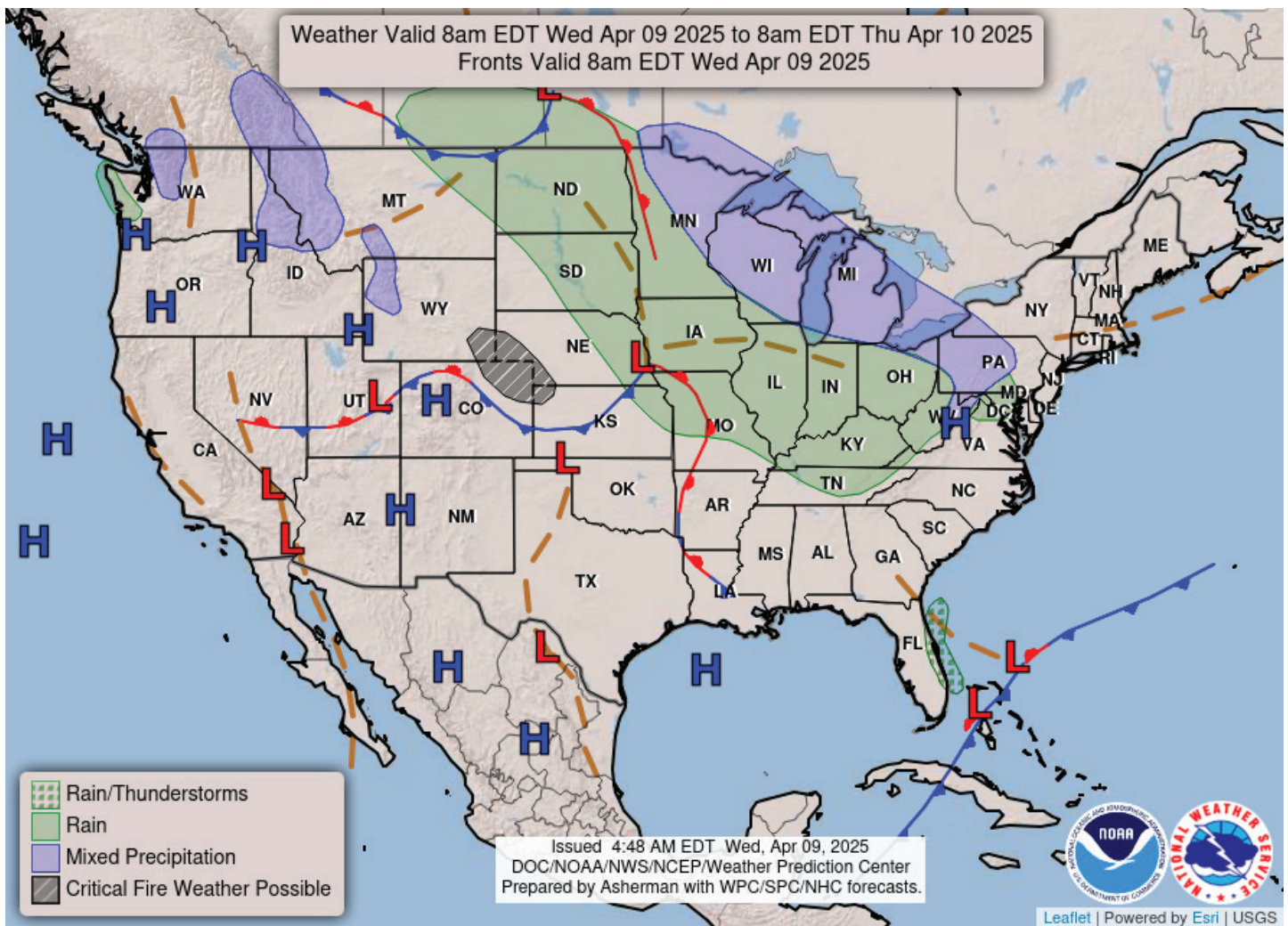
Precip to date in April.: 1.07

Average Precip to date: 2.47

Precip Year to Date: 1.70

Sunset Tonight: 8:12:33 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:53:16 am





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## Today in Weather History

April 9th, 1997: A late-season storm produced snow from the Black Hills through South Central South Dakota. The most outstanding amounts occurred in a 40-mile-wide swath south of Interstate 90. Snowfall amounts included 9 inches at Rapid City, 12 inches at Deerfield, 10 inches at Custer, 11 inches at Mission, and 12 inches at Winner. Outside this swath, snowfall ranged from 3 to 6 inches.

April 9th, 2007: Arctic air moved into central and northeast South Dakota and remained for nearly a week. High temperatures from April 3rd to April 9th were mainly in the 20s to around 30 degrees, with lows in the single digits and teens. The high temperatures were from 20 to 30 degrees below average, and the lows were from 10 to 25 degrees below normal across the area. Some record lows and many record-low maximum temperatures were set throughout the period. The first ten days of April were the coldest on record for Aberdeen. The early spring cold period affected many residents of central and northeast South Dakota, especially farmers and ranchers. Also, many robins died from the cold and lack of food.

1877 - Oregon Inlet, NC, was widened three quarters of a mile by a nor'easter. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1947 - A tornado struck Woodward, OK, during the late evening killing 95 persons and causing six million dollars damage. The tornado, one to two miles in width, and traveling at a speed of 68 mph, killed a total of 167 persons along its 221 mile path from Texas into Kansas, injured 980 others, and caused nearly ten million dollars damage. (David Ludlum) A man looking out his front door was swept by a tornado from his home near Higgins TX and carried two hundred feet over trees. The bodies of two people, thought to be together at Glazier TX, were found three miles apart. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1977 - A storm brought 15.5 inches of rain to Jolo, WV, in thirty hours. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - International Falls, MN, reported their sixth straight record high for the date, with a reading of 77 degrees. A cold front ushering sharply colder weather into the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 60 mph at Glasgow MT. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Residents of Sioux City, IA, awoke to find two inches of snow on the ground following a record high temperature of 88 degrees the previous afternoon. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Eighteen cities in the southwestern U.S. reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Eureka CA established a record for the month of April. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to Arkansas and northern Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail and damaging winds. A tornado injured four persons at Ardmore OK, and thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Kellyville OK, and hail three inches in diameter at Halmstead KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2011 - An EF-3 tornado hits Mapleton, IA. Officials estimate more than half the town is damaged or destroyed but none of the 1200 residents were killed. 31 tornadoes were confirmed across Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina on this day.



## The God Who Forgives

**Regularly seeking forgiveness keeps the pathway of fellowship open.**

Matthew 6:9-13 English Standard Version

<sup>9</sup> Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread,

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Jesus gave His followers a pattern for prayer that includes seeking forgiveness every day. Regular repentance is not a means of renewing our salvation. Instead, it's a maintenance plan for our fellowship with God.

When we trust Jesus as our Savior, our sins are forgiven forever—the stains from our past, present, and future wrongs are wiped away. The tendency to sin, however, remains part of the human experience, though its influence decreases the more we're conformed to Christ's image.

With the exception of Jesus, no one is perfect. So, while on earth, we will all deal with sin and its consequences. The Lord's admonition to seek daily forgiveness is a reminder to confess our sins and turn away from them because we are forgiven.

God's grace is not a license to sin. Instead, it's a reason to continuously pursue righteousness. Bad attitudes, thoughtless actions, and unkind speech do not fit who we are as new creatures in Christ.

Salvation makes a way for us to enter God's presence, whereas confession and repentance (1 John 1:9) keep the pathway maintained. The "sinner's prayer" needs to be said only once, but a saint will tap into God's forgiveness every day throughout life.



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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.08.25

10 16 50 60 61 17

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$72,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 42 Mins 21 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: 16 Hrs 57 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.08.25

3 28 32 44 48 12

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 12 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.05.25

4 10 13 18 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$95,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 12 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.25

2 31 36 51 58 15

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 41 Mins 21 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: 17 Hrs 41 Mins 21 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

### White House keeps world guessing as clock ticks down to Trump's new tariffs

By CHRIS MEGERIAN, JOSH BOAK and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than one hour before the stock market closed on Monday, journalists gathered in the Oval Office for their only chance of the day to ask President Donald Trump about the turmoil caused by his tariff plans.

Are the new tariffs, scheduled to take effect on Wednesday, a bargaining chip to reach better trade deals? Or are they etched in stone in a mission to revamp the global economy?

Investors around the world were hanging on Trump's every word, but he did little to clear up the situation. "It can both be true," he said. "There can be permanent tariffs, and there can also be negotiations."

The markets skidded to a close. At a time when foreign leaders and business executives are desperate for clarity, the White House is sending mixed messages as it pursues conflicting goals.

Advisers have tried with some success to tamp down a days-long stock selloff by talking up tariffs as a starting point for negotiations, which could mollify Wall Street and jittery Republicans in Congress. But the president continues to insist that he can raise hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue with his new taxes on foreign imports, and he's shown no willingness to back down from an agenda that he's advocated for decades, even before entering politics.

The ongoing paradox could erode confidence in Trump's leadership at home and abroad after he promised a booming economy and tax cuts, not depleted retirement accounts and fears of a recession. For now, as the tariffs are set to kick in, there's no clear resolution for what could be the most significant overhaul of international trade in a generation.

When reporters asked Sen. Ron Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, whether he understood the White House's plan, he responded with a question of his own — "Does anybody?"

As a result, the U.S. stock market has been extremely volatile. The S&P 500 stock index initially posted gains on Tuesday morning on the possibility of negotiations, only to close down 1.57% as the White House said that the combined tariffs on China would be 104% starting on Wednesday.

Sen. Thom Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, urged the White House to "settle the situation."

He said the "perception as to whether or not there's an end game is very important." Tillis said he is "giving the administration the benefit of the doubt" for now. But he added that "you've got to get it done as quickly as you can get it done."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, said Trump was causing economic chaos with the back-and-forth over tariffs.

"Who makes long term investments based on that?" she said. "Who hires people and trains workers based on the hope that Donald Trump will not change his mind again and again and again?"

Trump claimed on Tuesday that "America's going to be very rich again very soon" and said his team was negotiating with other countries.

"I call them tailored deals," he said. "Not off the rack. Highly tailored deals."

The administration has yet to articulate its goals for any talks with trading partners, other than to suggest that negotiations could take several months and that nations might also need to dramatically overhaul their tax systems and regulations to satisfy Trump's demands. Canadian and European officials are unsure about how to proceed, even as Trump administration officials insist that as many as 70 nations are looking to start negotiations.

Trump insists that he wants to erase trade deficits that have developed as the U.S. buys more products from other countries than it sells. On Tuesday morning, Trump posted on Truth Social that he spoke with South Korea's acting president, Han Duck-soo, about "their tremendous and unsustainable" surplus.

"We have the confines and probability of a great DEAL for both countries," he wrote. "Their top TEAM



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is on a plane heading to the U.S., and things are looking good."

But on Monday, when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would "eliminate the trade deficit with the United States," Trump appeared unmoved.

Asked if he would hold off on new tariffs on Israel, the president said, "maybe not."

"Don't forget, we help Israel a lot," he said, citing billions of dollars in military assistance to the country.

Trump has long advocated for tariffs as the solution to economic challenges, and his insistence that other countries are ripping off the United States is one of his most consistently expressed beliefs over the years.

Last Thursday, while flying to Florida aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters that "the tariffs give us great power to negotiate."

On the flight back to Washington on Sunday, Trump described the tariffs as a necessity and said he was undeterred by the cratering stock market, adding that "sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something."

Peter Navarro, a leading trade adviser, has also taken a hard line.

"This is not a negotiation," Navarro wrote in the Financial Times. "For the U.S., it is a national emergency triggered by trade deficits caused by a rigged system."

But other officials like Kevin Hassett, the top White House economic adviser, and Scott Bessent, the Treasury secretary, said scores of countries are lining up to negotiate with Trump over tariffs.

"It's going to be a busy April, May, maybe into June," Bessent told Fox News. He said Trump "gave himself maximum negotiating leverage, and just when he achieved the maximum leverage, he's willing to start talking."

Speaking Monday at the Hudson Institute, a conservative think tank, Stephen Miran, chairman of Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, said the mixed messages over the purpose of the tariffs reflected a "healthy" internal debate.

"There are conflicting narratives because everybody has got an opinion," he said. "And that's fine. Disagreement is how you can enhance your arguments and avoid groupthink, and I think that's very healthy."

As for whether any deals could be reached before the tariffs take effect, Miran said, "that choice will ultimately remain with the president."

Michael Strain, an economist at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute, said Trump is pursuing incompatible goals.

"These tariffs cannot both be an instrument to reshape the global trading order, to shift the U.S. economy away from services and toward manufacturing ... and also be a tool to negotiate lower trade barriers," he said at a panel discussion at the Bipartisan Policy Institute.

Sen. John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican, blamed Trump's aides for the ambiguity, saying some of them "just like to talk."

"There's some uncertainty about what the president's objective is and I think that's a product of some of his aides, who gave conflicting reports on TV this weekend," he said.

Kennedy said he supports Trump's trade goals. But he's also getting calls from businesses in his state, and he's had no answers for them on what to expect.

Bessent visited with Republican lawmakers on Friday and told them that the tariffs were a "high level mark with the ultimate goal of getting them reduced" unless other countries retaliated, according to Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming.

"The president is a dealmaker if nothing else, and he's going to continue to deal country by country with each of them," Barrasso said.

But China already retaliated with plans for its own 34% tariffs, prompting Trump on Monday to threaten additional 50% tariffs against the country, for a total of 104%.

The U.S. president had a positive enough conversation with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba that the Nikkei stock index jumped 6% on Tuesday, yet it was still unclear how a deal would work.

Trump placed a 24% tariff on Japan and a separate 25% tariff on auto imports, much higher than the 1.9% average tariff rate charged by Japan, according to World Trade Organization data. Trump has called the auto tariffs "permanent" and also installed a permanent 10% baseline tariff on most countries, sug-

gesting a limit as to how much rates could fall through negotiations.

House Speaker Mike Johnson of Louisiana said Americans understand Trump is trying to address trade imbalances, and he emphasized his trust in the president.

"We are going to give him the space necessary to do it," he said Monday.

## The Latest: Asia and European shares sink as US tariffs take effect

By The Associated Press undefined

Asian and European shares slid on Wednesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 dipping more than 5%, as the latest set of U.S. tariffs including a massive 104% levy on Chinese imports took effect.

The Nikkei 225 lost 3.9% to 31,714.03. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng lost 0.4% to 20,041.03, while the Shanghai Composite index reversed early losses, gaining 0.9% to 3,173.56. Taiwan led losses in Asia, as its Taiex plunged 5.8%.

China said it will take "resolute measures" to defend its trading rights, but gave no details on how it will respond to U.S. moves.

Germany's DAX lost 2.1% to 19,857.36. In Paris, the CAC 40 declined 2.1% to 6,949.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 2% to 7,753.42.

The future for the S&P 500 lost 0.7% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.5%.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.6% after wiping out an early gain of 4.1%. That took it nearly 19% below its record set in February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite lost 2.1%. Uncertainty is still high about what President Donald Trump will do with his trade war. The sharply higher tariffs kicked in as of midnight Eastern time in the U.S.

More swings up and down for financial markets are expected given the uncertainty over how long Trump will keep the stiff tariffs on imports, which will raise prices for U.S. shoppers and slow the economy. If they last a long time, economists and investors expect them to cause a recession. If Trump lowers them through negotiations relatively quickly, the worst-case scenario might be avoided.

Here's the latest:

Japanese officials aim for stability as tariffs rock markets

Japanese Finance Ministry official Atsushi Mimura told reporters Wednesday his ministry had agreed with Bank of Japan and the Financial Services Agency "to do their utmost to keep stability in the global financial markets."

Mimura made the comment to Kyodo and other reporters after he met with Koji Nakamura and Seiichi Shimizu, directors at the Bank of Japan, and other financial officials at the ministry's offices.

Although the name of U.S. President Donald Trump was not mentioned, the hastily called meeting appeared to be a response to recent volatility in global stock markets, including the Tokyo Exchange, that has followed Trump's tariffs, as well as worries about possible damage to the Japanese economy.

China vows to fight to the end, saying trade with US is already balanced

China again vowed to "fight to the end" against Donald Trump's tariffs in a lengthy policy statement published Wednesday, arguing that trade between the two countries is in balance as a 104% tax on the country's exports to the U.S. came into effect.

The government declined to say whether it would negotiate with the White House, as many other countries have started doing.

"If the U.S. insists on further escalating its economic and trade restrictions, China has the firm will and abundant means to take necessary countermeasures and fight to the end" the Ministry of Commerce wrote in a statement introducing the white paper.

The paper says that the U.S. has not honored the promises it made in the phase 1 trade deal concluded during Trump's first term, and argues that taking into account trade in services and U.S. companies' domestic Chinese branches, economic exchange between the two countries is "roughly in balance."

During Vietnam visit, Spanish PM says all will lose from trade war



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On a visit to Hanoi, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is strengthening commercial ties with Vietnam amid the global economic turmoil caused by the United States' sweeping tariffs.

The U.S. has slapped Spain, as a European Union member, with a 20% blanket tariff that rises to 25% for cars, steel and aluminum. Vietnam fared even worse and faces a crippling 46% duty.

Sánchez, making a first ever visit by a Spanish president to the southeast Asian country, said that "Spain and Vietnam are advancing toward a strategic, integral relationship" and announced a credit line of 305 million euros for Spanish companies to invest in Vietnam, especially in transport, infrastructure, energy and water resources.

Sánchez said that both countries were committed to the multilateral trade status quo that is being shaken by Donald Trump's tariffs.

"We are firm believers in free trade to achieve development and prosperity," Sánchez said after meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. "A trade war favors no one. We all will lose."

Spain's government wants to offer cheap credit for domestic companies whose export business to the U.S. could be harmed by Trump's tariffs. Spain's economy minister said Tuesday that 80% of Spain's total of 18.6-billion euros worth of exports to the U.S. could be impacted.

After his stops in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Sánchez will visit China on Friday seeking closer economic and diplomatic ties with Trump's No. 1 tariff target.

European shares slide

Germany's DAX lost 2.1% to 19,857.36. In Paris, the CAC 40 declined 2.1% to 6,949.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 2% to 7,753.42.

The future for the S&P 500 lost 0.7% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.5%.

China says it will take "resolute measures" to defend its trading rights

China said it will take "resolute measures" to defend its trading rights, but gave no details on how it will respond to U.S. moves that have pushed tariffs on Chinese goods to an unprecedented 104%.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jiang said at a daily briefing Wednesday that China would "by no means" accept the U.S. tariff hikes and extreme pressure exerted on China.

Lin repeated China's assertion that it would "fight to the end" against what it has described as trade bullying by the U.S., but did not say whether it would add to the 34% tariffs earlier announced on U.S. imports or apply other means. And Lin repeated Beijing's belief that the U.S. must first "demonstrate sincerity for talks."

India's Central Bank cuts key repo rate by 25 basis point

India's Central Bank cut its key repo rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday, in a move to aid the sluggish economy that faces heat from the U.S. reciprocal tariffs which are set to dampen New Delhi's aspirations for an export-led recovery. That is the interest rate at which the institution lends money to commercial banks when there is a need for short-term needs.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India unanimously voted to lower the repo rate to 6% for the second consecutive time this year, and changed its monetary policy stand from "neutral" to "accommodative."

Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in a statement the latest tariffs have "exacerbated uncertainties clouding the economic outlook across regions, posing new headwinds for global growth and inflation."

India continues to make steady progress though towards its goals of price stability, economic growth and inflation, but the Bank remains vigilant to the possible risks from global uncertainties, said Malhotra.

Bank of Japan calls meeting on global economy and markets.

Top officials from the Bank of Japan, the Finance Ministry and the Financial Services Agency met Wednesday to discuss the nation's response to what they said were the recent shifts in the global economy and markets.

The unexpectedly called meeting was believed to be over Trump's recent tariffs, which have set off gyrations in global financial markets, including the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Trump was not mentioned in the announcement about the meeting.

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Attending the meeting were Koji Nakamura and Seiichi Shimizu, directors at the Bank of Japan, and two officials each from the ministry and the agency.

Asia markets close down

Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 3.9% to 31,714.03. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng lost 0.4% to 20,041.03, while the Shanghai Composite index reversed early losses, gaining 0.9% to 3,173.56.

Taiwan led losses in Asia, as its Taiex plunged 5.8%. Big tech manufacturers were among the biggest decliners. Computer chip giant TSMC Corp. dropped 3.8% while iPhone maker Hon Hai Precision Industry plunged 10%.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7% to 2,293.70, and the government said it would provide help for its beleaguered automakers.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Australia declined 1.8% to 7,375.00. Shares in New Zealand also fell.

In India, the Sensex declined 0.5% as the central bank cut its benchmark interest rate, while Bangkok's SET shed 0.8%.

Asia markets slide after tariffs go into effect

Japan's Nikkei 225 dipped more than 5% and other Asian shares also sank Wednesday as the latest set of U.S. tariffs, including a massive 104% levy on Chinese imports, took effect.

Markets have been wobbly for days, with investors flummoxed over what to make of President Donald Trump's trade war.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.6% after wiping out an early gain of 4.1%. That took it nearly 19% below its record set in February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite lost 2.1%.

Stocks had rallied globally on Tuesday, with indexes up 6% in Tokyo, 2.5% in Paris and 1.6% in Shanghai. Any optimism or buying enthusiasm appeared to have dissipated by the time the sharply higher tariffs became reality.

The Nikkei 225 was down 4.7% at 32,475.57 as of mid-afternoon Tokyo time.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng lost 1.8% to 19,769.24, while the Shanghai Composite index edged just 4 points lower, to 3,141.46.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.9% to 2,290.87, while the S&P/ASX 200 in Australia declined 1.8% to 7,374.80. Shares in New Zealand also fell.

Bangladesh manufacturers worried about losing market share in US

Garment manufacturers and exporters in Bangladesh, the world's second largest after China, are worried about losing its share in the apparel market of the United States, which is imposing new tariffs of 37%.

The U.S. is Bangladesh's largest market as a single destination where the country's nearly \$39 billion industry exported apparel goods worth \$7.34 billion in 2024.

Now, Bangladesh's manufacturers say their U.S. buyers are halting orders, which could help competitors like India and Pakistan overtake Bangladesh in the U.S. market.

Bangladesh has already sought postponement of the application of the new tariff for three months to help the country assess the situation and smoothly implement its initiatives.

Asif Ashraf, managing director of Urmi Group, says they are worried about the U.S. market "because it will change the global equilibrium." The sector employed about 4 million workers, mostly women from rural areas, and the industry accounts for about 80% of the country's total annual exports.

South Korea launches emergency funding program for automobile industry

South Korea has launched an emergency funding program worth 3 trillion won (\$2 billion) to help its automobile industry cope with the impact of increased tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The government package announced on Wednesday includes expanded low-cost financing from state-run lenders, as well as a new financing program backed by auto giants Hyundai and Kia, along with financial institutions, aimed at supporting struggling carmakers and auto parts manufacturers. The government will also expand subsidies for electric vehicle purchases.

Cars and auto parts stand as South Korea's top export items to the United States, according to the



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Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, which raised concerns that the Trump administration's imposition of a 25% tariff on these products will have a "significant shock" on the industry. The ministry says South Korea's exports of automobiles to the United States totaled \$34.7 billion last year, while exports of auto parts amounted to \$8.2 billion.

Trump's new tariffs go into effect, including a combined 104% levy on China

President Donald Trump's sweeping new tariffs went into full effect just after midnight Wednesday.

When Trump announced the latest round of tariffs on April 2, he declared that the U.S. would now tax nearly all of America's trading partners at a minimum of 10% — and impose steeper rates for countries that he says run trade surpluses with the U.S.

The 10% baseline already went into effect Saturday. Trump's higher import tax rates on dozens of countries and territories took hold at midnight.

The steeper levies run as high as 50% — with that biggest rate landing on small economies that trade little with the U.S., including the African kingdom of Lesotho. Some other rates include a tax of 47% on imports from Madagascar, 46% on Vietnam, 32% on Taiwan, 25% on South Korea, 24% on Japan and 20% on the European Union.

Some of these new tariffs build on previous trade measures. Trump last week announced a tariff of 34% on China, for example, which would come on top of 20% levies he imposed on the country earlier this year. Trump has since threatened to add another 50% levy on Chinese goods in response to Beijing's recently promised retaliation. That would bring the combined total to 104% against China.

## **The roof collapses at a Dominican Republic nightclub, killing at least 98 people**

By MARTÍN ADAMES ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Rescuers frantically searched overnight for more survivors in the rubble of the iconic Jet Set nightclub in the Dominican Republic's capital, more than 24 hours after the roof collapsed during a merengue concert attended by politicians, athletes and others. At least 98 people were killed in the collapse early Tuesday.

Rescue crews shushed people around them so they could listen for faint cries for help in the rubble of the one-story building in Santo Domingo. Firefighters removed blocks of broken concrete and used wood planks to lift heavy debris as the noise of drills breaking through concrete filled the air.

Late Tuesday night, those still looking for their family and friends gathered around a man playing a guitar outside the club as they sang hymns.

Emergency operations director Juan Manuel Méndez said Tuesday evening sounds were still being heard in the rubble and the rescue crews were prioritizing three areas.

"We're going to search tirelessly for people," Méndez said.

Jet Set is known for its traditional Monday parties where renowned national and international artists performed.

Officials said at least 160 people were injured in the collapse, among them national lawmaker Bray Vargas. Those confirmed dead included a provincial governor and two former Major League Baseball players.

Montecristi Gov. Nelsy Cruz had called President Luis Abinader at 12:49 a.m., saying the club's roof had collapsed and she was trapped, first lady Raquel Arbaje told reporters. Officials said Cruz died later at the hospital.

"This is too great a tragedy," Arbaje said, her voice breaking.

Cruz was the sister of Nelson Cruz, an MLB official and former player. Former MLB players Octavio Dotel and Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera were also among the dead.

Merengue singer Rubby Pérez, who was performing when the roof collapsed, is among the missing, Méndez said.

Pérez's manager, Enrique Paulino, whose shirt was spattered with blood, told reporters at the scene that the concert began shortly before midnight, with the roof collapsing almost an hour later, killing the

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group's saxophonist.

"It happened so quickly. I managed to throw myself into a corner," he said, adding that he initially thought it was an earthquake.

Manuel Olivo Ortiz, whose son attended the concert, was among those anxiously waiting in a large crowd for word on their loved ones. "We're holding on only to God," Olivo said.

Massiel Cuevas, godmother of 22-year-old Darlenys Batista, was firm in her belief that Batista would be pulled out alive. "I'm waiting for her. She's in there, I know she's in there," Cuevas said.

Abinader visited the scene and hugged those looking for friends and family, some with tears streaming down their faces. "We have faith in God that we will rescue even more people alive," he told reporters.

An official with a megaphone stood outside the club imploring the crowd to give ambulances space. At one hospital where the injured were taken, an official read aloud the names of survivors as people surrounding her yelled the names of their loved ones. People also gathered at the National Institute of Forensic Pathology, which shared pictures of the victims for identification.

The club said it was cooperating with authorities. "There are no words to express the pain this event has caused. What happened has been devastating for everyone," the owner, Antonio Espailat, said in the statement.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the roof to collapse or when the Jet Set building was last inspected.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Public Works referred questions to the mayor's office. A spokesperson for the mayor's office did not respond to a message for comment.

Prosecutor Rosalba Ramos told TV station CDN that while "everyone wants to know" what happened, authorities were still focused on finding survivors.

## World shares deepen losses, with Tokyo's Nikkei down nearly 4%, as latest US tariffs take effect

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian and European shares slid on Wednesday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 closing almost 4% lower after launch of the latest set of U.S. tariffs, including a massive 104% levy on Chinese imports took effect.

Chinese markets advanced after regulators appeared to intervene, urging state-owned companies to buy shares.

Germany's DAX lost 2.1% to 19,857.36. In Paris, the CAC 40 declined 2.1% to 6,949.92. Britain's FTSE 100 gave up 2% to 7,753.42.

The future for the S&P 500 lost 0.7% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.5%.

Markets have been wobbly for days, with investors flummoxed over what to make of President Donald Trump's trade war.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 dropped 1.6% after wiping out an early gain of 4.1%. That took it nearly 19% below its record set in February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 0.8%, while the Nasdaq composite lost 2.1%.

Stocks had rallied globally on Tuesday, with indexes up 6% in Tokyo, 2.5% in Paris and 1.6% in Shanghai. Any optimism or buying enthusiasm appeared to have dissipated by the time the sharply higher tariffs became reality.

The Nikkei 225 fell 3.9% to 31,714.03.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng rose 0.4% to 20,205.04, while the Shanghai Composite index reversed early losses, gaining 1.3% to 3,186.81.

Taiwan led losses in Asia, as its Taiex plunged 5.8%. Big tech manufacturers were among the biggest decliners. Computer chip giant TSMC Corp. dropped 3.8% while iPhone maker Hon Hai Precision Industry plunged 10%.

South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7% to 2,293.70, and the government said it would provide help for its belea-



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guered automakers.

The S&P/ASX 200 in Australia declined 1.8% to 7,375.00. Shares in New Zealand also fell.

In India, the Sensex declined 0.5% as the central bank cut its benchmark interest rate, while Bangkok's SET shed 0.8%.

Analysts have been warning to expect more swings up and down in markets given the uncertainty over how long Trump will keep the stiff tariffs on imports, which will raise prices for U.S. shoppers and slow the economy. If they last a long time, economists and investors expect them to cause a recession. If Trump lowers them through negotiations relatively quickly, the worst-case scenario might be avoided.

Hope still remains on Wall Street that negotiations may be possible, which helped drive the morning's rally. Trump said Tuesday that a conversation with South Korea's acting president helped them reach the "confines and probability of a great DEAL for both countries."

On Tuesday, Japanese stocks led global markets higher after the country's prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, appointed his trade negotiator for talks with the United States following a conversation with Trump.

China said it will "fight to the end" and warned of countermeasures after Trump threatened on Monday to raise his tariffs even further on the world's second-largest economy.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Tuesday that Trump's threats of even higher tariffs on China will become reality after midnight, when imports from China will be taxed at a stunning 104% rate.

That would coincide with Trump's latest set of broad tariffs, which are scheduled to kick in at 12:01 a.m. And Trump has made clear that he does not intend to have any exemptions or exclusions, according to the top U.S. trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer.

The U.S. trade representative also said in testimony before a Senate committee that roughly 50 countries have already been in contact, and he's told them: "If you have a better idea to achieve reciprocity and to get our trade deficit down, we want to talk with you, we want to negotiate with you."

Trump's trade war is an attack on the globalization that's shaped the world's economy and helped bring down prices for products on store shelves but also caused manufacturing jobs to leave for other countries. Trump has said he wants to narrow trade deficits, which measure how much more the United States imports from other countries than it sends to them as exports.

In other dealings early Wednesday, U.S. benchmark crude oil fell \$1.82 to \$57.76 per barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, shed \$1.81 to \$61.01 per barrel.

The U.S. dollar fell to 145.09 Japanese yen from 146.29 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1060 from \$1.0995.

The price of gold rose \$71 to \$3,061 an ounce.

## Trump disrupts global economic order even though the US is dominant

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — By declaring a trade war on the rest of the world, President Donald Trump has panicked global financial markets, raised the risk of a recession and broken the political and economic alliances that made much of the world stable for business after World War II.

Trump's latest round of tariffs went into full effect at midnight Wednesday, with higher import tax rates on dozens of countries and territories taking hold.

Economists are puzzled to see Trump trying to overhaul the existing economic order and doing it so soon after inheriting the strongest economy in the world. Many of the trading partners he accuses of ripping off U.S. businesses and workers were already floundering.

"There is a deep irony in Trump claiming unfair treatment of the American economy at a time when it was growing robustly while every other major economy had stalled or was losing growth momentum," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University. "In an even greater irony, the Trump tariffs are likely to end America's remarkable run of success and crash the economy, job growth and financial markets."

Trump and his trade advisers insist that the rules governing global commerce put the United States at a

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distinct disadvantage. But mainstream economists — whose views Trump and his advisers disdain — say the president has a warped idea of world trade, especially a preoccupation with trade deficits, which they say do nothing to impede growth.

The administration accuses other countries of erecting unfair trade barriers to keep out American exports and using underhanded tactics to promote their own. In Trump's telling, his tariffs are a long-overdue reckoning: The U.S. is the victim of an economic mugging by Europe, China, Mexico, Japan and even Canada.

It's true that some countries charge higher taxes on imports than the United States does. Some manipulate their currencies lower to ensure that their goods are price-competitive in international markets. Some governments lavish their industries with subsidies to give them an edge.

However, the United States is still the second-largest exporter in the world, after China. The U.S. exported \$3.1 trillion of goods and services in 2023, far ahead of third-place Germany at \$2 trillion.

The fear that Trump's remedies are deadlier than the maladies he's trying to cure has sent investors fleeing American stocks. Since Trump announced sweeping import taxes on April 2, the S&P 500 has cratered 12%.

Despite high trade deficits, the US economy is strong

Trump and his advisers point to America's lopsided trade numbers — year after year of huge deficits — as proof of foreigners' perfidy. He's seeking to restore justice and millions of long-gone U.S. factory jobs by taxing imports at rates not seen in America since the days of the horse and buggy.

"They've taken so much of our wealth away from us," the president declared last week at a White House Rose Garden ceremony to celebrate the tariffs announcement. "We're not going to let that happen. We truly can be very wealthy. We can be so much wealthier than any country."

But the U.S. is already the wealthiest major economy in the world. And the International Monetary Fund in January forecast that the United States would outgrow every other major advanced economy this year.

China and India did grow faster than the United States over the past decade, but their living standards still don't come close to those in the U.S.

Manufacturing in the U.S. has been fading for decades. There is widespread agreement that many American manufacturers couldn't compete with an influx of cheap imports after China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. Factories closed, workers were laid off and heartland communities withered.

Four years later, nearly 3 million manufacturing jobs had been lost, though robots and other forms of automation probably did at least as much to reduce factory jobs as the "China shock."

Tariffs are Trump's all-purpose weapon

To turn around this long decline, Trump has repeatedly unsheathed the tariffs that are his weapon of choice. Since returning to the White House in January, he's plastered 25% taxes on foreign cars, steel and aluminum. He's hit Chinese imports with 20% levies, on top of hefty tariffs he imposed on China during his first term.

On April 2, he blasted his big bazooka: 10% "baseline" tariffs on just about everybody and "reciprocal" tariffs on everyone else that the Trump team identified as bad actors, including tiny Lesotho (a 50% import tax) and China (34% before adding earlier levies).

Trump views tariffs as an all-purpose economic fix that will protect American industries, encourage companies to open factories in America, raise money for the U.S. Treasury and give him leverage to bend other countries to his will, even on issues that have nothing to do with trade, such as drug trafficking and immigration.

The president also sees a smoking gun: The United States has bought more from other countries than it has sold them every year for the past half-century. In 2024, the U.S. trade deficit in goods and services came to a whopping \$918 billion, the second-highest amount on record.

Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro calls America's trade deficits "the sum of all cheating" by other countries.

However, economists say trade deficits aren't a sign of national weakness. The U.S. economy has nearly quadrupled in size, adjusted for inflation, during that half-century of trade deficits.



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"There is no reason to think that a bigger trade deficit means lower growth," said former IMF chief economist Maurice Obstfeld, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute of International Economics and an economist at the University of California, Berkeley. "In fact, the opposite is closer to the truth in many countries."

A trade deficit, Obstfeld said, does not mean a country is losing through trade or being "ripped off."

Spend a lot, save a little and see trade deficits swell

The faster the U.S. economy grows, in fact, the more imports Americans tend to buy and the wider the trade deficit tends to get. The U.S. trade deficit — the gap between what it sells and what it buys from foreign countries — hit a record \$945 billion in 2022 as the American economy roared back from COVID-19 lockdowns. Trade deficits typically fall sharply in recessions.

Nor are trade deficits primarily inflicted on America by other countries' unfair trading practices. To economists, they're a homegrown product, the result of Americans' propensity to save little and consume more than they produce.

American shoppers' famous appetite for spending more than the country makes means that a chunk of the spending is used for imports. If the United States boosted its saving — for example, by reducing its budget deficits — then that would reduce its trade deficit as well, economists say.

"It's not like the rest of the world has been ripping us off for decades," said Jay Bryson, chief economist at Wells Fargo. "It's because we don't save enough."

The flip side of America's low savings and big trade deficits is a steady inflow of foreign investment as other countries sink their export earnings into the United States. Direct foreign investment into the U.S. came to \$349 billion in 2023, the World Bank reported, nearly double No. 2 Singapore's inflows.

The only scenario in which tariffs reduce the U.S. deficit is if they cause investment in the U.S. to crash, said Barry Eichengreen, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley. That "would be a disaster."

Harvard University economist Dani Rodrik said a "well-designed industrial policy" supported by select tariffs "might have fostered increased investment and capacity in manufacturing."

Instead, Rodrik said, Trump's actions just "throw up a lot of uncertainty" and alienate America's best allies, making for "a terrible policy all in all."

## Beijing ups diplomatic pressure on Africa as the US pulls back

By DAKÉ KANG Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese diplomats threatened to cancel a summit and called top officials in two African countries to pressure lawmakers to quit an international parliamentary group critical of China, officials from the group told The Associated Press.

It's an example of how far China will go to influence politicians overseas, and how that pressure can succeed behind closed doors.

In the past year, lawmakers from Malawi and Gambia withdrew from the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, or IPAC, a group of hundreds of lawmakers from 38 countries concerned about how democracies approach Beijing, according to letters, messages and voice recordings obtained by The Associated Press.

Founded in 2020, the group has coordinated sanctions on China over rights abuses in Xinjiang and Hong Kong and rallied support for Taiwan, a self-ruled democratic island Beijing claims as its territory.

African politicians and experts say it's an escalation of Chinese diplomatic pressure in Africa, where Beijing's influence is growing. Beijing has built deep ties with African leaders by developing mines and building infrastructure through state-owned construction companies, often funded by loans from state-owned banks.

The pressure is also part of Beijing's longstanding effort to influence groups and lawmakers across the world, including in New York state, where a former governor's aide faces charges for acting as an agent for the Chinese government.

'Very shocking news'

In January, Gambian lawmaker Abdoulie Ceesay sent a voice message to an IPAC staffer saying the Chinese government had complained to the Gambian foreign ministry about his membership.

"We have very shocking news ... it's a problem right now," Ceesay said in the recording, which IPAC

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provided to AP. "The president is not happy with us at all."

Later the same month, Ceesay and fellow lawmaker Amadou Camara informed the alliance they were withdrawing. Ceesay told IPAC in a written message that his decision was "not influenced by the Chinese embassy," a position Ceesay reiterated when contacted by AP.

Gambia's information minister said he was unaware of any attempt by China to influence his country's politicians.

"They decided on their own behalf to opt out of IPAC after realizing it goes against the government's bilateral (relationship) with China," said the minister, Ismaila Ceesay, who is not related to Abdoulaye Ceesay.

The Chinese government has targeted lawmakers over the alliance before. Beijing has sanctioned some members and last year, lawmakers from at least six countries were pressured by Chinese diplomats not to attend the group's summit in Taiwan. Kenyan lawmakers cancelled their plans to attend but stayed in the alliance. The group was also targeted by Chinese state-sponsored hackers in 2021, according to a U.S. indictment.

"Foreign legislators are being bullied out of a free alliance between them and other politicians," said IPAC head Luke de Pulford. "This is clearly a result of Chinese pressure."

In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry accused IPAC of "smearing China" and said that "China has never engaged in coercive diplomacy."

But a Malawian lawmaker, Ephraim Abel Kayembe, told an IPAC staffer he had been contacted by the speaker of the Malawian National Assembly shortly after he and another lawmaker joined the group at last year's Taiwan summit, according to the staffer. The staffer declined to be named for fear of damage to their relations with other politicians.

The speaker told Kayembe the Chinese government had threatened to cancel the president's upcoming visit to Beijing for a regional summit and meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, according to IPAC head de Pulford, programs director Tom Fraser and the person who spoke directly to Kayembe.

Less than two weeks after the summit, the two Malawian lawmakers said they were withdrawing. Kayembe said in a letter to IPAC that he had been tricked into joining.

"I want to extend my sincere apology to the People's Republic of China," Kayembe wrote in the Aug. 7 letter.

When contacted by AP, Kayembe denied being coerced by the Malawi or Chinese governments, writing in an email that he withdrew because the alliance appeared "aimed at achieving geopolitical intentions against China."

Malawi's government did not respond to a request for comment.

## Shifting alliances

For decades, Beijing has cultivated ties with African governments, seeking diplomatic partners and access to natural resources.

Many African leaders have welcomed Beijing's presence since it brings much-needed capital and construction expertise that can contribute to economic growth and development. Critics say China strikes secretive, sometimes corrupt deals with African leaders that mainly benefit Chinese companies and workers brought in to build mines, bridges and railways.

"China has been investing and being present in African countries when many countries were not willing to come," said Christian-Geraud Neema, Africa editor of the China Global South Project, an independent research group.

Chinese leaders have repeatedly promised not to interfere in the internal affairs of African countries, saying there are "no political strings attached" to its investment. But China has pressured African governments to shun Taiwan or Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, efforts that Neema says appear to be escalating. Last October, South Africa demanded that Taipei move its unofficial embassy out of the administrative capital, Pretoria, and in January, Beijing sanctioned the head of South Africa's second-largest political party for visiting Taiwan.

Moves like these mirror efforts China has made against governments elsewhere in the past. Beijing



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blocked exports from Lithuania, for example, after the northern European country allowed Taiwan to open a trade office.

But experts say the pressure against the IPAC members is unusual. Lina Benabdallah, a professor at Wake Forest University who studies China's relations with Africa, said she has never heard of China using direct coercion against African parliamentarians before.

"This is very new to me," Benabdallah said.

Zimbabwe lawmaker and IPAC member Daniel Molokele said he expects to see more coercive behavior from Beijing, especially as the Trump administration pulls back from Africa.

"I expect China to benefit," Molokele said. "It will definitely use this opportunity to grow its influence in Africa."

## Trump administration halts \$1 billion in federal funding for Cornell, \$790 million for Northwestern

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than \$1 billion in federal funding for Cornell University and around \$790 million for Northwestern University have been frozen while the government investigates alleged civil rights violations at both schools, the White House says.

It's part of a broader push to use government funding to get major academic institutions to comply with President Donald Trump's political agenda. The White House confirmed the funding pauses late Tuesday night, but offered no further details on what it entails, or what grants to the schools are being affected.

The moves come as the Trump administration has increasingly begun using governmental grant funding as a spigot to try and influence campus policy — previously cutting off money to schools including Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania.

That has left universities across the country struggling to navigate cuts to grants for research institutions.

In a statement, Cornell said it had received more than 75 stop work orders earlier Tuesday from the Defense Department related to research "profoundly significant to American national defense, cybersecurity, and health" but that it had not otherwise received any information confirming \$1 billion in frozen grants.

"We are actively seeking information from federal officials to learn more about the basis for these decisions," said the statement from Michael I. Kotlikoff, the university president, and other top school officials.

In an email to the Northwestern community, university president Michael Schill said it had not been notified by the federal government of the cuts, according to The Daily Northwestern, the campus newspaper.

Last month, the Education Department sent letters to more than 60 universities — including Cornell and Northwestern — warning of "potential enforcement actions if they do not fulfill their obligations" under federal law to "protect Jewish students on campus, including uninterrupted access to campus facilities and educational opportunities."

The Trump administration has threatened to cut off federal funding for universities allowing alleged antisemitism to go unchecked at campus protests last year against Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza — accusations the universities have denied.

Officials have already singled out Columbia University, making an example of it with threats to withhold \$400 million in federal funds.

The administration repeatedly accused Columbia of failing to stop antisemitism during protests against Israel that began at the New York City university last spring and quickly spread to other campuses — a characterization disputed by those involved in the demonstrations.

As a precondition for restoring that money — along with billions more in future grants — the Republican administration demanded unprecedented changes in university policy.

Columbia's decision to bow to those demands, in part to salvage ongoing research projects at its labs and medical center, has been criticized by some faculty and free speech groups as capitulating to an intrusion on academic freedom.

## The roof collapses at a Dominican Republic nightclub, killing at least 98 people

By MARTÍN ADAMES ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The roof of an iconic nightclub in the Dominican capital collapsed early Tuesday during a merengue concert attended by politicians, athletes and others, leaving at least 98 people dead and 160 injured, authorities said.

Crews were searching for potential survivors in the rubble at the one-story Jet Set nightclub in Santo Domingo, said Juan Manuel Méndez, director of the Center of Emergency Operations.

"We continue clearing debris and searching for people," he said on Tuesday night. "We're going to search tirelessly for people."

Nearly 12 hours after the top of the nightclub collapsed onto patrons, rescue crews were still pulling out survivors from under the debris, shushing those around them so they could listen for faint cries for help. Firefighters removed blocks of broken concrete and used sawed pieces of wood as planks to lift heavy debris as the noise of drills breaking through concrete filled the air.

Méndez said rescue crews were prioritizing three areas in the club: "We're hearing some sounds."

Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern province of Montecristi and sister of seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz, was among the victims. She had called President Luis Abinader at 12:49 a.m., saying she was trapped and that the roof had collapsed, first lady Raquel Abraje told reporters. Officials said Cruz died later at the hospital.

"This is too great a tragedy," Abraje said, her voice breaking.

The Professional Baseball League of the Dominican Republic posted on X that former MLB pitcher Octavio Dotel, 51, also died. Officials had pulled Dotel from the debris earlier and brought him to a hospital. Also killed was Dominican baseball player Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera, said league spokesman Satosky Terrero.

Late Tuesday night, those still looking for their family and friends gathered around a man playing a guitar outside the club as they sang hymns.

Officials said at least 160 people were injured, among them national lawmaker Bray Vargas.

Relatives of merengue singer Rubby Pérez, who was performing when the roof collapsed, initially said that he had been rescued, but Méndez said later Tuesday that wasn't true. He said rescue crews were still looking for Pérez.

Pérez's manager, Enrique Paulino, whose shirt was spattered with blood, told reporters at the scene that the concert began shortly before midnight, with the roof collapsing almost an hour later, killing the group's saxophonist.

"It happened so quickly. I managed to throw myself into a corner," he said, adding that he initially thought it was an earthquake.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the roof to collapse or when the Jet Set building was last inspected.

The club issued a statement saying it was cooperating with authorities and noted that the owner, Antonio Espaillet, was out of the country and returned late Tuesday.

"There are no words to express the pain this event has caused. What happened has been devastating for everyone," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Public Works referred questions to the mayor's office. A spokesperson for the mayor's office did not respond to a message for comment.

Prosecutor Rosalba Ramos told TV station CDN that while "everyone wants to know" what happened, authorities were still focused on finding survivors. They set up a makeshift morgue near the club while more than 120 people lined up to donate blood at two different centers.

Manuel Olivo Ortiz, whose son attended the concert but did not return home, was among those anxiously waiting outside the club known for its traditional Monday parties where renowned national and international artists performed.

"We're holding on only to God," Olivo said.



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Also awaiting word was Massiel Cuevas, godmother of 22-year-old Darlenys Batista.

"I'm waiting for her. She's in there, I know she's in there," Cuevas said, firm in her belief that Batista would be pulled out alive.

President Abinader wrote on X that all rescue agencies are "working tirelessly" to help those affected.

"We deeply regret the tragedy that occurred at the Jet Set nightclub. We have been following the incident minute by minute since it occurred," he wrote.

Abinader arrived at the scene and hugged those looking for friends and family, some with tears streaming down their faces. "We have faith in God that we will rescue even more people alive," he told reporters.

An official with a megaphone stood outside the club imploring the large crowd that had gathered to search for friends and relatives to give ambulances space.

"You have to cooperate with authorities, please," he said. "We are removing people."

At one hospital where the injured were taken, an official stood outside reading aloud the names of survivors as a crowd gathered around her and yelled out the names of their loved ones.

Meanwhile, dozens of people gathered at the National Institute of Forensic Pathology, which shared pictures of the victims so their loved ones could identify them.

## Many older AAPI adults are foreign-born. They're tough on immigration too, a new poll finds

By TERRY TANG and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are sharp generational disagreements among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders when it comes to how the U.S. should handle mass deportations, with older AAPI adults — many of whom are themselves immigrants — taking a much tougher stance on unlawful border crossers, according to a new poll.

The survey, released Wednesday from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, finds that just 20% of AAPI adults under 30 favor deporting all immigrants living in the country illegally, compared to just over half of AAPI adults ages 60 and older. The rift among AAPI adults is wider than the divide among the general public, with younger AAPI adults less in favor of the hardline position than young adults generally, and older AAPI adults slightly more likely than older Americans overall to support mass deportations.

Coming off an election year full of uncompromising rhetoric around immigration and the border, there is a sense among many — including within Asian American communities — that the country cannot afford to provide resources for people in the U.S. illegally, said Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. But the split between older and younger AAPI adults could defy conventional wisdom about how immigration attitudes work.

The assumption might be that older Asian Americans, many of whom were born outside the U.S., would be more liberal on the issue because they're closer to the immigrant experience, Ramakrishnan said. But the data suggests that older AAPI adults, who may have put their migration experience in the rearview mirror years ago, have less sympathy for people who are in the country illegally. It's younger AAPI adults — who are more likely to be native-born — who want a more lenient approach.

The poll is part of an ongoing project exploring the views of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, whose views are usually not highlighted in other surveys because of small sample sizes and lack of linguistic representation.

Younger AAPI adults see mass deportations as a low priority. An AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll conducted in February found that only about 15% of AAPI adults under 30 think deporting immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be a "high priority" for the federal government, compared to about 4 in 10 adults ages 60 and older.

Meanwhile, older AAPI adults take a stern view of people who enter the U.S. illegally, particularly if the migrants have a criminal history. About 9 in 10 AAPI adults ages 60 and older "somewhat" or "strongly"

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favor deporting immigrants in the country unlawfully who have been convicted of a violent crime, and about 7 in 10 say the same about immigrants in the country illegally who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime such as shoplifting or burglary.

Mike Nakawatase, a retired 62-year-old Republican from Torrance, California, said there is no room for negotiation for someone who is in the U.S. illegally. He supports President Donald Trump's handling of the U.S.-Mexico border and strongly favors deporting people with criminal histories.

"I'm from immigrants obviously, but the fact is my strongest belief is that illegal immigrants who have committed crimes should be caught," said Nakawatase, who is Japanese American. "If they're not contributing to society, I don't think they should really be here. They should be deported."

But younger AAPI adults are less certain that mass deportations are the right approach, even for people with criminal records. Only about two-thirds of AAPI adults under 30 favor deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally who have been convicted of a violent crime, and about 4 in 10 support deportation for people who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime.

Cecil Wuggle, a 20-year-old college student in West Palm Beach, Florida, who identifies as a Democrat, understands why some immigrants with illegal status and a criminal record would have to be deported eventually. But she opposes the idea of mass deportations based on criminal history alone, without further examination of their situation, such as whether the crime was committed at a young age.

"I think they should have at least a fair trial before deporting them automatically," Wuggle said. "Maybe they're a good person now."

Currently, immigration is a relative strength for Trump. A recent AP-NORC survey found about half of U.S. adults approve of his approach to the issue, which is in line with older AAPI adults' views of his handling of immigration.

But only about 3 in 10 AAPI adults under 30 have a positive view of Trump's methods on immigration broadly. And some of his most hardline tactics are even more unpopular, the poll found. About 2 in 10 AAPI adults under 30 support deporting immigrants in the country unlawfully, even if it means separating them from their American-born children. About twice as many AAPI adults ages 60 and older support this approach.

Wuggle, whose parents came to the U.S. from China, is strongly against the idea of family separation, which she worries could do irreparable emotional damage to a child.

"I feel like kids, it affects the way they grow up," Wuggle said.

Other consequential fights over immigration policy are still brewing. The Trump administration last month pushed for the the U.S. Supreme Court to allow some restrictions on birthright citizenship even as legal battles continue over Trump's executive order to effectively end the Constitution's 14th Amendment, including citizenship being denied to people born in the U.S. after Feb. 19 if their parents are in the country illegally. The order is currently blocked nationwide.

About one-third of AAPI adults support eliminating the constitutional right to birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to parents who are here unlawfully, while about one-quarter favor an end to birthright citizenship for the children of parents who were in the U.S. on temporary work or student visas. A significant share — about 2 in 10 — don't have an opinion.

Nakawatase, the Republican, is "on the fence" about depriving citizenship for children of parents who illegally entered the U.S. He is less resistant to the idea of giving children birthright citizenship, though, if parents at least have a temporary work visa or a student visa.

"People who are here for the right reasons ... I'm open to a little bit more — even more onto the favor side," Nakawatase said.

## Republicans are going public with their growing worries about Trump's tariffs

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Manufacturers struggling to make long-term plans. Farmers facing retaliation from Chinese buyers. U.S. households burdened with higher prices.

Republican senators are confronting the Trump administration with those worries and many more as they fret about the economic impact of the president's sweeping tariff strategy that went into effect Wednesday.

In a Senate hearing and interviews with reporters this week, Republican skepticism of President Donald Trump's policies ran unusually high. While GOP lawmakers made sure to direct their concern at Trump's aides and advisers — particularly U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, who appeared before the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday — it still amounted to a rare Republican break from a president they have otherwise championed.

Lawmakers had reason to worry: the stock market has been in a volatile tumble for days and economists are warning that the plans could lead to a recession.

"Whose throat do I get to choke if this proves to be wrong?" Republican Sen. Thom Tillis told Greer as he pressed for an answer on which Trump aide to hold accountable if there is an economic downturn.

Tillis' frustration was aimed at the across-the-board tariff strategy that could potentially hamstringing U.S. manufacturers who are currently dependent on materials like aluminum and steel from China. His home state of North Carolina, where he is up for reelection next year, has attracted thousands of foreign firms looking to invest in the state's manufacturing industries.

Ever wary of crossing Trump, Republicans engaged in a delicate two-step of criticizing the rollout of the tariffs then shifting to praise for the president's economic vision. In the afternoon, Tillis in a Senate floor speech said that the "president is right in challenging other nations who have for decades abused their relationship with the United States," yet went on to question who in the White House was thinking through the long-term economic effects of the sweeping tariffs.

Tillis even allowed that Trump's trade strategy could still turn out to be effective, but said there is a short window to show that it is worth the higher prices and layoffs that will burden workers.

For his part, Greer emphasized to the committee that the U.S. was engaged in negotiations with other countries but that "the trade deficit has been decades in the making, and it's not going to be solved overnight."

Republican leaders in Congress, as well as a sizeable chunk of lawmakers, have emphasized that Trump needs time to implement his strategy. They've mostly rejected the idea of putting a check on Trump's tariff power, but it is clear that anxiety is growing among rank-and-file Republicans about what's ahead.

Sen. James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican, said there is a company in his state that had spent "millions of dollars" moving its parts production from China to Vietnam. But now that Vietnam is facing steep tariffs, the business is unable to move forward with negotiating prices with retailers.

Lankford pressed Greer for a timeline for negotiations, but the trade representative responded, "We don't have any particular timeline. The outcome is more important than setting something artificially for us."

Trade agreements between countries typically take months or even years to work out and often require the parties to navigate through a host of legal, economic and business issues. Still, Republicans said they were encouraged by the indications that Trump is entering into negotiations with other nations.

Sen. Steve Daines, a Montana Republican, said at the committee hearing that he was "very encouraged" by news of trade negotiations and attributed a momentary upward tick in the stock market to "hope that these tariffs are a means and not solely an end."

He told Greer, "Who pays these high tariffs? It will be the consumer. I'm worried about the inflationary effect. I'm worried if there is a trade war that we're going to have markets shutting down for American farmers, ranchers and manufacturers."

Other GOP lawmakers contended that the pain was worth bearing. Republican Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, a member of the conservative Freedom Caucus, said the president is on the right track.



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"It's pain, but it's going to be," he said. "The president will make the right call. He's doing the right thing." Still, traditional Republicans were looking for ways to push back on Trump's tariff plan.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, a senior Republican, has introduced a bipartisan bill to give Congress the power to review and approve of new tariffs, and Republican members in the House were also working to gain support for a similar bill. Such legislation would allow Congress to claw back some of its constitutional power over tariff policy, which has been almost completely handed over to the president in recent decades through legislation.

But the White House has already indicated that Trump would veto the bill, and both Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., have said they are not interested in bringing it up for a vote.

Sen. Markwayne Mullin, a Republican closely aligned with Trump, said on social media that the bill was a bad idea because "Congress moves at the pace of a tortoise running a race."

"The reason why Congress gave this authority to the president to begin with is because the ability to pivot," he added.

But the president's unclear messaging has also left lawmakers only guessing as they try to decipher which advisers and aides hold sway in the White House.

Sen. John Kennedy, a Louisiana Republican, said that as he's received calls from the business community in his state, he's had no answers for them besides telling them the prospects for the economy are uncertain. The communication from the president's aides has often been conflicting, Kennedy said even as he voiced support for Trump's long-term goals.

Kennedy told reporters, "I don't think there's any way to double or triple your tariffs on the world when you're the wealthiest country in all of human history without being somewhat shambolic."

## Trump signs executive orders to boost coal, a reliable but polluting energy source

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a series of executive orders aimed at boosting the struggling coal industry, a reliable but polluting energy source that's long been in decline.

Under the four orders, Trump uses his emergency authority to allow some older coal-fired power plants set for retirement to keep producing electricity to meet rising U.S. power demand amid growth in data centers, artificial intelligence and electric cars.

Trump also directed federal agencies to identify coal resources on federal lands, lift barriers to coal mining and prioritize coal leasing on U.S. lands.

In a related action, Trump also signed a proclamation offering coal-fired power plants a two-year exemption from federal requirements to reduce emissions of toxic chemicals such as mercury, arsenic and benzene.

Trump's administration had offered power plants and other industrial polluters a chance for exemptions from rules imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA, under Trump appointee Lee Zeldin, set up an electronic mailbox to allow regulated companies to request a presidential exemption under the Clean Air Act to a host of Biden-era rules.

Trump, a Republican, has long promised to boost what he calls "beautiful" coal to fire power plants and for other uses, but the industry has been in decline for decades.

"I call it beautiful, clean coal. I told my people, never use the word coal unless you put beautiful, clean before it," Trump said at a White House signing ceremony where he was flanked by coal miners in hard hats. Several wore patches on their work jackets that said "coal."

"Pound for pound, coal is the single most reliable, durable, secure and powerful form of energy," Trump said. "It's cheap, incredibly efficient, high density, and it's almost indestructible."

Trump's orders also direct Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to "acknowledge the end" of an Obama-era moratorium that paused coal leasing on federal lands and require federal agencies to rescind policies

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transitioning the nation away from coal production. And they seek to promote coal and coal technology exports, and accelerate development of coal technologies.

Trump also targeted what he called "overreach" by Democratic-controlled states to limit energy production to slow climate change. He ordered Attorney General Pam Bondi to take "all appropriate action to stop the enforcement" of such laws.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, co-chairs of the U.S. Climate Alliance, said Trump's order illegally attempts to usurp states' rights to act on climate.

"The federal government cannot unilaterally strip states' independent constitutional authority. We are a nation of states — and laws — and we will not be deterred," the two Democrats said. "We will keep advancing solutions to the climate crisis that safeguard Americans' fundamental right to clean air and water (and) grow the clean energy economy."

The climate alliance is a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors representing nearly 55% of the U.S. population.

Trump has long championed coal

Trump, who has pushed for U.S. "energy dominance" in the global market, has long suggested that coal can help meet surging electricity demand from manufacturing and the massive data centers needed for artificial intelligence.

"We're ending Joe Biden's war on beautiful, clean coal once and for all," he said Tuesday. "All those plants that have been closed are going to be opened, if they're modern enough, (or) they'll be ripped down and brand new ones will be built. And we're going to put the miners back to work."

In 2018, during his first term, Trump directed then-Energy Secretary Rick Perry to take "immediate steps" to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants, calling it a matter of national and economic security.

At that time, Trump also considered but didn't approve a plan to order grid operators to buy electricity from coal and nuclear plants to keep them open. Energy industry groups — including oil, natural gas, solar and wind power — condemned the proposal, saying it would raise energy prices and distort markets.

The national decline of coal

Energy experts say any bump for coal under Trump is likely to be temporary because natural gas is cheaper, and there's a durable market for renewable energy such as wind and solar power no matter who holds the White House.

Trump's administration has targeted regulations under the Biden administration that could hasten closures of heavily polluting coal power plants and the mines that supply them.

Coal once provided more than half of U.S. electricity production, but its share dropped to about 16% in 2023, down from about 45% as recently as 2010. Natural gas provides about 43% of U.S. electricity, with the remainder from nuclear energy and renewables such as wind, solar and hydropower.

The front line in what Republicans call the "war on coal" is in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana, a sparsely populated section of the Great Plains with the nation's largest coal mines. It's also home to a massive power plant in Colstrip, Montana, that emits more toxic air pollutants such as lead and arsenic than any other U.S. facility of its kind, according to the EPA.

EPA rules finalized last year could force the Colstrip Generating Station to shut down or spend an estimated \$400 million to clean up its emissions within the next several years. Another Biden-era proposal, from the Interior Department, would end new leasing of taxpayer-owned coal reserves in the Powder River Basin.

Changes and promises under Trump

Trump vowed to reverse those actions and has named Burgum and Energy Secretary Chris Wright to lead a new National Energy Dominance Council. The panel is tasked with driving up already record-setting domestic oil and gas production, as well as coal and other traditional energy sources.

The council has been granted sweeping authority over federal agencies involved in energy permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation and transportation. It has a mandate to cut bureaucratic red tape, enhance private sector investments and focus on innovation instead of "unnecessary regulation," Trump said.

Zeldin meanwhile, has announced a series of actions to roll back environmental regulations, including rules

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on pollution from coal-fired power plants. In all, Zeldin said he's moving to roll back 31 environmental rules, including a scientific finding that has long been the central basis for U.S. action against climate change.

Coal industry applauds, but environmental groups warn of problems

Industry groups praised Trump's focus on coal.

"Despite countless warnings from the nation's grid operators and energy regulators that we are facing an electricity supply crisis, the last administration's energy policies were built on hostility to fossil fuels, directly targeting coal," said Rich Nolan, president and CEO of the National Mining Association.

Trump's executive actions "clearly prioritize how to responsibly keep the lights on, recognize the enormous strategic value of American-mined coal and embrace the economic opportunity that comes from American energy abundance," Nolan said.

But environmental groups said Trump's actions were more of the same tactics he tried during his first term in an unsuccessful bid to revive coal.

"What's next, a mandate that Americans must commute by horse and buggy?" asked Kit Kennedy, managing director for power at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Coal plants are old and dirty, uncompetitive and unreliable," Kennedy said, accusing Trump and his administration of remaining "stuck in the past, trying to make utility customers pay more for yesterday's energy."

Instead, she said, the U.S. should do all it can to build the power grid of the future, including tax credits and other support for renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

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

By BRUCE SCHREINER, KRISTIN M. HALL and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — After days of deluges overfilled rivers to near-record levels across Kentucky, residents were anxious Tuesday to return to their flooded homes and assess what's salvageable, even as stubbornly high waters kept some of them waiting even longer.

Susan Williams returned to her rural Franklin County home with her four dogs and three cats. She left Sunday while the waters kept rising. Now, her house and a neighbor's looked like they were on an island in brown waters.

Williams and some friends loaded her animals onto a small boat and paddled back and forth, dropping them off at the house built by her parents.

"It's my world. It's my little paradise," Williams said about her home.

Water was slowly receding in flooded Frankfort, and officials hoped that by the end of Wednesday, most could get back into their homes, Gov. Andy Beshear said at a news conference.

Beshear urged people to wait if they couldn't get to their homes without driving through water.

"Remember, even as much as we love our stuff — and sometimes it's memories and photographs that are impacted — it's our lives and the lives of our family and friends that matter," Beshear said.

Officials warned of flooding expected along the Ohio River in Henderson and Owensboro into next week, with swift water rescue teams at the ready.

Officials in Frankfort diverted traffic, turned off utilities to businesses and instituted a curfew as the Kentucky River crested Monday just short of a record set in 1978. Water service has been restored, but wastewater isn't back up yet, Beshear said.

Inundated rivers are the latest threat from persistent storms that have killed at least 23 people, including 10 in Tennessee. At least 157 tornadoes struck within seven days beginning March 30, according to a preliminary report from the National Weather Service.

Flood danger remains elsewhere, including parts of Tennessee, Arkansas and Indiana.

'Waiting for the water to recede'

Louisville, Kentucky, Mayor Craig Greenberg said Tuesday that no further evacuations were expected along the Ohio River, which is expected to crest Wednesday before the water begins receding. He said



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the Louisville Fire Department and others had helped 66 people evacuate a hotel surrounded by water. Beshear's office said more than 800 customers still had no access to water and nearly 4,000 were under boil water advisories.

Over the past several days, many of the 110 residents of Monterey, Kentucky, had left their homes. Steve Carter lives on a hill outside town and sheltered his father-in-law, who lives in the flood zone where the water remained high on Tuesday.

"This is the worst I've seen it since I've been around," Carter said. "Right now, it's to the point there's not much to be done. Now people are just waiting for the water to recede so they can start the cleanup process."

A small distiller in Frankfort turned its stills back on Tuesday and was back to making bourbon.

At Glenns Creek Distilling, the flooding narrowly avoided the main distillery, but a neighboring 26,000-square foot (2,415-square meter) warehouse remained underwater. Owner David Meier got back in on Tuesday, but he said it could take another day for the water to recede to check equipment and some bourbon barrels. Whether barrels that went underwater would have to be destroyed, he doesn't yet know.

"And so we might as well do what we can do here in the meantime," Meier said. "Keep making bourbon."

Kentucky preps for another cleanup

It's the latest severe weather to cause deaths and widespread damage in Kentucky. Two months ago, at least 24 people died in a round of storms that swelled creeks and covered roads with water. Hundreds had to be rescued, and most of the deaths were caused by vehicles getting stuck in high water.

A storm in late 2021 spawned tornadoes that killed 81 people and leveled portions of towns in western Kentucky. The following summer, historic floodwaters inundated parts of eastern Kentucky, leaving dozens more dead.

Deadly storm systems also battered the state in 2023 and last year, spawning straight-line winds, possible tornadoes and powerful thunderstorms.

Wanona Harp has been staying at a friend's house across the street and boating to her flooded home in Lockport, Kentucky, to tend to her dogs, rabbits and chickens that she moved to higher ground.

Harp said some homes are completely inundated in Lockport, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Louisville.

"You can just barely see of the top of them," she said. "Some of them are just completely underwater."

Back in Frankfort, a neighborhood was setting up tables for cleaning supplies on Tuesday ahead of the next massive cleanup.

The first assignment for the crew of neighbors: a couple of homes on higher ground with flooded basements.

"As soon as we can get in there, we'll help them clean out and just kind of go downstream," said Carly Cockley, who expects a mucky mess on her home's first floor.

## AP wins reinstatement to White House events after judge rules government can't bar its journalists

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

A federal judge ordered the White House on Tuesday to restore The Associated Press' full access to cover presidential events, affirming on First Amendment grounds that the government cannot punish the news organization for the content of its speech.

U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden, an appointee of President Donald Trump, ruled that the government can't retaliate against the AP's decision not to follow the president's executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico. The decision, while a preliminary injunction, handed the AP a major victory at a time the White House has been challenging the press on several levels.

"Under the First Amendment, if the Government opens its doors to some journalists—be it to the Oval Office, the East Room, or elsewhere—it cannot then shut those doors to other journalists because of their

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viewpoints," McFadden wrote. "The Constitution requires no less."

It was unclear whether the White House would move immediately to put McFadden's ruling into effect. McFadden held off on implementing his order for a week, giving the government time to respond or appeal. Shortly after the ruling, an AP reporter and photographer were turned away from joining a motorcade with the White House press pool to cover Trump's appearance before the National Republican Congressional Committee.

The AP has been blocked since Feb. 11 from being among the small group of journalists to cover Trump in the Oval Office or aboard Air Force One, with sporadic ability to cover him at events in the East Room.

"We are gratified by the court's decision," said AP spokeswoman Lauren Easton. "Today's ruling affirms the fundamental right of the press and public to speak freely without government retaliation. This is a freedom guaranteed for all Americans in the U.S. Constitution."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, one of the administration officials named in the lawsuit, did not immediately return a message seeking comment. In its action filed on Feb. 21, the AP sued Leavitt, White House chief of staff Susie Wiles and deputy chief of staff Taylor Budowich.

Many media outlets have been playing defense with this administration

Trump has moved aggressively against the media on several fronts since taking office again. The Federal Communications Commission has open lawsuits against ABC, CBS and NBC News. The administration has sought to cut off funding for government-run news services like Voice of America and is threatening public funding for public broadcasters PBS and NPR for allegedly being too liberal in news coverage.

The AP had asked McFadden to rule that Trump's officials violated AP's constitutional right to free speech by taking the action because the president and his staff disagreed with the words that its journalists use. He had earlier declined AP's request to reverse the changes through an injunction.

Because of its wide reach, the AP has traditionally always been included in "pools" for coverage of presidential events in places like the Oval Office and Air Force One. McFadden cautioned that his ruling does not necessarily herald a return to those days.

"The Court does not order the government to grant the AP permanent access to the Oval Office, the East Room or any other media event," he wrote. "It does not bestow special treatment upon the AP. Indeed, the AP is not necessarily entitled to the 'first in line every time' permanent press pool access it enjoyed under the (White House Correspondents Association). But it cannot be treated worse than its peer wire service either."

The judge said that his decision does not prohibit a government official from choosing which outlets to give interviews to, or choosing which journalists' questions they choose to answer at a news conference.

"This is an important decision," said Katie Fallow, deputy litigation director at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University. "The First Amendment means the White House can't ban news outlets from covering the president simply because they don't parrot his preferred language."

And Floyd Abrams, a longtime free-speech attorney, cited American history in his reaction: "What a splendid and well-deserved First Amendment triumph. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison would be pleased and relieved."

Trump came out and said why he made the move

While there was little dispute in a March 27 court hearing about why Trump struck back at the AP – the president said as much – the administration said it was up to its own discretion, and not White House correspondents or longstanding tradition, to determine who gets to question the president and when.

Since the dispute with AP began, the White House has taken steps to control who gets to cover the president at smaller events and even where journalists sit during Leavitt's briefings, saying both need to better reflect changes in how people get information.

The AP's decisions on what terminology to use are followed by journalists and other writers around the world through its influential stylebook. The outlet said it would continue to use Gulf of Mexico, as the body of water has been known for hundreds of years, while also noting Trump's decision to rename it the Gulf of America. Different outlets have used different approaches, some skirting it by calling it the "Gulf."

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"For anyone who thinks The Associated Press' lawsuit against President Trump's White House is about the name of a body of water, think bigger," Julie Pace, the AP's executive editor, wrote in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. "It's really about whether the government can control what you say."

Testimony revealed AP's coverage has been impeded

Trump has dismissed the AP, which was established in 1846, as a group of "radical left lunatics" and said that "we're going to keep them out until such time as they agree it's the Gulf of America."

For a news organization that relies on speed as a major selling point, the AP brought its chief White House correspondent and photographer to testify March 27 before McFadden about how its absence from covering certain events has delayed its transmission of words and images. Its lawyer, Charles Tobin, said AP has already lost a \$150,000 advertising contract from a client concerned about the ban.

The government's lawyer, Brian Hudak, showed how AP has been able to use livestreams or photos from other agencies to get news out, and pointed out that AP regularly attends Leavitt's daily briefings.

McFadden said in Tuesday's ruling in the case, Associated Press v. Budowich et al, that the government has been "brazen" about why it has excluded the AP.

"The government offers no other plausible explanation for its treatment of the AP," the judge wrote. "The Constitution forbids viewpoint discrimination, even in a nonpublic forum like the Oval Office."

## **IRS acting commissioner is resigning over deal to send immigrants' tax data to ICE, AP sources say**

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service is resigning over a deal to share immigrants' tax data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of identifying and deporting people illegally in the U.S., according to two people familiar with the decision.

Melanie Krause, who had served as acting head since February, will step down over the new data-sharing document signed Monday by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. The agreement will allow ICE to submit names and addresses of immigrants inside the U.S. illegally to the IRS for cross-verification against tax records.

Two people familiar with the situation confirmed Krause was resigning and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

The IRS has been in upheaval over Trump administration decisions to share taxpayer data. Acting Commissioner Douglas O'Donnell announced his retirement from the agency after roughly 40 years of service in February as furor spread over Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency gaining access to IRS taxpayer data. Krause replaced him.

Acting chief counsel William Paul was removed from his role at the agency last month and replaced by Andrew De Mello, an attorney in the chief counsel's office who is deemed supportive of DOGE, according to two other people familiar with the plans who were also not authorized to speak publicly.

The Treasury Department says the agreement will help carry out President Donald Trump's agenda to secure U.S. borders and is part of his larger nationwide immigration crackdown, which has resulted in deportations, workplace raids and the use of an 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants.

Advocates, however, say the IRS-DHS information-sharing agreement violates privacy laws and diminishes the privacy of all Americans.

The basis for the agreement is founded in "longstanding authorities granted by Congress, which serve to protect the privacy of law-abiding Americans while streamlining the ability to pursue criminals," said a Treasury official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to explain the agency's thinking on the agreement.

Tom Bowman, policy counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology, said disclosing immigrant tax records to DHS for immigration enforcement "will discourage tax compliance among immigrant communities, weaken contributions to essential public programs, and increase burdens for U.S. citizens and nonimmigrant taxpayers. It also sets a dangerous precedent for data privacy abuse in other federal programs."

Todd Lyons, acting ICE director, told reporters at the Border Security Expo in Phoenix on Tuesday that



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the agreement will help ICE find people who are collecting benefits they aren't entitled to and are "kind of hiding in plain sight" using someone else's identity.

Working with Treasury and other departments is "strictly for the major criminal cases," Lyons said.

The IRS had already been called upon to help with immigration enforcement earlier this year.

Noem in February sent a request to Bessent to borrow IRS Criminal Investigation workers to help with the immigration crackdown, according to a letter obtained by the AP. It cites the IRS' boost in funding, though the \$80 billion infusion of funds the federal tax collection agency received under the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act has already been clawed back.

A collection of tax law experts for the NYU Tax Law Center wrote Monday that the IRS-DHS agreement "threatens to violate the rights that many more Americans have under longstanding laws that protect their tax information from wrongful disclosure or dissemination."

"In fact, it is difficult to see how the IRS could release information to DHS while complying with taxpayer privacy statutes," they said. "IRS officials who sign off on data sharing under these circumstances risk breaking the law, which could result in criminal and civil sanctions."

The memo states that the IRS and ICE "will perform their duties in a manner that recognizes and enhances individuals' right of privacy and will ensure their activities are consistent with laws, regulations, and good administrative practices."

## **Octavio Dotel, who once held record of pitching for 13 major league teams, dies in DR roof collapse**

By The Associated Press undefined

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Octavio Dotel, who pitched for 13 major league teams in a 15-year career and won a World Series with the St. Louis Cardinals, was among the dead after a roof collapsed at a nightclub in his native Dominican Republic where he was attending a merengue concert. He was 51.

Officials initially said Dotel was rescued from the debris and transported to a hospital, but spokesman Satosky Terrero from the Professional Baseball League of the Dominican Republic confirmed to The Associated Press that Dotel died later Tuesday.

At least 79 people died and 160 were injured after the collapse at the Jet Set nightclub, officials said. Tony Blanco, who played one MLB season and eight years professionally in Japan, also died following the collapse, Terrero said. Also killed was Nelsy Cruz, governor of the Monte Cristi province and the sister of Nelson Cruz, a former MLB player and current MLB special adviser to baseball operations.

"Major League Baseball is deeply saddened by the passings of Octavio Dotel, Tony Blanco, Nelsy Cruz, and all the victims of last night's tragedy in Santo Domingo," MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement. "We send our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of all those who have been affected and to our colleague Nelson and his entire family. The connection between baseball and the Dominican Republic runs deep, and we are thinking of all the Dominican players and fans across the game today."

MLB Players Association executive director Tony Clark said the union stands united with the Dominican community "amid the incomprehensible sadness."

"We grieve for all the victims and send a special message of support to the families of Octavio Dotel and Tony Blanco, who leave an unspeakable void with their passing, and to Nelson Cruz, whose family lost a shining light with the death of his sister, Nelsy," he said in a statement.

Dotel signed with the New York Mets in 1993 as an amateur free agent and made his major league debut in 1999. A starter early in his career, he turned into a reliable and at times dominant reliever while appearing in 758 games from 1999-2013.

When he took the mound for the Detroit Tigers on April 7, 2012, he set the record playing for the most major league teams at 13. Edwin Jackson broke the record in 2019 when he pitched for his 14th team.

The Mets held a moment of silence for Dotel before their game Tuesday against Miami, and a Dominican flag was shown on the video scoreboard.

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Dotel's best years were with the Houston Astros in the early 2000s. He was a setup man for star closer Billy Wagner, making 302 appearances and posting a 3.25 ERA in four-plus seasons. He was the fifth of six pitchers to combine on a no-hitter against the New York Yankees in 2003. The next year, he was part of the three-way trade that brought Carlos Beltran to the Astros.

Dotel pitched for nine teams before he landed with the Cardinals, who acquired him from Toronto at the 2011 trade deadline. He appeared in 12 postseason games, including five in the World Series against Texas.

In 2013, he pitched on the Dominican Republic team that won the World Baseball Classic with an 8-0 record.

Dotel finished his major league career with 1,143 strikeouts in 951 innings, a magnificent rate of 10.8 per nine innings. He had a career 59-50 record, 109 saves and 3.78 ERA.

In 2019, Dotel and ex-major leaguer Luis Castillo were among 18 people taken into custody during a large U.S. and Dominican law enforcement operation against drug trafficking and money laundering. Dotel and Castillo were released when a Dominican magistrate judge found insufficient evidence to connect them to the operation.

## Netanyahu-Trump meeting reveals unexpected gaps on key issues

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu traveled to Washington for a hastily organized White House visit bringing a long list of concerns: Iran's nuclear program. President Donald Trump's tariffs. The surging influence of rival Turkey in Syria. And the 18-month war in Gaza.

Netanyahu appeared to leave Monday's meeting largely empty-handed — a stark contrast with his triumphant visit two months ago. During an hourlong Oval Office appearance, Trump appeared to slap down, contradict or complicate each of Netanyahu's policy prerogatives.

On Tuesday, Netanyahu declared the meeting a success, calling it a "very good visit" and claiming successes on all fronts. But privately, the Israeli delegation felt it was a tough meeting, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Netanyahu "didn't hear exactly what he wanted to hear, so he returns back home with very little," said Nadav Eyal, a commentator with the Yediot Ahronot daily, who added that the visit was still friendly, despite the disagreements.

Netanyahu's second pilgrimage to Washington under Trump's second term was organized at short notice and billed as an attempt to address the new U.S. tariff regime. But it came at a pivotal time in Middle East geopolitics. Israel restarted the war in Gaza last month, ending a Trump-endorsed ceasefire, and tensions with Iran are rising over its nuclear program.

Netanyahu and his allies were thrilled with Trump's return to office given his strong support for Israel during his first term. This time around, Trump has not only nominated pro-Israel figures for key administration positions, he has abandoned the Biden administration's criticism of Israel's conduct in Gaza and the West Bank, and of Netanyahu's steps to weaken Israeli courts.

Monday's meeting showed that while Trump remains sympathetic to Israel, Netanyahu's relationship with the president during his second term is more complicated and unpredictable than he may have expected.

Here is a look at where Trump and Netanyahu appear to have diverged.

Netanyahu has long pushed for military pressure against Iran

With Netanyahu's strong encouragement, Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the United States from the agreement between world powers and Iran over its nuclear program. That deal, negotiated by the Obama administration, put curbs on Iran's nuclear program. It was denigrated by Netanyahu because he said it did not go far enough to contain Iran or address Iran's support for regional militant groups.

Netanyahu has long maintained that military pressure was the best way to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Israel struck Iran last year in the countries' first direct conflict ever. But it did not target Iran's nuclear facilities, something Israel would likely need U.S. military assistance to do in order to strike targets buried deep underground.

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Trump has suggested, including on Monday, that the U.S. could take military action if Iran doesn't agree to negotiate. But his announcement Monday that talks would take place between the U.S. and Iran this weekend flew in the face of Netanyahu's hawkish views.

Netanyahu gave a tepid endorsement, noting that both leaders agree that Iran cannot develop a nuclear weapon. He said he would favor a diplomatic agreement similar to Libya's deal in 2003 to destroy its nuclear facilities and allow inspectors unfettered access. However, it is not clear if Trump will set such strict conditions.

Eyal said the announcement with Netanyahu by Trump's side was meant to show the transparency between the countries' leadership.

Netanyahu hoped for tariff relief and appeared to be rebuffed

A day before Trump's so-called Liberation Day unleashed global tariffs on the world last week, Israel preemptively announced that it would eliminate all levies on U.S. goods. But that didn't spare Israeli products from being slapped with a 17% tariff by its largest trading partner.

Netanyahu was summoned to Washington ostensibly to make Israel's case against the levy. He was the first international leader to do so, in an encounter that may have set the stage for how other world leaders approach the tariffs.

While Trump repeatedly praised the Israeli leader, he did not appear to budge on Israel's share of the burden. Asked if he might change his mind, he said "maybe not." He cited the billions of dollars the U.S. gives Israel in military assistance each year — money that is seen as the bedrock of the U.S.-Israel relationship and an insurance policy for U.S. interests in the region.

"We give Israel \$4 billion a year. That's a lot," he said, as though to suggest Israel was already getting enough from the U.S., and congratulated Netanyahu on that achievement.

Netanyahu was told to be reasonable on Turkey

Since the fall of the Assad dynasty in Syria late last year, Israel and Turkey have been competing in the country over their separate interests there. Israel fears that Syria's new leadership, which has an Islamist past, will pose a new threat along its border. It has since taken over a buffer zone in Syrian territory and said it will remain there indefinitely until new security arrangements are made.

Turkey has emerged as a key player in Syria, prompting concerns in Israel over the possibility of Turkey expanding its military presence inside the country. Netanyahu said Tuesday that Turkish bases in Syria would be a "danger to Israel."

Once strong regional partners, ties between Israel and Turkey have long been frosty and deteriorated further over the war in Gaza. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been an outspoken critic of the war, prompting angry reactions from Israeli officials.

Netanyahu sought to hear support from his stalwart ally Trump on a country Israel perceives as increasingly hostile. Instead, Trump lavished praise on Erdogan for "taking over Syria," positioned himself as a possible mediator between the countries and urged Netanyahu to be "reasonable" in his dealings with the country.

"Israel is not provided with a blank check here," said Udi Sommer, an expert on U.S.-Israel relations at Tel Aviv University. "There's no unconditional love here. It is contingent. It is contingent on Israel behaving a certain way."

Trump wants the war in Gaza to end

While both addressed the ongoing war in Gaza and the Israeli hostages who remain held there, the topic appeared to take a backseat to other issues.

Netanyahu spoke of the hostages' plight and an emerging deal to free them, as well as the need to end the "evil tyranny of Hamas." Trump sympathized with the hostages and made another pitch for his plan to "own" Gaza and remove its Palestinian population, a once fringe idea in Israeli discourse that has now found acceptance among mainstream politicians, including Netanyahu.

However, there were signs of differences on the horizon.

Netanyahu broke the ceasefire last month and has been under major pressure from his governing allies



to keep up the fighting until Hamas is crushed. He has appeared to be in no rush to end the war or bring home the remaining hostages.

Trump, however, made it clear that he'd like to see the hostages freed and for the war to end. "And I think the war will stop at some point that won't be in the too distant future," he said.

## **The latest leak in the Keystone oil pipeline continues its troubled history**

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

The latest leak in the Keystone oil pipeline in North Dakota on Tuesday continues the troubled history of the 15-year-old pipeline.

The 2,700-mile-long (4,350-kilometer-long) pipeline originates in Alberta, Canada, and carries heavy tar sands crude oil south across the Dakotas and Nebraska before splitting to carry oil both to refineries in Illinois and south to Oklahoma and Texas.

The Keystone Pipeline was constructed in 2010 at a cost of \$5.2 billion. It was built by TC Energy, but it is now operated by South Bow as of 2024.

How many leaks have there been?

There have been 23 spills along the Keystone oil pipeline, including four in North Dakota.

One leak in 2022 in Kansas was the largest onshore oil spill in nine years. That rupture in the pipeline dumped about 14,000 barrels of crude oil into a creek running through rural pastureland in Washington County, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) northwest of Kansas City.

The leaks have varied in size, but in total the Keystone pipeline has spilled more than 1 million gallons of crude oil over the years.

South Bow estimated that 3,500 barrels spilled in this latest leak in North Dakota.

Why are there so many problems?

The Pipeline Safety Trust advocacy group said that a 2021 report by the Government Accountability Office concluded that preventable construction issues contributed to more spills on the Keystone pipeline than on similar pipelines. The report also said that the pipeline's largest spills were "caused by issues related to the original design, manufacturing of the pipe, or construction of the pipeline."

One example of that is the Kansas leak. The Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration determined that leak was caused due to the rupture of a weld that came from a fabrication facility.

"Keystone's incident history illustrates the problematic pipeline's systemic issues," Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Bill Caram said.

Is this the same as the Keystone XL pipeline?

When the original Keystone pipeline was proposed and built there was little controversy about the project, but it was a different story a few years later when TC Energy proposed building a second pipeline called the Keystone XL pipeline.

That pipeline drew years of protests from environmental activists and landowners who worried that a spill could foul their land and water. Keystone XL was ultimately abandoned by the company in 2021 after President Joe Biden refused to approve a permit for it. President Donald Trump had tried to revive it during his first term, but Biden's decision ultimately killed the project.

Climate change activists viewed the expansion of oil sands development as an environmental disaster that could speed up global warming as the fuel is burned. That turned Keystone into a flashpoint in the climate debate, and it became the focus of rallies and protests in Washington, D.C., and other cities.

## US stocks dive after another stunning reversal as uncertainty reigns about Trump's tariffs

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks dove Tuesday following another stunning reversal, with Wall Street veering from a huge gain at the opening of trading to more losses at the close, because investors still have no idea what to make of President Donald Trump's trade war, which is scheduled to kick into a higher gear after midnight.

After blasting to an early gain of 4.1%, which would have marked its best day in years, the S&P 500 quickly lost all of it. It then careened to a loss of 3% before paring its drop to 1.6%. That left the index, which sits at the heart of many investors' 401(k) accounts, nearly 19% below its record set in February.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 320 points, or 0.8%, after erasing an earlier surge of 1,460 points, while the Nasdaq composite dropped 2.1%.

The shocking swings followed rallies for stocks globally earlier in the day, with indexes up 6% in Tokyo, 2.5% in Paris and 1.6% in Shanghai. But even after those jumps, analysts had been warning to expect more swings up and down for financial markets not just in the days ahead but also the hours.

The big question remains centered on how long Trump will keep his stiff tariffs on other countries, which would raise prices for U.S. shoppers and slow the economy. If they last a long time, economists and investors expect them to cause a recession. But if Trump lowers them through negotiations relatively quickly, the worst-case scenario can be avoided.

Hope still remains on Wall Street that negotiations may be possible, which helped drive the morning's rally. Trump said Tuesday that a conversation with South Korea's acting president helped them reach the "confines and probability of a great DEAL for both countries."

"Their top TEAM is on a plane heading to the U.S., and things are looking good," Trump said on his Truth Social platform. "We are likewise dealing with many other countries, all of whom want to make a deal with the United States."

Japanese stocks led global markets higher after the country's prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, appointed his trade negotiator for talks with the United States. It was based on an agreement between Ishiba and Trump, Japanese officials said.

But investors should still remain cautious, said Sameer Samana, a senior global market strategist for Wells Fargo Investment Institute. He pointed to how "the key countries continue to escalate, rather than de-escalate."

China said it will "fight to the end" and warned of countermeasures after Trump threatened on Monday to raise his tariffs even further on the world's second-largest economy.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt then said Tuesday that Trump's threats of even higher tariffs on China will become reality after midnight, when imports from China will be taxed at a stunning 104% rate.

That would coincide with Trump's latest set of broad tariffs, which are scheduled to kick in at 12:01 a.m. And Trump has made clear that he does not intend to have any exemptions or exclusions in the tariffs, according to the country's top trade negotiator, Jamieson Greer.

The U.S. trade representative also said in testimony before a Senate committee that roughly 50 countries have already been in contact, and he's told them: "If you have a better idea to achieve reciprocity and to get our trade deficit down, we want to talk with you, we want to negotiate with you."

Trump's trade war is an attack on the globalization that's shaped the world's economy and helped bring down prices for products on store shelves but also caused manufacturing jobs to leave for other countries. Trump has said he wants to narrow trade deficits, which measure how much more the United States imports from other countries than it sends to them as exports.

On Wall Street, companies with vast supply chains around the world helped lead the losses. Ralph Lauren sank 5.6%, for example. It sourced about 15% of its products from China last fiscal year.

Best Buy doesn't import many products directly from China, but the electronics industry in general has a supply chain that heavily depends on the country. Best Buy estimates vendor imports from China make

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up about 55% of the products it purchases, and the retailer's stock fell 8.3%

On the winning side of Wall Street were health insurers, which rose after the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced a stronger-than-expected increase in Medicare Advantage payments for next year. Humana jumped 10.7%, and United Health climbed 5.4%.

All told, the S&P 500 lost 79.48 points to 4,982.77. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 320.01 to 37,645.59, and the Nasdaq composite sank 335.35 to 15,267.91.

In the bond market, longer-term Treasury yields rose for a second straight day to recover more of their sharp losses from prior months. The yield on the 10-year Treasury climbed to 4.27% from 4.15% late Monday and from just 4.01% late Friday.

Yields tend to rise with expectations for the U.S. economy's strength and for inflation. \_\_\_\_ AP Business Writers Matt Ott and Elaine Kurtenbach contributed.

## Nuggets fire coach Malone and won't extend GM Booth in stunning move as postseason looms

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Michael Malone coached the Denver Nuggets to the NBA title in 2023. He has them set to make the postseason for a seventh consecutive year. Even amid a four-game slide, they're still in position to have home-court advantage in Round 1.

And he's gone with three games left — an unprecedented move for a club bound for the postseason.

The Nuggets fired Malone on Tuesday, a stunning move that comes with less than a week in the regular season. Also out: general manager Calvin Booth, whose contract will not be renewed. The Nuggets said David Adelman will be the coach for the remainder of the season.

Josh Kroenke, the vice chairman of Kroenke Sports and Entertainment, which owns the Nuggets, said "it is with no pleasure" that the team made the change at coach.

"This decision was not made lightly and was evaluated very carefully, and we do it only with the intention of giving our group the best chance at competing for the 2025 NBA championship and delivering another title to Denver and our fans everywhere," Kroenke said.

There's never been an instance in NBA history of a team officially changing coaches with three games left and going to the postseason; the Nuggets aren't in the playoffs yet but are assured of a play-in berth at worst. The latest in-season change for a playoff team before now was in 1983, when Larry Brown left the New Jersey Nets with six games left to take over at the University of Kansas.

The Nuggets are 47-32 this season but are part of a logjam of teams fighting for home-court advantage in Round 1 of the playoffs. Denver won the title in 2023 and lost a Game 7 at home in the Western Conference semifinals a year ago to Minnesota.

Malone pointed the finger at himself after the most recent loss, a 125-120 defeat to Indiana on Sunday.

"I'll start with me: We've lost four games in a row and I'm never going to this-guy, that-guy. How about me, as a head coach, not doing my job to the best of my ability," Malone said. "We haven't lost four in a row in a long time. It's really easy to be together and say 'family' when you win, but when you're losing games, can you stay together?"

The slide comes despite Nuggets star Nikola Jokic — a winner of three of the last four NBA MVP awards — having a historic season, averaging 30 points, 12.8 rebounds and 10.2 assists per game. But even that wasn't good enough for Denver to enter the final week of the season certain of having home court in Round 1.

After that loss to the Pacers, Jokic was asked his biggest concern with the team right now.

"I don't know. Maybe we just, maybe we just ... I don't know, actually," Jokic said.

The Nuggets are hoping a shakeup might provide the answer.

Malone had the fourth-longest tenure of any active NBA coach, behind San Antonio's Gregg Popovich, Miami's Erik Spoelstra and Golden State's Steve Kerr.

Malone won 471 regular-season games in Denver, 39 more than Doug Moe for the franchise's all-time



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coaching lead.

"While the timing of this decision is unfortunate, as Coach Malone helped build the foundation of our now championship level program, it is a necessary step to allow us to compete at the highest level right now. Championship level standards and expectations remain in place for the current season, and as we look to the future, we look forward to building on the foundations laid by Coach Malone over his record-breaking 10-year career in Denver," Kroenke said.

Malone had consistent success in Denver. The Nuggets finished with losing records in his first two seasons and posted winning records in his next eight years with the club.

This season's postseason appearance will be the team's seventh in a row; it has not clinched a playoff berth yet this season but is assured of finishing no worse than in the play-in tournament.

Starting with the first playoff appearance under Malone in 2019, the Nuggets got out of the first round six times in seven chances. They made the Western Conference finals in the Walt Disney World bubble in 2020 and then rolled to the championship by winning 16 of 20 playoff games in 2023.

It is the second time in the last two weeks that a postseason-bound team has fired a coach. Memphis — another team assured of at least a play-in spot — dismissed Taylor Jenkins late last month with nine games left in the season, replacing him with Tuomas Iisalo on an interim basis.

The Nets parted ways with Brown (officially he resigned) with six games left in 1982-83, and the Nets — now in Brooklyn — replaced Kenny Atkinson with Jacque Vaughn for the final 10 games of the 2019-20 "bubble" season. The 1983 Nets and 2020 Nets went a combined 0-6 in playoff games after the coaching changes; time will tell what happens with the Grizzlies and Nuggets this year.

Booth came to Denver in 2017 as an assistant general manager and was promoted to GM in July 2020. He signed his most recent contract with the club in 2022.

Kroenke credited Booth "for helping put the final pieces in place for the roster that delivered Denver and our fans their first NBA championship."

"Calvin's knowledge of the game, his passion for scouting, and his long history as a player and executive in the NBA helped lift our organization to new heights which we will continue moving forward," Kroenke said.

The Nuggets play Wednesday at Sacramento.

## Trump touts Supreme Court deportation ruling as a major victory, but legal fight is far from over

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is touting a Supreme Court ruling allowing it to resume deportations under the Alien Enemies Act as a major victory, but the immigration fight is far from over.

The divided court found that President Donald Trump can use the 18th century wartime law to deport Venezuelan migrants accused of being gang members to a notorious prison in El Salvador, a finding Trump called a "GREAT DAY FOR JUSTICE IN AMERICA!" in a social media post.

But the justices also decided people accused of being members of the Tren de Aragua gang have to get a chance to challenge their removals — a finding their lawyers called an "important victory."

The legal landscape could be more challenging, though, since it appears the people being held will have to file individually and in the district where they are detained. For many, that's in Texas.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is also weighing another case against a Maryland man deported by mistake that could shed light on the fate of more than 100 men accused of being gang members who have already been sent to prison in El Salvador.

Here's a look at what's next:

The ruling doesn't let the deportations under the law resume right away

The Supreme Court's ruling lifted a restraining order from a judge in the nation's capital that had blocked the Trump administration from deporting people under the law.

But it doesn't allow those deportations to start right away. The court said that the accused have to be given notice and reasonable time to try and convince a judge that they shouldn't be deported.

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The families of multiple people who have already been deported under the Alien Enemies Act say they are not gang members, and should not have been deported under the law.

Attorney General Pam Bondi said on Fox News that she expected future hearings to be held in Texas, and for judges to deal with each case individually rather than issue orders about the group as a whole.

"It will be a much smoother, simpler hearing," she said.

Texas may not be the only venue, though. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of two immigrants who are currently held in New York and say they have been wrongly labeled as members of Tren de Aragua, or TdA, putting them at risk of deportation to the prison.

Many questions about Trump's use of the act remain unresolved

The Supreme Court's ruling did not address the constitutionality of the act or the migrants' claim that they don't fall within the category of people who can be deported under the law.

It's also not clear how this ruling affects the more than 100 people who have already been sent to the El Salvador prison under the Alien Enemies Act without being given an opportunity to challenge their removals before the flights, which the court now says is necessary. The ruling didn't address what kind of recourse, if any, those migrants may be entitled to.

In another case involving a man mistakenly deported to the El Salvador prison, the administration has said it has no way to get him back. That man, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, was not deported under the Alien Enemies Act, but the administration has conceded that he shouldn't have been sent to El Salvador because an immigration judge found he likely would face persecution by local gangs.

Chief Justice John Roberts agreed Monday to pause a deadline for the Trump administration to bring Garcia back to the U.S.

Abrego Garcia's lawyer told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the justices' finding that migrants must have a chance to challenge their removal underscores his client's argument that his rights were violated and that he must be returned to the U.S.

"Indeed because Abrego Garcia was deprived of any judicial review whatsoever, he had no opportunity to even respond to prove that he is not a member of MS-13," his attorney told the high court in a letter.

Trump administration says it's working to identify alleged gang members

Todd Lyons, acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, said Tuesday that he couldn't estimate how many people would be deported under the act, which the administration wants to use to target foreign terrorists and transnational criminal organizations like Tren de Aragua or TdA.

"The thing about TdA is there's no real, like, membership card, they're not out there self-identifying. It's really through partnerships with the rest of DHS and local law enforcement identifying those individuals," Lyons told reporters during Border Security Expo, a trade show in Phoenix.

Asked about the lack of criminal history among some Venezuelans imprisoned in El Salvador and their inability to respond to evidence against them, Lyons said: "I'm confident that those individuals we took action on were the ones we needed to take action on."

At the trade show, Deputy Customs and Border Protection Commissioner John Modlin received a round of applause as he talked about the videos shared on social media of the shackled migrants sent to the El Salvador prison.

"Man, hats off to the public affairs people in El Salvador. They came up with those videos. That was amazing. It sends a message across the globe," Modlin said.

The case has become a flashpoint in Trump's fight with the courts

Even before the Supreme Court's ruling, the case had become one of the most contentious legal battles waged by the administration over Trump's sweeping executive actions. Trump has called for the judge's impeachment, prompting a rare statement from Roberts to say that such action is not the appropriate response to disagreements over court rulings.

Boasberg has been contemplating whether to hold any administration officials in contempt of court for ignoring his orders last month to turn around planes that were carrying the deportees to El Salvador.

Boasberg had been expected to rule as early as this week on whether there are grounds to find anyone in contempt. During a hearing last week, he said the Trump administration may have "acted in bad faith"

by trying to rush the migrants out of the country before a court could step in to block the deportations. It's not clear whether Boasberg would move forward with contempt proceedings after the Supreme Court's ruling vacating his order.

A Justice Department lawyer told the judge Monday evening that the Supreme Court's decision "eliminates the basis" for any further action. The Justice Department has said the administration didn't violate the judge's order, arguing it didn't apply to planes that had already left U.S. airspace by the time his command came down.

## **Texas measles outbreak tops 500 cases, including multiple at a day care in Lubbock**

By JAMIE STENGLE Associated Press

A day care facility in a Texas county that's part of the measles outbreak has multiple cases, including children too young to be fully vaccinated, public health officials say.

West Texas is in the middle of a still-growing measles outbreak with 505 cases reported on Tuesday. The state expanded the number of counties in the outbreak area this week to 10. The highly contagious virus began to spread in late January and health officials say it has spread to New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Mexico.

Three people who were unvaccinated have died from measles-related illnesses this year, including two elementary school-aged children in Texas. The second child died Thursday at a Lubbock hospital, and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. attended the funeral in Seminole, the epicenter of the outbreak.

As of Friday, there were seven cases at a day care where one young child who was infectious gave it to two other children before it spread to other classrooms, Lubbock Public Health director Katherine Wells said. "Measles is so contagious I won't be surprised if it enters other facilities," Wells said.

The measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is first recommended between 12 and 15 months old and a second shot between 4 and 6 years old.

Maegan Messick, co-owner of Tiny Tots U Learning Academy, where the outbreak is occurring, recently told KLBK-TV in Lubbock that they're taking precautions like putting kids who are too young to get the vaccines together in isolation.

"We have tried to be extremely transparent," she told the TV station.

There are more than 200 children at the day care, Wells said. Most have had least one dose of the vaccine, though she added, "we do have some children that have only received one dose that are now infected."

The public health department is recommending that any child with only one vaccine get their second dose early, and changed its recommendation for kids in Lubbock County to get the first vaccine dose at 6 months old instead of 1. A child who is unvaccinated and attends the day care must stay home for 21 days since their last exposure, Wells said.

Case count and hospitalization numbers in Texas have climbed steadily since the outbreak began, and spiked by 81 cases from March 28 to April 4.

On Tuesday, the state added another 24 cases to its count and two additional counties, Borden and Randall. One more person was hospitalized since Friday, with 57 total.

Gaines County, where the virus has been spreading through a close-knit Mennonite community, has the majority of cases, with 328 on Tuesday. Neighboring Terry County is second with 46, followed by Lubbock County with 36.

The Texas Department of State Health Services tracks vaccinations rate for kindergartners, though the data doesn't include homeschooled children or some kids who attend private school. Gaines County's rate is 82%, which is far below the 95% level needed to prevent community spread — and health officials have said it's likely lower in the small religious schools and homeschooling groups where the early cases were identified.

In Terry County, the vaccination rate for kindergartners is at 96%, while Lubbock County is at 92%.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention met with Texas officials Monday to determine how



many people it would send to West Texas to assist with the outbreak response, spokesman Jason McDonald said Monday. He expected a small team to arrive later this week, followed by a bigger group on the ground next week.

The CDC said its first team was in the region from early March to April 1, withdrawing on-the-ground support days before a second child died in the outbreak.

A spokesperson for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said late Sunday that the governor and first lady were extending their "deepest prayers" to the family and community, and that the state health department had sent epidemiologists, immunization teams and specimen collection units to the area.

## **Iran's foreign minister says he will have indirect talks with US envoy over Tehran's nuclear program**

By JON GAMBRELL and AMIR VAHDAT Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's foreign minister said Tuesday he'll meet with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in Oman for the first negotiations under the Trump administration seeking to halt Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program as tensions remain high in the Middle East.

Speaking to Iranian state television from Algeria, Abbas Araghchi maintained that the talks would be indirect, likely with Omani mediators shuttling between the parties. U.S. President Donald Trump, in announcing the negotiations on Monday, described them as direct talks.

Years of indirect talks under the Biden administration failed to reach any success, as Tehran now enriches uranium up to 60% purity — a technical step away from weapons-grade levels. Both the U.S. and Israel have threatened Iran with military attack over the program, while officials in Tehran increasingly warn they could potentially pursue a nuclear bomb.

"Our main goal in the talks is naturally restoring rights of people as well as lifting sanctions, and if the other side has a real will, this is achievable, and it has no relation to the method, either direct or indirect," Araghchi said. "For the time being, indirect is our preference. And we have no plan to alter it to direct."

Araghchi's comments left space for Iran to potentially hold direct talks eventually with the Americans. Such talks aren't known to have been held since the Obama administration.

State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce told reporters Tuesday that Witkoff would participate. "He'll be present," she said.

The Washington Post later published an opinion piece from Araghchi in which he maintained that "Iran is ready to engage in earnest and with a view to seal a deal."

"Pursuing indirect negotiations is not a tactic or reflection of ideology but a strategic choice rooted in experience," he added. "To move forward today, we first need to agree that there can be no 'military option,' let alone a 'military solution.'"

News of talks boosts Iran's ailing economy

After Trump's comments on the talks went public, Iran's ailing economy showed new signs of life. Its rial currency, which hit a record low of over 1 million rials to the dollar, rebounded Tuesday to 990,000 rials. The Tehran Stock Exchange separately rose some 2% on the news.

Iran's economy has been severely affected by international sanctions, particularly after Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018. At the time of the 2015 deal, which saw Iran drastically limit its enrichment and stockpiling of uranium in exchange for lifting of international sanctions, the rial traded at 32,000 to the dollar.

Economic upheavals have evaporated the public's savings, pushing average Iranians into holding onto hard currencies, gold, cars and other tangible wealth. Others pursue cryptocurrencies or fall into get-rich-quick schemes.

Trump's letter sparked talks

The negotiations Saturday come after Trump wrote to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, trying to jump-start direct talks between Tehran and Washington. Khamenei came down hard on Trump

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in February and warned talks "are not intelligent, wise or honorable" with his administration.

Meanwhile, Trump is continuing an airstrike campaign targeting the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, the last force in Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" able to attack Israel with any regularity after other militant groups were severely weakened by Israel during its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

There had been anger toward Trump from Iran's theocracy, particularly over his decision to launch a drone strike that killed prominent Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad in 2020. U.S. officials have said Trump faced assassination threats from Iran in the lead-up to the 2024 presidential election.

But Iran may be taking a different path now. The hard-line Iranian newspaper Kayhan on Saturday published a piece warning: "Trump will be dead from several bullets into his empty head in revenge for Martyr Soleimani's blood." A day later, the Press Supervisory Board in Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance issued a warning to the daily over the article, which the newspaper later described as satire.

## Israel and Russia react

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu published a video reiterating his claim that only a deal like one struck with the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi would work for Iran. It saw Gadhafi give up his clandestine nuclear program. Iran has insisted its program, acknowledged to the International Atomic Energy Agency, should continue.

"We agree that Iran will not have nuclear weapons," said Netanyahu, who was sitting next to Trump when he announced the talks. "This can be done in an agreement, but only if this agreement is on the Libyan model, where you go in, blow up the facilities, dismantle all the equipment, under American supervision, American execution."

He added: "The second option is that this won't happen, that they will just drag out the talks, and then the option is military. Everyone understands that. We discussed that at length."

Meanwhile, asked about Trump's mention of planned direct talks between the U.S. and Iran, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow welcomes them, adding that "we support settling the issue of the Iranian nuclear dossier by political and diplomatic means."

Peskov added in a conference call with reporters: "We are aware that certain contacts, both direct and indirect, are planned in Oman and we can only welcome them as they could lead to the de-escalation of tensions around Iran." His remarks come as Trump is trying to negotiate a separate peace deal between Russia and Ukraine, talks that also have happened in the Middle East, in Saudi Arabia.

An expert-level meeting among representatives from Russia, China and Iran was to take place in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss Iran's nuclear program, according to Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova in comments carried by Russian news agencies.

## Why water fluoridation, long considered a public health success story, is under scrutiny

By MIKE STOBBE and KASTURI PANANJADY Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has said he wants communities to stop fluoridating water, and he is setting the gears of government in motion to help make that happen.

Kennedy this week said he plans to tell the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop recommending fluoridation in communities nationwide. And he said he's assembling a task force of health experts to study the issue and make new recommendations.

At the same time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced it would review new scientific information on potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water. The EPA sets the maximum level allowed in public water systems.

Here's a look at how reversing fluoride policy has become an action item under President Donald Trump's administration.

### The benefits of fluoride

Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear,

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according to the CDC. In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and in 1962 set guidelines for how much should be added to water.

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. The American Dental Association credits it with reducing tooth decay by more than 25% in children and adults.

About one-third of community water systems — 17,000 out of 51,000 across the U.S. — serving more than 60% of the population fluoridated their water, according to a 2022 CDC analysis.

The potential problems of too much fluoride

The CDC currently recommends 0.7 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water.

Over time, studies have documented potential problems when people get much more than that.

Excess fluoride intake has been associated with streaking or spots on teeth. And 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 CDC's recommended level — was associated with lower IQs in kids.

Meanwhile, last year, a federal judge ordered the EPA to further regulate fluoride in drinking water. U.S. District Judge Edward Chen cautioned that it's not certain fluoride is causing lower IQ in kids, but he concluded that research pointed to an unreasonable risk that it could be.

Kennedy has railed against fluoride

Kennedy, a former environmental lawyer, has called fluoride a "dangerous neurotoxin" and "an industrial waste" tied to a range of health dangers. He has said it's 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.

How fluoride recommendations can be changed

The CDC's 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 the EPA's limit of 4 milligrams per liter.

So Kennedy can't order communities to stop fluoridation, but he can tell the CDC to stop recommending it.

It would be customary to convene a panel of experts to comb through the research and assess the evidence that speak to the pros and cons of water fluoridation. But Kennedy has the power to stop or change a CDC recommendation without that.

"The power lies with the secretary," but public trust would erode if recommendations are changed without a clear scientific basis, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University.

"If you're really serious about this, you don't just come in and change it," he said. "You ask somebody like the National Academy of Sciences to do a study — and then you follow their recommendations."

On Monday, Kennedy said he was forming a task force to focus on fluoride, while at the same time saying he would order the CDC to stop recommending it.

HHS officials did not answer immediately questions seeking more information about what the task force would be doing.

Some places are already pulling back on fluoridation

Utah recently became the first state to ban fluoride in drinking water, and legislators elsewhere are looking at the issue.

An Associated Press analysis of CDC data for 36 states shows that many communities have halted fluoridation in recent years.

Over the last six years, at least 734 water systems that consistently reported their data in those states



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have stopped fluoridating water, according to the AP's analysis.

Mississippi alone accounted for more than 1 in 5 of those water systems that stopped. Most water systems that discontinued fluoridation mainly did so to save money, said Melissa Parker, the Mississippi state health department's assistant senior deputy.

During the pandemic, Mississippi's health department allowed local water systems to temporarily cease fluoridating because they could not purchase sodium fluoride in the midst of global supply chain issues. Many never restarted, Parker said.

CDC funding for fluoride is typically a small factor

Since 2003, CDC has funded a limited number of state oral health programs through cooperative agreements. The agreements run in cycles, and at the beginning of this year 15 states were each receiving \$380,000 over three years.

The money can be used on a number of things, including collecting data on people with dental problems, dental care and technical assistance for community water fluoridation activities.

The current oral health funding is going to Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin.

The states are told not to use the money for chemicals, because the funding is intended to help set up fluoridation, not for everyday expenses, federal officials have said. South Carolina, for example, sets aside up to \$50,000 to help communities in that state fluoridate. Iowa spends about \$65,000 to promote community water fluoridation.

Earlier this year, CDC officials declined to answer questions about how much of the total oral health money has been going toward fluoridation.

Now, there is no one to ask: Last week, the CDC's entire 20-person Division of Oral Health was eliminated as part of widespread government staffing cuts.

Congress appropriated money to CDC specifically to support oral health programs, and some congressional staffers say the agency must distribute those funds no matter who is running the HHS or CDC. But Trump-driven budget cuts have struck at a number of programs that Congress had called for, and it's not clear what will happen to the CDC oral health funding.

Fluoridation is relatively cheap compared with other water department expenses, and most communities simply incorporate the cost into the water rates charged to customers, according to the American Water Works Association.

In Erie, Pennsylvania, for example, fluoridating water for 220,000 people costs about \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year and is entirely funded by water rates, said Craig Palmer, the chief executive of the Erie Water Authority.

So cutting off the CDC money would not have much impact on most communities, some experts said, although it could be more impactful for some smaller, rural communities.

## Supreme Court blocks order requiring Trump administration to reinstate thousands of federal workers

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Tuesday blocked an order for the Trump administration to return to work thousands of federal employees who were let go in mass firings aimed at dramatically downsizing the federal government.

The justices acted in the administration's emergency appeal of a ruling by a federal judge in California ordering that 16,000 probationary employees at six federal agencies be reinstated while a lawsuit plays out because their firings didn't follow federal law.

The court's order involved a technical legal assessment of the right, or standing, of several nonprofit associations to sue over the firings. Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson said they would have kept the judge's order in place.

It's the third time in less than a week that the justices have sided with the Republican administration in

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its fight against federal judges whose orders have slowed President Donald Trump's agenda. The court also paused an order restoring grants for teacher training and lifted an order that froze deportations under an 18th century wartime law.

But as with the earlier orders, the effect of Tuesday's order will be limited. Many employees at the agencies will remain on paid administrative leave for now because of an order in a separate lawsuit over the firings.

The second suit, filed in Maryland, involves employees at those same six agencies, plus roughly a dozen more. That order is more limited in that it applies only in the 19 states and the District of Columbia that sued the administration.

The Justice Department is separately appealing the Maryland order.

At least 24,000 probationary employees have been terminated since Trump took office, the lawsuits claim, though the government has not confirmed that number.

The coalition of organizations and labor unions that sued said it was disappointed with the court's order, but it said the battle is far from over.

"There is no doubt that thousands of public service employees were unlawfully fired in an effort to cripple federal agencies and their crucial programs that serve millions of Americans every day," the coalition said in a statement.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco ruled that the terminations were improperly directed by the Office of Personnel Management and its acting director. He ordered rehiring at the departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, the Interior and the Treasury.

Alsup, who was nominated by Democratic President Bill Clinton, expressed frustration with what he called the government's attempt to sidestep laws and regulations by firing probationary workers with fewer legal protections.

He said he was appalled that employees were told they were being fired for poor performance despite receiving glowing evaluations just months earlier.

The administration has insisted that the agencies themselves directed the firings and they "have since decided to stand by those terminations," Solicitor General D. John Sauer told the court.

## Lawyer says Prince Harry was unfairly 'singled out' when stripped of UK security detail

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince Harry was treated unfairly when he was stripped of his British security detail, his attorney told appeals court judges Tuesday as he sought to win back his government-funded protection.

Harry, whose rare appearance in court indicated the case's importance to him, lost his police bodyguards in February 2020 after he stepped down from his role as a working member of the royal family and moved to the U.S.

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

But attorney Shaheed Fatima argued that a group that evaluated Harry's security needs failed to follow its own process and perform a risk management assessment.

"The appellant does not accept that bespoke means better," Fatima said. "In fact, in his submission, it means that he has been singled out for different, unjustified and inferior treatment."

A lawyer for the government said Harry's argument in the lower court was accurately found to have been misconceived and based on an "inappropriate, formalist interpretation" of the government's security review.

"The appeal is fairly to be characterized in the same way," attorney James Eadie said. "It involves a continued failure to see the wood for the trees, advancing propositions available only by reading small parts of the evidence, and now the judgment, out of context and ignoring the totality of the picture."

The hearing before three Court of Appeal justices is due to end Wednesday and a written decision is expected later. While the hearing was livestreamed, much of the second day will be conducted behind closed doors to discuss sensitive security details.

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Harry arrived at court with a small security detail supplemented by court officers. He waved to cameras before disappearing into a private entrance.

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 hearings, 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 130 years.

Harry and his wife had stepped back from their official roles in the family in 2020 because they didn't feel they were "being protected by the institution," his lawyer said.

After doing so, a Home Office committee ruled there was "no basis for publicly funded security support for the duke and duchess within Great Britain."

Harry 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.

Since he lost his government-sponsored protection, Harry faced at least two serious security threats, his lawyer said in court papers. Al-Qaida had published a document that said Harry's assassination would please Muslims, and he and his wife were involved in a dangerous pursuit by paparazzi in New York.

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."

Harry 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.

## 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.



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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 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."

## South Korea's military fires warning shots after North Korean soldiers cross the border

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's military fired warning shots after North Korean soldiers crossed the rivals' tense border on Tuesday, South Korean officials said, the first known border intrusion by North Korea in nearly a year.

Violent confrontations and bloodshed have occasionally happened at the Koreas' heavily fortified border, called the Demilitarized Zone. But Tuesday's incident won't likely escalate, as it didn't cause any casualties on either side and North Korea hasn't returned fire.

About 10 North Korean soldiers — some carrying weapons — violated the military demarcation line at the eastern section of the DMZ at 5 p.m. They returned to North Korea after South Korea broadcast warnings and fired warning shots, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

South Korea's military said it is closely monitoring North Korean activities. It said North Korea didn't return fire.

In June last year, North Korean troops violated the border three times, prompting South Korea to fire warning shots. The incidents occurred when the Koreas were embroiled in Cold War-style campaigns like balloon launches and propaganda broadcasts, but they didn't develop into a major source of tensions.

South Korea's military assessed at the time that the North Korean soldiers didn't deliberately commit the border intrusion and the site was a wooded area where military demarcation line signs weren't clearly visible. Observers said the North Korean soldiers might have accidentally crossed the border while adding anti-tank barriers, planting mines or engaging in other works to boost border defenses.

The motive for Tuesday's border crossing by North Korean soldiers wasn't immediately clear.

South Korea's military said in late March that North Korea was resuming front-line works such as reinforcing barbed wire fences. South Korean media, citing the military, reported that North Korean soldiers might have unintentionally intruded into South Korea's territory on Tuesday during a patrol mission ahead of unspecified front-line works.

In October, North Korea said it would build defense structures at the border to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and U.S. forces. That was seen as an effort to beef up its front-line security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea.

The 248-kilometer (155-mile) -long, 4-kilometer (2.5-mile) -wide DMZ is one of the world's most heavily armed borders. An estimated 2 million mines are peppered inside and near the border, which is also guarded by barbed wire fences, tank traps and combat troops on both sides. It's a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Animosities between the Koreas are running high now as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his military nuclear capabilities and align with Russia over President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. Kim is also ignoring calls by Seoul and Washington to resume denuclearization negotiations.

Since his Jan. 20 inauguration, U.S. President Donald Trump has said he would reach out to Kim again to revive diplomacy. North Korea has not responded to Trump's remarks and says U.S. hostilities against it have deepened since Trump's inauguration. Experts say Kim could eventually return to talks with Trump, hoping that his advancing nuclear program would help North Korea win greater U.S. concessions.

South Korea, meanwhile, is experiencing a leadership vacuum after the ouster of President Yoon Suk Yeol last week over his ill-fated imposition of martial law. Yoon's push to expand military drills with the U.S. had infuriated North Korea. —

Associated Press writer Kim Tong-hyung contributed to this report.

## 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 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



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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.

## **Today in History: April 9**

### **Robert E. Lee surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Wednesday, April 9, the 99th day of 2025. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 9, 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia after four years of Civil War in the United States.

Also on this date:

In 1939, Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after the Black singer was denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American soldiers surrendered to Japanese troops, ending the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines. The prisoners of war were subsequently forced to march 65 miles (105 kilometers) to POW camps in what is now known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, NASA introduced the “Mercury Seven,” its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald “Deke” Slayton.

In 1968, funerals, private and public, were held for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 2003, Baghdad fell to American troops during the Iraq War after six days of fighting.

In 2005, Britain’s Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles, who took the title Duchess of Cornwall.

In 2018, federal agents raided the office of President Donald Trump’s personal attorney, Michael Cohen, seizing records on matters including a \$130,000 payment made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels.

Today’s Birthdays: Satirist-musician Tom Lehrer is 97. Actor Michael Learned is 86. Drummer Steve Gadd is 80. Actor Dennis Quaid is 71. Fashion designer Marc Jacobs is 62. Model-actor Paulina Porizkova is 60. Actor Cynthia Nixon is 59. Actor Keshia Knight Pulliam is 46. Actor Jay Baruchel is 43. Actor Leighton Meester is 39. Singer-songwriter Jazmine Sullivan is 38. Actor Kristen Stewart is 35. Actor Elle Fanning is 27. Rapper Lil Nas X is 26. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright is 26. Singer Jackie Evancho (ee-VAYN’-koh) is 24.