

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, April 10

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

School Breakfast: Biscuits.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, fries.

High School Baseball in Groton: Hosting Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern-Frederick - Varsity at 5:30 p.m., junior varsity at 7:30 p.m.

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

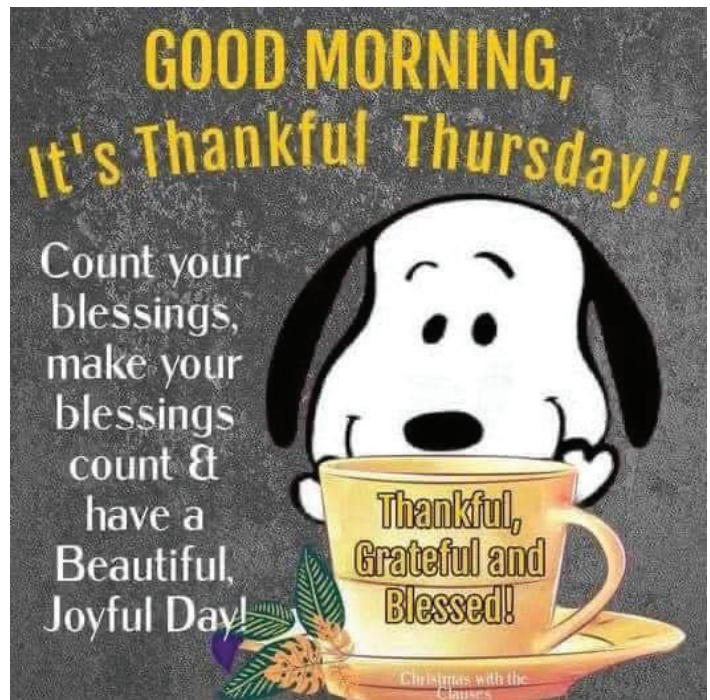
Track at Moberidge-Pollock, 11 a.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

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



Friday, April 11

Senior Menu: Chicken tetazzine, peas, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg Omelets.

School Lunch: Tuna. Noodle hot dish, green beans.

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

Saturday, April 12

Prom, Grand March at 7 p.m.

Lions Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m., city park

Firemen's Spring Social, 7 p.m., Groton Fire Hall

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Newsweek

The
Bulletin

YOUR DAILY BRIEFING OF
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

WORLD IN BRIEF

- **US bonds skyrocket:** US Treasury yields surged on Wednesday, a sign that investors are selling their safest assets as the latest round of President Trump's tariffs take effect.
- **South Africa plans for \$800 million smart city:** South Africa has broken ground on an ambitious smart city project named Westown, a multi-million-dollar development aimed at reshaping urban life in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, according to a recent report from CoinGeek.
- **Executions surge in Saudi Arabia:** The number of executions in Saudi Arabia doubled in 2024 as the Middle East led a global surge, according to a new report by Amnesty International. Rights groups say the trend has continued into 2025.
- **Why America's F-16 sale is angering China:** The potential sale of U.S. F-16 fighter jets to the Philippines has drawn pushback from China, which views the deal as another step in deepening American military influence near its borders.
- **Father living in US for 30 years detained by ICE:** A father of eight and longtime resident of the United States was detained by federal immigration authorities after a traffic hearing, his daughter has told Newsweek.
- **DHS orders 900K Biden-era migrants to leave:** The Department of Homeland Security has ordered migrants who entered the U.S. via the CBP One app to leave "immediately."
- **China mapping seafloor around US allies:** Chinese vessel is suspected of mapping the seafloor around U.S. allies Australia and New Zealand to support submarine deployments, an analyst has said.

Trump's Reciprocal Tariffs Begin: What to Know

The rundown: President Trump's reciprocal tariffs on dozens of countries took effect today. Here's everything you need to know.

Why it matters: The new duties were announced last Wednesday in a speech at the White House Rose Garden, and are in addition to the flat, 10 percent tariff the president placed on all global imports which began on Saturday. According to the administration, the measure will correct longstanding global trade imbalances that have disadvantaged the U.S. and motivate companies to relocate their manufacturing operations back to the country. Since Trump's announcement, several countries have been angling for trade talks with the administration in the hopes of reducing the rates at which their exports will be taxed—including a 20 percent tariff on goods from the European Union; 25 percent on South Korean imports; and 24 percent on Japanese imports.

TL/DR: China has responded with its own tariffs and vowed to "fight till the end," raising concerns of a prolonged trade conflict.

What happens now? More swings for financial markets are expected given uncertainty over how long Trump could keep the tariffs in effect. Economists expect a recession if they remain in effect for some time, but the worst could be avoided if they are lowered through negotiations relatively soon.

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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.

Tariff Seesaw

China announced new retaliatory tariffs of 84% against US imports early Wednesday in response to the Trump administration's 104% tariff on Chinese imports. The escalation came as Trump announced a 90-day pause on most tariffsover 10%—excluding China—later in the day, sparking markets to historic rallies. Trump also increased China's tariffs to 125%.

The tariff pause came amid warnings from economists—including JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon—that the broad tariff program would lead to a recession. Since last week's announcement of increased tariffs on more than 75 nations, the S&P 500 had entered bear market territory, having shed nearly 20% off its recent high, while all US-listed stocks dropped \$7.7T in value.

Stocks popped on the reversal (S&P 500 +9.5%, Dow +7.9%, Nasdaq +12.2%), with the S&P 500 notching its biggest single-day gain since 2008.

In related news, Richmond Fed President Tom Barkin said yesterday that price hikes from tariffs may not arrive until the summer as companies work through existing inventory.

Galaxy Brain

Scientists released a colored 3D reconstruction of the largest mammalian brain map ever yesterday, providing a significant step forward in understanding how the brain works.

Using just a cubic millimeter of neural tissue—about the size of a grain of sand—from a mouse's brain, researchers charted the activity and structure of 200,000 neurons and other types of brain cells, along with 523 million neural connections, and produced data equivalent to 22 years of nonstop HD video. To obtain the data, the team played stimulating short video clips for the rodent, including scenes from "The Matrix," and used a sophisticated imaging system to track the animal's brain activity patterns in its visual cortex. Their findings—compiled into a map resembling a galaxy—allow researchers to decode and discover patterns in the brain's wiring that impact functions like seeing, storing, and processing information.

Neuroscientists hope the findings can be generalized to humans and help to study and create treatments for brain diseases associated with atypical wiring, including autism and schizophrenia.

One Hundred Years of Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" marks its 100th anniversary today as a cornerstone of classic American literature. Initially a commercial disappointment—selling fewer than 25,000 copies during his lifetime—it gained traction during World War II through military distribution. Since then, it has sold over 30 million copies worldwide and remains a staple in high school curricula.

Set in 1922 Long Island and New York City, the novel explores the illusion of the American dream through Jay Gatsby's doomed pursuit of wealth and love. Inspired by Fitzgerald's youthful romance with socialite Ginevra King and his time on Long Island's North Shore during the Jazz Age, its themes of aspiration, class divides, and moral decay remain relevant to readers today. Now in the public domain, it has inspired at least four feature films, several TV episodes, an opera, two musicals, and more.

Centennial celebrations include a Broadway toast, a Library of Congress reading, and the Empire State Building being illuminated in green—a nod to Gatsby's iconic symbol of hope.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

The 2025 Masters—one of four major championships in men's golf—begins today (3 pm ET, ESPN) from Augusta, Georgia; 2022 and 2024 winner Scottie Scheffler enters as favorite to win.

Universal set to open a theme park in Bedford, UK, its first in Europe, in 2031; Universal currently has theme parks in Los Angeles, Orlando, Japan, Singapore, and China.

"Hamilton" cast album and music by Elton John and Tracy Chapman among 25 recordings added to the Library of Congress's National Recording Registry.

Science & Technology

Google unveils Ironwood, its most advanced dedicated AI processor to date; chips are designed to run in clusters of more than 9,200, capable of more than 42 quintillion operations per second.

Engineers develop first wearable device to monitor health by analyzing gases going out of and into the skin.

Complete genomes of six separate ape species fully detailed for the first time; results expected to provide insight into human evolution, inform conservation efforts.

Business & Markets

Apple shares rise 15% in best day since 1998 on President Donald Trump's 90-day tariff pause .

Bitcoin surges more than 7% to over \$82K as part of broader market rally.

Delta Air Lines withdraws full-year financial guidance due to global trade disruptions.

Walmart pulls guidance for Q1 operating profit growth, vows to keep delivering low prices amid tariff uncertainty.

Former Facebook executive Sarah Wynn-Williams testifies before Senate Judiciary Committee alleging Meta compromised national security by sharing US artificial intelligence initiatives with China to expand its business there.

Politics & World Affairs

Trump administration pauses \$1B in federal funding for Cornell University and \$790M for Northwestern for allegedly violating civil rights on campus.

Federal judges in Texas, New York block Justice Department from removing plaintiffs in deportation cases tied to 1798 Alien Enemies Act.

FBI Director Kash Patel removed as acting head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, replaced with Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll.

Acting IRS commissioner plans to resign after data-sharing deal with federal immigration authorities.

Death toll from roof collapse at Dominican Republic music venue rises to at least 124 people.

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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.

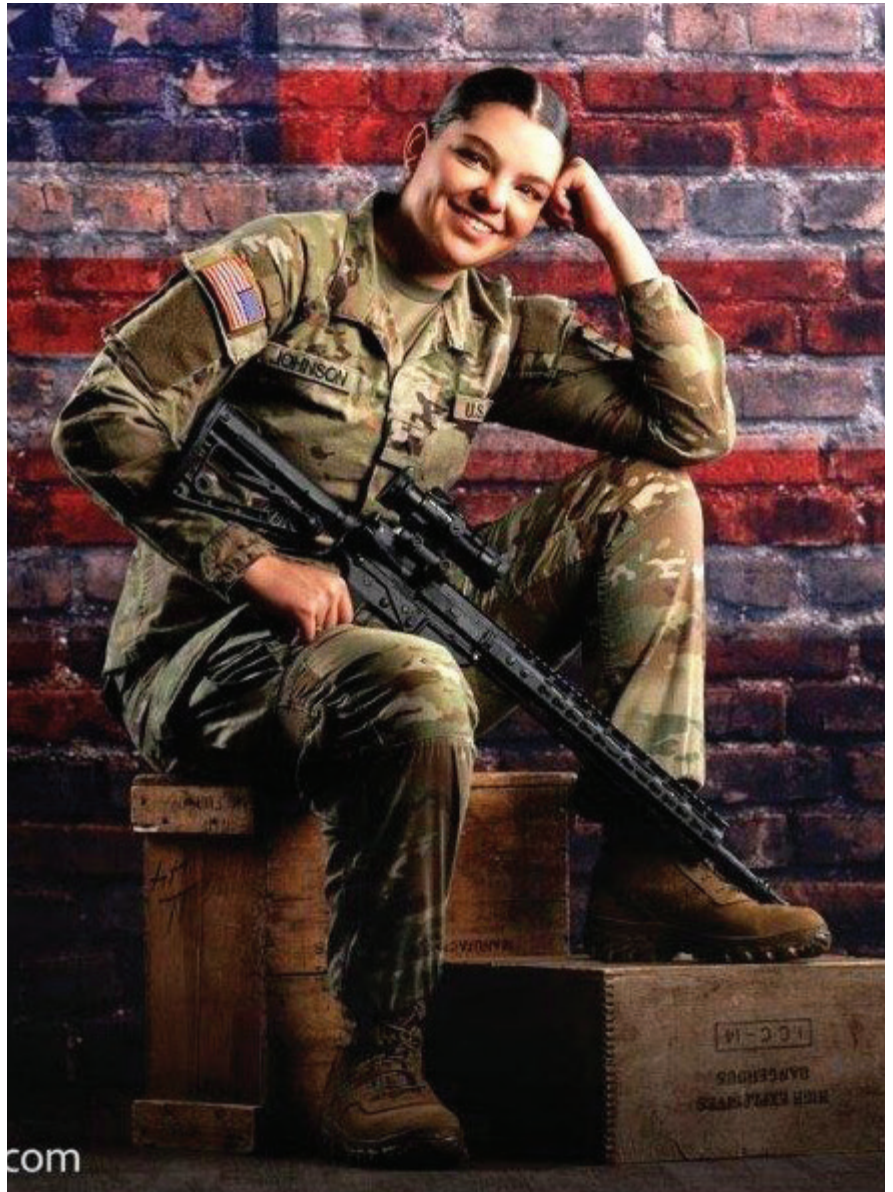
Johnson interns at SD National Guard

Ashley Johnson, daughter of Fred and Melanie Johnson, Groton, has chosen to do her internship with the South Dakota National Guard. "I may eventually join the National Guard full time," Ashley explained, "but only after I've completed my education in law enforcement at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown."

"I'm involved in a variety of extracurricular activities in high school," she added. "I'm the manager for the volleyball team and for girls' basketball. I also am a member of FCCLA and FFA as well as a participant in the throwing events in track."

"As an intern in the National Guard, I've traveled to local schools and to a variety of wrestling events to help set up the mats and talk to the kids about the National Guard," Ashley explained.

"Part of my job there is to organize things and help with a power point presentation. The hardest part of these presentations is getting the kids to listen to the information we are giving," she stated. "I prefer talking to the high school kids one-on-one; that's much easier than speaking to a large group."



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GROTON AREA TIGERS BASEBALL JV 2025

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
POSTPONED	Redfield/Hitchcock-Tulare	Redfield	4:00pm
April 10	Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern-Frederick	Groton	7:30pm
April 13	Sisseton-Britton-Webster	Groton	2:00pm (DH)
April 14	Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern-Frederick	Northville	5:30pm (DH)
April 21	Faulkton Area/Miller/Highmore-Harrold/Wolsey Wessington/Wessington Springs	Miller	8:00pm
April 27	Sioux Valley	Groton	2:00pm (DH)
May 11	Sisseton-Britton-Webster	Groton	4:00pm

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GROTON AREA TIGERS BASEBALL VARSITY 2025

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
POSTPONED	Redfield Area/Hitchcock-Tulare	Redfield	2:00pm
April 10	Warner/Ipswich/Northwestern/Frederick	Groton	5:30pm
April 18	Madison/Chester	Madison	11:00am
April 21	Faulkton Area/Miller/Highmore- Harrold/Wolsey-Wessington/Wessington Springs	Miller	6:00pm
April 27	Howard	Canova	2:00pm
April 30	Sioux Valley	Groton	6:00pm
May 4	Elkton	Groton	2:00pm
	Clark/Willow Lake/Hamlin/Castlewood		6:00pm
May 11	Sisseton-Britton-Webster	Groton	2:00pm
May 21	Regional Tournament	Highest 2 Seeds	TBD
May 26-27	State B Tournament	Brookings	TBD

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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, Rease'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**

Rounds Leads Legislation to Eliminate U.S. Department of Education

Legislation would return education to local control, redistribute critical programs to existing federal departments

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today reintroduced the Returning Education to Our States Act, which would eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and redistribute all critical federal programs to other departments. Rounds first introduced this legislation in November 2024.

This legislation does not cut a dollar of education funding. Rather, funds will continue to flow directly to states in the form of block grants with other critical programs funded through the appropriate federal agencies. Eliminating the bureaucracy at the Department of Education will save approximately \$2.2 billion per year in taxpayer dollars.

"We all know that teachers, parents, local school boards and state Departments of Education know what's best for their students, not bureaucrats in Washington," said Rounds. "The Department of Education was created to collect education data and advise state and local organizations on best practices. Since then, it has grown into an oversized bureaucracy that dictates one-size-fits-all policies, standards and practices for students across the nation. The Returning Education to Our States Act would preserve important programs and federal funding while eliminating the bureaucracy of the Department of Education. This has been a priority of mine for years, and it's one that President Trump shares. I'm looking forward to working with the President, Secretary McMahon and the rest of the administration to get this legislation across the finish line and return education decisions to the state and local levels where they belong."

This legislation is cosponsored by Senators Jim Banks (R-Ind.) and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.).

"While the average Dept of Ed bureaucrat makes twice as much as a teacher in Indiana, our national test scores are near historic lows. That money should be sent back to the states to empower parents, teachers, and local leaders," said Banks. "Congress has a golden opportunity to codify President Trump's executive actions. This bill does that. It's a win for American education."

"It's time to put students first, not bureaucracy," said Sheehy. "We spend more on education than at any point in history, but test scores are declining because those dollars are being squandered by a bloated federal bureaucracy. Closing the DOE will not cut off funds from students who depend on them, but it will eliminate layers of red tape in Washington, D.C. and ensure taxpayer money for education is better spent at the local level, where the dollars support kids, families, and hardworking teachers."

"Republicans have promised to abolish the Department of Education since it was created in 1979. President Trump and Senator Rounds are finally getting it done," said Christopher Rufo, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute. "This legislation would end the Department of Education's corrupt ideological spoils system and return power to states, schools, and parents. It's time for action."

"Putting students first means returning education to where it truly belongs—state and local governments, school boards, and families," Tina Descovich, Co-founder & Executive Director of Moms for Liberty. "For 50 years, the U.S. Department of Education has attempted to fulfill its mission, yet it has failed by every measurable standard. Today, we face an education crisis, with only one-third of fourth graders reading proficiently. Dismantling the U.S Department of Education through the "Returning Education to Our States Act" offers the best path forward, empowering communities to create an education system where every

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child can thrive.”

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Education (Department) was created in 1979 with the goal of collecting data and advising schools across the U.S. on best practices. In the 45 years since then, it has grown into an oversized bureaucracy with a budget that's 449 percent larger than it was at its founding. Despite the Department spending \$16,000 per student per year, standardized test scores have been dropping over the past ten years, further displaying the Department's ineffectiveness on the quality of education for American students. Any grants or funding from the Department are only given to states and educational institutions in exchange for adopting the one-size-fits-all standards put forth by the Department.

Despite its inefficiencies, there are several important programs housed within the Department. The funding formulas for the below programs would not be changed. Rounds' legislation would redirect these to the Departments of Interior, Treasury, Health and Human Services, Labor, Defense, Justice and State:

Department of the Interior
Indian Education Formula Grants and National Activities
Native American and Alaska Native Children in School Program
Special Programs for Indian Children

Department of the Treasury
William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program
Federal Family Education Loan Program
Federal Perkins Loan Program
Federal Pell Grant Program
Health Education Assistance Loan Program
Education Sciences Reform Act
Education Technical Assistance Act
National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act

Department of Health and Human Services
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
Education of the Blind
Helen Keller Center for Deaf/Blind Youth and Adults
Special Education Grants
Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act
Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Department of Labor
All Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education programs
Randolph Sheppard Vending Facility Program
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants
American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
Education of the Deaf Act
Randolph-Sheppard Act
Helen Keller National Center Act

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Department of Defense
Impact Aid Programs

Department of Justice
Civil Rights Enforcement

Department of State
Fulbright-Hays Program

In addition, Rounds' legislation would alleviate the following compliance requirements:

Eliminate Federal Accountability Mandates: Schools would no longer be required to administer standardized assessments or track performance for identifying struggling schools (CSI and TSI), allowing for more flexibility in assessment and school improvement strategies.

Reduce Funding Compliance Burdens: Schools would no longer have to comply with complex Title I funding regulations, maintenance of effort standards or provide equitable services for private school students. This would simplify financial management.

Relax Teacher Qualification Requirements: Schools would have more autonomy to set teacher certification standards and professional development plans, reducing federal oversight and allowing for tailored approaches to educator qualifications.

Northern students present research at Upper Midwest Honors Conference

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University students recently attended the Upper Midwest Honors Conference, where several students presented research, and one earned recognition in a regional competition.

In the Three Minute Thesis Competition, Abiah George earned second place for their presentation, “The Denial of ‘Homegrown Terrorism’: Bias, Rhetoric, and the Framing of Domestic Extremism.”

Three students presented their Honors Thesis research during the poster sessions:

Stella Meier – “Rhetorical Shields: The Shaping of Qualified Immunity by the United States Supreme Court”

Triston Leidholdt – “Underage Gambling Exposure: Changing Societal Outlook on Sports Betting”

Morgan Sheldon – “Testing Moccasin Creek Using ICP-OES Water Analysis for Heavy Metal Contamination”

In addition, Evelyn Carlson and Avery Kautz attended the conference and represented Northern State University.

“I’m so proud of our students—not just for the outstanding research they presented, but for the way they fully engaged with the conference experience,” said Dr. Hannah Walters, director of the NSU Honors Program. “Opportunities like this are about more than presenting—it’s about discovering who you are as a scholar and a leader.”

The Upper Midwest Honors Conference brings together honors students and faculty from colleges and universities across the region to share research, connect with peers and faculty, and engage in academic conversation.

Morgan Sheldon, a Biology major from Mandan, North Dakota, competes on the Northern Women’s Track and Field team. She plans to graduate in three years and then pursue a degree in Nursing.

Sheldon reflected on her recent experience at the conference:

“Presenting my thesis project on ‘Testing Moccasin Creek Using ICP-OES Water Analysis for Heavy Metal Contamination’ was a rewarding opportunity to showcase the hard work I’ve poured into this research over the past year. Being a part of Honors has given me the chance to share why this topic is interesting to me, especially in terms of conservation and encouraging people to care about the biodiversity of the creek beyond its aesthetics.

This experience has opened doors to learning more about the history of the creek, the organisms that inhabit it, and the wildlife and aquatic plants that depend on it. The feedback I received sparked even more questions that I want to continue exploring. I’m incredibly grateful to my Northern professors and Honors advisors who supported me throughout this challenging process. Writing a thesis was intimidating at times, but their guidance helped me push through even when I felt like giving up.”



Can you get a DUI while riding a horse in South Dakota?

By Megan Luther
South Dakota News Watch

No.

There's a specific South Dakota law that exempts driving under the influence charges for anyone intoxicated while riding an animal, bicycle, tricycle or any non-powered pedal mechanism.

In 2006, then-Gov. Mike Rounds signed the exemption into law stating a bike or horse is a better alternative than someone drinking and driving home.

Other states still consider a bicycle or horse a vehicle under DUI laws. In 2023, North Dakota reduced the penalty for riding a bike or horse while under the influence to a \$200 fine.

This fact brief responds to conversations such as this one.

Sources

South Dakota Codified Law, 32-23-22

National Public Radio, South Dakota drinkers should take bikes or horses home

North Dakota Legislature, House Bill 1506

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



**Groton
American Legion**

GRAND REOPENING

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

**When: Friday,
April 11**

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

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

**Appetizers:
6 pm until gone**

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

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

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

Chelsea Hanson named to Aberdeen Central Hall of Fame

The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation has announced the Aberdeen Central High School Hall of Fame Class of 2025 for Athletics:

Jared Hannigan, Class of 2010 – A role model and elite athlete, Hannigan excelled on and off the field as quarterback for the Golden Eagles. He earned honors as Mr. Basketball, Spirit of Su, Class AA Player of the Year, and Gatorade Player of the Year, and was a three-time state champion in the long jump.

Chelsea (Brandlee) Hanson, Class of 2005 – A volleyball and basketball standout athlete, Hanson was the heart and soul of her teams at Aberdeen Central. In 2004, she set and still holds the State Volleyball record for Most Aces in the State Tournament (across all classes). She completed her volleyball career at CHS with over 1,000 kills.



Chelsea Hanson

Douglas Woodruff Smith, Class of 1962 – No one else has had more impact on the quality and quantity of tennis in Aberdeen. Smith's continued commitment to mentoring, education, and leadership has shaped the sport of tennis at the local, state, regional, and national levels. He has positively influenced the lives of thousands of young people and led them to many state championships.

These individuals will be inducted into the Aberdeen Central High School Hall of Fame at a banquet on September 27, 2025, in conjunction with Aberdeen Central High School Homecoming festivities. Tickets will go on sale for the event in July.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

A new wind animating South Dakota's protest climate is blowing toward the congressional delegation

by Mary Garrigan

Anti-Trump protests are nothing new. They've been occurring with regularity in America, and I've been attending them here in Rapid City, ever since Donald Trump's first election in 2016. So I was expecting all of the usual suspects, and about the usual response when I went to the Hands Off protest last weekend here that was part of a larger national movement. A protest in Rapid City, or anywhere in South Dakota, usually means a gathering of not more than a couple hundred people whose actions go largely unnoticed by the rest of the state.



A protester holds a sign on April 5, 2025, in Rapid City. (Courtesy of Glenda Nixon)

This one felt, if not exactly new, at least different.

For starters, there was not one, but two, rallies in Rapid City on Saturday. Both of them were larger and more enthusiastic than past rallies have been. There were better signs, more encouraging honking from passing motorists and, most significantly, what appeared to be a wider, broader base of angry voters. Most of the vitriol was reserved for President Trump, of course, but there was plenty left over for South Dakota's congressional delegation.

Crowd size is difficult to estimate, but I'm guessing perhaps a thousand people stretched out along Omaha Street at Rapid City's Founders Park on Saturday morning for the Hands Off event. At noon, a second rally had begun a bit farther east in front of City Hall, where a similar sized crowd — no doubt many of the same protesters — continued their anti-Trump messaging at a 50501 event. Protests occurred across the state, in cities including Pierre, Brookings, Aberdeen, Mitchell and Watertown. In Sioux Falls, thousands of people showed up, to the surprise of protesters and observers alike.

In Rapid City, there were plenty of signs telling President Trump and the Elon Musk-led Department of

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Government Efficiency to keep their "Hands Off!" of schools, libraries, feeding programs, Medicare, Social Security, voting rights, free speech, health care, transgender kids, democracy, federal employees, gay rights, the courts, reproductive rights ... and on, and on, and on. The Hands Off list was as long as the flurry of executive orders issued by Trump in the first few weeks of his presidency. I especially liked the "You Can't Spell Felon without Elon" sign and the many inventive reinterpretations of the MAGA acronym, such as "Morons Are Governing America." One of my personal favorites was a sign carried not by a person at all, but affixed to a fluffy little dog that read, "Good DOG; Bad DOGE."

There were also plenty of signs letting South Dakota's congressional delegation know what protesters think of them. What they think is that Sen. John Thune, Sen. Mike Rounds and Rep. Dusty Johnson are complicit in Trump's blatant disregard for federal workers, his dismantling of federal agencies and his abandonment of democratic norms.

Photos of the three incumbent Republicans appeared on numerous signs that were critical of Congress for conceding its power to Trump's executive branch, with slogans like: "Anybody Here Seen Our Old Friends?" "Can You Tell Me Where They've Gone?" "Do Your Jobs!" "Support Democracy, not Fascism." "History Will Remember Your Complicity."

While the three men could not escape the creativity of the rally signs, it remains to be seen if they will manage to escape angry voters at the ballot box. South Dakota is a very red state, after all, and they have all cruised to easy election victories in the past. But we are also a state with a rich history of showing longtime incumbent politicians the door once voters decide an elected official has become more responsive to the powers-that-be in Washington, D.C., than to South Dakotans. Even many Trump voters may eventually decide they've had their fill of tariff trade wars and stock market losses. Some of them, likely some of the federal employees carrying AFGE signs supporting the American Federation of Government Employees last Saturday, already have. Thune, Rounds and Johnson would be wise to consider them.

Back on Jan. 25, I went to a March for Democracy in Rapid City, just days after President Trump's second inauguration. It all felt futile that day, and I bemoaned to two friends in the crowd, "What is it we're doing here ... again?" Perhaps the small crowd and the lack of enthusiasm we felt that day could be blamed on the freezing temperatures and the bitter cold wind. But it was clear that we were also feeling the dispiriting chill of another four years of a Trump presidency and what it meant for our country.

Fast forward two months, and the protest climate in Rapid City felt different to me. Maybe that was nothing more than last weekend's sunshine and the spring-like temperatures, but I suspect there is something else heating up voters all across America.

Mary Garrigan is a retired newspaper reporter and current member of the South Dakota chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. She lives in Rapid City, where she served on the Rapid City Public Library's board of directors from 2019 through 2024.

Receiver seeks access to 'missing' financial data amid check-kiting claims

Sunterra Farms Iowa faces deadline to show evidence was not destroyed

BY: CLARK KAUFFMAN, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - APRIL 9, 2025 6:08 PM

A financially troubled Iowa company with locations in South Dakota is operating under a court order to show it did not attempt to destroy or manipulate financial data sought by a court-appointed receiver.

In March, the Iowa-incorporated company Sunterra Farms Iowa, and its affiliates, Sunwold Farms Inc., and Lariagra Farms South Inc. were accused in U.S. District Court by one their lenders, Compeer Financial, of operating a billion-dollar check-kiting scheme.

Compeer Financial is suing the three companies, which are run by the Price family of Yankton County, South Dakota. The companies are responsible for extensive swine operations in Iowa and South Dakota,

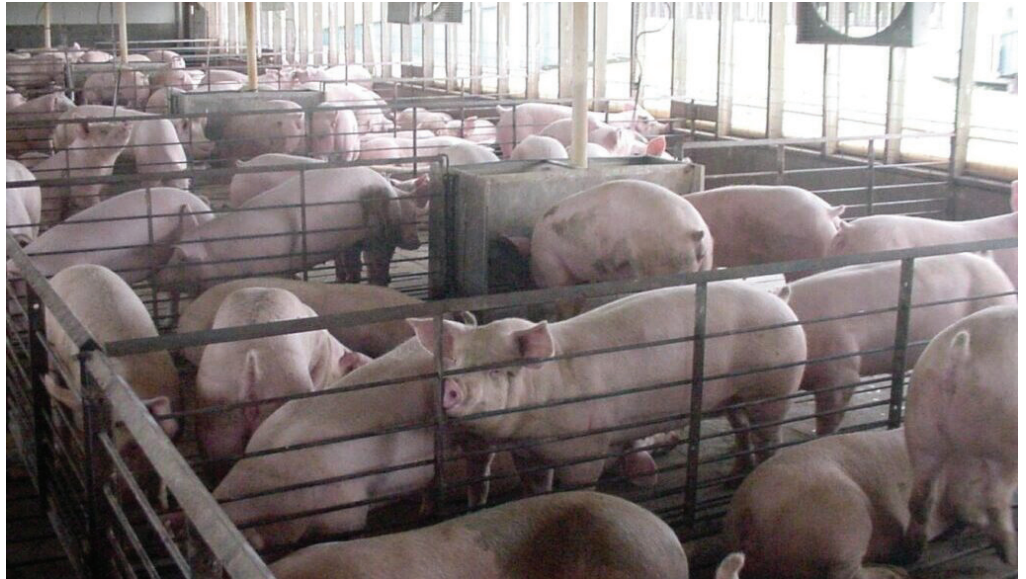
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with their parent companies based in Canada.

At Compeer's request, a federal judge has appointed a receiver, Hannah Walkes of Pipestone Management II, to take control of the companies' operations and ensure that Compeer's collateral – 110,000 head of swine located in 54 barns in and around Yankton County – are fed and cared for. Walkes told the Iowa Capital Dispatch on Wednesday the pigs, which are destined for slaughter, are being properly cared for and are no longer at risk.

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 Farms Iowa.



(Photo by Kent Becker, U.S. Geological Survey)

Bank: Family blamed CEO Ray Price for check kiting

In its lawsuit, Compeer claims that the Price family companies have engaged in a "long-running fraud" that involves 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 alleges the transactions have had the effect of creating phony positive account balances that caused Compeer to pay the companies interest. Compeer claims that before the check-kiting scheme collapsed in February, it involved "billions of dollars" in fraudulent transactions between accounts with Compeer and Canadian Western Bank.

According to separate court filings by Canadian Western Bank in the Court of King's Bench in Alberta, the "core guiding minds" of the defendant companies are CEO Ray Price, along with Douglas, Glen, David and Art Price — all of whom are directors and shareholders of various members of the Sunterra group of companies.

According to the Canadian bank, the Price companies issued checks that vastly exceeded their actual holdings — meaning none of the companies, at any point, had the actual cash on hand to pay the face value of the checks. The total amount of money circulated as a result of the alleged check-kiting scheme over a nine-month period exceeded 7 billion Canadian dollars, or 4.9 billion American dollars, the bank claims.

In Canadian court filings, Canadian Western Bank alleges that at a meeting on Feb. 24, 2025, Art and Glen Price "made various clear and unequivocal statements" indicating the overdrafts were caused by CEO Ray Price, with whom they were "upset and disappointed."

Not long after that meeting, however, the Price family allegedly refused to allow Compeer and the Canadian bank to share information as they investigated the matter.

'Contempt of court' issue is raised by receiver

While case in Canadian court has advanced, conflicts have arisen in the U.S. District Court proceedings involving Walkes, the newly appointed receiver tasked with taking control of the Price family companies.

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According to documents filed with the court by Walkes, she went to the Sunterra Farms Iowa offices in Beresford, South Dakota, on the morning of March 31 to gather financial information. She alleges that while she was logged onto Sunterra's online accounting platform, she noticed "all information regarding accounts receivable, accounts payable and general ledger were missing."

A short time later, she told the court, she received "a message that we had been entirely kicked out of the accounting platform." After logging back in, she alleged, she discovered that information — including data she had previously accessed — was missing.

"I have serious concerns that the data is being destroyed or manipulated," Walkes told the court, asking that the Price family companies be required to show cause as to why they shouldn't be held in contempt of court.

Court records show an attorney for Walkes sent an email to Sunterra's lawyers, stating, "Someone knew that the receiver was on site and reviewing accounting information, and information and data started disappearing at the same time, which is a direct violation of the court's order."

An attorney for the Price companies wrote back to Walkes' attorney, questioning those claims and asking, "Will this type of aggression take place at every turn or will the receiver act in the best interest of all parties as it is required?"

Four days later, Walkes updated the court on the situation, indicating some of the issues had been resolved and that while she still didn't know whether some data had been removed, she believed she had gained access to enough information to manage the accounts for two of the three companies — Sunwold and Lariagra.

However, she told the court, with regard to Sunterra Farms, that company functions as the management entity for the other two, and after she attempted to run financial reports for Sunterra, they "reflected all zeros. The Sunterra Farms journal entries were blank where financial information used to exist."

In that same update to the court, she indicated that she had just learned the Sunterra information had been restored, but she still was unable to access information pertaining to the Price family's parent companies in Canada. Walkes asked the court to clarify her authority to gain access to that information.

In response, Sunterra and its affiliates argued Walkes had no "permission to reach across the border into Canada to look at information not belonging to" the companies.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Eric Schulte gave lawyers for Sunterra and its affiliates to until the end of day Wednesday to file "an unequivocal declaration" that no evidence had been destroyed or manipulated.

As for the receiver's access to information on the Canadian parent companies, Schulte gave the companies' lawyers the same deadline to request a protective order that articulated the "reasons why they believe such information should be protected from disclosure."

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.

Two federal judges block Trump administration deportations under Alien Enemies Act

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - APRIL 9, 2025 5:04 PM

WASHINGTON — Federal judges in Texas and New York Wednesday temporarily halted the Trump administration's use of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 in parts of those two states where Venezuelans set for deportation are incarcerated.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed cases in the Southern District of New York and the Southern

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District of Texas, after the U.S. Supreme Court this week deemed challenges to the wartime law must be brought in the location of those subject to President Donald Trump's proclamation on use of the act. The cases earlier were argued in the District of Columbia.

That Monday decision from the high court lifted a lower court's order that barred the Trump administration from invoking the wartime law to deport any Venezuelan nationals 14 or older who are suspected gang members — but the justices also said unanimously that the Venezuelans must be allowed court hearings.

Texas Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the deportation of Venezuelans in the entire state of Texas under the Alien Enemies Act, as well as the facility where the three men who brought the case are currently detained, the El Valle Detention Center in Raymondville.

The restraining order from Rodriguez Jr. is in place until April 23. The order also states that the three Venezuelan men cannot be removed from the El Valle Detention Center, which is the same center from which the Trump administration on March 15 transferred those subject to the wartime law and placed them on a plane to a notorious mega-prison in El Salvador.



Minister of Justice and Public Security Héctor Villatoro, right, accompanies U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, center, during a tour of the Terrorist Confinement Center, or CECOT, on March 26, 2025 in Tecoluca, El Salvador. (Photo by Alex Brandon-Pool/Getty Images)

New York order

The temporary restraining order from New York Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein that he plans to sign Wednesday would cover Venezuelans in the Southern District of New York, according to The Associated Press. That would include New York City, the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx and Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Westchester counties.

Two Venezuelans brought the suit in the Southern District of New York.

Hellerstein, who was appointed by former President Bill Clinton, will hold an April 22 hearing to determine if the temporary restraining order should become a preliminary injunction. The ACLU is also pushing for a class certification.

The Supreme Court said this week it will allow, for now, the Trump administration to use the Alien Enemies Act, but those subject to the proclamation must be allowed to bring a challenge in court.

The original suit against the Trump administration's use of the Alien Enemies Act came from five men detained in Texas. The justices argued that the proper court venue should be where they were being detained in Texas rather than before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

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More than 238 Venezuelans have been deported to the brutal prison, Centro de Confinamiento del Terrorismo, known as CECOT.

Marylander's case cited

Judge Rodriguez Jr., whom President Donald Trump appointed in 2017, in placing the temporary restraining order noted that anyone who is erroneously deported under the Alien Enemies Act potentially cannot be returned to the United States.

In his reasoning, he cited the Trump administration's stance in a high-profile case that led to a Maryland man being sent to a prison in El Salvador by mistake.

The Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to strike down a lower court's order that officials return Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia of Beltsville, Maryland, who had a 2019 court order barring his removal to El Salvador. On Monday the Supreme Court temporarily paused the deadline until the high court could make a full decision.

"Furthermore, if the United States erroneously removed an individual to another country based on the Proclamation, a substantial likelihood exists that the individual could not be returned to the United States," Rodriguez Jr. wrote.

A hearing in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in the Brownsville division, is set for Friday 1:30 p.m. Central.

Rodriguez said of the upcoming Friday hearing, "the Court will consider whether to extend the temporary restraining order or issue other forms of emergency relief."

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

Markets revive after Trump sets 90-day pause on many tariffs, hikes China to 125%

BY: ASHLEY MURRAY - APRIL 9, 2025 1:40 PM

WASHINGTON — Suddenly veering from his declaration a week ago, President Donald Trump on Wednesday paused his sweeping "liberation day" tariffs for 90 days on countries he's said are willing to negotiate new trade deals.

Stocks surged upon his announcement after days of wrecked markets erased trillions of dollars from investor portfolios. The Nasdaq index saw the biggest single-day hike in five years as of Wednesday afternoon, according to financial media.

The pause will not extend to China, which he announced will see a further hike to 125% on imports to the U.S. "effective immediately," he said.

"At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable," Trump posted on Truth Social just after 1 p.m. Eastern.

The president said more than 75 countries have reached out to negotiate, and that because "these Countries have not, at my strong suggestion, retaliated in any way, shape, or form against the United States" he is dropping their tariff rates to a universal 10%.

Several rounds of tariffs the president enacted in March will remain in place, including 25% import taxes on foreign steel, aluminum and cars — charges which sparked the European Union to approve retaliatory tariffs Wednesday.

Canada and Mexico, which both face up to 25% tariffs on a sizable chunk of products, will continue to see the levies but will not face an additional 10% stacked on top.

Trump's 25% tax on imports from any country that buys oil from Venezuela also remains unchanged.

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Americans 'yippy'

The president told the press outside the White House Wednesday afternoon that he saw people getting "queasy" and "yippy" about the market turmoil.

"You have to have flexibility," Trump said about his decision to pause the levies.

The tariffs, which the administration maintains are "reciprocal," though under a formula disputed by economists, went into effect just after midnight Wednesday.

When asked by reporters if he'll consider exempting any large companies that lost big in the market crash from paying the baseline 10% import tax, Trump said he'll rely on his "instinct" to make the decision.

The announcement came just hours after the president posted on social media "BE COOL!" and "THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!! DJT."

Trump's sudden pause also came just after U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer defended the steep tariffs to nervous lawmakers for the second day in a row.

Administration officials quickly claimed the sudden pause was part of Trump's strategy all along — despite several saying over the last few days that the tariffs were here to stay and that Americans needed to have patience as the market crashed. More than half of Americans are invested in the stock market.

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller characterized Trump's about-face on tariffs as "the greatest economic master strategy from an American President in history," in a post on X Wednesday afternoon.



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during an executive order signing in the Oval Office at the White House on Feb. 11, 2025, in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

A rollercoaster few days

Trump's tariff plan sent shock waves through the economy after he unveiled import taxes on trading partners and allies, including 46% for Vietnam, a major tech exporter to the U.S.

The administration calculated the steep tariff rates based on each country's trade deficit with the U.S.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters outside the White House Wednesday that the tariffs were "a successful negotiating strategy."

"As I told everyone a week ago in this very spot: Do not retaliate, and you will be rewarded," Bessent said.

The administration met with Vietnamese officials Wednesday, according to Bessent, and meetings with Japan, South Korea and India are expected shortly, though he didn't provide details.

When asked by reporters if Trump's tariff policy was mainly now focused on China, Bessent said "it's

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about bad actors” but added that China “is the biggest source of the U.S. trade problems.”

The trade war — a term Bessent rejected — between the U.S. and China expanded rapidly overnight Wednesday when Chinese officials raised levies on U.S. goods to 84%.

“The US’s practice of escalating tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake, which seriously infringes on China’s legitimate rights and interests and seriously damages the rules-based multilateral trading system,” according to a translation of a statement Wednesday from the country’s State Council Tariff Commission.

Pressure from lawmakers

A Trump campaign account posted on X a screenshot of the president’s morning message urging people to buy stocks and asked “Did the Panicans listen to @POTUS’s advice this morning?”

“Panicans” is a term Trump used recently to mock lawmakers who openly criticized losses to retirement funds and questioned how the tariffs would affect small businesses in their districts.

Republican Sens. Thom Tillis of North Carolina and James Lankford of Oklahoma grilled Greer Tuesday during a hearing before the Senate Committee on Finance.

“Whose throat do I get to choke if this proves wrong?” Tillis asked.

Greer faced questions Wednesday morning from the House Committee on Ways and Means, where Chair Jason Smith of Missouri cheered on Trump’s choice to unleash tariffs on almost every country at once.

Rep. Richard Neal, the panel’s top Democrat, told Greer that his office has been “inundated” with calls from constituents worried about their 401k funds.

“They don’t know what to expect, trillions of dollars of market value being lost even as we meet,” the Massachusetts Democrat said at the morning hearing before Trump called off the tariffs.

Democratic Sen. Adam Schiff said Wednesday that he’s asking the White House if any insider trading occurred while Trump was “creating giant market fluctuations with his on-again, off-again tariffs.”

“Who in the administration knew about Trump’s latest tariff flip flop ahead of time? Did anyone buy or sell stocks, and profit at the public’s expense?” Schiff wrote on X.

Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington and Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa introduced a bipartisan bill to claw back Congressional power over trade decisions from the president, who currently has near-unilateral authority.

GOP Rep. Don Bacon of Nebraska introduced companion legislation in the House.

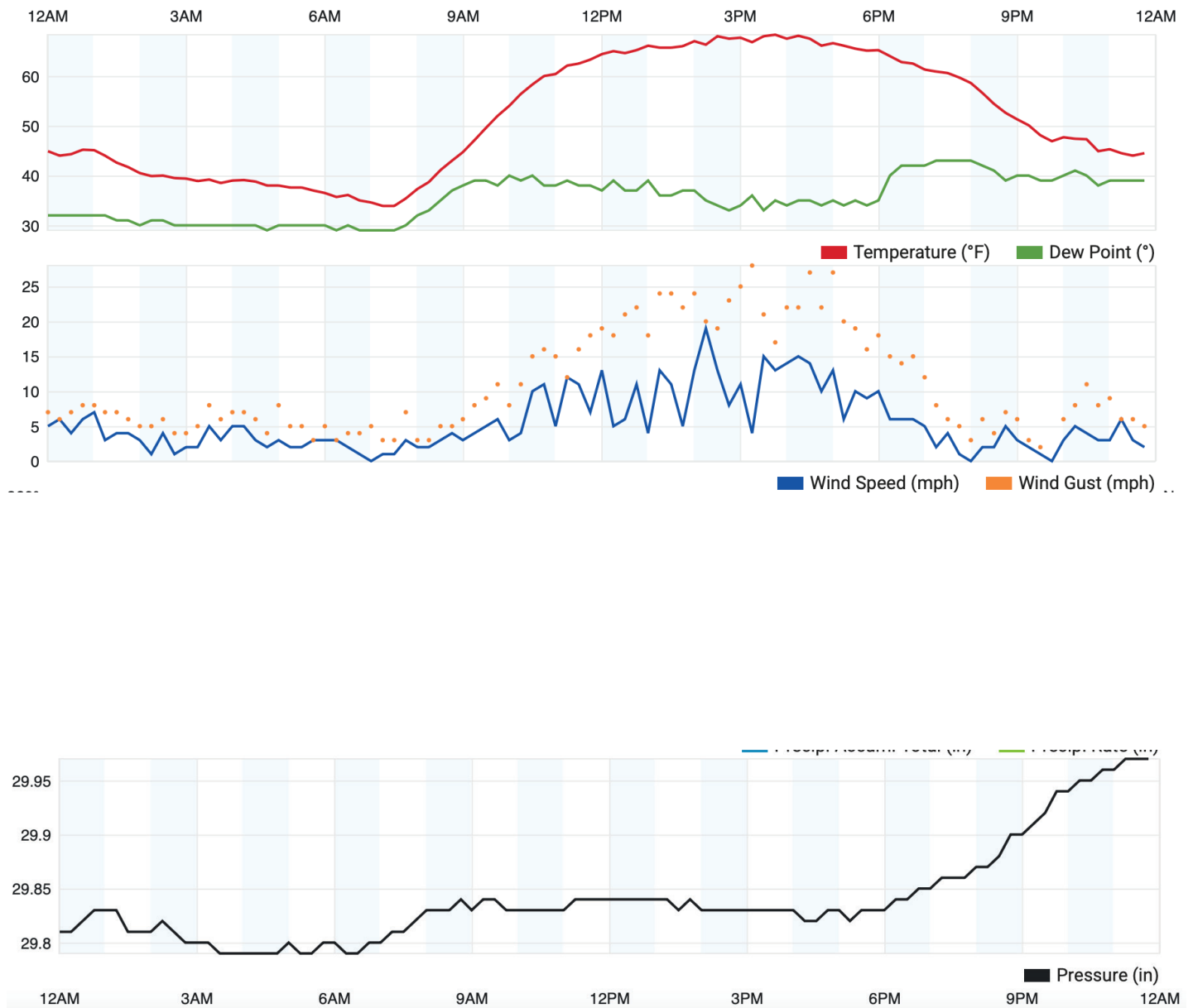
While Trump imposed some of his tariffs — including those on foreign steel and aluminum — under a national security provision, he levied the charges on Canadian and Mexican imports as well as his recent worldwide tariffs by declaring a national emergency.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Thursday



High: 58 °F

Mostly Sunny
and Breezy

Thursday
Night



Low: 30 °F

Mostly Clear

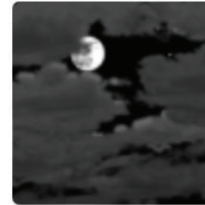
Friday



High: 66 °F

Mostly Sunny

Friday Night



Low: 46 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Saturday



High: 72 °F

Partly Sunny



Red Flag Warning this Afternoon

April 10, 2025
2:58 AM

Dry grasses, strong winds, and low relative humidity this afternoon

- Winds out of the north-northwest gusting 25 to 35 mph
- Relative humidity as low as 15 to 25%

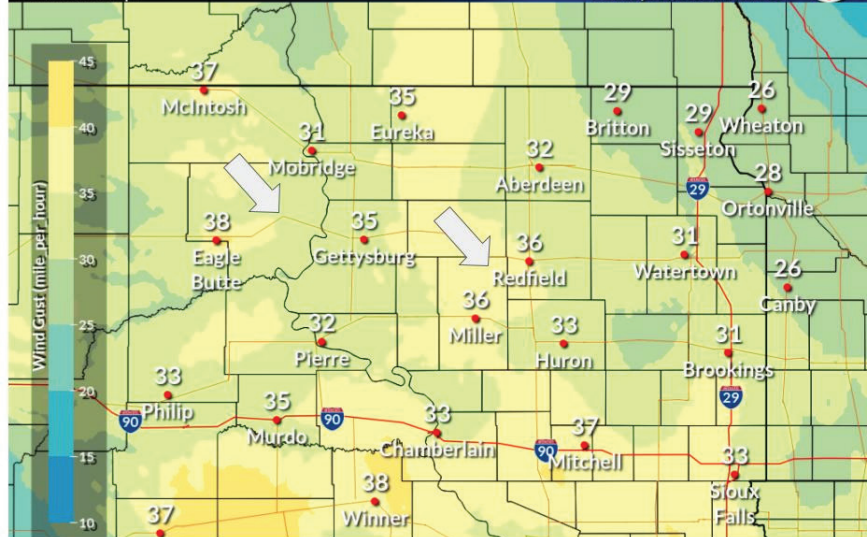


Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly & become difficult to control or suppress

Peak Wind Gusts this Afternoon

Gusts 25 to 35 mph

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Apr 10, 2025 2:24 AM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A Red Flag Warning is in effect until 8 PM this evening for much of central South Dakota. Dry grasses and other fuels will combine with strong winds gusting 25 to 35 mph, and low relative humidity create the elevated fire weather concerns. Any fires that ignite will spread rapidly and become difficult to control.

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Relative Humidity Forecast

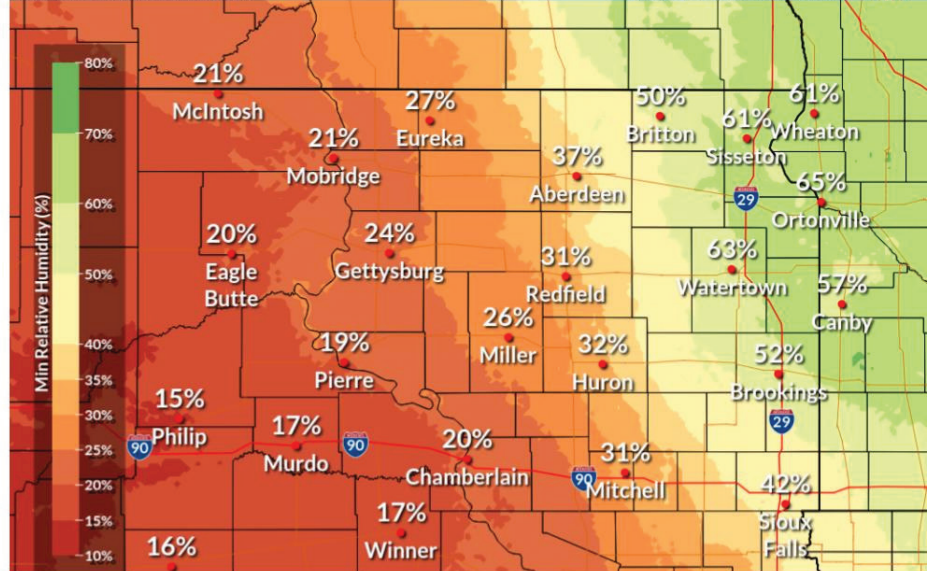
April 10, 2025
3:03 AM

Relative Humidity
15 to 25%
over central South
Dakota this afternoon

Minimum Afternoon Humidity

lowest over central South Dakota

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Apr 10, 2025 2:12 AM CDT



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Relative humidity values this afternoon will fall to 15 to 25 percent over central South Dakota this afternoon.

What Causes Wildfires?

A spark, in the presence of fuel and oxygen, can cause a fire, which can further spread depending on various weather conditions.

A SPARK + FUEL & OXYGEN = FIRE! X WEATHER CONDITIONS

Fires can be sparked by natural causes, but most wildfires in the U.S. are caused by human activity.

Natural causes:



Lightning strikes



Heat from the sun

Human activity:



Vehicles & machinery



Cigarette butts



Fireworks



Campfires & burning brush



Grass



Brush



Trees



Oxygen is almost everywhere.



Certain weather conditions can make fires bigger, faster, and more dangerous.



Strong wind



Drought



High temperatures & low humidity

weather.gov



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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 69 °F at 3:41 PM

Low Temp: 34 °F at 7:24 AM

Wind: 29 mph at 1:16 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 20 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 88 in 1977

Record Low: 16 in 1997

Average High: 55

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in April.: 0.46

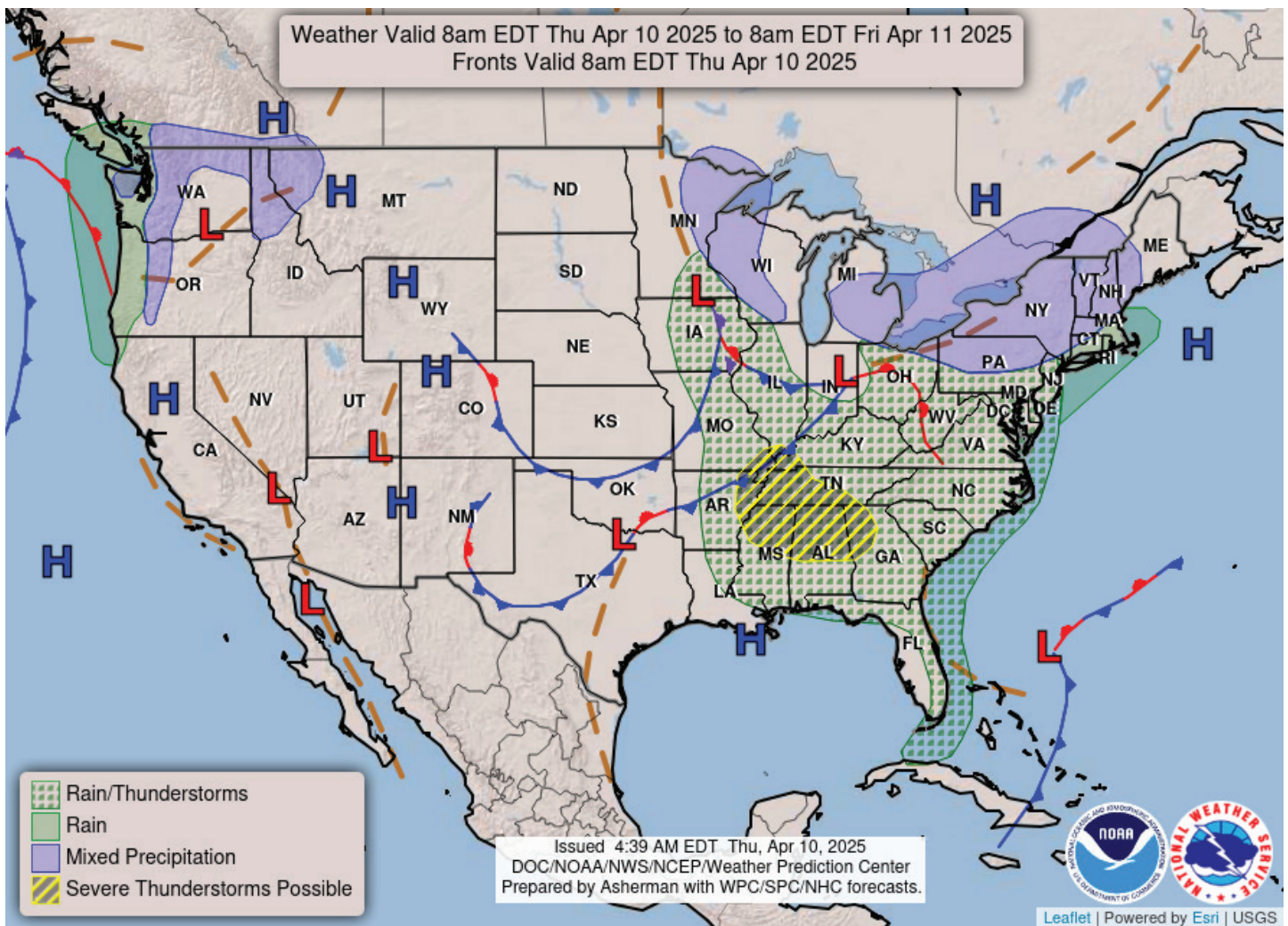
Precip to date in April.: 1.07

Average Precip to date: 2.52

Precip Year to Date: 1.70

Sunset Tonight: 8:13:51 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:51:27 am



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Today in Weather History

April 10, 1965: Severe Thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening resulted in severe hail reports throughout much of Clark County. Hail up to 2.00 inches in diameter was recorded 30 miles northeast of Huron around 2:40 PM. At about 6:30 PM, hail 0.75 inches in diameter fell near Garden City on a flock of wild geese in flight, killing 25 of them.

April 10, 1969: The Elm River in Westport was the highest of all time at 22.11 feet, 8.11 feet above flood stage.

April 10, 2005: Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in Menno, in Hutchinson County. Numerous trees, including several large trees, were uprooted. Numerous homes were damaged, some directly by the wind and others by trees and other debris. Garages were especially hard hit, including at least one destroyed garage. A grain elevator was damaged, with a catwalk and conveyor being blown over. A historical post office addition to a log building was damaged, doors and part of the roof of a flour mill were blown down, and doors were blown off several other buildings. Many homes and other buildings had broken windows and damaged siding. A few small storage buildings were destroyed, and others were damaged or blown over. Several farms were heavily damaged, with machine sheds, at least one hog barn, and several other small structures destroyed. Several vehicles were damaged, including one pickup, which was pushed partly onto the porch of a house. Power lines and poles were blown down, resulting in a power outage in Menno.

April 9-10, 2013: A large, slow-moving upper-level low-pressure area moving across the region brought several rounds of heavy snow to much of central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts from 6 to as much as 22 inches occurred over the several-day periods. Travel became difficult, if not impossible, with some roads closed for a time. Interstate 90 closed on the evening of the 9th. Many schools were also closed across the region. Additionally, a 66-year-old suffered a heart attack and passed away while shoveling the snow in front of his house in Aberdeen.

1894 - A heavy late season snow blanketed parts of the northeastern U.S. Heavier snowfall totals included 31.5 inches at Salem Corners PA, 30 inches at LeRoy NY, 26 inches at York PA, 14 inches at Waterbury CT, and 9 inches at Providence RI. (The Weather Channel)

1935 - Severe dust storms across Iowa and Kansas closed schools and highways. Dodge City KS experienced its worst dust storm of record, with dense dust reported from the morning of the 9th until after sunset on the 11th. The sky was almost as dark as night at times during the daylight hours. The thick dust suspended traffic on highways and railroads, and also suspended most business in town. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - A massive tornado smashed into Wichita Falls, TX, killing 43 persons and causing 300 million dollars damage. Another tornado struck Vernon TX killing eleven persons. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1987 - Blustery northwest winds prevailed across the Northern Plains Region. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 65 mph. Temperatures in North Dakota were only in the 20s and 30s, following afternoon highs in the 70s the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the western U.S. Eleven cities reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Bakersfield CA with a reading of 95 degrees, their warmest for so early in the season. Pocatello ID warmed from a record low of 19 above to an afternoon high of 63 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong northerly winds, gusting to 53 mph at Albuquerque, NM, ushered cold arctic air into the south central U.S. The temperature at Albuquerque plunged from 82 degrees to 29 degrees overnight. Thirty-three cities in the central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Central Gulf Coast Region to western sections of the Carolinas during the afternoon and evening. Evening thunderstorms over western South Carolina produced wind gusts to 98 mph which injured four persons at Holly Springs, and wind gusts to 100 mph which injured one person and caused half a million dollars damage north of Dacusville. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2005 - Heavy snow affected the Colorado Rockies during April 10-11, as up to 30 inches of snow affected the mountains around Denver. In the Denver metro area, 10-15 inches of snow accumulated.



The Book of Books

Through the Bible, God reveals who He is, what He is doing, and how the future will unfold for mankind.

Acts 17:10-12: Paul and Silas in Berea

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

The Bible provides an accurate account of God's character, actions, and purposes. Together, the Old and New Testaments teach us that man's problem is sin and the only remedy is faith in the Son of God: Jesus Christ.

Through His Word, God has entrusted to us the knowledge of who He is, what He is doing, and how the future will unfold for mankind. The Scriptures were intended to lead us into a growing relationship with our heavenly Father and to empower us for fruitful service as Christ's ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20). In this position, we are called to follow Jesus' example in glorifying God (Matt. 5:16)—our Savior focused not on Himself but on the Father, whose plan is to reach the entire world with His saving grace.

God's will includes different tasks for His children to accomplish, according to the way He's planned for each one to serve (Rom. 12:4-6). Meditating on scriptural principles and examples will help us discern what He has in mind for us.

What place does this amazing book—the Bible—have in determining the course of your life? Take time today and every day to listen to the Lord, to partake of His wisdom, and to determine what He is saying to you personally.

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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 1 Days 17 Hrs 42 Mins
DRAW: 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.09.25

12 19 30 42 46 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$28,870,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 57
DRAW: Mins 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.09.25

1 14 24 29 46 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 17 Hrs 12 Mins 50
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.09.25

1 14 23 30 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$101,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 12 Mins
DRAW: 50 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.09.25

2 15 44 60 68 23

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 41 Mins
DRAW: 49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.09.25

4 29 37 55 67 10

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$82,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 41 Mins
DRAW: 49 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

Cleanup underway of the Keystone oil pipeline spill in North Dakota

By JACK DURA Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Trucks and workers started cleaning up the Keystone oil pipeline spill in rural North Dakota, though its cause and the project timing is unclear.

The pipeline ruptured Tuesday morning in southeastern North Dakota and was shut down within two minutes by an employee who heard a mechanical bang. An aerial photo released Wednesday shows a black, pondlike pool of oil suspended in a partially snowy field that's traversed by tire tracks.

A farmer told The Associated Press he could smell the scent of crude oil, carried by the wind.

South Bow, a liquid pipelines business that manages the pipeline, estimated the spill's volume at 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons. Keystone's entire system remains shut down.

What caused the spill?

That's not yet known. The company is investigating what caused the spill and how long repairs might take, spokesperson Kristin Anderson said Wednesday.

The spill is not a minor one, said Paul Blackburn, a policy analyst with Bold Alliance, an environmental and landowners group that fought the pipeline's extension, called Keystone XL.

The estimated volume of 3,500 barrels, or 147,000 gallons of crude oil, is equal to 16 tanker trucks of oil, he said. That estimate could increase over time, he added.

Blackburn said the bigger picture is what he called the Keystone Pipeline's history of spills at a higher rate than other pipelines. He compared Keystone to the Dakota Access oil pipeline since the latter came online in June 2017. In that period, Keystone's system has spilled nearly 1.2 million gallons (4.5 million liters) of oil, while Dakota Access spilled 1,282 gallons (4,853 liters), Blackburn said.

In its update, the company said the pipeline "was operating within its design and regulatory approval requirements at the time of the incident."

Generally, underground oil pipelines can have a number of stressors, said Ramanan Krishnamoorti, vice president for energy and innovation at the University of Houston.

Those include corrosive elements from the liquid within the pipeline, changing temperatures, moving soil, movement from trains or construction equipment on the surface and stress to bends, turns and joints in the pipeline, he said.

The 2,700-mile (4,350-kilometer) 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 \$5.2 billion Keystone Pipeline was built in 2010. TC Energy built the pipeline which is operated by South Bow as of last year.

How has the company responded?

The spill is contained to an agricultural field. In an update Wednesday, South Bow said it has multiple on-site vacuum trucks beginning to recover the oil. Continuous air quality monitoring is underway. The pipeline's affected segment is isolated, and the company said it's evaluating plans for a return to service.

Phone messages and emails were left Wednesday with the state Department of Environmental Quality and the Ransom County sheriff about the spill and response.

Myron Hammer, an adjacent landowner who farms the land affected by the spill, said it hasn't yet adversely affected him, aside from the smell of crude oil or sulfur carrying when the wind blows in a certain direction. The pipeline company appears to be doing its due diligence to fix the problem, he said.

There's been a lot of truck traffic bringing equipment to the scene, he said. His house is about 1.75 miles (2.82 kilometers) away.

"It's become a beehive of activity in the proximity there," Hammer said. Some of his property is being used as a staging area for equipment. He said he'll have to cancel plans to farm on roughly 5 or more

acres of land impacted by the spill.

The spill site is north of Fort Ransom, a tiny town in a hilly, forested area known for scenic views and outdoor recreation. A state park and hiking trails are nearby.

The rupture in North Dakota occurred within 2 1/2 years of a December 2022 rupture in rural northeastern Kansas that dumped about 13,000 barrels of crude oil into a creek. The company attributed the rupture to a faulty weld in a pipe bend, saying it caused a crack that grew over time under stress.

A report drafted by an outside engineering consulting firm for U.S. government regulators later said the bend had been "overstressed" since its installation in December 2010, likely because construction activity itself altered the land around the pipe. A July 2021 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office said the four biggest previous spills on the Keystone system were caused by issues tied to its original design, its construction or the manufacturing of the pipe.

Will gas prices increase?

They very well might, though energy experts have different outlooks.

The pipeline's shutdown could quickly raise gas prices in the Midwest and could have more effects on diesel and jet fuel because refineries will have less of the crude oil they need, Krishnamoorti said.

Higher-priced diesel could lead to higher grocery prices because diesel trucks transport those products, he said.

Other experts said the refineries likely have a supply of crude oil already on hand that would help protect against immediate impacts of the shutdown.

"Even if the pipeline gets cut off completely for, say, 2 or 3 weeks, they have enough crude (oil) to continue refining for gasoline," said Mark LaCour, editor-in-chief of the Oil and Gas Global Network.

Gas prices increased for a third consecutive week in the U.S., but that could change as oil prices drop amid the escalating global trade war.

Takeaways from AP and Lee's report on a pipeline company's lawsuits against Midwest farmers

BY ERIC FERKENHOFF/LEE ENTERPRISES and JOSH KELETY/AP undefined

MANSFIELD, S.D. (AP) — The company behind a proposed pipeline that would transport carbon dioxide emissions from ethanol plants across five Midwest states and store it underground in North Dakota filed hundreds of lawsuits against landowners in recent years, an analysis by Lee Enterprises and The Associated Press found.

This litigation was concentrated in South Dakota, where the company, Summit Carbon Solutions, filed eminent domain lawsuits against landowners across the state. Eminent domain is the taking of private property with compensation to the owner. The legal salvo generated so much outrage among farmers that South Dakota's governor signed a bill into law in early March that bans the use of eminent domain for building carbon dioxide pipelines, putting the future of the project in question.

The AP and Lee Enterprises reviewed hundreds of court cases across multiple states and interviewed landowners, attorneys, academic experts and local elected officials.

Here are key takeaways from the report:

Summit sprayed landowners with lawsuits

The analysis found Summit brought 232 lawsuits against landowners across South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa — including lawsuits seeking access to property for surveys. All 156 of the eminent domain actions were brought in South Dakota. Over the course of two days in late April 2023, the company filed 83 eminent domain lawsuits across the state.

In a statement, Summit spokesperson Sabrina Zenor said the company's priority is voluntary agreements and that the "vast majority of easements have been and continue to be" secured voluntarily.

Summit kept filing eminent domain lawsuits in South Dakota until late August 2023. In seven South Dakota cases, landowners signed easements after getting sued by Summit, court records show. But after the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission rejected Summit's permit application in September 2023,

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Summit “paused or dismissed” the legal actions, Zenor said.

Project backed by the ethanol industry

Summit’s supporters view its proposed pipeline as a potential economic boon.

Nearly 40% of the nation’s corn crop is brewed into ethanol, which is blended into most gasoline sold in the U.S. With the rise of electric vehicles and less of the fuel additive powering cars, some Midwest farmers and the ethanol industry see passenger jet fuel as a potentially huge new market for ethanol. But under current rules, the process for turning ethanol into aviation fuel would need to emit less carbon dioxide to qualify for tax breaks intended to reduce greenhouse gases. Supporters see carbon capture projects such as Summit’s pipeline as a way to fight climate change and to help the ethanol industry.

Carbon capture involves separating carbon dioxide from the emissions of industrial facilities, such as ethanol plants, and pumping it underground where it is stored so it doesn’t contribute to climate change.

Outrage in South Dakota led to legislative action

Summit’s litigation against South Dakota landowners and controversy surrounding their land surveys fueled local backlash to the project. One farmer in particular, Jared Bossly, and his run-ins with Summit, galvanized the project’s opponents.

Bossly battled Summit in court for months to keep the company from surveying his farm in Brown County, a rural farming stretch of northeastern South Dakota. The company filed eminent domain lawsuits against Bossly and accused him of threatening to kill their surveyors when they visited his property. Bossly denies that he made the threat. Summit eventually surveyed his property on June 20, 2023, and photos and video of the incident circulated online. He became a central figure in the opposition to the pipeline, doing frequent media interviews and speaking at public meetings.

In 2024, Summit’s opponents in South Dakota notched wins. In the primary election, a number of state lawmakers were ousted by candidates who opposed the pipeline and Summit’s use of eminent domain, according to Jim Mehlhaff, the Republican majority leader in the South Dakota Senate and a supporter of the pipeline. The new composition of the state legislature, along with political pressure from Summit’s vocal opponents, were the main reasons why the new eminent domain law was approved, Mehlhaff said.

It’s unclear how Summit will proceed with its project in South Dakota. Summit spokesperson Zenor said the company is focused on advancing the project in states that “support investment and innovation” but added that Summit continues to “believe there is a path forward” in South Dakota.

A pipeline company filed hundreds of lawsuits against landowners. Now its project is threatened

BY ERIC FERKENHOFF/LEE ENTERPRISES and JOSH KELETY/AP undefined

MANSFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Jared Bossly was planting soybeans one spring night in 2023 on his 2,000-acre farm in South Dakota when he spotted a sheriff’s vehicle parked at the corner of his property. He had a hunch it wasn’t a social visit.

“I’m like, ‘Well, I doubt he’s just being a friendly neighbor, giving a guy a beer at eight o’clock at night,’” said Bossly, 43.

He was right. The sheriff’s deputy served him court papers. Summit Carbon Solutions, the company behind a massive proposed carbon pipeline, was suing Bossly to use his land for the project through eminent domain, which is the taking of private property with compensation to the owner.

“He gives me a stack of papers about like this,” Bossly said, stretching his hands several inches. “They started the process of suing us to take our land.”

Bossly is one of many landowners who were sued by Summit Carbon Solutions as it unleashed a barrage of eminent domain legal actions in South Dakota to obtain land for the nearly \$9 billion pipeline spanning five Midwest states.

Lee Enterprises and The Associated Press reviewed hundreds of cases, revealing the great lengths the pipeline operator went to get the project built, only to be stymied in South Dakota by a groundswell of opposition from local farmers and landowners. The legal salvo generated so much outrage that South

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Dakota's governor signed a bill into law in early March that bans the use of eminent domain for building carbon dioxide pipelines, putting the future of the project in doubt.

The review found that Summit brought 232 lawsuits against landowners across South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa – including lawsuits seeking access to property for surveys. All 156 of the eminent domain actions were brought in South Dakota. Over the course of two days in late April 2023, the company filed 83 eminent domain lawsuits across the state.

Summit spokesperson Sabrina Zenor said the company's priority is voluntary agreements and that the "vast majority of easements have been and continue to be secured voluntarily."

"Condemnation is a legal tool available under the law, but it's not our preferred approach," Zenor said. "The numbers reflect that—we've reached agreements with thousands of landowners without litigation."

The pipeline would span 2,500 miles (4,023-kilometers) across the five states and connect to 57 ethanol plants. The carbon dioxide produced by these plants would be captured and shuttled through the pipeline and ultimately stored underground in North Dakota, reducing carbon emissions and allowing the ethanol producers to market their fuel as less carbon intensive. The project would also allow ethanol producers and Summit to tap into federal tax credits.

Summit dispatched representatives to state legislatures, county commissions and regulatory boards to make what seemed like an easy sell in a region where the corn and ethanol industry typically has broad support. But Summit's legal actions and encounters with farmers provoked passionate opposition in South Dakota. Some said their first encounter with Summit was looking out the window and spotting surveyors on their land, and that company representatives were quick to threaten litigation.

Landowners interviewed by Lee and AP described a range of aggressive financial offers made by Summit during the negotiations. One farmer declined an initial \$80,000 offer for a 36-acre easement, and that offer grew to \$350,000, which he also refused. Another said he turned down an offer north of \$40,000.

Bossly, like some other landowners, battled with Summit in court for months to keep the company from surveying his farm in Brown County, a rural farming stretch of northeastern South Dakota. As Bossly tells it, he found out that Summit's surveyors had shown up on his property in May 2023 after his wife, home recovering from gallbladder surgery, called him claiming that there were strangers inside the house. (In court filings, Summit's surveyors said they knocked several times before walking to a different building.) Bossly eventually turned his tractor around for the slow, 10-mile drive home from a neighbor's farm where he had been planting alfalfa.

The company accused him of threatening to kill the surveyors over the phone that day. That landed him in court in front of a judge, who had already ordered landowners not to interfere with Summit's surveys. But the audience in the courtroom gallery underscored the larger anti-pipeline sentiment brewing in South Dakota: It was packed with farmers rallying in Bossly's defense. Bossly denies that he made the death threat.

The backlash ultimately had major political consequences in the state. In last year's primary election, a number of incumbent lawmakers were ousted by candidates opposed to the project.

It created an odd political dynamic in the region: Farmers in some of the reddest counties in America joining forces with environmentalists to block a pipeline that was designed to cater to a bedrock Republican constituency – Midwest corn farmers. Bossly proudly hangs a Donald Trump-JD Vance campaign banner from the ceiling of his shop.

"They did this all to themselves," Brian Jorde, an attorney representing landowners, said of Summit. "Their legal plan was, 'We will force them into submission because the lawsuits will break them.'"

Pipeline backed by the ethanol industry

Summit's pipeline, first proposed in 2021, is viewed by the Midwest ethanol industry as a potential economic boon.

Nearly 40% of the nation's corn crop is brewed into ethanol, which is blended into most gasoline sold in the U.S. With the rise of electric vehicles and less of the fuel additive powering cars, some Midwest farmers and the ethanol industry see passenger jet fuel as a potentially huge new market for ethanol. But under current rules, the process for turning ethanol into aviation fuel would need to emit less carbon dioxide to

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qualify for tax breaks intended to reduce greenhouse gases. Supporters see carbon capture projects such as Summit's pipeline as a way to fight climate change and to help the ethanol industry.

Carbon capture involves separating carbon dioxide from the emissions of industrial facilities, such as ethanol plants, and pumping it underground where it is stored so it doesn't contribute to climate change.

Carbon capture isn't without critics. Some environmentalists question its effectiveness at large scale and say it allows the fossil fuels industry to continue unchanged.

Then there's the Midwest farmers who oppose the project, questioning whether the pipeline would be safe in the event of a rupture and saying Summit trampled over their property rights.

Taking landowners to court

Some South Dakota landowners described troubling moments with Summit's representatives. LeRoy Braun, a 69-year-old fifth-generation farmer in Spink County, said that "land acquisition people" working for Summit threatened to sue him during a March 2023 visit at his property after he refused to sign an easement agreement.

"Just as they were leaving, they said, 'Well, if you don't sign, we're going to file eminent domain on you and you're going to get nothing compared to what we're offering you,'" Braun said. He said his neighbors described similar interactions.

The last time Summit's representatives stopped by his property in late April 2023, they indicated that they wanted to continue a dialogue, Braun said. But a few hours after they left, a sheriff's deputy served him with condemnation court papers.

"I just thought, 'Well, these are the most arrogant, bullying type of people I've ever dealt with,'" Braun said.

In response to Braun's claim that he was threatened with litigation, Summit spokesperson Zenor said that they "don't condone threats or coercion" and the company "can't confirm the exact wording" of the interaction. She added that the timing of the eminent domain lawsuit was "not a retaliatory act."

Other landowners alleged that Summit had private armed security guards present during surveys. Craig Schaunaman, a farmer in Brown County and a former South Dakota legislator, said that during Summit's survey of his land in May 2023, one of two on-site security guards was carrying a holstered pistol. "I thought it was uncalled for," Schaunaman said.

Zenor said that Schaunaman's account is "not consistent with our policies or our understanding of what occurred." She added that "current policy does not include" armed security.

Such views aren't uniform among South Dakota farmers. Walt Bones, a fourth-generation farmer in Minnehaha County and a former state secretary of agriculture, strongly supports the project for its potential economic benefits and said that his interactions with Summit's representatives, who were interested in his land, were always respectful.

South Dakotans who oppose the project were dug-in from the start and spread "lies" and "overblown" safety concerns about the pipeline, Bones said.

When Summit started filing the condemnation lawsuits in April 2023, many South Dakota landowners, such as Bossly, weren't surprised. What Bossly didn't expect was how his run-ins with Summit would galvanize opposition.

After the threat allegations were detailed in court documents, Bossly's name was everywhere – on television news and across social media. The company wanted a judge to hold him in contempt. During a May 2023 hearing, the judge declined to do so, but said Bossly must not "come within 100 yards" of Summit's surveyors, according to a transcript of the hearing.

So Bossly largely stayed confined to the area of his workshop after Summit's surveyors hauled large machinery to his South Dakota farmstead on June 20, 2023. Sheriff's deputies were also present. The surveyors spent hours working on his farm. Photos and videos of the incident were posted online and circulated on social media.

"That day really kicked our opposition movement into gear because that's when we really got support from all over the state," said Ed Fischbach, a farmer in Spink County who helped organize the project's opponents. "Even people that this pipeline doesn't even affect were so appalled by what this company

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was doing that day.”

As for Bossly, life was different. A farmer who grows alfalfa, rye and other crops, Bossly became a standard bearer for the opposition to Summit’s pipeline. He was doing media interviews and speaking at public meetings about the project. Bossly got a standing ovation after speaking at a conference of the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association – a group whose website states that a sheriff’s law enforcement power in a county is greater than that of any other official – in Las Vegas in 2024.

“I didn’t even know what Zoom was,” Bossly said. “And now, like, that’s two or three nights a week where I’m on Zoom with different people across the state or the nation.”

Summit kept filing eminent domain lawsuits in South Dakota until late August 2023. In seven cases, landowners signed easements after getting sued in condemnation, court records show. But after the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission rejected Summit’s permit application in September 2023, Summit “paused or dismissed” the legal actions, Zenor said.

Political fallout

By the end of 2024, Summit had secured approval for routes in Iowa and North Dakota, a leg in Minnesota and the underground storage. In Iowa, the commissioners who approved Summit’s route were appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican with strong backing from the state’s farming organizations. Although many Iowa landowners opposed the project, powerful groups such as the Iowa Corn Growers Association supported the proposal because of its promise to open new markets for corn-based ethanol. Summit was founded by Bruce Rastetter, a major Iowa donor to Republican political candidates.

But Summit faced hurdles in South Dakota, where it still lacked a permit and the state Supreme Court ruled in August that the company had not yet proved that it qualified for eminent domain power. In the November election, South Dakota voters rejected regulations that opponents said would deny local control over such projects and consolidate authority with state regulators. Supporters framed the regulations as a “landowner bill of rights.”

And the composition of the South Dakota Legislature had changed significantly after the 2024 primary, when voters elected new lawmakers who opposed Summit’s pipeline and its use of eminent domain, said Jim Mehlhaff, the Republican majority leader in the South Dakota Senate and a supporter of the pipeline. Lawmakers also were pressured by Summit’s vocal opponents to vote for the new eminent domain law, he said.

Mehlhaff said that the new law sends a signal that South Dakota is “not business friendly.”

“The legislature, you know, at the behest of what I would call the shrill minority, will cut your legs out,” he added.

The federal government’s approach to climate change also has changed dramatically since the pipeline was proposed. While former Democratic President Joe Biden increased tax incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to encourage carbon capture to slow climate change, Republican President Donald Trump has emphasized the need for more oil and gas drilling and coal mining.

It’s unclear how Summit will proceed in South Dakota. The company asked state regulators to suspend its permit application timeline. Zenor said the company is focused on advancing the project in states that “support investment and innovation” but added that Summit continues to “believe there is a path forward” in South Dakota.

But even some supporters of Summit say the company didn’t do itself any favors in South Dakota.

“Did they get off to a bad start? Did they soil their sheets? No question, absolutely,” Bones said. “I mean, I wouldn’t argue that a bit.”

Global shares jump after US stocks soared to historic gains when Trump paused most of his tariffs

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — World markets soared on Thursday, with Japan’s benchmark jumping more than 9%, as investors welcomed U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to put his sharp tariff hikes on hold for 90

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days, though he excluded China from the reprieve.

In early trading, Germany's DAX initially gained 5.6% to 20,776.76, while France's CAC 40 in Paris gained 5.4% to 7,235.21. Britain's FTSE 100 surged 4.0% to 7,983.37.

U.S. futures edged lower and oil prices also declined. Chinese shares saw more moderate gains, given yet another jump in the tariffs each side is imposing on each others' exports.

Futures for the S&P 500 was down 2.0% while those for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 1.6% lower.

Analysts had expected the global comeback given that U.S. stocks had one of their best days in history on Wednesday as investors registered their relief over Trump's decision.

"Everything is still very volatile, because with Donald Trump, you don't know what to expect. This is really big uncertainty in the big market. The threat of recession has not faded," said Francis Lun, chief executive of Geo Securities.

In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 9.1% to finish at 34,609.00, zooming upward as soon as trading began.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 soared 4.5% to 7,709.60. South Korea's Kospi gained 6.6% to 2,445.06. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 2.1% to 20,681.78. The Shanghai Composite rose 1.2% to 3,223.64.

Investors went "from fear to euphoria," Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, said in a commentary.

"It's now a manageable risk, especially as global recession tail bets get unwound, and most of Asia's exporters breathe a massive sigh of relief," he said, referring to the tariffs on China, which Trump has kept.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE," Trump said, saying more than 75 countries are negotiating on trade and not retaliating against his latest increases in tariffs. China was a huge exception, with Trump saying tariffs are going up to 125% against its products.

In energy trading, benchmark U.S. crude fell \$1.62 to \$60.73 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, declined \$1.67 to \$63.81 a barrel.

In currency trading, the U.S. dollar fell to 146.37 Japanese yen from 147.38 yen. The euro cost \$1.1038, up from \$1.0954.

Hope of finding survivors fades in aftermath of Dominican club roof collapse

By MARTÍN ADAMES ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Rescue crews in the Dominican Republic on Thursday dug through the remains of a legendary nightclub whose roof collapsed earlier this week, killing at least 184 people, but hope of finding survivors was slim.

Meanwhile, dozens of people in the capital of Santo Domingo still searched for their loved ones, growing frustrated upon getting no answers after visiting hospitals and the country's forensic institute.

Doctors warned that some of the two dozen patients who remained hospitalized were still not in the clear, especially the eight who were in critical condition.

"If the trauma is too great, there's not a lot of time" left to save patients in that condition, said Health Minister Dr. Víctor Atallah.

He and other doctors said that injuries include fractures in the skull, femur and pelvis caused by slabs of cement falling on those attending a merengue concert at the Jet Set nightclub in Santo Domingo, where more than 200 were injured.

The government said Wednesday night that it was moving to a recovery phase focused on finding bodies, but Juan Manuel Méndez, director of the Center of Emergency Operations, said crews at the scene were still looking for victims and potential survivors although no one has been found alive since Tuesday afternoon.

"We're not going to abandon anyone. Our work will continue," he said.

The legendary club was packed with musicians, professional athletes and government officials when

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dust began falling from the ceiling and into people's drinks early Tuesday. Minutes later, the roof collapsed.

Victims include merengue icon Rubby Pérez, who had been singing to the crowd before the roof fell; former MLB players Octavio Dotel and Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera; and Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern province of Montecristi whose brother is seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz.

Also killed was a retired United Nations official; saxophonist Luis Solís, who was playing onstage when the roof fell; New York-based fashion designer Martín Polanco; the son and daughter-in-law of the minister of public works; the brother of the vice minister of the Ministry of Youth; and three employees of Grupo Popular, a financial services company, including the president of AFP Popular Bank and his wife.

Randolfo Rijo Gómez, director of the country's 911 system, said it received more than 100 calls, with several of those made by people buried under the rubble. He noted that police arrived at the scene in 90 seconds, followed minutes later by first response units. In less than half an hour, 25 soldiers, seven fire brigades and 77 ambulances were activated, he said.

Crews used dogs and thermal cameras to search for victims, rescuing 145 survivors from the rubble, authorities said.

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

The government said late Wednesday that once the recovery phase ends, it will launch a thorough investigation.

The club issued a statement saying it was cooperating with authorities. A spokesperson for the family that owns the club told The Associated Press that she passed along questions about potential inspections.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson 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 request for comment.

China reaches out to others as Trump layers on tariffs

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China is reaching out to other nations as the U.S. layers on more tariffs in what appears to be an attempt to form a united front to compel Washington to retreat. Days into the effort, it's meeting only partial success with many countries unwilling to ally with the main target of President Donald Trump's trade war.

Facing the cratering of global markets, Trump on Wednesday backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days, saying countries were lining up to negotiate more favorable conditions.

China has refused to seek talks, saying it would "fight to the end" in a tariff war, prompting Trump to further jack up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%. China has retaliated with tariffs on U.S. goods of 84%, which took effect Thursday.

Trump's move was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and most of the world to a showdown between the U.S. and China.

"A just cause receives support from many," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said at a daily briefing on Thursday. "The U.S. cannot win the support of the people and will end in failure."

China has thus far focused on Europe, with a phone call between Premier Li Qiang and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "sending a positive message to the outside world."

"China is willing to work with the EU to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of China and the EU, strengthen communication and exchanges, and deepen China-EU trade, investment and industrial cooperation," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

That was followed by a video conference between Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Šefčović on Tuesday to discuss the U.S. "reciprocal tariffs."

Wang said the tariffs "seriously infringe upon the legitimate interests of all countries, seriously violate WTO rules, seriously damage the rules-based multilateral trading system, and seriously impact the stability of the global economic order," Xinhua said.

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"It is a typical act of unilateralism, protectionism and economic bullying," Wang said quoted as saying.

"China is willing to resolve differences through consultation and negotiation, but if the U.S. insists on its own way, China will fight to the end," Wang said.

Wang has also spoken with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, while Li, the premier, has met with business leaders. China has "already made a full evaluation and is prepared to deal with all kinds of uncertainties, and will introduce incremental policies according to the needs of the situation," Xinhua quoted Li as saying.

In Hong Kong, the spokesperson for the local office of China's Foreign Ministry reiterated Beijing's unwillingness to negotiate with the U.S. under current conditions.

"We must solemnly tell the U.S.: a tariff-wielding barbarian who attempts to force countries to call and beg for mercy can never expect that call from China," Huang Jingrui wrote in an op-ed appearing in the South China Morning Post.

If the U.S. is truly sincere about starting a dialogue with China, it should "immediately rectify its wrong practices and adopt the right attitude of equality, respect and mutual benefit," Huang wrote.

Despite their unhappiness with Washington, not all countries are interested in linking up with China, especially those with a history of disputes with Beijing.

"We speak for ourselves, and Australia's position is that free and fair trade is a good thing," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters. "We engage with all countries, but we stand up for Australia's national interest and we stand on our own two feet."

China imposed a series of official and unofficial trade barriers against Australia in 2020 after the government angered Beijing by calling for an independent inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has also reportedly turned down a Chinese call for cooperation, and Russia, typically seen as China's closest geopolitical partner, has been left out of the Trump tariffs altogether. Taiwanese Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung said on Wednesday that his government is preparing for talks on tariffs with the U.S.

The U.S. imposed a 32% tariff on imports from Taiwan, a close trading and security partner. Taiwan produces most of the high-performing computer chips craved by the U.S. and others and has long enjoyed a trade surplus with Washington.

Yet, Southeast Asian nations such as Vietnam and Cambodia find themselves in a particular bind. They benefited when factories moved to their countries from China due to rising costs. They are being hit by punishing tariffs but have few buyers outside the U.S. and are already operating on razor-thin margins.

Trump had previously denied contemplating a pause, but the drama over his tariffs will continue as the administration prepares to engage in country-by-country negotiations. Meanwhile, tariffs will be 10% for the countries where the larger ones were paused.

It's not clear what further steps China will take, but the Foreign Ministry's Lin said China "will not sit idly by and let the legitimate rights and interests of the Chinese people be deprived of, nor will we allow the international trade rules and multilateral trading system to be undermined." Non-tariff options include bans on American movies, American law firms and other trade in services.

World markets soared on Thursday, with Japan's benchmark jumping more than 9%, as investors welcomed Trump's decision. Germany's DAX initially gained more than 8%. It was up 7.5% at 21,141.53 a bit later, while the CAC 40 in Paris gained 7.2% to 7,360.23. Britain's FTSE 100 surged 5.4% to 8,090.02.

However, U.S. futures edged lower and oil prices also declined. Chinese shares saw more moderate gains, given yet another jump in the tariffs each side is imposing on each others' exports.

The future for the S&P 500 was down 0.4% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.2% lower.

EU chief welcomes Trump's tariff pause but is quiet about the bloc's own retaliatory duty plan

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday welcomed President Donald Trump's decision to temporarily halt most U.S. tariffs, but she did not say whether the European Union intends to press ahead with its own retaliatory measures.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE," Trump said, after recognizing the more than 75 countries that he said have been negotiating on trade and had not retaliated against his latest increases in tariffs. Countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%. The EU's rate was 20%, but it was not entirely clear how the 27-nation bloc would be impacted.

China was not included. Trump further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

Von der Leyen described the halt on reciprocal tariffs as "an important step towards stabilizing the global economy. Clear, predictable conditions are essential for trade and supply chains to function."

Before Trump's announcement on Wednesday, EU member countries voted to approve retaliatory tariffs on \$23 billion in goods in response to his 25% tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. The EU, the largest trading partner of the U.S., described them as "unjustified and damaging."

The tariffs are set to go into effect in stages, some on April 15 and others on May 15 and Dec. 1. The EU commission didn't immediately provide a list of the goods. The bloc's top trade official has shuttled between Brussels and Washington for weeks trying to head off a conflict.

But Von der Leyen gave no sign that the EU's timetable has changed. Spokesman Olof Gill noted that the commission "will now take the necessary time to assess this latest development, in close consultation with our member states and industry, before deciding on next steps."

Members of the EU – the world's largest trading bloc – repeated their preference for a negotiated deal to settle trade issues, and von der Leyen underscored that commitment, "with the goal of achieving frictionless and mutually beneficial trade."

Still, the head of the EU's executive branch – which negotiates trade deals and disputes on behalf of the member countries – said that Europe intends to diversify its trade partnerships.

She said that the EU will continue "engaging with countries that account for 87% of global trade and share our commitment to a free and open exchange of goods, services, and ideas," and to lift barriers to commerce inside its own single market.

"Together, Europeans will emerge stronger from this crisis," von der Leyen said.

South Korean opposition leader Lee opens presidential bid following Yoon's ouster

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung, widely seen as the front-runner in a presidential by-election triggered by the removal of Yoon Suk Yeol last week, announced his presidential bid Thursday, vowing to heal a starkly divided nation through economic growth.

Lee, who narrowly lost the 2022 election to Yoon, led the liberal Democratic Party's campaign to oust the former president over his December declaration of martial law.

Lee recently stepped down as the party's chairman to focus on campaigning for the June 3 election. He is considered the clear front-runner in party's primary. Kim Dong-yeon, the Democratic governor of Gyeonggi province and a longtime financial policymaker, also told reporters Wednesday that he intends to run for president.

Yoon's downfall has left the conservative People Power Party in disarray, with roughly 10 politicians expected to seek the nomination, reflecting a split between Yoon loyalists, who still control the party's leadership, and reformists calling for a fresh start.

In a video message, Lee said that Yoon's martial law saga exposed the country's deep divisions and social conflicts, and argued that the root cause was a widening rich-poor gap. He promised aggressive

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government spending to jolt economic growth and ease income polarization.

"We have more than we did in the past, but wealth is too concentrated in certain areas," Lee said. "With economic growth rates declining worldwide, it has become difficult to maintain and develop an economy solely on the strength of the private sector. However, with government-led talent development and extensive investments in technological research and development, we can revive the economy."

Lee said it was crucial to maintain a robust alliance with the United States and to pursue three-way cooperation with Japan, but he stressed that South Korea's national interest should come first in "every decision."

Lee, who has served as a lawmaker, provincial governor and city mayor, is adored by supporters for his outspoken style and has long positioned himself as an anti-elitist. His critics view him as a populist who stokes division and demonizes conservative opponents while failing to offer realistic funding plans to achieve his ambitious goals.

Kweon Seong-dong, PPP floor leader and a staunch Yoon loyalist, said that if Lee becomes president, he will "ruthlessly wield the sword of dogmatism and retribution" and further deepen the country's divisions.

Lee also has his own set of legal troubles, facing five different trials for corruption and other criminal charges.

Earlier this month, the Constitutional Court upheld Yoon's impeachment by the legislature and formally removed him from office over the martial law decree, triggering a presidential by-election within 60 days. The next president will serve a full 5-year term.

Former PPP leader Han Dong-hoon, head of the party's anti-Yoon faction, announced his presidential bid Thursday, positioning himself as a conservative who opposed martial law and appealing to centrist voters to stop the inauguration of a populist "monster government" led by Lee. Among the conservatives' presidential hopefuls, former Labor Minister Kim Moon Soo is considered to be the most pro-Yoon.

Kim, Daegu Mayor Hong Joon-pyo and senior PPP lawmaker Ahn Cheol-soo — a former computer software entrepreneur who finished third in the 2017 presidential vote — have declared their intentions to run for president. Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon is expected to enter the race later.

A video of Ukrainian POWs killed by men identified as Russians raises questions on accountability

By ERIKA KINETZ, JOHN LEICESTER and BEATRICE DUPUY Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Two videos, two different stories about Russia's war in Ukraine. In one of them, the prisoners appear to live. In the other, they die.

The Associated Press has obtained a video from a Ukrainian drone showing soldiers with Russian uniform markings killing Kyiv's forces who had surrendered to them. It also has discovered a second video, recorded by a Russian drone, of the same incident that sheds light on how Moscow is framing it.

These videos, analyzed together, tell a larger story at a crucial time in the 3-year-old war. Evidence of alleged atrocities is mounting. Chances for accountability are at risk. U.S. President Donald Trump has pushed for a peace deal and echoed narratives of Russian President Vladimir Putin — the very man who war crimes prosecutors want to see in court.

Here's what to know about the images and their implications:

What does the Ukrainian video show?

It was taken by Ukraine's 128th Mountain Brigade in what was left of the village of Piatykhvatky in southern Ukraine on March 13, according to military officials with a European country that Ukrainian authorities shared the video with. The AP obtained the video from the officials on condition they not be identified because they were not authorized to release it.

The video shows the four Ukrainians who had surrendered, lying face-down on the ground. After they're searched, one Russian walks to the prisoners, raises his gun and starts firing. Another soldier shoots, too, then has to reload. A third Russian joins in, firing at least two shots at close range that take off the helmet

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— and the head — of one of the men. The soldier who reloaded then finishes off the four, methodically shooting each.

What does the Russian video show?

The video recorded by a Russian drone in Piatykhvatky on the same day was found by AP on pro-Kremlin social media. It is set to eerie, ominous music and follows three Russian soldiers as they coax the surrendering Ukrainians out of the ruined house at gunpoint. But it cuts off with the Ukrainian soldiers lying on the ground — alive.

Intense fighting has devastated the area in the Zaporizhzhia region of southern Ukraine as both sides scramble to seize territory ahead of peace talks.

How have Ukrainian and Russian officials responded?

Ukraine's 128th Mountain Brigade said it could not comment because the deaths are being investigated as a suspected war crime. Ukraine's internal security agency confirmed it opened an investigation.

Russia's Ministry of Defense did not respond to requests for comment.

Asked about Russia's treatment of Ukrainian POWs, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia treats Ukrainian troops who surrender in accordance with international law and does not encourage the killing of POWs.

A Russian Foreign Ministry report in March claimed Ukrainian soldiers systematically kill Russian POWs. It offered no overall numbers.

What do outside experts say?

"Out of all the executions that we've seen since late 2023, it's one of the clearest cases," said Rollo Collins of the Center for Information Resilience, a London group that specializes in visual investigations and reviewed the Ukrainian video at AP's request. "Our assessment is that this is not a typical combat killing. This is an illegal action."

What's the view of prosecutors and UN officials?

Ukrainian prosecutors and United Nations officials say such extrajudicial killings of Ukrainian POWs — a crime under international law — have surged and are being encouraged by high-ranking Russian officials.

"We've documented a startling spike in the number of executions of captured Ukrainian service persons," said Danielle Bell, the head of the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. "Calls on social media by public officials, amnesty laws, dehumanizing language within the context of impunity for these acts — it's contributing to an environment that allows such acts or these crimes to take place."

At least 245 Ukrainian POWs have been killed by Russian forces since the war began, according to Ukrainian prosecutors.

"It's definitely part of the policy, which is fully supported by the top leaders of the Russian Federation," Yuriy Bielousov, head of the war crimes department for Ukraine's prosecutor general, told AP. "This isn't the action of specific commanders. It is supported on the top level."

The U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine documented 91 extrajudicial killings of Ukrainian POWs since August 2024. In the same period, they found one case of Ukrainian soldiers killing a Russian POW.

Bielousov said all such allegations against Ukrainian troops are being investigated.

What about war crimes in general?

Ukraine has registered more than 157,000 incidents of potential war crimes since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has long held that accountability for war crimes should be part of any peace agreement.

Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's top investigation agency, said in December it had opened over 5,700 criminal cases into alleged Ukrainian crimes since the war began.

How will shifting US policy affect accountability?

The Trump administration has withdrawn support for a multinational effort to create a special tribunal to investigate Russian leaders for aggression in Ukraine and imposed sanctions on key staff of the International Criminal Court, which issued an arrest warrant for Putin.

Cuts to U.S. foreign aid have debilitated groups that collect evidence and work with Ukrainian authorities

to build robust legal cases. Questions are also growing about whether amnesty for Russian officials might be part of a U.S.-brokered peace deal.

Stephen Rapp, a former U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, said the absence of U.S. support will diminish hopes of prosecutions.

Bielousov said Ukraine "is not ready to forgive everything which happened in our territory."

The week that Trump pushed the global economy to the brink with tariffs — and then pulled back

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The stock market was soaring and the sun was shining when President Donald Trump stepped out of the Oval Office on Wednesday afternoon. Less than two hours earlier, he had retreated from his plans to increase tariffs on many U.S. trading partners, and investors were rejoicing after bracing for a global economic meltdown.

"You've got the markets seeing your brilliance," Sen. John Barrasso, a Republican from Wyoming, told the president.

Trump agreed. "Nobody's ever heard of it," he declared.

It was a typical bit of hyperbole that, in this case, was true. Even by the standards of Trump's second term, the saga that had played out over the past week left the world struggling to catch its breath.

The president, of his own doing, had single-handedly pushed the global economy to the brink of chaos with new tariffs. The stock market cratered, businesses tore up their plans and foreign leaders prepared for a future without the world's richest nation at the center of international trade.

And then Trump backed down. Seven days after announcing what would have amounted to America's largest tax hike since World War II in an elaborate Rose Garden ceremony, he rolled back most of the tariffs in a surprise post on his social media website.

"I think the word would be flexible," he said later despite days of insisting that he wouldn't bend. "You have to be flexible."

Uncertainty lingers as trade talks continue

It was unclear what the president had accomplished, beyond the satisfaction of, in his words, having other countries "kissing my ass" to try to talk him out of the tariffs. No new trade deals have been reached, although administration officials said negotiations are underway.

However, real damage has been done. The back-and-forth over tariffs shook confidence in U.S. leadership, exposed fractures within Trump's team and rattled companies that rely on global sources for products and international customers for sales. Americans who use the stock market to save for retirement and college suffered days of angst.

The turmoil isn't over yet, either. Trump's 10% blanket tariffs initially imposed on Saturday are now applied to dozens of nations. He also jacked up tariffs to 125% on imports from China, leaving the world bracing for a showdown between the first and second largest economies. There are 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico, America's largest trading partners, as well as 25% taxes on imported autos, steel and aluminum.

Other tariffs — including 24% on Japan, 25% on South Korea, 20% on the European Union — are on hold for 90 days to allow for trade talks.

"This just accentuates the policy uncertainty and sense of unreliability Trump is creating," said William Reinsch, a former U.S. trade official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. While Reinsch said it's good news that Trump didn't move forward with some of his highest tariffs, "how does anybody know that he won't change his mind on Friday or next week?"

Trump makes his announcement on 'Liberation Day'

U.S. flags were draped along the White House colonnade for a red-white-and-blue backdrop when Trump announced his tariffs on Wednesday, April 2.

"My fellow Americans, this is Liberation Day," he said. The president held up a poster listing the tariffs that

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he would slap on each country — 32% for Thailand, 49% for Cambodia, 26% for India, and on and on. People around the world squinted to decipher the numbers that would reset critical economic relationships.

Trump has been fixated on international trade for decades, long before entering politics. His central concern is trade deficits, meaning the U.S. imports more than it exports.

But the focus puzzles mainstream economists, who don't view the situation with the same level of alarm. It's no surprise, they said, that a rich nation like the U.S. would buy more than it sells, and they're generally skeptical that tariffs alone would eliminate trade deficits.

However, Trump declared that it was a "national emergency" that would allow him to push tariffs without congressional approval. His tariffs were not based on the import taxes charged by other countries but by the size of each trade deficit, a calculation that instantly discredited the policy with many economists and investors. Also baffling were the tariffs placed on Heard and McDonald Islands, which are mainly populated by penguins.

The day after the announcement, Trump jetted to Florida for the weekend.

"The markets are going to boom, the stock is going to boom, the country is going to boom," he promised while leaving the White House, the whirring rotors of Marine One sometimes overpowering his voice. "And the rest of the world wants to see if there is any way they can make a deal."

But the market was crashing, posting its biggest single-day loss since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic five years earlier. And it didn't get any better as Trump attended a Saudi-funded tournament at his Miami golf course and participated in a candle-lit dinner for an allied political organization.

On the flight back to Washington on Sunday evening, Trump told reporters that he won a club championship.

"It's good to win," he said. "You heard I won, right?"

But around the country and the world, the fallout was spreading.

Fulcrum Coffee Roasters in Seattle braced for rising costs for beans from Southeast Asia and espresso machines from Italy. Stellantis, the automaker behind brands like Jeep and Ram, announced it would pause production at plants in Mexico and Canada, leading to temporary layoffs at other facilities in Indiana and Michigan, a reminder of how interconnected vehicle supply chains have become.

The Dutch division of Tata Steel said it would cut 1,600 employees, about a fifth of its workforce. Ireland Prime Minister Michael Martin said "there is no way to sugar coat" the situation as business with the U.S. started tapering off. Sri Lanka worried that its economic recovery would be derailed as its clothing industry faced new tariffs from its most important export market.

Trump faces growing pushback from his own party

The markets were still in a panic on Monday when an unverified report circulated that the president was considering a 90-day pause on the tariffs. Stocks briefly soared before investors realized the information was wrong.

"We're not looking at that," Trump said as hopes for the rumored reprieve vanished.

By Tuesday, with fears of a recession growing, Trump's closest advisers began publicly sparring with one another. Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, who leads the administration's efforts to trim the size of government, openly questioned the wisdom of the tariffs, which would raise costs for his electric automaker Tesla. White House trade adviser Peter Navarro insisted that Musk "doesn't understand" the situation. Musk fired back that Navarro was "truly a moron" and "dumber than a sack of bricks."

Republican lawmakers returning to the Capitol for the workweek were peppered with questions about the tariffs and what they would do in response. Some began voicing support for legislation meant to rein in a president's tariff powers, before the White House struck back forcefully with a veto threat.

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin was asked on Tuesday if he understood Trump's strategy, and responded by asking "does anybody?" Some of his state's premier companies like Kohl's expected higher costs, while its dairy farms expected to struggle to sell milk and cheese. Harley-Davidson was a target of planned reciprocal tariffs by the European Union.

Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina was even more blunt that day during a hearing with Trump's top trade

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representative, Jamieson Greer. If the tariff plans don't work, he said, "I'm just trying to figure out whose throat I need to choke." His state's farmers, who raise hogs and grow tobacco among other products, feared getting caught in the crossfire of a trade war, while local manufacturers and tech companies could face higher prices on what they export to foreign consumers.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, a former hedge fund manager with intimate knowledge of the financial sector, held a round of meetings on Capitol Hill, including a lunch with Sen. John Kennedy, a Republican from Louisiana.

Kennedy had grown concerned about the tariffs, and he said they "talked very frankly." He was part of a group of senators who sat down for an interview with Sean Hannity on Tuesday night in hopes of swaying Trump's mind through one of his favorite Fox News hosts.

Trump had been brushing off concerns about the tariffs and the market collapse by saying "sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something."

Kennedy wasn't convinced, even if he shared the president's concerns about unfair trade practices.

"We don't know if the medicine will be worse than the disease," he said.

Trump retreats, and aides call it part of the strategy all along

The tariffs on allies like Japan, South Korea and the European Union took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, and there were no signs that Trump would back down when the sun came up in Washington.

"BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well," he posted on Truth Social.

Trump also wrote: "THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!!" — advice that turned out to be fortuitous. The president later said he'd been talking with his aides that morning about pausing the tariffs, an announcement that would send the stock market soaring.

Greer was back on Capitol Hill for another hearing when Trump made his announcement.

Rep. Steven Horsford, a Nevada Democrat, asked if Trump's trade representative knew that the tariffs he had just spent at least two hours defending had been paused.

"I understand the decision was made a few minutes ago," Greer said.

Horsford erupted, saying "this is amateur hour, and it needs to stop."

At the White House, press secretary Karoline Leavitt scolded reporters for not understanding the president's plans.

"Many of you in the media clearly missed The Art of the Deal," she said, referencing Trump's book from 1987. "You clearly failed to see what President Trump is doing here."

But the administration sent mixed messages even as it rolled back the tariffs.

Bessent said the decision had nothing to do with the markets.

"This was driven by the president's strategy," he told reporters outside the West Wing. "He and I had a long talk on Sunday, and this was his strategy all along."

Trump later contradicted Bessent.

"I was watching the bond market," he said. "That bond market is very tricky."

Despite the retreat, Trump showed no signs of regret. He was seeing dollar signs as he chatted with championship race car drivers in the Oval Office.

In a video posted by one of his aides, the president gestured to two corporate executives.

"He made \$2.5 billion today, and he made \$900 million," he said. "That's not bad."

Author, wife of Weezer bassist arrested after being shot by police who say she pointed a gun at them

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jillian Lauren, author and wife of Weezer bassist Scott Shriner, was shot and injured by Los Angeles police and arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after pointing a gun at officers from her front yard, authorities said Wednesday.

The 51-year-old Lauren, identified by police as Jillian Shriner and listed as Jillian Lauren Shriner in jail records, had injuries that were not life threatening after the shooting in the northeast Los Angeles neigh-

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borhood of Eagle Rock on Thursday, the LAPD said in a statement.

Her representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment and there is no indication Scott Shriner was involved in the incident. Weezer is scheduled to play the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival on Saturday.

Police said they were assisting California Highway Patrol officers in their search for three suspects from a misdemeanor hit-and-run. Lauren was not among the suspects. But while pursuing one of them who had reportedly been running through a backyard, police came upon Lauren in the front yard of her neighboring residence, holding a handgun.

They ordered her several times to drop the gun, but she refused, and pointed it at them, police allege. They did not say whether she fired the gun, but said she was hit by police gunfire and fled into her home, where they took her into custody then took her to a hospital.

A 9-millimeter handgun was recovered from Shriner's home, the police statement said.

She was later booked and was being held on \$1 million bail, LA County jail records showed.

Lauren has not made a court appearance, and it was not immediately clear whether she has hired a lawyer. There were no immediate responses to an email to her manager and a message left on her author website. There was also no response to an email seeking comment from a representative for Weezer.

Lauren is the author of two bestselling memoirs, 2010's "Some Girls: My Life in a Harem" and 2015's "Everything You Ever Wanted."

Weezer is a Los Angeles band beloved for their 1994 record unofficially known as the "Blue Album," featuring songs including "Say It Ain't So" and "Buddy Holly." Shriner joined the band in the early 2000s.

Lauren and Shriner married in 2005, and they have two children.

One of the three hit-and-run suspects was found, cited by the CHP and released.

Johnson vows to try again after GOP holdouts block action on Trump's 'big, beautiful' budget bill

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After abruptly halting votes, House Speaker Mike Johnson vowed to try again Thursday to approve a Republican budget framework, having worked into the night to satisfy GOP holdouts who refused to advance trillions of dollars in tax breaks without deeper spending cuts.

Even a hefty push from President Donald Trump couldn't heave the package to approval. Johnson was forced to abandon Wednesday's scheduled action as the Republican hardliners left him without enough support, and risked upending what the president calls the "big, beautiful bill," which is central to his agenda of tax cuts, mass deportations and a smaller federal government.

"The president is very anxious for us to get this done," Johnson, R-La., said as he left a late-night meeting with the GOP lawmakers. He said he expects votes on Thursday.

Pushing the budget framework forward would log another milestone for Johnson, who can only lose a few detractors from his slim majority. A failed vote, particularly as the economy was convulsing over Trump's trade wars, would be a major setback for the Republican agenda in Washington.

"Stop grandstanding!" Trump had admonished Republicans during a black-tie fundraising dinner at the National Building Museum earlier in the week.

Trump told the Republicans, "Close your eyes and get there."

But by Wednesday afternoon, the outcome was in flux. At least a dozen conservative Republicans, if not more, stood firmly against the plan. Several of them, including members of the ultraconservative Freedom Caucus, made the unusual move of walking across the Capitol to meet privately with Senate GOP leaders to insist on deeper cuts.

As night fell, Johnson pulled a group of Republicans into a private meeting room as House proceedings came to a standstill. They stayed into the night hashing out alternatives.

Johnson said he spoke with Trump for about five minutes while the GOP meeting was taking place. The GOP speaker said they're trying to figure out the minimal number of cuts and savings "that will satisfy

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everyone.”

Options include amending the Senate bill or having a conference committee work out the differences, among others. “There’s a few different ideas on the table,” Johnson said.

“We want everybody to have a high degree of comfort about what is happening here, and we have a small subset of members who weren’t totally satisfied with the product as it stands,” Johnson said.

But House GOP conservatives, including several of those who met personally with Trump at the White House this week, remained concerned that the Senate GOP’s blueprint, approved last weekend, does not slash spending to the level they believe is necessary to help prevent soaring deficits.

“The Math Does Not Add Up,” Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, posted on social media. He said he would not support it.

Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., the chair of the Freedom Caucus, led others to meet with Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., and other top Senate Republicans.

“All we can do is make sure that they understand where we’re coming from and how close we want to work with them to get to the final product,” Thune said afterward.

But the Senate GOP leader panned the idea of the House sending back an amended version, which would require another potential all-night voting session like the one senators endured last weekend. “We can’t do that — another vote-a-rama, that drags it on indefinitely,” Thune said.

The House and Senate are still at the beginning phase of a process that will take weeks, if not months, as they turn their budget resolutions into legislative text — a final product with more votes ahead later this spring or summer.

Democrats, in the minority, do not have enough votes to stop the package, but have warned against it.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said the Republicans’ budget plan is reckless and callous as it proposes slashing budgets to give tax breaks to the wealthy.

“We’re here to make it clear,” Jeffries said. “Hands off everyday Americans struggling to make ends meet.”

Central to the budget framework is the Republican effort to preserve the tax breaks approved in 2017, during Trump’s first term, while potentially adding the new ones he promised on the campaign trail. That includes no taxes on tipped wages, Social Security income and others, ballooning the price tag to some \$7 trillion over the decade.

The package also allows for budget increases with some \$175 billion to pay for Trump’s mass deportation operation and as much for the Defense Department to bolster military spending.

It all would be partly paid for with steep cuts to domestic programs, including health care, as part of the \$2 trillion in reductions outlined in the House GOP version of the package, though several GOP senators have signaled they are not willing to go that far.

To clip costs, the Senate is using an unusual accounting method that does not count the costs of preserving the 2017 tax cuts, some \$4.5 trillion, as new spending, another factor that is enraging the House conservatives.

Two Republican senators voted against their package during an overnight weekend session — Maine Sen. Susan Collins objected to steep cuts to Medicaid in the House’s framework, while Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul argued the whole package relied on “fishy” math that would add to the debt.

The package would also boost the nation’s debt limit to allow more borrowing to pay the bills. Trump had wanted lawmakers to take the politically difficult issue off the table. With debt now at \$36 trillion, the Treasury Department has said it will run out of funds by August.

But the House and Senate need to resolve their differences on the debt limit, as well. The House GOP raises the debt limit by \$4 trillion, but the Senate GOP boosted it to \$5 trillion so Congress would not have to revisit the issue again until after the fall 2026 midterm election.

With Trump’s trade wars hovering over the debate, House Republicans tucked a provision into a procedural vote that would prevent House action — as the Senate has taken — to disapprove of Trump’s tariffs.

Officials scramble to identify victims of Dominican club roof collapse that killed at least 184

By MARTÍN ADAMES ALCÁNTARA and DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The number of victims who died after a roof collapsed at an iconic nightclub surged to 184 late Wednesday as dozens of people lingered outside the Dominican Republic's forensic institute for news of their loved ones still missing more than a day after disaster struck.

Juan Manuel Méndez, director of the Center of Emergency Operations, said crews at the scene were still looking for victims and potential survivors, although no one has been found alive since Tuesday afternoon. "We're not going to abandon anyone. Our work will continue," he said.

Several blocks away from the rubble, people searching for friends and family donned face masks and began complaining about a bad odor as they pleaded with officials to give them information about their loved ones.

Earlier in the day, National Institute of Forensic Pathology officials read the names of 54 victims they had identified so far.

"We cannot wait until nighttime!" said one woman who was waiting for news of a relative whose name she did not hear. "We're going to go crazy!"

Officials called for calm, saying they had already delivered at least 28 bodies to their families but did not yet have a tally of all the bodies recovered. Late Wednesday, officials raised the number of dead to at least 184, with over 200 injured.

"The authorities are selling us false dreams!" cried out José Sánchez, whose brother and brother-in-law were still missing.

The collapse

The legendary Jet Set club in Santo Domingo was packed with musicians, professional athletes and government officials when dust began falling from the ceiling and into people's drinks early Tuesday.

Minutes later, the entire roof collapsed. Concrete slabs killed some instantly and trapped dozens of others on a dance floor where hundreds had been dancing to a lively merengue concert. In the minutes that followed, the country's 911 system received more than 100 calls, many from people buried under rubble.

The victims include merengue icon Rubby Pérez, who had been singing to the crowd before disaster struck. His body was found early Wednesday, said emergency operations director Juan Manuel Méndez.

The government announced Wednesday evening that it was moving to a recovery phase focused on finding bodies after 145 people were rescued from the wreckage of the nightclub. Rescue crews from Puerto Rico and Israel had arrived early Wednesday to help with the search.

Santo Domingo Mayor Carolina Mejía praised what she said were acts of love, including one Dominican who was handing out coffee to those at the scene and a man on vacation from Costa Rica who joined the search because he's part of a rescue crew back home.

The victims

So far, only a few dozen people have been identified in one of the worst disasters to hit the Dominican Republic. Those who died include a cardiologist, a government architect, a retired police officer, a retired United Nations official, the son and daughter-in-law of the minister of public works and the brother of the vice minister of the Ministry of Youth.

Also killed was former MLB pitcher Octavio Dotel and Dominican player Tony Enrique Blanco Cabrera, Santosky Terrero, spokesperson for the country's Professional Baseball League, told The Associated Press.

Nelsy Cruz, the governor of the northwestern province of Montecristi and sister of seven-time Major League Baseball All-Star Nelson Cruz, alerted President Luis Abinader about the disaster. She called him from underneath the rubble but later died at a hospital.

Other victims include saxophonist Luis Solís, who was playing onstage when the roof fell; New York-based fashion designer Martín Polanco; several Venezuelan bartenders; and an Army captain who left behind four young girls. Grupo Popular, a financial services company, said three of its employees also died, including the president of AFP Popular Bank and his wife. One man tearfully told reporters that he lost five relatives,

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including his wife and son.

Dozens of victims remained unidentified.

"I have been to many hospitals, and I have not found her," Deysi Suriel said of her friend, 61-year-old Milca Curiel, a North Carolina resident who was on vacation in the Dominican Republic.

Health Minister Dr. Víctor Elías Atallah Lajam announced the creation of a commission to provide psychological help for the victims' families.

More than 20 of the injured remained hospitalized Wednesday, including at least eight in critical condition.

"A point in their favor is that they're young," said Dr. Julio Landrón, director general of the Dr. Ney Arias Lora Trauma Hospital, which has 21 of the Jet Set injured, including five in critical condition.

Landrón warned, however, that none of them are in the clear, noting some suffered fractures in the skull, femur and pelvis.

"They spent hours, more than six, seven, eight hours under rubble with multiple fractures, multiple injuries, with bleeding related to being crushed," he said.

The search

Dozens of frantic relatives listened to officials read aloud a list of the identified victims at the forensics institute, while others went from hospital to hospital looking for their loved ones, some clutching photographs.

"Francisco Alberto Méndez ... Rosa Herminia Pérez ... Ramón Teodoro Jiménez ... Juan Manuel Santana," one official read as the crowd strained to listen.

"Here! Here!" yelled one person upon hearing the name of their loved one.

In the crowd was Virginia Rosario, who was looking for relatives including her cousin, who is still missing, and her sister, Rosa Herminia Pérez, who died and whom she described as "beautiful, precious, very nice."

"I'm in a lot of pain," she said. "I have had many moments of despair."

Officials said late Wednesday morning that they had not been able to identify at least 33 bodies.

"This is a very traumatic situation," said national lawmaker Pedro Martínez, who also has relatives missing.

Among those searching for friends and family was Kimberly Jones, whose godson, 45-year-old artist Osiris Blanc, and his friends were missing.

"It was their favorite place, they went there almost every Monday," Jones said. She said her niece also was missing.

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. A spokesperson for the family that owns the club told The Associated Press that she passed along questions about potential inspections.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson 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 request for comment.

Trump's new energy order puts states' climate laws in the crosshairs of the Department of Justice

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A new executive order from President Donald Trump that's part of his effort to invigorate energy production raises the possibility that his Department of Justice will go to court against state climate change laws aimed at slashing planet-warming greenhouse gas pollution from fossil fuels.

Trump's order, signed Tuesday, comes as U.S. electricity demand ramps up to meet the growth of artificial intelligence and cloud computing applications, as well as federal efforts to expand high-tech manufacturing. It also coincides with "climate superfund" legislation gaining traction in various states.

Trump has declared a "national energy emergency" and ordered his attorney general to take action against states that may be illegally overreaching their authority in how they regulate energy development.

"American energy dominance is threatened when State and local governments seek to regulate energy beyond their constitutional or statutory authorities," Trump said in the order.

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He said the attorney general should focus on state laws targeting climate change, a broad order that unmistakably puts liberal states in the crosshairs of Trump's Department of Justice.

Michael Gerrard, director of the Columbia University's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, said it would be an "extraordinarily bold move" for the federal government to go to court to try to overturn a state climate law.

Gerrard said the quickest path for Trump's Department of Justice is to try to join ongoing lawsuits where courts are deciding whether states or cities are exceeding their authority by trying to force the fossil fuel industry to pay for the cost of damages from climate change.

Democrats say they won't back down

Democratic governors vowed to keep fighting climate change.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom accused Trump of "turning back the clock" on the climate and said his state's efforts to reduce pollution "won't be derailed by a glorified press release masquerading as an executive order."

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, cochair of the U.S. Climate Alliance, which includes 22 governors, said they "will keep advancing solutions to the climate crisis."

Climate superfund laws are gaining traction

Vermont and New York are currently fighting challenges in federal courts to climate superfund laws passed last year. Trump suggested the laws "extort" payments from energy companies and "threaten American energy dominance and our economic and national security."

Both are modeled on the 45-year-old federal superfund law, which taxed petroleum and chemical companies to pay to clean up of sites polluted by toxic waste. In similar fashion, the state climate laws are designed to force major fossil fuel companies to pay into state-based funds based on their past greenhouse gas emissions.

Several other Democratic-controlled states, including New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon and California, are considering similar measures.

The American Petroleum Institute, which represents the oil and natural gas industries, applauded Trump's order that it said would "protect American energy from so-called 'climate superfunds.'"

"Directing the Department of Justice to address this state overreach will help restore the rule of law and ensure activist-driven campaigns do not stand in the way of ensuring the nation has access to an affordable and reliable energy supply," it said.

Court battles are already ongoing

The American Petroleum Institute, along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, filed the lawsuit against Vermont. The lawsuit against New York was filed by West Virginia, along with several coal, gas and oil interests and 21 other mostly Republican-led states, including Texas, Ohio and Georgia.

Make Polluters Pay, a coalition of consumer and anti-fossil fuel groups, vowed to fight Trump's order and accused fossil fuel billionaires of convincing Trump to launch an assault on states.

The order, it said, demonstrates the "corporate capture of government" and "weaponizes the Justice Department against states that dare to make polluters pay for climate damage."

Separately, the Department of Justice could join lawsuits in defense of fossil fuel industries being sued, Gerrard said.

Those lawsuits include ones filed by Honolulu, Hawaii, and dozens of cities and states seeking billions of dollars in damages from things like wildfires, rising sea levels and severe storms.

In the last three months, the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to get involved in a couple climate-themed lawsuits.

One was brought by oil and gas companies asking it to block Honolulu's lawsuit. Another was brought by Alabama and Republican attorneys general in 18 other states aimed at blocking lawsuits against the oil and gas industry from Democratic-led states, including California, Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Trump's order set off talk in state Capitols around the U.S.

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That includes Pennsylvania, where the governor is contesting a court challenge to a regulation that would make it the first major fossil fuel-producing state to force power plant owners pay for greenhouse gas emissions.

John Quigley, a former Pennsylvania environmental protection secretary and a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, wondered if the Department of Justice would begin challenging all sorts of state water and air pollution laws.

"This kind of an order knows no bounds," Quigley said. "It's hard to say where this could end up."

Inflation likely cooled last month as businesses braced for higher tariffs

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Inflation likely declined last month as the cost of energy, used cars and hotel rooms may have fallen, though President Donald Trump's remaining tariffs could lift prices soon.

Consumer prices probably rose 2.6% in March from a year ago, the Labor Department is expected to report Thursday, according to economists' projections compiled by FactSet. That would be down from February's yearly gain of 2.8%. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices are expected to have risen 3%, down from 3.1% in February.

The projected figures, if accurate, would suggest inflation is starting to cool again after remaining elevated for most of the fall and winter. Core inflation was stuck at 3.3% for five months before declining in February.

Still, inflation remains above the 2% target set by the inflation-fighters at the Federal Reserve. And on a monthly basis, core prices are forecast to rise 0.3% in March. If sustained, price increases at that pace would easily top the Fed's target. Overall prices are expected to tick up just 0.1% in March, however. Economists pay closer attention to the core figures because they provide a better guide to where inflation is headed.

Most economists had forecast higher inflation this year as a result of the sweeping tariffs on 60 nations that President Donald Trump announced last week. Yet on Wednesday, Trump paused those duties for 90 days. A universal tariff of 10% remains in place, as well as 25% duties on steel, aluminum, cars and many items from Canada and Mexico.

And import taxes on China have been ramped up to 125%, after China retaliated against Trump's earlier decisions to place large duties on imports from China.

Even with the pause, many companies are still uncertain where trade policy will go next. Trump has also said that duties on pharmaceutical imports will be imposed.

Consumers will likely see some prices rise because of the existing duties, including the massive tariffs on China. The United States imports more than \$60 billion of iPhones and other mobile phones every year from China, as well as massive amounts of clothes, shoes and toys.

Many U.S. companies will likely shift production out of China, a process that had already started during Trump's first term when he slapped duties on some of its exports. Still, China remains the United States' third-largest trading partner.

Shifting supply chains out of China, however, will likely take time and come with its own costs, which could raise prices for U.S. consumers in the coming months.

Last week, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said that the central bank was likely to keep its key interest rate unchanged at about 4.3% as it waited to see how Trump's policies impacted the economy. Trump called for the Fed to cut rates on Friday.

"There's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," Powell said. "And that just seems like the right thing to do in this period of uncertainty."

Trump targets 'Anonymous' author and former top cybersecurity official in escalation of retribution

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump intensified his efforts to punish his critics on Wednesday by signing a pair of memoranda directing the Justice Department to investigate two officials from his first administration and stripping them of any security clearances they may have.

Trump's targeting of Miles Taylor, a former Department of Homeland Security official in Trump's first term, and Chris Krebs, a former top cybersecurity official, came as the president has sought to use the powers of the presidency to retaliate against his adversaries, including law firms.

Trump also on Wednesday retaliated against another law firm, Susman Godfrey, as he seeks to punish firms that have links to prosecutors who have investigated him or employed attorneys he sees as opponents.

Although Trump has ordered security clearances to be stripped from a number of his opponents, including former President Joe Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris, the president's order Wednesday directing the Justice Department to broadly investigate the actions of Taylor and Krebs marks an escalation of Trump's campaign of retribution since he returned to power.

Taylor, who left the Trump administration in 2019, was later revealed to be the author of an anonymous New York Times op-ed in 2018 that was sharply critical of Trump. The person writing the essay described themselves as part of a secret "resistance" to counter Trump's "misguided impulses," and its publication touched off a leak investigation in Trump's first White House.

Taylor later published a book under the pen name "Anonymous" and publicly revealed his identity days before the 2020 election.

Trump said Wednesday that Taylor was "like a traitor" and that his writings about "confidential" meetings were "like spying."

"I think he's guilty of treason," he said.

Taylor responded by saying Trump had proved his point.

"Dissent isn't unlawful. It certainly isn't treasonous. America is headed down a dark path," he wrote on X.

Trump named Krebs the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency but became angered with him after he declared the 2020 election that Trump lost to be secure and the ballot counts to be accurate.

Krebs did not respond to a message seeking comment, but late Wednesday he shared on X a message he originally posted when he left government in 2020: "Honored to serve. We did it right."

Trump has falsely claimed he was cheated out of reelection in 2020 by widespread fraud, despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary. Recounts, reviews and audits in the battleground states where he disputed his loss all affirmed Biden's victory. Judges, including some he appointed, rejected dozens of his legal challenges.

"It's bizarre to see a president investigate his own administration and his own appointee," said David Becker, a former Justice Department lawyer and coauthor of "The Big Truth," a book about Trump's 2020 election lies.

Becker noted that Krebs issued his reassurances about the security of the upcoming election for months during 2020 without pushback from the then-president, with Trump only souring on him after the votes were counted.

"The reason he can sit in the White House today and govern from that position is because our election system is secure and has accurately determined who has won the presidency," Becker said.

Susman Godfrey, the firm Trump targeted in an order Wednesday, represented Dominion Voting Systems in a lawsuit that accused Fox News of falsely claiming that the voting company had rigged the 2020 presidential election. Fox News ultimately agreed to pay nearly \$800 million to avert a trial.

The order bars the firm from using government resources or buildings, according to White House staff secretary Will Scharf.

In a statement, Susman Godfrey responded that people who know the firm know it takes seriously its

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duty to uphold the rule of law. "This principle guides us now," the firm said. "There is no question that we will fight this unconstitutional order."

Trump has issued a series of orders meant to punish firms, including by ordering the suspension of lawyers' security clearances and revoking federal contracts. He's succeeded in extracting concessions from some who have settled, but others have challenged the orders in court.

Israeli strike on Gaza apartment building kills at least 23, officials say

By WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli aircraft struck a residential block in war-ravaged northern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 23 people, health officials said, as the renewed fighting in the devastated Palestinian enclave showed no signs of slowing.

The Al-Ahly hospital said at least 23 people were killed in the strike, including eight women and eight children. The territory's Health Ministry confirmed the figures.

The strike hit a four-story building in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City, and rescue teams were searching for victims under the rubble, according to the Health Ministry's emergency service. The civil defense, a rescue group that operates under the Hamas-run government, said other neighboring buildings were damaged in the strike.

The Israeli military said it struck a senior Hamas militant who it said was behind attacks emanating from Shijaiyah, but it didn't name him or provide further details. Israel blames the deaths of Palestinian civilians on the militant group, because it embeds itself in dense urban areas.

As it ratchets up pressure on Hamas to agree to free hostages, Israel has issued sweeping evacuation orders for parts of Gaza, including Shijaiyah. It imposed a blockade on food, fuel and humanitarian aid that has left civilians facing acute shortages as supplies dwindle. It has pledged to seize large parts of the Palestinian territory and establish a new security corridor through it.

The U.N. said the Israeli military has denied aid workers permission for more than two-thirds of 170 attempts to move humanitarian supplies within the Gaza Strip since the ceasefire ended. U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said efforts to get dwindling aid supplies to Palestinians were "severely strained."

The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Earlier this week, Hamas fired its strongest volley of rockets since the ceasefire collapsed, lobbing 10 projectiles toward southern Israel.

Israel resumed its war against Hamas in Gaza last month after an eight-week ceasefire collapsed. The ceasefire brought a much-needed reprieve from the fighting to war-weary Palestinians in Gaza and sent an infusion of humanitarian aid to the territory. It also led to the release of 25 living Israeli hostages held in Gaza and the return of the remains of eight others, in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

Mediators have since attempted to bring the sides to a bridging agreement that would again pause the war, free hostages and open the door for talks on the war's end, something Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he won't agree to until Hamas is defeated. Hamas wants the war to end before it frees the remaining 59 hostages it holds, 24 of whom are believed to be alive.

The war, which was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on southern Israel, has seen the deadliest fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in their history. It has ignited a humanitarian crisis in already impoverished Gaza, and has sent shockwaves across the region and beyond.

Netanyahu traveled to Washington this week to meet with President Donald Trump. In their public statements, they offered sympathy for the plight of the hostages but shed little light on any emerging deal to suspend the fighting.

Trump has said he wants the war to end. But his postwar vision for Gaza — taking it over and relocating its population — has stunned Middle East allies, who say any talk of transferring the Palestinian population, by force or voluntarily, is a nonstarter. Israel has embraced the idea.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, is under pressure from his far-right political allies to continue the war until Hamas is crushed, an aim Israel has yet to achieve 18 months into the conflict.

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French President Emmanuel Macron said France should move toward recognizing a Palestinian state in the coming months. The goal is to do that by June, when France and Saudi Arabia co-host an international conference about implementing a two-state solution, Macron told broadcaster France-5 in an interview aired Wednesday.

The war has killed more than 50,000 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the health ministry there, which does not differentiate between combatants and civilians in its count but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

Hamas killed 1,200 people during its Oct. 7 attack, mostly civilians, and took 250 people captive, many of whom have been freed in ceasefire deals.

50 years later, Vietnam's battlefields draw retrospective veterans and other tourists

By DAVID RISING and HAU DINH Associated Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — Hamburger Hill, Hue, the Ia Drang Valley, Khe Sanh: Some remember the Vietnam War battles from the headlines of the 1960s and 1970s, others from movies and history books. And thousands of Americans and Vietnamese know them as the graveyards of loved ones who died fighting more than a half-century ago.

Today the battlefields of Vietnam are sites of pilgrimage for veterans from both sides who fought there, and tourists wanting to see firsthand where the war was waged.

"It was a war zone when I was here before," reflected U.S. Army veteran Paul Hazelton as he walked with his wife through the grounds of the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City, which was known as Saigon when he served there.

Hazelton's tour just shy of his 80th birthday took him back for the first time to places he served as a young draftee, including Hue, the former Phu Bai Combat Base on the city's outskirts, and Da Nang, which was a major base for both American and South Vietnamese forces.

"Everywhere you went, you know, it was occupied territory with our military, now you just see the hustle and bustle and the industry, and it's remarkable," he said.

"I'm just glad that we're now trading and friendly with Vietnam. And I think both sides are benefiting from it."

The history and the museum recounting it

Vietnam's war with the United States lasted for nearly 20 years from 1955 to 1975, with more than 58,000 Americans killed and many times that number of Vietnamese.

For Vietnam, it started almost immediately after the nearly decadelong fight to expel the colonial French, who were supported by Washington, which culminated with the decisive defeat of French forces at Dien Bien Phu in 1954.

The end of French Indochina meant major changes in the region, including the partitioning of Vietnam into Communist North Vietnam under Ho Chi Minh, and U.S.-aligned South Vietnam.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon to North Vietnamese and Viet Cong guerrilla troops, and the 30th anniversary of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam.

Tourism has rebounded rapidly since the COVID-19 pandemic and is now a critical driver of Vietnam's growth, the fastest in the region, accounting for roughly one in nine jobs in the country. Vietnam had more than 17.5 million foreign visitors in 2024, close to the record 18 million set in 2019 before the pandemic.

The War Remnants Museum attracts some 500,000 visitors a year, about two-thirds of whom are foreigners. Its exhibits focus on American war crimes and atrocities like the My Lai massacre and the devastating effects of Agent Orange, a defoliant widely used during the war.

The U.S. was to open the first exhibit of its own at the museum this year, detailing Washington's extensive efforts to remediate wartime damage, but it is indefinitely on hold after the Trump administration slashed foreign aid.

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Other wartime sites in Saigon, which was the capital of South Vietnam, include the South Vietnamese president's Independence Palace where North Vietnamese tanks famously crashed through the gates as they took the city and the Rex Hotel where the U.S. held press briefings derisively dubbed the Five O'clock Follies for their paucity of credible information.

On the northern outskirts of the city are the Cu Chi tunnels, an underground warren used by Viet Cong guerrillas to avoid detection from American planes and patrols, which attracts some 1.5 million people annually.

Today visitors can climb and crawl through some of the narrow passages and take a turn at a firing range shooting targets with war-era weapons like the AK-47, M-16 and the M-60 machine gun known as "the pig" by American troops for its bulky size and high rate of fire.

"I can understand a bit better now how the war took place, how the Vietnamese people managed to fight and protect themselves," said Italian tourist Theo Buono after visiting the site while waiting for others in his tour group to finish at the firing range.

Former North Vietnamese Army artilleryman Luu Van Duc remembers the fighting firsthand, but his visit to the Cu Chi tunnels with a group of other veterans provided an opportunity to see how their allies with the Viet Cong lived and fought.

"I'm so moved visiting the old battlefields — it was my last dying wish to be able to relive those hard but glorious days together with my comrades," the 78-year-old said.

"Relics like this must be preserved so the next generations will know about their history, about the victories over much stronger enemies."

Outside the city

The former Demilitarized Zone where the country was split between North and South in Quang Tri province saw the heaviest fighting during the war, and drew more than 3 million visitors in 2024.

On the north side of the DMZ, visitors can walk through the labyrinthine Vinh Moc tunnel complex, where civilians took shelter from bombs that the U.S. dropped in an effort to disrupt supplies to the North Vietnamese.

The tunnels, along with a memorial and small museum at the border, can be reached on a day trip from Hue, which typically also includes a stop at the former Khe Sanh combat base, the site of a fierce battle in 1968 in which both sides claimed victory.

Today, Khe Sanh boasts a small museum and some of the original fortifications, along with tanks, helicopters and other equipment left by U.S. forces after their withdrawal.

Hue itself was the scene of a major battle during the Tet Offensive in 1968, one of the longest and most intense of the war. Today the city's ancient Citadel and Imperial City, a UNESCO site on the north bank of the Perfume River, still bears signs of the fierce fighting but has largely been rebuilt. West of Hue, a little off the beaten path near the border with Laos, is Hamburger Hill, the scene of a major battle in 1969.

About 500 kilometers (300 miles) to the southwest near the Cambodian border is the Ia Drang valley, where the first major engagement between American and North Vietnamese forces was fought in 1965.

Fighting in North Vietnam was primarily an air war, and today the Hoa Lo Prison museum tells that story from the Vietnamese perspective.

Sardonically dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" by inmates, the former French prison in Hanoi was used to hold American prisoners of war, primarily pilots shot down during bombing raids. Its most famous resident was the late Sen. John McCain after he was shot down in 1967.

"It was kind of eerie but fascinating at the same time," said Olivia Wilson, a 28-year-old from New York, after a recent visit.

"It's an alternative perspective on the war."

Wall Street's euphoria sends US stocks to historic gains after Trump pauses most of his tariffs

By STAN CHOE AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks soared to one of their best days in history on a euphoric Wall Street Wednesday after President Donald Trump said he would back off on most of his tariffs temporarily, as investors had so desperately hoped he would.

The S&P 500 surged 9.5%, an amount that would count as a good year for the market. It had been sinking earlier in the day on worries that Trump's trade war could drag the global economy into a recession. But then came the posting on social media that investors worldwide had been waiting and wishing for.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE," Trump said, after recognizing the more than 75 countries that he said have been negotiating on trade and had not retaliated against his latest increases in tariffs.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent later told reporters that Trump was pausing his so-called 'reciprocal' tariffs on most of the country's biggest trading partners, but maintaining his 10% tariff on nearly all global imports.

China was a huge exception, though, with Trump saying tariffs are going up to 125% against its products. That raises the possibility of more swings ahead that could stun financial markets. The trade war is not over, and an escalating battle between the world's two largest economies can create plenty of damage. U.S. stocks are also still below where they were just a week ago, when Trump announced worldwide tariffs on what he called "Liberation Day."

But on Wednesday, at least, the focus on Wall Street was on the positive. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shot to a gain of 2,962 points, or 7.9%. The Nasdaq composite leaped 12.2%. The S&P 500 had its third-best day since 1940.

The relief came after doubts had crept in about whether Trump cared about the financial pain the U.S. stock market was taking because of his tariffs. The S&P 500, the index that sits at the center of many 401(k) accounts, came into the day nearly 19% below its record set less than two months ago.

That surprised many professional investors, who had long thought that a president who used to crow about records for the Dow under his watch would pull back on policies if they sent markets reeling.

Wednesday's rally pulled the S&P 500 index away from the edge of what's called a "bear market." That's what professionals call it when a run-of-the-mill drop of 10% for U.S. stocks, which happens every year or so, graduates into a more vicious fall of 20%. The index is now down 11.2% from its record.

Wall Street also got a boost from a relatively smooth auction of U.S. Treasuries in the bond market Wednesday. Earlier jumps in Treasury yields had rattled the market, indicating increasing levels of stress. Trump himself said Wednesday that he had been watching the bond market "getting a little queasy."

Analysts say several reasons could be behind the rise in yields, including hedge funds and other investors having to sell their Treasury bonds to raise cash in order to make up for losses in the stock market. Investors outside the United States may also be selling their U.S. Treasuries because of the trade war. Such actions would push down prices for Treasuries, which in turn would push up their yields.

Regardless of the reasons behind it, higher yields on Treasuries add pressure on the stock market and push upward on rates for mortgages and other loans for U.S. households and businesses.

The moves are particularly notable because U.S. Treasury yields have historically dropped — not risen — during scary times for the market because the bonds are usually seen as some of the safest possible investments. This week's sharp rise had brought the yield on the 10-year Treasury back to where it was in late February.

After approaching 4.50% in the morning, the 10-year yield pulled back to 4.34% following Trump's pause and the Treasury's auction. That's still up from 4.26% late Tuesday and from just 4.01% at the end of last week.

Of course, the trade war is not over. Bessent and Trump clearly showed their anger at China, which has been ratcheting up its own tariffs on U.S. goods and announcing other countermeasures with each move Trump has made.

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China earlier said it would raise tariffs on U.S. goods to 84% on Thursday. "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 said.

Later the U.S. Treasury secretary said in a message to countries worldwide, but perhaps most directly aimed at China, "Do not retaliate, and you will be rewarded."

Wednesday's rally provided the latest reminder that some of the U.S. stock market's best days have been clustered around some of its worst days historically. That's one of the reasons many financial advisers suggest not trying to time the market and selling stocks and other investments meant for the long term when nervous, because of the risk of missing out on such huge up days.

The biggest gain for the S&P 500 since World War II was an 11.6% surge on Oct. 13, 2008, for example. That was during the depths of the Great Recession, when worries were high that the financial system was collapsing and the S&P 500 was in the midst of a nearly 57% plunge from its peak in late 2007 until its bottom in March 2009. A couple weeks later, the index had another one of its best days in history, soaring 10.8%.

Wednesday's gains were widespread across the U.S. stock market, and 98% of the stocks in the S&P 500 index rallied.

Leading the way were airlines and other stocks that need customers feeling confident enough to travel for work or for vacation.

Delta Air Lines soared 23.4%. Earlier in the day, it had pulled financial forecasts for 2025 as the trade war scrambles expectations for business and household spending and depresses bookings across the travel sector. All told, the S&P 500 rocketed higher by 474.13 points to 5,456.90. The Dow Jones Industrial gained 2,962.86 to 40,608.45, and the Nasdaq composite surged 1,857.06 to 17,124.97.

In stock markets abroad, indexes tumbled across most of Europe and much of Asia after they closed before Trump's announcement.

London's FTSE 100 dropped 2.9%, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 sank 3.9% and the CAC 40 fell 3.3% in Paris. Chinese stocks were an outlier, and indexes rose 0.7% in Hong Kong and 1.3% in Shanghai.

Trump limits tariffs on most nations for 90 days, raises taxes on Chinese imports

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facing a global market meltdown, President Donald Trump on Wednesday abruptly backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days even as he further jacked up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

It was seemingly an attempt to narrow what had been an unprecedented trade war between the U.S. and most of the world to a showdown between the U.S. and China. The S&P 500 stock index jumped 9.5% after the announcement, but the drama over Trump's tariffs is far from over as the administration prepares to engage in country-by-country negotiations. In the meantime, countries subject to the pause will now be tariffed at 10%.

The president hit pause in the face of intense pressure created by volatile financial markets that had been pushing Trump to reconsider his tariffs, even as some administration officials insisted the his reversal had always been the plan.

As stocks and bonds sold off, voters were watching their retirement savings dwindle and businesses warned of worse than expected sales and rising prices, all a possible gut punch to a country that sent Trump back to the White House last year on the promise of combatting inflation.

The global economy appeared to be in open rebellion against Trump's tariffs as they took effect early Wednesday, a signal that the U.S. president was not immune from market pressures. By early afternoon, Trump posted on Truth Social that because more than 75 countries had reached out to the U.S. government for trade talks and had not retaliated in meaningful ways, "I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately."

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Trump later told reporters that he pulled back on many global tariffs — but not on China — because people were “yippy” and “afraid” due to the stock market declines. He added that while he expected to reach deals, “nothing’s over yet.”

The president said he had been monitoring the bond market and that people were “getting a little queasy” as bond prices had fallen and interest rates had increased in a vote of no confidence by investors in Trump’s previous tariff plans.

“The bond market is very tricky,” Trump said. “I was watching it. But if you look at it now, it’s beautiful.”

The president later said he’d been thinking about his tariff pause over the past few days, but he said it “came together early this morning, fairly early this morning.”

Asked why White House aides had been insisting for weeks that the tariffs were not part of a negotiation, Trump said: “A lot of times, it’s not a negotiation until it is.”

The 10% tariff was the baseline rate for most nations that went into effect on Saturday. It’s meaningfully lower than the 20% tariff that Trump had set for goods from the European Union, 24% on imports from Japan and 25% on products from South Korea. Still, 10% represents an increase in the tariffs previously charged by the U.S. government. Canada and Mexico would continue to be tariffed by as much as 25% due to a separate directive by Trump to ostensibly stop fentanyl smuggling.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that the negotiations with individual countries would be “bespoke,” meaning that the next 90 days would involve talks on a flurry of potential deals. Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, told reporters that the pause was because of other countries seeking talks rather than brutal selloffs in the financial markets, a statement later contradicted by the president.

“The only certainty we can provide is that the U.S. is going to negotiate in good faith, and we assume that our allies will too,” Bessent said.

The treasury secretary said he and Trump “had a long talk on Sunday, and this was his strategy all along” and that the president had “goaded China into a bad position.”

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick later seemed to contradict the president’s account by saying it was “definitively” not the markets that caused Trump to pause the tariffs, saying that requests by other nations to negotiate prompted the decision.

Prior to the reversal, business executives were warning of a potential recession caused by his policies, some of the top U.S. trading partners were retaliating with their own import taxes and the stock market was quivering after days of decline.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the walk back was part of Trump’s negotiating strategy.

She said the news media “clearly failed to see what President Trump is doing here. You tried to say that the rest of the world would be moved closer to China, when in fact, we’ve seen the opposite effect. The entire world is calling the United States of America, not China, because they need our markets.”

The head of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, said the trade war between the U.S. and China could “could severely damage the global economic outlook” and warned of “potential fragmentation of global trade along geopolitical lines.”

Market turmoil had been building for weeks ahead of Trump’s move, with the president at times suggesting the import taxes would stay in place while also saying that they could be subject to negotiations.

Particularly worrisome was that U.S. government debt had lost some of its luster with investors, who usually treat Treasury notes as a safe haven when there’s economic turbulence. Government bond prices had been falling, pushing up the interest rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note to 4.45%. That rate eased after Trump’s reversal.

Gennadiy Goldberg, head of U.S. rates strategy at TD Securities, said before the announcement that markets wanted to see a truce in the trade disputes.

“Markets more broadly, not just the Treasury market, are looking for signs that a trade de-escalation is coming,” he said. “Absent any de-escalation, it’s going to be difficult for markets to stabilize.”

John Canavan, lead analyst at the consultancy Oxford Economics, noted that while Trump said he changed course due to possible negotiations, he had previously indicated that the tariffs would stay in place.

“There have been very mixed messages on whether there would be negotiations,” Canavan said. “Given

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what's been going on with the markets, he realized the safest thing to do is negotiate and put things on pause."

The whipsaw-like nature of Wednesday could be seen in the social media posts of Bill Ackman, a hedge fund billionaire and Trump supporter.

"Our stock market is down," Ackman posted on X. "Bond yields are up and the dollar is declining. These are not the markers of successful policy."

Ackman repeated his call for a 90-day pause in the post. When Trump embraced that idea several hours later, an ebullient Ackman posted that Trump had "brilliantly executed" his plan and it was "Textbook, Art of the Deal," a reference to Trump's bestselling 1987 book.

Presidents often receive undue credit or blame for the state of the U.S. economy as their time in the White House is subject to financial and geopolitical forces beyond their direct control.

But by unilaterally imposing tariffs, Trump has exerted extraordinary influence over the flow of commerce, creating political risks and pulling the market in different directions based on his remarks and social media posts. There still appear to be 25% tariffs on autos, steel and aluminum, with more imports, including pharmaceutical drugs, set to be tariffed in the weeks ahead.

The tariffs frenzy of recent weeks has taken its toll on businesses and individuals alike.

On CNBC, Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said the administration was being less strategic than it was during Trump's first term. His company had in January projected it would have its best financial year in history, only to scrap its expectations for 2025 due to the economic uncertainty.

"Trying to do it all at the same time has created chaos in terms of being able to make plans," he said, noting that demand for air travel has weakened.

Before Trump's reversal, economic forecasters said his second term has had a series of negative and cascading impacts that could put the country into a downturn.

"Simultaneous shocks to consumer sentiment, corporate confidence, trade, financial markets as well as to prices, new orders and the labor market will tip the economy into recession in the current quarter," said Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM.

Bessent has previously said it could take months to strike deals with countries on tariff rates. But in a Wednesday morning appearance on "Mornings with Maria," Bessent said the economy would "be back to firing on all cylinders" at a point in the "not too distant future."

He said there has been an "overwhelming" response by "the countries who want to come and sit at the table rather than escalate." Bessent mentioned Japan, South Korea, and India. "I will note that they are all around China. We have Vietnam coming today," he said.

Americans convicted in Congo of a botched coup attempt now face US charges

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Three Americans repatriated to the United States from Congo this week have been charged with participating in an elaborate coup attempt aimed at overthrowing the African nation's government last year, the U.S. Justice Department said Wednesday.

A fourth man alleged by prosecutors to be an expert in explosives was also charged with aiding the plot.

The criminal charges arise from the same set of allegations that led to three of the defendants being detained in Congo and receiving death sentences. The sentences were later commuted to punishments of life imprisonment before the men were ultimately transferred Tuesday into U.S. custody to face charges in an American court. Their repatriation came amid efforts by Congolese authorities to reach a minerals deal with the U.S. in exchange for security support to fight rebels in the country's conflict-hit east.

A criminal complaint unsealed by prosecutors Wednesday follows a long-running FBI investigation and accuses the men of conspiring to provide weapons, explosives and other support to a rebel army that was formed to try to overthrow the government.

Among the three Americans is 22-year-old Marcel Malanga, son of opposition figure Christian Malanga,

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who led the coup attempt that targeted the presidential palace in Kinshasa. The elder Malanga livestreamed from the palace during the attempt and was later killed while resisting arrest, Congolese authorities said.

Prosecutors say the accused wanted to establish a new government

Prosecutors say the goal of the plot was to establish a new government known as New Zaire and install Christian Malanga as its president. The younger Malanga identified himself as the "Chief of Staff of the Zaire army" and acted as a leader of the rebel forces, court documents say.

Christian Malanga, who was born in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa, had described himself on his website as a refugee who settled in the U.S. with his family in the 1990s. The self-proclaimed leader of a shadow government in exile sold used cars and dabbled in gold mining before persuading his Utah-born son to join in the foiled coup. Christian Malanga was convicted in Utah of assault with a firearm in 2001 and had charges dismissed in several other criminal cases.

Marcel Malanga, Tyler Thompson Jr., 22, and Benjamin Zalman-Polun, 37, were returned to the U.S. Tuesday. They are expected to make their first court appearance in Brooklyn.

The alleged explosives expert, Joseph Peter Moesser, 67, is set to appear in court in Salt Lake City on Thursday. Prosecutors say that as part of the plot, he provided explosives training and instructions at his Utah home and contributed weapons.

Thompson's attorney, Skye Lazaro, said Wednesday she did not yet have information to share. No attorneys were listed in court documents for the other three defendants.

The men are charged with crimes including conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, conspiracy to bomb government facilities and conspiracy to kill or kidnap persons in a foreign country. Those charges, which taken together could result in lengthy prison sentences in the event of a conviction, could change if and when the defendants are indicted by a grand jury.

Justice Department: Coup attempt was the result of a months-in-the-making plot

The complaint provides the most detailed chronicle to date of the planned May 2024 overthrow of Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi. At least six people, including Christian Malanga, died when armed men in camouflage fatigues led an attack on the homes of the president and a deputy prime minister.

The charging document makes clear that the alleged coup was the result of a months-in-the-making plot rather than a haphazard idea, with the men accused of recruiting friends in the U.S., acquiring drones and military-style weapons and also participating in extensive firearms training. The men are also alleged to have hijacked a bus and raided a Congolese police station to obtain weapons for the deadly attack.

Malanga told a Congolese judge that his father threatened to kill him if he did not follow his orders.

"We're about to go take out some terrorists," Malanga is alleged to have told a friend he was recruiting to go to Africa. The friend is not named in the complaint.

Other friends told The Associated Press that Malanga had offered up to \$100,000 to join him on a mysterious "security job" in Congo.

Prosecutors are seeking to keep all four men in jail as the case moves forward.

"The four defendants pose an extreme danger to the community and present an unmanageable risk of flight," the Justice Department said in a detention memo.

It notes that Moesser, a longtime associate of Christian Malanga, faced allegations of criminal conduct years earlier when he was accused of trying to place explosive black powder on an plane departing from the Salt Lake City airport. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor and was sentenced to a form of probation.

Prosecutors say defendants include a drone specialist and bomb-making expert

Thompson, a friend and former high school football teammate of Marcel Malanga in Utah, is identified in court documents as a drone specialist who prosecutors say shopped for a flamethrower attachment that he planned to use to "light people on fire."

His family has said he flew to Africa for what they believed was his first vacation abroad, paid for by Christian Malanga.

Witnesses observed Thompson and the younger Malanga conducting drone test flights and firing handguns and rifles at a shooting range near Salt Lake City before they left for Africa, according to the complaint.

Moesser allegedly helped Thompson and Malanga install the flamethrower attachment and showed them

how to use drones to drop pipe bombs. Messages obtained by investigators show Moesser conspiring with Christian Malanga to ship explosives and AR-15 rifles to Congo, the complaint said.

Zalman-Polun reportedly traveled to Utah to help Malanga recruit soldiers for their rebel army. If the plot had been successful, Zalman-Polun would have become Christian Malanga's chief of staff or would "work in finance" in the new administration, court documents say.

The complaint also places three of the defendants at the scene itself, using images and posts from the men's social media accounts, including livestream videos that Christian Malanga recorded.

Trump: Israel would be 'leader' of Iran strike if Tehran doesn't give up nuclear weapons program

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that Israel would be the "leader" of a potential military strike against Iran if Tehran doesn't give up its nuclear weapons program.

Trump made the comments ahead of this weekend's scheduled talks involving U.S. and Iranian officials in the Middle East sultanate of Oman. Trump earlier this week said the talks would be "direct" while Iran has described the engagement as "indirect" talks with the U.S.

"If it requires military, we're going to have military," Trump said. "Israel will obviously be very much involved in that. They'll be the leader of that. But nobody leads us, but we do what we want to do."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this week said he supports Trump's diplomatic efforts to reach a settlement with Iran. He added that Israel and the U.S. share the same goal of ensuring that Iran does not develop a nuclear weapon. Netanyahu, however, led efforts to persuade Trump to pull out of a U.S.-brokered deal with Iran in 2018.

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

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

The United States is increasingly concerned as Tehran is closer than ever to a workable weapon. But Trump said on Wednesday that he doesn't have a definitive timeline for the talks to come to a resolution.

"When you start talks, you know, if they're going along well or not," Trump said. "And I would say the conclusion would be what I think they're not going along well. So that's just a feeling."

The U.S. and other world powers in 2015 reached a long-term, comprehensive nuclear agreement that limited Tehran's enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. But Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the nuclear agreement in 2018, calling it the "worst deal ever."

Iran and the U.S., under President Joe Biden, held indirect negotiations in Vienna in 2021 aimed at restoring the nuclear deal. But those talks, and others between Tehran and European nations, failed to reach any agreement.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Treasury Department earlier on Wednesday issued new sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear program.

Five entities and one person based in Iran are cited in the new sanctions for their support of Iran's nuclear program. The designated groups include the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and subordinates Iran Centrifuge Technology Company, Thorium Power Company, Pars Reactors Construction and Development Company and Azarab Industries Co.

"I want Iran to be great," Trump said Wednesday. "The only thing that they can't have is a nuclear weapon. They understand that."

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian again pledged Wednesday that his nation is "not after a nuclear bomb" and even dangled the prospect of direct American investment in the Islamic Republic if the countries can reach a deal.

The comments by the reformist leader represent a departure from Iran's stance after its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, in which Tehran sought to buy American airplanes but in effect barred U.S. companies from coming into the country.

"His excellency has no opposition to investment by American investors in Iran," Pezeshkian said in a speech in Tehran, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "American investors: Come and invest."

Kash Patel has been replaced by Army Secretary Driscoll as acting head of the ATF, AP sources say

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Kash Patel has been removed as the acting chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and has been replaced with the Army secretary, three people familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

It was not immediately clear why Patel was replaced by Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll to lead the Justice Department agency that's responsible for enforcing the nation's gun laws. One person familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel move, said Patel was removed at the end of February, just days after he was sworn in.

But that was never publicly announced. Patel on Wednesday afternoon remained on the agency's website and was identified as the acting director in an April 7 press release. In March, he posted on social media a note he sent to the ATF workforce that read "special message from the acting director." And senior ATF leaders were only informed Wednesday of the change, according to another person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the move.

Driscoll will remain secretary of the Army, according to a defense official. This puts a defense leader — with an already large job — in charge of a domestic law enforcement agency. U.S. defense officials have historically tried to maintain a strict divide between military forces and law enforcement. U.S. troops are not allowed to participate in law enforcement activities on American soil. They do, however, provide support and intelligence gathering to Custom and Border Protection to help secure the southern border.

As Army secretary, Driscoll, 38, heads the U.S. military's largest service, which has about 452,000 soldiers including thousands who are deployed all over the world. He also oversees dozens of major weapons, aircraft and equipment programs worth billions of dollars and is responsible for an Army budget of more than \$187 billion.

Harrison Fields, a White House spokesperson, said Patel was "briefly designated ATF Director while awaiting Senate confirmations — a standard, short-term move."

"Director Patel is now excelling in his role at the FBI and delivering outstanding results," Fields said.

Driscoll, of North Carolina, had served as an adviser to Vice President JD Vance, whom he met when both were attending Yale Law School. He served in the Army for less than four years and left at the rank of first lieutenant.

He ran unsuccessfully in the Republican primary for a North Carolina congressional seat in 2020, getting about 8% of the vote in a crowded field of candidates.

Patel was named acting ATF director in an unusual arrangement in February just days after he was sworn in to lead the FBI, putting him in charge of two separate and sprawling Justice Department agencies.

Justice Department officials have been considering a plan to combine the ATF and the Drug Enforcement Administration into a single agency. The two agencies often work together, along with the FBI, but are both led by separate directors and are tasked with distinctly different missions.

The plan is designed to "achieve efficiencies in resources, case deconfliction, and regulatory efforts," according to a recent memo from Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

The ATF investigates things like violent crime, gun trafficking, arson and bombings. It also provides technical expertise in tracing guns used in crimes and analyzing intelligence in shooting investigations.

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The DEA, meanwhile, is in charge of enforcing the nation's laws around drugs. Its agents are focused on combating criminal drug networks and stemming the illicit flow of fentanyl and other street drugs.

The Masters: When it starts, how to watch, betting odds for golf's first major of 2025

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The Masters begins Thursday at Augusta National, where defending champion Scottie Scheffler will try to win his third green jacket, Rory McIlroy will try again to win his first and the biggest names in golf will come together amid the Georgia pines for the year's first major championship.

There are 95 players in the field, the largest in a decade, even without five-time champion Tiger Woods, who had surgery in March to repair a torn Achilles tendon. Last year, Woods set a record by making the cut for the 24th time in a row.

There is still a schism in the game, and just 12 from the breakaway LIV Golf league will be teeing up among the pink dogwoods and blooming azaleas. That includes Jon Rahm, the winner two years ago, and U.S. Open champion Bryson DeChambeau.

Here is a look at what you need to know leading up to the Masters.

When is the Masters?

The first round begins at about 7:25 a.m. EDT Thursday, when honorary starters Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson tee off on Tea Olive, the first hole at Augusta National. Jock Hutchison and Fred McLeod were the first honorary starters in 1963, but it was not until Byron Nelson and Gene Sarazen took over in 1981 that it became a treasured tradition.

Davis Riley and Patton Kizzire are the first competitors off at 7:40 a.m., followed by groups of three. After the second round, the top 50 players and ties make the cut for the weekend and are paired according to score for the final two rounds.

How can I watch the Masters?

The Masters stream on its website begins Thursday at 7:15 a.m. and runs throughout the day, and cameras highlight holes and featured groups. The first two rounds are broadcast on ESPN beginning at 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday. CBS takes over Saturday and Sunday with coverage on its Paramount+ platform at noon and on the network beginning at 2 p.m.

What are the betting odds for the Masters?

Scheffler, who has yet to win this season, is the 9-2 favorite, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. McIlroy is second at 13-2 after his wins at Pebble Beach and The Players Championship. Collin Morikawa is 14-1 while Rahm and DeChambeau are 16-1.

Who should I watch at the Masters?

Scheffler, who along with his green jacket and Olympic gold medal won seven times on the PGA Tour last year, got a late start to this season after cutting himself on a wine glass in December. But the world No. 1 comes into the Masters with momentum after a final-round 63 left him one shot back of winner Min Woo Lee in his last start at the Houston Open.

McIlroy has been playing some of the best golf of his career. His collapse in the U.S. Open at Pinehurst last year in a Sunday duel with DeChambeau seems to have made the 35-year-old from Northern Ireland an even bigger sentimental favorite.

Xander Schauffele won two majors last year and is seeking his first green jacket, though he seems to be still rounding into form following a rib injury. Five-time major winner Brooks Koepka has twice finished second at Augusta National.

When are the featured groups?

Morikawa, Lee and Joaquin Niemann tee off at 9:47 a.m. Thursday, beginning a run of high-profile groups. Phil Mickelson, Jason Day and Keegan Bradley are next, followed by Scheffler, who is grouped with Justin Thomas and U.S. Amateur champ Jose Luis Ballester. Jordan Spieth, Tom Kim and Tyrrell Hatton go off

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at 10:26 a.m.

In the afternoon, McIlroy is grouped with Ludvig Aberg and Akshay Bhatia and tees off at 1:12 p.m., just behind the group of Schauffele, Adam Scott and Viktor Hoveland. DeChambeau, Hideki Matsuyama and Shane Lowery are off at 1:23 p.m., followed by Rahm, Wyndham Clark and Tommy Fleetwood.

What is the weather forecast?

While most of Monday's practice round was washed out, Tuesday and Wednesday were warm and sunny. The forecast for Thursday is clear, but storms could arrive overnight and the rain could continue into the early part of Friday.

What happened Wednesday at Augusta National?

The focus shifted from practice rounds on the championship course to the par-3 layout on what may be the most picturesque part of the property. Nicolas Echavarria and J.J. Spaun finished atop the leaderboard at 5 under in the family friendly event, but they may come to regret it — nobody has won the Par 3 Tournament and gone on to win the Masters in the same year.

What happened last year at the Masters?

Scheffler shot a 4-under 68 on Sunday, keeping preternatural poise while his closest competitors faltered around Amen Corner, and finished with a four-shot victory over Masters newcomer Aberg for his second green jacket in three years.

Aberg was among four players who had a share of the lead on Sunday; he lost ground when his approach went into the pond left of the 11th hole and he made double bogey. Morikawa had two double bogeys to fall out of the hunt, tying for third with Tommy Fleetwood and Max Homa, whose own double bogey from the bushes at the par-3 12th ruined his chances.

Woods closed with a 77 and finished at 16-over 304, the highest 72-hole score of his career.

Supreme Court allows Trump's firings of independent agency board members to take effect, for now

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Trump administration to oust two board members who oversee independent agencies, for now. The action seems to signal the court's support for President Donald Trump's effort to remove limits on his power to hire and fire.

Chief Justice John Roberts signed an order pausing a ruling from the federal appeals court in Washington that had temporarily restored the two women to their jobs. They were separately fired from agencies that deal with labor issues, including one with a key role for federal workers as Trump aims to drastically downsize the workforce.

Roberts handles emergency appeals from the nation's capital. He called for the two board members, Gwynne Wilcox of the National Labor Relations Board and Cathy Harris of the Merit Systems Protection Board, to weigh in by early next week.

It's not clear why Roberts would have paused the appellate ruling unless he and his colleagues believe it was likely wrong.

The immediate issue confronting the justices is whether the board members, both initially appointed by Democratic President Joe Biden, can stay in their jobs while the larger fight continues over what to do with a 90-year-old Supreme Court decision known as *Humphrey's Executor*. In that case from 1935, the court unanimously held that presidents cannot fire independent board members without cause.

The ruling has long rankled conservative legal theorists, who argue it wrongly curtails the president's power. Roberts was part of the current conservative majority on the Supreme Court that already has narrowed its reach in a 2020 decision.

Soon the high court could narrow it further or jettison it altogether.

In its emergency appeal, the administration also suggested the justices should take up and decide the broader issue of presidential power. The court could hear arguments at a special session in May and issue a decision by early summer, Solicitor General D. John Sauer wrote.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit voted 7-4 to return Wilcox and Harris to their jobs while their cases play out. The action of the full appeals court reversed a judgment from a three-judge panel that had allowed the firings to go forward.

The NLRB resolves hundreds of unfair labor practice cases every year. The five-member board lacked a quorum after Wilcox's removal. Wilcox was the first Black woman to serve on the NLRB in its 90-year history. She first joined the board in 2021, and the Senate confirmed her in September 2023 to serve a second term expected to last five years.

The other board in the case reviews disputes from federal workers and could be a significant stumbling block as the administration seeks to carry out its workforce cuts.

The board members' reinstatement "causes grave and irreparable harm to the President and to our Constitution's system of separated powers," Sauer wrote. Harris and Wilcox are removable "at will" by the president, he wrote.

In the lower courts, Wilcox's attorneys said Trump could not fire her without notice, a hearing or identifying any "neglect of duty or malfeasance in office" on her part.

Perhaps foreshadowing the coming confrontation, the lawyers argued that the administration's "only path to victory" was to persuade the Supreme Court to "adopt a more expansive view of presidential power."

Scientists map part of a mouse's brain that's so complex it looks like a galaxy

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thanks to a mouse watching clips from "The Matrix," scientists have created the largest functional map of a brain to date – a diagram of the wiring connecting 84,000 neurons as they fire off messages.

Using a piece of that mouse's brain about the size of a poppy seed, the researchers identified those neurons and traced how they communicated via branch-like fibers through a surprising 500 million junctions called synapses.

The massive dataset, published Wednesday by the journal Nature, marks a step toward unraveling the mystery of how our brains work. The data, assembled in a 3D reconstruction colored to delineate different brain circuitry, is open to scientists worldwide for additional research – and for the simply curious to take a peek.

"It definitely inspires a sense of awe, just like looking at pictures of the galaxies," said Forrest Collman of the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, one of the project's leading researchers. "You get a sense of how complicated you are. We're looking at one tiny part ... of a mouse's brain and the beauty and complexity that you can see in these actual neurons and the hundreds of millions of connections between them."

How we think, feel, see, talk and move are due to neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain – how they're activated and send messages to each other. Scientists have long known those signals move from one neuron along fibers called axons and dendrites, using synapses to jump to the next neuron. But there's less known about the networks of neurons that perform certain tasks and how disruptions of that wiring could play a role in Alzheimer's, autism or other disorders.

"You can make a thousand hypotheses about how brain cells might do their job but you can't test those hypotheses unless you know perhaps the most fundamental thing – how are those cells wired together," said Allen Institute scientist Clay Reid, who helped pioneer electron microscopy to study neural connections.

With the new project, a global team of more than 150 researchers mapped neural connections that Collman compares to tangled pieces of spaghetti winding through part of the mouse brain responsible for vision.

The first step: Show a mouse video snippets of sci-fi movies, sports, animation and nature.

A team at Baylor College of Medicine did just that, using a mouse engineered with a gene that makes its neurons glow when they're active. The researchers used a laser-powered microscope to record how individual cells in the animal's visual cortex lit up as they processed the images flashing by.

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Next, scientists at the Allen Institute analyzed that small piece of brain tissue, using a special tool to shave it into more than 25,000 layers, each far thinner than a human hair. With electron microscopes, they took nearly 100 million high-resolution images of those sections, illuminating those spaghetti-like fibers and painstakingly reassembling the data in 3D.

Finally, Princeton University scientists used artificial intelligence to trace all that wiring and “paint each of the individual wires a different color so that we can identify them individually,” Collman explained.

They estimated that microscopic wiring, if laid out, would measure more than 3 miles (5 kilometers). Importantly, matching up all that anatomy with the activity in the mouse’s brain as it watched movies allowed researchers to trace how the circuitry worked.

The Princeton researchers also created digital 3D copies of the data that other scientists can use in developing new studies.

Could this kind of mapping help scientists eventually find treatments for brain diseases? The researchers call it a foundational step, like how the Human Genome Project that provided the first gene mapping eventually led to gene-based treatments. Mapping a full mouse brain is one next goal.

“The technologies developed by this project will give us our first chance to really identify some kind of abnormal pattern of connectivity that gives rise to a disorder,” another of the project’s leading researchers, Princeton neuroscientist and computer scientist Sebastian Seung, said in a statement.

The work “marks a major leap forwards and offers an invaluable community resource for future discoveries,” wrote Harvard neuroscientists Mariela Petkova and Gregor Schuhknecht, who weren’t involved in the project.

The huge and publicly shared data “will help to unravel the complex neural networks underlying cognition and behavior,” they added.

The Machine Intelligence from Cortical Networks, or MICrONS, consortium was funded by the National Institutes of Health’s BRAIN Initiative and IARPA, the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity.

Indiana joins list of states with 3 or more cases of measles.

Here’s what to know

By DEVI SHASTRI AP Health Writer

Indiana health officials announced a measles outbreak Wednesday, with six cases that have no known links to the outbreaks in several other states.

The U.S. has more than double the number of measles cases it saw in all of 2024.

Texas is reporting the majority of them with 505. The cases include two young elementary school-aged children who were not vaccinated and died from measles-related illnesses near the epicenter of the outbreak in rural Texas, which led Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to visit the community on Sunday.

Other states with active outbreaks — defined as three or more cases — include New Mexico, Kansas, Ohio and Oklahoma. The virus has been spreading in undervaccinated communities. The third person who died was an adult in New Mexico who was not vaccinated.

The multi-state outbreak confirms health experts’ fears that the virus will take hold in other U.S. communities with low vaccination rates and that the spread could stretch on for a year. The World Health Organization has said cases in Mexico are linked to the Texas outbreak.

Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus that’s airborne and spreads easily when an infected person breathes, sneezes or coughs. It is preventable through vaccines, and has been considered eliminated from the U.S. since 2000.

Here’s what else you need to know about measles in the U.S.

How many measles cases are there in Texas and New Mexico?

Texas’ outbreak began in late January. State health officials said Tuesday there were 24 new cases of measles since Friday, bringing the total to 505 across 21 counties — most of them in West Texas. The state also logged one new hospitalization, for a total of 57 throughout the outbreak.

Sixty-five percent of Texas’ cases are in Gaines County, population 22,892, where the virus spread-

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ing in a close-knit, undervaccinated Mennonite community. The county now has logged 328 cases since late January — just over 1% of the county's residents.

Thursday's death in Texas was an 8-year-old child, according to Kennedy. Health officials in Texas said the child did not have underlying health conditions and died of "what the child's doctor described as measles pulmonary failure." A child died of measles in Texas in late February — Kennedy said age 6.

New Mexico announced two new cases Tuesday, bringing the state's total to 56. State health officials say the cases are linked to Texas' outbreak based on genetic testing. Most are in Lea County, where two people have been hospitalized, two are in Eddy County and Chaves County was new to the list Tuesday with one case.

New Mexico reported its first measles-related death in an adult on March 6.

How many cases are there in Kansas?

Kansas has 32 cases in eight counties in the southwest part of the state, health officials announced Wednesday. Two of the counties, Finney and Ford, are new on the list and are major population centers in that part of the state. Haskell has the most with eight cases, Stevens County has seven, Kiowa County has six, and the rest have five or fewer.

The state's first reported case, identified in Stevens County on March 13, is linked to the Texas and New Mexico outbreaks based on genetic testing, a state health department spokesperson said. But health officials have not determined how the person was exposed.

How many cases are there in Oklahoma?

Cases in Oklahoma remained steady Tuesday: eight confirmed and two probable cases. The first two probable cases were "associated" with the West Texas and New Mexico outbreaks, the state health department said.

A state health department spokesperson said measles exposures were confirmed in Tulsa and Rogers counties, but wouldn't say which counties had cases.

How many cases are there in Ohio?

Ohio reported one new measles case Thursday in west-central Allen County. Last week, there were 10 in Ashtabula County in the northeast corner of the state. The first case was in an unvaccinated adult who had interacted with someone who had traveled internationally.

In central Ohio, Knox County officials reported two new measles cases in international visitors, for three cases in international visitors total. Those cases are not included in the state's official count because they are not in Ohio residents. A measles outbreak in central Ohio sickened 85 in 2022.

How many cases are there in Indiana?

Indiana confirmed six connected cases of measles in Allen County in the northeast part of the state — four are unvaccinated minors and two are adults whose vaccination status is unknown.

The cases have no known link to other outbreaks, the Allen County Department of Health said Wednesday. The first case was confirmed Monday.

Where else is measles showing up in the U.S.?

Measles cases also have been reported in Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines an outbreak as three or more related cases. The agency counted six clusters that qualified as outbreaks in 2025 as of Friday.

In the U.S., cases and outbreaks are generally traced to someone who caught the disease abroad. It can then spread, especially in communities with low vaccination rates. In 2019, the U.S. saw 1,274 cases and almost lost its status of having eliminated measles. So far in 2025, the CDC's count is 607.

Do you need an MMR booster?

The best way to avoid measles is to get the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. The first shot is recommended for children between 12 and 15 months old and the second between 4 and 6 years old.

People at high risk for infection who got the shots many years ago may want to consider getting a booster if they live in an area with an outbreak, said Scott Weaver with the Global Virus Network, an international

coalition. Those may include family members living with someone who has measles or those especially vulnerable to respiratory diseases because of underlying medical conditions.

Adults with “presumptive evidence of immunity” generally don’t need measles shots now, the CDC said. Criteria include written documentation of adequate vaccination earlier in life, lab confirmation of past infection or being born before 1957, when most people were likely to be infected naturally.

A doctor can order a lab test called an MMR titer to check your levels of measles antibodies, but health experts don’t always recommend this route and insurance coverage can vary.

Getting another MMR shot is harmless if there are concerns about waning immunity, the CDC says.

People who have documentation of receiving a live measles vaccine in the 1960s don’t need to be re-vaccinated, but people who were immunized before 1968 with an ineffective measles vaccine made from “killed” virus should be revaccinated with at least one dose, the agency said. That also includes people who don’t know which type they got.

What are the symptoms of measles?

Measles first infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body, causing a high fever, runny nose, cough, red, watery eyes and a rash.

The rash generally appears three to five days after the first symptoms, beginning as flat red spots on the face and then spreading downward to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet. When the rash appears, the fever may spike over 104 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the CDC.

Most kids will recover from measles, but infection can lead to dangerous complications such as pneumonia, blindness, brain swelling and death.

How can you treat measles?

There’s no specific treatment for measles, so doctors generally try to alleviate symptoms, prevent complications and keep patients comfortable.

Why do vaccination rates matter?

In communities with high vaccination rates — above 95% — diseases like measles have a harder time spreading through communities. This is called “herd immunity.”

But childhood vaccination rates have declined nationwide since the pandemic and more parents are claiming religious or personal conscience waivers to exempt their kids from required shots.

The U.S. saw a rise in measles cases in 2024, including an outbreak in Chicago that sickened more than 60.

Appeals court clears the way for the Trump administration to fire thousands of probationary workers

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court cleared the way Wednesday for President Donald Trump’s administration to fire thousands of probationary workers, halting a judge’s order requiring them to be reinstated in a legal win for Trump’s effort to downsize the federal workforce.

The decision comes a day after the Supreme Court also sided with the Trump administration in another lawsuit filed over mass firings.

A split panel for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found the terminations of federal workers should probably be appealed through a separate employment process rather than fought out in federal court. Two judges appointed by Republican presidents sided with the administration, while a third Democratic appointed judge dissented.

The decision comes in a lawsuit filed by nearly two dozen states, who said the mass firings will cause irreparable burdens and expenses to support recently unemployed workers. They said at least 24,000 probationary employees have been terminated since Trump took office.

The states could still seek further review as the lawsuit continues to play out.

The Republican administration has argued that the states have no right to try to influence the federal government’s relationship with its own workers, but also had already reinstated some 15,000 workers to full duty or paid leave as the lawsuits played out, according to court documents.

The appeals court order halts a decision from U.S. District Judge James Bredar in Baltimore, who was one of two judges appointed by Democratic presidents who found that the Trump administration violated federal laws in carrying out the terminations at 20 agencies in the states that sued.

The Supreme Court blocked another order from U.S. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco on Tuesday, finding that nonprofit groups lacked legal standing to sue over the firing of probationary workers. The case still has additional plaintiffs, however, and Alsup was weighing Wednesday whether to again order reinstatement on behalf of the state of Washington and labor groups.

Probationary workers have been targeted for layoffs across the federal government because they're usually new to the job and lack full civil service protection.

The states suing the Trump administration in the Baltimore case are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin, along with Washington, D.C.

Trump administration appeals court decision ordering AP journalists back into White House events

By The Associated Press undefined

The Trump administration said Wednesday it would appeal a federal court decision that ordered it to re-admit Associated Press journalists to White House events on First Amendment grounds.

The government filed a notice of appeal early Wednesday afternoon on behalf of the three officials sued by the AP — White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, White House chief of staff Susan Wiles and deputy chief of staff Taylor Budowich. The one-page notice of appeal gave no other details.

The defendants "respectfully provide notice that they hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit," the notice said.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden, an appointee of President Donald Trump, ruled in favor of the AP, whose reporters and photographers had been excluded from White House events since February because the news agency had decided not to follow the president's executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

McFadden ruled that the government can't retaliate against the AP's decision. Citing a principle known as "viewpoint discrimination," the judge wrote that the administration cannot punish the news organization for the content of its speech. 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 viewpoints," McFadden wrote. "The Constitution requires no less."

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.

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."

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.

Oil prices fall, then recover, after Trump announces 90-day tariff pause -- excluding China

By MATT OTT AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oil prices swung wildly on Wednesday, sinking to a four-year low in anticipation of slowing economic growth due to a burgeoning trade war, before jumping 2% after President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on most of his tariffs.

U.S. benchmark crude followed U.S. markets higher in the afternoon rising 2%, or \$1.20, to \$60.79 per barrel after the latest reversal by the Trump administration.

That's after it declined 4.3% to \$56.98 per barrel as late as midday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices had fallen further earlier in the day to levels not seen since February 2021, the depth of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Energy prices mostly have been in decline since Trump's inauguration in January, with the cost of a barrel of oil sliding about \$20 since the start of the year. At this time last year, a barrel of U.S. crude cost \$85. A barrel was going for around \$71 at the beginning of April, before tariffs were launched.

Brent crude, the European standard, also climbed into positive territory Wednesday to \$63.90 per barrel.

The most recent swoon in energy prices arrived when Trump's latest round of tariffs kicked in after midnight, including a 104% tax on goods coming from China. The world's second-largest economy quickly retaliated, with Beijing saying it would raise tariffs on imported U.S. goods to 84% on Thursday.

European Union member states followed suit, issuing retaliatory tariffs on \$23 billion in goods. For now, the targeted items are a tiny fraction of the 1.6 trillion euros (\$1.8 trillion) in U.S.-EU annual trade.

Rapidly falling oil prices signal pessimism about economic growth and can be a harbinger of a recession as manufacturers cut production, businesses cut travel costs and families rethink vacation plans.

Delta Air Lines, which had anticipated a record year, pulled its financial forecasts for 2025 on Wednesday as the trade war scrambles expectations for business and household spending and depresses bookings across the travel sector.

"With broad economic uncertainty around global trade, growth has largely stalled," said Delta CEO Ed Bastian.

Shares of major U.S. oil companies fell as well Wednesday.

"We are going into a recession," Neil Dutta of Renaissance Macro Research wrote in a note to clients. "I don't think it is especially controversial to say so."

Trans athletes are under more scrutiny than ever. Some have found a safe space in gymnastics

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Raiden Hung can't imagine a life without gymnastics. And to be honest, he doesn't want to.

There's always been something about the sport that's called to him. Something about flipping. Something about the discipline it requires. Something about the mixture of joy and calm he feels whenever he steps onto a mat.

"It keeps me sane, I guess," the 21-year-old student at Northeastern University in Boston said. "Gymnastics is the love of my life basically."

The hours in the gym have long served as a constant for Hung. The one thing he can always depend on. The one place where he can truly feel like himself.

Still, Hung feared he would be forced to give up gymnastics when he realized in his late teens that he was non-binary. He had identified as female most of his life and competed in women's events growing up. He says he now identifies as trans-masculine.

Part of Hung's transition included beginning hormone replacement therapy, something he considered putting off over worries that it meant he would no longer be able to compete.

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"It was sort of like, 'Do I have to make a choice?'" Hung said. "And that would have probably been awful for my mental stability, like having to choose between the two."

The National Association of Intercollegiate Gymnastics Clubs gave Hung safe harbor. The stated mission of the steadily growing organization that includes more than 2,500 athletes and 160 clubs across the country is to provide a place for college and adult gymnasts to continue competing while "pushing the boundaries of the sport."

That includes, but is hardly limited to, being as gender-inclusive as possible.

During local NAIGC meets, for example, there are no gender categories. Athletes compete against every other athlete at their designated skill level, which can run from novice/developmental routines to ones that wouldn't look out of place at an NCAA Division I meet.

Gymnasts can also hop on whatever apparatus they want. Women on parallel bars. Men on the balance beam. Just about anything goes. At its annual national meet, the NAIGC even offers the "decathlon," which allows athletes of all gender identities to compete against each other across all 10 disciplines — six in men's, four in women's — of artistic gymnastics.

"(We want) people to be able to continue doing gymnastics into adulthood in a way that feels comfortable and safe and supportive for them," said Ilana Shushanky, NAIGC's director of operations.

A challenging climate

The approach comes as transgender athletes find themselves the target of increasingly heated rhetoric. President Donald Trump signed an executive order in February that gave federal agencies wide latitude to ensure entities that receive federal funding abide by Title IX in alignment with the Trump administration's view, which interprets "sex" as the gender someone was assigned at birth. A day later, the NCAA said it would limit competition in women's sports to athletes who were assigned female at birth.

The message to the transgender community at large was clear: You do not belong here. Several trans and/or non-binary members of the NAIGC, which is independently run and volunteer-led and does not rely on federal money to operate, felt it.

Multiple trans or non-binary athletes who spoke to The Associated Press said they pondered quitting following last fall's election, despondent over what at times feels like an increasingly hostile environment toward their community.

None did. One viewed stepping away as ceding power over a part of who they are to someone else. Another pointed to the social aspect of gymnastics and how vital the feeling of acceptance in their home gym was to maintaining proper mental and emotional health.

"Part of my identity is as an athlete and to see myself as strong and able to do hard things," said Wes Weske, who is non-binary and previously competed in the decathlon before recently graduating from medical school. "I think (gymnastics) really helped my self-image and was just an important part of understanding myself."

A sense of normalcy

That sense of belonging was everywhere at the NAIGC's national competition in early April. For three days, more than 1,700 athletes, including a dozen who registered their gender as "other," turned a convention center hall in downtown Pittsburgh into what could best be described as a celebration.

Not just of gymnastics. But of diversity. And inclusion. It all looked and felt and sounded like any other large-scale meet. Cheers from one corner following a stuck dismount. Roars from another corner encouraging a competitor to hop back up after a fall.

For Hung and the 11 "other" competitors allowed to choose whether to compete in the men's or women's divisions, nationals provided the opportunity to salute the judges and stand alongside their teammates while being seen for who they really are.

When Hung dismounted from his uneven bars routine, several members of Jurassic Gymnastics, the all-adult competitive team based in Boston that Hung joined, came over to offer a hug, pep talk or both.

The group included Eric Petersen, a 49-year-old married father of two teenagers who competed on the men's team at the Air Force Academy 30 years ago. He now dabbles in women's artistic gymnastics alongside Hung at Jurassic.

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"Certain people want to convince people that this is a big issue and people are losing their (minds)," Petersen said. "But it's not like that. Other groups can be uptight about that if they want. But in this group, it's about the love of the sport. If you love the sport, then do the sport and have fun, no matter who you are."

Finding their way

Ten Harder got into gymnastics after being inspired by watching Gabby Douglas win gold at the 2012 Olympics. They spent their childhood competing as a woman but became increasingly uncomfortable at meets as they grew older.

Harder, 22, now a Ph. D. student at Boston University who identifies as non-binary/trans masculine, felt like they had to make their own path. They connected on TikTok with a non-binary gymnast from the Netherlands and started competing in a uniform that felt more natural, a practice leotard similar to a tank top and shorts. Over the last couple of years, they have run across other non-binary or queer athletes, easing their sense of loneliness.

While there are times Harder admits they still grapple with feeling self-conscious about their gender identity even around teammates who have become friends and allies, there is also something greater at play.

"I think it's important to remember that trans athletes are just people, too," he said. "We deserve to be in the sports that we love. And we deserve to get a chance to compete and do everything just as other people do."

German parties agree to form a new government after months of drift in Europe's biggest economy

By GEIR MOULSON Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German election winner Friedrich Merz sealed a deal Wednesday to form a new government that aims to spur economic growth, ramp up defense spending, take a tougher approach to migration and catch up on long-neglected modernization.

The agreement paves the way for new leadership in the 27-nation European Union's most populous member, which has Europe's biggest economy. It follows months of political drift and weeks of negotiations as the continent faces uncertainty over the Trump administration's sweeping tariffs and its commitment to European allies' defense.

Merz is on track to become Germany's new leader in early May, replacing outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The 69-year-old's two-party Union bloc emerged as the strongest force from Germany's election on Feb. 23. Merz turned to the Social Democrats, Scholz's center-left party, to put together a coalition with a parliamentary majority.

'Germany is back on track'

Before Merz can take the helm, the coalition deal needs approval in a ballot of the Social Democrats' membership and by a convention on April 28 of Merz's Christian Democratic Union party. Once those hurdles are cleared, the lower house of parliament — in which the allies have 328 of the 630 seats — can elect him as chancellor.

Merz said the deal is "a very strong and clear signal to the people of our country, and also a clear signal to our partners in the European Union: Germany is getting a government that is capable of acting and will act strongly."

Asked about his message to the U.S. president, Merz replied: "The key message to Donald Trump is, Germany is back on track. Germany will fulfill the obligations in terms of defense and Germany is willing to strengthen their own competitiveness." He added, "We will bring the European Union forward."

The prospective coalition embarked on one big project before even reaching a deal to govern together. Last month, it pushed plans through parliament to enable higher defense spending by loosening strict rules on incurring debt, and to set up a huge infrastructure fund that's aimed at boosting the stagnant economy.

That was an about-turn for Merz, whose party had spoken out against running up new debt before the election without entirely closing the door to future changes to Germany's self-imposed "debt brake."

Economy and migration

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Other measures in the agreement are more in line with what he campaigned for. The coalition aims to boost companies' investment and then cut corporate tax, make working overtime more attractive and cut electricity tax.

Merz, the opposition leader at the time, made reducing migration central to his election campaign. On Wednesday, he said the new government will suspend family reunions for many migrants, designate more "safe countries of origin," launch a "return offensive" for rejected asylum-seekers and turn some people back at Germany's borders in consultation with neighbors.

It will also tighten a law passed by the outgoing government that eased the rules for gaining citizenship, scrapping the possibility for well-integrated applicants to get a German passport after three rather than five years of residence.

Throw out the fax machines

The new government will include a "digitization ministry" to modernize a country that still has a reputation for tangled bureaucracy and old-fashioned paperwork.

"Not everything has to be regulated down to the smallest detail," said the Social Democrats' co-leader, Lars Klingbeil. "The diggers must work and the fax machines in our country must be thrown away. Our economy must grow."

Merz said the coalition plans to reduce the size of the federal administration by 8% over its four-year term. But, referring to the United States' Department of Government Efficiency, he said it doesn't plan to do so by firing workers. "We're not hiring an Elon Musk here who will do it like they do in Washington," he said. "We will do it ... sensibly, with a sense of proportion."

Pressure from abroad and at home

The election took place seven months earlier than planned after Scholz's unpopular coalition collapsed in November, three years into a term that was increasingly marred by infighting and widespread discontent. Germany, the 27-nation European Union's most populous member, has been in political limbo since then.

The market turbulence caused by U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement of sweeping tariffs added to pressure for Merz's Union and the Social Democrats to bring their coalition talks to a conclusion. The tariffs threaten to add to the woes of an export-heavy economy that shrank for the past two years.

Another factor in the haste to reach an agreement was a decline for the Union in the opinion polls, showing support slipping from its election showing, while the far-right Alternative for Germany, which finished a strong second in February, gained as the political vacuum persisted.

"The political center in our country is in a position to solve the problems we face," Merz said. Ministers will be named at a later date.

Iran's president insists Tehran does not seek a nuclear bomb and dangles US business opportunities

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president again pledged Wednesday that his nation is "not after a nuclear bomb" ahead of talks between Tehran and the United States, going as far as dangling the prospect of direct American investment in the Islamic Republic if the countries can reach a deal.

The comments by reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian represent a departure from Iran's stance after its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, in which Tehran sought to buy American airplanes but in effect barred U.S. companies from coming into the country.

"His excellency has no opposition to investment by American investors in Iran," Pezeshkian said in a speech in Tehran, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "American investors: Come and invest."

Such a business proposal could draw the interest of U.S. President Donald Trump, who withdrew America from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in his first term and now seeks a new agreement with the country.

Pezeshkian, who campaigned on a platform of outreach to the West during his election last year, also

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added that Saturday's talks in Oman between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff would be conducted "indirectly." Trump has said the talks would be direct negotiations — something Tehran hasn't ruled out after the first round of discussions.

"We are not after a nuclear bomb," Pezeshkian added. "You (in the West) have verified it 100 times. Do it 1,000 times again."

Iran long suspicious of business links to US

In 2015, Khamenei opposed importing American consumer goods into Iran.

"We neither allow economic influence, nor political influence and presence as well as cultural influence by Americans in our country," he said then. "We will confront it by all means, we will not allow."

But 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.

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.

There also appeared to be a direct influence from the top on how hard-line media reported the upcoming talks Wednesday as there was no criticism of the negotiations whatsoever — something highly unusual in Iran's fractious internal politics.

"At first, Iran may unilaterally accept a decrease in enrichment. This should not be considered a withdrawal," the hard-line newspaper Javan, believed to be close to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, said in an editorial.

"Keeping the nuclear industry and enrichment that meets our needs is what we have been saying and seeking for years. In return for a decrease of the level of enrichment and an increase of monitoring, Iran should gain concessions on lifting all sanctions and stopping open hostility through the support to the opposition" by the U.S.

Pezeshkian himself spoke at an event marking Iran's National Nuclear Technology Day, which in the past had seen Tehran show off advances in centrifuge technology that worried the West. This year it focused on medical applications and other projects.

Protest in Tehran mocks US and Israel

However, not everyone agrees with the U.S. outreach. 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.

A protest in Tehran on Wednesday drew some hundreds people and saw demonstrators burn an effigy of the U.S. flag, chanting both "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!" Fake coffins for Israeli officials including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sat to one side as protesters also carried signs decrying the death of civilians in the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

"Negotiations with whom? With a murderer? With an occupier?" asked one woman holding a "Death to Israel" placard who declined to give her name at the protest for fear of reprisal. "We should keep these in mind. They always show their true nature."

That water bottle you're carrying says a lot more than 'hydration'

By KIM COOK Associated Press

If you like to stay hydrated no matter where you go, chances are you've got a reusable water bottle or two. Or 10. (The collectors know who they are.)

Whether you're a tech enthusiast, fashion trendsetter, hiker, commuter or just an eco-conscious consumer, there's a bottle out there for you. There are bottles that sterilize themselves. Bottles that remind you when to drink. Bottles designed for sustainability. And bottles transformed by a paintbox of colors and imagery into mini artworks.

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Hydration's become more than a necessity. It's got a personality.

Bottle basics

Kit Dillon, a writer for Wirecutter, says four things make a good water bottle: "It's the right size. It's leakproof. It feels good. It insulates well."

Which one works for you depends on what you use it for, he says. Eva Bleyer, who tests kitchen appliances for the Good Housekeeping Institute, agrees.

Some people go for a favorite sipping straw while others value a comfortable carrying handle. For collectors, social media feeds light up with the launch of new colors and patterns.

"While I can confidently recommend which ones performed best in our tests, choosing the right water bottle is incredibly personal," she says.

Hydro history

It's all a far cry from the mundane mugs of yesteryear.

An early maker of light, plastic water bottles was Nalge, in Rochester, New York, which found that the unbreakable containers it was making for science laboratories in the '60s were being used by employees on backpacking trips. The Nalgene reusable water bottle soon went on the market.

Hundreds of plastic and bioplastic versions from various makers have been joined over the decades by stainless steel and aluminum versions, with as many iterations of the lids – straws, screw-ons, flip-ups.

Smart sips

The tech keeps evolving, says Bleyer. "I've seen and tested everything from filtering water bottles to the Air Up, which uses flavor pods to enhance the taste, as well as newer options that carbonate your water or track your sips."

Some examples:

Self-cleaning bottles could be helpful in countries or wilderness areas where water quality is questionable. Philips' GoZero UV Self-Cleaning Smart Water Bottle got top ratings in Men's Health magazine's testing lab for self-cleaning bottles. Its month-long battery life might make it useful for off-grid camping or trekking. LED technology automatically sanitizes the bottle every two hours, or whenever you push the cap button.

The LARQ PureVis 2 is another self-cleaning water bottle. The company says the plant-based filter in the lid removes chlorine, forever chemicals (PFAS) and bacteria. The bottle also tracks your consumption. It's made it into the Museum of Modern Art's design store and is part of their spring new product collection.

The HidrateSpark Pro comes with a Bluetooth tracker to keep you updated on consumption, based on your age, weight, activity level and other factors you code into the app.

Low tech but reliable: Wirecutter has put the Hydro Flask on their "best" list since they started testing water bottles in 2014, citing simple yet dependable features like good insulation, sturdy steel construction, wide or narrow mouth options, and dishwasher-cleanability.

Hydration, but make it fashionable

New color and design drops generate the kind of buzz that fashion drops get. Owala's FreeSip bottles usually go for about \$25-\$40, but limited-edition designs can sell in the \$400 range. A Valentine's Day pattern, and a St. Patrick's Day pattern called "Clover the Rainbow" that was released on leap day 2024 (Feb. 29) are now on eBay for over \$200.

S'well has collaborated with illustrator Steffi Lynn, known for her cheery, youthful prints and murals that feature upbeat messages like "What's the Best That Could Happen?" and "Have a Nice Day," and also with Crayola for a series of bottles that look like giant crayons. New patterns for the brand include a deep, moody floral called Midnight Botanical.

S'well also offers customization, perhaps for an event, team or a gift for a special someone.

Italian company YouBottles did a collab with Banksy; the artist's "Girl with Balloon" and "Flower Thrower" murals are a couple of the patterns.

Color trend giant Pantone has its own collection of BPA-free bottles in eight vibrant colors, including aubergine, red, yellow and greenery.

Bags for the bottled bevs

Snazzy carry bags for your water bottle include insulated ones that keep the drink cold or hot. PackIt has one with a crossbody strap in sturdy nylon. Versions come in sunflower or starry-night prints, and feature a phone pouch attachment.

WanderFull's bag has made "Oprah's Favorite Things" list twice. The bag, available in colorful puffer-coat fabric, comes with a nylon crossbody strap. There's a vegan leather version as well, with an additional chain strap for dressier occasions.

Passover begins soon. For many Jews, the celebrations will occur amid anxieties and divisions

By DAVID CRARY AP National Writer

Passover is a major Jewish holiday, celebrated over seven or eight days each year, commemorating the exodus of ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt, as recounted in the Bible. It is considered the most widely observed of any Jewish holiday, symbolizing freedom and the birth of a Jewish nation.

This year, the celebrations again occur amid anxieties and divisions among many Jews related to the unresolved Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza and the specter of widespread antisemitism.

When is Passover this year?

Passover — known as Pesach in Hebrew — begins at sunset on Saturday, April 12, and ends after nightfall on Sunday, April 20. By tradition, it will be celebrated for seven days in Israel and for eight days by some Jews in the rest of the world.

What are key Passover rituals and traditions?

For many Jews, Passover is a time to reunite with family and recount the exodus from Egypt at a meal called the Seder. Observant Jews avoid various grains known as chametz, a reminder of the unleavened bread the Israelites ate when they fled Egypt quickly with no time for dough to rise. Cracker-like matzo is OK to eat; most breads, pastas, cereals, cakes and cookies are off-limits.

What's different this year?

A year ago, for many Jews, any celebratory mood was muted by the scores of hostages captured by Hamas in Israel and held in Gaza. Many Seder tables, in Israel and elsewhere, had empty seats, representing those killed or taken hostage on Oct. 7, 2023.

Even after the recent release of some hostages, others remain held. Hopes for a formal end to conflict have been dampened by the collapse of a ceasefire and resumption of fighting.

As was the case last year, there also is intense concern in some countries about a high level of antisemitic incidents.

More than 10,000 antisemitic incidents in the United States were reported between Oct. 7, 2023, and Sept. 24, 2024 — the most ever recorded by the Anti-Defamation League.

The Secure Community Network, which provides security and safety resources to hundreds of Jewish organizations and institutions across North America, has been issuing frequent advisories ahead of Passover.

Specifically, the group has warned of possible threats from white extremist groups, including some organizing along the U.S.-Canada border. SCN said key extremist anniversaries, including Hitler's birthday on April 20, coincide with the holiday, raising concerns about the risk of violence targeting Jewish communities.

One notable change this year: Pro-Palestinian protests that roiled many college campuses in spring 2024 have been fewer and less disruptive, in part because of Trump administration pressure.

"Since January there has been a marked change in the seriousness with which hate on campus is being dealt by the federal government as they set out clear consequences to the previous inaction of university leaders," said Rabbi Moshe Hauer, executive vice president of the Orthodox Union.

However, some Jewish leaders have been dismayed by the Trump administration's threats and funding curbs directed at universities it considered too tolerant of antisemitism.

"None of this is about fighting antisemitism," Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said in a social media post. "It's about gutting our education institutions and democracy under the guise

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of fighting antisemitism. And it ultimately makes Jews less safe.”

What special events are taking place?

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the city’s Museum of Tolerance are hosting a special Seder for interfaith leaders and community members directly affected by recent wildfires. Organizers invited various first responders, civic leaders and elected officials, seeking to honor “the spirit of community resilience and the enduring strength of togetherness.”

The fires destroyed or damaged dozens of houses of worship and other faith-based facilities.

Interfaith Seders have been organized in many other cities, including Houston, Dallas, New York, Phoenix, and Milwaukee.

“We understand that now more than ever, Jewish communities across North America must open their doors to forge stronger friendships,” said Rabbi Joshua Stanton, Jewish Federations associate vice president of interfaith and intergroup initiatives.

The New York-based Met Council, a Jewish nonprofit operating various anti-poverty programs, says it has delivered free kosher-for-Passover food to more than 250,000 Jewish Americans burdened by skyrocketing grocery costs. The packages, distributed at 185 sites in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Florida, included traditional Passover essentials such as matzo, kosher chicken, gefilte fish, tuna, and grape juice.

Chabad-Lubavitch, a global Hassidic Jewish organization, plans a parade of more than 100 converted RVs known as “Mitzvah Tanks” through New York City’s streets. The aim, says Chabad, is “to spread kindness and celebrate Jewish heritage,” as well as distributing traditional matzo.

Today in History: April 10 Northern Ireland’s Good Friday Agreement

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Thursday, April 10, the 100th day of 2025. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 10, 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators signed the Good Friday Agreement, a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Also on this date:

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in New York by Henry Bergh.

In 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, bound for New York on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1919, Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata was assassinated by forces loyal to President Venustiano Carranza.

In 1963, the nuclear submarine USS Thresher (SSN-593) sank during deep-diving tests east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, killing all 129 aboard.

In 1971, the U.S. table tennis team arrived in China at the invitation of the communist government for a goodwill visit that came to be known as “ping-pong diplomacy.”

In 2019, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery, doughnut-shape object in a galaxy 55 million light-years from earth.

Today’s Birthdays: Labor leader-activist Dolores Huerta is 95. Football Hall of Famer Mel Blount is 77. Author Anne Lamott is 71. Actor Peter MacNicol is 71. Singer-producer Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds is 66. Musician Brian Setzer is 66. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 55. Rapper-producer Q-Tip (A Tribe Called Quest) is 55. Actor David Harbour is 50. Singer Shemekia Copeland is 46. Actor Charlie Hunnam is 45. Actor-singer Mandy Moore is 41. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 37. Country musician Maren Morris is 35. Actor-singer AJ Michalka (mish-AL’-kah) is 34. Actor Daisy Ridley is 33. Singer-actor Sofia Carson is 32.