

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, April 13

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, broccoli, fruit, bread sticks.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans

Senior citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing

Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

High School Baseball at Clark. Varsity at 6 p.m., JV to follow.

Tuesday, April 14

Senior Menu: Goulash, green peas, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: Pizza burger, tater tots

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing

Pork Chop Replays at Clear Lake, 2 p.m.

Milbank JH Track & Field, 3:45 p.m.

JVT Practice, 7 p.m., Arena



Wednesday, April 15

Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, wild rice, oriental blend, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Omelets

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, peas

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Leauge, 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad council, 7 p.m.

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

Grades 6-8 ELA & Math Testing

Pickleball, 5:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

JVT Practice, 7:30 p.m., Arena

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
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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.

US Blockades Hormuz

President Donald Trump announced yesterday that the US would begin blockading the Strait of Hormuz. The decision comes after talks with Iran collapsed Saturday over broad disagreements, including Iran's nuclear program, ending the highest-level negotiations between the two since 1979.

Iran has been selectively blockading the strait since the US and Israel attacked Iran in February. Some ships have been allowed to pass, with Iran charging a toll of up to \$2M each. Iran itself exported 1.9 million barrels of crude oil per day in March, reportedly up 100,000 barrels per day from the prior three months. Meanwhile, at least 22 ships have been attacked, with 10 crew members killed and 800 commercial vessels stranded (half of them oil tankers). Before the conflict, 20% of the world's oil passed through the Strait of Hormuz.

Hungary Hits Polls

Hungarian voters turned out in record numbers, ousting longtime leader Viktor Orbán yesterday and electing the party of center-right Péter Magyar. Turnout was over 77%, the highest in nearly four decades of post-Communist government.

In his 16 years in power, Orbán's nationalist-populist Fidesz party won four consecutive elections, today holding a two-thirds majority in parliament. Orbán has been known for cracking down on migration, LG-BTQ+ rights, and media access. Internationally, he's known as a counterweight to the European Union's pro-Ukrainian positions, using the country's veto power to block a \$104B loan to Kyiv as recently as last month. President Donald Trump has endorsed Orbán, with Vice President JD Vance stumping alongside him last week.

Since breaking from Fidesz in 2024, Péter Magyar's Tisza party has made gains in the polls, campaigning on Hungary's sluggish economy and alleged corruption.

Swalwell Assault Allegations

New York officials opened a probe into Rep. Eric Swalwell (D, CA-14) over the weekend, following allegations by multiple women of sexual assault. Several high-profile people and organizations also withdrew endorsements from Swalwell, who currently leads Democratic candidates in the June 2 primary for governor with 13%-14% in polls.

Among the accusations is an ex-staffer who accused Swalwell of multiple unwanted advances, including sexually assaulting her when she was too intoxicated to consent. Separately, three other women recounted incidents ranging from receiving explicit photos to inappropriate touching and kissing. Swalwell denied wrongdoing and vowed to stay in the race.

In California primaries, all candidates are listed on a single ballot, with the top two vote-getters advancing. Current polling suggests—with Democratic support split across at least eight candidates—two Republicans could face off in the Nov. 3 general election.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Rory McIlroy wins Masters, becoming the fourth player ever—and the first since Tiger Woods—to win consecutive green jackets.

Jannik Sinner defeats Carlos Alcaraz in Monte Carlo final to reclaim world's No. 1 spot.

Justin Bieber headlines Coachella, revisits his classic YouTube hits from a laptop onstage.

NBA playoff matchups are set after regular season concludes; postseason begins tomorrow with Play-In Tournament.

Denver Pioneers win 2026 Frozen Four hockey championship.

Science & Technology

Artemis II crew greets public at welcome home ceremony in Houston following Friday return from lunar mission; astronaut Christina Koch remarks, "Planet Earth, you are a crew".

Newly discovered material breaks record for thermal conductivity for metals; tantalum nitride structure carries heat three times better than copper or silver.

German woman's ultrarare combination of three autoimmune diseases in treatment-free remission after receiving CAR-T immunotherapy; patient shows no symptoms 14 months after treatment.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close Friday mixed (S&P 500 -0.1%, Dow -0.6%, Nasdaq +0.4%), but end best week since November as fragile US-Iran ceasefire holds.

US business adoption of AI crosses 50% for the first time in March, according to Ramp AI Index; Anthropic goes from 7% to 30% market share year-over-year, nearly equal to OpenAI (35%).

Joint IMF-World Bank spring meeting begins today in Washington, DC, with officials likely to lower the economic outlook for 2026; watch curtain-raiser speech.

Politics & World Affairs

The UK halts transfer of Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean, including joint US-UK military air base on Diego Garcia, to Mauritius after the US withdraws support.

Stampede at Haiti's historic Laferriere Citadel kills at least 30 people, many of them tourists.

Peru vote counting delayed, with election expected to head to June runoff after winner fails to emerge in 35-candidate presidential field.



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The Minnesota Vikings just can't seem to get the center position figured out. Despite being a first-round pick, Garrett Bradbury was a liability, so the Vikings released him (he immediately signed with New England, then was traded to Chicago this offseason). To fill the void, the Vikings signed Ryan Kelly, a solid veteran who could step in and bring stability to the offensive line. Unfortunately, multiple concussions later, Kelly has decided to retire from the NFL, leaving the Vikings once again looking for a reliable center. So what are their options?

Free agency is not a realistic possibility at this point. None of the remaining free agents are better than what the Vikings already have in-house.

The Vikings may give Blake Brandel another year to learn the position. The 29-year-old played every position along the offensive line and filled in at center last season when Kelly went down. He was one of the worst centers in the NFL last season, however, based on his 61.4 overall grade by PFF, ranking him 27th.

It's also possible that one of the young offensive linemen, like Michael Jurgens or Joe Huber, will step up and claim the role.

Ultimately, if the Vikings do intend to improve the middle of the offensive line, it'll have to come from the draft. Four prospects will likely be taken in the first three rounds who can come in and play quickly.

Sam Hecht, Kansas State – The top consensus center in the draft, Hecht is sort of a Jack-of-all-trades player. He doesn't have elite athleticism or strength, but his football IQ is high, which allows him to consistently be in position. He didn't give up a single sack in 25 games and only allowed two QB hits.

Logan Jones, Iowa – The Rimington Trophy winner as the best center in college football. Similar to Hecht, Jones' strength is in pass protection. He doesn't have the size or strength to handle defensive tackles in the run game, although he brings more strength on day one than Hecht.

Jake Slaughter, Florida – Yet another center who is good at pass protection but suspect when it comes to the run game. (Are you noticing a theme here?)

Connor Lew, Auburn – One of the most athletic centers in this year's draft, Lew is a boom-or-bust prospect. The biggest question mark surrounding him is his health, because he tore his ACL and is still working his way back from the injury. He's the type of player who would be a nice addition to the offensive line, as long as the Vikings could get him later in the draft. He'll need a year or two before he's ready to play meaningful snaps, however. He's also the only player on this list who isn't a senior.

Ultimately, I think the Vikings made a mistake by not addressing the center position early in free agency. The center anchors the offensive line, handles the ball on every snap, and is usually responsible for calling out adjustments and identifying potential blitzers.

Looking ahead, we'll do a mock draft next week, which will lead us straight into the 2026 NFL draft. In the meantime, if you're bored and/or want to learn more about the upcoming prospects in this year's draft, I highly recommend heading over to Pro Football Network and doing your own mock drafts. It's a great way to kill a little time.

"Death, Taxes, and Aging Eyes"

Benjamin Franklin famously wrote "in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

Franklin was a legendary intellect, and it's hard to overstate the impact he had. But I'd suggest an addition to that particular quote, one with which I suspect he'd agree.

Most of us know him as one of the Founding Fathers, as the author of Poor Richard's Almanack, as the guy who flew kites during lightening storms. Perhaps less famously, Franklin was also an inventor. He is credited with the creation of the bifocal lens, reportedly inspired by his frustration with switching between pairs of glasses.

As a woman of a certain age, who has needed corrective lenses since childhood, I can well appreciate that frustration, and in turn, that invention! Our eyes are complex organs. In the very front, there is the clear dome of the cornea. Then we have the iris, the colored part of the eye. This is a muscle, and it controls the size of the pupil, the black central hole through which light is allowed entry. From there, light strikes the lens, which is pulled into different shapes by small muscles around its edge, and focused onto the retina in the very back of the eye. Specialized cells in the retina convert light to electricity, and the optic nerve transmits these messages to the brain.

When I talk to my middle aged patients about symptoms they may be having, they frequently volunteer that they now need glasses for the first time, or that they have "upgraded" to those bifocals. They are usually surprised when I reassure them that this is not only normal, but frankly expected! The cells that create the lens lose the ability to repair or replace themselves over time. The lens becomes less flexible. It doesn't change shape as easily, and as that happens the eye has a harder time focusing up close. Eventually, a person develops presbyopia: age related far-sightedness.

This same process leads to a condition quite familiar to most people: cataracts. As those cells in the lens deteriorate, they become increasingly cloudy. Light has a harder time penetrating, and it may be scattered on the way through, instead of sharply focused. People may notice blurry vision, muted colors, glare around lights. They may need brighter light to read, and find it very difficult see at night. By 80, approximately 50% of people either have cataracts, or have had cataract surgery.

Presbyopia and cataracts may be a normal, readily treated part of aging, but you shouldn't neglect those eye exams. As we get older, other eye conditions become more common. Diseases like macular degeneration and glaucoma can be detected by the eye doctor well before they cause symptoms. Since those symptoms include irreversible vision loss, we should all be motivated to make that appointment!

Medicine is ever changing. Research avenues that seem promising turn into dead ends. Dead ends become detours to unexpected and exciting places. Maybe in the future, we will have drops or supplements or some other way to keep our eyes young. But for now, nothing can be said to be certain, except death, taxes. . . and presbyopia.

Dr. Debra Johnston is a Family Medicine Physician at Avera Medical Group Brookings in Brookings, SD. She serves as one of the Prairie Doc Volunteer Hosts during its 24th Season providing Health Education Based on Science, Built on Trust. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm on SDPB, YouTube and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB, Sundays at 6am and 1pm).



Debra Johnston, MD

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Photos from Gettysburg Track Meet

by Bruce Babcock



Groton Area senior Jayden Schwan leads off the 4x800m relay in the Gettysburg Battler Invitational outdoor meet. Groton Area's first outdoor meet of the season.



Jace Johnson, Riley Schellenberger, and Briggs Conn complete the 4x800m relay team.



Groton Area 100m hurdlers L-R Teagan Hanten, Emerlee Jones, and Ella Kettner.



Freshman Tevan Hanson during the last heat of the girls 100m H.

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Senior sprinter Keegen Tracy goes on to win the 100m race.



Sprinter Makenna Krause in the 100m race.



Rylee Dunker anchors the winner 4x200m relay.



Taryn Traphagen hands off to Kella Tracy in the 4x200m relay.

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Long distance aces sophomore Ryelle Gilbert (above) and junior Ashlynn Warrington (below) in the 1600m race.



Jordan Schwan hands off to JJ Muller on the anchor leg of the 4x100m relay.



Kella Tracy hands off to anchor Mckenna Krause to win the 4x100m relay.



Hurdling ace McKenna Tietz crosses the hurdle to win the 300m H race.

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Ashlynn Warrington hands off to the anchor Kella Tracy in the 3rd place finish in the 4x400m relay.

Both the Groton Area teams finished strong with the Groton boys winning the team score and the Groton girls team finishing in 3rd place. There were 21 teams competing last Friday in Gettysburg.



Makenna Krause hands off to Taryn Traphagen in first leg on winning SMR 1600m.



Brother Sam Crank hands off to his sister Avery Crank during the popular "banana" field event relay.



Rylee Dunker hands off to Taryn Traphagen in the first leg of the 4x400m (mile) relay.

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Groton Area Tigers Varsity To Play Clark Area Dinosaurs

Groton Area Tigers Varsity will play Clark Area Dinosaurs on Monday at Clark. Varsity game at 6 p.m. followed by the junior varsity game.

Last Time Out:

Groton Area Tigers Varsity fell to PGDCWL Honkers 14-1 at Redfield. Clark Area Dinosaurs topped Outlaws 17-1 at Clark.

Player Highlight:

Gavin Englund hits and pitches for Groton Area Tigers Varsity. Englund primarily plays first base on the field. Englund has an on-base percentage of 0.500 this season thanks in part to one walk. Englund has induced four groundballs on nine balls in play this season.

About Groton Area Tigers Varsity:

Groton Area Tigers Varsity has zero wins against one loss this season. TC Schuster's 2.000 OPS leads Groton Area Tigers Varsity. The shortstop has a 1.000 OBP and a 1.000 slugging percentage this season. Nick Groeblichhoff leads Groton Area Tigers Varsity with three and two-thirds innings pitched. The reliever has a 0.00 ERA this season. Schuster leads Groton Area Tigers Varsity with five total fielding chances this season. Schuster's primary position is shortstop.

About Clark Area Dinosaurs:

Clark Area Dinosaurs has a record of 2-0 this season. Teague Stevenson's 2.500 OPS leads Clark Area Dinosaurs. The right-handed hitter has a 1.000 OBP and a 1.500 slugging percentage this season. Charlie Luvaas leads Clark Area Dinosaurs with five innings pitched. The righty has a 0.00 ERA this season. Caleb Drenth leads Clark Area Dinosaurs with 22 total fielding chances this season. Caleb Drenth's primary position is catcher.

79 Fire Evening Update

April 12, 2026

Type 3 Interagency Incident Management Team
Fire Location: 3 miles north of Buffalo Gap, SD
Size: 5,408 acres

Incident Commander:
Jay Wickham
John Haskvitz (t)
Cause: Under Investigation
Containment: 60%

Current Situation: Interagency fire resources worked vigorously today mopping up along the perimeter to successfully keep the fire within its current footprint. Containment is now 60% with the fire's size more precisely measured at 5,408 acres. From the fire's initial report Saturday at 11:04 am through early Saturday evening, the wind driven fire, primarily grass, raced just over 7 miles from its starting point just off Hwy 79 up to 144th Ave in E. Custer County. No structures have been lost in this fire.

Due to an extreme lack of moisture in vegetation and in the ground, there is potential for heat to remain beneath the surface. Tonight, resources will continue seeking and extinguishing any hidden hot spots to prevent the fire from escaping or expanding.

While air support played a key role in suppression efforts Saturday they were not needed today as the work was focused on groundwork done by hand and firefighting equipment.

Weather: A Red Flag Warning remains in effect for the area now through Monday at 9 pm. MDT.

Public Closures: Road closures have been lifted in the area. However, the public is asked to avoid the area due to ongoing active fire suppression activity including personnel and equipment.

Residential Impact: There are no evacuations in place.

Temporary Flight Restrictions: There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) over the perimeter of the 79 Fire. Please do not fly any unauthorized aircraft over the fire. If you fly, we can't.



Spewing Motorboats Foul Water Column

by Grace Lee

Dear EarthTalk: Do motorboats still spew a lot of toxins into water? What's being done to clean them up and are newer engine models greener than the past or not? -- G.H., via email

In recent years, the climate crisis has drawn increasing attention to the ecological impacts of everyday activities, including motorboating. Motorboating creates immense pollution in various ways. Not only are pollutants often found in the water column of motorboats, but the toxins in the water column can be ingested by fish and, in turn, by people. According to A.K. Whitfield of the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, motorboating "has created major problems to the ecology of aquatic systems."

This is particularly the case with older motorboats.

The propellers on such models are of poor quality, thus affecting water clarity by increasing the sediment particles in the water. The dissolved oxygen and pH levels can also harm fish around the motorboat, as metals and hydrocarbons are often toxic to wildlife, leading to a decline in marine life. In older models with two-stroke engines, the inefficient motor can release unburned fuel, entering and polluting the surrounding water. This pollution does not solely occur at sea; caring for boats can also pollute the water. This is because many materials used to care for boats, such as solvents, paints, oils and other pollutants, can seep into the groundwater. Many boat cleaners also contain chemicals that harm fish, like chlorine and phosphates. Another problem is oil spills, which can release sediments that persist in aquatic ecosystems and harm the bottom-dwelling organisms.

An alternative that many boat owners have begun to opt for is newer models, as cleaner, newer technology, such as four-stroke engines, is likely to help reduce the inputs of fuel and exhaust in water bodies over time. Particularly if these newer models are used properly through well-tuned engines and using the recommended mix of oil and gasoline to help engines run efficiently, these models can be incredibly beneficial in reducing the negative environmental effects of motorboats. Besides buying newer models, some are taking other steps to reduce toxins. For instance, people are increasingly choosing safe cleaning products that do not harm humans or marine life, as well as carefully fueling boat engines, recycling used oil, and discarding worn motor parts into proper receptacles. Another step that is being taken is draining water out of tanks during colder seasons to reduce the possibility of bursting pipes.

Ultimately, while motorboats continue to contribute to pollution, solutions are available, and newer models offer hope. Greener alternatives, better maintenance and stronger regulations can significantly reduce the negative environmental effects of motorboats.



Motor boats cause a lot of water and air pollution but the industry has been slow to get more sustainable. Credit: Pexels.com.

SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

Water district plans more testing, considers treatment of 'forever chemicals' in Big Sioux River

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER

The highest concentrations of "forever chemicals" in the Big Sioux River are in Sioux Falls and just south of Watertown, according to a report from South Dakota Mines.

The study, conducted by East Dakota Water Development District and researchers at the school, tested water for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at 13 sites from northeast South Dakota to the Iowa border between September 2024 and the end of 2025.

The chemicals have been used in industry and consumer products — from nonstick cooking pans to firefighting foam — since the 1940s and don't break down easily in the environment or in the human body. PFAS exposure may be linked to negative developmental and reproductive effects, and an increased risk of some cancers, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The federal government finalized limits on some types of PFAS in drinking water in 2024, with some changes announced in 2025 that will see EPA reconsider limits on some classes of PFAS but retain others. The 2025 changes also extended compliance deadlines and offered more options for exemptions for water systems in municipalities experiencing "economic hardship" and those that "lack of alternative water sources." The limits will be implemented in phases, starting in 2027.

The maximum contaminant limits don't apply to surface water, East Dakota director Jay Gilbertson told South Dakota Searchlight previously, but managers of public drinking water systems located near the river should be aware of them. Under the right conditions, Big Sioux River water can infiltrate wells near the river.

The report presented on Thursday showed 15 types of PFAS compounds in the Big Sioux River, some in concentrations higher than the EPA drinking water limits.

Eleven of the sites along the river were tested five times, in September 2024, followed by April, June, August and October 2025. Two sites were added after the initial September test and were only tested in the 2025 dates.

High concentrations were found consistently at two Sioux Falls locations: at Falls Park and near the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. One compound was detected at higher levels than the drinking water limit near Watertown.

The highest amounts of PFAS tied to firefighting foams in the report were detected near the airport, with samples showing concentrations of up to 25 times the drinking water limit.

The second-highest concentration of the compounds was found at Falls Park, also over the drinking water limits, but not by as much. A still-lower concentration was detected once at a site south of Watertown, putting that site's sample over the drinking water limits in the September 2024 test.

PFAS was previously detected in wells near the Sioux Falls Regional Airport and its co-located Air National Guard base, where the chemicals were used in firefighting foam. Sioux Falls suspended the use of 21 wells suspected of PFAS contamination after those earlier detections. Since then, all raw water samples collected by the city, which can include water from the Big Sioux River, have been tested for PFAS compounds.

A forever chemical has been detected in drinking water wells near Ellsworth Air Force Base at Box Elder, at National Guard facilities near Custer and in Rapid City, and in three private wells in South Dakota. A federal test of drinking water sources identified forever chemicals at Mount Rushmore in 2024.

"Don't drink the water at Mount Rushmore," Gilbertson said. "Or make sure you see it come out of a bottle that was sealed."

Lisa Kunza, South Dakota Mines professor and lead researcher, said her team is developing a water filtration system for PFAS, which was designed for use at Ellsworth Airforce Base. Her team could test the system on the Big Sioux River, she said.

Gilbertson said the water development district plans to add PFAS sampling to its 2026 collection routine. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is conducting its own study of PFAS in South Dakota surface waters, which is expected to conclude this year.

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

Medicaid expansion boosted access to opioid addiction treatment medication, study says

BY: SHALINA CHATLANI

In the eight states that expanded Medicaid after 2018, the number of people receiving prescriptions for the opioid addiction treatment medication buprenorphine increased dramatically, according to a paper that researchers will present next month.

The states that expanded Medicaid before that period also saw gains, but they were generally smaller. That's because other changes, aside from Medicaid expansion, made buprenorphine easier to get after 2018.

The researchers found that among all patients — those covered by Medicaid, other insurers and the uninsured — the number of buprenorphine prescriptions increased in the eight most recent Medicaid expansion states (Idaho, Maine, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia) by more than 21% between 2019 and 2023. Maine, Oklahoma and Virginia saw the most dramatic increases.

Among the states that expanded Medicaid in 2018 or before, Kentucky, Vermont and West Virginia experienced the largest boosts. The study, published in February in JAMA Network Open, was conducted by researchers from Rutgers University and Indiana University, based on pharmacy claims data from retailers across the country.

Stephen Crystal, director of the Center for Health Services Research at Rutgers University and one of the authors, explained that buprenorphine became more accessible after 2018 as the federal government loosened various prescribing rules, including allowing prescribing via telehealth.

"Longer-term tracking shows that expansion, whether early or later, provides essential financial access and supports the growth of a provider network that improves population-level treatment rates," Crystal told Stateline.

Experts warn that looming Medicaid cuts could cut off buprenorphine access to thousands of patients. The broad tax and spending law President Donald Trump signed last summer is projected to cut federal Medicaid spending by an estimated \$886.8 billion over the next decade, largely because new work requirements will push people off the rolls, according to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office. CBO estimates that it could increase the number of people without health insurance by 7.5 million in 2034.

Opioid overdose deaths in the U.S. peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching a high of 81,806 deaths in 2022. They've fallen sharply since then, to 79,358 in 2023 and 54,045 in 2024.

Medicaid is the largest payer of opioid use disorder treatment, and in 2023 it covered nearly half of all non-elderly adults in the U.S. with opioid use disorder in 2023, said Robin Rudowitz, a senior vice president at KFF, a health policy research group.

"Having health insurance is the main way for people to have consistent access to health care services, and also particularly for Medicaid, as most people are low income, and it provides protections against financial burdens," Rudowitz said.

"And for (opioid use disorder) specifically, research shows that when people discontinue treatment, mortality risk increases. And for discontinuation of Medicaid, specifically, when coverage lapses, mortality rate increases."

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes South Dakota Searchlight, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.

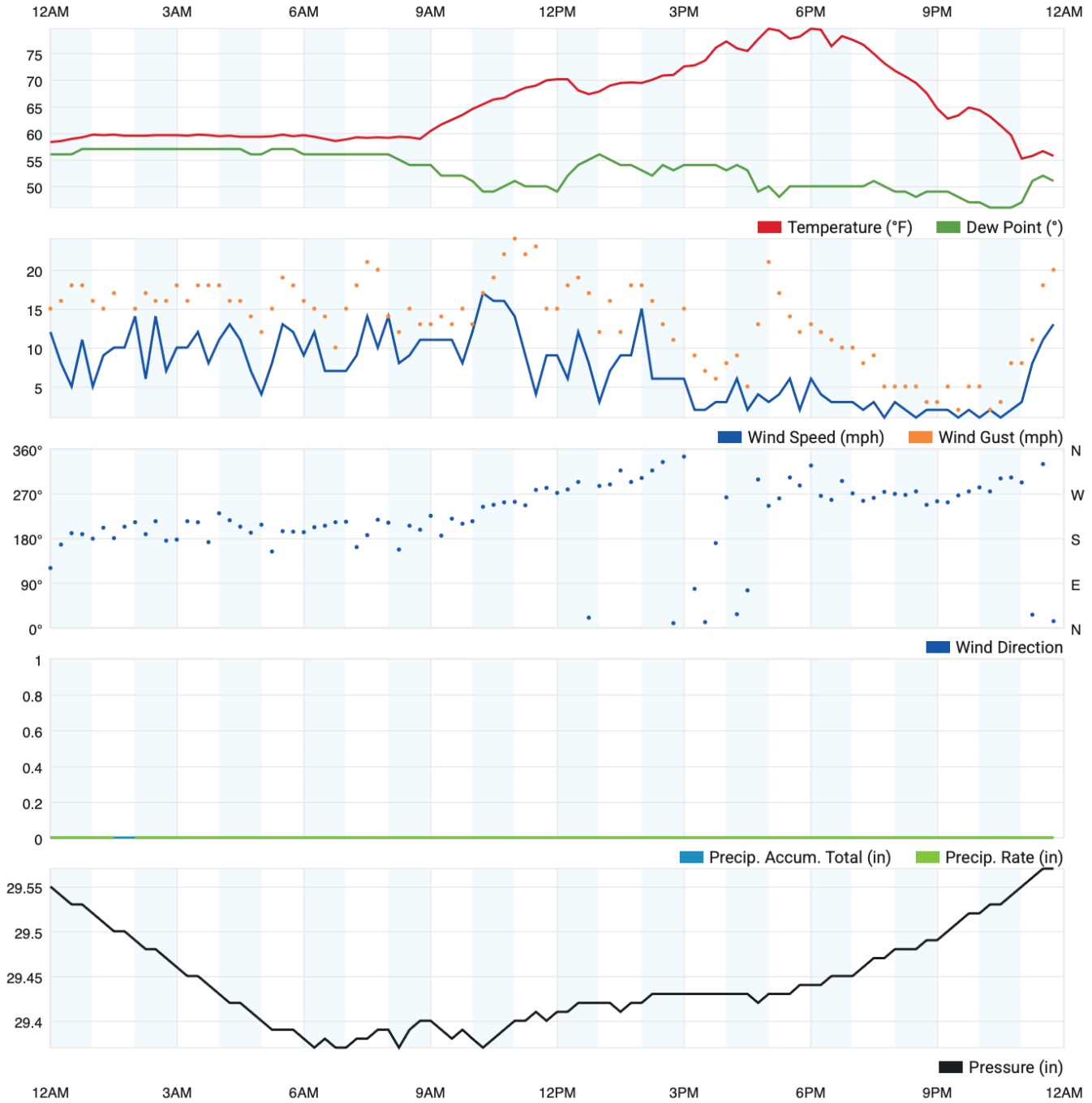
Shalina Chatlani covers health care and environmental justice for Stateline.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

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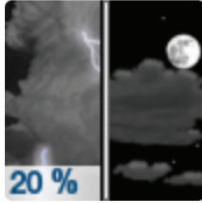
Today



High: 65 °F

Chance Showers

Tonight



Low: 38 °F

Slight Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy

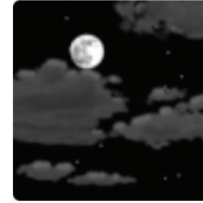
Tuesday



High: 63 °F

Partly Sunny

Tuesday Night



Low: 39 °F

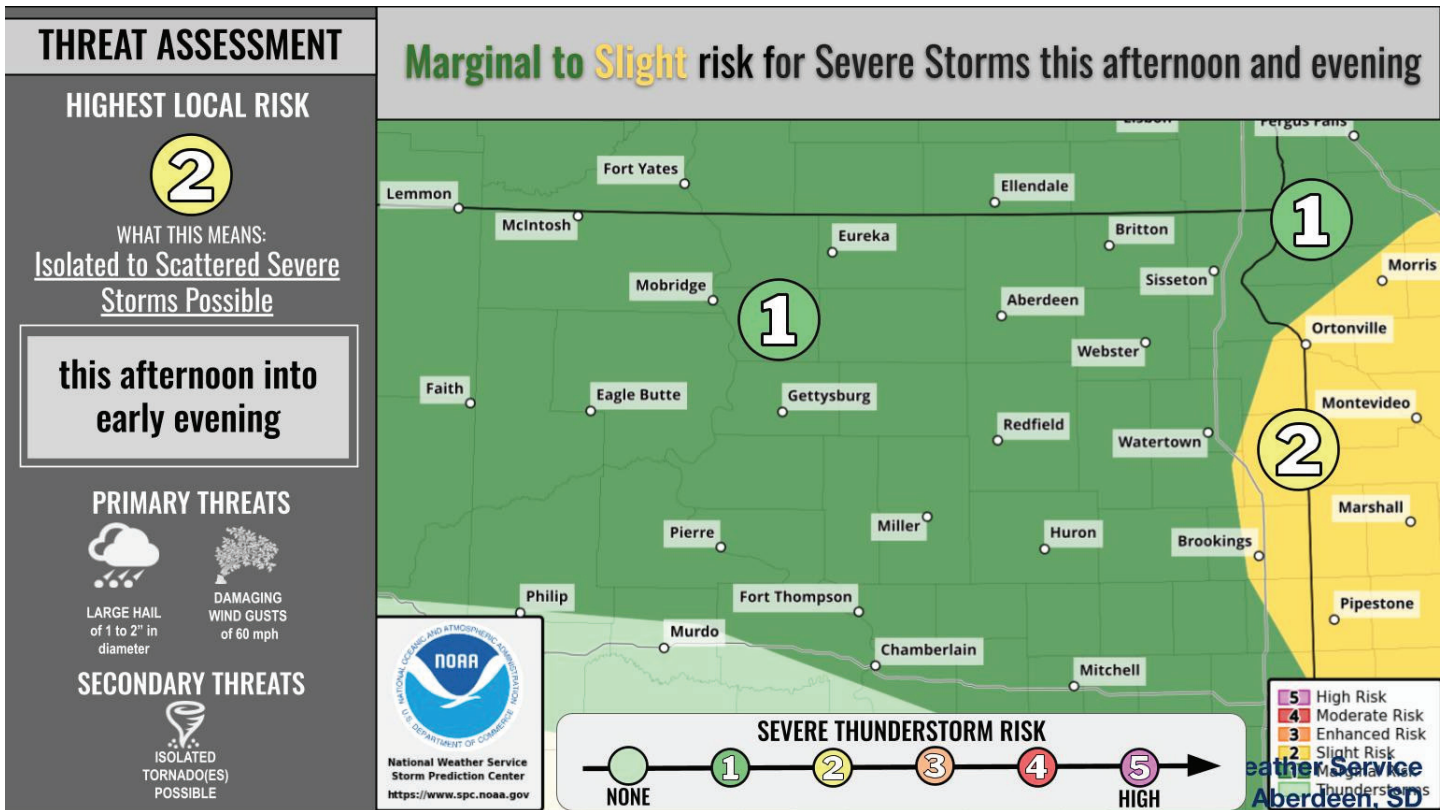
Partly Cloudy

Wednesday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers



There is a Marginal to Slight risk of severe storms this afternoon into this evening. The primary concern will be over far eastern South Dakota into southwestern Minnesota, where 1 to 2 inch diameter hail will be possible from noon to 6 PM. Another area of concern will be across mainly north central South Dakota between 6 PM until around 9 PM. Any strong storm that develops will be capable of producing large hail around 1" in diameter and strong winds to around 60 mph.

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Severe Weather Timing

April 13, 2026

4:17 AM

Isolated to Scattered afternoon and evening storms

Probability of Precipitation (%) Forecast Colored by Severe Thunderstorm Risk

	4/13 Mon					4/14 Tue
	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am
McIntosh	5	5	5	25	30	5
Eagle Butte	5	0	5	15	20	0
Murdo	5	0	10	0	0	0
Mobridge	15	5	5	20	40	0
Pierre	5	0	0	20	15	0
Gettysburg	15	15	0	25	30	5
Eureka	10	25	5	15	30	15
Chamberlain	15	15	0	0	0	0
Miller	15	30	5	30	10	5
Redfield	15	30	20	25	10	5
Aberdeen	15	30	10	15	20	15
Britton	15	30	15	10	20	10
Clark	15	30	35	40	15	0
Webster	15	30	25	30	20	5
Watertown	10	25	45	45	20	0
Sisseton	10	25	30	35	20	15
Milbank	5	25	35	50	20	0
Wheaton	5	25	30	40	15	25

■ General Thunder
 ■ Marginal
 ■ Slight
 ■ Enhanced
 ■ Moderate
 ■ High

SPC Severe Weather Outlook



Timing Highlights

A warm front stretching west to east across South Dakota will provide the focus for isolated to scattered afternoon and evening storms

Highest chance of storms...

Noon to 6 PM over eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota

6 PM to 9 PM over north central South Dakota



Cities At Greatest Risk

Milbank, Ortonville, Wheaton, and Watertown

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



Preparing for Severe Storms

April 13, 2026

4:19 AM

Share the message!

Hazards

Isolated to scattered afternoon to early evening storms possible. The strongest storms may produce wind gusts to 60 mph or large hail of 1 to 2 inches in diameter.



What You Can Do Now...

When storms near your location, make sure you have a plan in place!

- How will you receive hazardous weather alerts?
- Is there a safe shelter nearby?
- Are there alternate routes to take if a storm blocks your path?

NOAA Have multiple ways to get warnings weather.gov

INTERNET

LOCAL TV AND RADIO

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS AND WEATHER APPS

OUTDOOR SIRENS

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

FROM YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COWORKERS

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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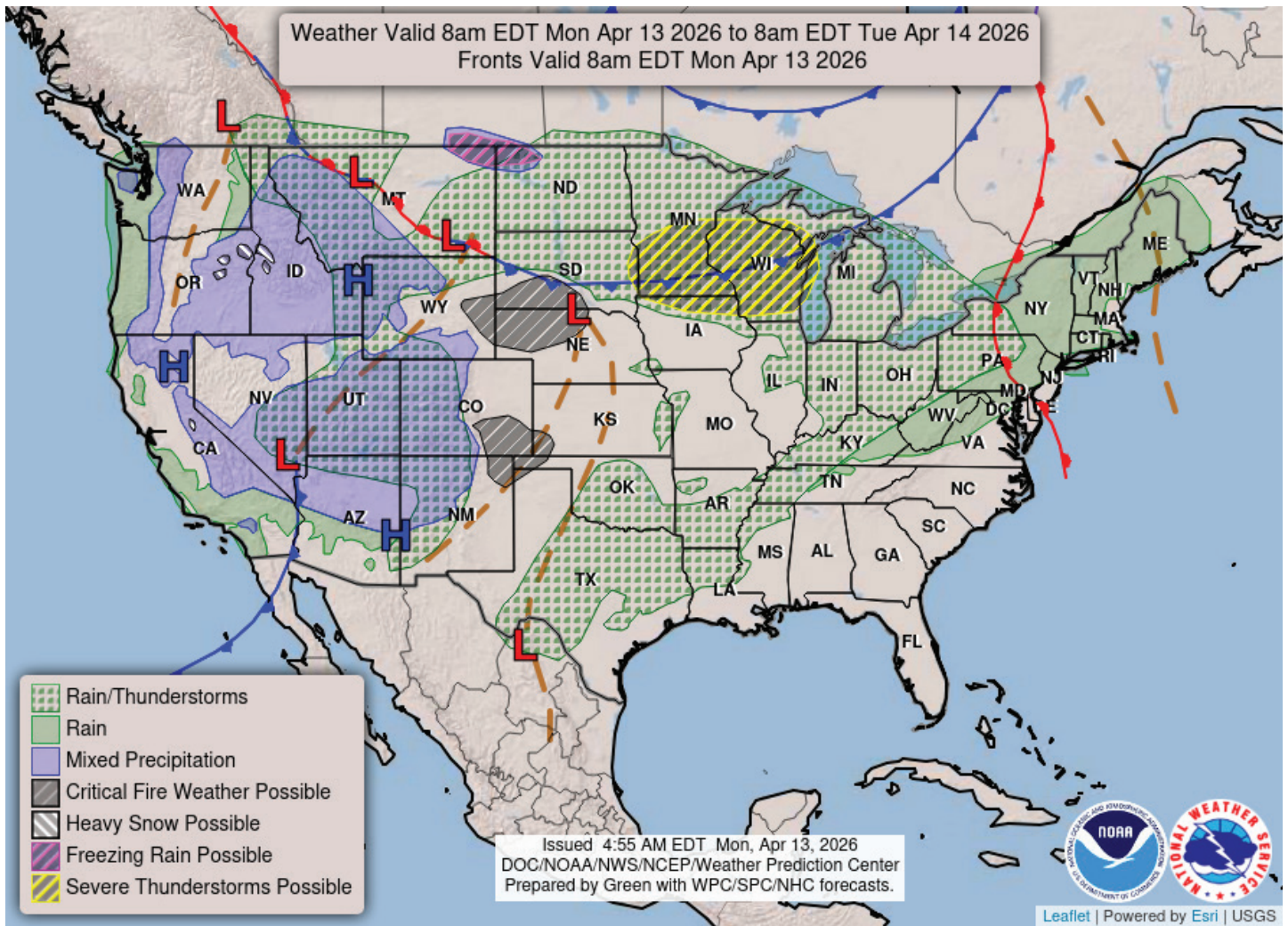
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 81 °F at 5:09 PM
Low Temp: 55 °F at 11:07 PM
Wind: 24 mph at 10:52 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 2003
Record Low: 9 in 2013
Average High: 57
Average Low: 30
Average Precip in April.: 0.62
Precip to date in April.: 0.95
Average Precip to date: 2.68
Precip Year to Date: 2.57
Sunset Tonight: 8:15 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:48 am



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Today in Weather History

April 13th, 1986: A significant spring storm quickly intensified, bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into fifteen-foot-high drifts. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars; it was the worst blizzard ever for some areas.

April 13th, 1995: Flooding, resulting from snowmelt from the two major snowstorms in April and saturated soils, caused extensive road damage and inundation. The flooding caused several road closings and numerous flooded basements in many counties. Also, many lakes were overfull in Day and Campbell Counties. Flooded farmland caused severe delays in small grain planting. Spink, Sully, McPherson, and Brown Counties were declared disasters.

April 13th, 2010: Unyielding south winds developed over central and northeast South Dakota in the early afternoon and continued into the early evening hours. South winds of 30 to 50 mph with gusts of nearly 70 mph caused some structural and shingled damage across the area. A pickup on Interstate 90 lost a camper to the high winds. The high winds, low humidity, and dry fuels helped fan several grassland fires across the region. The most substantial fire started from a downed power line in Campbell County near Glenham. The fire grew five miles long by two miles wide and traveled eight miles before it was under control. Almost 6000 acres were burned, and nearly 20 fire departments were dispatched.

1877 — The second coastal storm in just three days hit Virginia and the Carolinas. The first storm flattened the sand dunes at Hatteras, and widened the Oregon inlet three quarters of a mile. The second storm produced hurricane force winds along the coast of North Carolina causing more beach erosion and land transformation. (David Ludlum)

1955 — The town of Axis, AL, was deluged with 20.33 inches of rain in 24 hours establishing a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1986 — A major spring storm quickly intensified bringing blizzard conditions to much of the Northern Plains Region. Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in North Dakota, and in South Dakota, winds gusting to 90 mph whipped the snow into drifts fifteen feet high. Livestock losses were in the millions of dollars, and for some areas it was the worst blizzard ever. (Storm Data)

1987 — Thunderstorms in northern Texas produced wind gusts to 98 mph at the Killeen Airport causing a million dollars property damage. Two airplanes were totally destroyed by the high winds, and ten others were damaged. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — Low pressure off the Atlantic coast produced high winds across North Carolina, with gusts to 78 mph reported at Waves. The high winds combined with high tides to cause coastal flooding and erosion. About 275 feet of land was eroded from the northern tip of Pea Island. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — Thunderstorms in central Florida produced golf ball size hail and a tornado near Lakeland FL. Fair and mild weather prevailed across most of the rest of the nation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 — Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in central Oklahoma and north central Texas. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced up to six inches of golf ball size hail along I-40 near El Reno, and produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Okarche. Thunderstorms over north central Texas produced softball size hail northwest of Rotan, and high winds which injured two persons southeast of Itasca. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 — The latest measurable snowfall on record hits Jackson, TN, causing six traffic fatalities.

2006 — The University of Iowa campus is hit by an F2 tornado. The storm severely damaged many buildings in the area, including a sorority and a local church. No fatalities were reported in the storm that caused more than \$12 million in damage.

Recognize Your Vulnerability

Rationalizing sin is a signal that we're on dangerous ground and need to seek God's help.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13: 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

If we see a fellow believer fall into sin, it can be tempting to judge. But what we often fail to acknowledge is that we, too, can easily stumble. Even though believers have a righteous standing before God, we must, like Paul, acknowledge an internal problem: "sin which dwells in me" (Romans 7:20).

Christians need to be continually on guard. Since ignorance of the nature of sin, the strategies of the enemy, and our own areas of weakness make us more vulnerable to stumbling, we cannot afford to be careless in our thinking. Anytime we find ourselves excusing, redefining, or rationalizing sin, we've lost our sensitivity to God.

If you've drifted from the Lord, turn back to Him by acknowledging your sin and accepting responsibility for it. Repentance means changing your mind and going in a different direction—toward God instead of away from Him.

The next step is harder: Respond with gratitude for God's correction. Every time we fall into sin, our Father lovingly works to bring us back into fellowship with Him. His discipline may be painful, but it's always good because it brings us to our senses and reconnects us with God.

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.12.26

2 14 32 51 57 4

TOP PRIZE:
\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 34 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.10.26

3 18 36 42 49 6

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$120,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 19 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.11.26

1 21 26 29 32 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$21,720,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 34 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.11.26

4 11 13 19 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$52,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 32 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.11.26

1 4 22 36 48 17

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
04.11.26

6 47 49 53 60 6

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$45,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 18 Mins 31 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

Pope Leo says he does not fear Trump, citing Gospel as he pushes back in feud over Iran war

By WILL WEISSERT, JOSH BOAK and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S.-born Pope Leo XIV pushed back Monday on President Donald Trump's broadside against him over the U.S.-Israel war in Iran, telling reporters that the Vatican's appeals for peace and reconciliation are rooted in the Gospel, and that he doesn't fear the Trump administration.

"To put my message on the same plane as what the president has attempted to do here, I think is not understanding what the message of the Gospel is," Leo told AP aboard the papal plane en route to Algeria. "And I'm sorry to hear that but I will continue on what I believe is the mission of the church in the world today."

History's first U.S.-born pope stressed that he was not making a direct attack against Trump or anyone else with his general appeal for peace and criticisms of the "delusion of omnipotence" that is fueling the Iran wars and other conflicts around the world.

"I will not enter into debate. The things that I say are certainly not meant as attacks on anyone. The message of the Gospel is very clear: 'Blessed are the peacemakers,'" Leo said.

"I will not shy away from announcing the message of the Gospel and inviting all people to look for ways of building bridges of peace and reconciliation, and looking for ways to avoid war any time that's possible" Speaking to other reporters, he added: "I have no fear of the Trump administration."

Trump delivered an extraordinary broadside against Leo on Sunday night, saying he didn't think the U.S.-born global leader of the Catholic Church is "doing a very good job" and that "he's a very liberal person," while also suggesting the pontiff should "stop catering to the Radical Left."

Flying back to Washington from Florida, Trump used a lengthy social media post to sharply criticize Leo, then kept it up after deplaning, in comments on the tarmac to reporters.

"I'm not a fan of Pope Leo," he said.

Trump's comments came after Leo suggested over the weekend that a "delusion of omnipotence" is fueling the U.S.-Israel war in Iran. While it's not unusual for popes and presidents to be at cross purposes, it's exceedingly rare for the pope to directly criticize a U.S. leader — and Trump's stinging response is equally uncommon, if not more so.

"Pope Leo is WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy," the president wrote in his post, adding, "I don't want a Pope who thinks it's OK for Iran to have a Nuclear Weapon."

He repeated that sentiment in comments to reporters, saying, "We don't like a pope who says it's OK to have a nuclear weapon."

Later, Trump posted a picture suggesting he had saint-like powers akin to those of Jesus Christ. Wearing a biblical-style robe, Trump is seen laying hands on a bedridden man as light emanates from his fingers, while a soldier, a nurse, a praying woman and a bearded man in a baseball cap all look on admiringly. The sky above is filled with eagles, an American flag and vaporous images.

All of that came after Leo presided over an evening prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday, the same day the United States and Iran began face-to-face negotiations in Pakistan during a fragile ceasefire. The pope didn't mention the United States or Trump by name, but his tone and message appeared directed at Trump and U.S. officials, who have boasted of U.S. military superiority and justified the war in religious terms.

Leo, who is on an 11-day trip to Africa starting Monday — has previously said that God "does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war, but rejects them." He's also referenced an Old Testament passage from Isaiah, saying that "even though you make many prayers, I will not listen — your hands are full of blood."

Before the ceasefire, when Trump warned of mass strikes against Iranian power plants and other infra-

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structure and that "an entire civilization will die tonight," Leo described such sentiments as "truly unacceptable."

In his social media post on Sunday night, however, Trump went far beyond the war in Iran in criticizing Leo.

The president wrote, "I don't want a Pope who thinks it's terrible that America attacked Venezuela, a Country that was sending massive amounts of Drugs into the United States." That was a reference to the Trump administration having ousted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in January.

"I don't want a Pope who criticizes the President of the United States because I'm doing exactly what I was elected, IN A LANDSLIDE, to do," Trump added, referencing his 2024 election victory.

He also suggested in the post that Leo only got his position "because he was an American, and they thought that would be the best way to deal with President Donald J. Trump."

"If I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican," Trump wrote, adding, "Leo should get his act together as Pope, use Common Sense, stop catering to the Radical Left, and focus on being a Great Pope, not a Politician. It's hurting him very badly and, more importantly, it's hurting the Catholic Church!"

In his subsequent comments to reporters, Trump remained highly critical, saying of Leo, "I don't think he's doing a very good job. He likes crime I guess" and adding, "He's a very liberal person."

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement saying he was "disheartened" by Trump's comments.

"Pope Leo is not his rival; nor is the Pope a politician. He is the Vicar of Christ who speaks from the truth of the Gospel and for the care of souls," Coakley said.

In the 2024 election, Trump won 55% of Catholic voters, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive survey of the electorate. But Trump's administration also has close ties to conservative evangelical Protestant leaders and has claimed heavenly endorsement for the war on Iran.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth urged Americans to pray for victory "in the name of Jesus Christ." And, when Trump was asked whether he thought God approved of the war, he said, "I do, because God is good — because God is good and God wants to see people taken care of."

Iran threatens ports in Mideast as US military set to impose shipping blockade

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. military announced it will begin a blockade of all Iranian ports and coastal areas on Monday, as President Donald Trump sought to pressure Iran in a move that risks driving oil prices even higher and renewing the war. The announcement set the stage for a showdown, as Iran immediately responded with threats on all ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

"Security in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is either for everyone or for NO ONE," the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting reported Monday. "NO PORT in the region will be safe," according to a statement from the Iranian military and the Revolutionary Guards.

U.S. Central Command announced the blockade would begin on Monday at 10 a.m. EDT, or 5:30 p.m. in Iran, and would be "enforced impartially against vessels of all nations entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas, including all Iranian ports on the Arabian Gulf (Persian Gulf) and Gulf of Oman." CENTCOM said it would still allow ships traveling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait, a step down from the president's earlier threat to blockade the entire strait.

The announcement of the blockade halted the limited ship traffic that resumed in the strait since the ceasefire, said an early report from Lloyd's List intelligence. Marine trackers say over 40 commercial ships have crossed since the start of the ceasefire, down from roughly 100 to 135 vessel passages per day before the war.

The move came after marathon U.S.-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement on Saturday. U.S. Vice President JD Vance said the talks stalled after Iran refused to accept American terms to refrain from developing a nuclear weapon. Iran has demanded compensation for damage caused by

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U.S.-Israeli strikes that launched the war on Feb. 28, and the release of Iran's frozen assets.

Later Sunday, Trump extended his feud over the war with Pope Leo XIV, lashing out in a Truth Social post that called the Catholic leader "terrible on foreign policy." The extraordinary broadside came after Leo denounced the war and demanded that political leaders stop and negotiate peace.

The blockade could have far-reaching effects

The blockade is likely intended to add pressure on Iran, which has exported millions of barrels of oil since the war began, much of it likely carried by so-called "dark" transits that evade Western government sanctions and oversight.

Trump also hopes to undercut Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz after demanding that it reopen the waterway where 20% of global oil transited before fighting began. A U.S. blockade could further rattle global energy markets.

Oil prices rose in early market trading after the blockade announcement. The price of U.S. crude rose 8% to \$104.24 a barrel, and Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 7% to \$102.29. Brent crude cost roughly \$70 per barrel before the war in late February.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer told BBC radio Monday that Britain will not be part of a U.S. blockade of Iranian ports in response to the closing of the Strait of Hormuz and that Britain is "not getting dragged into the war."

He said U.K. efforts remain focused on reopening the key shipping route, and that Britain might help with mine clearing in the waterway, but only after the fighting stops.

Iran says 'if you fight, we will fight'

A chorus of top-ranking Iranian officials threatened retaliation. Mohsen Rezaei, a military adviser and a former Revolutionary Guard Commander, wrote on X that the country's armed forces had "major untouched levers" to counter a Hormuz blockade. He said Iran would not be coerced by "tweets and imaginary plans."

Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who led Iran's side in the talks, addressed Trump in a statement on his return to Iran: "If you fight, we will fight."

Iran's Revolutionary Guard later said the strait remained under Iran's "full control" and was open for non-military vessels, but military ones would get a "forceful response," two semiofficial Iranian news agencies reported.

During the 21-hour talks this weekend in Pakistan, the U.S. military said two destroyers had transited the strait ahead of mine-clearing work, a first since the war began. Iran denied it.

No word on what happens after ceasefire expires

The face-to-face talks that ended early Sunday were the highest-level negotiations between the longtime rivals since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Trump said Tehran's nuclear ambitions were the core reason for the talks' failure. In comments to Fox News, he again threatened to strike civilian infrastructure if it didn't give up its nuclear program.

"In one half of a day they wouldn't have one bridge standing, they wouldn't have one electric generating plant standing, and they're back in the stone ages," Trump said.

Vice President JD Vance, who led the U.S. side in the talks, said Washington would need "an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon."

Iranian negotiators could not agree to all U.S. "red lines," said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe positions on the record. Those red lines included Iran never obtaining a nuclear weapon, ending uranium enrichment, dismantling major enrichment facilities and allowing retrieval of its highly enriched uranium, along with opening the Strait of Hormuz and ending funding for Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels.

Iranian officials said talks fell apart over two or three key issues, blaming what they called U.S. overreach. Qalibaf, who noted progress in negotiations, said it was time for the United States "to decide whether it can gain our trust or not."

Iran's foreign minister claimed that the U.S. tanked the negotiations when they were within "inches" of an agreement, but did not provide evidence.

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"We encountered maximalism, shifting goalposts, and blockade," wrote Abbas Araghchi on X.

Neither Iran nor the U.S. indicated what will happen after the ceasefire expires on April 22.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country will try to facilitate a new dialogue in the coming days. Iran said it was open to continuing dialogue, state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Iran's nuclear program is a key sticking point

Iran's nuclear program was at the center of tensions long before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28. The fighting has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,055 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and damaged infrastructure in half a dozen countries.

Tehran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but insists on its right to a civilian nuclear program. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump later pulled the U.S. out of, took well over a year of negotiations. Experts say Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, though not weapons-grade, is only a short technical step away.

Peru election results delayed after thousands get a one-day voting extension

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Peruvian voters will have to wait until at least Monday to learn the outcome of Sunday's presidential election after the process was mired with logistical issues that even left thousands of people in the country and abroad unable to cast ballots.

The problems prompted electoral authorities to allow more than 52,000 residents of Peru's capital, Lima, to vote on Monday. The extension, announced after vote counting began Sunday evening, also covers Peruvians registered to vote in Orlando, Florida, and Paterson, New Jersey.

Authorities initially reported 63,300 people could vote Monday but later revised down the figure.

Voting is mandatory for Peruvians from the ages of 18 to 70. Failure to do so comes with a fine of up to \$32.

A former minister, a comedian and a political heiress are among 35 candidates vying to become Peru's ninth president in just 10 years.

The election comes amid a surge in violent crime and corruption that has fueled widespread discontent among voters, who largely view candidates as dishonest and unprepared for the presidency. Many of the contenders have responded to the crime concerns with wide-ranging proposals, including building mega-prisons, restricting food for prisoners and reinstating the death penalty for serious crimes.

Nurse Heidi Justiniano had not decided who to vote for while already in line outside a public school in Lima.

"There's so much crime, so many robberies on every corner; a bus driver was killed. What matters most to us right now is safety, the lives of every person," Justiniano, 33, said. "Politicians don't always keep their promises. This time, we have to choose our president wisely so that he can improve Peru."

More than 27 million people are registered to vote. Of those, about 1.2 million cast ballots abroad, mainly in the United States and Argentina.

A presidential candidate needs more than 50% of votes to win outright. However, a runoff in June is virtually assured given the deeply divided electorate and the pool of candidates, the largest in the Andean country's history.

Voters are also being asked to choose the members of a bicameral Congress for the first time in more than 30 years, following recent legislative reforms that concentrate significant power in the new upper chamber.

European leaders celebrate Péter Magyar's victory in a stunning Hungarian election

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BUDAPEST (AP) — European leaders heaped praise on Péter Magyar after his stunning election victory in Hungary, not just for what the vibrant campaigner and the country's next premier might do but for who he is not — long-serving Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who many saw as a direct threat to the continent's peace and prosperity.

The outpouring reflected a deep frustration with Orbán across the 27-nation European Union and its institutions.

"Today Europe wins and European values win," said Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez in a post on X on Sunday night. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk exclaimed on social media: "Back together! Glorious victory, dear friends!"

Orbán's 16-year grip on power has tested the EU system of governance meant to ensure peace through economic and political integration after the ravages of the world wars. Claiming he sought to advance Hungarians' national interests over strategy forged in Brussels, Orbán time and again vetoed collective action such as support for Ukraine following Russia's all-out invasion.

Recently, the far-right leader's government outraged EU leaders and officials when it admitted to providing a backchannel to Russia during summits.

In a recent interview, Magyar told The Associated Press that if elected, he would repair Hungary's relationship with the EU. However, he has carefully avoided taking firm positions on a number of divisive issues during the election campaign — including Orbán's anti-LGBTQ+ policies and whether Hungary should extend more support to Ukraine. "All Hungarians know that this is a shared victory. Our homeland made up its mind. It wants to live again. It wants to be a European country," Magyar said during his victory speech from the banks of the Danube River in Budapest, the capital.

After Orbán concedes, congratulations for Magyar pour in fast

Magyar said he received calls on Sunday night — before he took the stage to announce his victory — from French President Emmanuel Macron, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Online, congratulations also flowed in from British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and European Parliament Speaker Roberta Metsola. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Romanian President Nicușor Dan and European Council President António Costa also posted their well-wishes for Magyar.

"This is an historic moment, not only for Hungary, but for European democracy," Starmer said.

"France welcomes the victory of democratic participation, the Hungarian people's commitment to the values of the European Union, and Hungary's commitment to Europe," Macron said.

Merz said, "Let's join forces for a strong, secure and, above all, united Europe."

Kristersson referenced both the EU and NATO in his congratulation note to Magyar: "I look forward to working closely with you — as Allies and EU Members. This marks a new chapter in the history of Hungary."

Slovenia's liberal Prime Minister Robert Golob congratulated Magyar, saying his "victory over right-wing populism is also a great victory for the EU and its future."

"Only a more united and more effective EU will be able to respond to the extremely serious challenges of the times ahead," Golob said.

Israeli opposition figure Yair Lapid, himself a descendent of Hungarian Jews who survived the Holocaust, also congratulated Magyar.

Former United States President Barack Obama sent his congratulations, too. "The victory of the opposition in Hungary yesterday, like the Polish election in 2023, is a victory for democracy, not just in Europe but around the world."

And from some, kind words for Orbán

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni congratulated Magyar but also thanked Orbán for "intense collabo-

ration for these years.”

Far-right French politician Jordan Bardella, seen as a nationally competitive politician in the 2027 French elections, praised Orbán’s record on populist causes in a post on X. He made no mention of Magyar.

Even Orbán’s staunchest allies in Europe congratulated Magyar.

Populist Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš said that in the election, “facing such a strong opponent as Viktor Orbán was never easy, yet he earned the trust of the majority of Hungarians and carries great hopes and expectations. He must not disappoint.”

Slovakia’s populist Prime Minister Robert Fico congratulated Magyar and said he was “ready for intensive cooperation with the new Hungarian Prime Minister.”

Referencing the Druzhba pipeline shuttered since an attack in Ukraine — an issue Orbán campaigned on and one exacerbated by rising energy prices over the Iran war — Fico said Slovakia is “interested in friendly and mutually beneficial relations with Hungary and in the above-standard status of national minorities living on the territories of our countries.” Both Babiš and Fico vowed to work with Hungary’s next leader.

Von der Leyen, who had like many EU officials avoided any public position on the Hungarian election, posted on X that “Hungary has chosen Europe. Europe has always chosen Hungary. Together, we are stronger. A country returns to its European path. The Union grows stronger.”

Orbán had vilified the Brussels-based EU executive and frequently stymied her agenda.

European People’s Party President Manfred Weber, also a frequent Orbán target, said on social media that “Hungary is back at the heart of Europe.”

German lawmaker Daniel Freund said that “Hungarians are sending a signal to the world” — and that Orbán’s ouster will reverberate among populist leaders world over.

“The icon of illiberal anti-European forces has now failed - brought down by a disastrous economy, corruption, and his own unfair electoral system,” Freund said.

Orbán had long demonized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, making his opposition to the leader in Kyiv central to his now-failed reelection campaign.

While congratulating Magyar on X, Zelenskyy said that “we are ready for meetings and joint constructive work for the benefit of both nations, as well as for the sake of Europe’s peace, security, and stability.”

There is hope in Ukraine that Sunday’s historic vote in Hungary will enable the EU to fast-track a much-needed mega loan of 90 billion euros that Orbán had blocked.

Ukraine posted congratulations to Magyar on its X account, referencing two historic rivers of Ukraine and Hungary.

“The Dnipro and the Tisza flow through a shared home — Europe,” it said.

Peru’s voters face choice of 35 contenders for ninth president in 10 years

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and FRANKLIN BRICEÑO Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A former minister, a comedian and a political dynasty heiress are among the 35 candidates hoping to become Peru’s ninth president in just 10 years.

The election is taking place during a surge in violent crime and corruption, fueling widespread discontent among voters, who largely view candidates as dishonest and unprepared for the presidency. Many of the candidates have responded to the crime concerns with wide-ranging proposals, including building mega-prisons, restricting food for prisoners and reinstating the death penalty for serious crimes.

“You can’t trust anyone anymore, nothing’s going to change,” construction worker Juan Gómez, 53, said as he carried two heavy bags with potatoes and rice to feed his five children. “(Criminals) come on motorcycles, put a gun to your head... you look around and there’s no police officer.

“What are you going to do? You just let them rob you.”

Here’s what to know about the latest presidential contest.

Who is voting?

Voting is mandatory for Peruvians from the ages of 18 to 70. More than 27 million people are registered,

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and of those, about 1.2 million are expected to cast ballots from abroad, mainly in the United States and Argentina.

Logistical issues meant some people were unable to cast ballots Sunday, so voting was extended to Monday for about 52,000 people affected.

A candidate needs more than 50% of votes to win outright. However, a runoff in June is virtually assured given the deeply divided electorate and the pool of candidates, the largest in the Andean country's history. What are the issues?

A major preoccupation is surging crime, which has led to frequent protests. Homicides have doubled and cases of extortion have increased fivefold this decade, according to official data.

"You get on the bus, and you have to sit far from the driver; you don't know if you'll make it home alive," retiree Raúl Zevallos, 63, said. "Criminals drive by on motorcycles, shoot, kill the driver, and you could die, too."

More than 200 public transportation drivers were killed in Peru in 2025. The same year, a national survey carried out by the state's National Institute of Statistics and Informatics found that 84% of respondents in urban areas feared becoming victims of a crime in the following 12 months.

Who are the candidates?

Thirty-five names are on the ballot, including Keiko Fujimori, a conservative former congresswoman and daughter of the late President Alberto Fujimori. This marks her fourth attempt to become president.

Keiko Fujimori has promised to crack down on crime with an iron fist, but she has also defended laws that experts say make it difficult to prosecute criminals. The laws, which her party backed in recent years, eliminated preliminary detention in certain cases and raised the threshold for seizing criminal assets.

If elected, she has said judges presiding over criminal cases will be anonymous and prisoners will have to work to earn their food.

Also running is Rafael López Aliaga, the conservative former mayor of Peru's capital, Lima. He has proposed building prisons in the country's Amazon region, allowing judges to conceal their identities and expelling foreigners who are living illegally in Peru.

Meanwhile, comedian-turned-politician Carlos Álvarez has tried to garner support by promising to convene the leaders of El Salvador, Denmark and Singapore to tap their expertise in security.

New Senate

Peruvians are also choosing a bicameral Congress for the first time in more than 30 years, following recent reforms of the legislature that will concentrate a great deal of power in the new upper chamber. The president won't be able to dissolve the new Senate, though the chamber will be able to remove a president from power.

Under the new bicameral structure, impeaching the president will be easier, with the Senate only needing 40 of the 60 senators to approve it. Previously, 87 of 130 lawmakers in the unicameral chamber had to vote in favor of removal, and they frequently exercised that power, contributing to the country's revolving door of presidents in the last decade.

The bicameral system is returning even though 80% of voters rejected it in a 2018 referendum. Lawmakers amended the Constitution in 2024 to make it possible.

Alejandro Boyco, a researcher at the Institute of Peruvian Studies, said the Senate will appoint and sanction high-ranking officials, including the country's ombudsman, constitutional court members and some central bank directors. Senators will also review and amend bills from the lower chamber.

"They've concentrated too much power in a 60-people chamber," Boyco said. "They are not going to be immune to being corrupt."

In their words: How leaders reacted to Viktor Orbán's defeat in Hungary's election

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary's Viktor Orbán had such an outsize global influence that his crushing electoral defeat is resounding far and wide.

During his 16 years in power, admirers emulated Orbán's playbook for reshaping political institutions to his advantage and squeezing minority rights and media freedoms, and viewed him as a defender of national sovereignty in the face of globalization and migration.

To his detractors, he was a threat to European democracy and the continent's hard-fought values of human rights and rule of law.

Ultimately, Hungarian voters decided it was time to turn the page and overwhelmingly favored challenger Péter Magyar in Sunday's election.

Here's how global leaders reacted, in their own words.

Ukraine has a lot at stake

Orbán's was the Kremlin's strongest ally in the European Union and repeatedly blocked aid for Ukraine to fend off Russia's invasion.

After Magyar's election win, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy quickly reached out in hopes of support.

"It is important when constructive approach prevails. Ukraine has always sought good-neighbourly relations with everyone in Europe and we are ready to advance our cooperation with Hungary," he posted on social media.

"We are ready for meetings and joint constructive work for the benefit of both nations, as well as peace, security, and stability in Europe," Zelenskyy said.

For the EU, a sigh of relief

Orbán was especially and constantly critical of the EU, even though his country enjoys billions in funding from the bloc.

Within minutes of his concession speech, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, a frequent target of Orbán's pronouncements, posted on X: "Europe's heart is beating stronger in Hungary tonight."

Europe's biggest powers also jumped in.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer called it "an historic moment, not only for Hungary, but for European democracy. I look forward to working with you for the security and prosperity of both our countries."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz messaged Magyar: "Let's join forces for a strong, secure and, above all, united Europe. Gratulálok, kedves Magyar Péter!"

French President Emmanuel Macron said that "France welcomes the victory of democratic participation, the Hungarian people's commitment to the values of the European Union, and Hungary's commitment to Europe."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who is visiting Seoul, South Korea, posted on X Monday the flags of Hungary, his country and the European Union and said "Back together! Glorious victory, dear friends!"

He later posted a short video clip apparently showing him speaking to Magyar by phone while overlooking the Korean capital.

"Oh, I am so happy. I think I am happier than you, you know," Tusk said in English.

In his victory speech, Magyar said that his first foreign stop would be to Poland, which has historically had longstanding, friendly ties to Hungary.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, an ally of Orbán who is visiting Vietnam, posted a statement offering his congratulations and saying he is ready for "intensive cooperation" with Magyar.

Fellow populists chose their words carefully

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni thanked her "friend Viktor Orbán" for their collaboration. "I know that even from the opposition he will continue to serve his Nation."

France's far-right National Rally, jockeying to replace Macron in the French presidency next year, supported Orbán and tread cautiously after his defeat.

"This result, respectfully welcomed by Viktor Orbán, shows that the incessant accusations by European institutions in recent years against Hungarian democracy were unfounded," posted the party's president Jordan Bardella.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for his part, offered his "heartiest congratulations" to Magyar on X.

"I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation and to advance the vital India-EU Strategic Partnership for the shared prosperity and well-being of our peoples," he wrote.

Britney Spears enters substance abuse treatment facility weeks after her arrest on suspicion of DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Britney Spears has entered a substance abuse treatment facility just over a month after she was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

A representative for Spears said in an email to The Associated Press on Sunday that the 44-year-old pop superstar had voluntarily checked herself into the facility.

On March 5, California Highway Patrol officers received a report that a BMW was driving fast and erratically on U.S. 101 in Ventura County near the Los Angeles County line, the CHP said.

Spears, who lives in the area, took a series of field sobriety tests and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of a combination of alcohol and drugs, authorities said. She was taken to a county jail and released several hours later.

Investigators turned over the case on March 23 to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, which plans to make a decision on charges against Spears before a scheduled May 4 court date.

A representative at the time called Spears' actions "completely inexcusable" and said it would ideally be "the first step in long overdue change that needs to occur in Britney's life."

Spears has mostly set aside her music career. She has not toured in nearly eight years and has not put out an album in nearly a decade.

In 2021, she regained control of her life decisions and finances when a court-ordered conservatorship was dissolved after nearly 14 years. Two years later, she released a bestselling memoir, "The Woman in Me."

Strikes on alleged drug boats kill 5, leave 1 survivor in eastern Pacific, US military says

By BEN FINLEY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military said Sunday that it blew up two boats accused of smuggling drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean, killing a total of five people and leaving one survivor, as the Trump administration pursues its campaign against alleged traffickers in Latin America while preparing a naval blockade of Iranian ports.

The attacks on Saturday bring the number of people who have been killed in boat strikes by the U.S. military to at least 168 since the Trump administration began targeting those it calls "narcoterrorists" in early September.

As with most of the military's statements on the dozens of strikes in the eastern Pacific and Caribbean Sea, U.S. Southern Command said it targeted the alleged drug traffickers along known smuggling routes. The military did not provide evidence that the vessel was ferrying drugs. Videos posted on X showed small boats moving across the water before they each were engulfed in a bright explosion.

U.S. Southern Command stated on X that it notified the U.S. Coast Guard to activate the search-and-rescue system for the survivor. The Coast Guard confirmed it was coordinating the search and said updates would be provided when available.

President Donald Trump has said the U.S. is in "armed conflict" with cartels in Latin America and has justified the attacks as a necessary escalation to stem the flow of drugs into the United States and fatal overdoses claiming American lives. But his administration has offered little evidence to support its claims

of killing “narcoterrorists.”

Critics have questioned the overall legality of the boat strikes as well as their effectiveness, in part because the fentanyl behind many fatal overdoses is typically trafficked to the U.S. over land from Mexico, where it is produced with chemicals imported from China and India.

The boat strikes have continued in Latin America even as the U.S. military has focused on operations in the Middle East, where the U.S. was engaged in a war with Iran for several weeks.

Trump on Sunday said the U.S. Navy would begin a blockade of ships entering or leaving the Strait of Hormuz, after U.S.-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement. Trump wants to weaken Iran’s key leverage in the war after demanding that it reopen the crucial waterway through which 20% of global oil normally passes. U.S. Central Command said the blockade would involve Iranian ports.

Swalwell suspends campaign for California governor after being accused of sexual assault

By BEN FINLEY and KATHLEEN RONAYNE Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell suspended his campaign for California governor on Sunday following sexual assault allegations that he continues to deny.

“I will fight the serious, false allegations that have been made — but that’s my fight, not a campaign’s,” Swalwell said in a social media post.

Democrats quickly abandoned him after allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman twice, including when she worked for him, were published Friday in the San Francisco Chronicle and later by CNN. The reports came as Swalwell began to emerge as a leader contender in the crowded race.

His exit from the race comes less than a month before ballots go out in advance of the June 2 primary and as Democrats have been engaged in a messy primary campaign. Swalwell’s Democratic rivals were among those who swiftly urged him to exit the race, but his support also cratered among allies in Congress and labor unions who had endorsed him.

Some Democrats also urged Swalwell to resign his seat in Congress, but he made no mention of that Sunday.

The 48-hour period marked a rapid reversal for a candidate who appeared to be gaining momentum in the packed field to replace Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who can’t seek a third term.

Though Swalwell has denied the allegations, he has seemingly referenced infidelity in multiple statements.

“To my family, staff, friends, and supporters, I am deeply sorry for mistakes in judgment I’ve made in my past,” he wrote. That followed a video post on Friday where he apologized to his wife.

Swalwell’s exit shakes up campaign

The accusations reordered a wide-open gubernatorial race that had Democrats fretting the party’s large number of candidates could lead to them getting shut out of the general election in November. That’s because California has a top-two primary system in which two candidates advance regardless of party.

Swalwell had become a clear target for his Democratic rivals as he began to lock up institutional support. Some had seized on rumors of sexual misconduct that circulated on social media for weeks before the Chronicle’s report.

His departure from the race will leave his rivals scrambling to win over his supporters and donors. Other prominent Democrats in the race include billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer and former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter. The major Republican contenders are former Fox News host Steve Hilton, who has Trump’s backing, and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco.

The San Francisco Chronicle spoke to a woman who alleged Swalwell sexually assaulted her in 2019, when she worked for him, and again in 2024. The woman said she did not go to police at the time of the assaults because she was afraid she would not be believed. In both cases the woman said she was too intoxicated to consent to sex. CNN reported on allegations that appeared to come from the same woman, and spoke to several other women who accused Swalwell of other sexual misconduct.

Neither outlet named the woman, and The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify

her account and identity. Her lawyer declined to comment.

The alleged 2024 incident occurred in New York, and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office said it's investigating. That office urged anyone with knowledge to contact its special victims division.

House colleagues call for Swalwell to resign

As Swalwell's campaign flailed over the weekend, fellow California Reps. Jared Huffman, Ro Khanna and Sam Liccardo said Swalwell should resign, as did Reps. Teresa Leger Fernández of New Mexico and Pramila Jayapal of Washington state.

"This is not a partisan issue," Jayapal said Sunday. "This cuts across party lines. And it is depravity of the way that women have been treated."

Some representative said they would support the rare step of expelling him should he refuse to step aside.

It all added to the mounting political pressure on Swalwell, which began with allies like Sen. Adam Schiff and Rep. Jimmy Gomez cutting their support. Gomez had helped run Swalwell's campaign and said he was immediately ending his role.

With the House returning to session Tuesday, the question of whether to expel Swalwell could come to a head quickly. Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., said Saturday that she would be filing a motion to start the process.

Expulsion votes in the House are rare and require a two-thirds majority, but there is recent precedent for taking the step. Republican George Santos of New York in 2023 became just the sixth member in House history to be ousted by colleagues for his conduct.

Huffman, Jayapal and Leger Fernández said they would vote to expel Swalwell from the House, though they said they also support expelling Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-Texas, who admitted to an affair with a former staff member who later died by suicide.

Swalwell, who is originally from Iowa, was elected in 2012 and represents a House district east of San Francisco. He launched a presidential run in April 2019 but shuttered it a few months later after failing to catch on with voters. He is perhaps best known nationally as a House manager in President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial during his first term in early 2021.

US military says it will blockade Iranian ports after ceasefire talks ended without agreement

By MUNIR AHMED, JOSH BOAK, SAM METZ, SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday the U.S. Navy would swiftly begin a blockade of ships entering or leaving the strategic Strait of Hormuz, after U.S.-Iran ceasefire talks in Pakistan ended without an agreement.

U.S. Central Command announced the blockade would involve all Iranian ports, beginning on Monday at 10 a.m. EDT, or 5:30 p.m. in Iran, to be "enforced impartially against vessels of all nations."

However, CENTCOM said it would still allow ships traveling between non-Iranian ports to transit the strait. Its announcement was a step down from the president's earlier threat to blockade the entire strait, and allows traffic to flow in the crucial waterway as long as it avoids Iranian ports.

Trump wants to weaken Iran's key leverage in the war after demanding that it reopen the strait to global traffic on the waterway where 20% of global oil transited before fighting began.

That traffic has been limited even in the days since the ceasefire. Marine trackers say over 40 commercial ships have crossed since the start of the ceasefire.

A U.S. blockade could further rattle global energy markets.

Oil prices rose in early market trading after the blockade announcement. The price of U.S. crude rose 8% to \$104.24 a barrel, and Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 7% to \$102.29. Brent crude cost roughly \$70 per barrel before the war in late February.

Later Sunday, Trump extended his feud over the war with Pope Leo XIV, lashing out in a TruthSocial post that called the Catholic leader "terrible on foreign policy." The extraordinary broadside came after

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Leo denounced the war and demanded that political leaders stop and negotiate peace.

Iran says 'if you fight, we will fight'

Iran's Revolutionary Guard later said the strait remained under Iran's "full control" and was open for non-military vessels, but military ones would get a "forceful response," two semi-official Iranian news agencies reported.

During the 21-hour talks this weekend in Pakistan, the U.S. military said two destroyers had transited the strait ahead of mine-clearing work, a first since the war began. Iran denied it.

Trump's plan to use the Navy to block the strait is unrealistic and he will have to concede on some issues with Iran, said Andreas Krieg, a senior lecturer in security studies at Kings College London. "There isn't any tool in the toolbox in terms of the military lever that he could use to get his way," Krieg said.

Trump said Tehran's nuclear ambitions were at the core of the talks' failure. In comments to Fox News, he again threatened to strike civilian infrastructure.

Iranian parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who led Iran's side in the talks, addressed Trump in a new statement on his return to Iran: "If you fight, we will fight."

No word on what happens after ceasefire expires

The face-to-face talks that ended early Sunday were the highest-level negotiations between the longtime rivals since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Neither indicated what will happen after the ceasefire expires on April 22.

"We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon," said Vice President JD Vance, leading the U.S. side.

Iranian negotiators could not agree to all U.S. "red lines," said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe positions on the record. These included Iran never obtaining a nuclear weapon, ending uranium enrichment, dismantling major enrichment facilities and allowing retrieval of its highly enriched uranium, along with opening the Strait of Hormuz and ending funding for Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthi rebels.

Iranian officials said talks fell apart over two or three key issues, blaming what they called U.S. overreach. Qalibaf, who noted progress in negotiations, said it was time for the United States "to decide whether it can gain our trust or not."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said his country will try to facilitate a new dialogue in the coming days. Iran said it was open to continuing dialogue, state-run IRNA news agency reported.

The European Union urged further diplomatic efforts. The foreign minister of Oman, located on the Strait of Hormuz's southern coast, called for parties to "make painful concessions." The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin "emphasized his readiness" to help bring about a diplomatic settlement in a call with Iran's president.

Iran's nuclear program is a key sticking point

Iran's nuclear program was at the center of tensions long before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28. The fighting has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,055 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and damaged infrastructure in half a dozen countries.

Tehran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but insists on its right to a civilian nuclear program. The landmark 2015 nuclear deal, which Trump later pulled the U.S. out of, took well over a year of negotiations. Experts say Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium, though not weapons-grade, is only a short technical step away.

An Iranian diplomatic official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of closed-door talks, denied that negotiations had failed over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Inside Iran, there was new exhaustion and anger after months of unrest that began with nationwide protests against economic issues and then political ones, followed by weeks of sheltering from U.S. and Israeli bombardment.

"We have never sought war. But if they try to win what they failed to win on the battlefield through talks, that's absolutely unacceptable," Mohammad Bagher Karami said in Tehran.

Elsewhere in the region, airstrikes calmed over the past day except in Lebanon.

More questions as Israel presses ahead in Lebanon

Iran's 10-point proposal for the talks called for a halt to Israeli strikes on the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israel has said the ceasefire did not apply there, but Iran and Pakistan said it did.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited parts of southern Lebanon under Israeli control on Sunday, for the first time since the current fighting. Attacks on southern Lebanon have intensified alongside the ground invasion renewed after Hezbollah launched rockets toward Israel in the war's opening days.

Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon are expected to begin Tuesday in Washington after Israel's surprise announcement authorizing talks despite their lack of official relations. Israel wants Lebanon to assume responsibility for disarming Hezbollah, but the militant group has survived efforts to curb its strength for decades.

The day the Iran ceasefire deal was announced, Israel pounded Beirut with airstrikes, killing more than 300 people, according to the Health Ministry.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported six people were killed Sunday in Maaroub village near the coastal city of Tyre.

What to know about Trump's tax breaks for tips and overtime when filing state tax returns

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

As the tax-filing deadline nears, millions of Americans are expected to claim new federal income tax breaks for tips and overtime wages available for the first time under a wide-ranging tax law enacted by President Donald Trump.

But many people won't get those same deductions when they fill out their state income tax forms. That is because it is up to each state to decide whether to match federal tax changes, and many have decided not to do so.

In states that don't conform to the federal tax changes, workers who receive a federal tax deduction for tips or overtime still will owe state taxes on those earnings.

The tax-filing deadline is Wednesday for the federal government and most states. Here is what to know about state income tax rates and deductions:

41 states tax wages and salaries

In most states, individuals must fill out two separate tax forms. First, the federal income tax form. Then a state income tax form. The order matters, because most states use figures from the federal tax form as the starting point for their state tax calculations.

No income tax is levied in eight states — Alaska, Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming. Washington state taxes income from capital gains but not wages and salaries. Missouri taxes income from wages and salaries but not capital gains.

Most states still tax tips and overtime wages

Only about a half-dozen states are mirroring Trump's law by offering tax breaks on tips and overtime wages or for loan interest on new vehicles assembled in the U.S.

All three of those tax deductions are available to state income taxpayers in Idaho, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota and Oregon. Colorado offers the tips and auto loan deductions but not the overtime tax break. Alabama offers only the auto loan deduction.

Laws in several states automatically apply federal tax changes to state income taxes unless the governor and lawmakers opt out — like Colorado officials did on the overtime tax deduction. But in most states, the tax breaks are available only if officials updated their state laws, like they did in Idaho.

Arizona is an oddity on tax deductions

State income tax forms in Arizona list tax deductions for tips, overtime, auto loans and older residents based on a November executive order from Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs. She assumed the Republican-led Legislature would later pass a bill putting the tax breaks into state law.

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But Arizona law remains unchanged. Hobbs vetoed two tax-break bills because she objected to provisions that also would have adopted Trump's corporate tax breaks. And lawmakers have not passed a third attempt.

"It's an extraordinarily unusual situation," said Adam Chodorow, a law professor at Arizona State University who specializes in tax law.

"We will likely have lots of people deducting tips" and overtime wages "who aren't legally entitled to do so," he said. "But they are being instructed by the state government to take those deductions."

It is possible that Arizona still could enact a law officially allowing the deductions; it could even be done retroactively, after the tax-filing deadline.

Tax breaks got scuttled in two states

Tipped workers and overtime earners almost got tax breaks this year in some additional states.

South Carolina extended its deadline to file for tax refunds to Oct. 15 to allow time for the Republican-led Legislature to opt in to the federal tax deductions. Legislation to do so passed the House but got defeated in the state Senate.

Wisconsin's Republican-led Legislature passed bills to allow the tips and overtime deductions. But Democratic Gov. Tony Evers vetoed them on April 3.

Residents in some states must wait for tax breaks

Officials in Indiana, Georgia and Michigan have passed legislation that would allow tax deductions for tips and overtime wages starting with the 2026 tax year. That means they aren't available for people currently filing their 2025 tax returns.

Oregon, meanwhile, is moving in the other direction. Legislation signed by Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek would stop offering the auto loan deduction and some corporate tax breaks for the 2026 tax year.

Other states could still opt in or out of the tax deductions for their 2026 taxes.

Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán is ejected after 16 years in a European electoral earthquake

By JUSTIN SPIKE and SAM McNEIL Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungarian voters on Sunday ousted long-serving Prime Minister Viktor Orbán after 16 years in power, rejecting the authoritarian policies and global far-right movement that he embodied in favor of a pro-European challenger in a bombshell election result with global repercussions.

It was a stunning blow for Orbán — a close ally of both U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin — who quickly conceded defeat after what he called a "painful" election result. U.S. Vice President JD Vance had made a visit to Hungary just days earlier, meant to help push Orbán over the finish line.

Election victor Péter Magyar, a former Orbán loyalist who campaigned against corruption and on everyday issues like health care and public transport, has pledged to rebuild Hungary's relationships with the European Union and NATO — ties that frayed under Orbán. European leaders quickly congratulated Magyar.

His victory was expected to transform political dynamics within the EU, where Orbán had upended the bloc by frequently vetoing key decisions, prompting concerns he sought to break it up from the inside.

It will also reverberate among far-right movements around the world, which have viewed Orbán as a beacon for how nationalist populism can be used to wage culture wars and leverage state power to undermine opponents.

It's not yet clear whether Magyar's Tisza party will have the two-thirds majority in parliament, which would give it the numbers needed for major changes in legislation. With 93% of the vote counted, it had more than 53% support to 37% for Orbán's governing Fidesz party and looked set to win 94 of Hungary's 106 voting districts.

"I congratulated the victorious party," Orbán told followers. "We are going to serve the Hungarian nation and our homeland from opposition."

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Jubilation erupted along the Danube

In a speech to tens of thousands of jubilant supporters at a victory party along the Danube River, Magyar said his voters had rewritten Hungarian history.

"Tonight, truth prevailed over lies. Today, we won because Hungarians didn't ask what their homeland could do for them — they asked what they could do for their homeland. You found the answer. And you followed through," he said.

On the streets of Budapest, drivers blared car horns and cranked up anti-government songs while people marching in the streets chanted and screamed.

Many revelers chanted "Ruszkik hazai!" or "Russians go home!" — a phrase used widely during Hungary's 1956 anti-Soviet revolution, and which had gained increasing currency amid Orbán's drift toward Moscow.

Turnout in the election was nearly 80%, according to the National Election Office, a record number in any vote in Hungary's post-Communist history.

'Choice between East or West'

Orbán, the EU's longest-serving leader and one of its biggest antagonists, traveled a long road from his early days as a liberal, anti-Soviet firebrand to the Russia-friendly nationalist admired today by the global far-right.

The EU will be waiting to see how Magyar changes Hungary's approach to Ukraine. Orbán repeatedly frustrated EU efforts to support the neighboring country in its war against Russia's full-scale invasion, while cultivating close ties to Putin and refusing to end Hungary's dependence on Russian energy imports.

Recent revelations have shown a top member of Orbán's government frequently shared the contents of EU discussions with Moscow, raising accusations that Hungary was acting on Russia's behalf within the bloc.

Members of Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement are among those who see Orbán's government and his Fidesz political party as shining examples of conservative, anti-globalist politics in action, while he is reviled by advocates of liberal democracy and the rule of law.

In Budapest, Marcell Mehringer, 21, said he was voting "primarily so that Hungary will finally be a so-called European country, and so that young people, and really everyone, will do their fundamental civic duty to unite this nation a bit and to breakdown these boundaries borne of hatred."

Strained relationship with the EU

During his 16 years as prime minister, Orbán launched harsh crackdowns on minority rights and media freedoms, subverted many of Hungary's institutions and been accused of siphoning large sums of money into the coffers of his allied business elite, an allegation he denies.

He also heavily strained Hungary's relationship with the EU. Although Hungary is one of the smaller EU countries, with a population of 9.5 million, Orbán has repeatedly used his veto to block decisions that require unanimity.

Most recently, he blocked a 90-billion euro (\$104 billion) EU loan to Ukraine, prompting his partners to accuse him of hijacking the critical aid.

His challenger came from the inside

Magyar, 45, rapidly rose to become Orbán's most serious challenger.

A former insider within Orbán's Fidesz, Magyar broke with the party in 2024 and quickly formed Tisza. Since then, he has toured Hungary relentlessly, holding rallies in settlements big and small in a campaign blitz that recently had him visiting up to six towns daily.

In an interview with The Associated Press earlier this month, Magyar said the election will be a "referendum" on whether Hungary continues on its drift toward Russia under Orbán, or can retake its place among the democratic societies of Europe.

Tisza is a member of the European People's Party, the mainstream, center-right political family with leaders governing 12 of the EU's 27 nations.

Uphill election battle

Magyar faced a tough fight. Orbán's control of Hungary's public media, which he has transformed into a mouthpiece for his party, and vast swaths of the private media market give him an advantage in spreading his message.

The unilateral transformation of Hungary's electoral system and gerrymandering of its 106 voting districts by Fidesz also required Tisza to gain an estimated 5% more votes than Orbán's party to achieve a simple majority.

Additionally, hundreds of thousands of ethnic Hungarians in neighboring countries had the right to vote in Hungarian elections and traditionally have voted overwhelmingly for Orbán's party.

Russian secret services have plotted to interfere and tip the election in Orbán's favor, according to numerous media reports including by The Washington Post. The prime minister, however, accused neighboring Ukraine, as well as Hungary's allies in the EU, of seeking to interfere in the vote to install a "pro-Ukraine" government.

Rory McIlroy goes back-to-back at the Masters to join Jack Nicklaus, Nick Faldo and Tiger Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Rory McIlroy is the Masters champion again, this time without falling to his knees on the 18th green and sobbing over finally achieving his lifelong dream.

That didn't make Sunday at Augusta National any easier.

McIlroy coughed up a six-shot lead in the third round. He fell two shots behind two players, Cameron Young and Justin Rose, in an electric final round. And then he delivered two big birdies around Amen Corner to join more elite company.

A year ago, his playoff victory over Rose made McIlroy only the sixth player with the career Grand Slam. With another green jacket, McIlroy joined Tiger Woods, Nick Faldo and Jack Nicklaus as the only repeat winners of the Masters.

"I thought it was so difficult to win last year because of trying to win the Masters and the Grand Slam, and then this year I realized it's just really difficult to win the Masters," McIlroy said after holding on for a one-shot victory over Scottie Scheffler. "Just incredible."

As usual, he kept everyone on edge until the very end.

His wedge barely cleared the false front of the par-5 15th, a shot that could have been disastrous. His putt from behind the 16th green made a sharp turn down the slope to inches away save par. He saved par with a tough chip on the 17th. Staked to a two-shot lead, his tee shot on the 18th wound up closer to the 10th fairway.

"I'd say walking off the 18th tee not knowing where my ball was, that was the moment of greatest stress," McIlroy said.

He drilled 8-iron around the trees into a bunker, blasted out to 12 feet and took two putts for bogey and a 1-under 71. He thrust both arms in the air and made good on a promise.

"My parting message last year was I can't wait to come back and put the jacket on myself," McIlroy said at the trophy presentation. "I wasn't quite correct."

For the first time since Woods won back-to-back in 2002, it was left to the Augusta National chairman — Hootie Johnson for Woods, Fred Ridley for McIlroy — to do the honors. "It still fits," McIlroy said.

Better than ever.

He now has six majors, tied with Faldo, Lee Trevino and Phil Mickelson. And that sense of freedom he brought back to Augusta National as a champion carried him to the finish line.

McIlroy seized control for good with a bold shot over Rae's Creek to 7 feet for birdie on the par-3 12th. Then he blistered a 350-yard drive on the par-5 13th — he had been in the trees the previous three rounds — that set up another birdie to move three shots ahead.

He finished at 12-under 276.

President Donald Trump congratulated McIlroy on social media as he flew back to Washington from Florida. "With each year, Rory is becoming more and more a LEGEND!" Trump wrote. McIlroy's next tournament is likely to be the Cadillac Championship in two weeks at Trump Doral outside Miami.

It was more heartache for Rose, and frustration for the others who had a chance.

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Rose had a two-shot lead that evaporated around Amen Corner with two bogeys and a three-putt par. He had to settle for a third close call at the Masters.

Young lost his two-shot lead much earlier with a long three-putt bogey on the par-3 sixth and taking bogey on the next hole when he hit wedge from the fairway into a bunker. One shot behind going to the back nine, Young closed with nine straight pars.

"There is no negative to take away other than obviously I would've loved a different result," Young said. "I pretty much had a birdie chance on every hole and didn't make any. That's how it goes sometimes."

As for Scheffler, the world's No. 1 player was in position to shatter the Masters record with the largest 36-hole comeback in history. He was 12 behind going into the weekend. He was two shots behind as he approached the turn. But he ran off 11 straight pars, and that wasn't going to cut it during a final round with accessible pins to create excitement.

Scheffler had to settle for his third runner-up finish in the majors to go along with four titles. His 65-68 weekend made him the first player since 1942 to go bogey-free on the weekend at Augusta.

"I put up a good fight in order to give myself a chance," Scheffler said.

Rose, at age 45 trying to become the second-oldest Masters champion behind Jack Nicklaus (46) in 1986, made a most improbable birdie with a shot out of the trees to a foot on the seventh. That was the start of three straight birdies to close out the front nine and give him the lead.

But his approach to the 11th was well to the right and he failed to save par. His tee shot on the 12th was long, and his delicate chip didn't reach the green, leading to another bogey. And his 30-foot eagle putt on the par-5 13th ran 8 feet by the hole and he missed the birdie putt.

"Chance that got away," Rose said. "I was by no means free and clear and was nowhere kind of close to having the job done, but I was right in position. ... I was playing great, but just momentum shifted for me around the Amen Corner."

That's where McIlroy thrived. No shot at Augusta is more terrifying than the par-3 12th with the deceptive, swirling wind. McIlroy said he thought back to a practice round at his first Masters in 2009 when Tom Watson told him to wait for the right wind and hit.

His three-quarter 9-iron aimed at the middle bunker drifted more to the right than he imagined, but it turned out perfect, closer than anyone all day.

"That was a really good golf shot at the right time," he said. "Huge shot in the tournament."

Once tormented by his chase for the green jacket, McIlroy is now a two-time winner whose love for the Masters only deepens.

He was so ecstatic a year ago that he asked the media when it was over, "What are we going to talk about next year?" Now the topic is easy. No one has ever won three in a row.

Oil prices rise after the US says it would block Iranian ports starting Monday

By MAE ANDERSON AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices rose in early market trading Sunday after the U.S. said it would blockade Iranian ports beginning Monday.

The price of U.S. crude oil rose 8% to \$104.24 a barrel and Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 7% to \$102.29.

Brent crude has swung dramatically during the Iran war, rising from roughly \$70 per barrel before the war in late February to more than \$119 at times. On Friday, ahead of the peace talks, Brent for June delivery fell 0.8% to \$95.20 per barrel.

Iran has been effectively controlling the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global oil shipping.

U.S. Central Command said the blockade would be "enforced impartially against vessels of all nations" entering or departing Iranian ports and coastal areas, including all Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

It said it would still allow ships traveling between non-Iranian ports to transit the Strait of Hormuz.

Around a fifth of the world's traded oil typically flows through the Strait of Hormuz every day. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iran are all major exporters.

Traffic in the strait has been limited even in the days since the ceasefire. Marine trackers say over 40 commercial ships have crossed since the start of the ceasefire.

Claudio Galimberti, chief economist of Rystad Energy, said the blockade will raise prices but might move the needle on talks.

"It means the oil markets will be even tighter than before," he said. "However, I think this is a negotiation tactic, which eventually resolves into a full opening of Hormuz. So, more pain now, but more gain later."

However, Jim Krane, Energy Research Fellow at Rice University, said the blockade might be effective as a long-term strategy to impose pain on the Iranian economy, but it isn't a good short-term negotiating tactic when the oil market is already under strain.

"If the deficit to the oil market takes another jump it is going to impose pain on every person on Earth that's subject to market oil prices," he said.

NASA already has next Artemis flight in its sights following astronauts' triumphant moon flyby

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Never-before-glimpsed views of the moon's far side. Check. Total solar eclipse gracing the lunar scene. Check. New distance record for humanity. Check.

With NASA's lunar comeback a galactic-sized smash thanks to Artemis II, the world is wondering: What's next? And how do you top that?

"To people all around the world who look up and dream about what is possible, the long wait is over," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said as he introduced Artemis II commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen at Saturday's jubilant homecoming celebration.

Now that the first lunar travelers in more than a half-century are safely back in Houston with their families, NASA has Artemis III in its sights.

"The next mission's right around the corner," entry flight director Rick Henfling observed following the crew's Pacific splashdown on Friday.

In a mission recently added to the docket for next year, Artemis III's yet-to-be -named astronauts will practice docking their Orion capsule with a lunar lander or two in orbit around Earth. Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin are racing to have their company's lander ready first.

Musk's Starship and Bezos' Blue Moon are vying for the all-important Artemis IV moon landing in 2028. Two astronauts will aim for the south polar region, the preferred location for Isaacman's envisioned \$20 billion to \$30 billion moon base. Vast amounts of ice are almost certainly hidden in permanently shadowed craters there — ice that could provide water and rocket fuel.

The docking mechanism for Artemis III's close-to-home trial run is already at Florida's Kennedy Space Center. The latest model Starship is close to launching on a test flight from South Texas, and a scaled-down version of Blue Moon will attempt a lunar landing later this year.

NASA promises to announce the Artemis III crew "soon." Like 1969's Apollo 9, Artemis III aims to reduce risk for the moon landings that follow.

Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickart loved flying the lunar module in low-Earth orbit — "a test pilot's dream." But there's no question, he noted, that "the real astronauts" at least in the public's mind were the ones who walked on the moon.

Wiseman and his crew put their passion and feelings on full display as they flew around the moon and back, choking up over lost loved ones as well as those left behind on Earth.

During their nearly 10-day journey, they tearfully requested that a fresh, bright lunar crater be named after Wiseman's late wife, Carroll, who died of cancer in 2020. They also openly shared their love for one another and Planet Earth, an exquisite yet delicate oasis in the black void that they said needs better care.

Artemis II included the first woman, the first person of color and the first non-U.S. citizen to fly to the

moon.

"Wonderful communicators, almost poets," Isaacman said from the recovery ship while awaiting their return.

Apollo's manly, all-business moon crews of the 1960s and 1970s certainly did not do group hugs.

For those old enough to remember Apollo, Artemis — Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology — couldn't come fast enough.

Author Andy Chaikin said he felt like Rip Van Winkle awakening from a nearly 54-year nap. His 1994 biography "A Man on the Moon" led to the HBO miniseries "From the Earth to the Moon."

"It's amazing how far we've come and how different this experience is from back then," Chaikin said from Johnson Space Center late last week.

The hardest part, according to NASA Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya, is becoming so close to the crews and their families and then blasting them to the moon. He anxiously monitored Friday's reentry alongside the astronauts' spouses and children.

"You know what's at stake," Kshatriya confided afterward. "It's going to take risk to explore, but you have to make sure you find the right line between being paralyzed by it and being able to manage it."

Calling it "mission complete" only after being reunited with his two daughters, Wiseman issued a rallying cry to the rows of blue-flight-suited astronauts at Saturday's celebration.

"It is time to go and be ready," he said, pointing at them, "because it takes courage. It takes determination, and you all are freaking going and we are going to be standing there supporting you every single step of the way in every possible way possible."

At least 100 dead in Nigeria after air force 'misfire' on market, sources say

By DYEPKAZAH SHIBAYAN and HARUNA UMAR Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — A Nigerian Air Force strike targeting jihadi rebels hit a local market in north-eastern Nigeria, killing over 100 civilians including children and injuring many others, a rights group and local media reported on Sunday. Officials confirmed a misfire without providing details.

Amnesty International cited survivors as saying that at least 100 people were killed in the airstrike on Saturday on a village in Yobe state, near the border with Borno state, which is the epicenter of the jihadi insurgency that has ravaged the region for over a decade.

"We have their pictures and they include children," Isa Sanusi, Amnesty International's Nigeria director, told The Associated Press, referring to the casualties.

"We are in touch with people that are there, we spoke with the hospital," he said. "We spoke with the person in charge of casualties, and we spoke with the victims."

A worker at the Geidam General hospital, in Yobe, said at least 23 people injured in the incident were receiving treatment. The worker spoke anonymously as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Such misfires are common in Nigeria, where the military often conducts air raids to battle armed groups who control vast forest enclaves. At least 500 civilians have died since 2017 in such misfires, according to an AP tally of reported deaths. Security analysts point to loopholes in intelligence gathering as well as insufficient coordination between ground troops, air assets and stakeholders.

The large, remote market located near the Borno-Yobe border is known to be often used by Boko Haram jihadis to buy food supplies.

Abdulummin Bulama, a member of a civilian security group working with the Nigerian military in the northeast, said there was intelligence that Boko Haram terrorists had gathered very close to the market and were planning an attack on nearby communities.

"The intel was shared and the Air Force jet acted based on the credible information," Bulama said.

The Yobe State Government confirmed in a statement that a Nigerian military strike was targeting a stronghold of the Boko Haram jihadi group in the area and that "some people ... who went to the Jilli weekly market were affected."

The Yobe State Emergency Management Agency also acknowledged that an incident had occurred resulting in "casualties affecting some marketers" and said it had dispatched response teams to the area.

Nigeria's military issued a statement saying it conducted a successful strike on a "terrorist enclave and logistics hub" belonging to jihadis in the area, killing scores of them as they rode on motorcycles. It did not provide any detail about a possible misfire, but noted that motorcycles remain prohibited in conflict hot spots and "any such movements in restricted areas are therefore treated with the utmost seriousness."

Amnesty International has called for an independent investigation into the incident, adding that the military is "fond of" labeling civilian casualties as bandits

Nigeria, which is Africa's most populous country, is battling a complex security crisis, especially in the north, where there is a decade-long insurgency and several armed groups that kidnap for ransom.

Among the most prominent Islamic militant groups are Boko Haram and its breakaway faction, which is affiliated with the Islamic State group and known as Islamic State West Africa Province. There is also the IS-linked Lakurawa group operating in communities in the northwestern part of the country that borders Niger Republic.

Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of violating Putin's Easter ceasefire

By DEREK GATOPOULOS and VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia and Ukraine accused each other of violating a Kremlin-declared Easter ceasefire Sunday, as Orthodox Christians gathered to celebrate the holiday despite Moscow's 4-year-long war against its neighbor.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday declared a 32-hour ceasefire over the Easter weekend, ordering Russian forces to halt hostilities from 4 p.m. on Saturday until the end of Sunday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy promised to abide by the ceasefire, but warned there would be a swift military response to any violations.

The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces said in a statement Sunday that it had recorded 2,299 ceasefire violations by 7 a.m., including assaults, shelling and small drone launches. It said that the use of long-range drones, missiles or guided bombs had not been reported.

A Ukrainian military officer told The Associated Press on Saturday that Russian forces had continued to attack their positions.

Russia's Defense Ministry also said Sunday it had recorded 1,971 ceasefire violations by Ukrainian forces, including drone strikes. The head of Russia's Belgorod region, Vyacheslav Gladkov, said Sunday that rescuers uncovered the bodies of two civilians who were killed in a Ukrainian attack on Saturday afternoon.

Ceasefire skepticism

Outside Kyiv, thousands gathered at an open-air national heritage park to celebrate Easter despite skepticism that a truce would hold.

Worshippers clustered outside wooden churches to take part in the annual blessing of baskets for the holiday table. Families carried dyed eggs and paska cakes baked the night before, while many women wore colorful scarves. Some waited for the blessing as others picnicked on the grass.

Irena Bulhakova expressed her doubts over prospects for peace, especially as previous attempts to secure ceasefires have had little or no impact. "Every time a ceasefire is announced for a holiday, the shelling continues regardless," she said.

But she still reflected on the holiday's meaning: "Good triumphs over darkness, and we hope for that very much."

Father Roman, a Ukrainian army chaplain who led the blessing ceremonies, described Easter as a moment of faith shared by Ukrainians in their identity and future.

"We are defending our borders. We are defending our identity," he said. "We are a free people who live on this territory. We have faith, deep traditions and historical heritage. It's all about the identity of

Ukrainians.”

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife Olena spent Sunday visiting children who has lost parents fighting in the war.

“They greeted us with smiles that are priceless. We must do everything so that the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for Ukraine never lose faith in the world,” Zelenskyy wrote in an online post.

‘The Super Mario Galaxy Movie’ rockets to \$629 million worldwide at the box office

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

“The Super Mario Galaxy Movie” enjoyed otherworldly success at the box office in its second weekend in theaters.

The Universal and Illumination sequel added \$69 million from 4,284 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, according to studio estimates Sunday. That brings its running domestic total to \$308.1 million and its global total to \$629 million.

That’s a 48% drop from the film’s first weekend in theaters, a fairly modest decline for a blockbuster. But the chasm between this movie and the first continues to grow. By its second weekend in 2023, “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” — which was much better reviewed than its follow-up — had earned over \$353 million domestically. Still, the sequel is an unabashed hit by any measure, having cost only \$110 million to produce.

Paul Dergarabedian, the head of marketplace trends for Comscore, said “it’s a very respectable” hold.

“For the film to already be over \$300 million is just astonishing,” Dergarabedian said, noting that the majority of tickets were likely sold at lower prices for children. “To get to these box office milestones is all the more impressive.”

The movie is also helping power up box office momentum before the summer movie season begins in May.

The weekend’s big new opener was also a Universal release: The travelogue romantic comedy “You, Me & Tuscan,” starring Halle Bailey and Regé-Jean Page of “Bridgerton” fame. It debuted in fourth place with an estimated \$8 million from 3,151 screens against a reported production budget of \$18 million. Women made up an overwhelming 80% of the audience.

Directed by Kat Coiro, the movie arrived in theaters with mixed to positive reviews. According to a review by The Associated Press, it’s “a movie as frothy and insubstantial as the foam on a nice cappuccino.” It currently holds a 68% critic score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Audiences seemed to enjoy it a bit more. According to PostTrak exit polls, 77% of ticket buyers said they would “definitely recommend” it to friends. It also got an A- on CinemaScore.

Jim Orr, Universal’s head of domestic distribution, said the audience reaction scores, “point to a very nice run at the box office.”

Second place at the box office this week went to Amazon MGM Studios’ “Project Hail Mary,” which is still drawing double-digit ticket sales in its fourth weekend. It added an estimated \$24.6 million from Friday to Sunday, bringing its domestic total to \$256.7 million. Worldwide, it has earned \$510.6 million.

“The Drama” took third place in its second weekend, with \$8.7 million. The buzzy A24 movie about an engaged couple played by Robert Pattinson and Zendaya fell only 38%, bringing its domestic total to \$30.8 million and its worldwide total to \$65 million.

Disney and Pixar’s “Hoppers” rounded out the top five in its sixth weekend with \$4.1 million. The animated movie has made \$354.4 million globally to date.

Another bright spot was the Japanese video game adaptation “Exit 8,” which made \$1.4 million from only 490 theaters and landed in seventh place. Directed by Genki Kawamura, the Neon-distributed film is sitting at 95% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Top 10 movies by domestic box office

With final domestic figures being released Monday, this list factors in the estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie," \$69 million.
2. "Project Hail Mary," \$24.6 million.
3. "The Drama," \$8.7 million.
4. "You, Me & Tuscany," \$8 million.
5. "Hoppers," \$4.1 million.
6. "Faces of Death," \$1.7 million.
7. "Exit 8," \$1.4 million.
8. "A Great Awakening," \$1.3 million.
9. "Reminders of Him," \$1 million.
10. "Ready or Not 2: Here I Come," \$867,000.

Iranians left disappointed but defiant after failure of peace talks with US

By The Associated Press undefined

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranians reacted with a mixture of disappointment and defiance on Sunday after peace talks with the United States failed to reach an agreement following hourslong negotiations.

U.S. officials said the talks collapsed over what they described as Iran's refusal to commit to abandoning its nuclear program. Iranian officials blamed the U.S. for failing to reach a deal, without specifying the sticking points.

The failure of the high-stakes talks in Pakistan after 21 hours casts doubt over the future of a fragile two-week ceasefire, due to expire on April 22.

While the fragile ceasefire seems to hold, the war is not over and uncertainty remains on the streets of Tehran where some residents were reluctant to speak to the media.

Iranians have been living in digital blackout for over a month after the internet was blocked shortly after the war started on Feb. 28. Since then, the population has been relying on state-controlled media, with a limited number of people having access to overseas satellite TV channels for access to information.

Standing outside a newsstand in the capital, Tehran, Farhad Simia told The Associated Press he had hoped for successful negotiations and an end to the fighting, but stood with Iran despite the failure of the talks.

"I'm against war. I think negotiation is the better path," Simia, 43, said. He blamed "inappropriate demands" by the U.S. for the failure to reach a deal.

Mehdi Hosseini, also 43, agreed: "Considering the advantage Iran seemed to have on the battlefield, there was a real concern that we might lose all those gains in the negotiations.

"Whether the talks succeed or not is one matter, but the fact that the Iranian negotiating team managed to preserve what it achieved in the war, while refusing to back down and surrender, gives reason for hope."

The streets of Tehran were lined up with large Iranian flags and giant billboards glorifying the country's leaders and military achievements. One large illustration depicted Iranian men in uniform lifting a fishing net out of the sea with a catch of miniature-sized U.S. military aircraft and warships. "The Strait Remains Closed," the billboard read.

Hamid Haghi, 55, said "America's overreach" was the reason for the talks' failure. The U.S. wants "to come to the Strait of Hormuz, which is a legacy from our fathers," he said. "We can oversee (it) ourselves."

Like many Iranians, 60-year-old Mohammad Bagher believes Iran should continue to stand strong against the U.S. in what he sees as a war of their own making.

"We are a nation of dialogue and negotiation as long as our interests are respected. We have never sought war," he said. "We will stand firm to the end, we are ready to sacrifice our lives, and will not give them one inch of our land."

Since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, it has killed at least 3,000 people in Iran, 2,020 in Lebanon, 23 in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states, and caused lasting damage to infrastructure in half a dozen Middle Eastern countries.

Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz has largely cut off the Persian Gulf and its oil and gas exports from

the global economy, sending energy prices soaring.

A 23-story hotel in exclusive Miami locale vanishes in seconds with implosion

MIAMI (AP) — A hotel at one of Miami's most exclusive locations was demolished Sunday to make way for something bigger.

Demolition experts completed the controlled implosion of the former Mandarin Oriental, Miami on Brickell Key, a human-made island at the mouth of the Miami River, across from downtown. It marked the largest implosion for Miami in more than a decade, officials said.

The 23-story building, which opened 25 years ago, collapsed in less than 20 seconds following blasts that occurred around 8:30 a.m.

People watching the implosion safely from afar cheered and recorded phone videos as the building's framework collapsed following a series of rapid charges. Dust soon filled the air as building material crashed down. Some watchers wore face masks as they left the area.

Residents within 800 feet (244 meters) of the building were asked to stay inside their apartments during the blast with windows and doors closed.

According to Swire Properties, the demolition will make way for the groundbreaking of The Residences at Mandarin Oriental, Miami, a two-tower ultraluxury hotel and residential development scheduled for completion in 2030.

The operation follows nearly two years of planning and coordination with specialized contractors and the city, developers said. Implosion was selected as the safest and most efficient method to maintain the project timeline while minimizing disruption and ensuring the safety of the Brickell Key community.

The implosion happened a couple of minutes after what looked and sounded like blue- and pink-tinted fireworks were set off near the top of the building.

Failed US-Iran talks in Pakistan raise questions about fragile ceasefire

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ceasefire talks between the U.S. and Iran ended in the early hours of Sunday without an agreement, raising questions about what happens when a current two-week truce expires on April 22.

As the talks wrapped up in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, both sides blamed each other for the failure.

There was no word on whether negotiations will resume, and President Donald Trump made new threats against Iran.

The setback does not necessarily mean the war will resume. But it showed how entrenched the sides remain after an inconclusive 40-day war that inflicted heavy damage on Iran, reverberated across the region and shook the global economy.

Negotiators will now return to their capitals and reconsider their next moves.

Here's a closer look at where things stand:

Views differ on how to end the war

When the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28, they pledged to eliminate Iran's nuclear and missile programs and its support for armed proxy groups across the region.

The U.S. has presented a 15-point plan that is believed to include these same demands. While the U.S. proposal hasn't been made public, Pakistani officials told The Associated Press that it also calls for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic waterway through which one-fifth of the world's oil flows. Iran's closure of the strait sent oil prices spiking and global markets plunging.

Iran has countered with a 10-point plan of its own. It calls for Iranian control over the strait, an end to the war and halting attacks on its proxies, including the powerful Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon as well as demands for compensation for the damage wrought by the war.

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Setback in Islamabad

Neither side appears to have budged much from its ceasefire terms during face-to-face talks over 21 hours.

Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, said that Iran had failed to give assurances that it will not seek to develop a nuclear weapon.

Iran has long denied seeking nuclear weapons but has insisted on a civilian nuclear program that includes uranium enrichment – a key step toward developing a weapon. Experts say that Iran's current stockpile of enriched uranium is just a short technical step from being weapons grade.

"We need to see an affirmative commitment that they will not seek a nuclear weapon and they will not seek the tools that would enable them to quickly achieve a nuclear weapon," Vance said.

Iran's chief negotiator, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, said the U.S. must decide "whether it can gain our trust or not."

He did not mention the core disputes in a series of social media posts. But other Iranian officials signaled that the Strait of Hormuz remains a key sticking point.

Mohammad Reza Aref, first vice president of Iran, said in a social media post that controlling the strait is part of the "rights of the people."

Next steps

Pakistan's foreign minister, Ishaq Dar, said his country will try to facilitate a new round of dialogue between Iran and the U.S. in the coming days. There was no immediate reaction from either side.

A key obstacle seems to be a perception on both sides that they won the war and that each has time on its side.

Vance said the lack of agreement is "bad news for Iran much more than it's bad for the United States of America."

And in a new social media post on Sunday, Trump said the U.S. Navy would impose a blockade controlling all access in and out of the Strait of Hormuz.

Qalibaf said Iran would not "stop striving to securing the achievements" of the war.

Danny Citrinowicz, a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, an Israeli think tank, said these conflicting visions don't bode well. In a post on X, he said Iran's perception of victory "is not the mindset of a regime preparing to compromise."

"This gap between American expectations and Iranian self-perception now lies at the heart of a growing strategic deadlock," he said.

Ali Vaez, Iran project director at the International Crisis Group think tank, said the Islamabad talks underscore the wide gaps but that he did not expect an immediate collapse.

"The likelier scenario is not immediate war, but a volatile period of pressure, signaling, and last-minute attempts to prevent a wider conflagration," he said. "The path forward, if there is one, lies in a limited, reciprocal deal that buys time and lowers the temperature."

Analysis: Trump declares victory, no matter what. The Iran war is the latest example of that

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the January 2004 pilot of "The Apprentice," Donald Trump said something he would never admit now.

"It wasn't always so easy," he said in a voice-over, noting that by the late 1980s, "I was seriously in trouble" and "billions of dollars in debt."

It is one of the few times Trump has ever publicly acknowledged failure. Even then, he was reading a script meant to promote an against-the-odds credentials for viewers — previewing the combative charisma that propelled a political career a decade later.

In his telling now, Trump never loses.

Even when he clearly has been defeated — as he was in the 2020 election — Trump declares victory so

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often that his supporters believe him. He knows the power of repetition.

"The world for him is divided into winners and losers. And he's always a winner," said John Bolton, who was one of Trump's national security advisers during his first term.

The Supreme Court strikes down his signature tariffs? Trump vows to work around the court, ensuring import taxes can be "used in a much more powerful and obnoxious way."

His Justice Department stops appealing court rulings blocking executive orders aimed at punishing big law firms, then reverses course and renews those legal fights after coverage of the non-appeals looks like an admission of defeat.

One of the president's sons, Eric, said his father "has never needed to project a 'winning image.' He IS the definition of a winner, based on what he has built and accomplished."

But for the Republican president, the stakes for winning have never been greater than the war with Iran where he declared victory within days. He has repeated that assertion constantly even as Tehran continued to strike U.S. and allied targets and choke off the Strait of Hormuz, spreading economic pain around the globe.

With a ceasefire now in place, Trump is saying the United States has accomplished its goals. But reality does not substantiate that.

"Whether or not things are going well, that's not going to detour him from declaring victory. That's baked in the cake," Bolton said.

'That was the messaging strategy'

Sarah Matthews, a former first-term Trump White House deputy press secretary who resigned when a mob of Trump supporters rioted at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, said the president's "ego won't allow him to acknowledge defeat."

"That was the messaging strategy," Matthews said of her time at the White House. "It was, 'How can we redefine this loss as a victory?'"

Current White House spokesman Davis Ingle countered that Trump "proudly projects the unmatched greatness of our country consistently in his public comments."

Trump's framing of setbacks as wins can be traced to his early days as a real estate developer. In 1973, federal authorities sued Trump and his father, alleging racial discrimination in renting apartments their company built in Brooklyn and Queens, two New York City boroughs.

The Trumps were urged to countersue by Roy Cohn, the notorious attorney who rose to fame as an aggressive promoter of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's "red scare" hearings of the 1950s.

The case was settled after both sides signed an agreement two years later, prohibiting the Trumps from "discriminating against any person." Trump declared victory, noting that there had been no admission of guilt, despite the Justice Department calling the settlement "one of the most far-reaching ever negotiated."

David Cay Johnston, author of "The Making of Donald Trump," said Cohn "taught Donald, you never concede as much as a comma."

"Whatever position you've taken, that's the position and anybody who challenges you, they're wrong. They're disgusting. They're incompetent. They're idiotic," Johnston said.

Bankruptcies didn't dent Trump's image

Through the years, Trump consistently lost money in his business ventures, launching failed lines of namesake products that included steaks, bottled water, vodka, a magazine, an airline, a home mortgage concern and online classes known at Trump University.

Barbara Res, who worked for the future president for nearly two decades, remembers him pitting top executives against one another to ensure he remained his company's most powerful voice, even as losses mounted.

Those experiences informed today's Trump, she said, where "nothing is wrong to him, if it helps him."

Robert Thompson, a Syracuse University professor of television and popular culture, said the success of "The Apprentice" was built on earlier factors. Those included the hubris built into the title of Trump's 1987 book, "The Art of the Deal," as well as his aggressive courting of media attention and obsession with

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naming buildings after himself.

"When you need someone to quickly and efficiently represent 'American Rich Guy,' Trump has kind of cast himself in that position and everybody goes along with it," said Thompson, who added, that, once that occurred, "the actual ups and down of his portfolio doesn't matter that much."

After his three casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, failed, Trump insisted to The Associated Press in 2016 that "Atlantic City was a great period for me."

'You make your own reality'

After he lost the 2016 Republican Iowa caucus, Trump posted that Texas Sen. Ted Cruz "illegally stole it." Trump went on to win the presidency but lose the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton that November, and said he had actually captured that, too, "if you deduct millions of people who voted illegally."

Russell Muirhead, a professor at Dartmouth College who has written about Trump's chaotic governing style, said Trump has been at the practice long enough "to live in a world where you make your own reality."

Even the way Trump plays golf means racking up wins — at least at his own properties, where he boasts of many club championships and no second-place finishes.

Trump says he has won 38 times at his golf clubs. That includes a 2018 tournament in West Palm Beach, Florida, where he did not play and only claimed victory after topping the winner in a subsequent match. Trump also claimed the same course's senior championship in 2023, despite missing the event's first round, instead listing a score shot on the same course earlier.

Johnston said Trump "has this fictional narrative in his head" and is "like a screenwriter. When you need to change the narrative, you just change it."

Lessons learned in '70s have made the US and world economies less vulnerable to oil shocks

By PAUL WISEMAN and YURI KAGEYAMA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The world economy is experiencing a disorienting flashback to the 1970s.

Oil prices are once again surging in the wake of war in the Middle East, driving up the cost of gasoline, diesel and jet fuel and threatening a return to stagflation — the toxic mix of higher prices and slower growth that made economic life so miserable a half century ago.

But the U.S. and world economies are less vulnerable now than they were when Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern petroleum producers withheld oil supplies to punish countries that supported Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

In response to that shock — and another triggered six years later by the Iranian revolution — countries embarked on a new course to increase their energy efficiency, reduce their dependence on Middle Eastern oil, stockpile fuel against future threats, and find and develop alternative sources of energy.

"We have decades of experience now dealing with these kinds of oil shocks," said Amy Myers Jaffe, research professor at New York University's Center for Global Affairs.

Of course, the notion that the current Iran energy shock could have been worse is little comfort to frustrated American motorists paying \$4 or more for a gallon of gasoline, to European farmers contending with skyrocketing fertilizer prices and to street vendors in India who can't get enough gas to cook curries and samosas for their customers.

And the sheer scale is unprecedented. In response to attacks by the United States and Israel that began Feb. 28, Iran effectively shut off the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 million barrels of oil — or one-fifth of global production — flowed daily.

Lutz Kilian, director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Center for Energy and the Economy, figures that 5 million daily barrels can either be rerouted from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea or continue to transit through the Strait of Hormuz. But that still means that roughly 15 million barrels — or 15% — of daily global oil production is missing, with just 6% in the 1973 embargo and after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Cushioning the blow

Changes the U.S. and other countries made over the past five decades have limited the economic fallout

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from the war. In 1973, oil accounted for almost half — 46% — of world energy supplies. By 2023, oil's share had fallen to 30%, according to the International Energy Agency.

The world still uses more oil than ever: Consumption topped 100 million barrels a day last year, up from fewer than 60 million barrels a day in 1973. But a much bigger share of global energy is coming from other sources — such as natural gas, nuclear, solar — compared with five decades ago.

The United States, in particular, has weaned itself away from dependence on foreign oil.

When the '73 oil shock hit, America's domestic energy production was in decline and its reliance on oil imports was growing alarmingly. But the rise of fracking -- pumping high-pressure water deep underground to extract previously hard-to-get oil or gas from rock -- rejuvenated U.S. energy production in the 21st century. By 2019, America had become a net petroleum exporter.

"The U.S. economy is much better positioned than it was in the 1970s," when it was "particularly vulnerable to an oil price shock," said Sam Ori, executive director of the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute.

In the early '70s, for example, the United States got about 20% of its electricity from oil, Ori said. But a law enacted in 1978 prohibited the use of petroleum in power plants. Now the United States gets no electricity from oil — aside from a few generators in, say, the far reaches of Alaska.

Dimming the lights

The 1973 oil embargo was a wake-up call, creating shortages that led to long lines at U.S. gasoline stations.

On Nov. 25, 1973, President Richard Nixon went on television to ask the American people to make sacrifices. To conserve fuel, he urged gasoline stations to shut their pumps from Saturday night through Sunday, hoping to discourage long-distance weekend driving.

He asked Congress to lower the maximum speed limit to 50 miles an hour (lawmakers settled for 55 miles an hour) and to ban ornamental and most commercial lighting (they balked at that). Nixon himself promised to dim the White House Christmas lights.

But while those memories may have left a lasting imprint on some, Jaffe of New York University's Center for Global Affairs says that today, "a repeat of long gasoline lines, fuel rationing, and outright fuel shortages in the U.S seems highly unlikely."

Other countries took aggressive action following the 1973 oil embargo as well.

The United Kingdom, contending with a coal strike as well as the energy crisis, cut the work week to three days to slash electricity consumption. France ordered offices to turn off the lights at night.

Japan, almost entirely dependent on imported oil, passed a series of "sho-ene" laws — combining the Japanese words for "save" or "reduce" with "energy" — mandating energy efficiency in shipping, buildings, machinery, automobiles and homes.

Japan also encouraged the use of liquefied natural and gas and the rapid growth of nuclear power, an effort set back after a 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the Fukushima nuclear plant. Overall, Japan ranks No. 21 in the world in per capita energy consumption, according to International Energy Agency data, as a result of its efficiency drive and widespread use of buses and trains. The United States is No. 9.

More fuel efficient cars, new oil fields

The U.S. government began imposing fuel economy standards in 1975. Fuel economy has risen from 13.1 miles per gallon for model year 1975 vehicles to 27.1 mpg in model year 2023, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The World Bank, in fact, attributes most of the drop in the global economy's dependence on oil to stricter fuel efficiency requirements for vehicles around the world.

The '70s shocks also set off a search for oil outside the Middle East — Prudhoe Bay in Alaska, the North Sea fields off the coasts of the United Kingdom and Norway and Canada's oil sands deposits.

As fracking boomed, U.S. oil production shot up from 5 million barrels a day in 2008 to 13.6 million barrels a day last year. Over the same period, U.S. natural gas production has more than doubled.

Countries also began stockpiling oil and set up the Paris-based International Energy Agency in 1975 to coordinate responses to energy shocks. Last month, the agency's 32 member countries agreed to release 400 million barrels of oil in an effort to calm the oil market; included were 172 million barrels from the U.S.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve, set up in 1975.

Central banks such as the Federal Reserve also learned lessons. In the '70s, they reduced interest rates to protect the economy from the oil shocks. In so doing, they overlooked the threat posed by higher energy costs — and inflation, already elevated, got worse.

In a Feb. 17 commentary — 11 days before the United States and Israel attacked Iran — the Dallas Fed's Kilian wrote that the Fed erred in cutting rates to boost the economy when the 1970s oil shocks hit: "What we can learn from the 1970s is that a well-intentioned policy of stimulating the economy by lowering interest rates has the potential of inadvertently reigniting inflation."

Trump undoes efforts to reduce oil dependence

While much has changed, the University of Chicago's Ori cautions: "Oil is still king, the No. 1 fuel in the U.S. economy." Cars, planes, trucks and ships get about 90% of their delivered energy from petroleum. "The lifeblood of the economy — the transportation sector — is still overwhelmingly reliant on petroleum fuel, the price of which is set in a global market," Ori said, "and a disruption anywhere affects the price everywhere."

He also notes that President Donald Trump is undoing many of the policies meant to reduce America's dependence on petroleum and to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

Trump's sweeping tax bill last year ended consumer credits of up to \$7,500 for EV purchases. He has announced a proposal to weaken U.S. fuel economy standards and repealed fines on automakers that don't meet those standards.

"You take all that together, and the fact is, the U.S. is going in the opposite direction of making big changes to further insulate the economy from oil shocks and oil price volatility," Ori said.

Union Berlin makes history with Marie-Louise Eta as first woman to lead a Bundesliga men's team

By CIARÁN FAHEY AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Union Berlin has appointed Marie-Louise Eta as the first female head coach in the men's Bundesliga as it bids to ensure its league survival.

She becomes the first woman to take charge of a men's team across the top divisions of Europe's "big five" soccer leagues.

The 34-year-old Eta takes over from Steffen Baumgart, who was fired late Saturday with his assistants Danilo de Souza and Kevin McKenna after the team's 3-1 loss at last-place Heidenheim, Union announced just before midnight.

Eta, who was coaching Union's Under-19 men's team and agreed earlier this month to take over as coach of Union's women's team next season, has five games to secure the Köpenick-based club's Bundesliga survival.

"Staying in the Bundesliga is not yet guaranteed given the point-differences in the lower half of the table. I'm happy that the club entrusts me with this challenging task," Eta told the club website. "One of Union's strengths has always been our ability to pull together in such situations. And of course I'm convinced that we'll get the decisive points with the team."

Eta already made history with Union in 2023 as the first female assistant coach in the Bundesliga and across the top divisions of the "big five" leagues. She had to step in for media duties for head coach Nenad Bjelica when he was suspended for three games in 2024.

"I'm delighted that Marie Louise Eta has agreed to take on this role on an interim basis before she becomes head coach of the women's first team as planned in the summer," Union sporting director Horst Heldt said in a statement.

Baumgart, a former Union player, was appointed during the 2024-25 winter break but Heldt said recent results prompted the club to take drastic action.

"We've had a completely disappointing second half of the season so far and we're not letting the table fool us — our situation remains precarious and we desperately need points to secure our place in the league."

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Defeat in Heidenheim left Union in 11th place in the 18-team division, just seven points clear of St. Pauli in the relegation zone with five rounds remaining.

"Two wins out of 14 games since the winter break and the performances shown in recent weeks do not give us the confidence that we can turn things around with the current setup. We have therefore decided to make a fresh start," Heldt said.

Union next hosts Wolfsburg, which is also fighting for survival, next weekend.

Today in History: April 13, Tiger Woods wins first Masters by record margin

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2026. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 13, 1997, Tiger Woods, at age 21, became the youngest golfer to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, finishing a record 12 strokes ahead of Tom Kite.

Also on this date:

In 1743, Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces in the first battle of the Civil War.

In 1873, members of the pro-white, paramilitary White League attacked Black state militia members defending a courthouse in Colfax, Louisiana; three white men and as many as 150 Black men were killed in what is known as the Colfax Massacre, one of the worst acts of Reconstruction-era violence.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington on the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birth.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer to win an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1999, right-to-die advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian was sentenced in Pontiac, Michigan, to 10 to 25 years in prison for second-degree murder for administering a lethal injection to a patient with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. (Kevorkian ultimately served eight years before being paroled.)

In 2005, a defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Alabama and Georgia. (He received multiple life sentences without the possibility of parole.)

In 2009, at his second trial, music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actor Lana Clarkson. (Later sentenced to 19 years to life, Spector died in prison in January 2021.)

In 2011, a federal jury in San Francisco convicted baseball slugger Barry Bonds of a single charge of obstruction of justice but failed to reach a verdict on three counts at the heart of allegations that he knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone and lied to a grand jury about it. (Bonds' obstruction conviction was overturned in 2015.)

In 2016, the Golden State Warriors became the NBA's first 73-win team by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104, breaking the 72-win record set by the Chicago Bulls in 1996.

In 2017, Pentagon officials said U.S. forces struck a tunnel complex of the Islamic State group in eastern Afghanistan with the GBU-43/B MOAB "mother of all bombs," the largest non-nuclear weapon ever used in combat by the military.

In 2023, FBI agents arrested Massachusetts Air National Guard member Jack Teixeira in a case involving the most consequential national security leak in years. (Teixeira admitted that he shared highly classified military documents about the war in Ukraine on the social media platform Discord and was sentenced in federal court in 2024 to 15 years in prison; he also received a dishonorable discharge at a court-martial in 2025.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Al Green is 80. Actor Ron Perlman is 76. Singer Peabo Bryson is 75. Bandleader-

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drummer Max Weinberg is 75. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 63. Golf Hall of Famer Davis Love III is 62. Actor-comedian Caroline Rhea is 62. Actor Rick Schroder is 56. Actor Glenn Howerton is 50. Actor Kelli Giddish is 46. Singer-rapper Ty Dolla \$ign is 44. Actor Allison Williams is 38. Actor Filip Geljo is 24. Actor Dylan Conrique is 22.