



Ceasefire lifts veil on scale of Lebanon destruction



ZOHRA BENSEMRA PHOTOS, REUTERS

A displaced girl stands at the broken window of Jabal Amel hospital Tuesday. She and her family have taken shelter at the hospital in Tyre, southern Lebanon.

**JIHED ABIDELLAOUI
AND ZOHRA BENSEMRA**
Reuters

TYRE — In the dimly lit hospital room where he has lived for months, Youssef Fares broke down in tears as he spoke of his home in the historic southern Lebanese city of Tyre — now a pile of rubble and rebar after Israeli strikes during a three-month war.

An interim agreement between Iran and the United States has brought relative calm to Lebanon — but it has also revealed the full scale of destruction wreaked by Israel's air campaign, which it said was aimed at armed group Hezbollah.

Fighting erupted on March 2, when Hezbollah fired at Israel in support of Iran, drawing Lebanon into the regional war. Israel responded with air strikes and a ground invasion occupied parts of south Lebanon.

Fares fled to the Jabal Amel University Hospital in Tyre after his home was destroyed by Israeli strikes. When he returned to see the remains after the latest ceasefire agreement, the sight overwhelmed him.

"You couldn't even look at a single room. It was dark from the soot," he said. "It was a beautiful house. Honestly, the most



ZOHRA BENSEMRA, REUTERS

A view of buildings damaged by Israeli strikes, seen Tuesday in front of Jabal Amel Hospital in Tyre, southern Lebanon.

beautiful house was my house in Tyre."

The war has displaced 1.2 million people across Lebanon and many — including Fares — are unable to return home, either because their villages lie in ruins or remain under Israeli control.

Lifetime of war, displacement

Fares is among at least 350 people still living at the Jabal Amel

University Hospital, alongside staff members and their families, according to its director Dr. Wael Mroueh.

Even the hospital has not been spared. Despite its protected status as a medical facility, it bears the marks of the violence that has scarred southern Lebanon. Earlier this month, an airstrike hit a nearby building, blasting a hole into one of the hospital's walls.

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Trump pulls spy chief nominee

USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump accused Democrats of breaking a deal over his nominees and abruptly said he was pulling his pick to become the country's spy chief, leaving a contentious figure in the slot while the future of a key intelligence law remains in limbo.

The dispute focuses on Trump's successor for Tulsi Gabbard, who announced her resignation in May as director of national intelligence. Trump chose Bill Pulte, who was head of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, to succeed her temporarily, but Pulte faced bipartisan criticism for his lack of experience in intelligence.

Trump then nominated Jay Clayton, who is U.S. attorney for the southern district of New York, to succeed Gabbard. Clayton has won bipartisan praise for his experience, and his confirmation hearing was scheduled for June 17 at 2 p.m.

Trump said he would cancel the Senate hearing. But Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, said on social media about 10 a.m. that Clayton remained the pending nominee and the hearing would proceed "unless the president directs him not to appear or withdraws his nomination."

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, has said he had "great respect" for Clayton.

"What we're witnessing is an extraordinary display of dysfunction from a president who seems determined to turn America's national security into a political bargaining chip," Warner said on social media June 17. "National security cannot be governed by social media post."

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Pima County GOP claims possible bias

HOWARD FISCHER
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — Pima County Republican officials told a federal judge Tuesday that he should void some state election rules about people in uniforms in polling places because they could be used to deny the right to vote to law enforcement officers and military members.

They contend this appears to be intentional because these groups tend to support Republicans over Democrats.

There's also a claim that the language of the Elections Procedures Manual is so vague that it could allow county election officials to remove GOP observers from polling places. That, one GOP official argued, could lead to other kinds of mischief.

But the main thrust of the arguments before Judge Michael Liburdi is the contention that the rules are written in a way to give county election officials too much leeway in deciding who can cast a ballot and who can be removed from polling places.

A provision in the Elections Procedures Manual prohibits conduct that intimidates people going to vote.

Included among those the manual says can be removed is someone "impersonating a law enforcement officer." That is not being challenged.

But Jeff Clark, former chair of the Pima County Republican Party, said the ban extends to those "otherwise wearing clothing, uniforms or official-looking apparel intended to deter, intimidate, or harass voters." The manual also says that, depending on context, "may be considered intimidating conduct inside or near a polling place."

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AMERICA250

Time capsule has items from every state

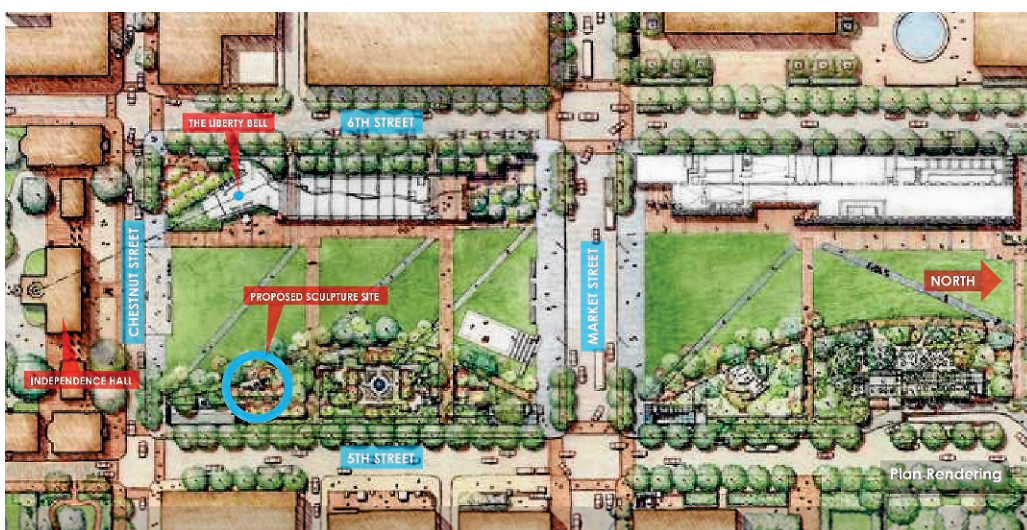
SWASTI SINGHAI
USA TODAY

"America's Time Capsule" has been officially sealed in commemoration of the United States' 250th birthday.

The 900-pound steel cylinder contains over 200 artifacts, records and objects to tell America's story when it is opened 250 years later.

The capsule will be buried in Philadelphia on July 4 as part of the hundreds of events for America's 250th anniversary that will take place nationwide.

America250, the official nonpartisan commission designated by Congress to organize the July 4 celebrations, spearheaded the work to design the capsule and collect relics. All 50 states in conjunction with numerous national organizations contributed items (ranging from a vial of sand to an Olympic



PROVIDED BY AMERICA 250

America's Time Capsule will be buried at Independence Mall in Philadelphia on July 4.

gold medal) reflecting the people, places and moments that shaped their history.

California contributed a NASA photo, an AI prediction and a fusion

superconductor segment. Arizona contributed a copper ingot and a laser-etched challenge coin. Maine contributed a whale bone and a woven bookmark. And

Utah contributed tickets to their amusement parks and George Washington's prayer medal.

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