



## Wi-Hi advances to 2A state semifinals

SPORTS, 1B

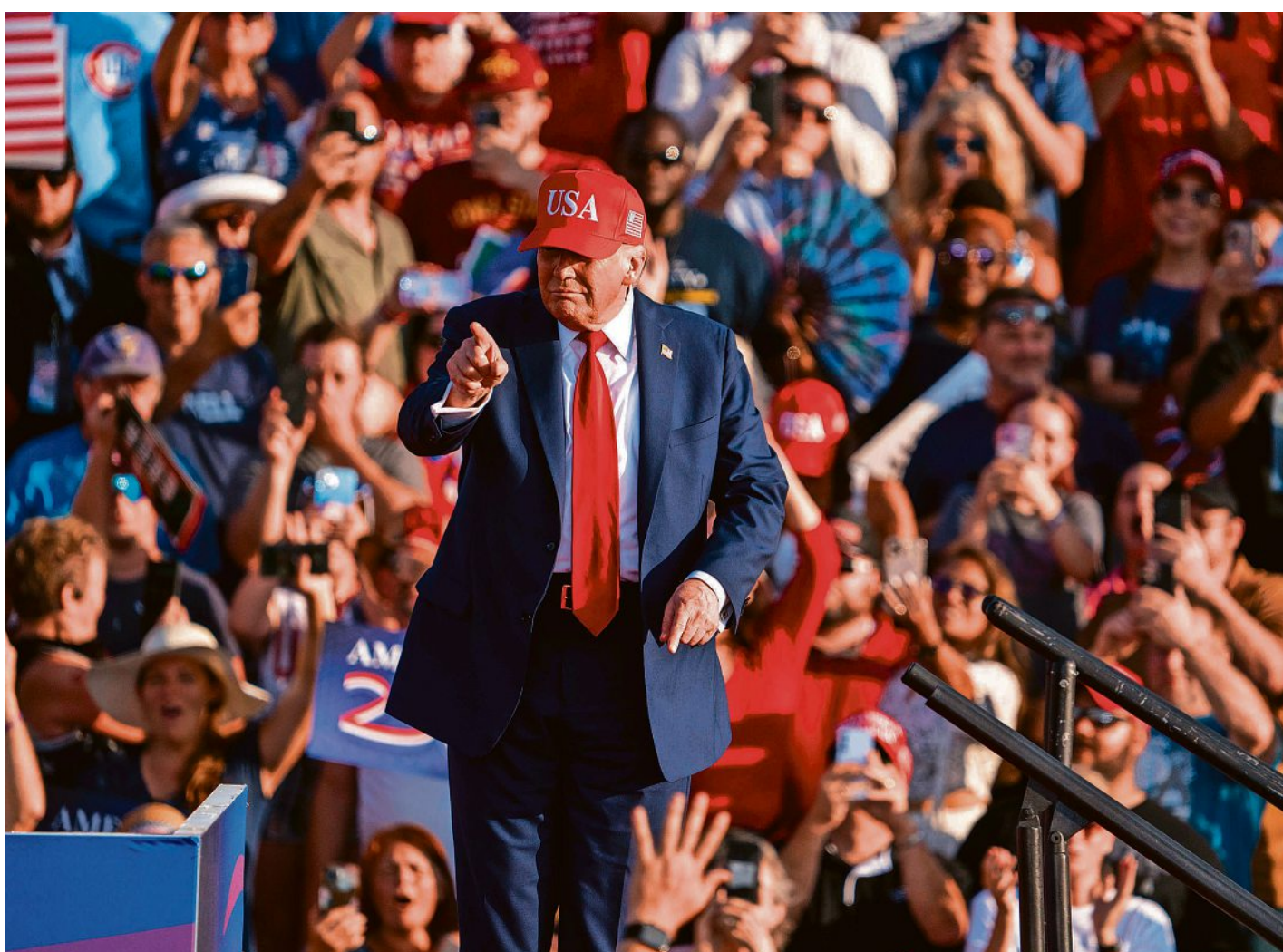
# THE DAILY TIMES

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AMERICA250

## Lower Shore takes part in Liberty Tree Project



President Donald Trump takes the stage during the America250 kickoff event on July 3, 2025, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. CODY SCANLAN/THE DES MOINES REGISTER FILE

### Project involves planting seedlings from historic MD tree

**Olivia Minzola**  
Salisbury Daily Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - DELMARVA

A project honoring the 250th anniversary of America's independence is taking root across the state of Maryland.

The Maryland Liberty Tree Project is a statewide initiative that aims to foster historical understanding, environmental stewardship and civic engagement.

Using seedlings grown from the only surviving genetically identical Liberty Tree scion in the United States, the project will plant a direct descendant of Maryland's original 1775 Liberty Tree in each of the state's 23 counties and Baltimore City by the end of 2026.

Five regional events will serve as anchor celebrations. The project's kickoff



The Calvin B. Taylor House Museum in downtown Berlin is the Worcester County site where Liberty Trees will be planted. JOE LAMBERTI/SALISBURY DAILY TIMES

See LIBERTY TREE, Page 2A

## Noem appointed as special envoy

**Francesca Chambers**  
USA TODAY

DORAL, Florida – Former Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem made her debut March 7 as the president's special envoy for the Shield of the Americas – a new position that President Donald Trump moved her into after demoting her last week.

Noem will serve as the administration's liaison to the coalition of like-minded Latin American nations that the Trump administration says it created to combat narco-trafficking and solidify U.S. primacy in the Western Hemisphere.



Trump officially launched the coalition, which includes countries such as El Salvador and Panama, on March 7 at an invite-only summit at his Doral golf club near Miami. Leaders of participating nations, including El Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, attended the all-day gathering led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, a former Florida senator and prominent Cuban American who's fluent in Spanish.

Rubio has quickly amassed power inside the second Trump administration, serving in dual roles as Trump's national security adviser and chief diplomat, as the positions of other early advisers like Noem have been diminished.

Trump said in a March 5 social media post that he was tapping Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin to lead the Department of Homeland Security.

### Architect of Trump strategy

Trump ousted his first national security adviser, Michael Waltz, the current United Nations ambassador, and replaced him with Rubio last May. The temporary arrangement that came with a White House office has effectively become permanent.

Rubio is widely seen as the architect of Trump's strategy for engaging with the Western Hemisphere and played a leading role in the administration's ouster and arrest of the president of Venezuela.

As a special envoy, an ambassador-like position, Noem ranks below him. The special envoy role nominally

See NOEM, Page 2A

## Human trafficking probe underway at Thai Spa

### Business closes after warrant executed

**Keith Demko**  
Salisbury Daily Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK - DELMARVA

The Salisbury Police Department is investigating information about potential human trafficking involving the Salisbury business Thai Spa, the de-

partment reported on Facebook. Here's what to know.

### FBI joins in search and seizure

During February, the Salisbury Police Department received information regarding potential human trafficking activity, involving prostitution, associated with the Thai Spa, located at 2505 N. Salisbury Blvd.

On March 4, the Salisbury Police De-

partment's Criminal Investigation Division, in coordination with the FBI and the City of Salisbury's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD), executed a search and seizure warrant at the business as part of an ongoing investigation.

Following the execution of the warrant, the business is currently closed. The investigation remains ongoing.

This investigation received direct support from the Maryland Criminal In-

telligence Network. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy provides grant funding and strategic support to MCIN member sites to identify, disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations through interagency collaboration and data sharing.

If you or someone you know has information regarding similar activity, contact the Salisbury Police Department at 410-548-3165 or anonymously through Crime Solvers at 410-548-1776.

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