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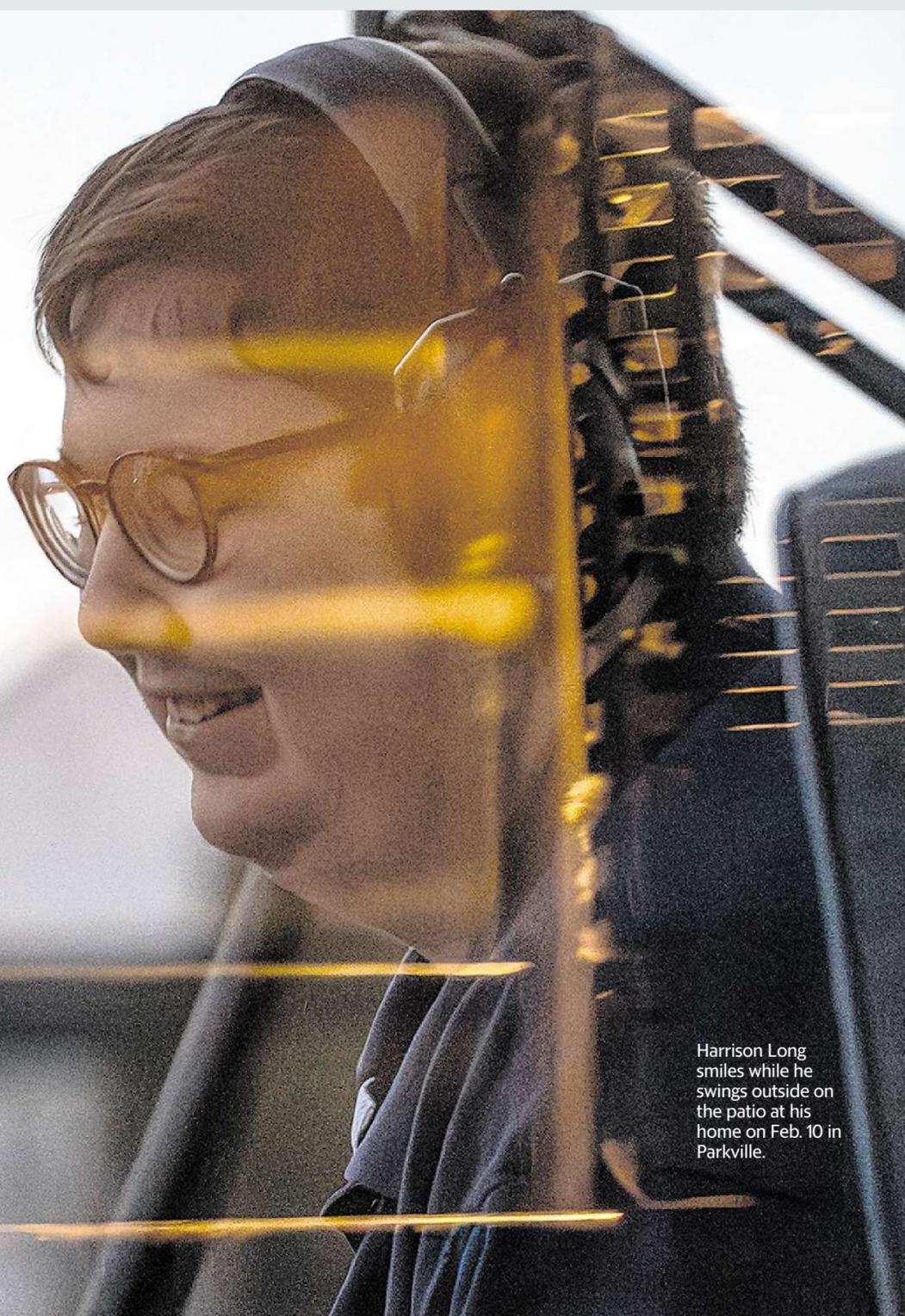
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Harrison Long smiles while he swings outside on the patio at his home on Feb. 10 in Parkville.

EMILY CURIEL ecuriel@kcstar.com

US and Israel strike Iran, Trump calls for Iran's overthrow

BY AARON BOXERMAN, TYLER PAGER, FARNAZ FASSIHI AND RONEN BERGMAN
NYT News Service

The United States and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday in a major assault that threatened a broader regional conflict, with President Donald Trump vowing to devastate the country's military, eliminate its nuclear program and bring about a change in its government.

Waves of large explosions shook the Iranian capital, Tehran, starting around 9 a.m. local time (1 a.m. in Washington), and witnesses described chaos in the streets as people rushed to seek shelter, find loved ones or flee the city. Israel's military said it had, in part, targeted a gathering of senior Iranian officials in the opening strikes.

Satellite imagery showed a plume of smoke and extensive damage at the high-security compound of Ayatollah Ali Kha-

menei, Iran's supreme leader. Though the status of Iran's leadership was not immediately known, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told NBC News that Khamenei and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian were still alive "as far as I know."

Trump had threatened an attack for weeks, saying earlier that he was considering limited strikes to compel Iran to accept U.S. terms for a deal restricting its nuclear program. Instead, he

launched a much more ambitious venture that analysts call more perilous.

The president said in a video posted to Truth Social on Saturday that in addition to targeting Iran's nuclear program, the United States would "raze their missile industry to the ground," "annihilate their navy" and enable the overthrow of the regime, arguing that Iran had refused to reach a deal that would have averted war.

Dozens of U.S. strikes were

carried out by attack planes from bases and aircraft carriers around the Middle East, with officials saying the initial focus was Iranian military assets. Israel's military said it was also bombing dozens of sites across the country.

Araghchi promised that Iran's army "will teach aggressors the lesson they deserve." He added that by attacking Iran, Trump was serving the interests of Israel - Iran's main regional rival - rather than the United States.

In retaliation, Iran fired waves of ballistic missiles at Israel, prompting booms as Israeli air defenses sought to repel them. The United Arab Emirates,

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