



Nepal continues search for survivors

NEWS, 9A

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Ryleigh Queen dances with a princess during MAKE ‘m SMILE North Carolina 2026 August 29 at CaroMont Health Park.
PHOTOS BY MIKE HENSILL/GASTON GAZETTE

SMILES SHINE AT CAROMONT HEALTH PARK

Mike Hensdill
Gaston Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

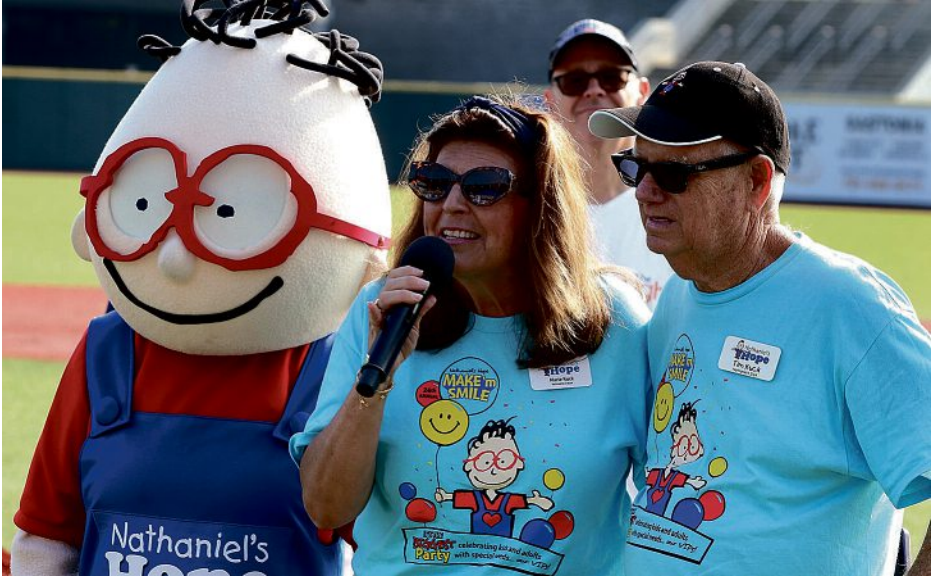
Laughter echoed across the ballpark, high-fives were plentiful and smiles seemed to stretch from one end of the field to the other. Nathaniel’s Hope’s Make ‘m Smile NC 2026 transformed CaroMont Health Park into a celebration of inclusion, community and joy. Take a look at scenes from the day through these photos.



Christian bowls during MAKE ‘m SMILE North Carolina 2026.



Hudson meets Spiderman during MAKE ‘m SMILE North Carolina 2026.



Marie and Jim Kuck welcome everyone to MAKE ‘m SMILE North Carolina 2026 at CaroMont Health Park.

Iran still desires a negotiated end to war

Hostilities resume as U.S. hits Iranian island

Eman Abouhassira and Phil Stewart
REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran is still seeking a negotiated solution to its conflict with the United States, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Aug. 31, a day after the two countries resumed hostilities for the first time since late July, driving oil prices up more than 3.5%.
Pezeshkian’s comments also came after President Donald Trump posted an AI-generated video clip that he said showed Iran’s oil hub Kharg Island being destroyed. There was no evidence of any such attack, and a U.S. official said on Aug. 31 the military had not targeted Kharg Island in overnight strikes. An Iranian official dismissed Trump’s post as “laughable.”
U.S. forces on Aug. 30 struck two Iranian launchers on Iran’s Larak Island, some 410 miles east of Kharg, a U.S. official said, prompting Iran to strike two U.S. bases in Jordan, according to Iranian media.
Two people were killed and others were injured in the attack on Larak

See IRAN, Page 2A

White House set to host oil company executives

Trump has accused refiners of gouging consumers

Jarrett Renshaw
REUTERS

President Donald Trump has accused U.S. oil refiners of gouging Americans, called for a Justice Department investigation, and urged companies to use their bumper earnings to bring down gasoline prices that spiked amid the ongoing conflict with Iran.
On Sept. 1, he is expected to host many of those companies at the White House to celebrate efforts to keep the market well supplied in hopes of managing gasoline prices currently averaging over \$4 a gallon.
The timing has created an unusual calculation for executives. Companies received invitations only late last week, with few details about the event or even who else would attend, according to people familiar with the plans, leaving some to consider whether sending their CEOs could turn a traditional White House meeting into an uncomfortable encounter with an unpredictable president.
“You want to be at the table, but you also have to think about what could

See OIL EXECS, Page 2A

