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# Times News



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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today's puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

## Rural hospitals close in increasing numbers



Activists protest cuts to Medicaid, in 2025 in Washington, D.C. Federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are a critical revenue source for rural hospitals, which tend to serve large numbers of Medicaid patients.

TASOS KATOPODIS/GETTY IMAGES FOR PEOPLE'S ACTION INSTITUTE

## Closures have domino effect on communities, residents

**Shayann Ramedani**  
and **Daniel R. George**

Penn State  
THE CONVERSATION

Some Pennsylvania hospitals are being pushed beyond the brink of closure.

Taylor Hospital in Ridley Park closed in April 2025, Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland closed in May 2025, and Heritage Valley Kennedy Hospital, formerly the Ohio Valley Hospital, in Kennedy Township closed in June 2025.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable.

The UNC Sheps Center, which tracks rural hospital infrastructure in the United States, has documented 195 rural hospitals that have closed or converted



A 2022 study found that when a rural hospital closes, hospitals nearby see a measurable spike in inpatient admissions and emergency room visits that can cause significant financial strain. GETTY IMAGES

See **HOSPITALS**, Page 3A

## NASCAR drive Kyle Busch dies in N.C. after illness

**Joyce Orlando**  
Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Famed NASCAR driver Kyle Busch died unexpectedly in Charlotte on May 21. He was 41.

Busch was rushed to a hospital in Charlotte with an unknown illness before dying on Thursday, May 21, according to reports from NASCAR. One of the most decorated drivers in NASCAR history, Busch was expected to compete this weekend at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Busch's family reported that the driver had been rushed to the hospital and wouldn't compete.

Reports indicated that Busch had been sick in recent weeks and was overheard radioing for the track doctor during a race at Watkins Glen in New York on May 10.

His sudden death has hit his family and friends, those in the NASCAR world and fans.



**Busch**

### Family, NASCAR reacts to Kyle Busch's sudden death

The Busch family, Richard Childress Racing and NASCAR made the following joint statement: "On behalf of the Busch family, everyone at Richard Childress Racing and all of NASCAR, we are devastated to announce the sudden and tragic passing of Kyle Busch.

"Our entire NASCAR family is heartbroken by the loss of Kyle Busch. A future Hall of Famer, Kyle was a rare talent, one who comes along once in a generation. He was fierce, he was passionate, he was immensely skilled and he cared deeply about the sport and fans. Throughout a career that spanned more than two decades, Kyle set records in national series wins, won championships at NASCAR's highest level and fostered the next generation of drivers as an owner in the Truck Series. His sharp wit and competitive spirit sparked a deep emotional connection with race fans of every age, creating the proud and loyal 'Rowdy

See **BUSCH**, Page 3A

## Iran's Hormuz moves leave sailors stranded

**Imad Creidi**  
REUTERS

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia - Iran's publication of a new map asserting its control over the Strait of Hormuz risks extending an already punishing ordeal for thousands of mariners trapped on ships in the Gulf.

Over 20,000 sailors are stuck on around 2,000 vessels in the Gulf, many of them unable to leave ship, lacking adequate supplies of food and fresh water,

and fearful of an uncertain future at sea in a war zone. Sailors interviewed in recent weeks have described the hardships and anxieties of their experience, and a federation representing them warns of dire conditions.

"The only thing we do here is plan how to spend the night and pray to God that we do not get hit during an attack," Indian sailor Salman Siddiqui said by phone from his stranded ship last month.

When Reuters traveled on a resupply

boat to vessels moored off the Saudi coast, sailors on a tanker gathered by the handrail to wave, a rare moment of contact with the outside world.

For nearly three months, the sailors trapped in the Gulf have led isolated lives, each with a small group of shipmates, moving between tiny living quarters, communal dining areas and scorching, sun-baked decks.

Tehran closed the strait, a global oil

See **SAILORS**, Page 7A



Persian Gulf states are making some efforts to assist sailors, who are stuck on vessels in the Gulf, by facilitating supplies and crew transfers.

MOHAMMED BENMANSOUR/REUTERS

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