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Tuesday, May 26, 2026

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

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Memorial Day ceremony honors fallen

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK
Daily Sun editor

A crowd gathered at Evergreen Home Cemetery on Monday to remember the fallen as part of Memorial Day ceremonies at the Beatrice cemetery.

"We honor and we give you thanks for the bravery of men and women who all gave their amazing freedom, so that we could all have a safe life," said chaplain Sharon Schuster during the invocation.

Cally Ideus gave the address. She is an Army veteran of the 9/11 Task Force who was deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Saudia Arabia during Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as the wife and mother of service members.


"When the winds of the Great Plains sweep across these grounds, they brush past the many markers noting the names and lives of these past patriots, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation in the cause of freedom," she said. "Each stone represents a universe of potential. Each stone marks a story of profound courage."

"Their earthly ranks no longer matter. They are united forever by the highest title any citizen can hold: defender of the republic."

Ideus also spoke about those who served in another way.

"You will see that many of these markers bear two names. This reminds us of a crucial, undeniable truth: The family serves right alongside the soldier," she said. "Today, we must elevate the memory of the military spouse. They are the unseen sentinels of our national defense. When a service member deploys, the spouse is left to fight a different kind of battle on the home front. They are the ones who endure the sleepless nights, who celebrate birthdays and holidays through video screens,

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 **VIEW:** To see more photos from Monday's ceremony at Evergreen Home Cemetery, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link. **NEWSVU**



ROB SCHLOTTERBECK, DAILY SUN

Members of the American Legion Riders form the flag line during Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice.

FIDDLE FESTIVAL

A WAY TO SPREAD JOY



CHRISTINA LYONS, DAILY SUN

Caleb Klingenberg (right) plays his fiddle in the Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival on Saturday. His dad, Brett, accompanied him on the guitar.

Celebrating fiddle music as important part of national story

CHRISTINA LYONS
Daily Sun staff writer

The Homestead National Historical Park hosted the Tallgrass Prairie Fiddle Festival for the 29th year on Saturday.

From a stage in the Education Center, contestants entertained guests sitting under the shade or inside the building with their talents.

Amber Kirkendall, park ranger, said this year they were remembering not only how important fiddle music was to homesteaders, but also the development of the

United States.

"The fiddle was an instrument that was around even before the American Revolution," she said. "We all know 'Yankee Doodle.' And it was used in the homestead era. It's neat and it shows the continuity of history, that the fiddle makes people feel less alone. We can remember all of that with this festival, and we can reflect on how it's a part of the national story, as well."

Kirkendall talked about Sam Freeman, son of Daniel, the first homesteader under the Homestead

Act. Sam walked to the school during the Children's Blizzard with bread, butter and his fiddle. He played through the night.

She noted that every performer shares a little bit about their performance.

"Just to hear the different years that these songs were made and where they're from and just how history literally comes alive with it," Kirkendall said.

She said the event would not be possible without the Coffin Family

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Countries discuss potential Iran deal

MICHAEL MARTINA AND ELWELY ELWELY
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran's top negotiator and its foreign minister were in Doha for talks with Qatar's prime minister on a potential deal with the U.S. to end the 3-month-old war, an official briefed on the visit said Monday, after Washington and Tehran played down hopes for an imminent breakthrough.

In a lengthy social media post Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump said talks with Iran were going "nicely" but warned of fresh attacks if they failed. It "will only be a Great Deal for all, or no Deal at all," he wrote.

The official briefed on the Iranians' Doha visit told Reuters the discussions were focused primarily on the Strait of Hormuz and Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium, while the country's central bank governor is also part of the delegation to discuss the potential release of frozen Iranian oil revenues as part of a final deal.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said nuclear issues would only be negotiated on if the framework accord is agreed first.

Explosions were heard in Iran's Bandar Abbas city and coastal areas near the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian media reported Monday, adding the cause was unknown. Tasnim said three explosions were heard in Bandar Abbas, while Fars said similar sounds were heard close to Sirik and Jask near the strategic waterway.

Earlier, Iran said it downed a "hostile" stealth drone using a new air defense system, Iranian news agencies reported, without saying where it came from.

Trump said his key aim in the war is to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon with its highly enriched uranium. Tehran consistently denied it has plans to do that.

The two sides remain at odds on several other issues, such as Israel's war in

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