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# Omaha World-Herald

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

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## State mourns soldier killed in Kuwait

Flags fly at half-staff; Bellevue sergeant recalled as intelligent, hardworking

**JOSH REYES, LUNA STEPHENS, DAN CRISLER AND GRACE LEWIS**  
 World-Herald Staff Writers

The day after a Bellevue Army Reserve soldier was identified as one of six killed in a retaliatory drone attack in Kuwait, flags throughout Nebraska flew at half-staff as the state mourned the loss.

Gov. Jim Pillen ordered the flags lowered to honor Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, who was killed Sunday amid the joint U.S.-Israeli military operation against Iran. Tietjens, 42, was



**Tietjens**

assigned to the 103rd Sustainment Command in Des Moines.

Tietjens joined the military after graduating from Bellevue West High School in 2001, the Bellevue Public Schools said in a statement.

“Bellevue Public Schools extends our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones affected by the recent loss of a member of our military community. Our thoughts are with the family during this incredibly difficult time,” the school district said.

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**CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD**

Flags are at half-staff at Bellevue West High School on Wednesday. Gov. Jim Pillen ordered that flags across the state be flown at half-staff to honor Sgt. 1st Class Noah Tietjens, who was killed Sunday in Kuwait amid the joint U.S.-Israeli military operation against Iran.

## US says sub sank Iranian warship

Tempo of strikes intensifies; Senate GOP votes down war powers resolution

**JON GAMBRELL, ELENA BECATOROS AND SAMY MAGDY**  
 Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean, as Washington and Israel intensified their bombardment Wednesday of Iran’s security forces and other symbols of power. As the war expanded yet again, Tehran warned of the destruction of the Middle East’s military and economic infrastructure.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that state television announced that the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in the conflict, would be postponed. Millions attended the funeral of his predecessor, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in 1989.

In addition to striking Tehran on the fifth day of the conflict, Israel hit the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, while Iran fired on Bahrain, Kuwait and Israel. As the conflict spiraled, Turkey said NATO defenses intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Iran before it entered Turkey’s airspace.

Meanwhile, Senate Republicans voted down an effort Wednesday to halt President Donald Trump’s war against Iran, demonstrating early support for a conflict that has rapidly spread across the Middle East with no clear U.S. exit strategy.

The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed 47-53.

The war has killed more than 1,000 people in Iran, more than 50 in Lebanon and about a dozen in Israel, according to officials in those countries. It has disrupted the supply of the world’s oil and gas, snarled international shipping, and stranded hundreds of thousands of travelers in the Middle East.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said a torpedo from a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean on Tuesday night.

Sri Lankan authorities said 32 people were rescued from the ship, which they said had 180 people on board and sank outside Sri Lanka’s territorial waters. The country’s navy said it recovered 87

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**CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD**

Ahmad Nazar, owner of Ahmad’s Persian Cuisine in Dundee, said Iranians weren’t happy with the government and wanted to overthrow the strict religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed Saturday in U.S.-Israeli military operations.

## Iranians living in Omaha are watching with hope

But UNO history professor urges caution as military operations continue

**MARJIE DUCEY**  
 World-Herald Staff Writer

While two Iranians living in Omaha are thrilled about events unfolding in their country, UNO adjunct professor James Clark urges caution.

It’s important to remember that Iran is a polarized nation, he said. So although some people are dancing with joy at the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in recent military action by Israel and the United States, other opinions may differ.

“I don’t deny there are people who are happy, but there are a lot of people who mourn the passing or death of Khamenei,” said Clark, a member of the University of Nebraska at Omaha history department. “They also support the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

The U.S. and Israel began strikes Saturday aimed at Iran’s military, intelligence and nuclear facilities. Khamenei, who had ruled as supreme leader since 1989, was



**Clark**

killed along with several top security officials.

As Iran responds and the conflict spreads in the Middle East, President Donald Trump says Operation Epic Fury could continue for weeks.

The Iranian student, who asked not to use her name to protect her status in the United States, said everyone she knows is celebrating the military operation.

“We feel like this is more of a rescue mission rather than a war,” she said.

Ahmad Nazar, the owner of Ahmad’s Persian Cuisine in Dundee, said it’s about time. He said Iranians weren’t happy with the government and wanted to overthrow the strict religious leader.

“They couldn’t do it themselves,” he said, referring to citizens of the country. “They needed help from outside, and they got it.”

For years, the student said, the people in Iran have lived under

social restrictions and economic pressure that affected their daily lives. Thousands died protesting the current regime, which she referred to as “occupiers.”

The killing and imprisonment of protesters and the government’s support of Russia in the war against Ukraine, Houthis in Yemen, and Hezbollah are why many people are happy that Khamenei is dead, the student said.

She’s seen videos of parents who, instead of mourning, are dancing on the graves of their children who were killed in protests to show their anger and opposition toward the regime.

“People were begging Trump to do something,” she said. “When he said help was on the way, people trusted him and went into the street to protest. We are looking forward to when the people can finally take the lead in our country.”

The student said no one she knows has been able to reach family back home as the conflict there has grown. That is continuing

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**“They (Iranians) couldn’t do it themselves. They needed help from outside, and they got it.”**

Ahmad Nazar, owner of Ahmad’s Persian Cuisine in Dundee

### Cannabis legislation

A bill to give Medical Cannabis Commission more authority advances in Legislature.

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### Tip off to title

The girls state basketball tournament opened Wednesday in Lincoln. **Sports**

### Weather

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