



Area wrestlers win sectionals

SPORTS, 11A

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A plume of smoke rises after a strike on Tehran, Iran, on March 3. Secretary of State Marco Rubio predicted “the hardest hits are yet to come” against Iran. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Drone strikes hit the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia

U.S. personnel, citizens told to leave region

Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmgard and Michael Collins
USA TODAY

The United States ordered non-emergency government personnel and their family members to leave Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Jordan and closed several diplomatic missions across the Middle East on March 3 as the war with Iran escalated.

The move came as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, was hit by two

drones in an attack that sparked a “limited fire and minor material damage to the building,” a Saudi Defense Ministry spokesperson announced on the Ministry’s X account.

The U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia issued a “security alert” recommending Americans to “shelter in place immediately and avoid the Embassy until further notice.”

On March 2, the State Department urged American citizens across 16 countries in the Middle East to immediately depart the region using “available commercial transportation” without offer-

ing any U.S.-government-vouched means. The U.S. embassy in Jerusalem in a statement said it was unable to offer assistance to Americans trying to leave.

Reuters reported March 2 that detainee advocates said Iran is detaining at least six U.S. citizens or permanent residents, raising fears they and thousands of Americans believed trapped in the country could be used as bargaining chips in the war.

U.S. and Israeli military forces attacked Iran on Feb. 28, killing top Iranian officials and prompting retaliation against Israel and missile attacks

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Supreme Court blocks NY map change

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court on March 2 agreed to a Republican request to intervene in the battle over the boundaries of a New York congressional district, blocking a ruling that would have given Democrats a chance to flip the seat. The court’s three liberal justices dissented from the unsigned and brief decision.

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, R-New York, and others asked the high court to let New York use its existing congressional map for the fall 2026 election even though a state court said the map unlawfully diluted the voting power of Black and Latino residents. The emergency request was backed by the Trump administration, which has pushed red states to rejigger maps to improve Republicans’ chances of keeping control of Congress and has opposed blue states’ efforts to counterpunch.

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New York Gov. Kathy Hochul condemned the decision to take the New York redistricting case to the Supreme Court before the legal dispute made it through state courts.
MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

Springtime weather often volatile, requires awareness

Doyle Rice
USA TODAY

Tornadoes. Thunderstorms. Floods. Wind. Hail. Wildfires. Temperature swings.

Hello again, meteorological spring,

which began March 1 and runs through May.

The warmer weather likely sounds nice, but a wide range of dangers – many of them surprising or underestimated – come with the rising temperatures.

“Spring is one of the most volatile seasons across the United States because it is a true transitional period,” said AccuWeather meteorologist Brandon Buckingham in an email to USA TODAY.

The transition from cold air to warm

air often brings storms, tornadoes and floods that can devastate areas.

“During spring, lingering cold air from winter frequently clashes with strengthening warmth and moisture

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