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ACC BASEBALL SPORTS, B1

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THE ROANOKE TIMES

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WASHINGTON

Gabbard will vacate post

Source: Trump pushed intelligence director out over disagreements

JONATHAN LANDAY AND ERIN BANCO
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Tulsi Gabbard said Friday she will resign from her job as President Donald Trump's director of national intelligence, saying her husband was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and she will leave her role to help him.

Gabbard advised Trump of her intention to step down during an Oval Office meeting Friday, Fox News Digital reported earlier. The resignation is effective June 30, it said.

In her resignation letter posted on social media, Gabbard told Trump she was "deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the opportunity to lead the Office of the Director of National

Intelligence for the last year and a half."

She cited her husband Abraham Williams' recent diagnosis of bone cancer.

"I cannot in good conscience ask him to face this fight alone while I continue in this demanding and time-consuming post," she said.

Trump said on social media



Gabbard

National Security Council during Trump's first term. Trump said Gabbard did "a

that Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence Aaron Lukas would become acting director. Lukas is a former CIA officer and analyst who served on the

great job" but with her husband's cancer diagnosis, "she, rightfully, wants to be with him, bringing him back to good health as they currently fight a tough battle together."

A source familiar with the matter said that Gabbard was forced out by the White House. The White House did not respond to a request for comment, but Davis

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The BrightSide

Glimpse of rare blooms

Rocky Mount preserve gives public access to Piedmont fameflower

JASON DUNOVANT
The Roanoke Times

ROCKY MOUNT — Bald Knob Natural Area Preserve officially opened to the public Friday, giving visitors the opportunity to walk through a unique habitat of exposed rocks as well as catch a glimpse of globally rare flower hidden among the wildlife.

Multiple local officials and state representatives were in attendance for the unveiling ceremony Friday, held along the recently constructed stone parking lot the serves as the access point of the 1.2-mile loop trail overlooking the many stone surfaces that jut out around the meadow.

The Rocky Mount preserve, managed by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, was created to



JASON DUNOVANT, THE ROANOKE TIMES

Leslie Starke, acting director for the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, points out one of the rare Piedmont fameflowers found along the Bald Knob Natural Area Preserve during a public access unveiling on Friday.

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Gas prices jump in Va.

Up 5 cents per gallon in state as Memorial Day travel begins

MICHAEL MARTZ
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — Gasoline prices jumped by an average of more than 5 cents per gallon in Virginia on Friday, hovering near \$4.50 a gallon in Richmond and other busy parts of the state as Memorial Day holiday travel begins.

The average price of regular unleaded gasoline topped \$4.50 a gallon in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads and Fredericksburg, according to AAA Virginia. The average price in the Harrisonburg area rose to \$4.499 cents per gallon, while the cost of filling up ranged from almost \$4.45 a gallon in Richmond to more than \$4.46 a gallon in Charlottesville and Winchester.

"They have climbed again just on the cusp of our holiday season," AAA spokesman Morgan Dean said on Friday.

Nationally, the price of regular unleaded gasoline averaged \$4.55 a gallon on Friday, down a penny from the previous day, but still at its highest level since inflation peaked in mid-2022 as the

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VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Civil rights veterans see loss

DONNA BRYSON
Reuters

SELMA, Alabama — Betty Strong Boynton marched into history as a teenager in the 1960s, when she was among the hundreds of peaceful protesters attacked by club-wielding Alabama state troopers on Bloody

Sunday — a day that marked a turning point in the struggle for civil rights.

Decades later, at 77, Boynton retraced the route of the historic Selma-to-Montgomery march and joined a protest against Alabama's plans to eliminate one of two seats in Congress held by

Black politicians through rushed redistricting drives ahead of the November midterm elections.

Such efforts by Republican-led southern states — Alabama as well as Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee — follow a Supreme Court ruling last month that gutted key provisions of the

Voting Rights Act.

In the wake of that decision, Reuters visited Selma, the city most associated with the Voting Rights Act, and spoke to three veterans of the civil rights era who described feeling a deep

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