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Noah Lindsay of Owensboro holds his 4-month-old miniature dachshund Kaiya in Combest Pool on Sunday during Owensboro Parks & Recreation's 19th annual "Gone to the Dogs" event.

HAVING A BALL

Families rejoice at 'Gone to the Dogs'

BY FREDDIE BOURNE
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Cool temperatures and sunny skies arrived just in time this weekend as Owensboro Parks & Recreation celebrated the 19th annual "Gone to the Dogs" event — bringing owners and their canines together to take a Sunday evening swim at Combest Pool.

"It's always to celebrate the end of the pool season. We let 'man's best friend' enjoy our swimming pool," said Kerry Bodenheimer, recreation superintendent. "It's a crowd pleaser. It's a community favorite. It's a staff favorite."

For Owensboro's Kelly O'Connor, who was one of the earliest arrivals waiting to check-in



Kelly O'Connor of Owensboro asks her dogs — 7-year-old terrier mix Maddie, from left, and 11-year-old Plott hound mix Nema — to sit on the dog raft before the entrance of Combest Pool opens on Sunday before the start of Owensboro Parks & Recreation's 19th annual "Gone to the Dogs" event.

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An oil tanker is moored at the Sheshkharis complex, part of Chernomortransneft JSC, a subsidiary of Transneft PJSC, in Novorossiysk, Russia, on Oct. 11, 2022, one of the largest facilities for oil and petroleum products in southern Russia.

China refuses to stop buying Russian and Iranian oil

BY DIDI TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Chinese officials may be able to settle many of their differences to reach a trade deal and avert punishing tariffs, but they remain far apart on one issue: the U.S. demand that China stop purchasing oil from Iran and Russia.

"China will always ensure its energy supply in ways that serve our national interests," China's Foreign Ministry posted on X on Wednesday following two days of trade negotiations in Stockholm, responding to the U.S. threat of a 100% tariff.

"Coercion and pressuring will not achieve anything. China will firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," the ministry said.

The response is notable at a time when both Beijing and Washington are signaling optimism and goodwill about reaching a deal to keep commercial ties between the world's two largest economies stable — after climbing down

from sky-high tariffs and harsh trade restrictions. It underscores China's confidence in playing hardball when dealing with the Trump administration, especially when trade is linked to its energy and foreign policies.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, emerging from the talks, told reporters that when it comes to Russian oil purchases, the "Chinese take their sovereignty very seriously."

"We don't want to impede on their sovereignty, so they would like to pay a 100% tariff," Bessent said.

On Thursday, he called the Chinese "tough" negotiators, but said China's pushback hasn't stalled the negotiations. "I believe that we have the makings of a deal," Bessent told CNBC.

Gabriel Wildau, managing director of the consultancy Teneo, said he doubts President Donald Trump would actually deploy the 100% tariff. "Realizing those threats would derail all the recent progress and probably kill

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Suspect in Montana murders remains at large

BY SAFIYAH RIDDLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The former U.S. soldier suspected of killing four people at a Montana bar was still at large early Sunday and may be armed after escaping in a stolen vehicle containing clothes and camping gear, officials said.

Authorities believe 45-year-old Michael Paul Brown killed four people on Friday morning at The Owl Bar in Anaconda, Montana, about 75 miles southeast of Missoula in a valley hemmed in by mountains.

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen said at a news conference Sunday that Brown committed the shooting with a rifle that law enforcement believes was his personal weapon.

The victims ranged in age from 59 to 74 and were a female bartender and three male patrons.

Knudsen warned residents in the town of just over 9,000 people that Brown, who lived next door to the bar where he was a regular, could

come back to the area.

"This is an unstable individual who walked in and murdered four people in cold blood for no reason whatsoever. So there absolutely is concern for the public," Knudsen said.

Numerous public events were canceled over the weekend as the search entered its third day, according to local Facebook pages.

Robert Wyatt, 70, said he was neighbors with 70-year-old David Allen Leach, one of the three bar patrons killed on Friday morning.

The two men lived next door to each other in a public housing complex for elderly people and people with disabilities.

"Everybody is nervous" since Friday, Wyatt said. Leach was deaf and kept mostly to himself, Wyatt said, and he only recalls Leach having a family visit once almost a year ago. But Leach was always happy to help his neighbors with

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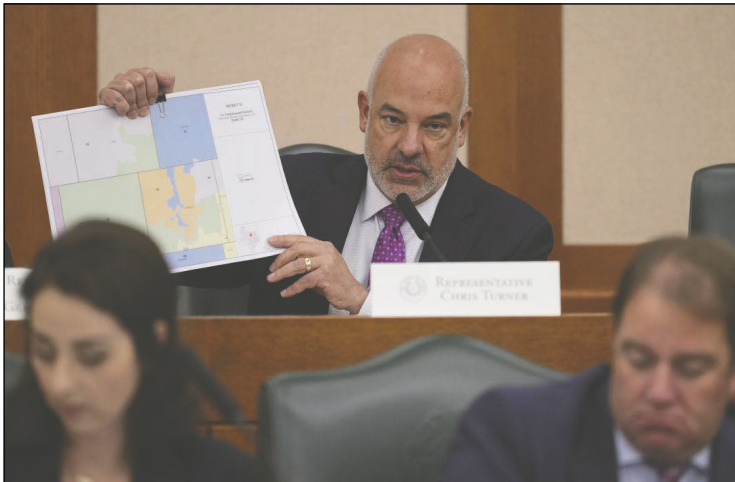
Texas Democrats hope to block vote on redrawn House map

BY JOEY CAPPELLETTI
AND ANDREW DEMILLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Democrats left the state Sunday in an attempt to prevent the state House from holding a vote Monday on new congressional maps that Republicans hope will net them several additional U.S. House seats in the 2026 midterm elections.

The dramatic move could expose Democrats to fines and other penalties — with the state's attorney general having previously threatened to arrest them if they took such an action. Refusing to attend legislative session is a civil violation, however, so Democrats legally could not be jailed and it's unclear who has the power to carry out the warrants.

Democrats have cast the decision to leave the state as a last-ditch effort to stop Republicans who hold full control of the Texas government from pushing through



Texas state Rep. Chris Turner holds a map as he asks questions during a public hearing on congressional redistricting Friday in Austin, Texas.

a rare mid-decade redrawing of the congressional map at the direction of President Donald Trump.

"This is not a decision we make lightly, but it is one we make with

absolute moral clarity," said Gene Wu, chair of the House Democratic Caucus, in a statement.

To conduct official business,

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