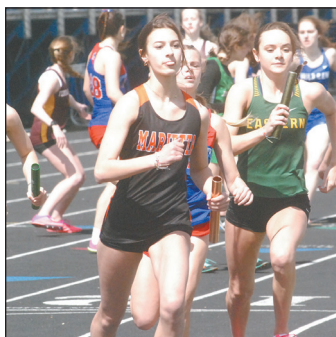




RAGING RIVERS

Power outages, rivers crest over weekend

Local, A5



HS TRACK

Marietta sweeps Fairweather Relays

The Marietta Times

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

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GOP states press voter photo ID rules, with unclear effects

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — As Ohio's primary approaches, a strict new photo ID requirement is stirring concerns for military veterans and out-of-state college students, in Amish communities and among older voters.

Other Republican-led states are moving in the same direction as they respond to conservative voters unsettled by unfounded claims of widespread fraud and persistent conspiracy theories over the accuracy of U.S. elections. Critics characterize such requirements as an overreaction that could end up disenfranchising eligible voters.

Ruth Kohake is among those caught up in the confusion over Ohio's law, which is

going into effect this year. The retired nurse from Cincinnati gave up her driver's license and her car in 2019. Now 82, she thought she might never have to step foot in another state license agency.

But Ohio now requires an unexpired photo ID in order for someone to vote, and she'll have to get that at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The law adds passports as valid ID, but eliminates nonphoto documentation such as a bank statement, government check or utility bill for registration and in-person voting. Military IDs also are no longer acceptable when registering to vote.

"I'm very, very, very concerned that people are not going to know. They're going

to come to vote and they're not going to be able to, or they're going to have to vote provisional," she said. "It's just a very upsetting time. Us old people, we have other things to worry about."

"I'm very, very, very concerned that people are not going to know."

Ruth Kohake, Cincinnati

Of 35 states that request or require a photo ID to vote, Ohio is now the ninth Republican-controlled state to move to a strict law allowing few to no alternatives, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Fifteen states allow other ways voters can verify their identify, such as an electric bill, bank statement or signature match.

The number of states where voters face strict photo ID requirements is poised to rise

in the coming months.

Nebraska lawmakers are in the process of establishing a new photo ID program after voters approved a requirement in November. In North Carolina, a photo ID requirement declared unconstitutional just three months ago could be revived by the state Supreme Court that has a new Republican majority.

Meanwhile, a new Idaho law, which prohibits students from using college IDs at the polls, drew a recent legal challenge.

Wendy Weiser, vice president for democracy at the Brennan Center for Justice, said the new Ohio law undercuts the Republican narrative about the state having a record of clean and well-run elections.

See RULES, Page A8

High waters, high winds



Photo by Art Smith

Large waves crash onto the Ohio River levee Saturday afternoon in Marietta after high winds caused massive waves to build up in the river.

Ukraine demands emergency UN meeting over Putin nuclear plan

By Karl Ritter
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's government on Sunday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to "counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail" after Russian President Vladimir Putin revealed plans to station tactical atomic weapons in Belarus.

One Ukrainian official said Russia "took Belarus as a nuclear hostage."

Further heightening tensions, an explosion deep inside Russia wounded three people Sunday. Russian authorities blamed a Ukrainian drone for the blast, which damaged residential buildings in a town just 175 kilometers (110 miles) south of Moscow.

Russia has said the plan to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus comes in response to the West's increasing military support for Ukraine. Putin announced the plan in a TV interview that aired Saturday, saying it was triggered by a U.K. deci-

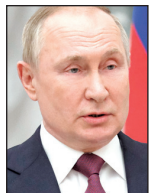
sion this past week to provide Ukraine with armor-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium.

Putin argued that by deploying its tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, Russia was following the lead of the United States. He noted that Washington has nuclear weapons based in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

"We are doing what they have been doing for decades, stationing them in certain allied countries, preparing the launch platforms and training their crews," he said.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry condemned the move in a statement Sunday and demanded an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

"Ukraine expects effective action to counter the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail by the U.K., China, the U.S. and France," the statement read, saying these countries "have a special responsibility" regarding nuclear aggression.



Putin

See PLAN, Page A8

DESTRUCTION



AP Photos

A truck rests atop a building, damaged by the Friday night tornado that hit Rolling Fork, Miss., on Sunday morning, March 26, 2023.

Daunting recovery underway in devastated Mississippi

By Michael Goldberg and Emily Wagster Pettus
Associated Press

ROLLING FORK, Miss. (AP) — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction for more than an hour across a long swath of Mississippi, even as furious new storms Sunday struck across the Deep South.

At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped through more than a half-dozen towns late Friday. A man was also killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.

"Everything I can see is in some state of destruction," said Jarrod Kunze, who drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to help "in whatever capacity I'm needed."



Two semis are seen bunched up, Sunday, March 26, 2023, in Rolling Fork, Miss., after they were moved by a tornado two days earlier.

Kunze was among volunteers working Sunday at a staging area, where bottled water and other supplies were being readied for distribution.

Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.

The storm hit so quick-

ly that the sheriff's department in Rolling Fork barely had time to set off sirens to warn the community of 2,000 residents, said Mayor Eldridge Walker.

"And by the time they initiated the siren, the storm had hit and it tore down the siren that's located right over here," Walker said, referring to an area just blocks from downtown.

The mayor said his town was devastated.

"Sharkey County, Mississippi, is one of the poorest counties in the state of Mississippi, but we're still resilient," he said. "We've got a long way to go, and we certainly thank everybody for their prayers and for anything they will do or can do for this community."

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration for Mississippi early Sunday, making federal funding available to the hardest hit areas.

"Help is on the way," Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves said at a news conference with local, state and federal leaders.

Recovery efforts in Mississippi were underway even as the National Weather Service warned of a new risk of more severe weather Sunday — including high winds, large hail and possible tornadoes in Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

See RECOVERY, Page A8

Thank You!
SHARON FULTON
OF WATERFORD
Our Reader of the Day

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Deaths

- Jacqueline Sue Barton, McConnellsville
- Thomas "Tom" S. Kotel Sr., Marietta
- Marianne Margaret Price, Marietta
- Bernard George Reynolds, Belpre
- Irene Rizzio, Marietta
- George F. Ruckman Jr., Malaga, OH



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