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WVA + WORLD + WEATHER + STORIES + CREATIVITY

♣ THE U.S.' RECENT TARIFFS: WHAT THEY MEAN FOR THE WORLD

- NEEVK

The

government is proposing huge tariff increases on imports from most countries, resulting in a global crisis impacting even average Americans.

- WHAT IS A TARIFF?

Before we start, we need to have a clear understanding of tariffs.

A tariff is a special tax imposed by a country's customs territory, typically on goods from other countries. Tariffs are usually paid by the company which is doing the importing.

Historically, tariffs do not bring in a huge percentage of the U.S. government's total income. In 2024, tariffs brought in 81 billion dollars for the U.S. For every dollar, an estimated 2.2 cents was paid for goods imported from other countries.

- A SHORT HISTORY OF TARIFFS

Tariffs were originally introduced in the 18th century. They were used during the Great Depression, all the way back in 1930. This was in the hope of protecting local businesses from being beaten by foreign products. This backfired though because of retaliatory tariffs from other countries, significantly decreasing international trade.

- WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSING?

The government is proposing a 10% universal tariff on all goods imported from all countries, other than China, Mexico, Canada, and a few others. For China, they proposed a 10% additional tariff. For Mexico and Canada, he proposed a 25% tariff on most goods. Some projections say that this could bring up annual tariff revenue from 81 billion to almost 600 billion. Steel and aluminum will have an increased tariff rate on top of all this.

Although they initially proposed a 10% tariff on most imports, it was later reversed for many countries.

Tariffs are averaged at about 2.5% for most other countries, so 10% is completely destroying that 2.5%.

Country	Tariffs Charged to the U.S.A.	U.S.A. Discounted Reciprocal Tariffs
China	67%	34%
European Union	39%	20%
Vietnam	90%	46%
Taiwan	64%	32%
Japan	46%	24%
India	52%	26%
South Korea	50%	25%
Thailand	72%	36%
Switzerland	61%	31%
Indonesia	64%	32%
Malaysia	47%	24%
Cambodia	97%	49%
United Kingdom	10%	10%
South Africa	60%	30%
Brazil	10%	10%
Bangladesh	74%	37%
Singapore	10%	10%
Israel	33%	17%
Philippines	34%	17%
Chile	10%	10%
Australia	10%	10%
Pakistan	58%	29%
Turkey	10%	10%
Sri Lanka	88%	44%
Colombia	10%	10%

BOARD WITH THE U.S AND OTHER COUNTRIES' TARIFFS ON EACH OTHER

(NOTICE HOW THE YELLOW SECTION IS HALF OF THE BLUE AND WHITE SECTION WITH A MINIMUM OF 10%)

- EFFECTS OF TARIFFS

A few effects of the tariffs are in place already.

For example, the stock market is crazy right now. It has been fluctuating wildly almost every day.

Some of the most negatively affected stocks were Apple, Ford, GM(General Motors), Tesla, and Best Buy. Apple was heavily affected because most of its products were made in China. Automakers like Ford and Tesla were also affected because they rely on parts made from Canada and Mexico. Apple's stocks fell approximately 9.5%. Ford's dropped around 3%, GM and Tesla's stocks both dropped around 4.5%, and Best Buy's dropped more than 13%! So, you can see the negative effects of these tariffs on companies on which America depends.

Most companies that have products fully made & assembled in America were positively affected due to not having to pay tariffs and consumers switching to their cheaper options.

Also, other countries are imposing retaliatory tariffs on America. For example, the EU is placing tariffs on popular American goods, such as ice cream and American trucks. China is also placing a 125% retaliatory tariff on American goods.

What Does This Mean for an Average American?

The increased tariff prices will affect everyone in the United States... and likely in almost every single other country with increased tariffs. Things like the prices of electronics, gas prices, food, school supplies, clothes, and a lot more things will go up. For example, if a big company like Apple has to pay higher tariffs on products imported from China, then the costs of things like the new MacBook or iPhone will likely go up to make up for the losses on tariffs. Gas prices will go up too due to most of it being transported from other countries.

So tariffs will not just affect big companies. It will also affect us consumers.

- WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

It is difficult to say. Countries like China and those part of the EU have already placed retaliation tariffs on goods imported from the U.S. If this gets any worse, we might make this ongoing trade war even worse, especially with countries like China and Mexico. Trump has also hinted at decreasing or pausing some tariffs, depending on how other countries react.

But for now, economists and large companies are watching carefully. However, one thing is apparent: these recent tariff prices will reshape our economy.

◆ MOVIE REVIEW: *A MINECRAFT* *MOVIE*

- YASH C.



Recently, a movie based off of the hit 2011 game by Mojang has been adapted into a movie. Featuring Jack Black, Jason Momoa, Emma Myers, and many other actors, the director put together a movie that has surpassed the expectations of many of the original enjoyers of the game, and even sparked a worldwide internet trend. The name of the movie? *A Minecraft Movie*.

For reference, Minecraft is a 2011 sandbox game by Mojang. There are multiple versions of the game, and plenty of gamemodes within it, making it enjoyable for every type of gamer, whether it be a hardcore speedrun in survival mode or peaceful building time in creative mode. It also features a multiplayer mode and is available on most platforms. It is one of the most popular games in the world, and features updates from time to time despite it being

nearly 15 years old. It is enjoyed by millions of all ages, and I really recommend playing it!

A Minecraft Movie has grossed over 720 million dollars and has had an audience from all over the world. The plot of the movie, without spoiling too much of it, follows main characters Henry, an awkward high school student who has a knack for engineering, his older sister, Natalie, who has taken over as Henry's guardian after their mom's death, Garret Garrison, a video-game celebrity back in 1984, but no longer popular in the recent times. And last but not least, Steve, who is your playable character in the Minecraft video game. In this movie, however, Minecraft isn't a game; it's a different dimension, so Steve is an actual person. (he used to be a boring office worker)

The movie starts off with Steve giving some background information about himself and the other dimension, known as the "overworld," which is basically just Minecraft. To open the portal to the overworld, you have to combine the Orb of Dominance and the Earth Crystal. However, the antagonist of the movie, a piglin named Malgosha who lives in the Nether, is trying to get her hands on the orb to cause mass destruction and take over the overworld. The main plot of the movie is for Henry, Natalie, Garret, and Dawn (Henry and Natalie's real estate agent, who came along for some reason) to find another Earth Crystal since the first one was destroyed and go back home. The second Earth Crystal is in a dangerous place called the Wooden Mansion. The main cast go through a plethora of events to reach the Earth Crystal, then have an epic final battle with Malgosha to stop her once and for all before going back home.

Now onto my review of the movie. I went to see it in theaters, which was kind of an iffy idea considering the "Chicken Jockey" trend. For context, "Chicken Jockey" is

a scene in the movie, and people who were in theaters started throwing their popcorn and drinks, which evolved into mobs of people watching only for that one specific scene then causing chaos in the theater to the point where people would bring LIVE CHICKENS with them. Thankfully when I went to go watch I was in the back row of the theater and it was nearly empty.

Personally, I liked the movie. It was fun, and the plot was creative, considering there's no real objective to playing the game. The only thing that threw it off for me was the acting. It was good enough for the movie to be enjoyable, but Henry's acting threw me off especially. It was almost horrid...but ignoring that the movie was nice! It's full of humor and will have you laughing out loud. Every bit of it was action-packed and keeps you on your toes. Have fun watching! (just don't be too loud in the theater)

◆ MIDWEST WEATHER

- *Jiya K*

Missouri, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Oklahoma are all states that have been hit by flooding and tornados this month. In this article, we'll be talking about these state's storms and their after effects.

In Missouri, twelve people died due to a tornado. Six deaths in Wayne County, three deaths in Ozark County, and one each in Butler, Jefferson, and St. Louis. The flash flooding, which was caused by heavy rainfall, caused five deaths and some rivers reached historic levels.

In Arkansas, severe thunderstorms and tornados devastated several rural communities. So far, there have been nine deaths. The tornado that struck near Little Rock caused widespread power outages and destroyed homes. Flooding in the southern region of the state also forced evacuations and temporarily shut down multiple highways.

Florida experienced record-breaking rainfall in parts of the Panhandle, triggering flash floods that damaged infrastructure and left many neighborhoods submerged. Florida didn't see as many tornadoes as the other states, but high winds and water damage led to the loss of three lives.

Illinois was hit hard in its southern counties, where a series of tornados went through towns late in the evening. Eight fatalities were reported, with hundreds of buildings either damaged or destroyed. There was lots of flooding and in Carbonale several neighborhoods remain inaccessible due to the flooding.

Texas faced a mix of tornado activity in its eastern counties and heavy flooding along rivers in central Texas. Seven people were killed across the state, and agricultural losses are significant. The governor has issued disaster declarations for more than a dozen counties, and FEMA, which stands for Federal Emergency Management Agency, assistance is being arranged for affected residents.

Louisiana had extensive flooding in low-lying areas, compounded by saturated ground from previous storms. Because of the flooding, four fatalities were reported. In Baton Rouge and Lafayette, there were many tornadoes which displaced hundreds of families.

Tennessee had six deaths across the central and western parts of the state due to tornado activity that flattened homes and left entire neighborhoods without power. The Cumberland River overflowed and forced emergency evacuations and temporary closures of public buildings and schools.

In Kentucky, there is still widespread flooding and mudslides. In the eastern part of Kentucky, five people have died so far two are missing. Relief efforts are ongoing and in Pikeville and Hazard, there are shelters ready.

Mississippi experienced a deadly EF₃ tornado that tore through several rural towns. Eight people have lost their lives. Flooding from rivers added to the destruction. The National Guard has been deployed to assist with recovery efforts.

Oklahoma had strong tornadoes in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, especially in the metro areas. Four fatalities were reported and dozens were hospitalized. There was also widespread hail damage and flash flooding.

As recovery begins across the region, officials are urging residents to follow safety advisories and stay informed. The destruction has prompted a federal response, with emergency funds and support being made available for rebuilding efforts. Now these communities have to rebuild their homes and lives. Hopefully, all these storms are finally over and the people that were affected by them can focus on rebuilding their communities and lives.

If you want to know more about April's storms, you can visit these websites:

◆ CREAMY CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

- *RHEA A*



This chocolate mousse recipe is perfect for a hot day. It's cold and creamy, and it's pretty easy to make! You can go outside and enjoy it with fresh berries and make crumbled cookies on top.

Time: 1hr 45 min

Yield: 6 servings

- ◆ <https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/local/2025/04/03/nsw-weather-warnings-nashville-middle-tennessee/82791354007/>
- ◆ <https://www.cnn.com/weather/live-news/us-weather-to-rnado-flooding-04-02-25/index.html>
- ◆ <https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/news/goes-east-monitors-severe-weather-tornado-outbreak>
- ◆ <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/04/03/weather/midwest-storms-tornado>

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ cups heavy cream
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon instant espresso powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Shaved or grated chocolate, for topping

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium saucepan, bring 2 cups of the heavy cream to a simmer over medium-high heat. Turn off the heat and add the chocolate chips. Let it stand for 2 minutes, then whisk it until the mixture is smooth. Whisk in the cocoa powder, instant espresso, and salt. Transfer the mixture into a large bowl and let it cool completely, then cover it with plastic wrap and refrigerate until chilled, about an hour.
2. Using a stand mixer or handheld mixer, beat the cream until smooth and it holds stiff peaks when you lift the beater. Don't overheat the cream because the fat will separate and curdle. Spoon the mousse into bowls or glasses and refrigerate it until ready to serve.
3. In another bowl, using a stand mixer or handheld mixer, beat the remaining ½ cup of heavy cream with vanilla until it's smooth and holds a soft peak when you lift the beaker. Spoon the whipped cream on top of the chocolate mousse and sprinkle with shaved or grated chocolate. Serve cold.

◆ SHARKS

- MEERA A.



CREDIT - GETTY IMAGES

The fear of sharks, known as galeophobia or selachophobia, is common among people. In fact, a 2015 study shows that 51% of the population in the U.S. are scared of sharks, some so scared that they avoid swimming in any type of ocean. So, why are so many people scared of sharks?

People's fear of sharks is part psychological, and let's just say it, part Hollywood. Psychology, the scientific study of the human mind and behavior, helps us understand why we fear sharks and how we respond to interaction with them. Here are some contributing factors:

FEELINGS OVER FACTS - Humans tend to respond to feelings more than to thoughts, and when imagining a shark, the first feeling that probably comes to mind is the thought of being scared. This thought is more powerful than another thought that might come later which is the fact that it's highly unlikely that we'll encounter one. The chance is extremely low and even if someone runs into a shark, there's a low chance that it'll bite you, unless provoked.

FEAR OF THE UNSEEN - Sharks are hard to see from the shore or when we're in the water because they tend to blend into the oceanic environment. Humans fear hidden dangers more than those that we can see so the

feelings that come with the possibility of being attacked from the hidden depths of the ocean can be especially scary even though there's a low chance that it'll actually happen.

GRUESOME WAY TO GO - Even though dying from heart attacks or strokes is a far more likely die, the 'feelings' that come with being taken by a shark are much more fearful to humans than dying in other ways.

Fear of the Unknown - Mysterious things can be unsettling and frightening. Unknown places and experiences can trigger stress or the fight or flight response, an automatic, physiological response to threats or danger, preparing the body to either confront or flee. This adaptation is how our bodies respond to stressful and potentially dangerous situations, along with a surge of adrenaline, which prepares us to stay and fight or turn and escape.

FEAR BREEDS FEAR - Many people have an unrealistic perception of sharks and the likelihood of encountering them, particularly because of the media. For example, studies have shown that people who watch crime shows have a perception that crime is increasing even when there's evidence that the incidence of crime is falling.

HOLLYWOOD'S LASTING INFLUENCE - In 1975, *Jaws* was released and was a massive success, but it was also the cause of a deep fear of sharks in people across the world. The story is about a shark that continues to consume beach goers day by day, and it has no resemblance to reality. Sadly, this movie left a lasting impression on the public, and it's not the only one. Many films and movies have added to the public's fear of sharks.

While sharks have captured our imaginations as fearful predators, the reality is far less dramatic. Most of our fear comes from emotion-driven responses rather than from actual danger, along with decades of exaggerated media portrayals. Understanding the psychology behind our fear and separating fact from fiction can help us see that sharks aren't monsters, but insanely interesting and vital parts of the ocean's ecosystems. By shifting our perspectives, we can ease our fears of sharks and play a role in protecting these often-misunderstood creatures.

SOURCE -

<https://www.natureaustralia.org.au/what-we-do/our-priorities/wildlife/wildlife-stories/sharks/>

◆ THE FLORIDA GATORS WIN THE 2024 - 2025 NCAAM FINAL

- ANDYX

On the evening of Monday, April 7th, 2025, the Florida Gators Men's College Basketball Team competed against the Houston Cougars Men's College Basketball team in the 2025 NCAA Men's Division 1 Championships. The former won with a score of 65-63.

- WHAT IS THE NCAA?

The NCAA, is the college version of the NBA, the National Basketball Association. It is also called March Madness because many teams(68, to be exact) are competing to win the College Basketball Cup(NCAA). The long name for NCAA is National Collegiate Athletic Association.

- FLORIDA'S ROAD TO THE FINAL

Florida qualified because they were 2nd place in the Southeastern Region, with a win to loss ratio 14-4 and a winning streak of 12. Other teams that qualified in the Round One include: Tennessee, Auburn, and Alabama Crimson Tide.

The first round was the SEC Tournament. Florida Gators, as number two, had to play the number 3 and number 4 of the SEC Standings. So, the first team Florida played was 3 Alabama Crimson Tide on March 15th. The Gators won 82-104. The second game was against Tennessee the next day. The Gator won 77-86.

Then came Round One on March 21st. It was 1 Florida Gators versus 16 Norfolk State. It looked easy

After Round One came Round Two on March 22nd. It was 8 Gonzaga versus the 1 Houston. It also looked easy. Houston fried them in a boiling pan 76-81.

because they were also first place in the Northern Athletic with a 14-4 ratio. They also had to use the qualifying Round. Florida won 69-95.

And after that came Round Two on March 23rd. It was 8 UConn Huskies versus the 1 Florida Gators. It also looked easy because they were also first place in the Big East with a 14-4 ratio. Florida defeated number 8 75-77.

Then came the sweet 16 on March 27th. It was 4 Maryland vs 1 Purdue. It looked easy, and Purdue beat them, 71-87.

And after that came the Elite 8 on March 29th. This was the final for Florida's division. It was 1 Texas Tech vs 1 Florida. It looked easy because they were 1st in the Big 12 with a 14-4 ration, and Florida beat them, 79-84.

Then came the Final Four on April 5th. This was Florida's semifinal. It was 1 Florida Vs 1 Auburn. It looked easy, and Florida beat them, 79-73 having beat them 90-81 earlier. University of Houston Cougars qualified because they were 1st place in the Big 12 Region, with a 19-1 win to loss ratio and a loss streak of one. Other teams that qualified in the Round One include: Arizona, BYU, and Texas Tech

Houston's Road to the final

Then came Round One on March 20th. It was 1 Houston Cougars versus 16 SIUE. It looked easy. They had to use the qualifying Round. Florida won 40-78.

Then came the sweet 16 on March 28th. It was 4 Purdue vs. 1 Houston. It looked easy, and Houston beat them, 60-62.



STADIUM - THE ALAMODOME HOSTED THE FINAL.

The Alamodome Stadium in Texas, hosted the NCAA Men's basketball final. The Final took place on April 7th, 2025. The Florida Gators won the 2024 NCAA Men's Division with a score of 65-63.

April is one of the best months to fill your days with reading books. Why? On April 12, a celebration called National D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) day happens, as a way to remind us to continue reading. If you didn't get some books to read on April 12, it's not too late! This passage includes some well-written books that recently came out.

First up, *Ghost Scout's Honor*, written by Carey Blankenship-Kramer and released on April 1, 2025, is a heartwarming book with the theme of defiance. Evey's best friend dumped her for no reason, and because of that, Evey wants revenge. By joining the Ghost Scouts, she can take the student of the year award from her ex-best friend. However, the ghosts are angrier, more powerful, and want to come out of their cages this year. Evey knows she can put them back in their cages. But instead, what she discovers makes her extremely angry. Maybe the ghosts don't deserve to be caged up. They have every right to be furious. Read the book to find out what Evey does about this.

Rainbow Fair, my favorite one, is written by Diana Ma, and was released on April 8, 2025. In this realistic fiction novel, Sophie Mu discovers the power of defining

◆ DISCOVER NEW BOOKS IN APRIL

- STELLA X

oneself, navigates some friendship drama, family expectations, and learning about her Chinese Muslim identity. She doesn't know much about her Muslim identity. When an over-enthusiastic teacher slips and says that she's Muslim, she suddenly has to do the Muslim booth at the Rainbow fair. However, she already does the Chinese booth. She's conflicted with doing double the workload or leaving the Chinese booth. As she navigates her challenges, she realizes she's not the only one at Monroe Middle School who has more than one simple categorization of identity.

The Reel Wish, written by Yamile Saied Méndez, was released on April 22, 2025. Florencia del Lago's passion is ballet. When she gets an important role in the dance, she is more than excited. But when she gets a panic attack on stage, her best friend Selena replaces her role. She's expelled from the ballet studio, and Selena turns on her, bullying her in every way. However, this lets her find new friends, and a new passion, Irish dance. Can this new passion give her back her joy of performing on stage? Read the book to find out.

Another book, *Spirit Service*, written by sisters Sasha and Sarena Nanua, was also released on April 22,

2025. Raveena loves the arts program, where she can practice music and honor Grandma in that way. However, Peak Middle School cut its entire arts budget. When Raveena and her friends stumble upon an old telephone that can communicate with ghosts, Raveena decides to save the arts program by starting Spirit Service. The idea is that they can help guide deceased townspeople to the afterlife and earn money by offering living people the chance to talk to their deceased loved ones. However, not all spirits are peaceful. They have to work together to uncover secrets *and* protect their neighborhood from spirits.

Lastly, if you're someone who likes good nonfiction books, *Atomic Dreams*, written by Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow, is for you. It was published on April 8, 2025, so find some time to read it. This book explains the story of how nuclear energy—considered scary—has become a topic of climate change, and maybe even a vital power source for us soon.

In conclusion, these five books are the ones I find most interesting from April. I highly recommend them. So,

get cozy and celebrate National D.E.A.R. before it's definitely too late!



