

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, Feb. 3

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, winter blend, ice cream, fruit.

Girls Basketball at Florence: C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow

Junior High Boys Basketball at Sisseton: 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Senior Menu: Cheese tortellini alfredo with diced chicken, green beans, Mandarin oranges, breadstick.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Boys basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli: C game at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow. At Elementary school, 8th at 4 p.m., 7th at 5 p.m.

JH wrestling at Britton-Hecla, 5 p.m.

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

Groton United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.



Wednesday, Feb. 5

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potato with gravy, peas and carrots, apricots, whole wheat bread.

Groton Chamber Board Meeting, noon, at City Hall
Groton United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 6

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

Basketball doubleheader hosts Deuel. boys JV at 4 p.m., girls JV at 5 p.m., boys varsity and girls varsity to follow.

Groton United Methodist: Caring Team Meeting, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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1440

Why 1440? The printing press was invented around the year 1440, spreading knowledge to the masses and changing the course of history. More facts: In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. We're here to make each one count.

A New Tariff in Town

The US will apply broad 25% tariffs on all imports from Canada and Mexico and an additional 10% tariff on Chinese goods following an executive order from President Donald Trump signed Saturday. The levies kick in tonight—12:01 am ET Tuesday—with an exemption for Canadian energy products, which will see a 10% tariff.

The countries are the three largest trading partners for the US, accounting for more than 40% of imports last year. Canada, the largest export market for 36 US states, said it would apply a 25% tariff on more than \$100B in goods in the coming weeks. Mexico said it would apply retaliatory tariffs but did not specify details.

Trump has argued the tariffs are needed to force the countries to address the flow of illegal immigration and illicit drugs across borders. Declared a national emergency, the order is the first use of the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to apply tariffs.

Tariffs are typically paid by the importer, with costs often passed to the consumer. See how they work here.

Philadelphia Plane Crash

At least seven people died and 22 others were injured when a midsize medical transport plane crashed in a Philadelphia neighborhood shortly after takeoff Friday evening. Officials categorized the incident as an accident.

The Mexico-registered Learjet 55—chartered by Jet Rescue Air Ambulance—took off from Northeast Philadelphia Airport shortly after 6 pm local time, set to return 11-year-old Valentina Guzman Murillo to Mexico after four months of care at Shriners Children's Hospital in the city. The craft was unresponsive to air traffic control and descended steeply less than a minute after departure, immediately killing Murillo, her mother, four crew members, and a car driver and leaving a five-block debris field. Workers identified the plane's black box 8 feet deep within the impact crater late Sunday.

The incident occurred two days after a passenger plane and Army helicopter collided over the Potomac River in Washington, DC, claiming nearly 70 lives.

Music's Big Night

The 67th annual Grammy Awards were held last night, with Beyoncé taking home the show's top prize of album of the year for "Cowboy Carter." The win is Beyoncé's first in the category after she was previously nominated four times. She also nabbed an award for best country album, becoming the first Black female artist to win in the category.

Kendrick Lamar dominated the Grammys and won five awards, including record of the year and song of the year for "Not Like Us"—a diss track aimed at fellow rapper Drake. Other notable winners included Doechii, who became the third woman in history to win best rap album ("Alligator Bites Never Heal"); Sabrina Carpenter, who won best pop vocal album ("Short n' Sweet"); and Chappell Roan, who won best new artist.

The awards were hosted by former "Daily Show" comedian Trevor Noah for the fifth year in a row.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Dallas Mavericks trade star Luka Doncic to Los Angeles Lakers for Anthony Davis in blockbuster deal also involving the Utah Jazz

Fay Vincent, former MLB commissioner, dies of cancer at age 86

Dick Button, two-time Olympic gold medalist in figure skating, dies at age 95

"Atropia" wins top prize at 2025 Sundance Film Festival; see full list of winners

Beyoncé reveals concert tour for her "Cowboy Carter" album

Science & Technology

OpenAI may reveal reasoning steps behind outputs from its AI models, will consider open source approach following success of China's DeepSeek

Chemists develop AI model predicting the 3D structure of genetic material inside the cell; platform cuts computation time from days to minutes

Scientists make first analysis of how a healthy bacterial species in the gut breaks down sugars from intestinal mucus; study may lead to new ways to prevent stomach bugs

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down Friday (S&P 500 -0.5%, Dow -0.8%, Nasdaq -0.3%) in anticipation of tariff order

Volkswagen sues India over \$1.4B import tax; India alleges Volkswagen attempted to evade full levies by importing vehicles in separate components

Costco agrees to pay raises as company and Teamsters avoid a Friday night strike deadline; entry-level rate to increase to \$20 per hour

X owner Elon Musk adds Lego, Shell, Nestlé, Pinterest, and others to lawsuit alleging illegal coordination of an advertising boycott against the social media network

Politics & World Affairs

Six Americans released from detention in Venezuela following diplomatic talks with senior Trump administration officials; President Nicolás Maduro reportedly agrees to receive unauthorized Venezuelan migrants deported from the US

Fire officials say deadly Eaton and Palisades wildfires in Los Angeles now 100% contained more than three weeks after blazes began; final death toll stands at 29, causes still under investigation

Aides to Elon Musk, head of the Department of Government Efficiency, gain access to \$6T Treasury Department payment system

Two US Agency for International Development security officials put on leave after reportedly refusing access to system with classified material to DOGE staff; pair say they were legally obligated to deny access, claim DOGE staff lacked appropriate credentials

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Tina's Baskets! Text/Call at 605-397-7285 to reserve your basket now. They are going fast! Cash, check or Venmo.



2. White vase with sour suckers. \$7.50



3. Kit Kat Cake with Valentine suckers on top. \$35



4. Hersheys Cake, two tier with strawberry hard candy. \$40



7. Valentine container with fake roses and white bears. \$5



8. Reeses candy bars with Valentine suckers. \$50



9. Heart basket with assorted candy. \$15



10. Vase filled with strawberry drops and chocolate rose candy. \$9



12. Valentine's love balloon with fake flowers, MMs, skittles. \$15



14. Mini chip ahoy's cookies, be mine valentines book, a bear with a love heart on it and some hot wheels in it. \$12



15. Betsie Voucher book, puppy, mini chocolate hearts. Behind the dog a bag of heart bear gummies and a small box of mix chocolates. \$12

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2025 Dak XII/NEC Conference Clash

Girls Event – February 8th, 2025

SCHEDULE (AUXILIARY GYM)		
Time	Dak XII Team	NEC Team
11:00am	Madison Bulldogs	Redfield Pheasants
12:30pm	Dell Rapids Quarriers	Deuel Cardinals
2:00pm	West Central Trojans	Webster Area Bearcats
3:30pm	Tri-Valley Mustangs	Rapid City Christian Lady Comets
5:00pm	Canton C-Hawks	Milbank Bulldogs

SCHEDULE (MAIN GYM)		
Time	Dak XII Team	NEC Team
11:45am	Lennox Orioles	Clark/Willow Lake Cyclones
1:15pm	Vermillion Tanagers	Sisseton Redmen
2:45pm	Elk Point/Jefferson Huskies	Groton Area Tigers
4:15pm	Sioux Falls Christian Chargers	Aberdeen Roncalli Cavaliers
5:45pm	Dakota Valley Panthers	Hamlin Chargers

- All games played at Madison High School and Auxiliary Gymnasiums
- Seed points calculated for all games played through Saturday, February 1st then matchups were determined by those seed points as well as consideration to eliminating any repeat opponents during the season.
- Ticket Prices (\$7 adults, \$5 students)
- Games will not start early.

TOP



6 SD GIRLS STAT LEADERS 3PT NEAR FALLS

2/2/25



#1 Olivia Anderson Watertown	11
#2 Mataya Jacobs RC Central	10
#3 Kaia Hunter Bennett Co.	9
#4 Vi Anderson Sisseton	6
#4 Liza Krueger Groton Area	6
#6 Katie Snyder Hot Springs	5

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

In the NFL, the winners of the conference championship games get an extra week to heal and prepare for the Super Bowl. To fill the gap, the NFL holds its annual Pro Bowl games. The game used to be played in Hawaii, giving players a real reward and incentive to accept their Pro Bowl invitations. Unfortunately for the players, the events are now held in Florida. The players don't take the Pro Bowl events too seriously and just use the events as a chance to socialize.

There were seven Vikings players in this year's Pro Bowl: QB Sam Darnold, LS Andrew DePaola, OLB Jonathan Greenard, WR Justin Jefferson, CB Byron Murphy Jr., OT Brian O'Neill, and OLB Andrew VanGinkel.

There are numerous events in the Pro Bowl, and these seem to change every year. This year, there were six events during the Skills Showdown on Thursday: Passing the Test, Satisfying Catches, The Big Spike, Helmet Harmony, Relay Race, and Dodgeball.

Vikings' QB Sam Darnold participated in Passing the Test and had the second-highest score, helping the NFC take the event. Justin Jefferson helped the NFC also win the Satisfying Catches event, although the players were clearly not informed of how the event would unfold, which led to many moments of confusion. The only event on Thursday that a Vikings player wasn't involved was The Big Spike, in which players spiked a ball onto a pad to measure their "strength". This was the only event the NFC lost. Coincidence? I think not. The fourth event was Helmet Harmony, in which two players from the same team answered questions about each other. Brian O'Neill and Jonathan Greenard participated, and even though JG has only been with the team for one season, the two players aced every question, leading to another NFC win. Relay Race was next, which featured Byron Murphy Jr., and the NFC also won this event (mainly because the AFC kept fumbling the handoffs). The Final event of Thursday was Dodgeball, which consisted of two heats. Multiple Vikings participated, and the two teams split the event. At the end of the day, the NFC had a 14-7 lead.

Sunday was the actual Pro Bowl flag football game, with events in between each quarter. At the end of the first quarter, the NFC was ahead 27-13. In between the quarters there was a Punt Perfect event, which didn't feature any Vikings players, so the AFC won the event and added three points to their cumulative score. At halftime, the score was 39-22 NFC, but the AFC won the Madden NFL Head-To-Head event, bringing their score up to 25 points, but the NFC won The Great Football Race which was worth three points as well, extending the lead to 42-25.

At the end of the third quarter, the NFC led 55-39. Before the final quarter, both teams participated in Tug of War, which was a best-of-three event. The first matchup included Vikings' OT Brian O'Neill, leading to a win for the NFC. The NFC also won the second matchup, giving them an additional three points, making the score 58-39 with just twelve minutes left for the AFC to make a comeback. It got off to a rough start for the AFC, as Vikings' CB Byron Murphy Jr. had a pick-six on the first play of the quarter. Ultimately, the NFC won the 2025 NFL Pro Bowl 76-63, and Vikings' CB Byron Murphy Jr. won the defensive MVP award. Skol!

Looking ahead, the Philadelphia Eagles will battle the Kansas City Chiefs for the right to call themselves NFL champions. The Chiefs, led by QB Patrick Mahomes, are looking to become the first team in NFL history to win three in a row. The Eagles, led by RB Saquon Barkley, are looking for payback for a 35-38 loss to the Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII two years ago. The Chiefs are slight favorites in this matchup (-1.5). Whether you're a fan of either team or just watching for the commercials, enjoy the game, as it will be the last NFL game for six months.

“Teen Mental Health”

The most recent survey of teen mental health by the Centers for Disease Control in 2023 revealed that 20.3% of adolescents in the United States have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. This reflects a 35% increase since 2016. The survey also found that 40% of teens reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, 20% seriously considered suicide, and, tragically, 9% attempted suicide.

These statistics should alarm any parent or grandparent of a teenager. As the mother of a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old, I often think about my children’s mental health and how to best support them. They are growing up in a world far different from the one I knew. Today’s teens face the challenges of social media, cyber bullying, academic pressure, and the struggle to fit in with their peers, all while navigating the changes of puberty.

Like every parent, I want my children to be happy, resilient, and safe. The first step is creating a space where they feel safe sharing their thoughts and feelings. Listening to them without immediately jumping in to solve their problems or dismiss their emotions is a crucial skill for parents to practice. Taking the time to talk and ask open-ended questions about how they feel can make a significant difference. What might seem minor to an adult with years of experience and perspective can feel overwhelming to a teenager. It is essential for our kids to know we are here to support them, no matter the size of the problem.

Another key parenting strategy is modeling good self-care and emotional regulation. That can mean working on improving our own mental health. Showing teens how to be kind to themselves and handle life’s setbacks teaches them invaluable lessons. Mental health is not a one-time fix; it is a lifelong process. Adolescence is the ideal time to equip teens with healthy coping strategies. Teaching them how to handle stress and overcome failures prepares them to become thriving, well-adjusted adults.

Parents should also trust their instincts when something feels off. If your teen shows a sudden drop in grades, stops enjoying activities they once loved, or seems persistently sad or angry, it’s time to seek help. If teens become more withdrawn or secretive, having a discussion about your concerns is warranted. Resources like pediatricians, school counselors, and therapists can provide support and guidance.

As a mother, I am committed to walking this journey alongside my children, every step of the way. Together, we can navigate the challenges, celebrate the victories, and build the tools they need for a happy, healthy future.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook, Instagram, and Threads featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show, 2 podcasts, and a Radio program, providing health information based on science, built on trust, on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central and wherever podcast can be found.



Jill Kruse, DO

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Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

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Groton Area
Tigers

**Girls Basketball
at Florence**

GT

5:00 C Game

Sponsored by Larry & Val Flieds

6:00 JV Game

Sponsored by Weber Landscaping

Followed by Girls Varsity

Sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover



\$5 ticket or

GDI Subscription

required to watch the games.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #11 Results

Team Standings: Shihtzus 12, Chipmunks 11, Coyotes 8, Cheetahs 8, Foxes 5, Jackelopes 4

Men's High Games: Brad Waage 202, Butch Farmen 183, Brad Larson 181

Women's High Games: Darci Spanier 186, Julie Holt 172, Vicki Walter 170

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 530, Brad Waage 513, Brad Larson 511

Women's High Series: Vicki Walter 454, Darci Spanier 447, Brenda Waage 422

Week 11 Fun Game – Most Spares – Cheetahs with 41!

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BROWN COUNTY
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY
February 4, 2025, 8:45 A.M.
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
4. Second Reading/Possible Adoption of following Ordinances
 - a. Ord. #286 – Rezone for Lorin & Julie Fliehs
 - b. Ord. #287 – Rezone for Jarod & Sarah Bierman
 - c. Ord. #288 – Rezone for James Smith/Owner: Thomas Johnson
5. Public Hearing for Malt Beverage & SD Farm Wine License Transfers:
 - a. GT Gaming, DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Head East
 - b. GT Gaming, DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to Stacy Gossman, DBA: West Bound
 - c. GT Gaming, DBA: Dakota Players Club BC to Stacy Gossman, DBA: Up North
6. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
 - a. R-O-W for David Finley
7. Resolution for Opposition to Mandatory Electronic Identification (MEID) Livestock Tags
8. Scott Meints, Emergency Management Dire
 - a. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Resolution
 - b. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign Designation of Applicant Agent
9. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Lease Agreements
 - e. Claim Assignments
 - f. Surplus Equipment
10. Other Business
11. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
12. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311)

Access Code: 601-168-909 #

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://meet.goto.com/install>

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the county commission.

Presentations may not exceed 3 minutes.

Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes (or at the discretion of the board) - Public comment will be accepted virtually when the virtual attendance option is available.

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at <https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is it really possible to store large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in building materials like concrete and plastic? If so, why don't we do more of it already? – P.L., via email

The construction industry, a major contributor to carbon emissions, has an untapped potential to become a powerful ally in fighting climate change. By incorporating carbon-storing materials like concrete, bio-based plastics and asphalt, it's possible to transform buildings into carbon "sinks" and work toward meeting the 1.5°C global warming target established in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Concrete, the world's most-used building material, offers significant potential for carbon sequestration. Researchers are exploring "carbonated aggregates" which are materials infused with CO₂ during production, that can enhance carbon storage. Professor Sabbie Miller of UC Davis says, "The potential is pretty large. If feasible, a little bit of storage in concrete could go a long way." Studies suggest including carbon-storing aggregates in just 10 percent of concrete could sequester up to a gigaton of CO₂ annually.

Other materials, like bio-based plastics and wood, also show promise. Bio-based plastics, derived from biomass, can store CO₂ during production, offering a green alternative to petroleum-based plastics. And sustainably sourced wood retains carbon absorbed during the tree's growth, providing a natural reservoir when used in construction. Asphalt innovations further contribute by including CO₂ in road materials.

These advancements have both ecological and economic benefits. Carbon-storing solutions promote an economy that reuses resources and reduces waste by reducing emissions associated with traditional materials. They also promote green industries and jobs. Professor Miller notes, "These new processes would enhance material value, creating economic growth while promoting circular economy practices."

However, challenges remain. Scaling these solutions requires significant investment, and industry inertia and higher initial costs slow adoption. Ensuring the long-term stability of stored carbon also has technical hurdles. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that utilizing carbon-storing materials is crucial for meeting the 1.5°C climate goal by actively removing CO₂ from the atmosphere.

By integrating carbon-storing materials into construction, we can drastically reduce emissions, foster sustainable industries and create a greener future. To support this transition, advocate for policies promoting low-carbon materials and educate others about their benefits. Opt for sustainable materials in personal projects and encourage their use in local developments. And push for increased investment in technologies that make carbon sequestration feasible on a global scale. Together, these actions can transform the construction industry from a carbon emitter into a solution for climate change.

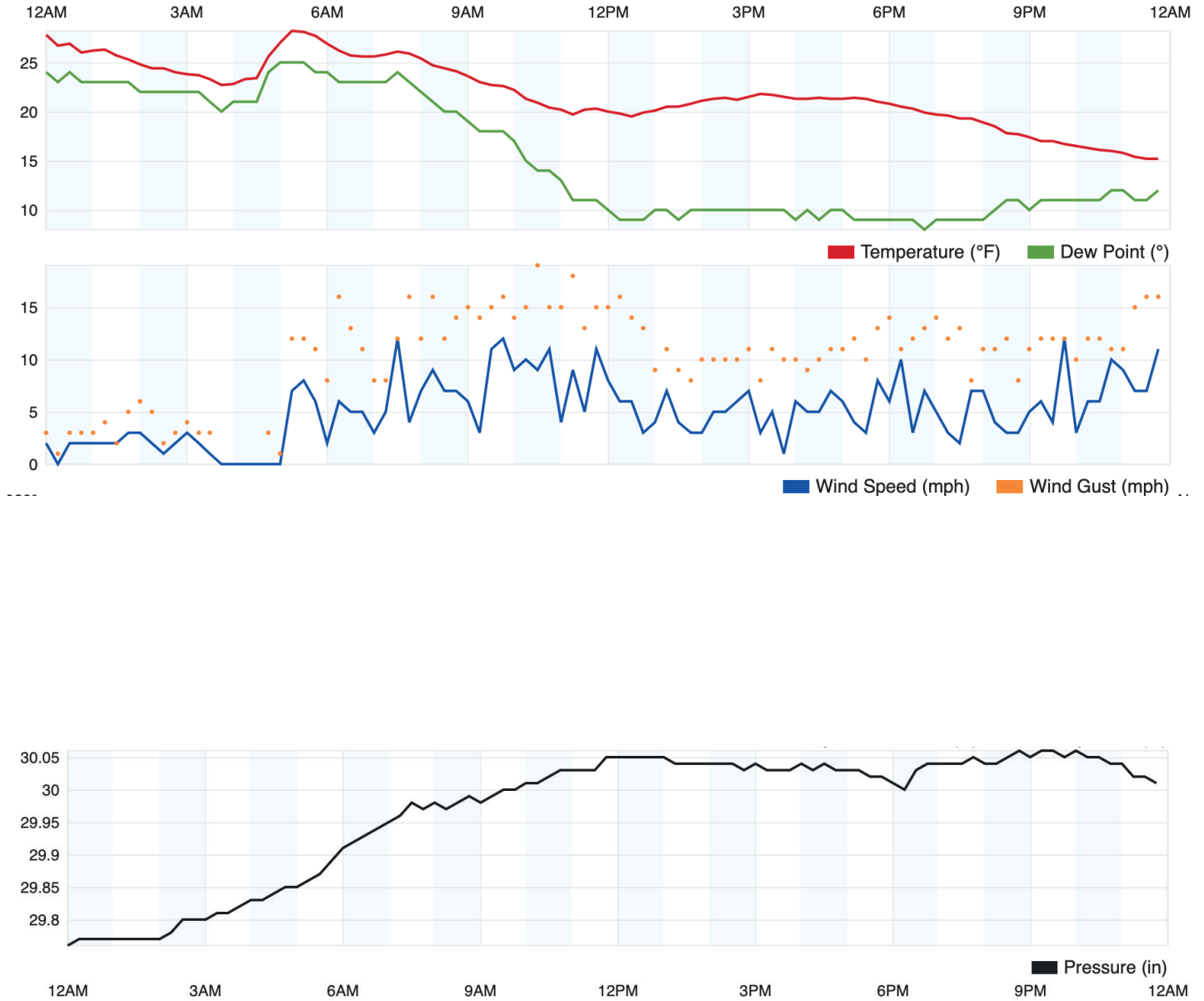


By storing CO₂ in concrete, bio-plastic & asphalt, we can transform buildings into carbon "sinks" to help us meet emissions reduction goals. Credit: Pexels.com.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
High: 14 °F	Low: -3 °F	High: 12 °F	Low: 3 °F	High: 22 °F
Chance Snow and Blustery then Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Slight Chance Snow	Slight Chance Snow then Snow Likely



Winter Weather Advisory Today

February 3, 2025
3:12 AM

Widespread minor impacts, including hazardous driving conditions, are expected.

Key Messages

- A band of snow is over northern SD this morning.
- A **Winter Weather Advisory** is in effect until **6 AM today** and until **12 PM today**. 2-4 inches of snow is expected in total for these areas.
- The period with the heaviest snowfall expected is occurring now through 6 AM.
- Hazardous driving conditions for this morning's commute are expected.

NEW

What Has Changed?

- The heaviest snow is currently falling over northern South Dakota.



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Band of snow continues this morning along the SD/ND border and into west MN. The heaviest snow is falling from now until 6 AM, and may cause visibility reductions in addition to snow covered roads during the morning commute. Snow will wind down late this morning.

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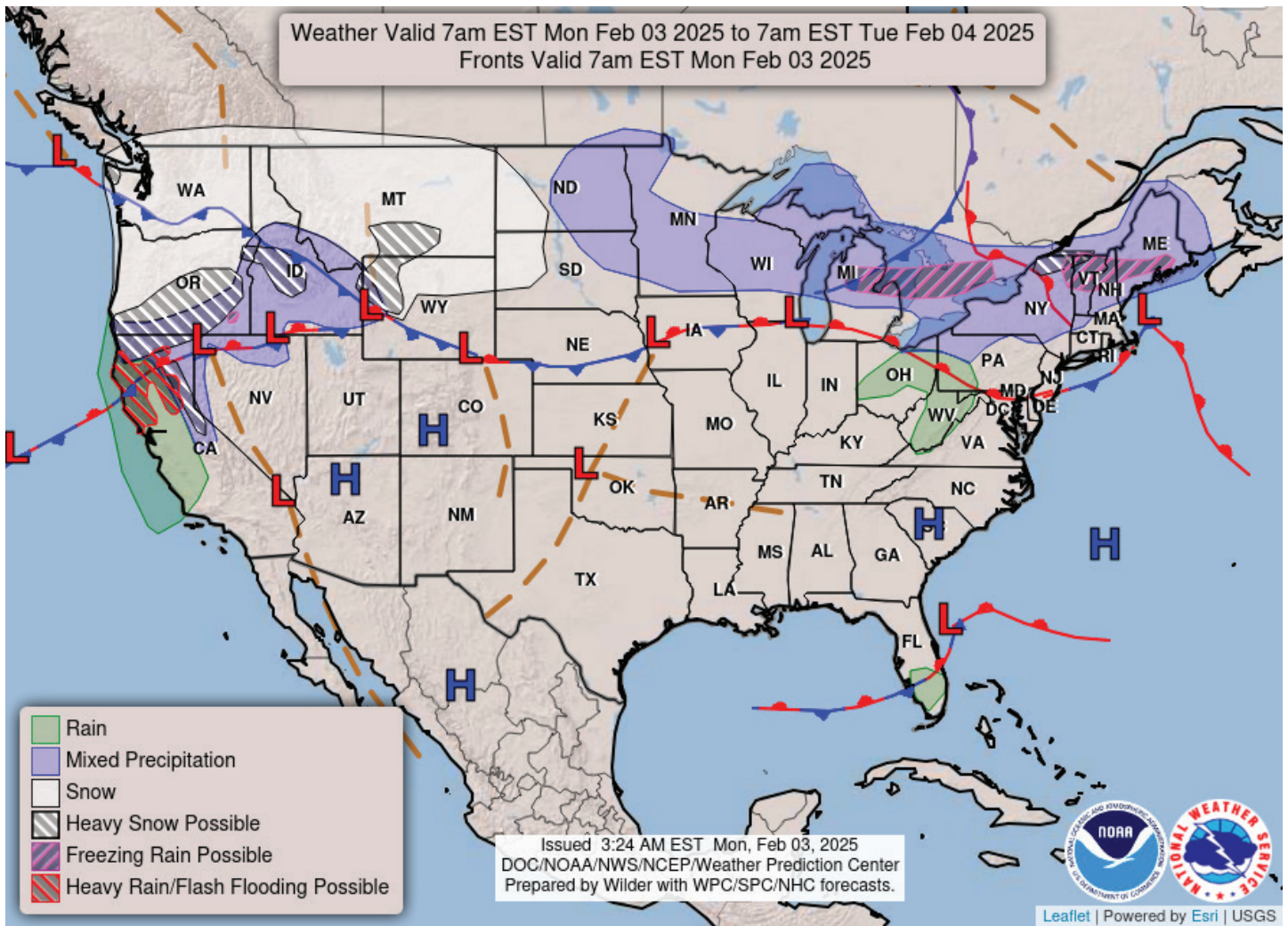
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 28 °F at 5:15 AM
Low Temp: 15 °F at 11:23 PM
Wind: 19 mph at 10:21 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 55 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 58 in 1991
Record Low: -38 in 1893
Average High: 25
Average Low: 3
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.06
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.61
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:44:03 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:47:08 am



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Today in Weather History

February 3, 1997: A winter storm dropped from 6 to 15 inches of snow across central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota, deepening the already expansive snowpack. The wind came up from the north at 20 to 30 mph during the morning of the 4th, causing blowing and drifting snow blocking some roads, and making travel hazardous if not impossible. Several vehicles got stuck or went off the road. Due to the massive snowfall, a roof collapsed in Aberdeen, damaging a car. Many schools started late or were canceled, adding to the number of days missed for the season. Some snowfall amounts included 5 inches at Wheaton, 6 inches at Britton, Summit, Webster, Browns Valley, Artichoke Lake, and Ortonville, 7 inches at Aberdeen, 6 SE McIntosh, Pollock, Timber Lake, 8 inches at Leola, Ipswich, Eagle Butte, and Gettysburg, 9 inches at Miller and Mellette, 10 inches at Mobridge, Watertown, Clear Lake, Pierre, Kennebec, and Onida, and 11 inches at Clark and Blunt. Snowfall amounts of a foot or more included 12 inches at Highmore, Bryant, and Gann Valley, 13 inches at Faulkton, 14 inches at 23 N Highmore and Murdo, and 15 inches at 1 SE Stephan.

1844: Boston Harbor was so thick with ice on this date that a channel had to be cut through the ice for the "Britannia" ship to leave with 30,000 letters for England.

1917 - Downtown Miami, FL, reported an all-time record low of 27 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1947: The record-low temperature for continental North America was recorded in Snag in the Yukon Territory, Canada. The temperature was 81.4 degrees below zero.

1959: At 12:55 am Central Time, a plane took off from runway 17 at the Mason City, Iowa airport, carrying the lives of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson. At the time of departure, the weather was reported as light snow, a ceiling of 3,000 feet with sky obscured, visibility 6 miles, and winds from 20 to 30 mph. At around 9:35 am, Hubert Jerry Dwyer spotted the wreckage less than 6 miles northwest of the airport. The three musicians and the pilot died from this crash.

1987 - Wintry weather was confined to freezing drizzle and light snow in the northeastern U.S., and light rain and snow in the western U.S. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Arctic air continued to invade the central U.S. The temperature at Midland TX plunged from a record high of 80 degrees to 37 degrees in just three hours. Morning lows in the higher elevations of Wyoming were as cold as 38 degrees below zero. Heavy snow blanketed southwestern Colorado, with 16 inches reported at Steamboat Springs. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - A winter storm brought heavy snow and high winds to the western U.S. Up to three feet of snow blanketed the Sierra Nevada of California, and buried parts of northeastern Washington State under three feet of snow in five days. High winds across Washington State reached 75 mph, with gusts to 105 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe cold gripped the north central U.S. The morning low of 29 degrees below zero at Casper WY was a record for the month of February. Wisdom MT hit 53 degrees below zero. Missoula MT reported a wind chill reading of 85 degrees below zero. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather over the central Gulf coast states during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms spawned seven tornadoes in Alabama, including one which touched down north of Birmingham injuring fifteen people and causing nearly three million dollars damage. A tornado at Margaret injured eleven persons and caused a million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data).



BELIEVE – EXPECT – RECEIVE

The season was nearly halfway over, and Pete Rose was on a hitting streak. A reporter asked for an interview following a difficult loss. He said to Rose, "You need 78 hits to break Ty Cobb's record. How many times at bat will you need to get 78 hits?"

"Seventy-eight," came his quick reply.

"Come on," said the reporter. "You don't expect to get 78 hits in 78 times at bat, do you?"

"Every time I step up to the plate," said Rose, "I expect to get a hit! If I don't expect to get a hit, I have no right to step in the batter's box."

As he was playing baseball, so ought we be in our prayer life! Every time we go to the Lord in prayer, we must learn to expect results. Otherwise, why pray?

Jesus said, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it for you so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son." Expecting results in prayer could not be explained more clearly! If we ask in His name, He will grant our requests.

The problem, then, seems to be either/or. Either our prayers are not consistent with what is included in the "name" of Jesus, or we are not asking. To "ask in His name" means that our prayer requests are consistent with what and Who Jesus represented. If when I pray I know that God cannot and will not be able to bless what I am asking for, if my request will not honor and glorify Him, I cannot expect Him to meet my prayers.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to understand what it means to "ask in Your name" so that when we pray in faith believing, we can expect Your blessings. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.31.25

9 28 48 56 63 2

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$77,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 32 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.01.25

14 15 21 35 52 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$23,240,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 47 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

02.02.25

5 6 17 27 36 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 2 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.01.25

2 5 17 24 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$26,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 17 Hrs 2 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.01.25

3 15 37 49 69 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 31 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.01.25

23 29 32 49 61 8

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$100,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 31 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

- 01/05/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/26/2025 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm
- 01/26/2025 87th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 02/02/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 02/05/2025 FB Live Electronic Hwy 12 Sign Drawing City Hall 12pm
- 03/02/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
- 04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 06/07/2025 Day of Play
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm

News from the **AP** Associated Press

St. Thomas-Minnesota secures 79-62 victory over North Dakota State

By The Associated Press undefined

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Nolan Minessale's 23 points helped St. Thomas-Minnesota defeat North Dakota State 79-62 on Sunday night.

Minessale also contributed three steals for the Tommies (18-6, 8-1 Summit League). Kendall Blue scored 20 points and added three steals. Ben Nau had nine points and shot 3 for 8 from beyond the arc.

Jacari White finished with 23 points for the Bison (16-8, 5-4). Jackson Moni added 17 points and six rebounds for North Dakota State. Tajavis Miller finished with 13 points and eight rebounds.

Blue led the Tommies with 11 points in the first half to help put them up 45-26 at the break. St. Thomas extended its lead to 53-31 during the second half, fueled by an 8-0 scoring run. Minessale 13 points in the second half.

At least 15 killed in car bomb explosion in northern Syria

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and OMAR ALBAM Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — At least 15 people were killed and dozens wounded Monday when a car bomb exploded on the outskirts of a northern Syrian city, local civil defense and a war monitor reported.

The car on the outskirts of the city of Manbij detonated next to a vehicle carrying agricultural workers, killing 14 women and one man, the local Syrian civil defense reported. Another 15 women were wounded, some of them in critical condition. However, Britain-based war monitor The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 18 women were killed as well as one man.

It was the seventh car bomb explosion in Manbij in just over a month, said Munir Mustafa, the deputy director of civil defense, known as The White Helmets. He warned that the ongoing attacks in Aleppo province near Syria's second city will halt Syria's progress to bring about post-war security and economic recovery.

"The continued attacks on Syrian civilian areas and targeting civilians while they are trying to recover from the effects of the war of the defunct Assad regime that lasted for about 14 years threatens their lives, deepens their humanitarian tragedy, undermines educational and agricultural activities and livelihoods, and worsens the humanitarian situation in Syria," Mustafa said.

Manbij in northeastern Aleppo province continues to witness violence even after the downfall of President Bashar Assad in December, where Turkish-backed factions known as the Syrian National Army continue to clash with the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

A car bombing in Manbij on Saturday killed four civilians and wounded nine, SANA reported, citing civil defense officials.

Beyoncé wins album of the year at the 2025 Grammys for 'Cowboy Carter'

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyoncé won album of the year for "Cowboy Carter" at Sunday's Grammys, delivering her — at last — the show's elusive top award.

The superstar, who is both the most awarded and nominated artist in Grammys history, has been up for the category four times before and many feel she has been snubbed by its top honors.

In winning album of the year with "Cowboy Carter," Beyoncé has become the first Black woman to win the top prize in the 21st century. The last was Lauryn Hill with "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" 26 years ago. Before her was Natalie Cole and Whitney Houston. That means Beyoncé is only the fourth Black woman to win album of the year at the Grammys.

Members of the Los Angeles Fire Department presented Beyoncé with the trophy, one of several times

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the show reflected the recent wildfires that burned thousands of homes.

"It's been many, many years," Beyoncé said in her speech. "I want to dedicate this to Ms. Martell," she said, referencing Linda Martell, the performer who became the first Black woman to play the Grand Ole Opry.

"We finally saw it happen, everyone," host Trevor Noah said, nodding to the long overdue achievement for one of music's transcendent artists.

Kendrick Lamar won song and record of the year for his diss track "Not Like Us," taking home two of the night's most prestigious awards.

"We're gonna dedicate this one to the city," Lamar said before shouting out Los Angeles area neighborhoods.

It is the second hip-hop single to ever win in the category. The first was Childish Gambino's "This Is America."

The Weeknd mends fences, Chappell Roan challenges music industry

The Weeknd has mended his fractious relationship with the Grammy Awards with a surprise performance of his new single, "Cry For Me" and "Timeless" with Playboi Carti.

His decision is a direct reflection of the changes the Recording Academy has made to diversify its voting body, CEO Harvey Mason jr. said in his introduction. The Weeknd has been openly critical of the Grammys organization, dating back to 2020 when he wrote on Twitter: "The Grammys remain corrupt."

It was just one of many pleasant surprises Sunday night. Chappell Roan was named best new artist.

She read a speech from a notebook, speaking directly to major labels and the music industry, instructing them to "offer a living wage and healthcare, especially to developing artists." She described getting signed as a minor, getting dropped and entering the workforce during COVID-19 with no work experience and no health care. She asked them to treat artists like "valuable employees."

"Labels, we got you," she concluded her speech. "But do you got us?"

Beyoncé and Chappell Roan give Grammys a country theme

In one of the biggest moments of the evening so far, Taylor Swift presented the award for best country album to Beyoncé. She became the first Black woman to ever win in the category.

"Genre is a cold word to keep us in our place as artists," she said in her speech. "I'm still in shock. Thank you so much for this honor."

Beyoncé entered the night as the leading nominee.

A little bit of the wild west, a little bit of West Hollywood. Roan brought a rocking version of her "Pink Pony Club" to the Grammy stage. Joined by a posse of dancing clown cowboys, she sang from atop a giant pink horse.

Los Angeles on the mind

In incorporating the wildfires throughout the show, the Grammys put the spotlight on the city's resiliency.

Noah's opening speech was dedicated to those affected by the fires, promising a show that not only celebrates them, but one that also celebrates "the city that brought us so much of that music." The Grammys have also allotted ad time to be used by local businesses affected by the fires.

As the show neared its end, Noah announced that viewers had contributed \$7 million to relief efforts Sunday night so far.

On a stage set up to look like the mountains of Los Angeles, the LA born-and-raised Billie Eilish and her brother/collaborator Finneas performed her hit "Birds of a Feather." It was one of a number of ways the show seeks to salute the city. "We love you LA," she told the crowd at the end of the set.

The show kicked off with a powerful opening performance of Randy Newman's "I Love L.A." by Dawes — whose members were directly affected by the Eaton fire — backed by John Legend, Brad Paisley, Sheryl Crow, Brittany Howard and St. Vincent.

Star studded performances and victories

The first televised award went to Doechii for best rap album for "Alligator Bites Never Heal."

The tears were immediate. "This category was introduced in 1989. Two women have won, Lauryn Hill —" she said, correcting herself. "Three women have won. Lauryn Hill, Cardi B and Doechii."

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Will Smith introduced a tribute to the late, great, legendary producer Quincy Jones. "In his 91 years, Q touched countless lives, but I have to say he changed mine forever," he said. "You probably wouldn't even know who Will Smith was without Quincy Jones."

Jones died in November at age 91. Kicked off by Cynthia Erivo, accompanied by Herbie Hancock on piano, the "Wicked" star sang Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon." Then came Lainey Wilson and Jacob Collier with "Let the Good Times Roll," followed by Stevie Wonder and Hancock busting out "Bluesette" and "We Are The World." For the latter, they were joined by student singers from two schools that were lost in the LA-area fires.

Then, Janelle Monae with an inspired rendition of "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough," channeling Michael Jackson in a sparkly tuxedo and an effortless moonwalk.

The Beatles' "Now and Then," which used AI technology, took home best rock performance. Sean Lennon accepted the award on behalf of his father John Lennon. "As far as I'm concerned, it's the best band of all time," he said of the Beatles.

First time winners were abundant. They included Carpenter, Roan, Doechii, Charli xcx, songwriter Amy Allen, Música Mexicana star Carin León, French metal band Gojira and country folk artist Sierra Ferrell.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers' Anthony Kiedis and Chad Smith led the crowd in a short singalong of their hit "Under the Bridge," reminding the crowd to "support their friends and neighbors as they rebuild their lives," said Kiedis. Then they presented the best pop vocal album award to Carpenter for "Short n' Sweet."

"I really wasn't expecting this," she said. "This is, woo, my first Grammy so I'm going to cry." (She's now won two, but the earlier award was handed out a pre-telecast ceremony that many artists don't attend.) She also performed.

Winners use speeches to lift marginalized communities in tense political climate

Shakira won Latin pop album for "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran" and gave a powerful, short speech. "I want to dedicate this award to all my immigrant brothers and sisters in this country," she said.

Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars teamed up for a cover of "California Dreamin'." Later, SZA presented them with the award for best pop duo/group performance for "Die With A Smile."

"Trans people are not invisible. ... The queer community deserves to be lifted up," Gaga said in her speech.

Alicia Keys was awarded the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award "DEI is not a threat, it's a gift," she said in her speech, referencing diversity, equity and inclusion programs that have been scrapped recently by the U.S. government and several major corporations.

Trump's aid freeze shocks a Syria camp holding families linked to the Islamic State group

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

AL-HOL, Syria (AP) — Ahmad Abdullah Hammoud was lucky to have some food stored to feed his family after a U.S.-funded organization abruptly suspended its aid activities at the sprawling tent camp in north-eastern Syria where they have been forced to stay for nearly six years.

His family is among 37,000 people, mostly women and children, with alleged ties to the Islamic State group at the bleak, trash-strewn al-Hol camp, where the Trump administration's unprecedented freeze on foreign aid caused chaos and uncertainty and worsened the dire humanitarian conditions.

Human rights groups have for years cited poor living conditions and pervasive violence in the camp, which houses mostly wives and children of IS fighters as well as supporters of the militant group.

When the freeze was announced shortly after Trump took office, U.S.-funded aid programs worldwide began shutting down operations, including the organization that runs many operations at al-Hol, which works under the supervision of the U.S.-led coalition formed to fight IS.

The U.S.-based Blumont briefly suspended operations, according to the camp's director. It had been providing essentials such as bread, water, kerosene and cooking gas. Blumont didn't reply to questions.

"We were troubled when Blumont suspended its activities," said Hammoud, who denies links with IS and had been sheltering in an IS-controlled area after being displaced during Syria's civil war.

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"Believe me, we did not find food. Even bread only came at 2 p.m.," said another camp resident, Dirar al-Ali.

Camp director Jihan Hanan told The Associated Press that other aid agencies, including the World Health Organization, had ceased some operations.

"It is a disgraceful decision," Hanan said of the Trump administration's action, adding that some residents argued they should be allowed to leave if food cannot be provided.

She said Blumont distributes 5,000 bags of bread daily at a cost of about \$4,000, something that local authorities in the Kurdish-run enclave cannot afford.

Uncertain times ahead

Hanan said Blumont received a two-week waiver from the Trump administration and resumed work on Jan. 28. It is not clear what will happen once the waiver ends.

Mazloun Abdi, the commander of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces that control northeastern Syria, said he has raised the aid freeze issue with officials from the U.S.-led coalition.

"We are on the verge of finding an alternative to this decision," Abdi said, adding that an exemption might be issued for northeastern Syria.

The U.S. freeze comes as IS tries to take advantage of the vacuum created by the fall of Assad's government in early December to insurgents. Another cut in food supplies could lead to riots by camp residents that IS, which has sleeper cells there, could exploit.

Hanan said the camp had received information from the U.S.-led coalition against IS, the Iraqi government and the U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led SDF, that IS was preparing to attack the camp after Assad's fall. Security was increased and the situation is under control, she said.

The SDF runs 28 detention facilities in northeastern Syria holding some 9,000 IS members. Security at al-Hol camp and the detention facilities are not expected to be affected by the U.S. aid freeze, according to Hanan and an official at the largest detention facility in the northeastern city of Hassakeh, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The main part of al-Hol houses some 16,000 Iraqis and 15,000 Syrians. In a separate, heavily guarded section known as the Annex are another 6,300 people from 42 countries, the vast majority of them wives, widows and children who are considered the most die-hard IS supporters.

The camp has no paved roads and piles of trash. Teenagers and children with almost nothing to do spend their time playing soccer or wandering around.

Children in the Annex threw stones at visiting AP journalists and shouted "You are a Satan" and "The Islamic State is lasting."

'Sustenance is from God'

A Chinese woman in the Annex, who identified herself as Asmaa Ahmad and said she came from the western region of Xinjiang, described her husband as "an Islamic State martyr" killed in 2019 in the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz, where IS lost the last sliver of land it once controlled.

Ahmad, who is in the camp with her four children, said she does not want to go back to China, fearing persecution. Asked about the temporary loss of U.S. aid, she replied: "Sustenance is from God."

She said she is waiting for IS members to rescue her family one day.

Al-Hol is the most dangerous place in the world, camp director Hanan asserted, adding that countries should repatriate their citizens to prevent children being fed the extremist ideology. "This place is not suitable for children," she said.

The U.S. military has been pushing for years for countries who have citizens at al-Hol and the smaller, separate Roj Camp to repatriate them.

"Without international repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, these camps risk creating the next generation of ISIS," Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, head of U.S. Central Command, said during a visit to al-Hol in mid-January.

Hanan said that since the fall of Assad, many Syrians in the camp have expressed a desire to return to their homes in areas held by the country's new rulers. She said camp authorities decided that any Syrian

who wants to leave can go.

Even if the camp population drops, "there will be a disaster" if U.S. aid is suspended again, she added.

Ukrainian troops lose ground with fewer fighters and exposed supply lines

By SAMYA KULLAB, VASILISA STEPANENKO and EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

POKROVSK REGION, Ukraine (AP) — A dire shortage of infantry troops and supply routes coming under Russian drone attacks are conspiring against Ukrainian forces in Pokrovsk, where decisive battles in the nearly three-year war are playing out — and time is running short.

Ukrainian troops are losing ground around the crucial supply hub, which lies at the confluence of multiple highways leading to key cities in the eastern Donetsk region as well as an important railway station.

Moscow is set on capturing as much territory as possible as the Trump administration is pushing for negotiations to end the war and recently froze foreign aid to Ukraine, a move that has shocked Ukrainian officials already apprehensive about the intentions of the new U.S. president, their most important ally. Military aid has not stopped, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said.

Ukrainian soldiers in Pokrovsk said that Russian forces switched tactics in recent weeks, attacking their flanks instead of going head-on to form a pincer movement around the city. With Russians in control of dominant heights, Ukrainian supply routes are now within their range. Heavy fog in recent days prevented Ukrainian soldiers from effectively using surveillance drones, allowing Russians to consolidate and take more territory.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian commanders say they do not have enough reserves to sustain defense lines and that new infantry units are failing to execute operations. Many pin hopes on Mykhailo Drapatyi, a respected commander recently appointed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as ground forces chief, to shift the dynamic and counterattack.

"The war is won by logistics. If there is no logistics, there is no infantry, because there is no way to supply it," said the deputy commander of the Da Vinci Wolves battalion, known by the call sign Afer.

"(Russians) have learned this and are doing it quite well."

Poor weather at the worst time

A combination of factors led Kyiv to effectively lose the settlement of Velyka Novosilka this past week, their most significant gain since seizing the city of Kurakhove in the Donetsk region in January.

Scattered groups of Ukrainian soldiers are still present in Velyka Novosilka's southern sector, Ukrainian commanders said, prompting criticism from some military experts who questioned why the higher command did not order a full withdrawal.

The road-junction village is 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the neighboring Dnipropetrovsk region, where authorities have begun digging fortifications for the first time since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, anticipating further Russian advances.

Russia amassed a large number of infantry around Velyka Novosilka, soldiers there said. As heavy fog set in in recent days, Ukrainian drones "barely worked" to conduct surveillance, one commander near Pokrovsk told The Associated Press. Long-range and medium-range surveillance was impossible, he said. He spoke on condition of anonymity in order to speak freely about sensitive military matters.

"Because of this, the enemy was amassing forces ... taking up positions, digging in. They were very good at it," he said.

It was at that fateful moment that Russian forces launched a massive attack: Up to 10 columns of armoured vehicles, each with up to 10 units, moved out from various directions.

Ukrainian logistics in peril

Key logistics routes along asphalted roads and highways are under direct threat from Russian drones as a result of Moscow's recent gains, further straining Ukrainian troops.

Russian forces now occupy key dominant heights around the Pokrovsk region, which allows them to use

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drones up to 30 kilometers (18 miles) deep into Ukrainian front lines.

The Pokrovsk-Pavlohrad-Dnipro highway is "already under the control of Russian drones," said the commander at Pokrovsk's flanks. Russian forces are less than 4 kilometers (2 1/2 miles) away and are affecting Ukrainian traffic, he said. "Now the road is only 10% of its former capacity," he said.

Another paved highway, the Myrnohrad-Kostyantynivka road, is also under Russian fire, he said.

This also means that in poor weather, military vehicles, including armored personnel carriers, tanks and pickup trucks, have to trudge through the open fields to deliver fuel, food and ammunition, as well as evacuate the wounded.

In a first-aid station near Pokrovsk, a paramedic with the call sign Marik said evacuating wounded soldiers once took hours, now it takes days.

"Everything is visible (by enemy drones) and it is very difficult," he said.

New recruits are unprepared

Ukrainian soldiers in Pokrovsk said shortages of fighting troops are "catastrophic" and challenges are compounded by newly created infantry units that are poorly trained and inexperienced, putting more pressure on battle-hardened brigades having to step in to stabilize the front line.

Afer, the deputy commander, complained that new recruits are "constantly extending the front line because they leave their positions, they do not hold them, they do not control them, they do not monitor them. We do almost all the work for them."

"Because of this, having initially a 2-kilometer area of responsibility, you end up with 8-9 kilometers per battalion, which is a lot and we don't have enough resources," Afer said. Drones are especially hard to come by for his battalion, he said, adding they only have half of what they need.

"It's not because they have lower quality infantry, but because they are completely unprepared for modern warfare," he said of the new recruits.

His battalion has almost no reserves, forcing infantry units to hold front-line positions for weeks at a time. For every one of his soldiers, Russians have 20, he said, emphasizing how outnumbered they are.

Back at the first-aid station, a wounded soldier with the call sign Fish was recovering from a leg wound sustained after he tried to evacuate a fallen comrade. He had moved him from a dugout to load him into a vehicle when the Russian mortar shell exploded nearby.

"We are fighting back as much as we can, as best as we can," he said.

China renews threat to retaliate against US tariffs

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war with Canada, Mexico and China is ramping up over the production and importation of the opiate fentanyl, along with trade surpluses and illegal border crossings by migrants from across the globe.

Here is what Beijing says about it:

What has been China's reaction so far?

China has reiterated its threat to take "necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests" following Trump's decision to impose 10% tariffs on China for allegedly doing too little to stem the production of precursor chemicals for fentanyl.

The Foreign Ministry statement issued Sunday did not mention any specific retaliatory measures, but said "China calls on the United States to correct its wrongdoings, maintain the hard-won positive dynamics in the counternarcotics cooperation, and promote a steady, sound and sustainable development of China-U.S. relationship."

China says the U.S. action violates World Trade Organization rules and has vowed to bring a case before the body that governs global commerce.

The Ministry of Public Security on Sunday made near identical charges and the Commerce Ministry also issued a closely worded statement.

Who does China say is to blame?

Trump accuses China of allowing the production of fentanyl, which is then made into tablets in Mexico

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and smuggled into and distributed throughout the U.S., which records some 70,000 overdose deaths from the drug annually.

China says the U.S. must hold itself to account instead of "threatening other countries with arbitrary tariff hikes," the Foreign Ministry said. "The United States needs to view and solve its own fentanyl issue in an objective and rational way ... (China is) one of the world's toughest countries on counternarcotics both in terms of policy and its implementation."

Experts say China executes an unknown number of people each year for smuggling drugs, but domestic drug use is relatively low.

The Ministry of Public Security statement said the U.S. has not reported any fentanyl precursor seizures originating in China since Beijing began to take legal action.

What other issues may be having an impact on the dispute?

China's enormous trade deficit with the U.S., which reached nearly \$1 trillion last year, has been a constant target of Trump's complaints. Tariffs would make Chinese goods more expensive for U.S. consumers, who will ultimately have to pay a significant part of the cost of importing everything from toys to clothing.

China's vital export market could be impacted if U.S. consumers decide to "buy American." The Chinese domestic economy has failed to respond to a range of government-backed stimuli, while foreign infrastructure projects and other major government initiatives that add to the country's already high public debt threaten more economic stagnation.

That is already starting to derail Chinese President Xi Jinping's push to overtake the U.S. in key economic and political indicators, threatening his ultimate ambition to conquer the island republic of Taiwan and assert Chinese primacy in the Indo-Pacific region.

Stopping illegal immigration has also been one of Trump's core political messages, and was named in tariff actions against U.S. neighbors Mexico and Canada. Illegal arrivals from China are considered a fraction of such numbers, but Trump has put virtually every country on notice that he will hold them accountable for their nationals who enter the U.S. outside the law.

Elon Musk says President Donald Trump has 'agreed' USAID should be shut down

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Agency for International Development is on the cusp of being shuttered, according to the Trump administration's billionaire adviser and Tesla CEO Elon Musk — who has been wrestling for control of the agency in recent days.

Early Monday, Musk held a live session on X Spaces, previously known as Twitter Spaces, and said that he spoke in detail about USAID with the president. "He agreed we should shut it down," Musk said.

"It became apparent that it's not an apple with a worm in it," Musk said. "What we have is just a ball of worms. You've got to basically get rid of the whole thing. It's beyond repair." "We're shutting it down."

His comments come after the administration placed two top security chiefs at USAID on leave after they refused to turn over classified material in restricted areas to Musk's government-inspection teams, a current and a former U.S. official told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Members of Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE, eventually did gain access Saturday to the aid agency's classified information, which includes intelligence reports, the former official said.

Musk's DOGE crew lacked high enough security clearance to access that information, so the two USAID security officials — John Voorhees and deputy Brian McGill — believed themselves legally obligated to deny access.

The current and former U.S. officials had knowledge of the incident and spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share the information.

Musk on Sunday responded to an X post about the news by saying, "USAID is a criminal organization. Time for it to die." He followed with additional posts on X about the aid agency.

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Kate Miller, who serves on an advisory board for DOGE, said in a separate post that no classified material was accessed "without proper security clearances."

It comes a day after DOGE carried out a similar operation at the Treasury Department, gaining access to sensitive information including the Social Security and Medicare customer payment systems. The Washington Post reported that a senior Treasury official had resigned over Musk's team accessing sensitive information.

Musk formed DOGE in cooperation with the Trump administration with the stated goal of finding ways to fire federal workers, cut programs and slash federal regulations.

USAID, whose website vanished Saturday without explanation, has been one of the federal agencies most targeted by the Trump administration in an escalating crackdown on the federal government and many of its programs.

"It's been run by a bunch of radical lunatics. And we're getting them out," Trump said to reporters about USAID on Sunday night.

The Trump administration and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have imposed an unprecedented freeze on foreign assistance that has shut down much of USAID's humanitarian, development and security programs worldwide — compelling thousands of layoffs by aid organizations — and ordered furloughs and leaves that have gutted the agency's leadership and staff in Washington.

The U.S. is by far the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid, with USAID administering billions of dollars in humanitarian, development and security assistance in more than 100 countries.

Peter Marocco, a returning political appointee from Trump's first term, was a leader in enforcing the shutdown. USAID staffers say they believe that agency outsiders with visitors badges asking questions of employees inside the Washington headquarters are members of Musk's DOGE team.

Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren said in a post on Sunday that Trump was allowing Musk to access people's personal information and shut down government funding.

"We must do everything in our power to push back and protect people from harm," the Massachusetts senator said, without giving details.

Rubio says Panama must reduce Chinese influence around the canal or face possible US action

By MATTHEW LEE and JUAN ZAMORANO Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio brought a warning to Panamanian leader José Raúl Mulino on Sunday: Immediately reduce what President Donald Trump says is Chinese influence over the Panama Canal area or face potential retaliation from the United States.

Rubio, traveling to the Central American country and touring the Panama Canal on his first foreign trip as top U.S. diplomat, held face-to-face talks with Mulino, who has resisted pressure from the new U.S. government over management of a waterway that is vital to global trade.

Mulino told reporters after the meeting that Rubio made "no real threat of retaking the canal or the use of force."

Speaking on behalf of Trump, who has demanded that the canal be returned to U.S. control, Rubio told Mulino that Trump believed that China's presence in the canal area may violate a treaty that led the United States to turn the waterway over to Panama in 1999. That treaty calls for the permanent neutrality of the American-built canal.

"Secretary Rubio made clear that this status quo is unacceptable and that absent immediate changes, it would require the United States to take measures necessary to protect its rights under the treaty," the State Department said in a summary of the meeting.

The statement was unusually blunt in diplomatic terms, but in keeping with the tenor and tone Trump has set for foreign policy. Trump has been increasing pressure on Washington's neighbors and allies, including the canal demand and announcing Saturday that he was imposing major tariffs on Canada and Mexico. That launched a trade war by prompting retaliation from those close allies.

Mulino, meanwhile, called his talks with Rubio "respectful" and "positive" and said he did not "feel like

there's a real threat against the treaty and its validity."

The president did say Panama would not be renewing its agreement with China's Belt and Road Initiative when it expires. Panama joined the initiative, which promotes and funds infrastructure and development projects that critics say leave poor member countries heavily indebted to China, after dropping diplomatic recognition of Taiwan and recognizing Beijing.

Rubio later toured the canal at sunset with its administrator, Ricaurte Vásquez, who has said the waterway will remain in Panama's hands and open to all countries. Rubio crossed the lock and visited the control tower, looking down over the water below, where a red tanker was passing through.

Earlier, about 200 people marched in the capital, carrying Panamanian flags and shouting "Marco Rubio out of Panama," "Long live national sovereignty" and "One territory, one flag" while the meeting was going on. Some burned a banner with images of Trump and Rubio after being stopped short of the presidential palace by riot police.

Rubio also pressed Trump's top focus — curbing illegal immigration — telling Panama's president that it was important to collaborate on the work and thanked him for taking back migrants. Rubio's trip, however, comes as a U.S. foreign aid funding freeze and stop-work orders have shut down U.S.-funded programs targeting illegal migration and crime in Central American countries.

In a Sunday evening post on X, formerly Twitter, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said he's heading to the U.S.-Mexico border Monday to visit troops deployed as part of Trump's immigration crackdown.

In a Wall Street Journal opinion piece on Friday, Rubio said mass migration, drugs and hostile policies pursued by Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela have wreaked havoc, and port facilities at either end of the canal are run by a China-based company, leaving the waterway vulnerable to pressure from the Beijing government.

"The president's been pretty clear he wants to administer the canal again," Rubio said Thursday. "Obviously, the Panamanians are not big fans of that idea. That message has been brought very clear."

Despite Mulino's rejection of any negotiation over ownership, some believe Panama may be open to a compromise under which canal operations on both sides are taken away from the Hong Kong-based Hutchison Ports company, which was given a 25-year no-bid extension to run them. An audit into the suitability of that extension is already underway and could lead to a rebidding process.

What is unclear is whether Trump would accept the transfer of the concession to an American or European company as meeting his demands, which appear to cover more than just operations.

Rubio's trip, which will also take him to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic, comes amid a freeze in U.S. foreign assistance. The State Department said Sunday that Rubio had approved waivers for certain critical programs in countries he is visiting but details of those were not immediately available.

People left to navigate immigration court complexities alone after federally funded aid pulled

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

Just days after President Donald Trump's second inauguration, Ruby Robinson went to Detroit's immigration court to post a notice that a help desk his organization ran for people facing deportation was no longer available.

The desk staffed by the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center shut down after a Trump executive order prompted the Justice Department to instruct nonprofit organizations "to stop work immediately" on four federally funded programs that provided information to people in immigration proceedings.

"There were individuals in the waiting room who we otherwise would have been able to assist, but we're not able to do so at this time," said Robinson, managing attorney for the center, which he said has helped about 10,000 people since it began operating the help desk in December 2021.

Without the programs that educate people in immigration courts and detention centers about their rights

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and the complicated legal process, many will end up navigating the system on their own. Advocates worry that due process and the backlogged immigration courts will suffer as Trump tries to make good on his campaign promise to crack down on illegal immigration.

A coalition of nonprofit groups that provide the services filed a lawsuit Friday challenging the stop-work order and seeking to immediately restore access to the programs.

Despite the loss of federal funding, staff from the Amica Center for Immigrant Rights went to a Virginia detention center to provide services the day after the Jan. 22 stop-work order. They had spoken to about two dozen people when detention center staff escorted them out, telling them they could no longer provide those services, Amica executive director Michael Lukens said, describing the stoppage as "devastating."

"We often hear that people don't know what's happening. Why are they detained? What's going to happen next? And we are being stopped from even giving that basic level of orientation," Lukens said.

Lawyers running a help desk inside Chicago's busy immigration court provided services to more than 2,000 people in 2024. The National Immigrant Justice Center started the effort in 2013 with private funding and expanded it three years later with federal funds.

Since the stop-work order, the organization has provided scaled-down services, but they are unsure how long they will be able to continue that with the gap left by federal funding cuts, spokesperson Tara Tidwell Cullen said.

Several organizations said they've been told that posters informing people of their services and information about legal help hotlines have been removed from detention centers.

Congress allocates \$29 million a year for the four programs — the Legal Orientation Program, the Immigration Court Helpdesk, the Family Group Legal Orientation and the Counsel for Children Initiative — funding that's spread among various groups across the country providing the services, Lukens said, adding that the programs have broad bipartisan support. The amount is the same regardless of the number of people they're helping, and the organizations often do additional fundraising to cover their costs, he said.

Trump previously targeted these programs during his first term, but this time things are different.

In 2018, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the funding would be pulled from the programs, but the threat of legal action by a coalition of organizations that provide the services, as well as bipartisan support from members of Congress, caused the Justice Department to reverse course.

This time, the action was more abrupt, with the stop-work order issued just hours before it took effect and program staff being barred from detention centers.

Immigration law is incredibly complicated and, unlike in criminal courts, people do not have a right to have an attorney appointed if they cannot afford one, and many end up going through the system without legal representation.

Immigration courts throughout the country are clogged by a backlog of about 3.7 million cases, which can leave people in limbo for years. When people know what to expect and have their affairs in order, hearings move more quickly because judges don't have to explain the basics to each person who appears before them, advocates assert. It can also reduce lines at filing windows in immigration courts because people know what forms they have to fill out and can get help completing them correctly.

People can make informed choices to either move forward with a case knowing their chances and the risks involved or, if they don't want to go through a court battle or don't see any available relief that fits their situation, they may decide not to fight and to just go home, said Edna Yang, co-executive director of American Gateways, which operates in three detention centers and the immigration court in San Antonio, Texas.

"Stopping programs that actually help people get the information they need isn't going to fix the system," Yang said. "It's just going to make it worse."

The organizations also make sure due process rights are respected, alert people to imminent filing deadlines, ensure that translators are available and help avoid deportation orders that could unlawfully return asylum seekers to a harmful situation, advocates said.

Milagro, a 69-year-old woman from Venezuela, arrived in the U.S. in May 2024 when she got an appointment through a U.S. government app after spending four years in Mexico. The Associated Press agreed

not to use her last name because she fears that speaking out could affect her pending case.

She filed an asylum application, citing a fear for her life in Venezuela as part of the political opposition. She didn't have a job when she arrived and used the help desk operated by Estrella del Paso at the immigration court in El Paso, Texas, for help with her asylum application. The last time she went, she discovered it was closed because of the stop-work order.

"You feel a kind of frustration because the window that you had open to ask, to get advice, is closed," she said in Spanish. "It is a feeling of helplessness and loneliness."

Without their help, she said, "I would have had to pay money that I do not have."

But with a court appearance coming up in February, she fears she will have to use much of the salary she earns as a caretaker for a 100-year-old woman to pay someone to help her.

Aid is surging into Gaza under the ceasefire. Is it helping?

By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Two weeks after the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel took effect, aid is flooding into the Gaza Strip, bringing relief to a territory suffering from hunger, mass displacement and devastation following 15 months of war.

But Palestinians and aid workers say it's still an uphill battle to ensure the assistance reaches everyone. And looming large is the possibility that fighting will resume if the ceasefire breaks down after the six-week first phase.

As part of the ceasefire agreement, Israel said it would allow 600 aid trucks into Gaza each day, a major increase. Israel estimates that at least 4,200 trucks have entered each week since the ceasefire took hold.

Humanitarian groups say aid distribution is complicated by destroyed or damaged roads, Israeli inspections and the threat of unexploded bombs.

On Saturday, Samir Abu Holi, 68, watched over a food-distribution point in Jabaliya, an area in northern Gaza razed to the ground during multiple Israeli offensives, the most recent of which cut off nearly all aid for over a month.

"I have more than 10 children. All of them need milk and food. Before the ceasefire, we used to provide food with difficulty," he said. "Today there is a little relief."

Here's a closer look at the aid situation.

A surge of aid

The main U.N. food agency, the World Food Program, said it dispersed more food to Palestinians in Gaza during the first four days of the ceasefire than it did, on average, during any month of the war. Over 32,000 metric tons of aid have entered Gaza since the ceasefire, the agency said last week.

Aid is now entering through two crossings in the north and one in the south. Aid agencies said they are opening bakeries and handing out high-energy biscuits, and Hamas police have returned to the streets to help restore order.

Before the ceasefire, aid organizations said delivery was complicated by armed gangs looting the trucks, attacks on aid workers, arduous Israeli inspections and difficulties coordinating with COGAT, the Israeli military body charged with facilitating aid. Israel blamed the U.N. and humanitarian organizations for failing to deliver aid once it reached Gaza.

There's now the "political will to make everything else work," said Tania Hary, executive director of Gisha, an Israeli organization dedicated to protecting Palestinians' right to move freely within Gaza.

"COGAT is fast-tracking responses to coordination requests. It's allowing two crossings instead of one to operate in the north. The ceasefire is allowing Hamas forces to operate freely to stop looting ... and the lack of hostilities allow aid agencies to move freely and safely," Hary said.

Food prices are still a challenge

Nadine Jomaa, a young woman in Bureij in central Gaza, said the aid is not freely available, and she needs to buy goods in the market, where they are resold for inflated prices. Though prices are coming down, flour and cooking gas still cost roughly triple the amount they did before the war, according to the

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World Food Program.

Her family is eating only cheap canned goods. "We need more food, water, household items for the kitchen and bathroom and women's items," she said.

Although humanitarian officials have long said the best way to prevent extortion is to flood Gaza with aid, Palestinians in the north say that, so far, the influx appears to have only boosted shadowy middlemen. Residents complain that there are not nearly enough tents entering Gaza while non-essential items such as chocolate, nuts and soda are suddenly ubiquitous.

Ahmed Qamar, 34, who returned to live in the ruins of his former home in Jabaliya, said his area has seen just a few dozen aid trucks.

"Hundreds of families here are sleeping in the open and in the cold," he said. "We need electricity and shelter, and meanwhile markets are flooded with chocolate and cigarettes."

Though aid workers say the Israeli inspection process has accelerated, getting certain types of aid into Gaza is still challenging. Some items are deemed "dual-use," barring them from Gaza because of concerns they could be diverted by militants for military purposes.

Some hospitals and desalination plants still have fuel shortages. And Hamas on Sunday accused Israeli officials of obstructing the delivery of medical supplies and reconstruction machinery.

According to a list circulated to humanitarian groups by COGAT and shared with The Associated Press, desalination and water-collection devices, storage units, tools, tent kits, ovens, water-resistant clothing and equipment for shelter construction teams all require "pre-approval" before entering Gaza. Large tents, sleeping bags, portable toilets, heating pads and vaccines are cleared to enter the strip without Israeli approval.

"While aid is getting in in higher numbers, we also know that those restrictions on essential items are persisting," said Sophie Driscoll, head of communications for the International Rescue Committee in the Palestinian territories.

COGAT acknowledged keeping certain items on the dual-use list but said it is still permitting them into Gaza after screening. The agency said tents are not considered dual-use, and Israel has allowed tens of thousands into Gaza in recent weeks "without restriction." It also said Israel has extended the hours crossings are open and allowed road repairs inside Gaza.

"Regarding the distribution of aid inside Gaza, Israel does not control the situation inside," COGAT said.

Destroyed roads, unexploded ordnance

Roads have been heavily damaged by the war, and unexploded bombs litter the landscape. The U.N. estimates that 5% to 10% of all ammunition dropped in Gaza has failed to detonate, making the territory potentially perilous for civilians and aid workers.

UNMAS, the U.N. agency handling unexploded ordnance, said that since the ceasefire took hold, humanitarian convoys and civilians have reported finding large aircraft bombs, mortars and rifle grenades.

As they return home, many Palestinians are living in areas where the water network has been destroyed. That makes dehydration and the spread of disease due to poor sanitary conditions and limited medical care a threat.

Speaking from southern Gaza, Jonathan Crickx, chief of communications at UNICEF, recalled being on a road where "thousands and thousands of children and families were walking."

"I was seeing them with nothing," he said, "only the clothes they're wearing on their back."

Africa knew Trump's 'America First' pledge meant it might be last. Then came the freeze on aid

By GERALD IMRAY, MOGOMOTSI MAGOME, FARAI MUTSAKA and MARK BANCHEREAU Associated Press JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Four days after President Donald Trump signed an executive order freezing almost all U.S. foreign aid, an email landed in Claris Madhuku's inbox in rural Zimbabwe. Stop all activities immediately, it said.

The message confirmed Madhuku's fears that Trump's return to office might affect his organization's

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efforts to save African girls from child marriages.

Many Africans had known that Trump's "America First" outlook meant their continent was likely to be last among his priorities. But they hadn't expected the abrupt halt to foreign aid from the world's largest donor that stops money flowing for wide-ranging projects like disease response, girls' education and free school lunches.

Even after global outrage prompted some exemptions to Trump's order, sub-Saharan Africa could suffer more than any other region as most global aid pauses 90 days for a spending review. The U.S. gave the region more than \$6.5 billion in humanitarian assistance last year.

For Madhuku and countless others, the damage has been done. His Platform For Youth and Community Development is one of hundreds of small non-governmental organizations in Africa that receive assistance from the U.S. government — and ultimately from the American people — to do good work.

Without U.S. aid, Madhuku's group can't give around 100 volunteers allowances for food and public transport as they do outreach seeking to keep girls in school and out of early marriages.

"We had to stop everything, no warning, no time to adjust," Madhuku said. "I appreciate that Trump might have some justification in trying to account for American taxpayers' money ... but it has caused disaster here."

The world's most successful foreign aid program

For many in Africa, thoughts immediately turned to arguably the world's most successful foreign aid program, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR.

Over two decades, the program with bipartisan support has been credited with saving more than 25 million lives, the vast majority in Africa, the continent it was designed to help most.

"The world is baffled," the health minister of South Africa, the country with the most people living with HIV, said after the U.S. freeze on aid.

The minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, said the U.S. funds nearly 20% of South Africa's \$2.3 billion annual HIV/AIDS program through PEPFAR, and now the biggest response to a single disease in history is under threat.

More than 8 million in South Africa live with HIV, and authorities say PEPFAR helps provide life-saving antiretroviral treatment to 5.5 million people every day.

HIV patients are turned away

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has announced that programs offering "life-saving" assistance including medicine, medical services, food and shelter would be exempted from the aid freeze, though what qualifies is not immediately clear.

The United Nations AIDS program said many organizations receiving PEPFAR funding had closed due to the aid pause and there was "lack of clarity and great uncertainty about the future." More than 20 million people globally receive HIV treatment with PEPFAR support, UNAIDS said.

In South Africa's largest city, Johannesburg, and elsewhere, PEPFAR-funded facilities were still shut days after the exemptions were announced and HIV patients were referred to government hospitals and clinics.

In Johannesburg's largest township, Soweto, two workers at the PEPFAR-funded HIVSA center turned patients away. And a notice at the renowned Wits RHI Key Populations Clinic, which serves adults and children living with HIV, read: "We apologize for the inconvenience this causes."

Delays could be dangerous

Experts said the effects on HIV programs remain unclear but the consequences could be swift, even dangerous.

"We need to know a lot more before we can say people won't die directly because of the pause to funding," said Charles Kenny, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington, noting that while the waiver should cover HIV drugs, HIV diagnostic tests are also critical to ensure treatment gets to those who need it.

Kenny said even short interruptions to antiretroviral treatment — which stops the virus replicating in the body — are risky.

"HIV viral loads rebound in about three weeks if you go off antiretrovirals," he said.

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Overall, even senior officials in the aid community are not sure which U.S.-funded programs are allowed to at least briefly continue operations.

The Trump administration has warned contractors and staffers with USAID — the agency responsible for dispersing America's foreign aid — they could be disciplined if they speak to anyone outside the agency without top-level approval, and aid groups fear they may permanently lose funds if they speak publicly.

Stopping aid in war zones

A humanitarian official told The Associated Press that at least 1.2 million people in Congo could lose life-saving support because of the aid freeze. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter, said almost half of their organization's funding is from USAID.

Overall, more than \$100 million for the organization's humanitarian programs in more than 30 countries worldwide has been halted, according to the official.

The block on aid came during a major escalation in fighting in eastern Congo, where millions of people were already displaced and where outbreaks of the mpox virus were declared a global health emergency last year.

In civil-war-torn Sudan, which is grappling with cholera, malaria, and measles, the aid freeze means 600,000 people will be at grave risk of catching and spreading those diseases, the official said.

Even with the exemption for life-saving services, the official said their organization had been told they should not resume any USAID-funded activities until they received notification that the waiver applies to them.

Southeast Asia looks to nuclear power to supercharge its energy transition

By VICTORIA MILKO and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Southeast Asia's only nuclear power plant, completed four decades ago in Bataan, about 40 miles from the Philippine capital Manila, was built in the 1970s but left idle due to safety concerns and corruption. It has never produced a single watt of energy.

Now the Philippines and other countries in fast-growing Southeast Asia are looking to develop nuclear energy in their quest for cleaner and more reliable energy. Nuclear energy is viewed by its proponents as a climate solution since reactors don't emit the plant-warming greenhouse gases released by burning coal, gas or oil. Advances in technology have helped reduce the risks from radiation, making nuclear plants safer, cheaper to build and smaller.

"We see multiple signs of a new era in nuclear power across the world," said Faith Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, adding that it expects 2025 to be a historical high for nuclear-generated electricity because of new plants, new national plans and interest in smaller nuclear reactors.

Nuclear energy has been used for decades in wealthier nations like the U.S., France and Japan. It produces about 10% of all electricity generated worldwide, with 413 gigawatts of capacity operating in 32 countries, according to the IEA. That is more than Africa's entire generating capacity. The IEA says construction of new nuclear power plants needs to "accelerate significantly" in this decade to meet global targets for ending emissions of greenhouse gases.

Southeast Asia will account for a fourth of global energy demand growth between now and 2035, and fossil fuels account for most of the region's energy capacity. Many countries in the region are showing interest in building nuclear power plants — which typically produce one gigawatt of power per plant — to help clear their smoggy skies and boost capacity.

Indonesia plans 20 nuclear power plants. A Korean company is assessing restarting the mothballed Philippine plant. Vietnam has revived nuclear plans, and Malaysia's future plans include nuclear energy. Singapore signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with the U.S. last year, and Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar have shown interest in nuclear power.

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But nuclear power plants are expensive, take years to build and require a long time to become profitable. Vietnam suspended a nuclear project in 2016 after costs soared to \$18 billion, but on Jan. 14, it signed a deal with Russia on atomic energy cooperation.

International financing for nuclear energy is becoming more available, said Henry Preston, a United Kingdom-based communications manager for the World Nuclear Association, noting that 14 major financial institutions endorsed a goal for tripling global nuclear energy capacity by 2050 at the latest Climate Week NYC.

Financing sources are still limited, though. The World Bank does not fund any nuclear energy development projects.

"We hear the call from some stakeholders to explore nuclear power to decarbonize energy and improve energy supply reliability," a World Bank spokesperson said in a recent written response to questions from The Associated Press. "We continue to have conversations with our board, management, and external stakeholders to understand the facts. Any reconsideration of our position is ultimately a decision for our member countries."

Developing robust nuclear energy policies and regulations, now lacking in many countries, could catalyze more funding by reassuring investors, Preston said.

Technological advances are making nuclear power more affordable, experts say.

Small modular reactors, which advocates say can generate up to roughly one-third the amount of power of a traditional reactor, can be built faster and at lower costs than large power reactors, scaling to fit the needs of a particular location. Advocates say they are safer due to simpler designs, lower core power, and more coolant, giving operators more time to respond in case of accidents.

Critics question how inexpensive the technology might be since smaller reactors have not been widely commercially deployed, said Putra Adhiguna of the Jakarta-based think tank Energy Shift Institute.

The small modular reactors already operating are run by state-owned entities that aren't transparent about performance or costs. The cost of the first such reactor that was to be commercially deployed in the U.S. inflated by about half before it was cancelled, he said. The Idaho-based project had a target of delivering 40 years of electricity at \$55 per megawatt-hour, but project costs climbed to \$89 per MWh, according to a report by The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Nuclear disasters dimmed earlier enthusiasm for nuclear power in Southeast Asia. Ukraine's 1986 Chernobyl disaster was a factor behind the decision to shelve the project in the Philippines. Meltdowns in 2011 at the Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan, following a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami also raised worries, leading Thailand to halt its nuclear power plans. In 2018, Malaysia's then prime minister Mahathir Mohamad cited such disasters when deciding against using nuclear energy.

Some other challenges remain. Markets for nuclear technologies remain concentrated in a few countries — Russia controls roughly 40% of the world's supply of enriched uranium — and this is a "risk factor for the future," said an IEA report. It added that safely disposing of spent fuel and other radioactive waste is essential to gain public acceptance of nuclear power.

For countries like Vietnam, a lack of trained engineers and scientists is also a big obstacle. It estimates that it will need around 2,400 trained personnel to revive its nuclear program.

"This is not just about the program but about building a nuclear power ecosystem and technology for the future," the state-run VN Express cited Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien as saying.

Trump says Americans could feel 'some pain' from tariffs as he threatens more import taxes

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that Americans could feel "some pain" from the emerging trade war triggered by his tariffs against Canada, Mexico and China, and claimed that Canada would "cease to exist" without its trade surplus with the United States.

The trade penalties that Trump signed Saturday at his Florida resort caused a mix of panic, anger and

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uncertainty, and threatened to rupture a decades-old partnership on trade in North America while further straining relations with China.

Trump on Sunday night returned from Florida and threatened to impose steeper tariffs elsewhere, telling reporters that the import taxes will "definitely happen" with the European Union and possibly with the United Kingdom as well.

He brushed aside retaliatory measures from Canada, saying, "If they want to play the game, I don't mind. We can play the game all they want." Trump said he plans to speak with his Canadian and Mexican counterparts on Monday.

By following through on his tariffs campaign pledge, Trump may also have simultaneously broken his promise to voters in last year's election that his administration could quickly reduce inflation. That means the same frustration he is facing from other nations might also spread domestically to consumers and businesses.

"WILL THERE BE SOME PAIN? YES, MAYBE (AND MAYBE NOT!)," Trump said in a social media post. "BUT WE WILL MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, AND IT WILL ALL BE WORTH THE PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID."

His administration has not said what specific improvements would need to be seen in stopping illegal immigration and the smuggling of fentanyl to merit the removal of the tariffs that Trump imposed under the legal justification of an economic emergency. But Trump, speaking to reporters after Air Force One, landed said that the trade imbalances with Canada and Mexico would also need to be erased as a condition for lifting the tariffs.

The president also tried to clarify his post about the possible inflation, saying on Sunday: "We may have in the short term, a little pain, and people understand that. But long term, the United States has been ripped off by virtually every country in the world."

The tariffs are set to launch Tuesday and triggered confusion as Canada's U.S. ambassador, Kirsten Hillman, told ABC News that her country was perplexed by the move because "we view ourselves as your neighbor, your closest friend, your ally."

In his Truth Social post, Trump took particular aim at Canada, which responded with retaliatory measures. Trump is placing a 25% tariff on Canadian goods, with a 10% tax on oil, natural gas and electricity. Canada is imposing 25% tariffs, more than \$155 billion Canadian (US\$105 billion), on U.S. products, including alcohol and fruit.

Despite Trump's assertions that the U.S. does not need Canada, one-quarter of the oil that America consumes per day is from its ally to the north. He reiterated his false claim that America subsidizes Canada by running a trade imbalance, a reflection in part of Canada exporting energy to the U.S.

Trump contended that without that surplus, "Canada ceases to exist as a viable Country. Harsh but true! Therefore, Canada should become our Cherished 51st State. Much lower taxes, and far better military protection for the people of Canada — AND NO TARIFFS!"

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is encouraging Canadians to buy more Canadian goods, and says Trump's moves will only cause pain across North America. More than 75% of Canada's exports go to the U.S. Canada will first target alcohol, cosmetics and paper products; a second round later will include passenger vehicles, trucks, steel and aluminum products, certain fruits and vegetables, beef, pork, dairy products and more.

Canada is the largest export market for 36 states and Mexico is the largest trading partner of the U.S.

Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, also announced new tariffs and suggested the U.S. should do more within its own borders to address drug addiction. She and Trudeau spoke after Trump's announcement and agreed "to enhance the strong bilateral relations" between Canada and Mexico, according to the prime minister's office.

The Chinese government said it would take steps to defend its economic interests and intends to file a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization.

For Trump, the open question is whether inflation could be a political pressure point that would cause him to back down. As a candidate, Trump repeatedly hammered Democrats over the inflation under President Joe Biden that resulted from supply chain issues during the coronavirus pandemic, the Biden administration's own spending to spur the recovery and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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Trump said his previous four years as president had low inflation, so the public should expect the same if he came back to the White House. But he also said specifically that higher inflation would stagger the U.S. as a nation, a position from which he now appears to be retreating with the promise of even more tariffs to come.

The U.S. president did not offer details Sunday about when he would impose tariffs elsewhere, but he said they would be coming "pretty soon" for the EU, which is also composed of U.S. allies.

Larry Summers, treasury secretary in the Clinton administration, said the tariffs were a "self-inflicted wound to the American economy."

He told CNN's "Inside Politics" that "on the playground or in international relations, bullying is not an enduringly winning strategy. And that's what this is." And the ultimate winner, Summers suggested, would be Chinese leader Xi Jinping because "we've moved to drive some of our closest allies into his arms" and "we're legitimating everything he's doing by violating all the international norms that we set up."

Outside analyses make clear that Trump's tariffs would hurt the voters that he intended to help, meaning that he might ultimately need to find a resolution.

An analysis by the Budget Lab at Yale shows that if the tariffs were to continue, an average U.S. household would lose roughly \$1,245 in income this year, in what would be the overall equivalent of a more than \$1.4 trillion tax increase over the next 10 years.

Goldman Sachs, in a Sunday analyst note, stressed that the tariffs go into effect on Tuesday, which means they're likely to proceed "though a last-minute compromise cannot be completely ruled out."

The investment bank concluded that because of the possible economic damage and possible conditions for removal "we think it is more likely that the tariffs will be temporary but the outlook is unclear."

The Gaza war is paused, but Israel and Hamas keep up a fierce battle of optics over hostage releases

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Arbel Yehoud is aching close to freedom, but her face is a study of shadow and terror. She is dwarfed by dozens of masked Hamas fighters — and beyond them, a heaving mob of chanting men who surround her and fill the frame. In the next, Yehoud looks up at her captors, pleading. But video suggests they're on the edge themselves, barely able to hold back the people impeding Yehoud's dash to safety under the terms of a ceasefire deal.

Cut to photos of her friends and family in Israel, watching the handover live — hands over their mouths, breathless. Yehoud makes it into waiting vehicles, and then to Israel. Cue the government's images of her joyous reunion with her parents.

The visuals out of Israel and Gaza during recent hostage-for-prisoner swaps were part of a choreographed battle of optics waged in parallel to the 16-month ground war between Israel and Hamas. Each side uses the light and shadow of images to make themselves look virtuous and strong — and each other monstrous and weak. It's propaganda. But some images also tell the truth: The chaos during Yehoud's release in Gaza on Thursday, for example, reflected the fragility of the ceasefire deal that took effect Jan. 19.

"All of this was filmed and intentionally shared," said Danielle Gilbert, an expert on hostage-taking at Northwestern University. "Social scientists talk about the idea of a collapse of compassion. Audience pay more attention and are willing to take more of a risk to recover, or help, individual victims."

Throughout history, both sides of hostage standoffs and POW releases have tried to capitalize on the plight of those in captivity by focusing on details of the names, faces, families and conditions of captivity. Even in war, branding is a potent force.

Proof of life, or lack of it, injects urgency into negotiations

Since at least the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh's baby son in 1932, images of hostages have been pivotal elements of negotiations because they carry an intense emotional charge.

We can't, for example, unsee images of bound and blindfolded Americans taken captive in Iran in 1979. Or the photo of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl holding up a newspaper, a sign of life, before

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his Islamic militant captors killed him in 2002. Or the image of a masked Arab commando, captured in black-and-white in 1972, on the balcony of the Munich Olympic Village building. Inside, a Palestinian group called Black September killed 11 Israeli team members.

The Israel-Hamas media duel, waged heavily on social media, exploded the moment thousands of Hamas fighters defeated Israel's borders on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and dragging about 250 back to Gaza. Cameras anchored to the militants themselves, as well as phones hoisted by the Israelis under attack, captured the killing-and-hostage-taking spree in such detail that some viewers reported a type of trauma — called vicarious or secondary trauma — just from seeing them.

Billions of American dollars and other aid have been influenced at least in part by public opinion, which has fluctuated over the course of the conflict. Anti-Israel protests raged around the world, antisemitism surged and disinformation about the conflict proliferated. The International Criminal Court last year issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defense minister and Hamas' late military chief, accusing them of crimes against humanity in connection with the Gaza war. The embattled Israeli leader has vowed to fight the allegations.

Israel has used images to argue that it was Hamas that waged crimes against humanity. Within a month of the attacks, the army compiled a film of the grisliest moments of the Hamas attack called "Bearing Witness" in English and "The Film of Horrors" in Hebrew. The Israeli government invited select journalists, diplomats and Hollywood executives to watch it at screenings in several countries.

In Tel Aviv, a briefing on the film came as Israel cut off vital supplies to the Gaza Strip and pounded the territory with airstrikes. The film has provided a justification of sorts for Israel's fierce tactics.

Spectacles of strength, chaos and smiles

Since the ceasefire began, Hamas has turned each round of hostage releases into a spectacle with large crowds, flags and smiling, waving hostages on stages. For the militants, it's a chance to show off their survival as a fighting force and ongoing control of Gaza after 15 months of heavy fighting. At least 47,000 people have been killed by Israel's bombardment of the enclave, according to local health officials, and nearly all of Gaza's population has been displaced. The destruction has quieted under the ceasefire, but people in Gaza have little to return to after the airstrikes reduced much of the territory to rubble.

The images of hostages being led through the crowds Thursday raised the question of whether Hamas is really in control. Netanyahu condemned the "shocking scenes" and called on international mediators to ensure the safety of hostages in future releases — a commitment he said he later received.

Saturday's hostage release proceeded smoothly, providing strong evidence that Hamas remains firmly in charge, and images of the handovers told more of the story.

Hamas let three Israeli hostages go while on camera with certificates reading, "release order." Ahead of the third release, seven masked men stood on a stage decorated with pictures of dead Hamas leaders and the sign "Zionism will not win."

Across the border, Israeli TV stations have filmed the emotional reunions, in which family and friends watching their loved ones' releases on live television, shifting from tense quiet to excited cheers and, often, tears.

"There he is!" shouted the wife of Keith Siegel, watching a TV screen as he was released. The government follows up with photos and videos of the traumatized ex-captives reuniting with their families in person, smiles hugs and tears on Israeli TV for hours in a recurring loop.

Those scenes are only the start of long and difficult roads toward recovery for the hostages and the families. But the exuberant moments serve a purpose in a country where one stated goal of the war is to bring the hostages home, and where Israelis are bitterly divided over the slow pace of their return. Many hostage families have accused Netanyahu of prolonging the war for his own political survival.

In this conflict, the absence of images also tells a story.

Yarden Bibas, 35, was one of the three hostages released with full choreography on Saturday. But there's been no word on the fate of his family. Their abduction, filmed by Hamas, has become a symbol of the brutality of the siege. In it, Shiri Bibas tearfully clutches her two red-haired sons — Ariel, then 3, and Kfir, 9 months — as Hamas fighters surround her.

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In November 2023, Hamas released a video of the boys' father, Yarden, weeping on camera as he is told his family is dead. Israel has not confirmed their condition. On Saturday, Israel aired footage of Yarden in Israel, appearing weary with his eyes closed, stepping into the arms of his waiting family.

Trump kept his pledge on tariffs. Is he ready for the fallout? Are Americans? Here's what to know

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — President Donald Trump has taken executive action to impose new tariffs on imports from Canada, China and Mexico.

The move fulfills campaign promises but also sparked retaliatory moves that could signal an extended trade war with key trading partners and, in the case of Mexico and Canada, the closest U.S. neighbors and allies.

Unlike during the 2024 campaign, when Trump billed his economic agenda as a sure-fire way to reduce the cost of living for Americans, the president now is acknowledging what many economists have long forecasted: that the levies could yield higher prices and lower supplies across the market.

Here are some things to know about Trump's actions, the counters from U.S. trading partners and what it means for American consumers:

The moves affect the three largest U.S. trading partners

Trump declared an economic emergency to place duties of 10% on all imports from China and 25% on imports from Mexico and Canada. Energy imported from Canada, including oil, natural gas and electricity, would be taxed at 10%. The tariffs on the United States' three largest trading partners will go into effect on Tuesday.

The tariffs reach across the U.S. market. To name a few: oil and lumber from Canada; produce, clothing, liquor and auto parts from Mexico; plastics, textiles and computer chips from China.

Trump's order contained no mechanism for granting exceptions to U.S. importers.

Underscoring the potential effects, Canada provides more than 4.3 million barrels of oil a day to the United States. The U.S. tends to consume about 20 million barrels a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. It has been producing domestically about 13.2 million barrels daily.

Trump says these levies are about immigration and drugs – downplaying economics

The president talked often as a candidate – and for decades before he entered politics – about U.S. trade deficits. He blasted international trade deals and bemoaned the steady flow of manufacturing jobs out of the U.S. to other countries. But he has framed his latest actions as leverage on immigration and drugs. Trump is blaming the three U.S. partners for not doing enough to stop the flow of fentanyl into U.S. markets. He blames Mexico and, to a lesser extent, Canada for an inflow of migrants across U.S. borders.

"It is my duty as president to ensure the safety of all," Trump said on social media.

Canada, China and Mexico have responded

Trump's order included a promise to escalate the tariffs if U.S. trading partners answered with their own. That threat did not prevent a swift response.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum immediately ordered retaliatory tariffs and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he would put matching 25% tariffs on up to \$155 billion in U.S. imports.

Trudeau urged Canadians to "choose Canadian products" when shopping, effectively urging a boycott of U.S. goods. Locally, multiple premiers of Canadian provinces said they would be removing American alcohol brands from government store shelves altogether.

As of Sunday afternoon, China had not imposed new tariffs on U.S. goods. But its Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Beijing government will take "necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests." The Ministry of Commerce said it would file a lawsuit with the World Trade Organization for the "wrongful practices of the U.S."

Consumers will see the effects, even if businesses pay the actual tariffs

End-line consumers don't pay tariffs directly. It's usually whatever company – a foreign-based exporter or

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U.S.-based importer – is transporting goods across the border. But that adds to the overall cost of getting goods to their final retail stop, and each player in that process is certain to increase their prices as a result.

Gregory Daco, chief economist at the tax and consulting firm EY, calculates the tariffs would increase inflation, which was running at a 2.9% annual rate in December, by 0.4 percentage points this year. Daco projects the U.S. economy, which grew 2.8% last year, would fall by 1.5% this year and 2.1% in 2026.

The Budget Lab at Yale University estimates Trump's tariffs would cost the average American household \$1,000 to \$1,200 in annual purchasing power.

The effects reach even to companies and products billed as "made in the U.S.A." Because sometimes that label means only that a product is assembled or otherwise finished in a U.S. facility but still includes raw materials, parts or packaging from elsewhere.

And as Trump himself often said during the campaign, energy costs — which become transportation costs in the supply chain — also drive consumer pricing. Given Canada's share of the U.S. energy supply, gas prices could increase, especially in the Midwest, where so much Canadian crude oil is refined.

Trump has changed his tune on the consequences for consumers

Candidate Trump made sweeping, fantastical promises about the U.S. economy.

For example, he promised to lower grocery prices "immediately" and cut utility bills in half within a year of taking office. He repeatedly hammered the Biden administration as a failure because of inflation and invited the votes of Americans frustrated over a higher cost of living.

Vice President JD Vance, in an interview on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," maintained that Trump's policies would mean "more take-home pay" for U.S. workers.

Trump is now backing off such claims.

"Will there be some pain? Yes, maybe (and maybe not)," Trump wrote Sunday morning on social media. "But we will make America great again, and it will all be worth the price that must be paid."

What to know about security measures at the Super Bowl in New Orleans

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — After a New Year's Day attack struck at the heart of the French Quarter, officials in New Orleans say they are confident in the security plans they have in place for the Super Bowl.

Upwards of 125,000 visitors are expected to converge on the Big Easy beginning Feb. 5 for parties, concerts and revelry featuring artists including Post Malone and Diplo and capped off by the Feb. 9 clash between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles at the Caesars Superdome stadium to crown this season's NFL champion.

Following the truck-ramming attack early on Jan. 1 that killed 14 people and injured dozens more along Bourbon Street, one of the city's most famous thoroughfares, alleged security lapses triggered multiple lawsuits and investigations. But the city, the NFL and law enforcement officials insist that after more than a year of preparations they are ready to play host.

"We're going above and beyond what we've seen in the past when we've hosted previously," Mayor LaToya Cantrell said at a news conference. "We know we're safer than we've ever been before."

What will the security presence look like?

Thousands of state, federal and local law enforcement officers will be on the ground during the Super Bowl, NFL Chief Security Officer Cathy Lanier said. But she and city officials remained tight-lipped about details.

Drones will be prohibited around the Superdome and downtown New Orleans throughout the week of the game and there will be flight restrictions up to 18,000 feet (5,486 meters), according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Armed federal air marshals will be stationed around the city's transportation hubs scanning for suspicious people or activities and guarding against drones, said Noel Curtin, supervisory air marshal in charge with

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the Transportation Security Administration.

Super Bowl events will sprawl across neighborhoods far beyond the stadium, said Homeland Security Investigations New Orleans Special Agent in Charge Eric DeLaune, who is leading federal coordination of Super Bowl security.

Federal agencies from the FBI to the Secret Service are bringing in rooftop snipers and BearCat armored SWAT vehicles around the stadium and across the city's historic French Quarter and downtown, DeLaune said.

No one will be allowed inside the cordoned-off area surrounding the Superdome without credentials, and the city already has begun shutting down and limiting traffic on roads near the stadium, where the perimeter will include blast barriers requiring trucks to pass through giant X-ray machines typically used at border crossings, DeLaune said.

Dozens of technicians and more than 100 bomb-sniffing dogs are engaging in a days-long effort to scour the 400,000 square feet (37,161 square meters) of the Superdome and each of its more than 70,000 seats prior to game day, DeLaune said.

"They're going to go from top to bottom on that building to make sure it's clear and it's safe. They open every door, check under every seat," DeLaune said.

Much of the security infrastructure will carry over to the Mardi Gras season, which has been upgraded to Homeland Security's highest risk rating to receive more manpower and resources.

With the sheer amount of law enforcement on every street corner and security measures in place, "New Orleans will be the safest place to be anywhere in the country," said Phillip Constantin, an adviser with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

How the New Year's Day attack has changed security plans

Multiple lawsuits have claimed city authorities were aware of Bourbon Street's vulnerabilities to the kind of truck-ramming attack that the Islamic State group-inspired Shamsud-Din Jabbar carried out. He drove his F-150 around a police car parked as a makeshift barricade and plowed into pedestrians before he crashed and was killed by police.

The bollard system of steel columns installed to block vehicle traffic, which was being replaced at the entrance to Bourbon Street at the time of the attack, remains on track for completion before the Super Bowl, officials said.

Authorities say they have brought in more types of physical barriers to protect entry points resulting from concerns that the new bollard system was not strong enough to block vehicle attacks.

The NFL and federal and city agencies have "put a fresh set of eyes" on their plans post-Jan. 1, DeLaune said, noting the New Orleans Police Department hired former New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton and his team from high-profile security firm Teneo.

"No specific or credible threats" have surfaced targeting the Super Bowl, NFL security chief Lanier said Wednesday.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry announced the creation of an "enhanced security zone" along Bourbon Street to bookend Super Bowl weekend and said he would deploy 350 national guardsmen.

After authorities found Jabbar had planted ice chests containing undetonated improvised explosive devices around the French Quarter, Landry declared a ban on coolers and ice chests in these areas and ordered mandatory searches of bags for anyone entering Bourbon Street zone during the Super Bowl weekend.

But in accordance with state law, firearms including permitless concealed carry guns will be allowed on Bourbon Street, Louisiana State Police Sgt. Katharine Stegall said, noting they remained banned from bars.

Landry also ordered the removal of multiple homeless encampments near the stadium and funneled dozens of unhoused people into a temporary warehouse shelter.

AI and mobile apps will play a security role

The Superdome's owner, ASM Global, has contracted New York-based artificial intelligence firm Dataminr to monitor potential and emerging threats in real time.

The company will draw from over 1 million sources of public data across 150 languages, from social

media to dark web forums to traffic cameras, Dataminr Chief Security Officer Robert Crowley said.

Dataminr uses generative AI to produce memos alerting Superdome officials of trending patterns, such as an influx of posts showing swelling crowds or other public disturbances as they unfold.

"It's stitching together all these little pieces of the puzzle to get a holistic, comprehensive view of what has just happened," Crowley said. "The faster you know what is occurring, the quicker you can take better action."

Visitors also can report suspicious activities and receive security updates with the city's NOLA Ready Public Safety App.

Jimmy Carter wins posthumous Grammy for narrating an audiobook of his Sunday school lessons

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter has won a posthumous Grammy award.

Carter, the peanut farmer who won the presidency in the wake of the Watergate scandal and Vietnam War, died in December at age 100. Prior to his passing, Carter was nominated in the audio book, narration, and storytelling recording category at the 2025 Grammys for "Last Sundays in Plains: A Centennial Celebration," recordings from his final Sunday School lessons delivered at Maranatha Baptist Church in Georgia. Musicians Darius Rucker, Lee Ann Rimes and Jon Batiste are featured on the record.

It's Carter's fourth Grammy. His posthumous Grammy joins his three previous ones for spoken word album.

If the former president won before his death, he would've become the oldest Grammy award winner in history.

Jason Carter, Jimmy Carter's grandson who now chairs The Carter Center governing board, received the award on his behalf. "Having his words captured in this way for my family and for the world is truly remarkable," he said in an acceptance speech. "Thank you to the academy."

In the category, Jimmy Carter beat out Barbra Streisand, George Clinton, Dolly Parton and producer guy Oldfield.

If Streisand won instead of Carter, it would have been her first Grammy win in 38 years.

Currently, the oldest person to win a Grammy was 97-year-old Pinetop Perkins in 2011.

"He's such an enormous music fan. He loves the creative aspect of music," Jason Carter said backstage about his grandfather. "It's been an important part of his political life, an important part of his personal life. He's an artist in many ways."

Former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton have two Grammys apiece. First ladies Michelle Obama and Hilary Clinton have also each won.

Former presidents Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon were all nominated, but didn't win.

Officials say remains of 55 of 67 victims of midair collision have been recovered and identified

By DAVID R. MARTIN, MICHAEL R. SISAK and CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Families of victims of the deadliest U.S. air disaster since 2001 visited the crash site on Sunday and divers scoured the submerged wreckage for more remains after authorities said they've recovered and identified 55 of the 67 people killed.

Washington, D.C. Fire and EMS Chief John Donnelly said officials are confident all will be found. Divers are working diligently to locate remains as crews prepare to lift wreckage from the chilly Potomac River as early as Monday morning, Donnelly said at a news conference.

Col. Francis B. Pera of the Army Corps of Engineers said divers and salvage workers are adhering to strict protocols and will stop moving debris if a body is found. The "dignified recovery" of remains takes precedence over all else, he said.

"Reuniting those lost in this tragic incident is really what keeps us all going," Pera said. "We've got teams

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that have been working this effort since the beginning, and we're committed to making this happen."

Divers have high-definition cameras with feeds monitored on support boats, Pera said, putting "four or five sets of eyes" inside of the wreckage. Owing to the frigid conditions, one diver was treated at a hospital for hypothermia, Donnelly said.

Portions of the two aircraft that collided over the river Wednesday night near Reagan Washington National Airport — an American Airlines jet with 64 people aboard and an Army Black Hawk helicopter with 3 aboard — will be loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken to a hangar for investigation.

Family members were taken in buses with a police escort to the Potomac River bank near where the two aircraft came to rest after colliding. The jet, en route from Wichita, Kansas, was about to land. The Black Hawk was on a training mission. There were no survivors.

Federal investigators were working to piece together the events that led to the collision.

The National Transportation Safety Board didn't hold a press briefing on Sunday, but did release a photograph showing investigators on a small boat looking at wreckage and another of them examining a flight data recorder.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said he wanted to give investigators space to conduct their inquiry. But he posed a range of questions on Sunday morning TV news programs.

"What was happening inside the towers? Were they understaffed? ... The position of the Black Hawk, the elevation of the Black Hawk, were the pilots of the Black Hawk wearing night vision goggles?" Duffy asked on CNN.

Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin O'Hara, 28, of Lilburn, Georgia; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd Eaves, 39, of Great Mills, Maryland; and Capt. Rebecca M. Lobach, of Durham, North Carolina, were in the helicopter.

The plane's passengers included figure skaters returning from the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Wichita and a group of hunters returning from a guided trip.

The NTSB said Saturday that preliminary data showed conflicting readings about the altitudes of the airliner and the helicopter.

Investigators also said that about a second before impact, the jet's flight recorder showed a change in its pitch. But they did not say whether that change in angle meant that pilots were trying to perform an evasive maneuver to avoid the crash.

Data from the jet's flight recorder showed its altitude as 325 feet (99 meters), plus or minus 25 feet (7.6 meters), when the crash happened, NTSB officials told reporters. Data in the control tower, though, showed the Black Hawk at 200 feet (61 meters), the maximum allowed altitude for helicopters in the area.

The discrepancy has yet to be explained.

Investigators said they hoped to reconcile the difference with data from the helicopter's black box and planned to refine the tower data, which can be less reliable.

"This is a complex investigation," investigator in charge Brice Banning said. "There are a lot of pieces here."

Banning said the jet's cockpit voice recorder captured sound moments before the crash.

"The crew had a verbal reaction," Banning said, and the flight data recorder showed "the airplane beginning to increase its pitch. Sounds of impact were audible about one second later, followed by the end of the recording."

Full investigations typically take a year or more. Investigators hope to have a preliminary report within 30 days.

NTSB member Todd Inman said he has spent hours meeting with victims' families.

"Some wanted to give us hugs. Some are just mad and angry," Inman said. "They are just all hurt. And they still want answers, and we want to give them answers."

More than 300 responders were taking part in the recovery effort at a given time, officials said. Two Navy barges were also deployed to lift heavy wreckage.

On Fox News Sunday, Duffy said the Federal Aviation Administration was looking into staffing in the Reagan Airport control tower.

Investigators said there were five controllers on duty at the time of the crash: a local controller, ground controller, assistant controller, a supervisor and supervisor in training.

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According to an FAA report obtained by The Associated Press, one controller was responsible for helicopter and plane traffic. Those duties are often divided between two people but the airport typically combines them at 9:30 p.m., as traffic slows. On Wednesday, the supervisor combined them earlier, which the report called "not normal."

"Staffing shortages for air traffic control has been a major problem for years and years," Duffy said, promising that President Donald Trump's administration would address shortages with "bright, smart, brilliant people in towers controlling airspace."

With the nation already grieving, an air ambulance crashed in Philadelphia on Friday, killing all six people on board, including a child returning home to Mexico from treatment, and at least one on the ground.

Also Friday, the FAA heavily restricted helicopter traffic around Reagan Airport, hours after Trump wrote on social media that the helicopter had been flying higher than allowed.

Wednesday's crash was the deadliest in the U.S. since Nov. 12, 2001, when a jet slammed into a New York City neighborhood just after takeoff, killing all 260 people on board and five on the ground.

Experts stress that plane travel is overwhelmingly safe, but the crowded airspace around Reagan Airport can challenge even experienced pilots.

Friends say Army captain killed in midair collision was a 'brilliant and fearless' patriot

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Army captain who died in Wednesday's midair collision of a Black Hawk helicopter and an American Airlines jet was "brilliant and fearless" and "meticulous in everything she did," friends and fellow soldiers said.

Capt. Rebecca M. Lobach was identified by the Army Saturday as one of three soldiers killed in the crash near Reagan National Airport just outside Washington, D.C. In all, 67 people died, including the jet's 60 passengers and 4 crew members.

Lobach, of Durham, North Carolina, had served as an Army aviation officer since July 2019, earning an Army commendation medal and an achievement medal after graduating from the University of North Carolina as a distinguished military graduate in the top 20% of ROTC cadets nationwide, her family said.

Last month, she escorted fashion designer Ralph Lauren at the White House when he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

USA Today White House correspondent Davis Winkie trained with Lobach in the University of North Carolina ROTC program. They were in the same training platoon at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in 2018, and were friends ever since.

"Rebecca was brilliant and fearless, a talented pilot and a PT stud," Winkie wrote in a social media post, using an abbreviation for physical training.

In a statement released by the Army, Lobach's family said she had more than 450 hours of flight time and earned "certification as a pilot-in-command after extensive testing by the most senior and experienced pilots in her battalion."

The Army released the names of the two other Black Hawk soldiers on Friday, but withheld Lobach's name until Saturday at the request of her family. Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin O'Hara, 28, of Lilburn, Georgia, was the crew chief. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd Eaves, 39, of Great Mills, Maryland, was a pilot.

Lobach "was a patriot, she loved her country," her close friend, Sam Brown, told WNCN-TV.

Lexi Freas credited Lobach's mentorship for inspiring her to become an aviation officer in the District of Columbia National Guard.

"Not only did she care about being a leader and being the best officer she could, but also about being the best pilot she could," Freas told the Raleigh, North Carolina, station.

Another friend, Sabrina Bell, said Lobach "was meticulous in everything she did, she never did anything half-heartedly, she never did anything impulsively."

Lobach's family noted that she served as a certified sexual harassment/assault response and prevention victim advocate and hoped to become a physician when she got out of the Army.

"We are devastated by the loss of our beloved Rebecca. She was a bright star in all our lives. She was

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kind, generous, brilliant, funny, ambitious and strong. No one dreamed bigger or worked harder to achieve her goals," the statement said.

"We request that you please respect our privacy as we grieve this devastating loss," Lobach's family added.

After the crash, President Donald Trump blamed the helicopter for flying at too high an altitude, saying: "You had a pilot problem from the standpoint of the helicopter. I mean, because it was visual, it was very clear night."

The remarks, combined with Trump's rant about diversity initiatives in the air traffic controller ranks, only added to social media speculation, misinformation and vitriol about the makeup of the Black Hawk crew. No evidence has emerged that diversity rules factored into the collision.

Former military recruiter Bilal Kordab told WRAL-TV that Lobach was kind, intelligent and "put so much pressure on herself to be the best of the best and go the extra mile."

Before transferring to the University of North Carolina, Lobach played Division III college basketball at the University of The South.

Winkie said he and Lobach were both latecomers to the ROTC program "and quickly bonded over being the new kids on the block."

One day, while at Fort Knox learning about different Army officer career paths, Winkie said he and Lobach happened upon a small helicopter called a MH-6 Little Bird.

Winkie, who is 6-foot-6 (2 meters) tall, said Lobach — listed at 5-foot-7 (1.7 meters) in her college basketball days — smiled mischievously at him and asked: "Think we can both fit?"

"I'll be damned if we didn't somehow stuff ourselves into that cockpit," Winkie wrote in a tribute to Lobach on X, formerly known as Twitter. "My neck hurt, and I don't think we would've been able to fly it very well, but we were both beaming in the selfie she took."

Winkie wrote that soon after Wednesday's crash he texted Lobach, asking: "you good?" He said he didn't realize until the next day that the message hadn't gone through.

What do Trump's executive orders say on tariffs and how would they work?

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — With a trio of executive orders, President Donald Trump has almost instantly thrown the world economy and his own goal of cutting inflation into turmoil.

His tariffs against Canada and Mexico in order to stop illegal immigration and the illicit fentanyl trade led to retaliatory taxes by both countries on U.S. imports. He placed an additional 10% tariff on imports from China with the stated goal of stopping the production of fentanyl.

But on a deeper level, Trump suddenly hit the U.S. economy with tax increases that, if sustained, could total more than \$1 trillion in 10 years. He did so without congressional approval and by his own acknowledgement at the perilous chance of "some pain" in the form of higher inflation, job losses and worse growth.

Here's an explanation of what Trump's executive orders say and how they work:

What is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act?

This is the 1977 law that helped enable Trump to declare an economic emergency in the executive orders and implement his tariffs. There are more than three dozen active emergencies, including measures taken to respond to the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, human rights violations in Venezuela, nuclear weapon development in North Korea and multiple actions taken by China and Russia.

The law enables a president to freeze and block transactions in response to "unusual and extraordinary" threats outside the United States.

What are the tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China?

The tariffs would start at the beginning of Tuesday.

There would be an additional 25% tariff on imports from Canada, with a lower 10% charge on the oil, natural gas, electricity and other energy products. Energy products were taxed at a lower level to prevent U.S. consumers and businesses from paying higher prices for gasoline and utilities. Mexican imports would

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face an additional 25% tax. China would face an additional 10% tariff.

While Trump has said that foreigners pay these taxes, the tariffs would be paid by the individuals and companies bringing in the goods — which means this would be a domestic tax increase.

Why were the tariffs imposed?

Trump's orders say the tariffs are a consequence of illegal immigration and drug smuggling. Not everyone will agree with his reasoning, as U.S. government reports show that unauthorized border crossings from Mexico have fallen over the past year and seizures of fentanyl along the northern border are relatively low.

But Trump's order on Mexico says that drug traffickers and the country's government "have an intolerable alliance" that "endangers the national security of the United States, and we must eradicate the influence of these dangerous cartels." His order on Canada says that Mexican cartels are operating in that country and claims despite the modest amount of fentanyl intercepted that it would be enough to kill "9.5 million Americans." The order on China says that country's government provides a "safe haven" for criminal organizations to "launder the revenues from the production, shipment, and sale of illicit synthetic opioids."

Those are the stated legal reasons, but Trump has expressed a deep admiration to tariffs in general, claiming that they would make the United States wealthier even though they are tax hikes that can be passed along to consumers and businesses in the form of higher prices.

Could the tariffs be increased?

Yes. The orders are very clear that the U.S. president can respond to retaliatory actions — which are already planned as Canada and Mexico have their own counter-tariffs ready for U.S. products. Should they take action, Trump "may increase or expand in scope the duties imposed under this order." What's key here is that the tariffs wouldn't increase automatically. It would still be the U.S. president's choice.

What's this 'de minimus' language mean?

This is an important clause in the orders. When people import goods worth less than \$800, like say a dress bought online from a European retailer, they don't pay customs and duties on their purchase. This is legally known as the "de minimus" treatment, which suggests that the cost of what's being imported is too low to merit a tariff. That exclusion would no longer apply to products imported from Canada, Mexico and China.

Can Congress stop the tariffs?

It would require a new law that Trump would have to sign, which seems unlikely based on his statements. Still, Congress will have some oversight responsibilities as the order requires the Homeland Security Department in consultation with other agencies to "submit recurring and final reports to the Congress on the national emergency."

How can the tariffs be lifted?

The administration has not set any benchmarks for the other countries to meet, though a senior official suggested that declines in fentanyl-related deaths would be an option. What the order suggests is that the choice would ultimately be at Trump's discretion.

It orders Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to consult with her counterparts at the State and Justice departments, as well as White House officials. This specifically refers to the post at Homeland Security, rather than Noem specifically. But she would be able to inform the U.S. president of whether "adequate steps" have been taken to address the emergencies. It would then be up to the president to determine whether to remove the tariffs.

Fay Vincent, baseball commissioner during three years of turmoil, dies at 86

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fay Vincent, who became an unexpected baseball commissioner in 1989 following the death of A. Bartlett Giamatti and then was forced out three years later by owners intent on a labor confrontation with players, has died. He was 86.

Vincent had undergone radiation and chemotherapy for bladder cancer and developed complications

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that included bleeding, said his wife, Christina. He asked that treatment be stopped and died Saturday at a hospital in Vero Beach, Florida.

"Mr. Vincent served the game during a time of many challenges, and he remained proud of his association with our national pastime throughout his life," current commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement.

A lawyer who became a movie studio executive at the behest of a college friend, Vincent had been retired for three decades and lived in New Canaan, Connecticut, and Vero Beach.

During his three-year tenure as commissioner, Vincent had a string of what he called "three-cigar days," angering owners by becoming the first management official to admit the collusion among teams against free agents following the 1985, '86 and '87 seasons. He suspended the Yankees' George Steinbrenner, divided expansion fees among both leagues, attempted to force National League realignment and negotiated a settlement that ended a 1990 spring training lockout.

"I had the conviction that being commissioner was a public trust. I tried to do what I thought was best for the game and the public who cared so much about it," Vincent said in a 2023 interview with The Associated Press. "I had mixed results. Sometimes I'm pleased with what I did. The tragedy of baseball is the single biggest thing I left undone was to build a decent relationship between the owners and the players. I thought somebody would take over after me and get that done. If I died tomorrow, that would be the big regret, is that the players and the owners still have to make some commitment to each other to be partners and to build the game."

Born May 29, 1938, Vincent was a securities lawyer when he was hired in 1978 as president and chief executive officer of Columbia Pictures Industries Inc. by Herbert Allen Jr., who had known him their time as undergraduates at Williams College.

Vincent remained a corporate executive for a decade, then had been with a law firm for only a few months when he was asked to become deputy commissioner by Giamatti, a friend since they met during a party at Princeton in the 1970s.

Giamatti, the former Yale president, was NL president from June 1986 until succeeding Peter Ueberroth as commissioner in April 1989. Giamatti tasked Vincent with supervising the gambling investigation of career hits leader Pete Rose, and Vincent hired lawyer John M. Dowd to lead a probe that led to Rose agreeing to a lifetime ban that August.

Giamatti died of a heart attack that Sept. 1, and Vincent was elected commissioner by owners 12 days later and given a 4 1/2-year term.

Vincent's first World Series in charge was interrupted by the Loma Prieta earthquake, which struck a half-hour before Game 3 was to start at San Francisco's Candlestick Park. Vincent was praised for a 10-day delay before the series resumed.

"It is becoming very clear to us in Major League Baseball that our concerns, our issue, is a rather modest one," he said then.

His first full season as commissioner began after a 32-day spring training lockout. The deal he reached angered owners seeking greater management gains, a group led by Bud Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers and Jerry Reinsdorf of the Chicago White Sox.

In July 1990, Vincent signed an agreement with George Steinbrenner under which the New York Yankees principal owner resigned as managing general partner because of his dealings with a \$40,000 payment to a gambler, Howard Spira, to find embarrassing information about outfielder Dave Winfield. Vincent later reinstated Steinbrenner as of 1993.

The following June, Vincent ruled the American League was to receive \$42 million of the \$190 million in expansion fees due for the National League adding Colorado and Miami in 1993. He also ordered both leagues to supply players equally for the expansion draft and that any future expansion money be divided equally among all clubs.

In July 1992 he ordered NL realignment for the following year, moving the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals to the West Division in 1993, and the Atlanta Braves and Cincinnati Reds to the East. The Cubs obtained an injunction in federal court, and the plan was dropped after Vincent's departure.

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By mid-August, Selig and Reinsdorf gained enough support to cause AL president Bobby Brown and NL head Bill White to call a special meeting aimed at ousting Vincent. Owners approved a resolution of no confidence in an 18-9 vote on Sept. 3. After a weekend of thought at his home on Cape Cod, Vincent quit four days later, on Labor Day.

"The commissioner has to look out for the fans, and the owners don't want to hear me speak that idea," Vincent said.

Selig was installed as chairman of the executive council, a new position that made him in effect acting commissioner. He led owners through a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95, was voted commissioner in 1998 and remained on the job until retiring in 2015.

A longtime Anglophile, Vincent wanted to decompress and rented the Mill House in the Berkshire village of Sutton Courtenay for the first six months of 1993. Living in the home of former British Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, Vincent frequently entertained visitors during his sabbatical.

Francis Thomas Vincent Jr. was born May 29, 1938, at Waterbury, Connecticut. His father, Francis, was a football and baseball star at Yale in the 1930s and became a college football official. His mother, the former Alice Lynch, was a housewife.

Vincent was a tackle and center at Williams until he broke his back during his freshman year, falling four floors from an icy ledge outside his dormitory after his roommates locked him out as a prank. His left leg was partially paralyzed and he walked with a cane. Vincent, a Roman Catholic, gave up thoughts of Jesuit training because of the injury. Still, he managed to finish school on time and graduate Phi Beta Kappa.

"I've been lucky in a lot of ways — mostly I survived that terrible accident and being paralyzed for so long," Vincent said in 2023. "I can't have any regrets."

He went to Yale Law School, started as an associate at Whitman & Ransom in New York in 1963 and stayed there for five years.

In 1968, he moved to Caplin & Drysdale Chartered in Washington and practiced securities law there for almost 10 years, becoming a partner. In March 1978 he quit the firm to become associate director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Corporate Finance. His stay there was rather brief.

Allen, who was two years behind Vincent at Williams, decided that summer to fire Alan J. Hirschfield, Columbia Pictures Industries' CEO. For more than a year, the company had been in turmoil after David Begelman, president of the movie studio, was discovered to have forged checks.

Vincent replaced Hirschfield on July 13 and ran the company so well that Allen & Co. sold it to Coca-Cola Co. in 1982 for \$692 million. Vincent was promoted from president to chairman and was named executive vice president of Coca-Cola's new Entertainment Business Sector.

He went to Hollywood only about six times a year and let his production heads — Frank Price, Guy McIlwaine and David Puttnam — make the artistic decisions. While Vincent ran the company, Columbia released "Ghostbusters," "The Big Chill," "Gandhi" and "Tootsie."

Still, he remained devoted to baseball.

"He talked about baseball every day," Allen said. "A couple of times I went with him to Mets' opening day."

On Sept. 1, 1987, Coca-Cola bought Tri-Star Pictures and Tri-Star's Victor A. Kaufman replaced Vincent, who was reassigned to oversee equity investments in Coca-Cola Bottling's properties. Vincent quit in 1988 and went to Caplin & Drysdale's New York office as a partner. Before he settled in, Giamatti asked him to join baseball.

"I'd always been a baseball fan," Vincent said then. "I've followed baseball as long as I can remember."

In one of his lasting acts as commissioner, he chaired an eight-member committee for statistical accuracy, which removed the asterisk that had been next to Roger Maris' entry as the season home run leader and deleted 50 no-hitters. The group defined a no-hitter as games of nine innings or more that ended with no hits.

He recorded interviews with Hall of Fame members and Negro Leagues players for an oral history project that led to three books: "The Only Game in Town" (2006), "We Would Have Played for Nothing" (2009) and "It's What's Inside the Lines That Counts" (2010). In 2024, he made a \$2 million gift to Yale to endow the Yale baseball coach's position in the name of his father.

Vincent married the former Valerie McMahon in 1965 and they had a daughter Anne and twin sons William, and Edward. They divorced in 1994 and he married Christina Watkins in 1998.

Here are some goods in the crosshairs of Trump's tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

President Donald Trump signed an order to put tariffs on U.S. neighbors Canada and Mexico, as well as China, starting Tuesday. Canada and Mexico quickly announced retaliatory tariffs, while China said it would take "necessary countermeasures."

The business between the North American nations now exceeds China, totaling \$1.8 trillion in 2023. That is far greater than the \$643 billion in commerce that the U.S. did with China in that same year.

Trump declared an economic emergency Saturday in order to place duties of 10% on all imports from China and 25% on imports from Mexico and Canada. Energy imported from Canada, including oil, natural gas and electricity, would be taxed at a lower 10% rate.

Following are just a few imported goods whose prices may be hit first:

A 'grenade' lobbed into auto production

For decades, auto companies have built supply chains that cross the borders of the United States, Mexico and Canada. More than one in five of the cars and light trucks sold in the United States were built in Canada or Mexico, according to S&P Global Mobility. In 2023, the United States imported \$69 billion worth of cars and light trucks from Mexico – more than any other country -- and \$37 billion from Canada. Another \$78 billion in auto parts came from Mexico and \$20 billion from Canada. The engines in Ford F-series pickups and the iconic Mustang sports coupe, for instance, come from Canada.

"You have engines and car seats and other things that cross the border multiple times before going into a finished vehicle," said Scott Lincicome, a trade analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute. "You have American parts going to Mexico to be put into vehicles that are then shipped back to the United States.

"You throw 25% tariffs into all that, and it's just a grenade."

China is also a major supplier of auto parts to the U.S.

In a report Tuesday, S&P Global Mobility reckoned that "importers are likely to pass most, if not all, of this (cost) increase to consumers." TD Economics notes that average U.S. car prices could rise by around \$3,000 – this at a time when the average new car already goes for \$50,000 and the average used car for \$26,000, according to Kelley Blue Book.

Higher prices at the pump

Canada is by far America's biggest foreign supplier of crude oil. From January through November last year, Canada shipped the U.S. \$90 billion worth of crude, well ahead of No. 2 Mexico at \$11 billion.

For many U.S. refineries, there's not much choice. Canada produces the "type of crude oil that American refineries are geared to process," Lincicome said. "It's a heavier crude. All the fracking and all the oil and gas we make here in the United States – or most of it – is a lighter crude that a lot of American refineries don't process, particularly in the Midwest."

Of the tariffs on Canadian oil imports, Lincicome said, "how the heck does that shake out? My guess is that it shakes out just through higher gas prices, particularly in the Midwest." TD Economics figures that Trump's tariffs could push up U.S. gasoline prices by 30 cents to 70 cents a gallon.

Computers, Clothes and Toys

Tariffs on China could impact a wide variety of consumer goods that Americans depend on. Cell phones, computers and other electronic devices were among the top imports from China last year, according to Commerce Department data.

The U.S. also imported more than \$32 billion in "toys, games and sporting goods" from China last year, data shows.

And Americans import billions of dollars a year in clothing from China. That includes more than \$7.9 billion in footwear last year, according to Commerce Department data.

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Trouble in Margaritaville

Tariffs could raise the price for those raising a glass of tequila or Canadian whisky.

In 2023, the U.S. imported \$4.6 billion worth of tequila and \$108 million worth of mezcal from Mexico, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, a trade group. The U.S. imported \$537 million worth of Canadian spirits, including \$202.5 million worth of whisky.

Canada and Mexico were also the second- and third-largest importers of U.S. spirits in 2023, behind the European Union, the council said.

The council said the U.S. is already facing a potentially devastating 50% tariff on American whiskey by the European Union, which is set to begin in March. Imposing tariffs on Mexico and Canada could pile even more retaliatory action on the industry.

Chris Swonger, the council's president and CEO, said he appreciates the goal of protecting U.S. jobs. But tequila and Canadian whisky – like Kentucky bourbon -- are designated as distinctive products that can only be made in their country of origin.

"At the end of the day, tariffs on spirits products from our neighbors to the north and south are going to hurt U.S. consumers and lead to job losses across the U.S. hospitality industry, just as these businesses continue their long recovery from the pandemic," Swonger said.

Expensive avocados, just in time for the Super Bowl

For American consumers still exasperated by high grocery prices, a trade war with Canada, Mexico and China could be painful. In 2023, the U.S. bought more than \$45 billion in agricultural products from Mexico –including 63% of imported vegetables and 47% of fruits and nuts. Farm imports from Canada came to \$40 billion. A 25% tariff could push prices up.

"Grocery stores operate on really tiny margins," Lincicome said. "They can't eat the tariffs ... especially when you talk about things like avocados that basically all of them – 90% -- come from Mexico. You're talking about guacamole tariffs right before the Super Bowl."

U.S. farmers are nervous, too, that Canada and Mexico will retaliate by slapping tariffs on American products such as soybeans and corn. That's what happened in the first Trump administration. China and other targets of Trump tariffs hit back by targeting the president's supporters in rural America. Exports of soybeans and other farm products dropped, so Trump spent billions of U.S. taxpayer money to reimburse farmers for lost sales.

"President Trump was as good as his word," said Mark McHargue, a Central City, Nebraska, farmer who grows corn, soybeans, popcorn and raises hogs. "It did take the sting out of it. That's for sure." But he would prefer to see the government push to open foreign markets to American farm exports. "We would rather get our money from the market," said McHargue, president of the Nebraska Farm Bureau. "It doesn't feel great to get a government check."

Syria's interim president visits Saudi Arabia on first trip abroad, likely a signal to Iran

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Syria's interim president made his first trip abroad Sunday, traveling to Saudi Arabia in a move likely trying to signal Damascus' shift away from Iran as its main regional ally.

Ahmad al-Sharaa, who was once aligned with al-Qaida, landed in Riyadh alongside his government's foreign minister, Asaad al-Shaibani. The two men traveled on a Saudi jet, with a Saudi flag visible on the table behind them.

Saudi state television trumpeted the fact that al-Sharaa, first known internationally by the nom de guerre Abu Mohammed al-Golani, made Riyadh his first destination.

Syria's new three-star, tricolor flag flew next to Saudi Arabia's own at the airport as al-Sharaa in a suit and tie walked off the plane. He later met with a smiling Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency described their discussions as examining ways to "support the secu-

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ity and stability of sisterly Syria." Syria's state-run SANA news agency quoted al-Sharaa as saying they "worked on raising the level of communication and cooperation in all areas, especially those humanitarian and economic."

Saudi Arabia had been among the Arab nations that poured money into insurgent groups that tried to topple President Bashar Assad after Syria's 2011 Arab Spring protests turned into a bloody crackdown. However, its groups found themselves beaten back as Assad, supported by Iran and Russia, fought the war into a stalemate in Syria.

That changed with the December lightning offensive led by al-Sharaa's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. The group was once affiliated with al-Qaida but has since denounced its former ties.

Al-Sharaa and HTS have carefully managed their public image in the time since, with the interim president favoring an olive-colored military look similar to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, appointing women to roles and trying to maintain ties to Syria's Christian and Shiite Alawite populations.

That also includes keeping both Iran and Russia largely at arms' length as well. Iran has yet to reopen its embassy in Damascus, which had been a key node in running operations through its self-described "Axis of Resistance," including Assad's Syria, Lebanon's Hezbollah militia and other partners. Iranian state media noted the trip to Saudi Arabia, a longtime regional rival with which it struck a Chinese-mediated détente in 2023, without acknowledging its own challenges in Syria.

Russia, meanwhile, would like to maintain access to air and sea bases it has in Syria, but took in Assad when he fled Syria during the advance.

Those moves appear aimed at reassuring the West and trying to get crippling sanctions lifted on Syria. Rebuilding the country after over a decade of war will likely cost hundreds of billions of dollars, not to mention the cost of covering the needs of Syria's people, millions of whom remain impoverished.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan visited Damascus in January and said Riyadh has been "actively engaging in dialogue" to lift sanctions on Syria. Saudi Arabia, unlike Al-Sharaa's key allies in Turkey and Qatar, restored ties with Assad in 2023 alongside most of the Arab world. Getting sanctions lifted could go a long way in cementing their relationship.

Before al-Sharaa's trip, he hosted Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Damascus as his first foreign head of state.

Meanwhile, Syria's interim government still faces challenges from the Islamic State group and other militants in the country. On Saturday, a car bomb exploded in Manbij, a city in Syria's Aleppo governorate, killing four civilians and wounding nine, SANA reported, citing civil defense officials.

Turkish-backed Syrian rebels had seized Manbij in December, part of a push by Ankara to secure Syrian territory close to its border for a buffer zone.

How to watch and stream the Grammy Awards ceremony, red carpet arrivals and interviews

By The Associated Press undefined

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 67th annual Grammy Awards are set to recognize some of the most talented performers and biggest hits in pop music on Sunday, with different ways to watch the festivities.

Beyoncé enters as the leading nominee for her acclaimed album, "Cowboy Carter."

Here is what you need to know about the awards show, including how to watch or stream live and see the stars arrive on the red carpet.

What time do the Grammys start?

The Grammys are really two awards shows in one, spanning much of Sunday.

The premiere ceremony begins at 3:30 p.m. Eastern time, 12:30 p.m. Pacific time, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles and will pack dozens of awards and performances into a livestreamed show.

The Grammys telecast, which typically feature less than 10 awards but loads of performances, begins at 8 p.m. EST and will be shown on CBS for free over the air with an antenna.

How do I stream the shows?

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The Grammys can be streamed live on Paramount+ if the account also subscribes to Showtime. The show also will be available through live TV streaming services with CBS in their lineup, including Hulu + Live TV, YouTube TV and FuboTV.

Paramount+ subscribers will be able to stream the awards show the day after the ceremony.

The premiere ceremony, hosted by songwriter Justin Tranter, can be streamed at the Recording Academy's YouTube channel and on live.GRAMMY.com.

How can I watch the red carpet?

The Associated Press will stream a four-hour red carpet show with interviews and fashion footage. It will be streamed on YouTube and APNews.com beginning at 3:30 p.m. Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific.

E! will air a live red carpet show, "Live From E!: Grammys," beginning at 6 p.m. Eastern.

Who is nominated?

Beyoncé, the most decorated artist in Grammys history, leads all nominees this year with 11.

Post Malone, Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar and Charli XCX follow with seven nominations each. First-time nominees Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan boast six nominations each.

Taylor Swift, who will not perform but will present an award, also is nominated for six awards.

Who are the performers?

Eilish, Roan, Carpenter, Charli XCX, Benson Boone, Doechii, RAYE, Shakira and Teddy Swims are scheduled to perform Sunday.

A tribute to the late, legendary producer Quincy Jones will be led by Will Smith, Stevie Wonder and Janelle Monáe.

Russia and Ukraine trade blame over an attack on a boarding school in Russia's Kursk region

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Competing claims emerged over a deadly attack on a boarding school in Sudzha, a city in Russia's Kursk region that has been under Ukrainian control for five months, with Ukraine and Russia accusing each other of carrying out the strike.

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said Saturday night that four people were killed and a further four seriously wounded in the strike, with 84 people rescued by Ukrainian servicemen from the rubble of the building. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Moscow had bombed the boarding school where civilians were sheltering and preparing to evacuate.

The General Staff said those in need of additional medical assistance were evacuated to medical facilities in Ukraine.

The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed in the early hours of Sunday that it was Ukrainian forces that had launched a missile strike on the school, saying that the missiles were launched from Ukraine's Sumy region.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a Russian missile strike on an apartment block in the Ukrainian city of Poltava on Saturday rose to 14, including two children, local officials said Sunday. Seventeen people were injured in the attack on the five-story building, Ukraine's State Emergency Service said.

Moscow sent 55 drones into Ukraine overnight into Sunday, Ukrainian officials said. According to Ukraine's Air Force, 40 drones were destroyed during the overnight attacks. A further 13 drones were "lost", likely having been electronically jammed.

Two people were wounded in a drone attack in the early hours of Sunday morning in the Kharkiv region, according to regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov.

Later on Sunday, five people were wounded when a Russian drone hit a bus in the city of Kherson on Sunday, local Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said that five Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight in five regions of western Russia: three over the Kursk region, and one each over the Belgorod and Bryansk regions.

A man was killed in a drone strike in the Belgorod region, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

Direct primary care cuts out insurance companies. Could it gain traction under Trump?

By DEVNA BOSE AP Health Writer

Andrea Meneses stumbled on a direct primary care clinic because of a crisis.

Her grandmother, visiting Wisconsin from Bolivia, did not have insurance but needed to see a doctor fast. One of the grandchildren accidentally put her insulin in the freezer instead of the refrigerator.

Meneses reached out to friends in a panic, and one recommended Dr. Wendy Molaska, who runs a direct primary care clinic in nearby Madison. Patients at these clinics pay a fee of roughly \$50 to \$100 month and get easier, direct access to their doctor — as often as they want for no extra cost.

Direct primary care is an increasingly popular health care option, and experts say it may become more common under health policy changes that President Donald Trump's administration is expected to pursue. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, mentioned direct primary care during his recent confirmation hearings.

"This is the most optimistic I've ever been about it," said Gayle Brekke, a health services researcher based in Kansas City, Missouri, who has been studying direct primary care for more than a decade. "We're at a threshold where it really could take off."

Some doctors and patients say they love how much simpler it is to get routine medical care and how some services can be cheaper. But public health experts caution not to think of direct primary care as a replacement for insurance, because the monthly fee covers nothing beyond visits.

Affordable and quick care

Direct primary patients say it's helped them save a significant amount of money on health care, particularly those who don't have health insurance and would otherwise pay out of pocket.

Molaska didn't have insulin in her office, so she referred the prescription to a community pharmacy she works with, and the pharmacist helped Meneses secure it at a discount.

Brekke said direct primary care doctors also work with labs and imaging centers to order tests and X-rays for patients at discounted prices. In most states, these doctors can dispense medications in their practices with little to no markup; if not, the doctors, like Molaska, often have relationships with local pharmacists and can help patients get medications at more affordable rates.

Molaska charges between \$70 and \$85 for individuals and caps her monthly fee at \$200 for families. In central Wisconsin, she sees patients who speak Spanish and English and has a bilingual staff. Molaska has a 125-person waiting list.

After seeing how well the model worked for her grandmother's needs, everyone in Meneses' family are now patients of Molaska. Her kids' medications are cheaper, Meneses said, and they don't have to wait three months for an appointment.

In turn, direct primary care physicians say they can spend more time with patients, and it reduces burn-out because they don't have to deal with insurance companies.

"I wish more people knew about it," Meneses said. "I'm an accountant, and my clients are mostly Hispanic. Most of them don't qualify for any kind of help and cannot afford health care, so I send them to Dr. Molaska. Sometimes they ask me, 'Are you sure this isn't a scam?'"

It's not for everyone

Critics believe direct primary care is a solution for a limited group of people: the relatively healthy ones, those who can't afford insurance and don't qualify for Medicaid or Medicare, and folks who live in areas where community health centers are too busy for new patients.

Health researchers also warn of overstating direct primary care's affordability.

"Having worked in safety-net health systems for most of my career, I have found that many patients struggle to pay for bus fare or \$5 copayments," said Dr. Stephanie Woolhandler, a primary care doctor and researcher at Hunter College in New York.

While direct primary care is "better than nothing," said Dr. Kevin Schulman at Stanford's Clinical Excellence Research Center, it's hugely limited. Direct primary care is not health insurance, so nothing — aside

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from what the doctor can do in office — is covered.

Dr. James Vanderloo says for that reason, direct primary care is best suited for catching people who fall “through the cracks.”

Vanderloo practices a few miles north of Jackson, Mississippi — one of the poorest states in the U.S. and a place where lawmakers haven’t expanded Medicaid. So, no matter the income, an able-bodied Mississippi resident who doesn’t have kids doesn’t qualify for the federal insurance program for low-income people, and high-deductible insurance plans on the federal marketplace for one person run hundreds of dollars.

Mississippi also ranks at or near the top for high rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, the types of chronic conditions that Vanderloo helps manage with frequent testing and medications.

“I can’t help if you need your appendix taken out, but if you have diabetes, I can get you a \$10 or less A1C test,” he said of the test that measures blood sugar and is used to manage and diagnose diabetes. “You do need some sort of help for heavy lifting, but it’s better than nothing.”

But if hypertension results in stroke symptoms, one of Vanderloo’s patients would have to go an emergency room.

Insurance’s bad rep

Florida-based provider Dr. Lee Gross started his direct primary care practice in 2010, putting it among the first wave of direct primary care clinics across the country. He was exasperated with back-and-forth calls with insurance companies and wanted a way to help his patients without a middleman.

Annie Geisel has been going to Gross’ practice in North Port on Florida’s Gulf Coast since 1998 — before Gross transitioned it to a direct primary care clinic. After the switch, Geisel marveled at how fast she was able to see Gross, as well as the lack of co-pay, while her friends complained that insurance companies were delaying their care.

“I think it’s time that doctors start calling the shots about patient care rather than insurance conglomerates,” said Geisel, referring to insurance companies’ process to authorize care for patients.

Mounting disillusionment with traditional health insurance — as evidenced by the wave of public criticism lobbied at the industry after the assassination of UnitedHealthcare’s CEO — could make direct primary care an increasingly appealing model.

Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation’s conservative policy blueprint put forth ahead of the second Trump administration calls direct primary care out as a solution. Roger Severino, an attorney and former director of the Office of Civil Rights in the first Trump administration, wrote the model is “improving patient access, driving higher quality and lower cost, and strengthening the doctor-patient relationship.”

Schulman said that mention could impact Trump’s efforts to change access, something his administration attempted in 2019 but was never finalized under former President Joe Biden.

Direct primary care also may become more relevant if Trump and the Republican-controlled House and Senate follow through on potential cuts to Medicaid that could make it harder for people to qualify for the program.

“I see direct primary care as a sort of lifeboat for the system ... for the cracks in the system,” Gross said. “And we’re continuing to grow and fill these gaps all across the country.”

Trump’s second week in office delivers jolts and chaotic orders with a mix of politics and tragedy

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, CHRIS MEGERIAN and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump’s second week in office seemed to deliver a daily dose of deliberate jolts for the country.

There were chaotic reminders of his first term. The White House found itself backtracking on its directive to freeze federal spending on grants and loans. And the Republican president indulged unsupported accusations after a deadly plane crash near Washington.

Trump also escalated his moves against the institutions that he was elected to lead. His administration ousted prosecutors who worked on Capitol riot cases and laid the groundwork for purging FBI agents.

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Elon Musk, Trump's billionaire ally, began efforts to dramatically downsize the federal workforce.

Some takeaways from week No. 2:

New administration, old problems

Trump and his team had impressed even some of their critics with a steady stream of executive orders in their first week. The administration seemed better organized and more effective than the last time Trump was president.

But in his second week, Trump's White House stumbled over itself with a confusing memo that was intended to freeze federal funding, causing disruptions and leading to lawsuits. A judge temporarily blocked the directive, and the memo was quickly rescinded. Then, Trump responded to the deadliest American aviation disaster in decades by baselessly blaming diversity initiatives, demonstrating his willingness to shoehorn tragedy into his personal political crusades.

The cascade of controversy and outrage recalled some of the more infamous moments of Trump's first term, such as the chaos of his initial travel ban on people from Muslim countries and his freewheeling briefings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump tries remaking Washington

Throughout the 2024 campaign, Trump made it clear that he would not settle for making small tweaks in Washington. He wanted dramatic change, particularly in institutions such as the Justice Department that he felt had wronged him over the years.

Once he was back in office, the first step was pardoning nearly everyone charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot. In the past week his administration went even further. Prosecutors were pushed out, and top FBI officials were ordered to retire or be fired. A senior Justice Department official who previously worked on Trump's legal defense team asked for the names of every FBI agent who worked on Jan. 6 cases.

Other shakeups were reported across the nation's capital. A top Treasury official quit and federal websites were scrubbed of "gender ideology." There appeared to be few, if any, limits to how far Trump and his allies would go to remake Washington.

When in doubt, blame DEI

As Trump deals with various challenges facing the country, he has repeatedly pointed to efforts to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in society, or DEI, as the root cause of a multitude of problems.

One of Trump's earliest moves upon retaking the Oval Office was to issue orders to undo the federal government's DEI efforts. Trump and his supporters suggested such initiatives are discriminatory and lead to incompetence.

His administration is so intent on eradicating it from government that it is requiring federal workers to report any surreptitious DEI programs that continue. But he hasn't stopped there.

While investigators were just getting started on investigating the cause of a midair collision near Reagan National Airport between an Army helicopter and a jetliner, Trump began speculating that federal diversity and inclusion efforts were somehow to blame. The president could not back up those claims when repeatedly pressed on it by reporters in the White House briefing room.

When asked why he thought diversity had something to do with the crash, he said, "Because I have common sense. OK?"

A day earlier, Trump reprimanded Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell over inflation and again pointed to DEI, saying on his social media network that "if the Fed had spent less time on DEI" and other liberal issues, "inflation would never have been a problem."

Trump had his first big flop

Punctuating the week was the Trump administration's first big policy setback: the abrupt freeze, and then unfreezing, of federal grant funds amid a public revolt.

Communities across the nation depend on federal grants and loans to run a vast array of programs and services, from housing and veterans services to community health care centers. The sudden spending "pause" announced in an Office of Management and Budget memo sent shockwaves coast to coast.

"Every corner of the country is feeling the wrath of Donald Trump's cruel plan," said Senate Democratic

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leader Chuck Schumer of New York at a news conference at the Capitol.

The memo was rescinded, although the underlying Trump executive orders to clamp down on spending that does not align with his policies on climate, DEI and more do remain. The White House about-face showed the limits of the administration's broader effort to reduce the size and scope of government.

Rolling back government in the abstract is one thing. But cutting programs that deliver services to veterans, parents, children, older adults and others is a totally different political equation.

'A fork in the road' for federal workers

Trump campaigned on "dismantling the deep state," and the federal workforce got a large dose this past week of just how disruptive that effort will be.

The new administration had already imposed a federal hiring freeze. Then, millions of federal employees got a "fork in the road" email shortly after business hours ended on Monday offering them eight months of paid leave if they agreed to resign.

Those who quit were promised they would be paid through Sept. 30. They would not necessarily be required to work and could seek new employment in the meantime. But there were broad concerns about the legality of the offer and whether Trump was trying to create a toxic work environment.

Employees have to decide whether to take the deal by Thursday. Those who opt to stay will be required to work from the office full time and face "enhanced standards of suitability and conduct." The email also warned that future downsizing of the governmental workforce was likely.

That's on top of the administration ordering federal officials overseeing DEI efforts to be placed on leave.

Asked Friday if he was worried too many experienced federal workers would leave, Trump replied, "Everybody's replaceable. We'll get good people to replace them if it turns out to be more. ... But we'd love to have them leave."

Is America stuck in a trade war?

Trump once famously posted on social media that "trade wars are good, and easy to win" — a claim that he's now putting to the test against Canada and Mexico after imposing tariffs that within hours led to retaliatory measures by those two countries.

Trump said the tariffs are about stopping the illicit smuggling of fentanyl, as well as preventing illegal immigration on the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada. The president on Saturday put 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, with a lesser 10% rate on Canadian oil, natural gas and electricity. China faces a 10% tariff.

Those moves almost immediately angered Mexico and Canada, America's two largest trading partners who had previously negotiated a deal with Trump during his first term. Both levied retaliatory tariffs. Hockey fans at the Ottawa Senators game in Canada booed the U.S. national anthem. The Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau, encouraged his citizens to buy Canadian.

They are up against a U.S. president who really loves tariffs. He is already promising more import taxes on computer chips, steel, copper, pharmaceutical drugs and the European Union. His administration has yet to explain why these taxes will not worsen the inflation he was elected to fix. The Budget Lab at Yale University estimates Trump's tariffs would cost the average American household \$1,000 to \$1,200 in annual purchasing power.

Today in History: February 3, 'the day the music died'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2025. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Feb. 3, 1959, which would become known as "the day the music died," rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

Also on this date:

In 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting Black American men the right to vote, was ratified.

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In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain (after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats).

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; only some 230 of the 900 aboard survived.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1998, a U.S. Marine aircraft sliced through the cable of a ski gondola near Cavalese, Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

In 2002, the New England Patriots won their first Super Bowl, defeating the St. Louis Rams 20-17.

In 2006, an Egyptian passenger ferry sank in the Red Sea during bad weather, killing more than 1,000 passengers.

Today's birthdays: Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 85. Actor Blythe Danner is 82. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 80. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 78. Actor Morgan Fairchild is 75. Actor Nathan Lane is 69. Actor Maura Tierney is 60. Basketball Hall of Famer Vlade Divac is 57. Golf Hall of Famer Retief Goosen is 56. Actor Warwick Davis is 55. Actor Isla Fisher is 49. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 48.