

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, Feb. 10

Senior Menu: Hamburger gravy, mashed potato, green beans, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center at 1 p.m.

Junior High Boys Basketball at Britton-Hecla, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.

Girls Basketball at Great Plains Lutheran: C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

Groton United Methodist: PEO Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

Tuesday, February. 11

Senior Menu: Ham, au gratin, broccoli, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

Boys Basketball hosts Leola-Frederick: C at 5:15 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow.

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

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PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



Believe that God
loves you,
that He will take
care of you, and
have a wonderful
day and a Week.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center
Groton United Methodist Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: council, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzine, mixed vegetables, accini depepi salad, whole wheat bread.

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.

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

Thursday, Feb. 13

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice, California blend, peach crips, whole wheat bread.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Early dismissal of school.

Groton Lions Club meeting, 6 p.m., 104 N Main
Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

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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.

Eggflation Escalates

The cost of eggs continues to hit record highs in the US, with data from the USDA showing wholesale prices above \$7.30 for a dozen large white eggs. The figure is up from around \$5 at the beginning of the year and almost three times as much year over year.

Primarily driven by the ongoing bird flu outbreak—close to 70 million chickens have been culled since early 2024—the spiraling costs have caused many vendors to enact temporary policies to account for cost. Waffle House added a 50-cent-per-egg surcharge last week, and Trader Joe's announced a one-dozen-per-customer limit nationwide Friday.

Last week, a variant of the H5N1 influenza virus that had been identified in human cases was found circulating in dairy cow herds. To date, health officials say the risk to the public is low, and human-to-human transmission is rare. The US has recorded 67 confirmed cases and one death from the current outbreak.

Fly, Eagles Fly

The Philadelphia Eagles won Super Bowl LIX last night, beating the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22 in a dominating defensive showing. The victory marks the second Super Bowl title in franchise history and avenges a 2022 championship loss to the Chiefs while ending Kansas City's bid to become the first team in NFL history to win three straight Super Bowls.

The Eagles swarmed Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes all night, forcing four turnovers, including an interception return for a touchdown by defensive back Cooper DeJean. Mahomes was sacked six times, and the offense managed a meager 23 yards and a single first down in the first half. Kansas City didn't score until 34 seconds left in the third quarter, down 34-0.

Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts was named Super Bowl MVP, throwing for 221 yards and two touchdowns while adding 72 yards and another score on the ground.

Gaza Corridor Cleared

Israeli troops yesterday withdrew from a four-mile strip—the Netzarim Corridor—that divides northern and southern Gaza as part of a ceasefire agreement with Hamas. Israeli forces are now limited to a southern area near Egypt's border and a buffer zone along the Israeli border to the north and east.

The ceasefire began Jan. 19 and is in its first 42-day phase. Hamas has been gradually releasing hostages in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. So far, 16 hostages have been freed, including three over the weekend, in exchange for 566 Palestinian prisoners. Negotiations for the second phase are underway in Qatar to extend the truce and secure the release of more hostages. However, challenges remain over differing demands for a long-term agreement.

Separately, neighboring Lebanon formed its first full government in over two years, marking a shift away from Hezbollah's influence and aiming to address the country's economic crisis and rebuild war-torn areas.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Sean Baker's "Anora" wins top prize at both Producers and Directors Guild of America awards.
Tony Roberts, stage and film actor best known for starring in "Annie Hall," dies at age 85.
Irish boxer John Cooney dies at age 28 one week after suffering brain injury during boxing title fight.
Dick Jauron, former head coach of the Buffalo Bills and Chicago Bears, dies at age 74.
A Stradivarius violin from 1714 hauls in \$11.25M at auction, becoming the third most expensive musical instrument sold at auction.

Science & Technology

National Institutes of Health to cap indirect costs—funding that goes to administrative costs and other overhead—on new grants at 15%; current average is close to 30% and varies by university, \$9B of \$35B in funding last year went to overhead.

Mantis shrimp possess a "phononic shield" that dissipates shock waves and allows them to survive their own ability to deliver the world's fastest punch; discovery may lead to new protective materials.

Scientists use curcumin, the key molecule in turmeric, to create a light-activated method to kill antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Business & Markets

US stock markets close down Friday (S&P 500 -1.0%, Dow -1.0%, Nasdaq -1.4%) on renewed inflation and tariff fears.

Trump administration delays tariffs on small package Chinese imports valued under \$800, suggesting Commerce Department lacked system to collect fees.

Meta expected to begin planned layoffs today, targeting low performing employees; CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in January the company would target a 5% reduction in force.

Politics & World Affairs

US courts temporarily limit Elon Musk-led DOGE's access to Treasury data with sensitive information, pause USAID furlough.

President Donald Trump revokes former President Joe Biden's security clearance, citing similar move by Biden against him in 2021 ... and says he'll name himself chair of Kennedy performing arts center| ... and will announce 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum today.

Former aide to New York City Mayor Eric Adams (D) pleads guilty to conspiracy charges; Adams himself faces corruption charges, trial scheduled to begin April 21.

Sudanese army close to recapturing the capital of Khartoum, its biggest advance since fighting broke out between rival factions in April 2023; an estimated 100,000 people in the city currently in famine conditions.

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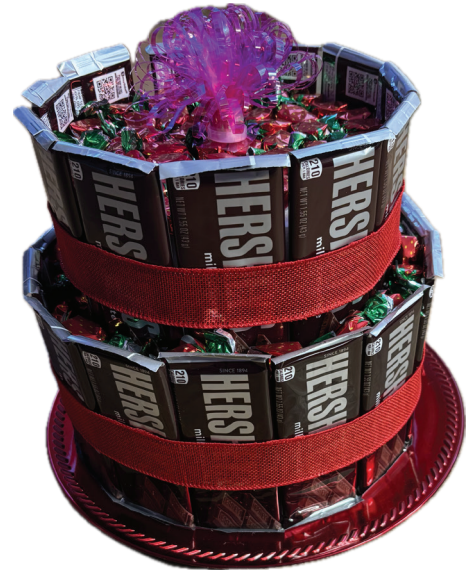
Tina's Baskets! Text/Call at 605-397-7285 to reserve your basket now. They are going fast! Cash, check or Venmo.



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. Bet-sie 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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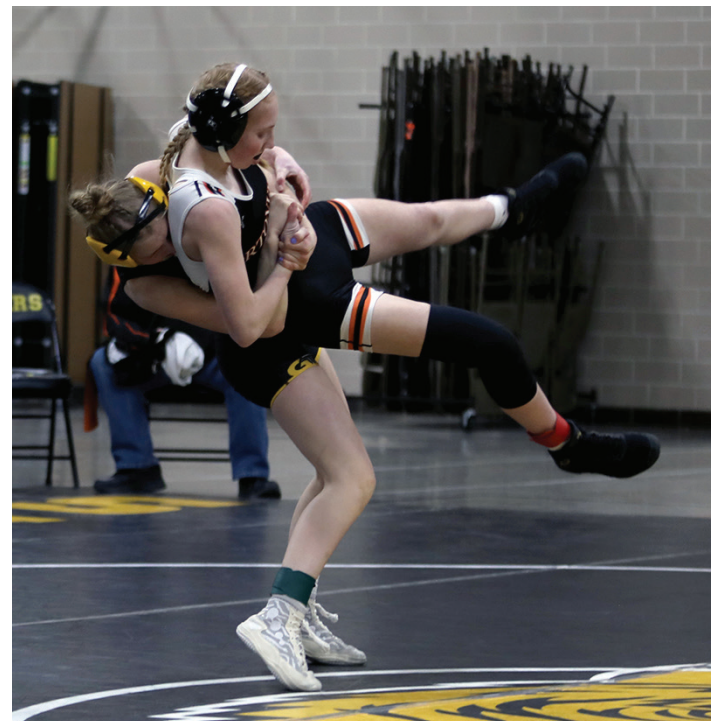
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These are photos from the
Groton Wrestling Tournament
held February 1

Liza Krueger

Girls 107 pound class

Liza Krueger took first after beating three opponents in the 107-pound competition. Krueger beat Ortonville's Kaylee Tessman by fall in round two, and Ortonville's Eva Eustice by fall in round three. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Wyatt Hagen

106 pound class

Wyatt Hagen took down Potter County's Easton Rausch in the semifinals of the 106-pound competition. In the finals, Hagen beat Watertown's Jonah Anderson, earning first place. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Keegan Kucker

113 pound class

Keegan Kucker took on Huron's Ernest Walette in the semifinal competition of the 113-pound weight class. Kucker won, bringing him to the finals against Watertown's Tanner Urdahl. Kucker beat Urdahl by fall, taking first in his weight class. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Kyson Kucker

120 pound class

Kyson Kucker took on Watertown's Brode Lohr in the 120-pound weight class competition. Lohr won, sending Kucker to a match against Huron's Stephen Martens. Kucker won that match, bringing him to the third/fourth place match against Huron's Kadrian Moreno, Kucker fell to Moreno, earning him fourth in the competition. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Karter Moody

285-pound

Karter Moody took on Warner-Northwestern's Preston Cavalier in the semifinals of the 285-pound weight class. Moody lost that match, but won his next, earning him the third place title. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



Noah Scepianiak

120 pound class

Noah Scepianiak took on Potter County's Jack Stuwe in the 120-pound weight class competition. Stuwe won, moving Scepianiak to a bout against Huron's Kadrian Moreno. Scepianiak took sixth after falling to Huron's Stephen Martens in the finals. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Donavon Block

132 pound class

Donavon Block took on Sidney Morgan of Timberlake in the semifinal round of the 132-pound weight class. Block won and headed to the championship round.

Donavon Block took on Isaac Johnson of Clark-Willow Lake in the championship match of the 132-pound weight class. Johnson won, leaving Block with the second place medal. Fellow Groton wrestler Grayson Flores took sixth in the 132-pound weight class. (Photos by

Elizabeth Varin)



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Chris Schwab

138 pound class

Chris Schwab took on McLaughlin's Carmine Crow Ghost in the semifinal match of the 138-pound class. Schwab won, bringing him to the finals against Clark-Willow Lake's Damian Severson. Schwab won, taking first in the competition. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Walker Zoellner

144 pound class

Walker Zoellner took on Potter County's Tanner Vander Vorst in the semifinals of the 144-pound weight class on Saturday. Zoellner won with a 7-3 decision, taking him to the finals against Clark-Willow Lake's Austin Vig. Vig won, earning Zoellner second place in that weight class. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Layne Johnson

190 pound class

Layne Johnson fell to Sully Butte's Kadyn Westergren in the 190-pound weight class. Johnson beat fellow Groton wrestler Isiah Scepaniak to take on Isaac Nelson of Webster Area in the third/fourth place match. Johnson earned fourth in that weight class. (Photos

by Elizabeth Varin)



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Christian Ehresmann

157 pound class

Christian Ehresmann took first in the 157 pound weight class, beating Warner-Northwestern's Austin Nash in the semifinals (Ehresmann's 200 career win), and AJ Olivier, who was registered as unattached but wore a Sully Buttes singlet in the finals. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)

Elizabeth Varin)



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Ben Hoeft

165 pound class

Ben Hoeft took on Sioux Falls O'Gorman's Gavin Boyle in the finals of the 165-pound weight class finals. Boyle won in an 8-5 decision. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Korbin Kucker

175 pound class

Korbin Kucker beat Potter County's Ivan Stuwe in the semifinal match of the 175-pound weight class competition on Saturday. Kucker then took on Ipswich's Justin Rohrbach, beating him to take first in his weight class. (Photos

by Elizabeth Varin)



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Charlie Frost

215 pound class

Charlie Frost took on McLaughlin's Quentin White Mountain in the semifinals of the 215-pound weight class. Frost won the semi-final match, but fell to Britton-Hecla's Tucker Hardy in the finals. Frost placed second in the competition. (Photos by Elizabeth Varin)



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Gavin Englund

285 pound class

Gavin Englund beat Zach Bonin, who was registered as unattached but wore a Redfield singlet, in the semifinal competition of the 285-pound weight class. Englund took on Warner-Northwestern's Preston Cavalier, who he had faced three times earlier in the season. Cavalier won with a 4-1 decision. (Photos

by Elizabeth Varin)



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106 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



113 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



120 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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126 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



132 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



138 pound winners
(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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144 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



157 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



165 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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175 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



190 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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215 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)



285 pound winners

(Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

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Service Notice: Jean Walter

Services for Jean Walter, 94, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 14th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Rob Moorlach will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held for one hour prior to services.

Jean passed away January 30, 2025 at Avantara Groton.

Death Notice: Faye Stohr

Faye Stohr, 76, of Aberdeen passed away February 7, 2025 at Primrose Cottages in Aberdeen. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #12 Results

Team Standings: Chipmunks 14, Shihtzus 13, Cheetahs 11, Coyotes 9, Jackelopes 8, Foxes 5

Men's High Games: Tony Waage 219, John Sippel 202, Brad Larson 200

Women's High Games: Brenda Waage 166, Vicki Walter 164, Nancy Radke 161

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 543, Tony Waage 543, Brad Waage 537, John Sippel 512

Women's High Series: Nancy Radke 467, Sue Stanley 425, Alexa Schuring 418

Week 12 Fun Game - Highest Scratch Series - Jackelopes with 1876!

Turner County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: Riverview Road, near 293rd Street, four miles north of Centerville, SD

When: 10:19 p.m., Saturday, February 8, 2025

Driver 1: Under investigation, fatal injuries

Vehicle 1: 2006 Nissan Pathfinder

Seat belt Used: Under investigation

Turner County, S.D.- One person died in a single vehicle crash Saturday evening, four miles north of Centerville, SD.

The name of the person involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2006 Nissan Pathfinder was traveling northbound on Riverview Road when the vehicle entered the ditch, went airborne, then crashed into the river bank, coming to rest on the frozen river.

The driver, who has not been identified, passed away at the scene.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Kansas City Chiefs entered Sunday's matchup seeking to become the first team in NFL history to win three straight Super Bowls. The Chiefs' streak began with their win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LVII, and it ended Sunday with a 40-22 beatdown by those same Eagles.

The first half was a complete domination by the Eagles. The Eagles got the ball to begin the game and both teams traded punts. On the Eagles' second drive, they responded with a 7-play, 69-yard touchdown drive to go up 7-0. The Chiefs had a three-and-out on their next possession, then the Eagles took the ball and were moving down the field until a Jalen Hurts interception gave the Chiefs some momentum heading into the second quarter.

Instead of continuing the momentum, the Chiefs had another three-and-out to give the ball right back to Philadelphia, who tacked on another three points. Down by 10 points, Patrick Mahomes was sacked twice then threw a pick-six to rookie cornerback Cooper DeJean. The next three KC drives were a three-and-out, another interception, and a three-and-out to end the half. The Eagles added another TD in the second quarter, making the score 24-0 heading into halftime. The Chiefs had seven drives in the first half, but only had 13 total yards to show for it. It was not going well for the defending champs.

The Chiefs received the second-half kickoff, hoping to get things going. Five plays and 15 yards later they were punting the ball back to the Eagles, who turned it into three points. The Chiefs, feeling like the game was slipping away, went for it on fourth down near midfield but the pass fell incomplete. One play later, Hurts hit Devonte Smith for a 46-yard touchdown, making the score 34-0. With 34 seconds left in the third quarter, the Chiefs finally got some points on the board thanks to a Mahomes 24-yard TD pass to Xavier Worthy, but they failed the two-point conversion, making the score 34-6 going into the fourth quarter.

The Eagles' first drive in the fourth took nearly six minutes off the clock and ended with another field goal. The Chiefs fumbled on the first play of their next drive, giving the Eagles an easy field goal attempt to make the score 40-6. At this point, halfway through the final quarter, the game was decided. The Chiefs found the endzone two more times, but the Eagles had already started getting some backups into the game. The final score?

Philadelphia 40, Kansas City 22.

In this spot I usually talk about the Super Bowl commercials, but to be honest, no commercials really made an impression. It was a down year for commercials, and it seems to be a trend these last few years. This year, a 30-second ad cost \$8 million, so I'm not surprised that bubble seems to have burst.

Looking ahead, we'll start getting into offseason breakdowns next week, taking a look at the Vikings' roster as we head into free agency and the draft. The Vikings have a lot of pending free agents, but they also have a ton of cap space thanks to finally getting Kirk Cousins off the books. It's going to be an interesting offseason for the purple and gold, so make sure to check back every week for the latest news and notes coming from the land of 10,000 lakes. Skoll!

Popeye and Testosterone Replacement

A few (or more) years ago, Popeye the Sailor Man was an inspirational cartoon character. When needed, the superhero would quickly swallow some spinach and become strong, able to pack a punch that would defeat any evil villain.

Nowadays, TV and internet commercials are encouraging men to consider testosterone replacement as the way to become stronger. While they are quick to tout the benefits, the risks are important and should not be ignored.

Testosterone is the hormone in men that is produced from the testicles. It helps in sexual development in men, libido, erections, sperm production, muscle mass, and bone growth. It counteracts fat mass, stimulates red blood cell production, and plays a role in cognition and mood.

If a man has low testosterone (hypogonadism), determined by at least two early morning fasting blood draws, and they have symptoms of low testosterone, then it is reasonable to consider testosterone replacement therapy. Signs and symptoms of hypogonadism include low libido, decreased erections, loss of body hair, low bone mineral density, gynecomastia (breast development), and small testes.

Symptoms such as fatigue, depression, reduced muscle strength, increased fat mass, and low blood counts can be caused by a wide variety of factors, and should not be reasons alone to consider testosterone replacement.

The best way to increase one's testosterone is through good old diet and exercise. Studies have shown exercise, strength training, and weight loss all help to increase testosterone levels, oftentimes more than testosterone replacement does. Fat produces a hormone called leptin, which counteracts testosterone. Thus, losing fat and gaining muscle naturally increase one's testosterone. Meanwhile, a healthy diet and exercise often boost energy, mood, and overall health.

The most effective method for testosterone replacement is by injection. There are also topical gels and patches. Any over the counter supplement that claims to boost testosterone is misleading and unlikely to have any significant effect on testosterone levels.

Risks of testosterone replacement include prostate cancer, heart attacks, strokes, blood clots, acne, breast enlargement, sleep apnea, aggression, and can contribute to an enlarged prostate, which can cause urinary frequency or even urinary obstruction. While natural testosterone stimulates sperm production, testosterone replacement decreases sperm counts, decreases fertility, decreases testicular size, and decreases natural testosterone production.

Testosterone levels naturally decrease as men get older. While some may advertise testosterone as a "fountain of youth," the benefits are limited in this scenario and the risks increase as men get older. Popeye had the right idea. Putting in the work, and eating some spinach, is likely the better long-term plan.

Andrew Ellsworth, MD. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices Family Medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (on SDPB most Thursdays at 7pm and streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program (on SDPB), providing health information based on science, built on trust.





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

SD Democratic lawmakers forgo abortion exception legislation as ballot measure brews

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - FEBRUARY 9, 2025 12:23 PM



Nancy Turbak Berry participates in an election forum at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell on Sept. 19, 2024. (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)

South Dakota Democratic lawmakers say they're not proposing abortion-ban exceptions during this year's legislative session due to a lack of necessary support from Republicans, but a Democratic former lawmaker hopes to put an abortion measure on the ballot again next year.

"I just don't think there is an appetite for any pro-abortion or pro-women's rights bills, unfortunately," said House Minority Leader Erin Healy, D-Sioux Falls. "I think that's really unfortunate, because we do know that the language needs to be cleaned up, but the reality is that kind of bill would not pass in this body."

South Dakota law allows abortions only when necessary to preserve the life of the mother. The law does not define a life-threatening condition, although the state Department of Health made a Legislature-mandated video last year attempting to

clarify it.

The ban is a trigger law passed in 2005 that went into effect after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. Opponents of the ban tried to restore abortion rights with a ballot question in November, but 59% of voters rejected it.

In some advertisements leading up to the election, anti-abortion groups said South Dakota's laws may need to be changed — a possible reference to the lack of exceptions for a mother's health and for instances of rape and incest — but said Amendment G was "too extreme."

Dakotans for Health was the group that supported Amendment G. Chairman Rick Weiland issued a statement after the election calling attention to the exception allusions in the anti-Amendment G advertisements, and calling on anti-abortion lawmakers to introduce exception legislation.

"This is no small task, but it's one they've committed to," Weiland said. "Now, it's their responsibility to keep it."

But no such legislation has been forthcoming in the Legislature, where there are 96 Republicans and nine Democrats.

Nancy Turbak Berry is an attorney and Democratic former legislator from Watertown who campaigned for the 2024 ballot question. She and Erinn Williams, of Sioux Falls, who also campaigned for last year's ballot question, are in the early stages of organizing a ballot measure campaign for 2026.

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"The Legislature refuses to do anything about it — even those Republican legislators who are pro-choice, but refuse to admit that they are," Turbak Berry said.

Republican lawmakers see support or opposition from anti-abortion activists as making or breaking their primary campaigns, she added.

The language of the 2026 ballot measure is still in the works, Turbak Berry said, but the goal is to create some level of access to abortion. She said the coalition is looking at measures passed in other conservative states.

The deadline for submitting signed petitions to place a constitutional amendment or initiated law on the ballot is May 5, 2026. Constitutional amendment petitions needs signatures from 35,017 registered South Dakota voters, and initiated measures need 17,508.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

Monday, Feb. 10

GT

Groton Area
Tigers

**GBB: Groton Area
at Great Plains Lutheran**

5:00: C Game

Sponsored by Locke Electric

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, Farmers Union Co-op of Ferney and Conde, 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.

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's so bad about wood pellet biomass energy anyway? Isn't wood a renewable resource?

-- M. Wilson, Houston, TX

Inch-long, compressed pieces made from pine and hardwood trees are plentiful in the Southeastern region of the United States, which is home to many wood pellet manufacturing companies. According to the Dogwood Alliance, 75 percent of wood pellets produced in the U.S. are sent to be burned in the U.K.

Biomass took off in 2009, after the European Union (EU) created its Renewable Energy Directive, which deemed wood pellets a renewable energy source and, as such, an important energy source. Seth Ginther, executive director of the United States Industrial Pellet Association, believes that wood pellet biomass is a "low-cost, low-carbon alternative," and "helps encourage forest owners to reforest and replant."

That said, many eco-advocates question just how sustainable producing and burning wood pellets really is. A recent report by Chatham House, a London-based think tank, estimates that 17.6 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) were released from burning wood pellets in the U.K in 2019. Also, gathering the wood requires clear cutting of forests, which releases CO₂ that had been sequestered in the trees and soil. In the U.S., clear cutting and the making wood pellets produced upwards of 88 million tons of CO₂.

Besides the ecological impact, communities living near wood pellet manufacturing centers suffer from constant exposure to thick smoke and toxic pollutants. "Fourteen million people in the United States live within a few miles of bioenergy facilities and breathe potentially harmful toxins and pollutants," says Edi Huno of the National Wildlife Federation. And often, those living right outside these manufacturing centers are communities of color with the majority of residents living below the poverty line.

Added to all this, many don't consider wood pellets renewable resource, which is one that does not exhaust Earth's resources. Trees that are ideal for wood pellets don't quickly regenerate. One idea has been to use fast-growing pine plantations, but they're less biodiverse and bad at capturing carbon. Burning wood with lower levels of carbon generates less heat, making pine an inefficient source of fuel.

The wood pellet biomass industry continues to grow. That said, many environmental organizations, such as Dogwood Alliance, offer virtual petitions to sign on their respective websites. These petitions will be sent to state senators. By signing your name, you can help save southern forests and communities and keep unsafe levels of carbon emissions out of the atmosphere.



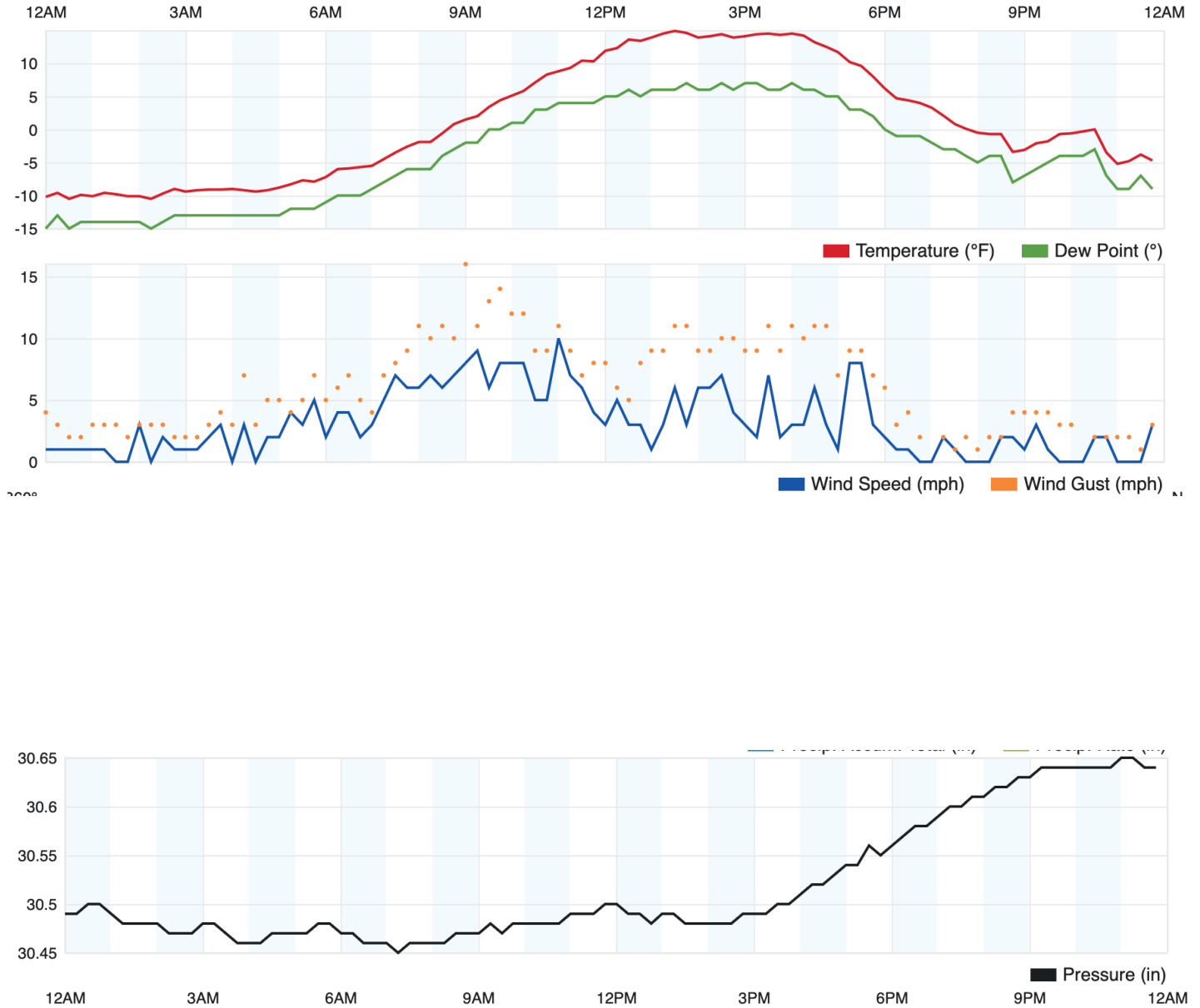
Just because wood pellets are made from wood doesn't mean they are necessarily carbon neutral.

Credit: By Tom Bruton, Public Domain.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
High: 7 °F	Low: -22 °F	High: 3 °F	Low: -13 °F	High: 6 °F
Cold	Mostly Clear	Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold



Arctic Air Continues

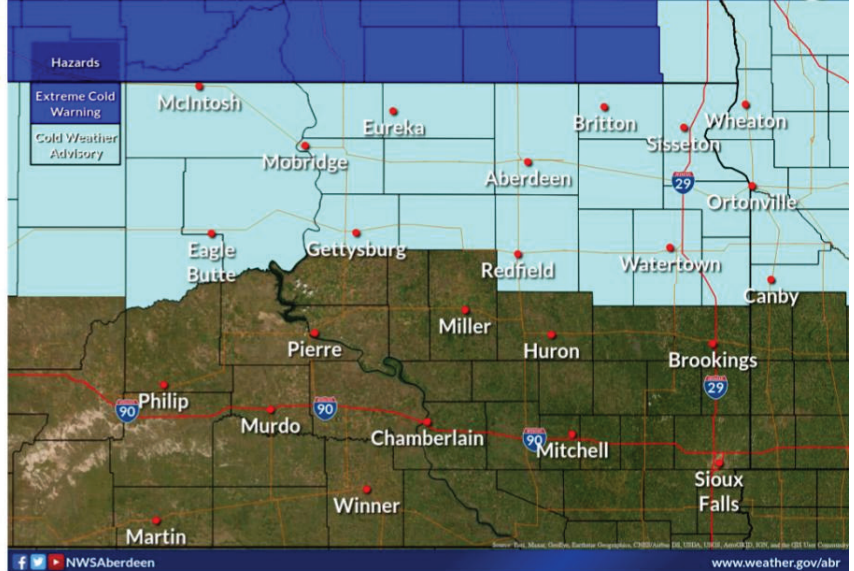
February 10, 2025
3:55 AM

- Arctic air remains in place for much of the week with temperatures as much as 20 to 30° below average
- **Cold Weather Advisory** from 9 PM CST tonight through Noon CST Tuesday
- Wind chills between **-25 and -40°** are expected Tuesday morning.
 - These wind chills could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 10 to 35 minutes.

Cold Weather Headlines

for Tonight into Tuesday Morning

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Feb 10, 2025 3:42 AM CST



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

A Cold Weather Advisory has been issued for portions of north central and northeastern SD as well as west central MN from 9 PM CST tonight through Noon CST Tuesday. Expected wind chills Tuesday morning will be in the -25 to -40 degree range which can cause frostbite in as little as 10 to 35 minutes.

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Arctic Air Continues

February 10, 2025
4:03 AM

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings will be the coldest this week
 - Shown in red boxes →
- Winds 5-10 mph Tuesday
- Use caution when traveling outside. Wear appropriate clothing, a hat, and gloves
- Make sure to bring your pets inside!

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

	2/10 Mon			2/11 Tue			2/12 Wed			2/13 Thu			2/14 Fri						
	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm	12am	6am	12pm	6pm				
Aberdeen	-22	-11	-27	-33	-34	-18	-20	-23	-24	-11	-23	-27	-28	-8	-14	-15	-10	-3	-17
Britton	-29	-15	-29	-36	-40	-24	-23	-25	-26	-14	-22	-31	-32	-13	-15	-16	-14	-5	-17
Brookings	-13	-6	-22	-29	-28	-14	-3	-4	-7	-5	-15	-17	-16	-7	-10	-10	-9	2	-5
Chamberlain	-2	-1	-8	-14	-15	-7	-6	-6	-8	-3	-8	-15	-16	1	1	1	2	14	-3
Clark	-15	-10	-23	-31	-32	-17	-17	-20	-20	-10	-21	-24	-25	-8	-11	-12	-7	4	-11
Eagle Butte	-23	-16	-29	-35	-35	-16	-15	-24	-26	-15	-18	-21	-22	-4	-8	-9	-9	-6	-19
Ellendale	-28	-15	-32	-38	-40	-21	-26	-28	-29	-15	-27	-31	-32	-13	-18	-20	-16	-10	-21
Eureka	-32	-18	-32	-41	-41	-26	-25	-29	-30	-21	-27	-33	-33	-10	-17	-19	-17	-12	-21
Gettysburg	-19	-12	-25	-32	-32	-17	-14	-20	-22	-16	-19	-23	-23	-4	-8	-9	-7	-3	-16
Huron	-9	-6	-20	-25	-27	-5	-11	-11	-11	-2	-15	-16	-18	-4	-7	-6	-5	8	-6
Kennebec	-6	-3	-13	-17	-18	-8	-8	-10	-12	-5	-10	-17	-18	5	1	0	2	14	-6
McIntosh	-26	-17	-36	-43	-43	-24	-25	-31	-32	-21	-26	-32	-32	-10	-15	-17	-18	-13	-24
Milbank	-18	-9	-21	-29	-29	-14	-15	-19	-19	-5	-19	-24	-25	-7	-13	-13	-11	2	-8
Miller	-13	-9	-20	-26	-24	-9	-10	-13	-14	-5	-15	-19	-19	-1	-3	-4	-1	8	-10
Mobridge	-24	-14	-25	-30	-31	-14	-15	-21	-22	-12	-9	-20	-21	-2	-7	-9	-9	-2	-15
Murdo	-10	-10	-17	-22	-22	-11	-8	-13	-14	-9	-12	-18	-18	5	1	0	4	10	-9
Pierre	-9	-4	-12	-16	-9	-6	-3	-4	-10	-5	-8	-10	-12	6	2	1	2	11	-7
Redfield	-18	-9	-24	-29	-29	-12	-15	-17	-18	-7	-18	-22	-23	-5	-10	-11	-6	4	-13
Sisseton	-23	-14	-26	-31	-32	-18	-21	-24	-22	-10	-20	-27	-28	-8	-14	-14	-13	-2	-12
Watertown	-16	-7	-20	-27	-28	-15	-13	-17	-18	-5	-18	-23	-23	-7	-11	-12	-8	4	-8
Webster	-22	-14	-26	-34	-35	-21	-21	-23	-23	-12	-22	-28	-29	-11	-13	-13	-10	-2	-13
Wheaton	-23	-15	-28	-33	-34	-19	-22	-25	-26	-11	-21	-28	-28	-13	-16	-18	-14	-2	-10

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Tuesday and Thursday mornings will be the coldest this week with wind chills in the -20 to -40 degree range. Winds will only be around 5-10 mph Tuesday. Please use caution when traveling outside. Wear appropriate clothing, a hat and glove and make sure to bring your pets inside!

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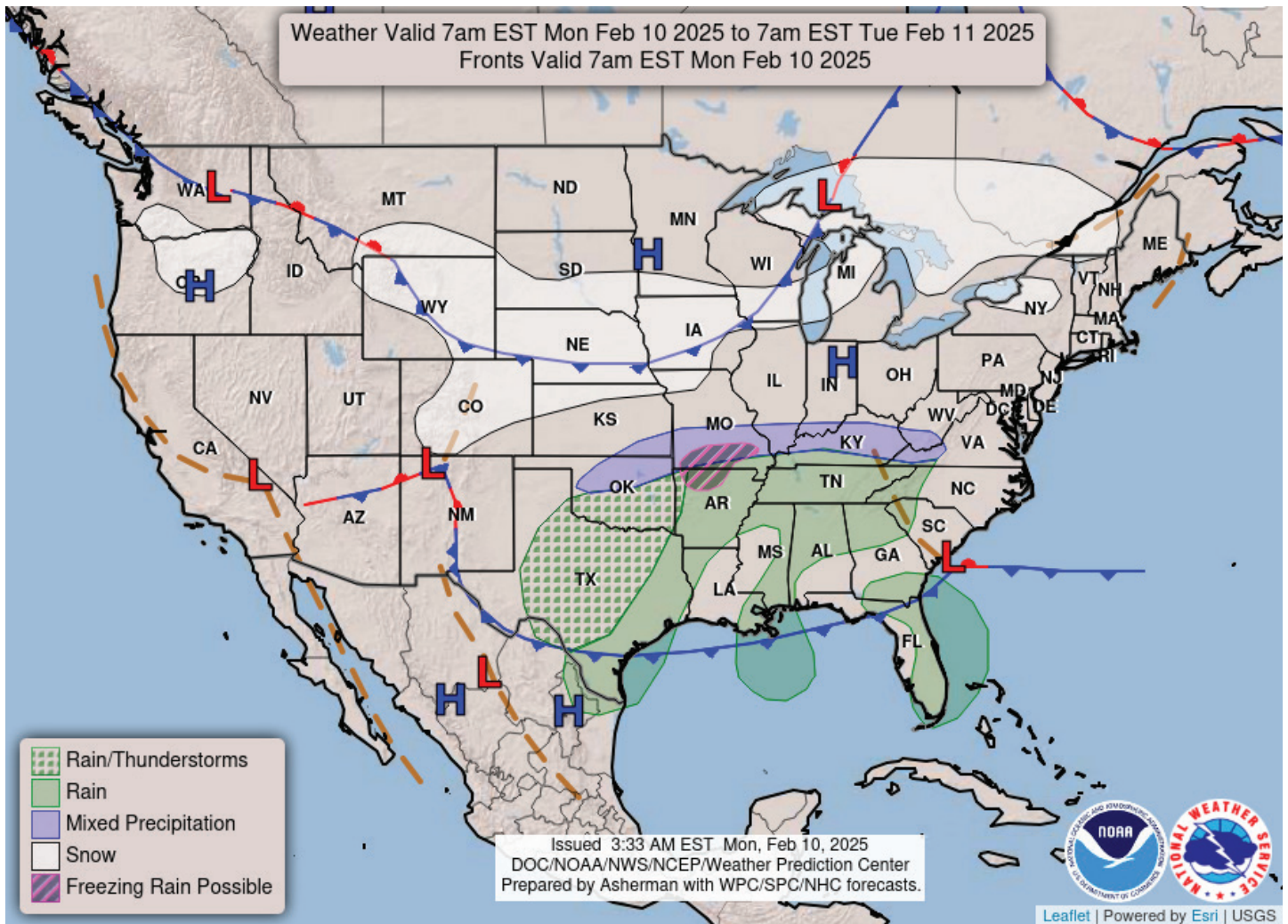
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 15 °F at 3:22 PM
Low Temp: -11 °F at 2:07 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 8:57 AM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 15 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 53 in 1977
Record Low: -27 in 1988
Average High: 27
Average Low: 4
Average Precip in Feb.: 0.20
Precip to date in Feb.: 0.20
Average Precip to date: 0.75
Precip Year to Date: 0.20
Sunset Tonight: 5:54:13 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:37:30 am



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Today in Weather History

February 10, 1993: Snow fell across South Dakota from the 10th to the 12th, with over 8 inches in south-central, west-central, and southwest. Some reports included 13 inches at Harrington, 12 inches at Midland, 10.5 inches at Winner, 10 inches near Stephan, Ardmore, and Wagner, 8.5 inches near Lead and Milesville, and 8 inches at Mitchell and Usta.

February 10, 1996: Across central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota, an intense area of low pressure and an Arctic high-pressure area created strong winds from 35 to 50 mph with gusts to around 65 mph through the afternoon and into the late evening. These high winds combined with the falling snow and the snow on the ground create blizzard conditions and slick roads across northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Highway 12 from Webster to Summit was closed the evening of the 10th and Interstate-29 from Summit to Sisseton. Hundreds of travelers were stranded at Summit for several hours until conditions improved. Some wind gusts included 61 mph at Mobridge and 66 mph at Pierre and Aberdeen.

February 10, 2013: A powerful area of low pressure brought widespread heavy snow of 6 to as much as 19 inches across South Dakota and into Minnesota. The combination of heavy snow and powerful winds of 30 to 50 mph caused extensive blowing and drifting snow. Roads, highways, and Interstates 29 and 90 were closed for a time, and schools started late or closed on Monday the 11th.

1870 - President Ulysses S. Grant signed a law "to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent." A petition submitted by Increase A Lapham to Congressman Halbert E Paine in December 1869 began this process.

1921: Gardner, Georgia, was devastated by a massive, estimated F4 tornado that caused an entire small town section to disappear. The tornado killed an estimated 31 people and injured 100.

1933 - The temperature at Moran, WY, located next to Teton National Park, plunged to 63 degrees below zero to establish a state record. The temperature at the Riverside Ranger Station in Montana dipped to 66 below zero to establish a record for the state, and a record for the nation which stood until 1954. (David Ludlum)

1934 - The mercury dipped to 51 degrees below zero at Vanderbilt to establish a record for the state of Michigan. The temperature at Stillwater plunged to 52 degrees below zero to establish a record for the state of New York. (David Ludlum)

1959: St. Louis, Missouri, was hit by a massive F4 tornado that killed 21 and injured 345. Over 2000 buildings were damaged or destroyed, including the St. Louis Arena.

1981: A morning tornado at Bay Minette, AL, struck the local middle school severely damaging the gymnasium. The tornado hurt 62 people were injured, 44 of whom were students.

1990 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front erupted over eastern Texas late in the morning, and produced severe weather as they swept across the southeastern states. Early evening thunderstorms spawned a tornado which injured one person at Nat TX, and produced tennis balls size hail which caused more than half a million dollars damage around Shreveport LA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1994 - A devastating ice storm struck Mississippi, Louisiana, and extreme northwest Alabama. Freezing rain began falling over northern Mississippi during the early morning hours and continued until midday on the 10th. Ice accumulated 3 to 6 inches thick on exposed objects in the affected area. Due to the weight of the ice, power lines, trees, and tree limbs were down. Nearly one million people were without power after the storm, some for a month.

2010: Cyclone Pat slams The Cook Islands with 125 mph winds, which destroyed about 80 percent of the island of Aitutaki.

2017: An atmospheric phenomena know as "moonbow" was seen in the Seattle area.

2017: Denver saw their all-time warmest temperature in February with a reading of 79 degrees.



HOW A CHILD SPELLS LOVE

Children have a special way of spelling love. And it only includes one letter from the word, love. Children spell love: T-I-M-E! They hunger for our companionship more than any other gift we can give them. No amount of toys, pets, gifts or devices can take the place of Sunday school teachers or youth leaders. Time shared with a child is an opportunity to make a difference in eternity – if the time is God-honoring.

Not long ago, while visiting with an executive, we were talking about the importance of helping children become who God would have them to be. Suddenly, he interrupted our conversation and called his secretary on the intercom and said, "I've decided to spend more time with my children. See how you can fit them into my schedule."

The writer of Proverbs saw it quite differently. He very clearly stated that we are to, "Train up a child in the way he should go," and in keeping with his individual gifts "and he will not depart from them." God has given each child a particular set of skills or gifts or abilities that are in keeping with the plan He has for their life. Parents and Christian leaders are responsible to God to recognize the potential and future that He has "locked-up" within that child.

Parents and Christian leaders are obligated to God to "train" children to fulfill the plans He has for them. We are obligated to Him to follow His directions.

Prayer: We often cringe, Father, from what we see in the lives of children who do not know You – yet do little to help them. Burden us to work with You to save them. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

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: 02.07.25

4 24 32 41 55 16

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$110,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 17 Hrs 29 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.08.25

2 5 6 30 50 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$23,570,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 44 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.09.25

8 13 22 28 39 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 59 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.08.25

11 20 26 28 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$32,000

NEXT DRAW: 2 Days 16 Hrs 59 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.08.25

5 20 23 36 53 17

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 02.08.25

23 44 57 60 62 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$142,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 28 Mins 55 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

High-stakes AI summit in Paris: World leaders, tech titans and challenging diplomatic talks

By SYLVIE CORBET and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Major world leaders are meeting for an AI summit in Paris, where challenging diplomatic talks are expected as tech titans fight for dominance in the fast-moving technology industry.

Heads of state, top government officials, CEOs and scientists from around 100 countries are participating in the two-day international summit from Monday.

High-profile attendees include U.S. Vice President JD Vance, on his first overseas trip since taking office, and Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing.

"We're living a technology and scientific revolution we've rarely seen," French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday on national television France 2.

France and Europe must seize the "opportunity" because AI "will enable us to live better, learn better, work better, care better and it's up to us to put this artificial intelligence at the service of human beings," he said.

Vance's debut abroad

The summit will give some European leaders a chance to meet Vance for the first time. The 40-year-old vice president was just 18 months into his time as Ohio's junior senator when Donald Trump picked him as his running mate.

Vance was joined by his wife Usha and their three children — Ewan, Vivek and Mirabel — for the trip to Europe. They were greeted on French soil Monday morning by Manuel Valls, the minister for Overseas France, and the U.S. Embassy's charge d'affaires, David McCawley.

On Tuesday, Vance will have a working lunch with Macron, with discussions on Ukraine and the Middle East on the menu. The vice president is also scheduled to hold bilateral meetings the same day with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Vance, like President Donald Trump, has questioned U.S. spending on Ukraine and the approach to isolating Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump promised to end the fighting within six months of taking office.

Vance will attend later this week the Munich Security Conference, where he may meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Leaders in Europe have been watching carefully Trump's recent statements on threats to impose tariffs on the EU, take control of Greenland and his suggestion that Palestinians clear out Gaza once the fighting in the Israel-Hamas conflict ends — an idea that's been flatly rejected by Arab allies.

Fostering AI advances

The summit, which gathers major players such as Google, Microsoft and OpenAI, aims at fostering AI advances in sectors like health, education, environment and culture.

A global public-private partnership named "Current AI" is to be launched to support large-scale initiatives that serve the general interest.

The Paris summit "is the first time we'll have had such a broad international discussion in one place on the future of AI," said Linda Griffin, vice president of public policy at Mozilla. "I see it as a norm-setting moment."

Nick Reiners, senior geotechnology analyst at Eurasia Group, noted an opportunity to shape AI governance in a new direction by "moving away from this concentration of power amongst a handful of private actors and building this public interest AI instead."

However, it remains unclear if the U.S. will support such initiatives.

"There's a lot of complicated questions to resolve" around issues like the ability to control AI systems, Nobel Prize winner Demis Hassabis, founder of Google's DeepMind research lab, said. "But also I think even more complicated are maybe the geopolitical questions about things like regulation."

French organizers also hope the summit will lead to major investment announcements in Europe.

France is to announce AI private investments worth a total of 109 billion euros (\$113 billion) over the coming years, Macron said, presenting it as “the equivalent” of Trump’s Stargate AI data centers project.

Indian PM co-hosting the summit

Modi is co-hosting the summit with Macron in an effort to involve more global actors in AI development and prevent the sector from becoming a U.S.-China battle.

India’s foreign secretary, Vikram Misri, stressed the need for equitable access to AI to avoid “perpetuating a digital divide that is already existing across the world.”

Macron will also travel Wednesday with Modi to the southern city port of Marseille to inaugurate a new Indian consulate and visit the ITER nuclear research site.

France has become a key defense partner for India, with talks underway on purchasing 26 Rafale fighter jets and three Scorpene submarines. Officials in New Delhi said discussions are in final phase and the deal could be inked in a few weeks.

What’s happening in the Gaza Strip and Sudan that sparked a protest at the Super Bowl halftime show?

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A performer at Kendrick Lamar’s Super Bowl halftime show unfurled a flag emblazoned with the words Sudan and Gaza in a protest over the two wars that are roiling the Middle East.

Security at the stadium detained the performer shortly after waving the flag atop a car used as a prop in the performance. The New Orleans police said they are working out if any charges would be raised against the performer.

The NFL said the person would be banned for life from NFL stadiums and events, while the company behind the halftime show said it was not part of the planned performance.

So, what was this protest about, what’s happening in the Gaza Strip and Sudan — and how does it affect the wider world?

Here is what’s going on:

What’s happening in the Gaza Strip?

The Gaza Strip is an enclave along the Mediterranean Sea bordered by both Egypt and Israel. It covers some 360 square kilometers (140 square miles) — about the twice the size of Washington and 3½ times the size of Paris. But it’s incredibly densely populated and was home to 2.3 million Palestinians before the start of the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

The war began when Hamas, a militant group that’s ruled Gaza since 2007, stormed across the border into Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage. Israel responded with a devastating ground and air campaign across Gaza, killing more than 47,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not differentiate between fighters and noncombatants in their count. Much of the territory has been left in ruins, and it’s unclear how it could be rebuilt.

A ceasefire in the war began on Jan. 19 and is still holding. Palestinian militants have freed hostages while Israel has released Palestinians held in prisons there. However, worries remain over whether the peace will hold. Comments by President Donald Trump, who was on hand Sunday night for the Super Bowl, suggesting the U.S. was “committed to buying and owning Gaza,” also have upended discussions about the enclave’s future.

The Palestinians want the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for a future state of their own, with east Jerusalem as its capital. That long-sought, two-state solution for the decadeslong conflict is backed by Mideast nations and much of the international community. Israel has expressed openness to the idea of resettling Gaza’s population, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday calling it “a revolutionary, creative vision.” Hamas, the Palestinians and much of the world have rejected it.

What’s happening in Sudan?

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Sudan, a nation in northeastern Africa, has been unstable since a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. A short-lived transition to democracy was derailed when army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces led a military coup in 2021.

The RSF and Sudan's military began fighting each other in 2023. Their conflict has killed more than 28,000 people, forced millions to flee their homes and left some families eating grass in a desperate attempt to survive as famine sweeps parts of the country. Other estimates suggest a far higher death toll in the civil war.

In recent weeks, Burhan's forces, including Sudan's military and allied militias, have advanced against the RSF. They retook a key refinery north of Khartoum, Sudan's capital. They've also pushed in on RSF positions around Khartoum itself. The fighting has led to an increase in civilian casualties. From Jan. 31 until Feb. 5, the U.N.s' Human Rights Office documented at least 275 civilian deaths from artillery, airstrikes and drone assaults.

"Indiscriminate attacks, as well as threats and attacks directed against civilians must cease immediately," said Seif Magango, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Office. "The Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces — and their allied movements and militias — must respect their international law obligations and take concrete steps to protect civilians from harm, including humanitarian workers and human rights defenders."

Have these wars come up in popular culture before?

Online, activists have sought to draw attention to both Gaza and Sudan, though the conflicts have different roots and participants. The idea of the two conflicts being linked by their devastation has been made by celebrities.

In August, American rapper Macklemore said he canceled a concert in Dubai over the United Arab Emirates' role "in the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis" in Sudan through its reported support of the paramilitary RSF. While the UAE repeatedly has denied arming the RSF, U.N. experts reported "credible" evidence last year showed that the Emirates sent weapons to the RSF several times a week from northern Chad.

Macklemore at the time said he reconsidered the show in part over his recent, public support of Palestinians over the Israel-Hamas war. He has been performing a song called "Hind's Hall," in honor of a young girl named Hind Rajab who was killed in Gaza in a shooting that Palestinians have blamed on Israeli forces opening fire on a civilian car.

Middle East latest: Turkey's Erdogan again rejects US proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza

By The Associated Press undefined

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan again rejected a U.S. proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza and said Israel should pay for the damage it caused there and for reconstruction to begin.

"We do not consider the proposal to exile the Palestinians from the lands they have lived in for thousands of years as something to be taken seriously," Erdogan said during a visit to Malaysia on Monday.

"No one has the power to force the Palestinian people to experience a second Nakba," he added, referring to the mass displacement of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Erdogan, who is on a four-day tour of Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan, highlighted the severe destruction in Gaza.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government should look for funds to "compensate" for what he said was damage amounting to \$100 billion "instead of looking for a place for the people of Gaza."

Kosovo prime minister looking for allies for a new Cabinet after failing to win parliament majority

By LLAZAR SEMINI Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti's leftwing party won most seats in the weekend parliamentary election but was left without a majority in the house, forcing it to look for an ally to form the next government, according to preliminary results released Monday.

The vote on Sunday was key in determining who will lead Kosovo as talks on normalizing ties with rival Serbia remain stalled and foreign funding for one of Europe's poorest countries is in question.

The election marked the first time since independence in 2008 that Kosovo's parliament completed a full four-year mandate. It was the ninth parliamentary vote in Kosovo since the end of the 1998-1999 war between Serbian government forces and ethnic Albanian separatists that pushed Serbian forces out following a 78-day NATO air campaign.

Serbia does not recognize Kosovo's independence.

With 88% of the votes counted, Kurti's Self-Determination Movement Party, or Vetevendosje!, had won 41.3%, according to the Central Election Commission, the election governing body.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo, or PDK, whose main leaders are detained at a Netherlands-based international criminal tribunal in The Hague and accused of war crimes, won 21.8% of the vote.

Next, with 17.8% support is the Democratic League of Kosovo, or LDK, the oldest party in the country. The LDK lost much of its support after the death in 2006 of its leader, Ibrahim Rugova. The Alliance for Kosovo's Future of former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj garnered 7.7% of the votes.

Still, Kurti was upbeat, though his remarks gave nothing away about who he plans to ask to join his coalition government.

"The people won. Vetevendosje! won. We are the winners who will form the next Cabinet," Kurti told journalists as his supporters took to the streets to celebrate.

The commission's webpage was down temporarily on Sunday as it was overloaded "due to the citizens' high interest to learn the results," election body said. Results were collected manually.

A preliminary turnout after 92% of the votes counted was 40.6% — about 7% lower than four years ago.

The new 120-seat parliament reserves 20 seats for minorities regardless of election results, 10 of them for the Serb minority.

Kurti's new term will face multiple challenges after Washington's froze foreign aid and the European Union's suspended funding for some projects almost two years ago. He is also under pressure to increase public salaries and pensions, improve education and health services, and fight poverty.

Kosovo, with a population of 1.6 million, is one of the poorest countries in Europe with an annual gross domestic product of less than 6,000 euros per person.

Kurti is also likely to try and repair ties with Western powers, at odds since his Cabinet took several steps that raised tensions with Serbia and Kosovo's ethnic Serbs, including the ban on the use of the Serbian currency, the dinar, and dinar transfers to Kosovo's Serbs.

Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority depends on Belgrade's social services and payments.

The United States, the European Union and the NATO-led stabilization force in Kosovo, or KFOR, have urged the government in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, to refrain from unilateral actions, fearing the revival of inter-ethnic conflict.

In Sunday's election, Srpska Lista, the main party of the ethnic Serb minority, won 2.8% of the vote — just over half of its winnings four years ago.

The party's leader, Zlatan Elek, said it was "the absolute winner of this election," and thanked Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic for the "strong support for our people."

KFOR had increased its presence in Kosovo after last year's tensions with Serbia, as well as ahead of the election.

A team of 104 observers from the EU, 18 from the Council of Europe and about 1,600 others from international or local organizations monitored the vote.

Super Bowl delivers moving tributes, memorable action and a historic presidential visit

By BRETT MARTEL AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 40--22 in the first Super Bowl to be held in New Orleans in a dozen years. It was played amid heavy security — and with President Donald Trump in attendance — just 41 days after a man plowed a truck into New Year's revelers on Bourbon Street.

There were tributes before the game, and some big plays during it.

Here's a look at some of the more memorable moments from Sunday night's NFL title tilt.

Fly Eagles Fly

The Eagles convincingly captured the second Super Bowl trophy in franchise history while preventing Kansas City from achieving the first three-peat of the NFL's Super Bowl era.

Hurts opened scoring on Philadelphia's patented "tush push" play from 1 yard out in the first quarter. Rookie defensive back Cooper DeJean returned an interception 38 yards for a score and Hurts found A.J. Brown with a 12-yard scoring pass that gave the Eagles a stunning 24-0 lead at halftime.

The Eagles widened their lead to 34-0 in the third quarter on Hurts' 46-yard scoring strike deep down the middle to DeVonta Smith before Kansas City finally got on the board.

"We were here to play the game and make sure that green confetti fell at the end," Brown said.

Virtually all the Chiefs' points were academic, but made Patrick Mahomes' statistical line (257 yards passing and three TDs) look a lot better than they did after one of his worst first halves of football as a pro.

Defensive dominance

The Eagles held Mahomes to just 6 of 14 passing for 33 yards in the first half, and also became the first NFL team to sack Mahomes as many as three times and intercept him twice in the first half of any regular-season or playoff game.

DeJean, who also was celebrating his 22nd birthday on Sunday, made it 17-0 with his interception return in the second quarter.

He undercut a pass intended for DeAndre Hopkins and crossed most of the field before weaving his way through pursuing Chiefs players near the Eagles sideline during the final 5 yards of his return.

Late in the second quarter, former New Orleans Saints linebacker Zach Baun made a diving interception of a Mahomes pass at the Kansas City 14, setting up Hurts' TD pass to Brown.

Philadelphia finished with six sacks of Mahomes, the most the Chiefs QB has taken in a game in his NFL career.

"We didn't pressure much," Eagles defensive coordinator Vic Fangio said. "He's so good against pressure that I was hoping we could play the game without having to pressure much — and that happened."

Rushing record

Philadelphia's Saquon Barkley, the AP Offensive Player of the Year, completed the most prolific NFL season ever by a running back.

Barkley entered the Super Bowl needing 30 yards to break the record of 2,476 yards rushing set by Terrell Davis in 1998, when he helped the Denver Broncos win the Super Bowl.

Barkley had 31 by halftime and finished with 57 yards, giving him 2,504 yards in 20 games. Davis set his mark in 18 contests.

Presidential visit

Trump became the first sitting US president to attend a Super Bowl.

Trump spent a few minutes on the field before he headed to his suite to watch the game with Saints owner Gayle Benson, along with several lawmakers and family members.

After entering through a tunnel near the Chiefs' end of the field, Trump greeted first responders and victims of the New Year's Day attack in the French Quarter.

He was greeted with a mix of cheers and boos from fans.

As expected, Trump left the game after halftime.

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Before Trump exited, Mahomes' mother, brother and sister posed for a photo with him.

Kendrick Lamar

With actor Samuel L. Jackson serving as emcee and dressed like "Uncle Sam," Kendrick Lamar opened his halftime performance crouched atop a Buick Grand National Experimental — the car for which his newest album, "GNX," is named.

Dancers wearing red, white and blue came pouring out of the car and moved in sync to songs such as "Humble."

Guest star SZA later joined Lamar for their slow-jam-style collaboration "Luther."

Near the conclusion of his performance, Lamar transitioned to "Not Like Us," which won him Grammys for song of the year and record of the year. The song also takes shots at rival artist Drake, who has sued the Universal Music Group record label for defamation over the track.

Big Easy bash

What is already considered Carnival season in New Orleans — it runs from Twelfth Night through Mardi Gras Day — was ramped up even more with a week of Super Bowl-related festivities.

The NFL Honors awards show was held at the historic Saenger Theater, where Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen was named AP NFL Most Valuable Player for the 2024 season, and the Minnesota Vikings' Kevin O'Connell was named AP NFL Coach of the Year.

But nothing, it seemed, was more talked about than 72-year-old former NFL coach Bill Belichick — now the coach of the North Carolina Tarheels — arriving on the red carpet with 24-year-old girlfriend Jordon Hudson.

Meanwhile, there were parties all over town, with several popular restaurants and cocktail bars — from Nina Compton's Compere Lapin to the Columns Hotel and Hot Tin bar atop the roof of the Pontchartrain Hotel — rented out for Super Bowl visitors' private events.

While there was a heavy law enforcement presence, it didn't stop crowds from flocking to the famed French Quarter.

New Orleans flair

Pregame performances were highlighted by several musical artists from Louisiana.

Harry Connick Jr. performed a rendition of Professor Longhair's, "Go to the Mardi Gras."

Terence Blanchard joined the Southern University Band, nicknamed "the Human Jukebox," to perform Teddy Swims' "Lose Control."

Trombone Shorty joined singer Lauren Daigle to perform "America the Beautiful," and Jon Batiste sang "The Star Spangled Banner," while playing a grand piano at midfield.

Somber remembrances

Shortly before the coin toss, New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan introduced local first responders who responded to the Jan. 1 terrorist attack on Bourbon Street.

Each of them held a photo of one of the 14 New Year's revelers who died in the attack.

Family members of two of the victims — Tiger Bech and Matthew Tenedorio — were on the field as honorary captains.

"Together, we rise. Together, we heal. Together we will carry your memory with us forever," Jordan said.

Pope's point-man on migration and aid concerned about USAID cuts, alarmed at US migrant crackdown

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' point-man on migration and development has urged the Trump administration to remember Christian principles about caring for others, saying people are being "terrorized" by the U.S. crackdown on migrants and vital church-run aid programs are being jeopardized by the planned gutting of USAID.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, a Czech-born Canadian Jesuit, is one of the cardinals most closely associated with Francis' pontificate and heads the Vatican office responsible for migrants, the environment, the church's

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Caritas Internationalis charity and development.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Czerny said every incoming government has the right to review its foreign aid budget, and to even reform an agency like USAID. But he said it's another thing to dismantle an agency after it has made funding commitments.

"There are programs underway and expectations and we might even say commitments, and to break commitments is a serious thing," Czerny said Sunday. "So while every government is qualified to review its budget in the case of foreign aid, it would be good to have some warning because it takes time to find other sources of funding or to find other ways of meeting the problems we have."

USAID is the main international humanitarian and development arm of the U.S. government and in 2023 managed more than \$40 billion in combined appropriations. The Trump administration and billionaire ally Elon Musk have targeted USAID hardest so far in their challenge of the federal government: A sweeping funding freeze has shut down most of USAID's programs worldwide, though a federal judge on Friday put a temporary halt to plans to pull thousands of agency staffers off the job.

One of USAID's biggest non-governmental recipients of funding is Catholic Relief Services, the aid agency of the Catholic Church in the U.S., which has already sounded the alarm about the cuts. Other programs, including Caritas international programs at the diocesan and national levels, are also being impacted directly or indirectly, Czerny said.

"I think people are still reeling from the news and beginning to figure out how to respond," he said.

While large, the USAID budget is less than one percentage point of the U.S. gross domestic product and a fraction of the biblical call to tithe 10% of one's income, Czerny noted.

Czerny acknowledged Francis has often complained about Western aid to poor countries being saddled with conditions that may be incompatible with Catholic doctrine, such as programs promoting gender ideology. The Trump administration has said it is targeting these "woke" programs in its USAID cuts.

"If if the government thinks that its programs have been distorted by ideology, well, then they should reform the programs," Czerny said. "Many people would say that shutting down is not the best way to reform them."

Another area of concern for the Vatican and Catholic hierarchy in the U.S. is the Trump administration's crackdown on undocumented migrants. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said last week that more than 8,000 people had been arrested in immigration enforcement actions since Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. Some are being held in federal prisons while others are being held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

"A crackdown is a terrible way to administer affairs and much less to administer justice," said Czerny, whose own family immigrated to Canada as refugees after World War II. "And so I'm very sorry that many people are being hurt and indeed terrorized by the measures."

"All we can hope for is that the people, God's people and the people of goodwill, will help and protect those vulnerable people who are suddenly made much more vulnerable," he added.

The U.S. conference of Catholic bishops put out an unusually critical statement after President Donald Trump's initial executive orders, saying those "focused on the treatment of immigrants and refugees, foreign aid, expansion of the death penalty, and the environment, are deeply troubling and will have negative consequences, many of which will harm the most vulnerable among us."

It was a strong rebuke from the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, which considers abortion to be the "preeminent priority" for Catholic voters and had cheered the 2022 Supreme Court decision to end constitutional protections for abortion that was made possible by Trump-appointed justices. Trump won 54% of Catholic voters in the 2024 election, a wider margin than the 50% he won of Catholic voters in the 2020 election won by President Joe Biden, a Catholic.

Inspired by the biblical call to "welcome the stranger," Francis has made caring for migrants a priority of his pontificate, demanding that countries welcome, protect, promote and integrate those fleeing conflicts, poverty and climate disasters. Francis has also said governments are expected to do so to the limits of their capacity.

"And I don't think that is any country except perhaps Lebanon, and maybe one or two other exceptions who are really over the limit," Czerny said. "So I think it's incumbent on us first of all as human beings, as citizens, as believers, and in our case, as Christians."

Review: Kendrick Lamar brings America and 'Not Like Us' into history-making Super Bowl halftime show

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

"Salutations!," the actor Samuel L. Jackson, dressed as Uncle Sam introduced Kendrick Lamar at New Orleans' Caesars Superdome for the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show — a powerful, commanding creative choice by the first solo hip-hop artist to ever headline the coveted slot.

As if there were any doubts of the Pulitzer Prize winning rapper's ability to put on a show.

As dozens of dancers emerged from a Buick GNX clown car style, he launched into an as-yet-untitled new song that had been teased with an online snippet when his "GNX" album was released, then moved into "Squabble Up." For just under 13 minutes during the halftime show sponsored by Apple Music and Roc Nation, Lamar commanded the field.

Dancers dressed in red, white and blue joined Lamar. But even in their patriotic colors, they were labeled "too loud, too reckless, too ghetto," by Jackson's Uncle Sam, who reminded Lamar to "play the game." Then, he launched into "Humble.," "DNA.," "Euphoria" and "man at the garden."

"Score keeper, deduct one life," Jackson interrupted again. Lamar launched into "peakboo," and then teased a performance of "Not Like Us."

"I wanna play their favorite song but you know they love to sue," Lamar told the women dancers behind him, referencing Drake.

It is hard to underscore the ubiquity of "Not Like Us" — with its billion streams on Spotify, the massive hit is a regional anthem for Los Angeles, a rallying cry for community and against culture vultures, a diss track that won Lamar the highly-publicized feud with Drake and the track that won song and record of the year at the Grammys last weekend.

Leading up to the Super Bowl, whether or not Lamar would perform the song was a legitimate question held by fans and critics alike. Lamar levels strong accusations against Drake in its lyrics; Drake has sued Universal Music Group for defamation as a result of the song's popularity. Does a Super Bowl performance further complicate things?

Little was known about Lamar's halftime performance ahead of time. Lamar promised to keep his passion for storytelling at the forefront of his plans, and SZA was a previously announced guest performer. They are frequent collaborators; she most recently appeared on his recent album "GNX" and was featured on a couple songs including "Gloria" and "Luther," which also features sampled vocals from Luther Vandross and Cheryl Lynn through "If This World Were Mine." The duo will also co-headline a 19-city North American tour this spring and summer.

SZA appeared on stage for "Luther" and "All the Stars."

"That's what America wants — nice and calm," Jackson said.

And then, like clockwork: Lamar launched into "Not Like Us" — with the removal of the word "pedophiles" in its lyrics — into "tv off."

He brought out the producer Mustard and tennis superstar Serena Williams was spotted crip walking along to the diss track.

Is there any better publicity than the biggest stage in U.S. sports? Consider this just another step in Lamar's continued victory lap.

He is also no stranger to the Super Bowl stage, having previously performed at the NFL's championship game in 2022 as a guest artist, alongside Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and Eminem.

"Rap music is still the most impactful genre to date," Lamar said in a statement in September, when he was first announced as the 2025 halftime performer. "And I'll be there to remind the world why. They got the right one."

Make no mistake about it — that's exactly what he did Sunday evening.

Ecuador's conservative incumbent and a leftist lawyer advance to presidential runoff

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador will choose its next president in a runoff election after conservative incumbent Daniel Noboa and leftist lawyer Luisa González garnered enough votes Sunday to beat 14 other candidates.

The contest, set for April 13, will be a repeat of the October 2023 snap election that earned Noboa a 16-month presidency.

Noboa and González are now vying for a full four-year term, promising voters to reduce the widespread criminal activity that upended their lives four years ago.

The spike in violence across the South American country is tied to the trafficking of cocaine produced in neighboring Colombia and Peru. So many voters have become crime victims that their personal and collective losses were a determining factor in deciding whether a third president in four years could turn Ecuador around or if Noboa deserved more time in office.

Noboa, an heir to a fortune built on the banana trade, and González, the protégée of Ecuador's most influential president this century, were the clear front-runners ahead of the election.

Figures released by Ecuador's National Electoral Council showed that with 80% of ballots tallied, Noboa received more than 3.71 million votes, or 44.43%, while González earned over 3.69 million votes, or 44.17%. The 14 other candidates in the race were far behind them.

Voting is mandatory in Ecuador. Electoral authorities reported that more than 83% of the roughly 13.7 million eligible voters cast ballots.

Crime, gangs and extortion

Under Noboa's watch, the homicide rate dropped from 46.18 per 100,000 people in 2023 to 38.76 per 100,000 people last year. Still, it remained far higher than the 6.85 per 100,000 people in 2019, and other crimes, such as kidnapping and extortion, have skyrocketed, making people fearful of leaving their homes.

"For me, this president is disastrous," said Marta Barres, 35, who went to the voting center with her three teenage children. "Can he change things in four more years? No. He hasn't done anything."

Barres, who must pay \$25 a month to a local gang to avoid harassment or worse, said she supported González because she believes she can reduce crime across the board and improve the economy.

Noboa defeated González in the October 2023 runoff of a snap election that was triggered by the decision of then-President Guillermo Lasso to dissolve the National Assembly and shorten his own mandate as a result. Noboa and González, a mentee of former President Rafael Correa, had only served short stints as lawmakers before launching their presidential campaigns that year.

To win outright Sunday, a candidate needed 50% of the vote or at least 40% with a 10-point lead over the closest challenger.

More than 100,000 police officers and members of the military were deployed across the country to safeguard the election, including at voting centers. At least 50 officers accompanied Noboa, his wife and their 2-year-old son to a voting center where the president cast his ballot in the small Pacific coast community of Olón.

Testing the limits of laws and norms of governing

Noboa, 37, opened an event organizing company when he was 18 and then joined his father's Noboa Corp., where he held management positions in the shipping, logistics and commercial areas. His political career began in 2021, when he won a seat in the National Assembly and chaired its Economic Development Commission.

As president over the past 15 months, some of his *mano dura*, or heavy-handed, tactics to reduce crime have come under scrutiny inside and outside the country for testing the limits of laws and norms of governing.

His questioned tactics include the state of internal armed conflict he declared in January 2024 in order

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to mobilize the military in places where organized crime has taken hold, as well as last year's approval of a police raid on Mexico's embassy in the capital, Quito, to arrest former Vice President Jorge Glas, a convicted criminal and fugitive who had been living there for months.

His head-on approach, however, is also earning him votes.

"Noboa is the only person hitting organized crime hard," retiree German Rizzo, who voted to get the president reelected, said outside a polling station in Samborondón, an upper-class area with gated communities separated from the port city of Guayaquil by a river.

'Things are not going to change'

González, 47, held various government jobs during the presidency of Correa, who led Ecuador from 2007 through 2017 with free-spending socially conservative policies and grew increasingly authoritarian in his last years as president. He was sentenced to prison in absentia in 2020 in a corruption scandal.

González was a lawmaker from 2021 until May 2023, when Lasso dissolved the National Assembly. She was unknown to most voters until Correa's party picked her as its presidential candidate for the snap election.

Quito's University of the Americas professor Maria Cristina Bayas said Sunday's result was "a triumph" for Correa's party because pre-election polls projected a wider difference between Noboa and González.

Esteban Ron, dean of the Faculty of Social and Legal Sciences at the International University SEK in Quito, said Noboa will be forced to reengineer his campaign at the risk that he may have already reached his vote ceiling. Ron attributed the outcome to the problems Noboa faced during his administration.

Waiting for her turn to vote in Guayaquil, architecture student Keila Torres said she had not yet decided who to vote for. None, she said, will be able to lower crime across Ecuador due to deep-rooted government corruption.

"If I could, I wouldn't be here," said Torres, who witnessed three robberies in public buses over the past four years and barely escaped a carjacking in December. "Things are not going to change."

Eagles deny the Chiefs a Super Bowl three-peat with dominant defense in a 40-22 rout

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Yo Philly: Jalen Hurts and Nick Sirianni are world champions.

A ferocious Philadelphia Eagles defense tormented and frustrated Patrick Mahomes while Hurts made all the plays the offense needed.

So much for the Kansas City Chiefs' quest for a Super Bowl three-peat.

It wasn't even close.

Cooper DeJean got a pick-6 on his 22nd birthday, Josh Sweat pressured Mahomes all night and the Eagles routed the Chiefs 40-22 on Sunday to secure the franchise's second Super Bowl championship.

Hurts threw for two touchdowns and ran for a score on a tush push to earn Super Bowl MVP honors, and Vic Fangio's defense was so dominant that the Eagles didn't need much from Saquon Barkley.

The game-changing running back finished with 57 yards, breaking Terrell Davis' record for yards rushing in a season, playoffs included. Hurts threw for 221 yards.

"This is the ultimate team game. You can't be great without the greatness of others. Great performance by everybody — offense, defense, special teams," Sirianni said. "We didn't really ever care what anyone thought about how we won, or their opinions. All we want to do is win."

Hurts has been doubted since he started for Alabama in a national championship game and was benched for Tua Tagovailoa at halftime. Finishing second to Mahomes in MVP voting two years ago didn't quite silence all the detractors. Now, he's hoisted the Vince Lombardi trophy.

Sirianni, who mocked fans chanting "Fire Nick!" during a victory over Cleveland in October and was called a "clown" on national television, also quieted critics by adding a championship ring to a coaching resume that includes the fifth-best winning percentage in league history.

"Things come right on time. The last time around, it wasn't our time, it wasn't my time and sometimes you have to accept that you have to wait your turn," said Hurts, who nearly led the Eagles to victory against

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the Chiefs two years ago in Arizona.

With Donald Trump becoming the first president in office to attend a Super Bowl, the Eagles outplayed Kansas City in every facet, delighting a raucous pro-Philly crowd that celebrated each score with a familiar rendition of "Fly! Eagles! Fly!"

Even Taylor Swift's presence couldn't help the Chiefs. They lost for the first time in 10 games this season with the pop superstar in a suite watching boyfriend Travis Kelce, who didn't catch a pass until late in the third quarter.

Not in Kansas City's worst nightmares could its fans have imagined such a lackluster performance. The Chiefs had won three of the previous five Super Bowls, losing 31-9 to Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers four years ago.

Mahomes was 8-0 against Fangio's defenses before the longtime coordinator and former Broncos head coach outcoached Andy Reid, capping his first season with his hometown team. Reid fell to 3-3 in Super Bowls, including a loss with the Eagles.

The Eagles sacked Mahomes six times, the most of his career, including 2 1/2 by Sweat and two by Milton Williams. And they did it without Fangio calling a single blitz.

"Defense wins championships," Hurts said. "We saw how they played today. We saw the difference they made in the game. They gave us opportunities, gave us short fields. And we're able to do what we do."

Barkley, the 2024 AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year, only had 31 yards rushing in the first half when Philly built a 24-0 lead.

The Chiefs were aiming to become the third team in NFL history to win three straight championships and the first to three-peat in the Super Bowl era. Two years ago, Mahomes led a comeback and Harrison Butker kicked the game-winning field goal in the final minute for a 38-35 victory over the Eagles. Mahomes rallied Kansas City to an overtime victory over San Francisco last year.

"That's a great football team and we had to come out and play our best, and we did," Sirianni said.

This time, a revamped Philly defense featuring eight new starters from the 2022 team made sure Mahomes had no chance to pull off his magic.

Sirianni was showered with Gatorade with nearly three minutes left in the game while backup QB Kenny Pickett took snaps in mop-up duty.

"Today was a rough day all around. Nothing went right. I didn't coach well. Proud of our guys for fighting. We will learn from this," Reid said. "Too many turnovers, too many penalties. Against a good football team, can't do that."

Barkley helped push Hurts into the end zone from the 1 to give Philadelphia a 7-0 lead in the first quarter.

Up 10-0 after Jake Elliott's 48-yard field goal, Sweat and Jalyx Hunt sacked Mahomes on consecutive plays. Mahomes then rolled out and made an errant throw that was picked by DeJean, who returned it 38 yards for a 17-0 lead.

"When you have a great line up front ... makes it easier on the back end, and when they take the run away, it allows us to get the pass rush going," DeJean said.

It was Mahomes' first pick-6 in 21 career playoff games and ended a streak of 297 straight passes without an interception.

"We didn't start how we wanted to. The turnovers hurt. I take all the blame for that," Mahomes said.

All-Pro linebacker Zack Baun picked Mahomes again late in the second quarter, and Hurts connected with A.J. Brown on a 12-yard TD pass for a 24-0 lead.

Hurts threw a perfect 46-yard TD pass to DeVonta Smith to make it 34-0 late in the third.

Mahomes fired a 24-yard TD pass to Xavier Worthy to avoid the shutout, but the 2-point conversion failed. He threw two late, mostly meaningless TD passes, one to DeAndre Hopkins and another to Worthy.

After two weeks of discussions about questionable calls that led to public perception that officials favor the Chiefs — a theory NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called "ridiculous" — the first penalty of the game only fueled critics.

A 32-yard pass from Hurts to Brown to the Chiefs 18 on fourth-and-2 was negated by a penalty for of-

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fensive pass interference. Brady, now a Fox analyst, and officiating analyst Mike Pereira both disagreed with the call, although Brown shoved Trent McDuffie's facemask.

On the next possession, the Eagles benefited from an unnecessary roughness penalty on McDuffie against Dallas Goedert following an incomplete pass on third-and-5.

Hurts then connected with Jahan Dotson on a 27-yard pass to the 1 and scored on the next play.

Hurts' streak of 217 passes without a pick ended in the first half when he was intercepted deep in Kansas City territory, but the Chiefs didn't capitalize.

The Green Bay Packers are the only NFL team to win three championships in a row, doing it from 1929-31 and 1965-67.

The NBA's Los Angeles Lakers from 2000-02, led by Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neill, are the last team in the major American professional leagues to win three straight titles.

After the ceasefire in Gaza, West Bank Palestinians face more Israeli barriers, traffic and misery

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Abdullah Fauzi, a banker from the northern West Bank city of Nablus, leaves home at 4 a.m. to reach his job by 8, and he's often late.

His commute used to take an hour — until Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, after which Israel launched its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military also ramped up raids against Palestinian militants in the northern West Bank, and diverted its residents through seven new checkpoints, doubling Fauzi's time on the road.

Now it's gotten worse.

Since the ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas took effect, Fauzi's drive to the West Bank's business and administrative hub, Ramallah, has become a convoluted, at least four-hour wiggle through steep lanes and farm roads as Israel further tightens the noose around Palestinian cities in measures it considers essential to guard against militant attacks.

"You can fly to Paris while we're not reaching our homes," the 42-year-old said from the Atara checkpoint outside Ramallah last week, as Israeli soldiers searched scores of cars, one by one.

"Whatever this is, they've planned it well," he said. "It's well-designed to make our life hell."

A ceasefire begets violence

As the truce between Israel and Hamas took hold on Jan. 19, radical Israeli settlers — incensed over an apparent end to the war and the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli hostages — rampaged through West Bank towns, torching cars and homes.

Two days later, Israeli forces with drones and attack helicopters descended on the northern West Bank city of Jenin, long a center of militant activity.

More checkpoints started going up between Palestinian cities, slicing up the occupied West Bank and creating choke points the Israeli army can shut off on a whim. Crossings that had been open 24/7 started closing during morning and evening rush hours, upturning the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

New barriers — earthen mounds, iron gates — multiplied, pushing Palestinian cars off well-paved roads and onto rutted paths through open fields. What was once a soldier's glance and head tilt became international border-like inspections.

Israel says the measures are to prevent Hamas from opening a new front in the West Bank. But many experts suspect the crackdown has more to do with assuaging settler leaders like Bezalel Smotrich, the finance minister and an important ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has threatened to topple the government if Israel does not restart the war in Gaza.

"Israel now has a free hand to pursue what it has wanted to in the West Bank for a long time: settlement expansion, annexation," said Tahani Mustafa, a senior analyst at the International Crisis Group. "It was considered a potential trade-off."

Asked why Israel launched the crackdown during the ceasefire, the Israeli military said politicians gave

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the order in part over concerns that the release of Palestinian prisoners — in swaps for Israeli hostages held by Hamas — could raise tensions in the West Bank.

The checkpoints all over the West Bank, it said, were “to ensure safe movement and expand inspections.” “Checkpoints are a tool we use in the fight against terror, enabling civilian movement while providing a layer of screening to prevent terrorists from escaping,” said Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesman.

Life disrupted

To spend rush hour at an Israeli checkpoint is to hear of the problems it has brought — Palestinian families divided, money lost, trade disrupted, sick people kept from doctors.

Ahmed Jibril said not even his position as manager of emergency services for the Palestinian Red Crescent protects him.

“We’re treated like any other private car,” he said, describing dozens of cases in which Israeli soldiers forced ambulances to wait for inspection when they were responding to emergency calls.

In one case, on Jan. 21, the Palestinian Health Ministry reported that a 46-year-old woman who had suffered a heart attack in the southern city of Hebron died while waiting to cross a checkpoint.

The Israeli military said it was not aware of that specific incident. But citing Hamas’ use of civilian infrastructure like hospitals to conceal fighters, the army acknowledged subjecting medical teams to security checks “while trying to reduce the delay as much as possible in order to mitigate harm.”

The U.N. humanitarian agency, or OCHA, reported that, as of last Nov. 28, Israel had 793 checkpoints and roadblocks in the West Bank, 228 more than before the war in Gaza.

The agency hasn’t updated the tally since the ceasefire, but its latest report noted a surge in “suffocating restrictions” that are “tearing communities apart and largely paralyzing daily life.”

A bubble bursts

With its upscale restaurants and yoga studios, Ramallah gained a reputation in past conflicts for being something of a well-to-do bubble where cafe-hopping residents can feel immune to the harsh realities of the occupation.

Now its residents, struck in numbingly long lines to run simple errands, feel under siege.

“All we want to do is go home,” said Mary Elia, 70, stalled with her husband for nearly two hours at the Ein Senia checkpoint north of Ramallah last week, as they made their way home to east Jerusalem from their daughter’s house. “Are we meant to never see our grandchildren?”

Suddenly, her face contorted in discomfort. She had to urinate, she said, and there were hours to go before they crossed.

A national obsession

Roll down the window at a bottlenecked checkpoint and the same soothing female voice can be heard emanating from countless car radios, reeling off every Israeli checkpoint, followed by “salik” — Arabic for open — or “mughlaq,” closed, based on the conditions of the moment.

These reports recently beat out weather broadcasts for top slot on the West Bank radio lineup.

Almost every Palestinian driver seems able to expound on the latest checkpoint operating hours, the minutiae of soldiers’ mood changes and fiercely defended opinions about the most efficient detours.

“I didn’t ask for a Ph.D. in this,” said Yasin Fityani, 30, an engineer stuck in line to leave Ramallah for work, scrolling through new checkpoint-dedicated WhatsApp groups filled with footage of soldiers installing cement barriers and fistfights erupting over someone cutting the line.

Lost time, lost money

It was the second time in as many weeks that his boss at the Jerusalem bus company called off his morning shift because he was late.

Worse still for Nidal Al-Maghribi, 34, it was too dangerous to back out of the queue of frustrated motorists waiting to pass Jaba checkpoint, which severs his east Jerusalem neighborhood from the rest of the city. Another full day’s work wasted in his car.

“What am I supposed to tell my wife?” he asked, pausing to keep his composure. “This job is how I

feed my kids.”

Palestinian trucks, packed with perishable food and construction materials, are not spared the scrutiny. Soldiers often ask truckers to pull over and unload their cargo for inspection. Fruit rots. Textiles and electronics get damaged.

The delays raise prices, further choking a Palestinian economy that shrank 28% last year as a result of punitive Israeli policies imposed after Hamas’ attack, said Palestinian Economy Minister Mohammad Alamour. Israel’s ban on most Palestinian workers has left 30% of the West Bank’s workforce jobless.

“These barriers do everything except their stated purpose of providing security,” Alamour said.

“They pressure the Palestinian people and the Palestinian economy. They make people want to leave their country.”

Mexican long-nosed bats are no strangers to southeastern Arizona. The proof is in the saliva

By TY ONEIL and FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Scientists have long suspected that Mexican long-nosed bats migrate through southeastern Arizona, but without capturing and measuring the night-flying creatures, proof has been elusive.

Researchers say they now have a way to tell the endangered species apart from other bats by analyzing saliva the nocturnal mammals leave behind when sipping nectar from plants and residential hummingbird feeders.

Bat Conservation International, a nonprofit group working to end the extinction of bat species worldwide, teamed up with residents from southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and west Texas for the saliva swabbing campaign.

The samples of saliva left along potential migration routes were sent to a lab at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where researchers looked for environmental DNA — or eDNA — to confirm that the bats cycle through Arizona and consider the region their part-time home.

The Mexican long-nosed bat has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1988, and is the only one in Arizona with that federal protection. It is an important species for pollinating cactus, agave and other desert plants.

Officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department announced the discovery in late January. While expanding Arizona’s list of bat species to 29 is exciting, wildlife managers say the use of this novel, noninvasive method to nail it down also deserves to be celebrated.

“If we were trying to identify the species in the absence of eDNA, biologists could spend hours and hours trying to catch one of these bats, and even then, you’re not guaranteed to be successful,” said Angie McIntire, a bat specialist for the Arizona’s Game and Fish Department. “By sampling the environment, eDNA gives us an additional tool for our toolkit.”

Every spring, Mexican long-nosed bats traverse a lengthy migratory path north from Mexico into the southwestern U.S., following the sweet nectar of their favorite blooming plants like breadcrumbs. They return along the same route in the fall.

The bat conservation group recruited ordinary citizens for the mission, giving them kits to swab samples from bird feeders throughout the summer and fall.

Inside the university lab, microbiology major Anna Riley extracted the DNA from hundreds of samples and ran them through machines that ultimately could detect the presence of bats. Part of the work involved a steady hand, with Riley using a syringe of sorts to transfer diluted DNA into tiny vials before popping them into a centrifuge.

Sample after sample, vial after vial, the meticulous work took months.

“There’s a big database that has DNA sequences of not every animal but most species, and so we could compare our DNA sequences we got from these samples to what’s in the database,” Riley said. “A little

bit like a Google search — you've got your question, you're asking Google, you plug it into the database, and it turns up you've got a bat, and you have this kind of bat."

Kristen Lear, of the conservation group, said the collection of eDNA has been used successfully for determining the presence of other kinds of wildlife in various environments, so the group proposed trying it with bats.

"They do apparently leave behind a lot of spit on these plants and hummingbird feeders," Lear said.

Supreme Court that Trump helped shape could have the last word on his aggressive executive orders

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will need the Supreme Court, with three justices he appointed, to enable the most aggressive of the many actions he has taken in just the first few weeks of his second White House term.

But even a conservative majority with a robust view of presidential power might balk at some of what the president wants to do.

The court gave Trump major victories last year that helped clear away potential obstacles to his reelection, postponing his criminal trial in Washington, D.C., then affording immunity from prosecution for official actions. But Trump's first term was marked by significant defeats — as well as some wins — at the court.

"It will be an extraordinary test for the Roberts Court whether it's willing to stand up for constitutional principles it has long embraced," said Michael Waldman, the president of New York University's Brennan Center and the author of a book that is critical of the court. "Some of the things we have seen are so blatantly unconstitutional that I am confident the court will stand up. Other things that align with the accumulation of the power of the presidency make me very nervous."

There's no shortage of issues that could find a path to the nation's highest court. Lower courts already have paused orders on birthright citizenship, a freeze on government grants and loans, and a buyout order for federal workers.

Other lawsuits have been filed over restrictions on transgender people, limits on asylum-seekers, efforts to shutter USAID, Elon Musk and his team's access to sensitive data and the firing of officials at independent federal agencies.

Trump met with mixed success at the court in his first term. By a 5-4 vote, the justices upheld his ban on travel to the U.S. from several mostly Muslim countries, but only after courts had blocked the first two versions of it.

The same five conservative justices backed Trump's firing of the head of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau and cleared the way for the administration to tap billions of dollars in Pentagon funds to build sections of a border wall with Mexico, while a lawsuit over the money continued.

At the same time, Chief Justice John Roberts joined with the court's then-four justice liberal bloc to prevent Trump from ending the DACA program for immigrants who were brought here as children. The same five-justice majority also stopped the administration from including a question about citizenship on the 2020 census.

Roberts also bluntly rebuked Trump for denouncing a judge who rejected his migrant asylum policy as an "Obama judge."

One big difference from the first Trump presidency is that there are just three liberal justices, after Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death in September 2020 allowed Trump to appoint a third justice, Amy Coney Barrett, in the final months of his term. She joined earlier Trump appointees, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh.

Birthright citizenship could offer a critical early test

The issue that might be first in line this time is Trump's order ending birthright citizenship for the children of parents who are in the U.S. illegally. The administration already has indicated it will appeal a judge's ruling that has so far blocked it.

Depending on how quickly the federal appeals court in San Francisco acts, an emergency appeal to the

Supreme Court could arrive within weeks if Trump's Justice Department wants to press courts to allow the order to take effect while the legal fight continues.

While there is some support in legal circles for what Trump is trying to do, the more broadly held view among both liberal and conservative scholars is that this is a fight the president won't win.

"I'm exceedingly skeptical about there being any votes for the birthright citizenship executive order as written," said Jonathan Adler, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland who describes himself as right-of-center.

Will Trump's order to freeze federal spending stand?

Trump's now-paused effort to freeze federal spending and his call to shut down USAID also might meet resistance, even in front of the conservative court, though more modest reductions could fare better.

"The court will be more skeptical, especially if the administration tries to completely unwind an agency that has been created by statute," said Villanova University law professor Michael Moreland, who worked in the George W. Bush White House.

The history of the travel ban, which the court eventually upheld after it was revised twice, is instructive, Adler said.

"Make the broad announcement that's a bit blunderbuss, a bit aggressive, that pushed the envelope. Then settle back to a more defensible space after pushback. It results in something more modest, but still dramatic," he said.

The Biden administration figured out a legally defensible way not to spend border wall money that Congress appropriated. "There's a lot more play in the joints than people recognize," Adler said.

The president's power to fire is on firmer ground

Trump is on firmer ground in his firing of National Labor Relations Board member Gynne A. Wilcox and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members Charlotte Burrows and Jocelyn Samuels, all Democrats.

Wilcox already has sued, arguing that federal law protects her from being arbitrarily dismissed.

But even her lawyers acknowledged in their filing that her lawsuit could tee up a Supreme Court challenge to a 90-year-old precedent that Roberts and the other conservatives already have narrowed. The case known as *Humphrey's Executor* held that President Franklin Roosevelt could not arbitrarily fire a member of the Federal Trade Commission, a ruling that applied to other independent federal agencies as well.

That ruling, though, has run into a legal theory embraced by conservatives that says the Constitution gives all executive power to the president, the one person who is accountable to the entire American electorate.

In the CFPB case in 2020, Roberts brushed aside Justice Elena Kagan's complaint that the court was removing "a measure of independence from political pressure."

Roberts left *Humphrey's Executor* standing, but diminished, even as Justice Clarence Thomas and Gorsuch wrote that they would have gone ahead and overruled it.

"If I had to speculate, I'd say it would be — if not outright overruled — at least severely constrained," Moreland said.

Ecuador's conservative incumbent and a leftist lawyer are leading early presidential voting results

By REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (AP) — Ecuador is likely to choose its next president in a runoff election later this year as early results of a first-round vote Sunday showed a tight difference between conservative President Daniel Noboa and leftist lawyer Luisa González.

Figures released by Ecuador's National Electoral Council after 66% of ballots were tallied showed Noboa received more than 3.09 million votes, or 44.7%, while González earned over 3.02 million votes, or 43.8%. The 14 other candidates in the race were far behind them.

The election is shaping up to be a repeat of the 2023 race, when voters chose the young millionaire Noboa over the González, the protégée of the country's most influential president this century.

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All of Sunday's candidates promised voters to reduce the widespread crime that pushed their lives into an unnerving new normal four years ago.

The spike in violence across the South American country is tied to the trafficking of cocaine produced in neighboring Colombia and Peru. So many voters have become crime victims that their personal and collective losses were a determining factor in deciding whether a third president in four years can turn Ecuador around or if Noboa deserves more time in office.

Ecuador's National Electoral Council reported that more than 83% of the roughly 13.7 million eligible voters cast ballots. Voting is mandatory in Ecuador.

In the port city of Guayaquil, people lined up, initially under light rain and then under a scorching sun, outside a public university where tens of thousands were expected to cast ballots.

Crime, gangs and extortion

"For me, this president is disastrous," said Marta Barres, 35, who went to the voting center with her three teenage children. "Can he change things in four more years? No. He hasn't done anything."

Barres, who must pay \$25 a month to a local gang to avoid harassment or worse, said she would vote for González because she believes she can reduce crime across the board and improve the economy.

To win outright, a candidate needs 50% of the vote or at least 40% with a 10-point lead over the closest challenger. If needed, a runoff election would take place on April 13.

More than 100,000 police officers and members of the military were deployed across the country to safeguard the election, including at voting centers. At least 50 officers accompanied Noboa, his wife and their 2-year-old son to a voting center where the president cast his ballot in the small Pacific coast community of Olón.

Noboa defeated González in the October 2023 runoff of a snap election that was triggered by the decision of then-President Guillermo Lasso to dissolve the National Assembly and shorten his own mandate as a result. Noboa and González, a mentee of former President Rafael Correa, had only served short stints as lawmakers before launching their 2023 presidential campaigns.

Testing the limits of laws and norms of governing

Noboa, 37, is an heir to a fortune built on the banana trade. He opened an event organizing company when he was 18 and then joined his father's Noboa Corp., where he held management positions in the shipping, logistics and commercial areas. His political career began in 2021, when he won a seat in the National Assembly and chaired its Economic Development Commission.

Under his presidency, the homicide rate dropped from 46.18 per 100,000 people in 2023 to 38.76 per 100,000 people last year. Still, it remained far higher than the 6.85 per 100,000 people in 2019, and some of Noboa's no-holds-barred crimefighting strategies have come under scrutiny inside and outside the country for testing the limits of laws and norms of governing.

His questioned tactics include the state of internal armed conflict he declared in January 2024 in order to mobilize the military in places where organized crime has taken hold, as well as last year's approval of a police raid on Mexico's embassy in the capital, Quito, to arrest former Vice President Jorge Glas, a convicted criminal and fugitive who had been living there for months.

His head-on approach, however, is also earning him votes.

"My vote was for Noboa because of his skills and because he maintains a direct confrontation with the armed drug-trafficking groups and the corrupt," Pablo Votruba, a retired doctor in Quito, said.

'Things are not going to change'

González, 47, held various government jobs during the presidency of Correa, who led Ecuador from 2007 through 2017 with free-spending socially conservative policies and grew increasingly authoritarian in his last years as president. He was sentenced to prison in absentia in 2020 in a corruption scandal.

González was a lawmaker from 2021 until May 2023, when Lasso dissolved the National Assembly. She was unknown to most voters until Correa's party picked her as its presidential candidate for the snap election.

"They are the fear, we are the hope, hope for change, for joy, for better days to come," she told reporters after voting in her hometown of Canuto, in northwestern Ecuador.

Meanwhile, a group of soldiers, citing security reasons, prevented presidential candidate Andrea González, no relation to Luisa, from entering her assigned polling station with her protection detail. After a brief discussion, she was allowed in accompanied only by her chief of security.

Waiting for her turn to vote in Guayaquil, architecture student Keila Torres said she had not yet decided who to vote for. None, she said, will be able to lower crime across Ecuador due to deep-rooted government corruption.

"If I could, I wouldn't be here," said Torres, who has witnessed three robberies in public buses over the past four years and barely escaped a carjacking in December. "Things are not going to change."

Trump says he is serious about Canada becoming 51st state in Super Bowl interview

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said he is serious about wanting Canada to become the 51st state in an interview that aired Sunday during the Super Bowl preshow.

"Yeah it is," Trump told Fox News Channel's Bret Baier when asked whether his talk of annexing Canada is "a real thing" — as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently warned.

"I think Canada would be much better off being the 51st state because we lose \$200 billion a year with Canada. And I'm not going to let that happen," he said. "Why are we paying \$200 billion a year, essentially a subsidy to Canada?"

The U.S. is not subsidizing Canada. The U.S. buys products from the natural resource-rich nation, including commodities like oil. While the trade gap in goods has ballooned in recent years to \$72 billion in 2023, the deficit largely reflects America's imports of Canadian energy.

Trump has repeatedly suggested that Canada would be better off if it agreed to become the 51st U.S. state — a prospect that is deeply unpopular among Canadians.

Trudeau said Friday during a closed-door session with business and labor leaders that Trump's talk of making Canada the 51st U.S. state was "a real thing" and tied to desire for access to the country's natural resources.

"Mr. Trump has it in mind that the easiest way to do it is absorbing our country and it is a real thing. In my conversations with him on ...," Trudeau said, according to CBC, Canada's public broadcaster. "They're very aware of our resources of what we have, and they very much want to be able to benefit from those."

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday as he traveled to the Super Bowl game in New Orleans, Trump continued to threaten a country that has long been one of the U.S.'s closest allies. He claimed that Canada is "not viable as a country" without U.S. trade, and warned that the founding NATO member can no longer depend on the U.S. for military protection.

"You know, they don't pay very much for military. And the reason they don't pay much is they assume that we're going to protect them," he said. "That's not an assumption they can make because — why are we protecting another country?"

In the Fox interview, which was pre-taped this weekend in Florida, Trump also said that he has not seen enough action from Canada and Mexico to stave off the tariffs he has threatened to impose on the country's two largest trading partners once a 30-day extension is up.

"No, it's not good enough," he said. "Something has to happen. It's not sustainable. And I'm changing it."

Trump last week agreed to a 30-day pause on his plan to slap Mexico and Canada with a 25% tariff on all imports except for Canadian oil, natural gas and electricity, which would be taxed at 10%, after the countries took steps to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking.

Aboard Air Force One, Trump said that he would on Monday announce a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports into the U.S., including from Canada and Mexico, and unveil a plan for reciprocal tariffs later in the week.

"Very simply it's if they charge us, we charge them," he said.

Trump's participation in the Super Bowl interview marked a return to tradition. Presidents have typically

granted a sit-down to the network broadcasting the game, the most-watched television event of the year. But both Trump and his predecessor, Joe Biden, were inconsistent in their participation.

Biden declined to participate last year — turning down a massive audience in an election year — and also skipped an appearance in 2023, when efforts by his team to have Biden speak with a Fox Corp. streaming service instead of the main network failed. During his first term, Trump participated three out of four years.

Trump was the first sitting president to attend the Super Bowl in person — something he told Baier he was surprised to learn.

"I thought it would be a good thing for the country to have the president at the game," he said.

During his flight to New Orleans, Trump signed a proclamation declaring Feb. 9 "the first ever Gulf of America Day" as Air Force One flew over the body of water that he renamed by proclamation from the Gulf of Mexico.

Trump in the interview, also defended the work of billionaire Elon Musk, whose so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, has been drawing deep concern from Democrats as he moves to shut down whole government agencies and fire large swaths of the federal workforce in the name of rooting out waste and inefficiency.

Musk, Trump said, has "been terrific," and will target the Department of Education and the military next. "We're going to find billions, hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud and abuse," Trump predicted. "I campaigned on this."

He was also asked about his dancing, which has become a popular meme on social media.

"I don't know what it is," he said. "I try and walk off sometimes without dancing and I can't. I have to dance."

Court grants request to block detained Venezuelan immigrants from being sent to Guantanamo

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A federal court on Sunday blocked the Trump administration from sending three Venezuelan immigrants held in New Mexico to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba as part of the president's immigration crackdown.

In a legal filing earlier in the day, lawyers for the men said the detainees "fit the profile of those the administration has prioritized for detention in Guantanamo, i.e. Venezuelan men detained in the El Paso area with (false) charges of connections with the Tren de Aragua gang."

It asked a U.S. District Court in New Mexico for a temporary restraining order blocking their transfer, adding that "the mere uncertainty the government has created surrounding the availability of legal process and counsel access is sufficient to authorize the modest injunction."

During a brief hearing, Judge Kenneth J. Gonzales granted the temporary order, which was opposed by the government, said Jessica Vosburgh, an attorney for the three men.

"It's short term. This will get revisited and further fleshed out in the weeks to come," Vosburgh told The Associated Press.

A message seeking comment was left for U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement.

The filing came as part of a lawsuit on behalf of the three men filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, and Las Americas Immigrant Advisory Center.

The Tren de Aragua gang originated in a lawless prison in the central Venezuelan state of Aragua more than a decade ago and has expanded in recent years as millions of desperate Venezuelans fled President Nicolás Maduro's rule and migrated to other parts of Latin America or the U.S.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said last week that flights of detainees had landed at Guantanamo. Immigrant rights groups sent a letter Friday demanding access to people who have been sent there, saying the base should not be used as a "legal black hole."

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday that more than 8,000 people have been arrested in immigration enforcement actions since Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration.

Trump has vowed to deport millions of the estimated 11.7 million people in the U.S. illegally.

A presidential first: Trump at the Super Bowl, latest chapter in a complicated legacy with football

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As a student, Donald Trump played high school football. As a business baron, he owned a team in an upstart rival to the NFL and then sued the established league. As president, he denigrated pros who took a knee during the national anthem as part of a social justice movement.

He added to that complicated history with the sport on Sunday by becoming the first president in office to attend a Super Bowl.

After flying from Florida to New Orleans, the Republican president met with participants in the honorary coin toss after he arrived at the Superdome, including relatives of victims of a deadly New Year's Day terrorist attack in the historic French Quarter, members of the police department and emergency personnel.

Trump's appearance at the Caesars Superdome to see the two-time defending champion Kansas City Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles follows the NFL's decision to remove the "End Racism" slogans that have been stenciled on the end zones since 2021.

Trump recently ordered the cancellation of programs that encourage diversity, equity and inclusion across the federal government and some critics see the league's decision as a response to the Republican president's action. But NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said the league's diversity policies are not in conflict with the Trump administration's efforts to end the federal government's DEI programs.

Trump, who attended the Super Bowl in 1992, thinks the Chiefs will win, with Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes the difference-maker.

"I guess you have to say that when a quarterback wins as much as he's won, I have to go with Kansas City," Trump said in a taped interview with Fox News Channel's Bret Baier that aired during the pregame show. Trump said Mahomes "really knows how to win. He's a great, great quarterback."

The president played football as a student at the New York Military Academy. As a New York businessman in the early 1980s, he owned the New Jersey Generals of the United States Football League. Trump had sued to force a merger of the USFL and the NFL. The USFL eventually folded.

Friction existed between Trump and the NFL during his first term as president.

Trump took issue with players kneeling during the national anthem to protest social or racial injustice. That movement began in 2016 with then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick taking a knee during "The Star-Spangled Banner" during an exhibition game in Denver.

Trump, through social media and other public comments, insisted that players stand for the national anthem and he called on team owners to fire anyone who took a knee.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, you'd say, 'Get that son of a bitch off the field right now. Out! He's fired,'" Trump said to loud applause at a rally in Huntsville, Alabama, in 2017.

Trump watched Sunday's game from a suite after flying in with a group of some of his closest Republican allies in Congress, including Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott of South Carolina. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., had said he'd also be in the suite with the president. Trump saluted when the national anthem was sung. Mahomes' family stopped by to visit with him.

His interest in sports extends beyond football. Trump is an avid golfer who owns multiple golf courses and has hosted tournaments. He sponsored boxing matches at his former casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and attended a UFC match at Madison Square Garden weeks after winning a second term.

Trump played golf with Tiger Woods on Sunday in Florida, the White House said.

Some NFL team owners have donated to his campaigns and Trump maintains friendships with Herschel Walker and Doug Flutie, who played for the Generals. Trump endorsed Walker's unsuccessful bid as the Republican candidate for a U.S. Senate seat from Georgia in 2022, and has tapped him to become ambassador to the Bahamas.

Trump signed an order last week that is intended to block transgender women and girls from competing in women's sports by targeting federal funding for schools that fail to comply.

In a statement before the game, Trump said the coaches, players and staff for the Chiefs and Eagles “represent the hopes and dreams of our Nation’s young athletes as we restore safety and fairness in sports and equal opportunities among their teams.”

Alvin Tillery, a politics professor and diversity expert at Northwestern University, said in an interview that the NFL’s decision to remove “End Racism” slogans was “shameful” given that the league “makes tens of billions of dollars largely on the bodies of Black men.”

He said the NFL should explain who it was aiming to please. The NFL said it was stenciling “Choose Love” in one of the end zones for the Super Bowl to encourage the country after a series of tragedies so far this year, including a New Year’s Day truck attack in the host city of New Orleans that killed 14 people and injured dozens more.

Tillery wasn’t convinced. “I think they removed it because Trump’s coming,” he said.

Aga Khan, the leader of Ismaili Muslims, laid to rest in Egypt during private burial ceremony

ASWAN, Egypt (AP) — The Aga Khan IV was laid to rest on Sunday at a private ceremony in Aswan, Egypt.

The death of Prince Karim — the 49th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims — was announced Tuesday by the Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili religious community. His son, 53-year-old Rahim Al-Hussaini, has been named as the Aga Khan V, the spiritual leader of the world’s millions of Ismaili Muslims, in according with his father’s will.

On Saturday, a private funeral service took place at the Ismaili community center in Lisbon attended by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Spain’s King Emeritus Juan Carlos and Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

The Aga Khan is considered by his followers to be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad and is treated as a head of state.

The governor of Aswan welcomed Prince Karim’s family at the southern Egyptian’s provinces airport on Saturday.

“When his will was opened, it was found that he had requested to be buried in Aswan near his grandfather, Sultan Muhammad Shah, and his grandmother, Om Habiba,” said Maj. Gen. Ismail Kamal.

Ismaili mourners marched as bells rang during the burial ceremony in the country’s southern Aswan province, as Prince Karim’s body was taken in a van. They carried his body, draped in a white shroud, and placed it on a yacht on the Nile River.

Prince Karim, 88, was given the title of “His Highness” by Queen Elizabeth in July 1957, two weeks after his grandfather, the Aga Khan III, unexpectedly made him heir to the family’s 1,300-year dynasty as leader of the Ismaili Muslim sect.

The late Aga Khan evolved over decades into a business magnate and a philanthropist, moving between the spiritual and the worldly with ease. He was a defender of Islamic culture and values, but also widely regarded as a builder of bridges between Muslim societies and the West.

The Aga Khan Development Network deals mainly with issues of health care, housing, education and rural economic development. It says it works in over 30 countries and has an annual budget of about \$1 billion for nonprofit development activities.

Ismailis lived for many generations in Iran, Syria and South Asia before also settling in east Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East, as well as Europe, North America and Australia more recently. They consider it a duty to donate up to 12.5% of their income to the Aga Khan as steward.

Here's what we know about a commuter plane crash in Alaska that killed 10 people

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Authorities are focusing on the wreckage of a plane that crashed off western Alaska as they try to determine what caused the small commuter aircraft to go down in the icy Bering Sea, killing 10 people.

The single-engine turboprop plane was traveling from Unalakleet to the hub community of Nome when it disappeared Thursday afternoon.

Crews on Saturday succeeded in recovering the remains of those killed in the Bering Air crash from a drifting ice floe before the anticipated onset of high winds and snow. By the end of the day, the wreckage was taken by helicopter to a hangar in Nome.

Here are things to know about the plane crash, which is one of the deadliest in the state in 25 years.

The plane was reported missing near Nome

Officials said contact with the Cessna Caravan was lost less than an hour after it left Unalakleet on Thursday. Authorities said the flight was a regularly scheduled commuter trip, and the aircraft went missing about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Nome.

The wreckage was found Friday by rescuers who were searching by helicopter. Local, state and federal agencies scoured large stretches of icy waters and miles (kilometers) of frozen tundra before finding the plane.

Nine passengers and the pilot were killed.

Unalakleet is a community of about 690 people about 150 miles (about 240 kilometers) southeast of Nome and some 395 miles (640 kilometers) northwest of Anchorage. The village is on the Iditarod trail, route of the world's most famous sled dog race.

Nome is just south of the Arctic Circle and is known as the ending point of the 1,000-mile (1,610-kilometer) Iditarod.

The cause of the crash is under investigation

Radar data provided by the U.S. Civil Air Patrol indicated the plane rapidly lost elevation and speed, but it is unclear why that happened, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Benjamin McIntyre-Coble said he was unaware of any distress signals from the aircraft. If a plane is exposed to seawater, an emergency locating transmitter sends a signal to a satellite, which then relays that message to the Coast Guard. No such messages were received by the Coast Guard.

National Transportation Safety Board Jennifer Homendy said Sunday that the plane was flying in an area where moderate icing was possible between 2,000 feet (610 meters) and 8,000 feet (2,438 meters) and where the weather could be hazardous to light aircraft. However, she said the plane, which was last spotted on radar at 3,400 feet (1,036 meters), had an anti-icing system on its wings and tail, which will be examined as part of the investigation.

She stressed that investigators were not leaning toward any cause for the crash at this point.

"Right now it's really a focus on the wreckage and we'll see where that takes us," she said.

Flying is an important mode of transportation in the largest U.S. state

Alaska's vast landscape and limited infrastructure makes traveling by plane commonplace. Most communities are not connected to the developed road system that serves the state's most populous region.

Some high school teams fly to sporting events against rival high schools, and goods are brought to many communities by barge or by air.

Who was on the plane?

Authorities on Saturday identified the crash victims, who ranged in age from the 34-year-old, Nome-based pilot to a 58-year-old passenger, also a resident of Nome.

Also among those killed were Rhone Baumgartner and Kameron Hartvigson of Anchorage, ages 46 and 41, respectively. They had traveled to Unalakleet to service a heat-recovery system vital to the community's water plant, according to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Talaluk Katchatag, 34, of Unalakleet, was also among those lost. Known as TK, he was described by his older sister in an online fundraiser as a soft spoken and strong man who was wise beyond his years.

"His soul was genuine, and he lived life so matter of factly," AyyuSue Katchatag wrote of her brother.

The flight operator, Bering Air, said it had set up telephone hotlines staffed with specialists to provide emotional support and updates to people who had loved ones on the flight.

"At this time, our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those affected by this tragedy," the company said on its website. "We recognize the profound loss this has caused, and we want to extend our sincerest condolences to everyone impacted."

Other recent U.S. plane crashes are also under investigation

The Alaska plane's crash marks the third major U.S. aviation mishap in eight days.

A commercial jetliner and an Army helicopter collided near the nation's capital on Jan. 29, killing 67 people.

A medical transportation plane crashed in Philadelphia on Jan. 31, killing the six people on board and another person on the ground.

Famine mostly averted but is a danger again if Gaza ceasefire collapses, UN humanitarian chief says

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Famine has been mostly averted in Gaza as a surge of aid enters the territory during a fragile ceasefire, the United Nations humanitarian chief said Sunday. But he warned the threat could return quickly if the truce collapses.

Tom Fletcher spoke to The Associated Press after a two-day visit to Gaza, where hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian aid have arrived each day since the ceasefire began on Jan. 19.

"The threat of famine, I think, is largely averted," Fletcher said in Cairo. "Those starvation levels are down from where they were before the ceasefire."

He spoke as concerns grow over whether the ceasefire can be extended and talks are meant to begin on its more difficult second phase. The six-week first phase is halfway through.

As part of the agreement, Israel said it would allow 600 aid trucks into Gaza each day, a major increase after months of aid officials expressing frustration about delays and insecurity hampering both the entry and distribution of food, medicines and other badly needed items.

The U.N. humanitarian office has said more than 12,600 aid trucks have entered Gaza since the ceasefire took effect.

Fletcher urged both Hamas, which quickly reasserted its control of the territory in the hours after the ceasefire took effect, and Israel to stick to the deal that has "saved so many lives."

"The conditions are still terrible, and people are still hungry," he said. "If the ceasefire falls, if the ceasefire breaks, then very quickly those (famine-like) conditions will come back again."

The internationally recognized mortality threshold for famine is two or more deaths a day per 10,000 people.

For months before the current ceasefire, food security monitors, U.N. officials and others had been warning of possible famine in parts of devastated Gaza, especially the north, which had been largely isolated since the earliest weeks of the 16-month war. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been able to return to the north under the ceasefire.

"We can't ... sit by and just allow these people to starve to death," Cindy McCain, the American head of the U.N. World Food Program, told CBS in December. The Biden administration repeatedly urged Israel to allow more aid deliveries and warned that failing to do so could trigger U.S. restrictions on military support.

Fletcher said more food and medical supplies are crucially needed for the territory of more than 2 million people, most of them displaced, and he expressed concerns about disease outbreaks due to the lack of basic health supplies. He also called for scaling up the delivery of tents and other shelters to those who have returned to their home areas, as winter continues.

"We must get tens of thousands of tents very rapidly in, so that people who are moving back, particularly

moving back into the north, are able to take shelter from those conditions," he said.

Fletcher entered the Palestinian territory through the Erez crossing between Israel and northern Gaza, where he said he drove through "bombed-out, flattened and pulverized" areas.

"You can't see the difference between a school or a hospital or a home," he said of the north.

He said he saw people trying to find where their homes had been and collecting the bodies of loved ones from the rubble. He saw dogs looking for corpses in the rubble, too.

"It is a horror movie. It's a horror show," he said. "It breaks your heart again and again and again. You drive for miles and miles and miles, and this is all you see."

Fletcher acknowledged that some Palestinians have been angry at the international community over the war and its response.

"There was despair and anger. And I can understand the anger at the world that this has happened to them," he said. "But there was also a sense of defiance as well. People were saying, 'We will go back to our homes. We will go back to the places that we have lived for generations, and we will rebuild.'"

Trump repeats pledge to take control of Gaza even as pressure mounts to renew ceasefire

By MOHAMMAD JAHJOUH and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

MUGHRAQA, Gaza Strip (AP) — New details and growing shock over emaciated hostages renewed pressure Sunday on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend a fragile Gaza ceasefire beyond the first phase, even as U.S. President Donald Trump repeated his pledge that the U.S. would take control of the Palestinian enclave.

Talks on the second phase, meant to see more hostages released and a complete Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, were due to start Feb. 3. But Israel and Hamas appear to have made little progress, even as Israeli forces withdrew Sunday from a Gaza corridor in the latest commitment to the truce.

Netanyahu sent a delegation to Qatar, a key mediator, but it included low-level officials, sparking speculation that it won't lead to a breakthrough. Netanyahu, who returned after a U.S. visit to meet with Trump, is expected to convene security Cabinet ministers on Tuesday.

Trump weighs in on Gaza again

Speaking on Sunday, Trump repeated his pledge to take control of the Gaza Strip.

"I'm committed to buying and owning Gaza. As far as us rebuilding it, we may give it to other states in the Middle East to build sections of it. Other people may do it through our auspices. But we're committed to owning it, taking it, and making sure that Hamas doesn't move back. There's nothing to move back into. The place is a demolition site. The remainder will be demolished," he told reporters onboard Air Force One as he traveled to the Super Bowl.

Trump said Arab nations would agree to take in Palestinians after speaking with him and insisted Palestinians would leave Gaza if they had a choice.

"They don't want to return to Gaza. If we could give them a home in a safer area — the only reason they're talking about returning to Gaza is they don't have an alternative. When they have an alternative, they don't want to return to Gaza."

Trump also suggested he was losing patience with the deal after seeing the emaciated hostages released this week.

"I watched the hostages come back today and they looked like Holocaust survivors. They were in horrible condition. They were emaciated. It looked like many years ago, the Holocaust survivors, and I don't know how much longer we can take that," he said.

Israel has expressed openness to the idea of resettling Gaza's population — "a revolutionary, creative vision," Netanyahu told his Cabinet on Sunday — while Hamas, the Palestinians and much of the world have rejected it.

Egypt said it will host an emergency Arab summit on Feb. 27 to discuss the "new and dangerous developments."

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Trump's proposal has moral, legal and practical obstacles. It may have been proposed as a negotiation tactic to pressure Hamas or an opening gambit in discussions aimed at securing a normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia condemned Netanyahu's recent comment that Palestinians could create their state there, saying it aimed to divert attention from crimes committed by "the Israeli occupation against our Palestinian brothers in Gaza, including the ethnic cleansing they are being subjected to."

Qatar called Netanyahu's comment "provocative" and a blatant violation of international law.

Hostage families say time is running out

Families of remaining hostages said time is running out as some survivors described being barefoot and in chains.

"We cannot let the hostages remain there. There is no other way. I am appealing to the cabinet," said Ella Ben Ami, daughter of a hostage released Saturday, adding she now understands the toll of captivity is much worse than imagined.

The father of a remaining hostage, Kobi Ohel, told Israel's Channel 13 the newly released men said his son, Alon, and others "live off half a pita to a full pita a day. These are not human conditions." Ohel's mother, Idit, sobbed as she told Channel 12 her son has been chained for over a year.

Michael Levy said his brother, the newly released Or Levy, had been barefoot and hungry for 16 months. "The decision-makers knew exactly what his condition was and what everyone else's condition was, and they did not do enough to bring him back with the urgency that was needed," he said.

On Saturday, as Israelis reeled, former defense minister Yoav Gallant said on social media that the deterioration in hostages' conditions was something "Israel has known about for some time."

The ceasefire's extension is not guaranteed

The ceasefire that began on Jan. 19 has held, raising hopes that the 16-month war that led to seismic shifts in the Middle East may be headed toward an end.

The latest step was Israel forces' withdrawal from the 4-mile (6-kilometer) Netzarim corridor separating northern and southern Gaza, which was used as a military zone. No troops were seen in the vicinity Sunday. As the ceasefire began last month, Israel began allowing hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to cross Netzarim and return to the north.

But the deal remains fragile. On Sunday, civil defense first responders in Gaza said Israeli fire killed three people east of Gaza City. Israel's military noted "several hits" after firing warning shots and warned Palestinians against approaching its forces.

Cars piled with belongings headed north. Under the deal, Israel should allow cars to cross Netzarim uninspected. Troops remain along Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt.

Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanoua said the troops' withdrawal showed the militant group had "forced the enemy to submit to our demands" and thwarted "Netanyahu's illusion of achieving total victory."

Israel has said it won't agree to a complete withdrawal from Gaza until Hamas' military and political capabilities are eliminated. Hamas says it won't hand over the last hostages until Israel removes all troops.

During the ceasefire's 42-day first phase, Hamas is gradually releasing 33 Israeli hostages captured during its Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the war in exchange for the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and a flood of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Israel has said Hamas confirmed that eight of the 33 are dead.

Families of the hostages gathered in Tel Aviv to urge Netanyahu to extend the ceasefire, but he is also under pressure from far-right political allies to resume the war. Trump's proposal for the U.S. to take control of the Gaza Strip may also complicate the situation.

"They are dying there, so we need to finish this deal in a hurry," said Ayala Metzger, daughter-in-law of hostage Yoram Metzger, who died in captivity.

The war in Gaza, sparked by Hamas' attack that killed 1,200 people and took 250 hostage, has killed more than 47,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not differentiate between fighters and noncombatants in their count. Much of the territory has been obliterated.

Violence in the occupied West Bank

Violence has surged in the occupied West Bank during the war and intensified in recent days with an Israeli military operation against Palestinian militants in the territory's north.

On Sunday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli gunfire killed two women, one of them, Sundus Shalabi, eight months pregnant. It said Rahaf al-Ashqar, 21, was also killed. The shooting occurred in the Nur Shams urban refugee camp, a focal point of Israeli operations.

Israel's military said its police had opened an investigation.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz on Sunday announced the expansion of the operation that started in Jenin several weeks ago. He said it was meant to prevent Iran — allied with Hamas — from establishing a foothold in the West Bank.

Vance and Musk question the authority of the courts as Trump's agenda faces legal pushback

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Trump administration officials are openly questioning the judiciary's authority to serve as a check on executive power as the new president's sweeping agenda faces growing pushback from the courts.

Over the past 24 hours, officials ranging from billionaire Elon Musk to Vice President JD Vance have not only criticized a federal judge's decision early Saturday that blocks Musk's Department of Government Efficiency from accessing Treasury Department records, but have also attacked the legitimacy of judicial oversight, a fundamental pillar of American democracy, which is based on the separation of powers.

"If a judge tried to tell a general how to conduct a military operation, that would be illegal. If a judge tried to command the attorney general in how to use her discretion as a prosecutor, that's also illegal. Judges aren't allowed to control the executive's legitimate power," Vance wrote on X on Sunday morning.

That post came hours after Musk said overnight that the judge who ruled against him should be impeached.

"A corrupt judge protecting corruption. He needs to be impeached NOW!" said Musk, who has been tasked by President Donald Trump with rooting out waste across the federal government.

Musk also shared a post from a user who had suggested that the Trump administration openly defy the court order.

"I don't like the precedent it sets when you defy a judicial ruling, but I'm just wondering what other options are these judges leaving us," the person had written, in part.

The court order against Musk barred his team temporarily from accessing a Treasury system that contains sensitive personal data, such as Social Security and bank account numbers for millions of Americans. Musk and his team say they are simply rooting through government systems to identify waste and abuse at the direction of the Republican president.

Deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller called the ruling "an assault on the very idea of democracy itself."

"What we continue to see here is the idea that rogue bureaucrats who are elected by no one, who answer to no one, who have lifetime tenure jobs, who we would be told can never be fired, which, of course, is not true, that the power has been cemented and accumulated for years, whether it be with the Treasury bureaucrats or the FBI bureaucrats or the CIA bureaucrats or the USAID bureaucrats, with this unelected shadow force that is running our government and running our country," Miller said on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

The pushback comes as the administration's efforts to dismantle government agencies and eliminate large swaths of the federal workforce are being held up by the courts. Judges have also blocked Trump, at least temporarily, from moving forward with mass federal buyouts, from placing thousands of USAID workers on leave and from implementing an executive order that seeks to end birthright citizenship for anyone born in the U.S.

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Early Saturday, U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer issued a preliminary injunction after 19 Democratic attorneys general sued, alleging the Trump administration allowed Musk's team access to the Treasury Department's central payment system in violation of federal law.

"We're very disappointed with the judges that would make such a ruling, but we have a long way to go," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One while he flew from Florida to New Orleans to attend the Super Bowl. He added: "No judge should frankly be allowed to make that kind of a decision."

The payment system handles tax refunds, Social Security benefits, veterans' benefits and much more, sending out trillions of dollars every year while containing an expansive network of Americans' personal and financial data. A hearing is set for Feb. 14.

Democrats have been sounding alarms over Musk and Trump's efforts, including efforts to halt spending that has already been appropriated by Congress. Under the U.S. Constitution, Congress is the body in charge of spending.

"I think this is the most serious Constitutional crisis the country has faced, certainly, since Watergate," Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said on ABC's "This Week." "This is a red alert moment when this entire country has to understand that our democracy is at risk."

Murphy expressed concern that the courts are ill-prepared for the onslaught they are facing.

"The pace of this assault on the Constitution in order to serve the billionaire class, it is absolutely dizzying. And so, you have to run a full-scale opposition," Murphy said. "Ultimately, you've got to bring the American public into this conversation because we need our Republican colleagues in the House and in the Senate ultimately to put a stop to this. You cannot just rely on the court system."

Republicans, who have largely stood in lockstep behind the president since he was sworn in for a second term, did so again on Sunday.

Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan blasted the court ruling for the Treasury Department case while arguing that the president should be able to implement his agenda as he sees fit.

"I assume we will argue this out in court, like the other 17 or 18 decisions we have seen in the last several days. That all is going to get argued out in court. And, frankly, we knew the left, we knew the Democrats were going to do this," the Republican said on CNN's "Inside Politics."

Kosovo's governing party wins parliamentary election but without majority, preliminary results show

By LLAZAR SEMINI Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Preliminary results showed that Prime Minister Albin Kurti's party won Kosovo's parliamentary election Sunday but without the majority needed to govern alone, as talks on normalizing ties with rival Serbia remain stalled and foreign funding for one of Europe's poorest countries is in question.

With 73% of the votes counted, Kurti's leftist Self-Determination Movement Party, or Vetevendosje!, won 41.99% which doesn't give it the majority needed to govern alone, leaving open the possibility the other three contenders could join ranks if he fails to form a Cabinet.

The other challengers are the Democratic Party of Kosovo, or PDK, whose main leaders are detained at an international criminal tribunal at The Hague accused of war crimes, which won 22.68% of the vote. Next with 17.9% support is the Democratic League of Kosovo, or LDK, the oldest party in the country which lost much of its support after the death in 2006 of its leader, Ibrahim Rugova. The third contender is the Alliance for Kosovo's Future of former prime minister Ramush Haradinaj with 7.56%.

"The people won. Vetevendosje! won. We are the winning subject who is to form the next Cabinet," Kurti told journalists while groups of celebrating supporters.

Voting ended at 7 p.m. local time (1800 GMT) "without problems that could violate its integrity," according to Central Election Commission Valmir Elezi.

The commission's webpage was down temporarily as it was overloaded "due to the citizens' high interest to learn the results at the platform," according to the commission, the main election body.

A preliminary turnout after 92% of the votes counted was 40.59, or 7% lower than four years ago.

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The parties made big-ticket pledges to increase public salaries and pensions, improve education and health services, and fight poverty. However, they did not explain where the money would come from, nor how they would attract more foreign investment.

Ties with Serbia remain a concern

Kurti has been at odds with Western powers since his Cabinet took several steps that raised tensions with Serbia and ethnic Serbs, including the ban on the use of the Serbian currency and dinar transfers from Serbia to Kosovo's ethnic Serb minority that depends on Belgrade's social services and payments. The U.S., the European Union and the NATO-led stabilization force KFOR have urged the government in Pristina to refrain from unilateral actions, fearing the revival of inter-ethnic conflict.

This is the first time since independence in 2008 that Kosovo's parliament has completed a full four-year mandate. It is the ninth parliamentary vote in Kosovo since the end of the 1998-1999 war between Serbian government forces and ethnic Albanian separatists that pushed Serbian forces out following a 78-day NATO air campaign. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo's independence.

The vote will determine who will lead the Kosovo in negotiations with Serbia, which stalled again last year.

Some aid funds are suspended

The EU has suspended funding for some projects and set conditions for their gradual resumption, linked to Kosovo taking steps to de-escalate tensions in the north, where most of the Serb minority lives.

Kosovo is also suffering after Washington imposed a 90-day freeze on funding for different projects through the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has been key in promoting the country's growth.

Some 2 million eligible voters will elect 120 lawmakers from 1,280 candidates from 27 political groupings. One independent candidate is also running. The Kosovar parliament has 20 seats reserved for minorities regardless of election results, 10 of which are for the Serb minority.

"I encourage all the citizens of Kosovo to use this opportunity to decide on the next four years," Kurti said after casting his ballot.

There have been sporadic violent incidents. Prosecutors said they detained eight people for trying to influence voters. Police said the "electoral process passed on quietly and without serious incidents."

Kosovars abroad started voting Saturday at 43 diplomatic missions. Some 20,000 voters from the diaspora of nearly 100,000 were casting ballots, with the rest voting by mail.

Although crucial for the region's stability, negotiations with Serbia have not figured prominently on any party's agenda.

"What can we do? We were born here. Our graves are here. It will be better, I hope. We have to come out and vote. That is our duty," Mileva Kovacevic, a Serb resident in northern Mitrovica, said.

Kosovo, with a population of 1.6 million, is one of the poorest countries in Europe with an annual gross domestic product of less than 6,000 euros per person.

KFOR increased its presence in Kosovo after last year's tensions with Serbia as well as for the election.

A team of 100 observers from the EU, 18 from the Council of Europe and about 1,600 others from international or local organizations will monitor the vote.

Trump administration orders consumer protection agency to stop work, closes building

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has ordered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to stop nearly all its work, effectively shutting down an agency that was created to protect consumers after the 2008 financial crisis and subprime mortgage-lending scandal.

Russell Vought, the newly installed director of the Office of Management and Budget, directed the CFPB, in a Saturday night email confirmed by The Associated Press, to stop work on proposed rules, to suspend the effective dates on any rules that were finalized but not yet effective, and to stop investigative work and not begin any new investigations. The agency has been a target of conservatives since President

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Barack Obama pushed to include it in the 2010 financial reform legislation that followed the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

The email also ordered the bureau to "cease all supervision and examination activity."

On Sunday, administration officials also said that the CFPB's headquarters in Washington, D.C. would be closed the week of Feb. 10 through Feb. 14, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. No reason was given for closure.

"Employees and contractors are to work remotely unless instructed otherwise," the email to headquarters workers said.

The order follows similar efforts by the White House to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Since the CFPB is a creation of Congress, it would require a separate act of Congress to formally eliminate it. But the head of the agency has discretion over what enforcement actions to take, if any.

Yet Elon Musk commented, "CFPB RIP" on social media site X on Friday. And the CFPB homepage on the Internet was down Sunday, replaced by a message reading "page not found."

Also late Saturday, Vought said in a social media post that the CFPB would not withdraw its next round of funding from the Federal Reserve, adding that its current reserves of \$711.6 million is "excessive." Congress directed the bureau to be funded by the Fed to insulate it from political pressures.

"This spigot, long contributing to CFPB's unaccountability, is now being turned off," Vought said on X.

The CFPB says that it has obtained nearly \$20 billion in financial relief for U.S. consumers since its founding in the form of canceled debts, compensation, and reduced loans. Last month, the bureau sued Capital One for allegedly misleading consumers about its offerings for high-interest savings accounts — and "cheating" customers out of more than \$2 billion in lost interest payments as a result, the bureau said.

Dennis Kelleher, president of Better Markets, an advocacy group, said, "that's why Wall Street's biggest banks and Trump's billionaire allies hate the bureau: it's an effective cop on the finance beat and has stood side-by-side with hundreds of millions of Americans — Republicans and Democrats — battling financial predators, scammers, and crooks."

The administration's move against the CFPB also highlights the tensions between Trump's more populist promises to lower costs for working-class families and his pledge to reduce government regulation.

During the campaign, Trump said he would cap credit card interest rates at 10%, after they had soared to record levels above 20%, on average, as the Federal Reserve lifted interest rates in 2022 and 2023. The CFPB had started work on how that proposal would be implemented.

The bureau can still take complaints, but it can't conduct exams or pursue existing investigations, according to a person familiar with the agency who insisted on anonymity to discuss CFPB business. The memo is also interpreted as blocking it from communicating with companies it regulates, consumer advocates or other outside groups.

Musk's team would also have access to complaints, investigations and regulatory oversight data. The access raises uncomfortable questions if Musk's company X launches a payments system as the CFPB has data on competitors such as Cash App, the person said.

Vought's email follows a similar directive from Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent Feb. 3 and is the latest move by the Trump administration to rapidly curtail the work of federal agencies that they have deemed excessive.

Obama spearheaded the creation of the bureau in the wake of the 2007-2008 housing bubble and financial crisis, which was caused in part by fraudulent mortgage lending. It was the brainchild of Massachusetts Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and has attracted lawsuits from large banks and financial industry trade associations.

"Vought is giving big banks and giant corporations the green light to scam families," Warren said.

Last week, Warren called on Trump to work with the bureau to protect Americans from de-banking, the practice of banks shutting down customer accounts because they believe they pose financial, legal or reputational risks to the banks.

"I know that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a favorite whipping boy of Republicans on this Committee, but the CFPB is the main agency in our government that is actively working to stop unfair de-banking," she said at a hearing of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

Vought's email said that President Donald Trump had made him acting director of the CFPB on Friday. Trump fired the previous director of the bureau, Rohit Chopra, on Feb. 1. Vought was an architect of Project 2025, a policy blueprint for the Trump White House that Trump tried to disavow during last year's campaign.

Under Chopra, the CFPB approved rules to cap overdraft fees by banks, limit junk fees, and has proposed restrictions on data brokers selling personal information such as Social Security numbers.

Trump's AI ambition and China's DeepSeek overshadow an AI summit in Paris

By SYLVIE CORBET and KELVIN CHAN Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The geopolitics of artificial intelligence will be in focus at a major summit in France where world leaders, executives and experts will hammer out pledges on guiding the development of the rapidly advancing technology.

It's the latest in a series of global dialogues around AI governance, but one that comes at a fresh inflection point as China's buzzy and budget-friendly DeepSeek chatbot shakes up the industry.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance — making his first trip abroad since taking office — will attend the Paris AI Action Summit starting Feb. 10, while China's President Xi Jinping will be sending his special envoy, signaling high stakes for the meeting.

Here's a breakdown:

Summit basics

Heads of state and top government officials, tech bosses and researchers are gathering in Paris for the two-day summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event aims to address how to harness artificial intelligence's potential so that it benefits everyone, while containing the technology's myriad risks.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is attending, along with company officials from 80 countries, including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, Microsoft President Brad Smith and Google CEO Sundar Pichai.

Tesla chief Elon Musk, who attended the inaugural 2023 summit at former codebreaking base Bletchley Park in England, and DeepSeek founder Liang Wenfeng have been invited, but it's unclear if either will attend.

Panel talks and workshops at the Grand Palais venue on Monday will be followed by a dinner at the Elysee presidential palace for world leaders and CEOs. Leaders and company bosses are expected to give speeches at Tuesday's closing session.

What's at stake?

More than two years after ChatGPT's debut, generative AI continues to make astounding advances at breakneck speed. The technology that powers all-purpose chatbots is transforming many aspects of life with its ability to spit out high-quality text, images or video, or carry out complex tasks.

The 2023 summit in the U.K. resulted in a non-binding pledge by 28 nations to tackle AI risks. A follow-up meeting hosted by South Korea last year secured another pledge to set up a network of public AI safety institutes to advance research and testing.

AI safety is still on the agenda in Paris, with an expert group reporting back on general purpose AI's possible extreme dangers.

But this time organizers are expanding the discussion to more countries, and widening the debate to a range of other AI-related topics. Like previous editions, this summit won't produce any binding regulation.

"The summit comes at a time when many are trying to position themselves in the international competition," Macron told reporters, according to La Provence newspaper. "It's about establishing the rules of the game. AI cannot be the Wild West."

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The deliverables

Organizers are working on getting countries to sign a joint political declaration gathering commitments for more ethical, democratic and environmentally sustainable AI, according to Macron's office. But it's unclear whether the U.S. would agree to such a measure.

A public-interest partnership named "Current AI" is to be launched with an initial \$400 million investment. The initiative aims at raising \$2.5 billion over the next five years for the public-private partnership involving governments, businesses and philanthropic groups that will provide open-source access to databases, software and other tools for "trusted" AI actors, according to Macron's office.

Macron's team wants to shift the focus away from the race to develop better-than-human artificial intelligence through sheer computing power and, instead, open up access to data that can help AI solve problems like cancer or long COVID.

"We now have this incredible opportunity to figure out not only how we should mitigate the potential harms from artificial intelligence, but also how we can ensure that it's used to improve people's lives," said Martin Tisné, the summit's envoy for public interest AI.

Trump's team

U.S. President Donald Trump has spoken of his desire to make the U.S. the "world capital of artificial intelligence" by tapping its oil and gas reserves to feed the energy-hungry technology. Meanwhile, he has moved to withdraw the U.S. — again — from the Paris climate agreement and revoked former President Joe Biden's executive order for AI guardrails.

Trump is replacing it with his own AI policy designed to maintain America's global leadership by reducing regulatory barriers and building AI systems free of "ideological bias."

The U.S. position might undermine any joint communique, said Nick Reiners, senior geotechnology analyst at the Eurasia Group.

"Trump is against the very idea of global governance," Reiners said. "It's one thing to get countries to agree that AI should have guardrails and that AI safety is something worth caring about. But they've widened the scope to talk about the future of work and the environment and inclusivity and so on — a whole range of concepts. So it's hard to imagine getting a widespread agreement on such a broad range of subjects."

China's role

Chinese leader Xi is sending Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, who's been elevated to the role of Xi's special representative.

It's a big step up from the 2023 Bletchley meeting, when the Chinese government sent the vice minister of science and technology. It signifies that Xi wants China to play a bigger role in global AI governance as Trump pulls back, Reiners said.

DeepSeek's release last month stunned the world because of its ability to rival Western players like ChatGPT. It also escalated the wider geopolitical showdown between Beijing and Washington over tech supremacy.

Trump said DeepSeek was a "wake-up call" for the U.S. tech industry and his AI advisor David Sacks accused DeepSeek of training its model on stolen OpenAI data. The DeepSeek chatbot app now faces investigations, and in some cases, bans in the U.S. and a number of other countries over privacy and security concerns.

Yet the rise of DeepSeek, which built its open source AI model at a fraction of the cost and with fewer chips, also puts China's interests in line with France's.

French organizers said "the summit aims at promoting an ambitious French and European AI strategy" as advances in the sector have been led by the U.S. and China. Macron hopes to make room for others, including French startup Mistral, which also uses an open source AI model.

"DeepSeek is being seen as a kind of vindication of this idea that you don't have to necessarily invest hundreds of billions of dollars in chips and data centers," Reiners said.

Transatlantic tensions

Another showdown could involve Brussels, which has long been a thorn in the side of U.S.-based Big

Tech companies, cracking down with antitrust penalties against the likes of Google, Apple and Meta. Trump lashed out at last month's World Economic Forum with "very big complaints" about the EU's multibillion-dollar fines, calling them a tax on American companies.

More recently, the European Union's artificial intelligence regulation has met resistance from the companies. The EU recently unveiled a non-binding "code of practice" for its AI Act but Meta's top lobbyist said the company, which owns Facebook and Instagram, won't sign up.

The EU guidelines, intended to standardize how the AI Act's regulations are applied across the 27-nation bloc, are "unworkable" and the continent's regulatory environment is "pushing Europe to the sidelines," Chief Global Affairs Officer Joel Kaplan told a Brussels event.

Elon Musk dodges DOGE scrutiny while expanding his power in Washington

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elon Musk made a clear promise after Donald Trump decided to put him in charge of making the government more efficient.

"It's not going to be some sort of backroom secret thing," Musk said last year. "It will be as transparent as possible," maybe even streamed live online.

It hasn't worked out that way so far.

In the three weeks since the Republican president has been back in the White House, Musk has rapidly burrowed deep into federal agencies while avoiding public scrutiny of his work. He has not answered questions from journalists or attended any hearings with lawmakers. Staff members for his so-called Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, have sidelined career officials around Washington.

It is a profound challenge not only to business-as-usual within the federal government, which Trump campaigned on disrupting, but to concepts of consensus and transparency that are foundational in a democratic system. Musk describes himself as "White House tech support," and he has embedded himself in an unorthodox administration where there are no discernible limits on his influence.

Donald K. Sherman, executive director of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said Trump has allowed Musk to "exert unprecedented power and authority over government systems" with "maximal secrecy and little-to-no accountability."

The White House insisted that DOGE is "extremely transparent" and shared examples of its work so far, such as canceling contracts and ending leases for underused buildings. House Republicans said the Trump administration also discovered that Social Security benefits were being paid to a dozen people listed as 150 years old.

"We're going to find billions, hundreds of billions of dollars of fraud and abuse and, you know, the people elected me on that," Trump said in a Fox News interview to be aired along with the Super Bowl on Sunday. He described Musk as "terrific" and said he would soon focus on the Department of Defense, the country's largest government agency.

Asked on Friday if Musk should publicly answer questions about his work, the president said, "Oh sure."

"He's not shy," Trump said. "Elon's not shy."

That is true, at least judging by Musk's social media, where no thought appears to be suppressed. His X account is a flood of internet memes, attacks on critics and professions of loyalty to the president. He has made clear the grand scope of his ambitions, talking in existential terms about the need to reverse the federal deficit, cut government spending and roll back progressive programs.

"This administration has one chance for major reform that may never come again," he posted on Saturday. "It's now or never."

Musk is used to doing things his own way. The world's richest person, he became wealthy with the online payment service PayPal, then took over the electric car manufacturer Tesla and founded the rocket company SpaceX. More recently, he bought Twitter and rebranded it as X, cutting jobs and remaking its culture.

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He seems to be taking a similar approach to the federal government, but he can be tightlipped about his plans. For example, he has not explained how his team will utilize access to payment systems that include sensitive data on people in the United States.

Much of DOGE's work is happening behind the scenes. Team members have shown up at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Treasury Department, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, among other agencies. Their arrival is never publicly announced, and career staff members are looking over their shoulders for unfamiliar faces in the hallways.

At the Education Department, DOGE employees are working out of a conference room on the seventh floor, which also houses the secretary's office.

Sheria Smith, president of a federal employees union that represents some of the agency's staff, said it is unclear what internal systems have been accessed by Musk's team and for what reason.

"It's the lack of transparency that's alarming," she said.

While longtime staff members fret about their future, DOGE workers have been spotted cheerfully trading high-fives with each other.

"They don't seem to answer to anyone and are not engaging with anyone in our agency," Smith said.

Sometimes a rumor circulates that Musk himself is making the rounds. But he generally has been at the White House complex, where he has an office.

David Sacks, a Musk ally working on artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency issues for the administration, said he stopped by to check on the DOGE team.

"The whole room was full of young coders," he said during The All-In Podcast, which Sacks hosts with three other venture capitalists. "The facilities people don't know what to do because they've never had people ask to stay late on Friday night before."

Journalists have been piecing together the identities of people who work for DOGE, discovering a cadre of young acolytes with technology and engineering backgrounds.

Some were previously employed by Musk's companies, and Musk has said it is a crime to reveal their names. He has not cited any law that would be broken by such a disclosure.

It does not appear to be an idle threat. Ed Martin, the Trump-appointed interim U.S. attorney in the nation's capital, said last week that "we will pursue any and all legal action against anyone who impedes your work or threatens your people."

Martin followed up on Friday to thank Musk for referring suspects who were "stealing government property and/or threatening government employees." No additional information was provided by Martin's office or the White House.

Energy Secretary Chris Wright defended DOGE's work, saying in a CNBC interview Friday that members of Musk's team were like "young gun management consultants coming in to take a critical look at how things are run."

"They're part of a team assembled by DOGE, friends in Elon's broader circle that are very good at IT and very good at systems," Wright said.

It took more than two weeks after Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20 to figure out that Musk had formally joined the administration as a special government employee. The White House said Musk will file a financial disclosure report, but it will be kept secret. Because of Musk's sprawling business interests, the report would likely be among the most extensive ever compiled.

It's unclear whether Musk swore an oath to the Constitution like other federal workers. Even though Trump promised that Musk would steer clear of any areas where he has a conflict of interest, no details have been provided on how that is being evaluated. A test of that arrangement could come soon, with Musk set to review spending at the Pentagon, where SpaceX has billions of dollars in contracts to put satellites in orbit.

Democrats on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee tried to issue a subpoena to force Musk to testify, but the effort was blocked by Republicans.

"Who is this unelected billionaire, that he can attempt to dismantle federal agencies, fire people, trans-

fer them, offer them early retirement, and have sweeping reform or changes to agencies without any congressional review, oversight, or concurrence?" said Rep. Gerald Connolly of Virginia, the committee's top Democrat.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said Republicans were "doing the bidding of an unelected, out of control, billionaire puppet master."

Trump said he was still in charge of Musk, saying "I'll tell him to go here, go there, he does it."

He also backed Musk's aggressive approach.

"We have to take some of these things apart to find the corruption," he said.

2 mass graves with bodies of nearly 50 migrants found in southeastern Libya

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Libya authorities have uncovered nearly 50 bodies from two mass graves in the country's southeastern desert, officials said Sunday, in the latest tragedy involving people seeking to reach Europe through the chaos-stricken North African country.

The first mass grave with 19 bodies was found Friday in a farm in the southeastern city of Kufra, the security directorate said in a statement, adding that authorities took them for autopsy.

Authorities posted images on its Facebook page showing police officers and medics digging in the sand and recovering dead bodies that were wrapped in blankets.

The al-Abreen charity, which helps migrants in eastern and southern Libya, said that some were apparently shot and killed before being buried.

A separate mass grave, with at least 30 bodies, was also found in Kufra after raiding a human trafficking center, according to Mohamed al-Fadeil, head of the security chamber in Kufra. Survivors said nearly 70 people were buried in the grave, he added. Authorities were still searching the area.

Later on Sunday, authorities said they freed 76 migrants from the trafficking center, and arrested three people - a Libyan and two foreigners - on suspicion of detaining and torturing migrants. Prosecutors ordered the suspects to remain in detention pending investigation.

Migrants' mass graves are not uncommon in Libya. Last year, authorities unearthed the bodies of at least 65 migrants in the Shuayrif region, 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of the capital, Tripoli.

Libya is the dominant transit point for migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to make it to Europe. The country was plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Oil-rich Libya has been ruled for most of the past decade by rival governments in eastern and western Libya, each backed by an array of militias and foreign governments.

Human traffickers have benefited from more than a decade of instability, smuggling migrants across the country's borders with six nations, including Chad, Niger, Sudan, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia.

Once at the coast, traffickers pack desperate migrants seeking a better life in Europe into ill-equipped rubber boats and other vessels for risky voyages on the perilous Central Mediterranean Sea route.

Rights groups and U.N. agencies have for years documented systematic abuse of migrants in Libya including forced labor, beatings, rapes and torture. The abuse often accompanies efforts to extort money from families before migrants are allowed to leave Libya on traffickers' boats.

Those who have been intercepted and returned to Libya — including women and children — are held in government-run detention centers where they also suffer from abuse, including torture, rape and extortion, according to rights groups and UN experts.

Randy Moss makes an emotional return to the ESPN set following his cancer treatment

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hall of Famer Randy Moss made an emotional return to ESPN's coverage of the Super Bowl on Sunday, two months after he took a leave from his job to get treated for cancer.

Moss was back on ESPN's "Sunday NFL Countdown" before Kansas City took on Philadelphia in the Super Bowl. He was greeted with a video that included messages from Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, Justin Jefferson, Kevin Garnett and several other big names welcoming him back to ESPN's set.

Moss was moved to tears by the video before getting on with his job of analyzing the Super Bowl.

"Guys it's been hard, but I got a lot of love and a lot of people believing in me," he said. "I'm happy to be here."

Moss took a leave of absence from ESPN in early December after undergoing surgery for cancer. He said at the time that a cancerous mass was found in his bile duct, between his pancreas and liver. He said he had surgery to put a stent in his liver on Thanksgiving and later had a six-hour procedure to remove the cancer. He also said he would undergo radiation and chemotherapy.

Moss has been a fixture on the ESPN show since 2016. Moss, who turns 48 on Thursday, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2018 after playing 14 seasons with the Vikings, Raiders Patriots, Titans and 49ers.

Moss ranks second in NFL history with 156 touchdown catches and fourth with 15,292 yards receiving. He set an NFL record with 23 TD receptions in 2007 for the Patriots.

'Dog Man' bests 'Heart Eyes,' 'Love Hurts' at box office

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On a quiet winter weekend at the box office, DreamWorks Animation's "Dog Man" chased its own tail, repeating as the top movie in theaters.

The animated Universal Pictures release, adapted from Dav Pilkey's popular graphic novel series, collected \$13.7 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. Both new releases — the Ke Huy Quan action movie "Love Hurts" and the Valentine's Day-themed slasher "Heart Eyes" — were left nipping at the heels of "Dog Man."

Hollywood often largely punts Super Bowl weekend to the small screen. Last year, Apple's much-derided "Argylle" debuted on the same weekend. Instead, the movie industry spends more energy pitching its blockbusters in trailers for the huge football audience on TV.

It wasn't a banner weekend for "Dog Man." It fell steeply, dropping 62% in its second weekend. But with a production budget of \$40 million, "Dog Man" has already tallied \$54.1 million domestically in two weeks.

Coming in second was Spyglass Media Group's "Heart Eyes," released by Sony. The horror-rom-com mashup earned \$8.5 million from 3,102 locations. Reviews have been good for the film, directed by Josh Ruben and starring Oliva Holt and Mason Gooding, though audiences were less impressed. Moviegoers gave it a "B-" CinemaScore. Spyglass made "Heart Eyes" for \$18 million.

"Love Hurts," the action comedy from 87North Productions ("John Wick," "The Fall Guy"), debuted with a paltry \$5.8 million in 3,055 theaters. In his first big movie role since his Oscar-winning comeback in "Everything All at Once," Ke Huy Quan stars as a mild-mannered realtor with a hitman past. Ariana DeBose co-stars. It, too, was modestly budgeted at \$18 million. Audiences, however, mostly rejected the movie, giving "Love Hurts" a "C+" CinemaScore.

Next weekend should bring Hollywood its biggest box-office weekend of the year with the release of Marvel's "Captain America: Brave New World" and Sony's "Paddington in Peru."

Final domestic figures will be released Monday. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore:

1. "Dog Man," \$13.7 million.
2. "Heart Eyes," \$8.5 million.

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3. "Love Hurts," \$5.8 million.
4. "Mufasa: The Lion King," \$3.9 million.
5. "Companion," \$3 million.
6. "One of Them Days," \$3 million.
7. "Becoming Led Zeppelin," \$2.6 million.
8. "Flight Risk," \$2.6 million.
9. "Sonic the Hedgehog," \$1.8 million.
10. "Moana 3," \$1.5 million.

Today in History: February 10, 'Bridge of Spies' prisoner exchange

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2025. There are 324 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Feb. 10, 1962, on the Glienicke Bridge connecting West Berlin and East Germany, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolf Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

Also on this date:

1736, the treaty ending the Seven Years' War was signed in Paris, with France ceding its territory in Canada to Great Britain.

In 1936, Nazi Germany's Reichstag passed a law investing the Gestapo secret police with absolute authority, exempt from any legal review.

In 1959, an F4-intensity tornado tore through the St. Louis area, killing 21 people and injuring 345.

In 1967, the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, was adopted as Minnesota and Nevada ratified it.

In 1981, eight people were killed when a fire set by a busboy broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1996, world chess champion Garry Kasparov lost the first game of a match in Philadelphia against an IBM computer dubbed "Deep Blue." (Kasparov ended up winning the match, 4 games to 2; however, he was defeated by Deep Blue in a rematch the following year.)

Today's birthdays: Opera singer Leontyne Price is 98. Actor Robert Wagner is 95. Singer Roberta Flack is 88. Olympic swimming gold medalist Mark Spitz is 75. Golf Hall of Famer Greg Norman is 70. Basketball Hall of Fame coach John Calipari is 66. Filmmaker Alexander Payne is 64. TV host-political commentator George Stephanopoulos is 64. Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester, D-Del., is 63. Political commentator Glenn Beck is 61. Actor Laura Dern is 58. Writer-producer-director Vince Gilligan (TV: "Breaking Bad") is 58. Football Hall of Famer Ty Law is 51. Actor-filmmaker Elizabeth Banks is 51. Basketball Hall of Famer Tina Thompson is 50. Reggaeton singer Don Omar is 47. Actor Uzo Aduba is 44. Actor Stephanie Beatriz is 44. Actor Emma Roberts is 34. Olympic swimming gold medalist Lilly King is 28. Actor Chloe Grace Moretz is 28. Actor Yara Shahidi is 25.