

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026

- School Breakfast: Breakfast slider.
- School Lunch: Tater hot hot dish, cooked broccoli.
- City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 4 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.
- Groton United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- MS Boys Wrestling at Simmons Middle School, 4 p.m.
- Boys Wrestling Triangular with Clark/Willow Lake at Hamlin, 6 p.m.
- JH BBB at Northwestern, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026

- School Breakfast: Omelets.
- School Lunch: Pasta primavera.
- United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
- Groton C&MA: Kid's Club, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- 6th Grade BBB Practice, 6 p.m.
- 3rd/4th Grade Volleyball Practice, 6 p.m.
- 5th Grade BBB Practice, 6 p.m.



Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

- School Breakfast: Biscuits.
- School Lunch: Sloppy joes, tri taters.
- Basketball: Milbank at Groton: (Gym: BC-4, GC-5, Arena: JVGBB-4, JVBBB-5, VGBB-6:15, VBBB-7:30)
- 2nd Grade BBB Practice, 5 p.m.
- 4th Grade BBB Practice, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23, 2026

- School Breakfast: Doughnuts.
- School Lunch: Chicken ala king, biscuit.
- Girls Wrestling at Pierre Invitational, 4 p.m.
- Boys Wrestling vs. Deuel/Deubrook Area at Deuel, 6 p.m.
- MS BBB at Redfield, 6 p.m.

Groton Daily Independent
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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.

'The Last Emperor' Dies

Valentino Garavani, the legendary Italian fashion designer known by his first name and often described as "the last emperor" of high fashion, died yesterday at age 93.

He founded his couture house in Rome around 1960 and became one of the most influential designers of the 20th century. Valentino defined modern glamour and created his signature "Valentino red," inspired by a red velvet gown he saw at the opera as a teenager in Barcelona. Over nearly five decades, he dressed some of the world's most famous women, including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Princess Diana, Elizabeth Taylor, and Julia Roberts. Central to his success was his decadeslong partnership with Giancarlo Giammetti (also a former lover), who helped build Valentino into a global luxury empire.

Valentino sold his company in 1998 but remained active in fashion until retiring in 2008, a period later captured in the documentary "Valentino: The Last Emperor."

The Greatest Turnaround

The Indiana Hoosiers won the college football national championship last night, beating the Miami Hurricanes 27-21. The victory brings Bloomington its first title in school history.

The title also caps one of the greatest turnarounds in US sports history. Before the arrival of Coach Curt Cignetti two years ago, Indiana had the worst winning percentage (43%) of any major conference team. They've since compiled a 27-2 record, won their first conference title since 1967, and saw quarterback Fernando Mendoza win the school's first Heisman. Mendoza was named MVP of the game, throwing for 186 yards and one touchdown. The win marks the third in a row claimed by a Big Ten team, following Michigan and Ohio State.

Indiana finished the season 16-0, the first time a college team has hit that mark since Yale in 1894 (whose opponents included the Crescent Athletic Club).

China's Baby Bust

China recorded 7.92 million births last year—its lowest birth rate since official records began in 1949. The drop aligns with global trends, though China remains an outlier with one of the lowest birth rates in the world.

The government recorded a birth rate of 5.63 per 1,000 people in 2025—the fourth consecutive year where deaths outpaced births. (While not a direct comparison, the US birth rate in 2023 was 10.7 per 1,000 people.) The decline comes despite China's efforts to incentivize larger families through housing subsidies and cash rewards for children. The government has also tried to disincentivize contraception, placing a 13% value-added tax on condoms. China is concerned a shrinking workforce will strain the country's pension system and social services. The government raised the retirement age last year for the first time since the 1950s.

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Sports, Entertainment, & Culture

Trial begins over claim that Daily Mail owner Associated Newspapers illegally gathered information, including via phone hacking, for articles about Prince Harry, Elton John, Elizabeth Hurley, and four other plaintiffs.

Buffalo Bills fire coach Sean McDermott after nine seasons, will retain General Manager Brandon Beane, who was promoted to president of football operations; news marks 10th head coach change this offseason.

Green Day to open Super Bowl LX (Feb. 8) with ceremony celebrating 60 years of Super Bowls.

"Zootopia 2" becomes highest-grossing animated Hollywood film of all time, earning \$1.70B globally and surpassing "Inside Out 2," which earned \$1.69B.

Science & Technology

Researchers develop wearable device using AI and ultra-sensitive sensors to convert speech signals and emotional cues into real-time speech for post-stroke patients.

Study finds differences in "softness" of Jupiter's and Saturn's interiors may explain why their polar vortices—atmospheric whirlpools that rotate over the polar region—spin differently.

Austrian cow shows flexible, multipurpose tool use by using a brush to scratch herself, suggesting cattle cognition may have been underestimated.

Business & Markets

Annual World Economic Forum begins in ski resort town of Davos, Switzerland, hosting government leaders, multinational CEOs, and global financiers; President Donald Trump to lead largest-ever US delegation.

US Supreme Court to hear oral arguments tomorrow on President Donald Trump's firing attempt of Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook.

Alibaba-backed Chinese startup Moonshot AI reportedly valued at \$4.8B, up \$500M from funding round last month.

Politics & World Affairs

President Donald Trump links his push for Greenland to not receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in text messages with Norway's leader, says he no longer thinks "purely of peace" when considering efforts to acquire the island.

Death toll in Spain's high-speed train crash Sunday rises to at least 40 people, with dozens more injured; government launches investigation.

Gunmen simultaneously attack three churches in northwest Nigeria, kidnap at least 150 worshippers, per government figures.



Pictured are the charter members and representatives who attended the first Squadron #39 meeting. From left to right are Shane Lamer, South Dakota Vice Commander; Rylan Blackwood, second sergeant-at-arms; Tannor McGannon; Bruce Babcock, Groton Legion Post #39 Commander; Mark Abeln, vice commander; Wyatt Reis, South Dakota Detachment Commander; Travis McGannon, Squadron #39 Commander; Aaron Severson; Paul Kosel, adjutant; Dylan McGannon, sergeant-at-arms; Aaron Grant, treasurer; Bob Thomason, District 4 Commander; and Aaron Grant Jr., Chaplain. (Photo by Brenna Johnson)

Sons of the American Legion Squadron has its charter meeting

Groton's newest branch of the American Legion family took its first official steps forward during a Sons of the American Legion charter meeting held Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at the Groton American Legion. Local members gathered to learn procedure, recognize their veterans, accept a long-awaited charter, and elect officers for the newly formed squadron.

The meeting opened with a brief lesson in Legion protocol, including how to respond to gavel taps, when members stand at attention, and when covers are removed. Leaders emphasized the Legion's motto, "God and Country," noting the chaplain's role at the front of the room and explaining that covers are removed during prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

With the room standing, a prayer was offered asking God to guide the work of the meeting, bless the nation and its leaders, preserve freedom and democracy, and comfort those suffering mental and physical disability. Members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance before taking their seats to begin the official order of business.

With a quorum present, the Groton Legion Post #39 Commander Bruce Babcock declared the meeting convened as Groton Squadron 39, Department of South Dakota. Visiting guests were introduced, including Sons leadership from across the state and district. Wyatt Reis, Detachment Commander from Burke, representing statewide Sons leadership, thanked veterans for their service and thanked squadron members for stepping up to honor fathers, grandfathers, and family members who served. Leaders reminded the new squadron that growth may include "bumps and bruises," but encouraged them to remember their "why," support the post through honor guard and community service, and keep moving forward together

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as part of the Legion family.

District and department leaders also spoke about the momentum of the Sons organization in South Dakota, encouraging Groton to set goals, keep recruiting, and get the community involved. Shane Lamer from Burke, Alternate National Election Committeemen and South Dakota Vice Commander, said that South Dakota has had five new squadrons each year for the past five years - a feat that no other state in the United States has matched. Members discussed how quickly squadrons can grow when people see younger faces participating, and how stronger numbers help build a stronger volunteer base.

A key moment of the night came with the presentation of the official charter, described as a significant, federally recognized document confirming the squadron's lawful existence.

The charter was read aloud, authorizing the establishment and maintenance of a Sons of the American Legion squadron in Groton under Post 39. Along with the charter, the squadron received a starter kit of materials, including table flags, a gavel, guidance paperwork, a POW/MIA chair cover, and a new squadron flag to be posted alongside existing Legion flags.

Leaders also announced that, because the charter dates back to 2025 and the in-person presentation came in January 2026, the detachment covered the squadron's dues through the current cycle. Members were informed they would not owe dues again until after July 1, 2026, a gesture intended to support the new group as it gets established.

Before elections, attendees introduced themselves and shared how they qualified for membership by naming a father or grandfather who served, often including branch of service. The introductions highlighted Army, Air Force, and Marine connections among the group, underscoring the squadron's mission of honoring family service and continuing that legacy through community involvement.

Elections were then held for the squadron's initial leadership. Travis McGannon was nominated and elected by unanimous ballot as Squadron Commander. Upon taking the role, he appointed Paul Kosel as Adjutant, a position leaders described as the record-keeper and key contact for members, responsible for maintaining records and publishing necessary announcements. Mark Abeln was elected Vice Commander by unanimous ballot, and Aaron Grant was elected Treasurer after nominations were clarified and properly withdrawn and restated under parliamentary procedure.

Additional appointed roles were also discussed, including chaplain and sergeant-at-arms responsibilities. Members volunteered to help with duties such as setting up flags, maintaining meeting order, and assisting with ceremonial functions and security during meetings. Aaron Grant Jr. was appointed as chaplain, Dylan McGannon as sergeant-at-arms and Rylan Blackwood as second sergeant-at-arms.

A formal installation ceremony followed, with officers brought forward and sworn in. The installing officer reminded the new leaders that the welfare and success of the squadron depends greatly on its officers and that the group's purpose includes care for families of those who have died, support for those suffering, devotion to community service, and commitment to American ideals of justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

After the installation, the group gathered for photos with the new flag and officers, marking the public beginning of Groton's Sons squadron.



Wyatt Reis, South Dakota Detachment Commander, swore in the new officers of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #39. They are Aaron Grant, treasurer; Travis McGannon, president; Dylan McGannon, sergeant-at-arms; Mark Abeln, vice commander; Paul Kosel, adjutant; Aaron Grant Jr., chaplain; and Rylan Blackwood, second sergeant-at-arms. (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

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Wyatt Reis, Detachment Commander, read the charter. Once the charter is signed by the charter members, it will be filed in the Library of Congress. (Photo by Bruce

Babcock)

Before adjourning, the squadron set a regular meeting schedule for the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m., discussed communication through group texting, and voted to set annual dues at \$25, structured to cover state, national, and local squadron needs. Leaders also encouraged outreach to surrounding communities that have posts but no squadrons, emphasizing that eligible members from nearby towns can join Groton's squadron and help it grow. The District 4 Commander Bob Thomason from Selby talked about the district as Groton joins Herreid and Redfield. Aberdeen is considering starting a Sons of the American Legion squadron.

The meeting closed as it began—formally and reverently—with a closing prayer asking God to help members become better Sons of the American Legion through words and deeds rooted in justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty. With covers replaced and a final salute, Groton's charter meeting concluded—launching a new chapter for Squadron 39 and completing another link in the local Legion family alongside the Legion and Auxiliary.

For more information about becoming a member of the Groton Squadron, contact any of the officers. You need to be a son, stepson, adopted son, grandson, step-grandson, adopted grandson, or other male descendant of someone who is eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #9 Results

Team Standings: Shihtzus 7, Jackelopes 5, Cheetahs 5, Coyotes 4, Foxes 2, Chipmunks 1

Men's High Games: Brad Larson 210, Brad Waage 192, Lance Frohling 191

Women's High Games: Suzie Easthouse 181, Alexa Sperry 178, Sam Bahr 159

Men's High Series: Brad Larson 535, Brad Waage 534, Lance Frohling 523

Women's High Series: Alexa Sperry 485, Suzie Easthouse 428, Vicki Walter 423

Week 9 Fun Game – Most Picked up Splits – Cheetahs with 3!

What can \$20 get you?



for
Senior Citizens

or anyone using physical therapy
a gym membership at

15 N Main - Ste. 101

Open 24/7

GDI Living Fitness

Call/Text Paul at 605/397-7460

Call/Text Tina at 605/397-7285

for details



Annual Membership Rates

Student is \$29.82 per month or \$255.60 per year
Single is \$35.15 per month or \$319.50 per year
2-Person is \$55.45 per month or \$575.10 per year
Family is \$67.10 per month or \$702.26 per year

Month-to-Month Rates

Student is \$35.15 per month
Single is \$40.48 per month
2-Person is \$59.78 per month
Family is \$72.43 per month

**While many other rates have gone up, ours has not.
Same rates for several years!**

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

January 20, 2026 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
3. December Finance Report
4. Sheltering Agreement with American Red Cross
5. Review of Radar Speed Sign Quotes
6. Minutes
7. Bills
8. Reminder: Applications for Summer Recreational Positions – Due by February 18 at 5:00pm:
 - Baseball Coordinator
 - Softball Coordinator
 - Jr. Legion Coach
 - Jr. Teener Coach
 - Girls' Softball Coaches (U8/U10/U12/U14/U18)
 - Day Baseball/Softball Coach
 - Concessions Manager
 - Swimming Pool Manager
9. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
10. Public Works Consulting/Assistance – Terry Herron
11. First Reading of Ordinance No. 795 – 2026 Summer Salaries
12. Adjournment

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BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026, 8:45 A.M.
COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS
COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Opportunity for Public Comment
 - ❖ *Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes or at Boards Discretion. Presentations will be limited to 3 minutes.*
4. First Reading of the following Ordinances:
 - a. Ord. #318 – Rezone for Marilyn Thum
 - b. Ord. #319 – Rezone for Larson Land Limited Partnership
 - c. Ord. #320 – Rezone for Chad Pray
5. Amend Resolution #2026-07 – A Policy for Remittance of Fees Collected to the County Treasurer
6. Amend Resolution #2026-09 – Permit Fees for Planning & Zoning
7. Approve & Authorize Chairman to sign following Fair Contracts:
 - a. Trash Pick-up with Aberdeen Cycling Association
 - b. Keith Raymond – Magic Show
 - c. XMC Entertainment LLC/Minor Mischief A Cappella Group
8. Approve the Employee Handbook
9. Dirk Rogers, Highway Superintendent
 - a. Set Bid Date for Hot “In-place” Recycling on Co. Rd. 14 & Authorize Advertising
10. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of the General Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2026
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Lease Agreements
 - e. Travel Requests
 - f. Sheriff Reports Jan – Nov 2025
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
13. Adjourn

You can join the Brown County Commission Meeting via **your computer, tablet, or smartphone** at <https://meet.goto.com/BrCoCommission>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3311](tel:+18722403311) - Access Code: **601-168-909** #

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

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at [Commission Meetings | Brown County](#)

The Life of Richard "Dick" Neitzel



A Celebration of Life for Richard 'Dick' Neitzel, 71, of Aberdeen, SD, was held Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, with Pastor Alton Vilhauer officiating. Dick passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Avera St. Lukes in Aberdeen.

Richard 'Dick' Neitzel was born August 20, 1954, to Burton and Bernice Neitzel, in Aberdeen. He grew up on a farm near Groton, where he was known for raising cain with his brothers. He attended school in Groton. He graduated from Groton High School in 1972. He worked at Scotty's where he got the nickname Big Scotty. He then went to work at Parcel Erickson before becoming a parts man at HC Clark implement, moving on to Artz Equipment as parts man, before taking a position as an equipment salesman. After retiring, Dick started his "fun" job at the Johnson and Strom farms, doing spring planting and fall harvest, which he thoroughly enjoyed. He married Wendy Pendroy on

June 21, 1986 in Aberdeen, SD.

Dick loved his two daughters Steph and Angie, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dick was a member of the Brown County Old Time Tractor Pullers, pulling with his Allis-Chalmers tractor. He was part of the Freedom Riders, loved playing cards with the guys at Young Guns, was a coach for youth trap shooting, along with trap shooting himself. He was an avid Wings and Cougar Hockey fan. Dick and Wendy traveled to many car shows with their 1955 Chevy and 2000 Pontiac Trans Am.

Dick was a hard worker, always willing to help when asked or when he saw a need. He would give you the shirt off his back. He was quick witted and had a great sense of humor. If you ever saw his hats, you would know what that means. He loved his Golden Retrievers, first Jack, and now Murphy. He enjoyed Western movies, particularly Tombstone. No worries if the sound went out on the TV because Dick could recite most lines of the whole movie!

Grateful for having shared Dick's life are his wife Wendy; daughters: Stephanie (Kris) Lee and Angela (Cory) Huff; grandchildren: Tanner (Jenn) Neitzel, Shelby Lee, Collin, Brady, and Alaina Huff; great-grandchildren: Leon and Raphael Neitzel; siblings: Deb (Alan) Redman, William (Cheryl) Neitzel, Ronald Neitzel, and Susan Linton; in-laws: Sandy (Cliff) Reirich, Susan Vickers, and Tony (Dana) Pendroy, many nieces and nephews and special dog, Murphy.

Preceding Dick in death are his parents Burton and Bernice Neitzel; parents-in-law Harry and Helen Pendroy; brother: Mike Neitzel; in-laws: Roger Pendroy and Connie Franz; and Mike Vickers; and special dog, Jack.



Conde Legion donates \$3,000 to the DAV

Pictured from left to right are Jerry Grimes, Jim Becker, Mark Wolf from Aberdeen who is in charge of setting up the driving needs for veterans who need rides, Dave Burke, Conde American Legion Commander Daelyn Dirksen and Commander of the Aberdeen DAV Amy Lucas. (Courtesy photo Trixy Schwabe)

The Conde American Legion, Donald A. Lewis Post #148, has generously donated \$3,000 to support the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Network of South Dakota. The DAV is a nationwide veterans service organization dedicated to empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity, helping them access the benefits and services they've earned through military service and advocating on their behalf at every level of government.

The DAV Transportation Network provides free transportation to and from Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities for injured and ill veterans who otherwise might face financial or logistical barriers to care. Operated by volunteer drivers and coordinated locally through hospital service coordinators, this program ensures that veterans can get to critical appointments, often at no cost to the veteran.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Water advocates say declined funding exposes insufficient zebra mussel effort; state disagrees

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR

Emails obtained by clean-water advocates show the state of South Dakota declined \$290,000 of federal funding for zebra mussel decontamination stations at Pactola Reservoir, which the advocates say is evidence that the state isn't taking the invasive threat seriously enough.

The state agency tasked with fighting aquatic invasive species said it declined the money because it was only for equipment, without additional ongoing funding needed for the equipment's operation and maintenance. The agency defended its approach to zebra mussels, saying it's focused on the most practical steps it can sustain with available staff, emphasizing boat inspections and education aimed at slowing the spread.

Zebra mussels are tiny invasive shellfish, originally found in Asia and Europe, that spread by clinging to boats. They clog pipes, water intakes and hydroelectric power equipment, cut swimmers' feet, and change the native aquatic ecosystem.

The number of zebra mussel-infested lakes in South Dakota grew from one in 2014 to 32 now.

State Department of Game, Fish, and Parks Secretary Kevin Robling said while testifying to lawmakers last January that he was unaware of any missed zebra mussel funding opportunities.

"I am not familiar with any money that we reverted back or did not spend or did not use," Robling said.

South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association board members had heard otherwise. They obtained emails, reviewed by South Dakota Searchlight, that show federal agencies and the state discussed Pactola Reservoir containment options in 2022 and 2023, and that the state ultimately declined U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funding for decontamination equipment at Pactola. The reservoir, a key Black Hills water source and recreation site, was confirmed to have zebra mussels in July 2022.

South Dakota Lakes and Streams Vice President Deb Soholt, a Republican former state senator from Sioux Falls, said the emails reflect a broader lack of urgency on the part of the state.

"We've made a policy decision that there's nothing we can do to stop this, no matter how much money we pour at it," Soholt said. "That's a flawed premise. Other states are fighting. We should be, too."

Game, Fish, and Parks spokesperson Nick Harrington said the agency is doing what it can.

"Our inspection numbers have continued to increase throughout the years," he said. "If they want to say that between a certain year there was a funding lapse, well, inspections were increasing. The program was operating. The program was funded."

He said there were 14,556 boat inspections in 2021, 18,582 in 2022, 18,642 in 2023, and 22,165 in 2024. Inspectors ensure boaters have cleaned off any plants, mud and debris, drained live wells or tanks that hold water, and dried everything completely before launching in another waterbody.

Harrington said Robling did not recall the declined funding when he was asked about it last year during a legislative hearing.

What the emails show

At Pactola Reservoir, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation operates the dam, the U.S. Forest Service manages the surrounding land and recreation sites, and the state Department of Game, Fish, and Parks oversees fishing and boating regulations and invasive species control.

The emails show the bureau, Forest Service, and Game, Fish and Parks convened multiple meetings in July 2022 to discuss management options "for preventing the spread of zebra mussels from Pactola Res-

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ervoir to surrounding waterbodies.”

On July 19, 2022, a state employee summarized the state’s approach to zebra mussels at Pactola.

“After reviewing our current resources and limitations that exist with staff and equipment, it is very evident that there is no way we can implement a comprehensive containment approach on Pactola Reservoir,” wrote GF&P Fisheries Supervisor Jake Davis.

Davis wrote that the state would “focus on outreach and education,” adding that “inspections will still occur.”

The emails referenced decontamination units, which are hot water, high-pressure sprayers used to clean boats by killing and removing zebra mussels.

Davis said in the emails that there was already a decontamination unit at Pactola.

In February 2023, the bureau drafted Pactola Reservoir zebra mussel containment recommendations. They describe goals to educate the public and contain the spread. They also note that the bureau had secured funding “for two additional decontamination units at Pactola Reservoir.”

On March 7, 2023, the state’s fisheries program administrator informed the bureau that, “after discussion with Senior Administration,” the department did “not desire to enter into an agreement” for the \$290,000 of federal funding to purchase two additional decontamination units at Pactola.

The proposal included another \$200,000 for the Forest Service to help pay for the equipment, according to emails obtained by Lakes and Streams.

“These were one-time funds, and no additional funds were going to be made available for future operation and maintenance of these pieces of equipment,” Harrington said in a statement to South Dakota Searchlight. “As a result, we requested that the funds be used to help cover the costs of labor at current inspection stations, as that is where they could be used to best support” the state’s aquatic invasive species program.

“Unfortunately, due to the way the funds were requested, their purpose could not be altered,” Harrington said.

Game, Fish and Parks spent \$4.65 million to combat aquatic invasive species in the state from 2021 to 2024, with \$3.7 million coming from outside the department (predominantly from federal agencies).

Harrington said the department focuses its resources on public outreach and inspections.

“Our goal is to slow the spread of these species,” he said. “Our message is clean, drain, dry.”

Harrington said compliance at inspection stations is high.

“People know the rules, and they’re following them for the most part,” he said. “Ninety-eight percent compliance is better than seat belts — and those save our lives.”

Advocates say ‘not enough’

Soholt said the compliance rate is less when no official is waiting at the shoreline to inspect a boat. She wants lawmakers to convene a public-private working group to develop a new statewide strategy, including options like seeking private donors or adding a small license fee per boat to help fund more zebra mussel containment.

“We could fiercely protect the remaining reservoirs and lakes if we acted now,” she said. “Instead, we’re saying, ‘It’s inevitable.’”

Dan Loveland, also with Lakes and Streams, said watercraft inspections are the most effective tool, and South Dakota’s inspection effort is weak and under-resourced. He said “clean, drain, dry” isn’t enough without enforcement to back it up.

Loveland, too, wants a statewide stakeholder process and a dedicated funding source to fight aquatic invasive species.

“Get all these stakeholders together and go through what is happening to our state, and let’s talk about different ways that we can approach this,” he said. “Let’s find a funding source that we can dedicate to fighting the aquatic invasive species all across South Dakota.”

Robling gave a presentation to lawmakers on Thursday that included information on zebra mussels. He showed lawmakers a time-lapse map of the species’ spread since the late 1980s to underscore that South

Dakota is not alone.

Asked about research, Robling said genetic approaches aimed at reducing zebra mussel reproduction are still in early stages and have seen "very little success" so far, though Minnesota remains a research hub.

Rep. Tim Goodwin, R-Rapid City, said he plans to propose a legislative summer study on zebra mussels.

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.

Lawmakers worry about feasibility, sustainability of rural health transformation plan

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER

South Dakota's workforce shortage and federal limitations on a \$189.5 million infusion of cash are making some lawmakers worry about the feasibility and sustainability of the state's plan to strengthen rural health care.

The funding comes from the \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program. Congress included it in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, in response to concerns that the bill's Medicaid cuts will hurt rural health providers. Medicaid is a federal-state program that provides health insurance for people with disabilities or low incomes.

Lawmakers aren't able to amend the state's approved spending plan to address their own concerns, they learned in a presentation Thursday in Pierre. Laura Ringling, senior policy adviser for Gov. Larry Rhoden, told lawmakers the state can only make "some minor budget shifting" going forward.

The role lawmakers play is to authorize the state to spend the \$189.5 million. Lawmakers on the House Appropriations Committee will be the first to consider a bill authorizing the funds.

Sen. Taffy Howard, R-Rapid City, has questions and frustrations about the funding. She told South Dakota Searchlight she intends to ask more questions of state officials during what will be "a long process."

"It's a matter of if this is something taxpayer dollars should be spent on," Howard said. "If it's not, then it's our job to deny authority."

The problem, Howard added, is that if the Legislature doesn't spend the money, another state will spend it instead.

South Dakota's plan outlines 10 initiatives, including creating a "data atlas" for providers and facilities to share local and state agency data, improving the rural health care workforce, improving chronic disease management, establishing regional maternal and infant health care hubs, and regionalizing behavioral health care, among other projects.

Ringling told lawmakers that one-time incentives will bolster the rural health care workforce so that it is sustainable and long-lived years after the one-time funding ends.

Incentives will include sign-on bonuses, relocation assistance and rural service stipends for health care professionals not already covered by the state's rural assistance program, such as nurses, doctors and physician assistants. The federal government requires that people who are awarded workforce funding must commit to five years in the rural community.

"Nothing we do with these funds will matter if we don't have the trained people in our communities to provide the care," Ringling said.

Several lawmakers asked questions on Thursday about workforce needs and how those would be addressed outside of the incentives mentioned.

Howard told officials during the presentation that she's skeptical about the proposal and its sustainability. The programs, especially the behavioral health and maternal and infant health care hubs, she said, could require more than one-time funding to operate in financially strapped rural communities.

Ringling said the programs, operated by non-state government organizations, must submit a sustain-

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ability plan to be considered for funding. Howard took that to mean taxes and fees could be raised at the local level.

"It doesn't help the local citizens if the state says, 'Well, the program is done. We wash our hands. We didn't increase your taxes and fees,' but then the sustainability model of the local entity increases our taxes and fees. They're still feeling that pinch," Howard said.

Rep. Erik Muckey, D-Sioux Falls, told South Dakota Searchlight that the presentation didn't address the consequences of the One Big Beautiful Bill's changes to Medicaid, including work requirements. Muckey called the one-time funding "a Band-Aid over a bullet wound."

"There is excitement to be had about rural communities receiving the investments they deserve," Muckey said. "But this still doesn't answer the question about how to sustain quality health care going forward because of massive cuts to Medicaid."

South Dakota's award was short about \$4 million of the \$193.3 million it requested for the first year of the program, and it was less than the amounts received by neighboring states. The state does not know why it received less funding.

Ringling said the state requested nearly \$213 million for the next year. She expects to receive that amount if "we're doing what we said we were going to do."

"If for some reason we're delayed, we're not able to get going, we're not able to show that we're performing and meeting the things that we said we would do in our application," Ringling said, "we risk a lower dollar amount and losing those funds."

Once the authorizing bill is signed, departments will begin finding organizations to carry out the initiatives in the state's Rural Health Transformation Program application. The money must be spent by October.

South Dakota's requests

South Dakota requested \$1 billion over five years to implement its rural health transformation plan, with its request changing yearly.

Year 1: \$193.3 million (actual award: \$189.5 million)

Year 2: \$212.3 million

Year 3: \$213.7 million

Year 4: \$202.6 million

Year 5 \$178.1 million

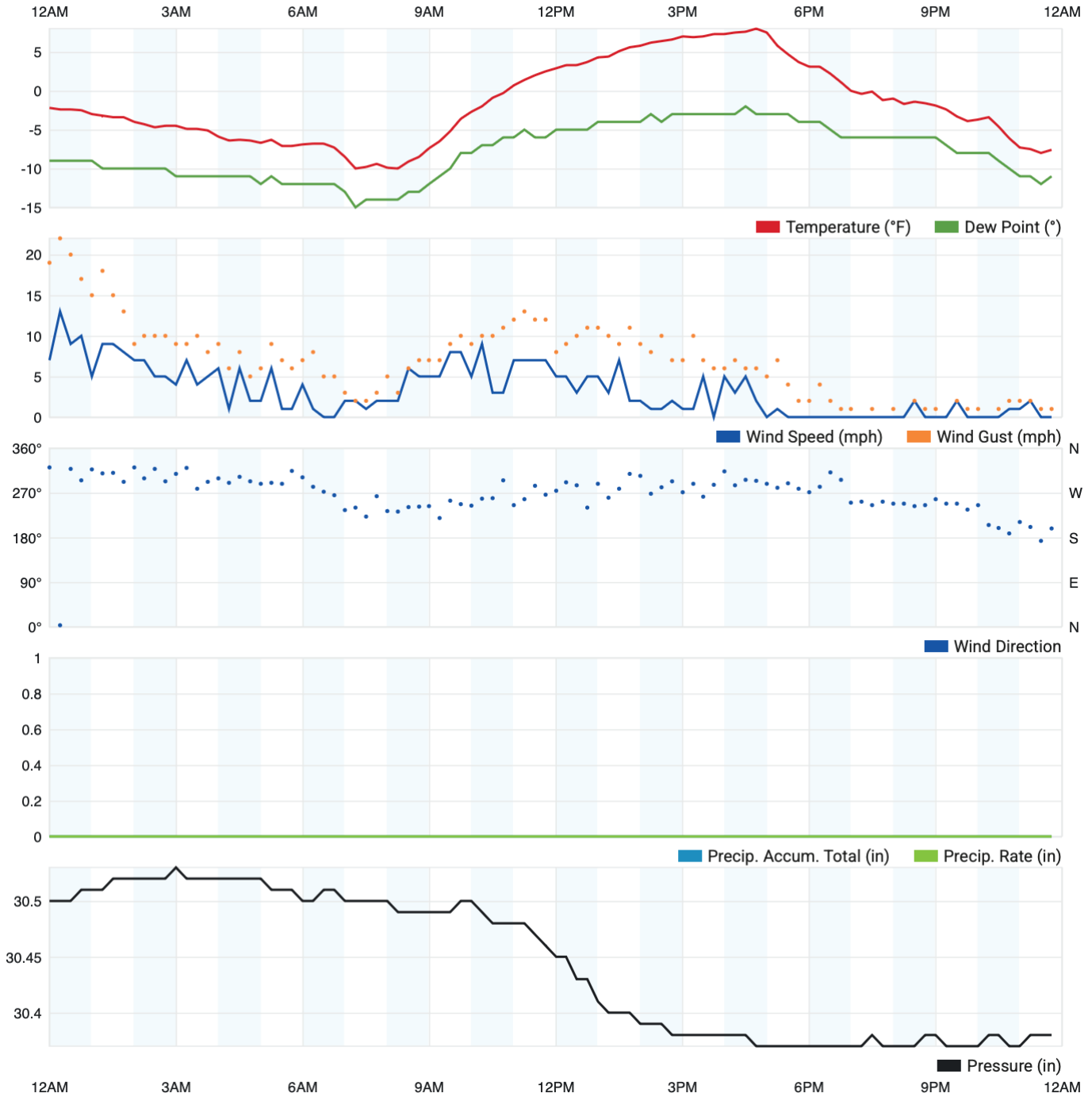
Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

January 19, 2026



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Today

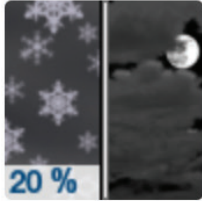


20% → 50%

High: 18 °F

Slight Chance
Snow then
Chance Snow

Tonight



20%

Low: 11 °F

Slight Chance
Snow then
Mostly Cloudy

Wednesday



60% → 20%

High: 26 °F

Snow Likely
and Patchy
Blowing Snow

Wednesday
Night



Low: 2 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Thursday



High: 7 °F

Cold



First Round of Snow Today

January 20, 2026
3:33 AM CST

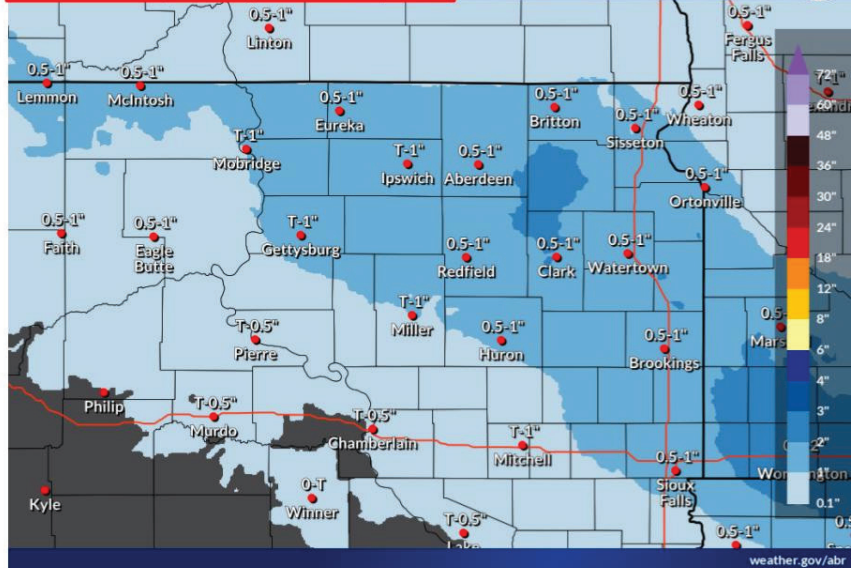
Key Messages

- Light snow is expected today, **mainly during the daytime hours**, tracking southeast across the region.
 - Snow will taper off northwest to southeast this evening.
- Total accumulations generally an inch or less.
- Strong winds are not expected, therefore visibility reduction is not anticipated.

Expected Snowfall: Official NWS Forecast

Valid 6 AM Tue Jan 20, 2026 through 6 AM Wed Jan 21, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Jan 20, 2026 2:17 AM CST



Light snow will track southeast across the region during the daytime hours and tapering off northwest to southeast this evening. Total snow accumulations generally around an inch or less. No reduction to visibility is anticipated.

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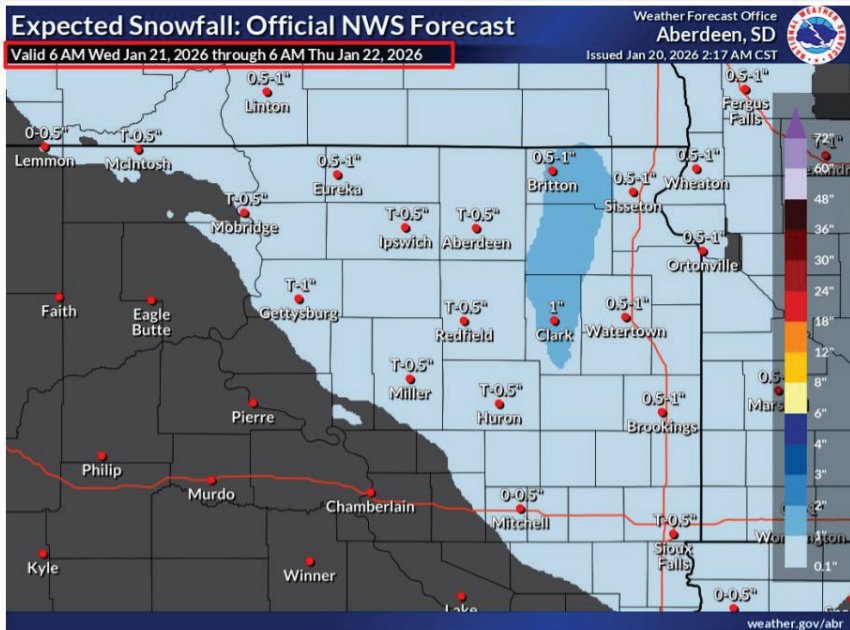


Additional Chance of Snowfall Wednesday

January 20, 2026
3:39 AM CST

Key Messages

- 40-70% chance of light snow, mainly falling during the daytime hours, gradually tapering off Wednesday evening.
- **Additional snow accumulations generally an inch or less.**
- Strong winds will lead to **blowing snow and reduced visibilities.**
 - Especially over central South Dakota



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Gusty Winds Wednesday

January 20, 2026
3:51 AM

The combination of snow and gusty winds will lead to drifting and blowing snow

- Northwest winds increase early morning, **with gusts of 35 to 50 mph**, highest mid morning through the late afternoon.
- Snow on the ground (plus additional falling snow) will combine with gusty winds, leading to blowing snow and reduced visibilities.
- **Portions of central SD may experience brief to intermittent whiteout conditions!**
 - Visibility may be reduced to a half mile or less at times.
 - Please use caution if traveling across this area!

Maximum Wind Gust Forecast (mph)

	1/21 Wed							1/22 Thu
	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am
Aberdeen	18	28	40	45	40	29	22	16
Britton	20	28	37	44	39	30	23	17
Chamberlain	17	23	45	47	43	29	22	12
Clark	20	28	37	43	41	31	29	18
Eagle Butte	29	41	48	51	45	32	22	18
Eureka	23	36	44	47	44	32	25	20
Gettysburg	23	36	46	49	44	31	23	18
McIntosh	30	44	48	51	47	33	24	21
Milbank	16	23	30	37	37	31	26	17
Miller	23	35	45	51	44	29	24	18
Mobridge	21	36	43	45	40	29	21	16
Murdo	24	37	48	51	44	29	18	17
Pierre	18	31	43	46	41	28	16	12
Redfield	20	30	41	48	43	29	24	16
Sisseton	20	25	33	41	39	32	30	20
Watertown	20	26	33	40	39	31	29	20
Webster	22	28	36	41	39	32	29	21
Wheaton	15	21	29	35	35	30	29	20

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Dangerous Cold Temperatures End of the Week/Weekend

January 20, 2026
3:47 AM

Friday morning through Saturday morning will be the coldest period

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

	1/22 Thu		1/23 Fri		1/24 Sat		1/25 Sun		1/26 Mon
	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am
Aberdeen	-12	-28	-36	-28	-28	-20	-20	-12	-13
Britton	-17	-32	-39	-33	-33	-24	-24	-18	-17
Chamberlain	-2	-14	-27	-19	-23	-13	-14	-4	-4
Clark	-15	-30	-41	-33	-32	-25	-25	-18	-19
Eagle Butte	-11	-25	-35	-26	-27	-16	-17	-9	-9
Eureka	-18	-32	-40	-30	-31	-23	-24	-17	-16
Gettysburg	-12	-27	-39	-29	-30	-19	-21	-14	-14
McIntosh	-17	-29	-34	-29	-28	-18	-19	-10	-9
Milbank	-12	-29	-36	-27	-26	-20	-21	-13	-14
Miller	-8	-24	-34	-25	-28	-18	-18	-12	-12
Mobridge	-13	-29	-34	-25	-26	-15	-16	-6	-6
Murdo	-5	-18	-28	-22	-24	-10	-11	-3	-3
Pierre	-2	-15	-25	-18	-19	-10	-10	-3	-3
Redfield	-10	-26	-36	-27	-31	-22	-23	-14	-16
Sisseton	-16	-31	-42	-32	-30	-23	-23	-16	-16
Watertown	-15	-29	-38	-32	-32	-23	-25	-17	-18
Webster	-17	-32	-40	-34	-32	-24	-23	-18	-18
Wheaton	-19	-35	-42	-33	-33	-25	-26	-18	-19

- **Dangerously cold** temperatures and wind chills expected Thursday through Sunday morning.
- **The coldest wind chills** will occur **Friday and Saturday morning**
 - Ranging in the **twenties to forties below zero**
 - **Highlighted in red square.**
- Friday's highs will generally be below zero.
- Dress in several layers as **frostbite will occur in 30 minutes or less.**
- **Bring your pets inside!**

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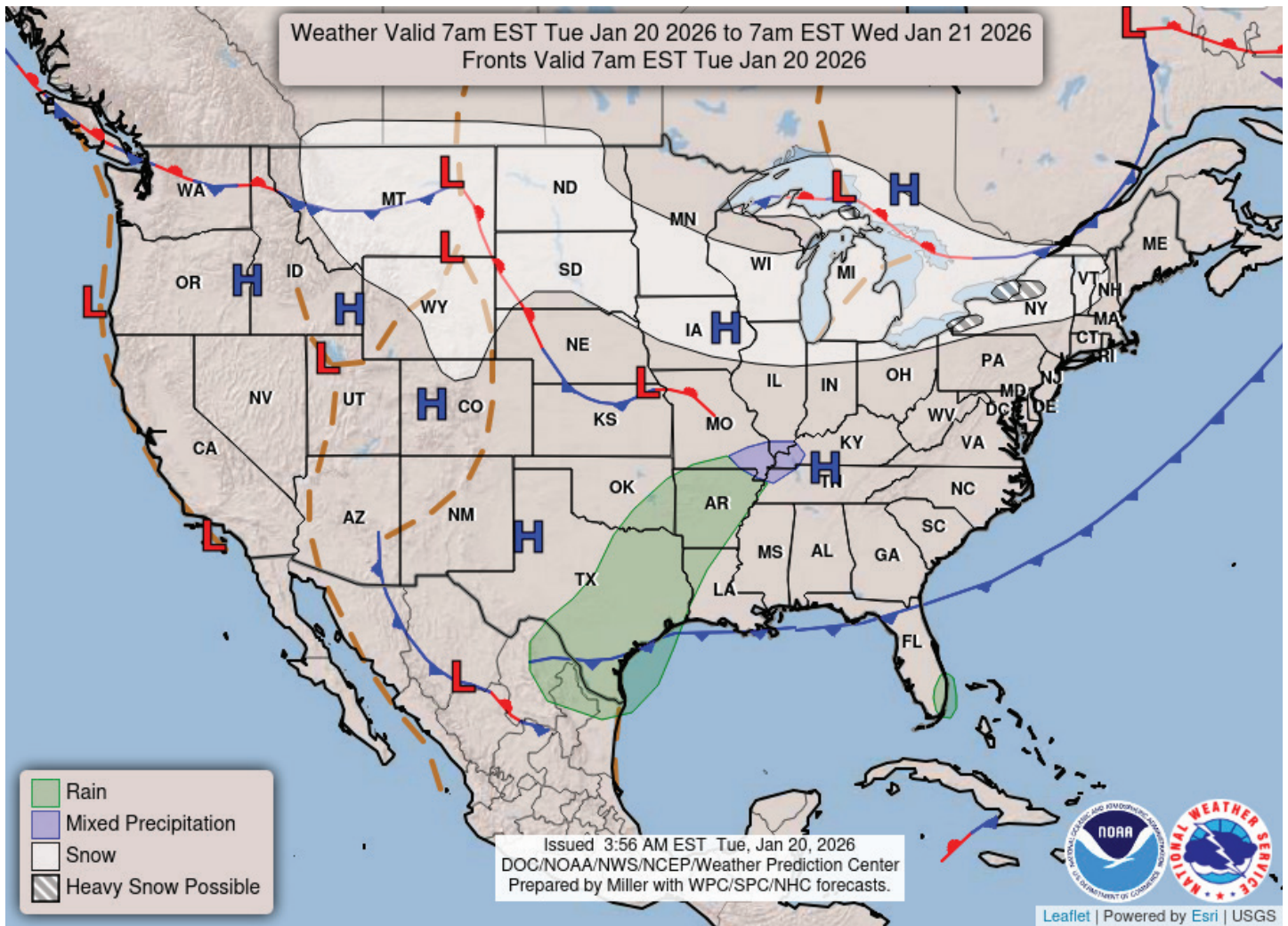
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 8 °F at 4:50 PM
Low Temp: -10 °F at 8:06 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 12:08 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 1944
Record Low: -29 in 1936
Average High: 24
Average Low: 1
Average Precip in Jan.: 0.38
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 0.38
Precip Year to Date: 0.00
Sunset Tonight: 5:21 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:04 am



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Today in Weather History

January 20, 1944: A late January warm-up occurred on this date in weather history in 1944. Temperatures rose into the upper 50s to the mid-60s across central and northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota. Overnight lows in the 20s and lower 30s were above the normal highs for the year. Record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Sisseton, and Watertown. Watertown rose to 56 degrees, Sisseton rose to 58 degrees, Aberdeen rose to 60 degrees, and Kennebec rose to 65 degrees. Also, Mobridge rose to 57 degrees, and Pierre rose to 61 degrees.

1863: The famous "Mud March" begins in the Fredericksburg area of Virginia.

1883: Yuma, Arizona, sets its all-time record low of 22 degrees. The record is tied in 1911 and again in 1937.

1933: Phoenix, Arizona, receives light snow between 7:55 pm and 9:25 pm.

1937: The wettest Inaugural Day of record with 1.77 inches of rain in 24 hours. Temperatures were only in the 30s as Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second term.

1943 — Strange vertical antics took place in the Black Hills of South Dakota. While the temperature at Deadwood was a frigid 16 degrees below zero, the town of Lead, just a mile and a half away, but 600 feet higher in elevation, reported a balmy 52 degree reading. (David Ludlum)

1954: Rogers Pass, Montana, plunged to 70 degrees below zero to establish a new record for the lower 48 states.

1978 — A paralyzing "Nor'easter" produced a record 21 inches of snow at Boston, 15 to 20 inches in Rhode Island, and one to two feet of snow in Pennsylvania. Winds along the coast of Connecticut gusted to 70 mph. (David Ludlum)

1987 — Gale force winds lingered along the northern Atlantic coast in the wake of a holiday weekend storm. High winds along the eastern slopes of the Northern Rockies gusted to 67 mph at Livingston MT, and high winds in southern California gusted to 70 mph near San Bernardino. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 — A storm in the Upper Midwest produced heavy snow and gale force winds. Up to 27.5 inches of snow was reported along the Lake Superior shoreline of Michigan, with 22 inches at Marquette. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 — The temperature in the Washington D.C. area warmed into the lower 50s for the Presidential Inauguration during the late morning hours, before gusty northwest winds ushered in colder air that afternoon. (National Weather Summary)

1990 — While heavy thunderstorm rains drenched the Central Gulf Coast States, with 4.23 inches reported at Centreville AL in 24 hours, unseasonably warm weather continued across Florida. Five cities in Florida reported record high temperatures for the date. Tampa FL equalled their record high for January of 85 degrees. (National Weather Summary)



The Power of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit transforms the believer from the inside out.

Galatians 5:22-26: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

The Holy Spirit is vital to the Christian life. Read today's passage, which details the fruit of the Spirit. It is impossible to achieve this level of Christlikeness on our own. We need divine intervention to live as God expects. That's why He sent believers the Helper, whose job is to produce Christlike character in us.

The heavenly Father knows that His children need support. That's why Jesus, before returning to heaven, ordered the disciples to put their missionary work on hold until the Holy Spirit arrived (Luke 24:49).

The Spirit enters a believer's life at the moment of salvation and immediately sets about the work of producing spiritual fruit. This is the outward expression of a transformed heart. When we yield to God's nurturing hand, our actions and attitudes become more loving, more joyful, more kind, more gentle, and so forth. He reaps a harvest of service from our life—good works that grow our faith and expand His kingdom.

For the Holy Spirit to bring forth Christlike character, we can't be passive bystanders. Our part is to meditate on God's Word so we can learn about His character and apply His principles. Then, we must make wise decisions each day that allow the Spirit to develop godliness in our life.

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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The Groton Independent

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.16.26

2 22 33 42 67 1

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$250,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.19.26

2 10 15 18 31 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$13,300,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 5 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.19.26

5 17 22 42 48 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 20 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.17.26

2 13 24 25 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$205,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 20 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.19.26

2 9 25 26 63 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 21 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

01.19.26

5 28 34 37 55 17

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$209,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 1 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 22 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the **AP** Associated Press

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL

Avon 53, Kimball-White Lake 20
Bridgewater-Emery 61, Scotland/Menno 23
Chamberlain 45, Todd County 32
Clark-Willow Lake 64, Great Plains Lutheran 22
Colman-Egan 65, Alcester-Hudson 28
Estelline-Hendricks 71, Oldham-Ramona-Rutland 55
Hamlin 71, De Smet 47
Herreid-Selby 74, South Border, N.D. 28
Highmore-Harrold 66, Wessington Springs 49
Hitchcock-Tulare 55, James Valley Christian School 24
Iroquois-Lake Preston 49, Sunshine Bible Academy 16
Northwestern 44, Gettysburg 34
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket 61, Wolsey-Wessington 42
Waubay/Summit 48, Britton-Hecla 22
Panhandle Conference Tournament=
Hyannis, Neb. 44, Edgemont 17

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Avon 75, Kimball-White Lake 31
Bridgewater-Emery 70, Scotland/Menno 48
Britton-Hecla 46, Waubay/Summit 41
Dell Rapids 76, Parker/Marion 56
Flandreau Indian 67, Arlington 55
Hamlin 80, DeSmet 63
Hitchcock-Tulare 64, Highmore-Harrold 53
James Valley Christian School 72, Sunshine Bible Academy 32
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket 61, Wolsey-Wessington 43
Todd County 53, Chamberlain 51
Waverly-South Shore 63, Wilmot 55
Wessington Springs 75, Iroquois-Lake Preston 50
West Central 37, Baltic 31

Some high school basketball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Top EU official questions Trump's trustworthiness over Greenland tariff threat

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — The European Union's top official on Tuesday called into question U.S. President Donald Trump's trustworthiness, saying that he had agreed last year not to impose more tariffs on members of the bloc.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called Trump's planned new tariffs over Greenland "a mistake especially between long-standing allies."

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She was responding to Trump's announcement that starting February, a 10% import tax will be imposed on goods from eight European nations that have rallied around Denmark in the wake of his stepped up calls for the United States to take over the semi-autonomous Danish territory of Greenland.

"The European Union and the United States have agreed to a trade deal last July," Von der Leyen said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "And in politics as in business – a deal is a deal. And when friends shake hands, it must mean something."

"We consider the people of the United States not just our allies, but our friends. And plunging us into a downward spiral would only aid the very adversaries we are both so committed to keeping out of the strategic landscape," she added.

She vowed that the EU's response "will be unflinching, united and proportional."

Trump has insisted the U.S. needs the territory for security reasons against possible threats from China and Russia.

Earlier Tuesday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said America's relations with Europe remain strong and urged trading partners to "take a deep breath" and let tensions driven by the new tariff threats over Greenland "play out."

"I think our relations have never been closer," he said.

Trump's threats spark diplomatic flurry across Europe

The American leader's threats have sparked outrage and a flurry of diplomatic activity across Europe, as leaders consider possible countermeasures, including retaliatory tariffs and the first-ever use of the European Union's anti-coercion instrument.

The EU has three major economic tools it could use to pressure Washington: new tariffs, suspension of the U.S.-EU trade deal, and the "trade bazooka" — the unofficial term for the bloc's Anti-Coercion Instrument, which could sanction individuals or institutions found to be putting undue pressure on the EU.

Earlier Tuesday, Trump posted on social media that he had spoken with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte. He said "I agreed to a meeting of the various parties in Davos, Switzerland," which is hosting the World Economic Forum's annual meeting this week.

France's Macron suggests G-7 meeting in Paris this week

Trump also posted a text message from Emmanuel Macron in which the French president suggested a meeting of members of the Group of Seven industrialized democracies in Paris after the Davos gathering.

Later, however, Trump posted some provocatively doctored images. One showed him planting the U.S. flag next to a sign reading "Greenland, U.S. Territory, Est. 2026." The other showed Trump in the Oval Office next to a map that showed Greenland and Canada covered with the U.S. Stars and Stripes.

In a sign of how tensions have increased in recent days, thousands of Greenlanders marched over the weekend in protest of any effort to take over their island. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a Facebook post Monday that the tariff threats would not change their stance.

"We will not be pressured," he wrote.

In his latest threat of tariffs, Trump indicated that the import taxes would be retaliation for last week's deployment of symbolic numbers of troops from the European countries to Greenland — though he also suggested that he was using the tariffs as leverage to negotiate with Denmark.

Danish minister called for a stronger Europe in the face of Trump's threats

Denmark's minister for European affairs called Trump's tariff threats "deeply unfair." He said that Europe needs to become even stronger and more independent, while stressing there is "no interest in escalating a trade war."

"You just have to note that we are on the edge of a new world order, where having power has unfortunately become crucial, and we see a United States with an enormous condescending rhetoric towards Europe," Marie Bjerre told Danish public broadcaster DK on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of Davos, California Gov. Gavin Newsom slammed Europe's response to Trump's tariff threats as "pathetic" and "embarrassing," and urged European leaders to unite and stand up to the United States.

"It is time to get serious, and stop being complicit," Newsom told reporters. "It's time to stand tall and

firm, have a backbone.”

European markets open sharply lower

European markets opened sharply lower on Tuesday and U.S. futures fell further as tensions rose over Greenland. Benchmarks in Germany, France and Britain fell about 1%. The future for the S&P 500 lost 1.5% and the Dow future was down 1.4%.

With U.S. trading closed Monday for a holiday, financial markets had a relatively muted response to Trump’s threat to put a 10% extra tariff on exports from eight European countries that have opposed his push to exert control over Greenland. Jonas Golterman of Capital Economics described the situation as a lose-lose one for both the U.S. and the targets of Trump’s anger. He said, “It certainly feels like the kind of situation that could get worse before it gets better.”

UK replies to Trump’s Chagos Islands criticism

In another sign of tension between allies, the British government on Tuesday defended its decision to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius after Trump attacked the plan, which his administration previously supported.

Trump said that relinquishing the remote Indian Ocean archipelago, home to a strategically important American naval and bomber base, was an act of stupidity that shows why he needs to take over Greenland.

The United Kingdom signed a deal in May to give Mauritius sovereignty over the islands, though the U.K. will lease back the island of Diego Garcia, where the U.S. base is located, for at least 99 years.

Australia’s Parliament passes gun laws, and debates anti-hate speech bill after Sydney attack

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia’s Parliament on Tuesday passed new gun restrictions and began debating draft anti-hate speech laws proposed after two shooters killed 15 people at a Jewish festival in Sydney last month in an attack that authorities say was inspired by the Islamic State group.

The gun laws create new restrictions on gun ownership and create a government-funded buyback program to compensate people forced to hand in their firearms.

Anti-hate speech laws would enable hate groups that don’t fit Australia’s definition of a terrorist organization, such as Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir, to be outlawed. Hizb ut-Tahrir is already outlawed by some countries.

The government had initially planned a single bill, but separated the issues into two bills introduced to the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Both bills passed the House, and the firearms bill had been passed by the Senate by late Tuesday. The anti-hate speech bill is expected to pass into law by Wednesday.

Earlier Tuesday, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke told Parliament that alleged gunmen Sajid Akram, 50, and his 24-year-old son Naveed Akram wouldn’t have been allowed to possess guns under the proposed laws.

The father, who was shot dead by police during the attack on Jewish worshippers during Hanukkah celebrations at Bondi Beach on Dec. 14, legally owned the guns used.

His son, who was wounded, has been charged with dozens of offenses, including 15 counts of murder and one of committing a terrorist act over the attack.

Burke said that the Indian-born father would have been barred from gun ownership under the proposed laws because he wasn’t an Australian citizen.

The Australian-born son would also been banned, because he had come under surveillance from the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, or ASIO, spy agency in 2019 over his association with suspected extremists.

“In responding to the antisemitic terror attack, we need to deal with the motivation and we need to deal with the method,” Burke told Parliament.

“We are dealing with two people there who had horrific antisemitic bigotry in their minds and in their

hearts. And they had weapons they should not have had," Burke added.

ASIO would also have a role under the proposed anti-hate speech laws in deciding which hate groups should be outlawed. Neo-Nazi group National Socialist Network has announced plans to disband rather than have its members targeted under the laws.

Parliament had been scheduled to resume for the year in February, but was brought back early to respond to Australia's worst mass shooting since 1996.

A lone shooter killed 35 people in Tasmania state that year, in a massacre that galvanized the nation into introducing tough gun laws that drastically reduced the number of rapid-fire weapons in public ownership. The government then bought back almost 700,000 guns.

But the states of Tasmania and Queensland and the Northern Territory are resisting the federal push for a new gun buyback, for which the states would be expected to pay half the cost.

Burke said his government would continue to negotiate with the states and territories on the buyback.

Trump slams UK deal to hand over Chagos Islands after he previously backed it

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A startled British government on Tuesday defended its decision to hand sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, after U.S. President Donald Trump attacked the plan, which his administration had previously supported.

Trump said that relinquishing the remote Indian Ocean archipelago, home to a strategically important American naval and bomber base, was an act of stupidity that shows why he needs to take over Greenland.

"Shockingly, our 'brilliant' NATO Ally, the United Kingdom, is currently planning to give away the Island of Diego Garcia, the site of a vital U.S. Military Base, to Mauritius, and to do so FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER," he said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. "There is no doubt that China and Russia have noticed this act of total weakness."

"The UK giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired," Trump said.

The blast from Trump was a rebuff to efforts by Prime Minister Keir Starmer to calm tensions over Greenland and patch up a frayed trans-Atlantic relationship. Starmer on Monday called Trump's statements about taking over Greenland "completely wrong," but called for the rift to be "resolved through calm discussion."

Remote but strategic

The United Kingdom and Mauritius signed a deal in May to give Mauritius sovereignty over the Chago Islands after two centuries under British control, though the U.K. will lease back Diego Garcia where the U.S. base is located, for at least 99 years.

The U.S. government welcomed the agreement at the time, saying it "secures the long-term, stable, and effective operation of the joint U.S.-U.K. military facility at Diego Garcia."

U.K. Cabinet Minister Darren Jones said Tuesday that the agreement would "secure that military base for the next 100 years."

In recent years, the United Nations and its top court have urged Britain to return the islands to Mauritius, and the British government says it's acting to protect the security of the base from international legal challenge.

A government spokesperson said that "the U.K. will never compromise on our national security," and "this deal secures the operations of the joint U.S.-U.K. base on Diego Garcia for generations, with robust provisions for keeping its unique capabilities intact and our adversaries out."

But the deal has met strong opposition from British opposition parties, which say that giving up the islands puts them at risk of interference by China and Russia.

Islanders who were displaced from the islands to make way for the U.S. base say they weren't consulted and worry the deal will make it harder for them to go home.

Strong opposition

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Legislation to approve the agreement has been passed by the House of Commons, but faced strong opposition in Parliament's upper chamber, the House of Lords, which approved it, while also passing a "motion of regret" lamenting the legislation. It's due back in the Commons on Tuesday for further debate.

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch criticized Starmer's Labour Party government over the agreement.

Badenoch said in an X post that Trump is right and that Starmer's "plan to give away the Chagos Islands is a terrible policy that weakens UK security and hands away our sovereign territory. And to top it off, makes us and our NATO allies weaker in the face of our enemies."

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, an ally of the president said: "Thank goodness Trump has vetoed the surrender of the Chagos islands."

The U.S. has described the Diego Garcia base, which is home to about 2,500 mostly American personnel, as "an all but indispensable platform" for security operations in the Middle East, South Asia and East Africa.

The Chagos Islands have been under British control since 1814, when they were ceded by France. Britain split the islands away from Mauritius, a former British colony, in 1965, and evicted as many as 2,000 people from the islands so the U.S. military could build the Diego Garcia base.

An estimated 10,000 displaced Chagossians and their descendants now live primarily in Britain, Mauritius and the Seychelles. Some have fought unsuccessfully in U.K. courts for many years for the right to go home.

The U.K.-Mauritius deal calls for a resettlement fund to be created for displaced islanders to help them move back to the islands — apart from Diego Garcia.

Deadly wreck is a blight on Spain's leading high-speed rail service

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The deadly train wreck in southern Spain has cast a pall over one of the nation's symbols of success.

The collision Sunday killed at least 41 people and injured dozens more, according to officials as of Tuesday.

"It is undoubtably a hard blow, and I have to work so it doesn't affect the credibility and strength of the network," Spanish Transport Minister Óscar Puente told Spanish national radio RNE when asked about the knock to the reputation of the rail system.

Here's a look at the history of a rail network that became a crown jewel of contemporary Spain, by the numbers.

34 years

The number of years since Spain inaugurated its first high-speed AVE, which means "bird" in Spanish.

Both before and after that milestone, successive Spanish governments devoted tax revenues and European Union development aid to its high-speed rail network that quickly caught up with and surpassed high-speed pioneers Japan and France.

The first high-speed train to speed across Spain preceded the opening of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona by two months.

Both marked high points in Spain's recent history after it emerged from the economic doldrums and cultural and political isolation of the 20th-century dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco.

3,900 kilometers

How many kilometers, equal to 2,400 miles, of high-speed rail that Spain has laid over the last three-plus decades for its 49 million residents.

Only China — with 45,000 kilometers (28,000 miles) for its 1.4 billion people — has more high-speed track, according to the International Union of Railways.

Spain's commitment to high-speed rail, which the railway union defines as rails for trains going 250 kph (155 mph), has helped Spain shed its reputation of often being behind the industrial curve compared to other leading economies.

Spain's train builders have been able to capitalize on its domestic expansion. A Spanish consortium built Saudi Arabia's high-speed line connecting the holy cities of Mecca and Medina that opened service in 2018.

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7 vs. 2½ hours

The approximate number of hours a train trip took between Madrid and Barcelona before and after the 2008 adoption of high-speed rail.

On an old, slow train, the 600-kilometer (385-mile) journey between Spain's biggest cities used to take around seven hours, meaning many business travelers opted to take a plane.

Now that trip can be done in 2½ hours, and Spain announced plans in November to modernize the Madrid-Barcelona line to allow trains to reach 350 kph (218 mph), matching the fastest Chinese trains. That would bring the transit time down to less than two hours.

The AVE has helped unite a country whose main population centers other than Madrid are located on its coasts, separated by some of the most sparsely populated areas in Europe.

Every region and provincial capital has pushed hard for its own high-speed line. Some critics say the administrations may have spent too much on questionable lines to the detriment of investing in local commuter lines, which suffer many more delays than high-speed rail does.

Missing out on an AVE line and stop has become synonymous with economic decline for a provincial city.

The move away from air travel to rail also remains a key plank of Spain's green energy and electrification plan to fight climate change.

1 crash

The number of deadly crashes on a stretch of high-speed rail tracks in Spain's history. One official described Sunday's collision as transforming a train into a "mass of twisted metal."

Spanish officials say they are still at a loss to understand what went wrong Sunday night when one high-speed train jumped the track and collided with another fast train going in the other direction.

Alvaro Fernández, the president of public train company Renfe, told Spanish public radio station RNE that both trains were traveling well under the speed limit and "human error could be ruled out."

One of the two trains was operated by Renfe and another by a private company.

Spain's worst train crash this century occurred in 2013, when 80 people died after a train derailed in the country's northwest on a track that wasn't designed for high speeds. While the train itself was capable of high-speed travel, an investigation concluded that it was going 179 kph (111 mph) on a stretch with an 80 kph (50 mph) speed limit when it left the tracks.

3 high-speed operators

The number of operators with high-speed trains in Spain.

Only in 2022 did Spain open its rail network to private companies to compete against Renfe.

The first company to get into the private high-speed market was Iryo, which is Italian-owned. It was followed by the French company Ouigo.

It was an Iryo train that first derailed on Sunday, knocking the Renfe train off its track. Iryo has said that it's working with officials to determine the causes of the crash.

US citizen says ICE removed him from his Minnesota home in his underwear after warrantless search

By JACK BROOK Associated Press/Report for America

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Federal immigration agents forced open a door and detained a U.S. citizen in his Minnesota home at gunpoint without a warrant, then led him out onto the streets in his underwear in subfreezing conditions, according to his family and videos reviewed by The Associated Press.

ChongLy "Scott" Thao told the AP that his daughter-in-law woke him up from a nap Sunday afternoon and said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were banging at the door of his residence in St. Paul. He told her not to open it. Masked agents then forced their way in and pointed guns at the family, yelling at them, Thao recalled.

"I was shaking," he said. "They didn't show any warrant; they just broke down the door."

Amid a massive surge of federal agents into the Twin Cities, immigration authorities are facing backlash from residents and the local leaders for warrantless arrests, aggressive clashes with protestors and the

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fatal shooting of mother of three Renee Good.

"ICE is not doing what they say they're doing," St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, a Hmong American, said in a statement about Thao's arrest. "They're not going after hardened criminals. They're going after anyone and everyone in their path. It is unacceptable and un-American."

Encounter caught on video

Thao, who has been a U.S. citizen for decades, said that as he was being detained he asked his daughter-in-law to find his identification but the agents told him they didn't want to see it.

Instead, as his 4-year-old grandson watched and cried, Thao was led out in handcuffs wearing only sandals and underwear with just a blanket wrapped around his shoulders.

Videos captured the scene, which included people blowing whistles and horns and neighbors screaming at the more than a dozen gun-toting agents to leave Thao's family alone.

Thao said agents drove him "to the middle of nowhere" and made him get out of the car in the frigid weather so they could photograph him. He said he feared they would beat him. He was asked for his ID, which agents earlier prevented him from retrieving.

Agents eventually realized that he was a U.S. citizen with no criminal record, Thao said, and an hour or two later, they brought him back to his house. There they made him show his ID and then left without apologizing for detaining him or breaking his door, Thao said.

DHS defends operation

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security described the ICE operation at Thao's home as a "targeted operation" seeking two convicted sex offenders.

"The US citizen lives with these two convicted sex offenders at the site of the operation," DHS said. "The individual refused to be fingerprinted or facially ID'd. He matched the description of the targets."

Thao's family said in a statement that it "categorically disputes" the DHS account and "strongly objects to DHS's attempt to publicly justify this conduct with false and misleading claims."

Thao told the AP that only he, his son and daughter-in-law and his grandson live at the rental home. Neither they nor the property's owner are listed in the Minnesota sex offender registry. The nearest sex offender listed as living in the zip code is more than two blocks away.

DHS did not respond to a request from The Associated Press seeking the identities of the "two convicted sex offenders" or why the agency believed they were present in Thao's home.

Thao's son, Chris Thao, said ICE agents stopped him while he was driving to work before they went to detain his father. He said he was driving a car he borrowed from his cousin's boyfriend. Court records show that the boyfriend shares the first name of another Asian man who has been convicted of a sex offense. Chris Thao said the two people are not the same.

Family fled Laos after helping US

The family said they are particularly upset by ChongLy Thao's treatment at the hands of the U.S. government because his mother had to flee to the U.S. from Laos when communists took over in the 1970s since she had supported American covert operations in the country and her life was in danger.

Thao's adopted mother, Choua Thao, was a nurse who treated CIA-backed Hmong soldiers in the U.S. government's "Secret War" from 1961 to 1975 against the communists, according to the Hmong Nurses Association website.

Choua Thao, who passed away in late December, "treated countless civilians and American soldiers, working closely with U.S. personnel," her daughter-in-law Louansee Moua wrote on a GoFundMe page for the family.

ChongLy Thao says he's planning to file a civil rights lawsuit against DHS and no longer feels secure to sleep in his home.

"I don't feel safe at all," Thao said. "What did I do wrong? I didn't do anything."

Valentino, designer whose gowns made royals and movie stars feel beautiful, dies at 93

By JENNY BARCHFIELD and COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Valentino Garavani, the jet-set Italian designer whose high-glamour gowns — often in his trademark shade of “Valentino red” — were fashion show staples for nearly half a century, died Monday. He was 93.

“Valentino Garavani was not only a constant guide and inspiration for all of us, but a true source of light, creativity and vision,” the foundation founded by Valentino and his partner Giancarlo Giammetti said in a statement posted on social media. The foundation said he died at his Rome residence but did not mention the cause.

Universally known by his first name, Valentino was adored by generations of royals, first ladies and movie stars, from Jackie Kennedy Onassis to Julia Roberts and Queen Rania of Jordan, who swore the designer always made them look and feel their best.

“I know what women want,” he once remarked. “They want to be beautiful.”

Though Italian-born and despite maintaining his atelier in Rome, he mostly unveiled his collections in Paris, and spoke French with his Italian partner Giammetti, an entrepreneur.

Alessandro Michele, the current creative director of the Valentino fashion house, wrote in Instagram that he continues to feel Valentino’s “gaze” as he works on the next collection, which will be presented March 12 in Rome, departing from the usual venue of Paris. Michele remembered Valentino as “a man who expanded the limits of the possible” and possessing “a rare delicacy, with a silent rigor and a limitless love for beauty.”

Another of Valentino’s successors, Pierpaolo Piccoli, placed a broken heart emoji under the announcement of his death. Former supermodel Cindy Crawford wrote that she was “heartbroken,” and called Valentino “a true master of his craft.”

Condolences also came in from the family of the late designer Giorgio Armani, who died in September at the age of 91, and Donatella Versace, who posted two photos of Valentino, saying “he will forever be remembered for his art.”

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni remembered Valentino as “an indisputable maestro of eternal style and elegance of Italian high fashion.”

Never one for edginess or statement dressing, Valentino made precious few fashion faux pas throughout his nearly half-century career, which stretched from his early days in Rome in the 1960s through to his retirement in 2008.

His fail-safe designs made Valentino the king of the red carpet, the go-to man for A-listers’ awards ceremony needs. His sumptuous gowns have graced countless Academy Awards, notably in 2001, when Roberts wore a vintage black and white column to accept her best actress statue. Cate Blanchett also wore Valentino — a one-shouldered number in butter-yellow silk — when she won the Oscar for best supporting actress in 2005.

Valentino was also behind the long-sleeved lace dress Jacqueline Kennedy wore for her wedding to Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis in 1968. Kennedy and Valentino were close friends for decades, and for a spell the one-time U.S. first lady wore almost exclusively Valentino.

He was also close to Diana, Princess of Wales, who often donned his sumptuous gowns.

Beyond his signature orange-tinged shade of red, other Valentino trademarks included bows, ruffles, lace and embroidery; in short, feminine, flirty embellishments that added to the dresses’ beauty and hence to that of the wearers.

Perpetually tanned and always impeccably dressed, Valentino shared the lifestyle of his jet-set patrons. In addition to his 152-foot (46-meter) yacht and an art collection including works by Picasso and Miro, the couturier owned a 17th-century chateau near Paris with a garden said to boast more than a million roses.

Valentino and his longtime partner Giammetti flitted among their homes — which also included places in New York, London, Rome, Capri and Gstaad, Switzerland — traveling with their pack of pugs. The pair

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regularly received A-list friends and patrons, including Madonna and Gwyneth Paltrow.

"When I see somebody and unfortunately she's relaxed and running around in jogging trousers and without any makeup ... I feel very sorry," the designer told RTL television in a 2007 interview. "For me, woman is like a beautiful, beautiful flower bouquet. She has always to be sensational, always to please, always to be perfect, always to please the husband, the lover, everybody. Because we are born to show ourselves always at our best."

Valentino was born into a well-off family in the northern Italian town of Voghera on May 11, 1932. He said it was his childhood love of cinema that set him down the fashion path.

"I was crazy for silver screen, I was crazy for beauty, to see all those movie stars being sensation, well dressed, being always perfect," he explained in the 2007 television interview.

After studying fashion in Milan and Paris, he spent much of the 1950s working for established Paris-based designer Jean Desses and later Guy Laroche before striking out on his own. He founded the house of Valentino on Rome's Via Condotti in 1959.

From the beginning, Giammetti was by his side, handling the business aspect while Valentino used his natural charm to build a client base among the world's rich and fabulous.

After some early financial setbacks — Valentino's tastes were always lavish, and the company spent with abandon — the brand took off.

Early fans included Italian screen sirens Gina Lollobrigida and Sophia Loren, as well as Hollywood stars Elizabeth Taylor and Audrey Hepburn. Legendary American Vogue editor-in-chief Diana Vreeland also took the young designer under her wing.

Over the years, Valentino's empire expanded as the designer added ready-to-wear, menswear and accessories lines to his stable. Valentino and Giammetti sold the label to an Italian holding company for an estimated \$300 million in 1998. Valentino would remain in a design role for another decade.

In 2007, the couturier feted his 45th anniversary in fashion with a 3-day blowout in Rome, capped with a grand ball in the Villa Borghese gallery.

Valentino retired in 2008 and was briefly replaced by fellow Italian Alessandra Facchinetti, who had stepped into Tom Ford's shoes at Gucci before being sacked after two seasons.

Facchinetti's tenure at Valentino proved equally short. As early as her first show for the label, rumors swirled that she was already on her way out, and just about one year after she was hired, Facchinetti was indeed replaced by two longtime accessories designers at the brand, Maria Grazia Chiuri and Pierpaolo Piccioli.

Chiuri left to helm Dior in 2016, and Piccioli continued to lead the house through a golden period that drew on the launch of the Rockstud pump with Chiuri and his own signature color, a shade of fuchsia called Pink PP. He left the house in 2024, later joining Balenciaga, and has been replaced by Michele, who revived Gucci's stars with romantic, genderless styles.

Valentino is owned by Qatar's Mayhoola, which controls a 70% stake, and the French luxury conglomerate Kering, which owns 30% with an option to take full control in 2028 or 2029. Richard Bellini was named CEO last September.

A public viewing will be held at the Valentino Garavani and Giancarlo Giammetti Foundation on Wednesday and Thursday, and a funeral will be held Friday in the Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri in central Rome.

Trump ties his stance on Greenland to not getting Nobel Peace Prize

By AAMER MADHANI, GEIR MOULSON and EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump linked his aggressive stance on Greenland to last year's decision not to award him the Nobel Peace Prize, telling Norway's prime minister that he no longer felt "an obligation to think purely of Peace," in a text message released Monday.

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Trump's message to Jonas Gahr Støre appears to ratchet up a standoff between Washington and its closest allies over his threats to take over Greenland, a self-governing territory of NATO member Denmark. On Saturday, Trump announced a 10% import tax starting in February on goods from eight nations that have rallied around Denmark and Greenland, including Norway.

Those countries issued a forceful rebuke.

Many longtime allies of the U.S. remained resolute that Greenland was not for sale but encouraged Washington to discuss solutions. In a statement on social media, the European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc had "no interest to pick a fight" but would "hold our ground."

The White House has not ruled taking control of the strategic Arctic island by force. Asked whether Trump could invade Greenland, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said Monday that "you can't leave anything out until the president himself has decided to leave anything out."

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer also sought to de-escalate tensions Monday. "I think this can be resolved and should be resolved through calm discussion," he said, adding that he did not believe military action would occur.

Early Tuesday, Trump posted on social media that he had spoken with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and "I agreed to a meeting of the various parties in Davos, Switzerland," where they will be attending the World Economic Forum's annual meeting this week.

Trump also posted a text message from Emmanuel Macron in which the French president suggested a meeting of members of the Group of Seven industrialized democracies in Paris after the Davos gathering.

Later, however, Trump posted some provocatively doctored images. One showed him planting the U.S. flag next to a sign reading "Greenland, U.S. Territory, Est. 2026." The other showed Trump in the Oval Office next to a map that showed Greenland and Canada covered with the U.S. Stars and Stripes.

Strong opposition in Greenland to U.S. threats

In a sign of how tensions have increased in recent days, thousands of Greenlanders marched over the weekend in protest of any effort to take over their island. Greenland Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a Facebook post Monday that the tariff threats would not change their stance.

"We will not be pressured," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Naaja Nathanielsen, Greenland's minister for business, minerals, energy, justice and equality, told The Associated Press that she was moved by the quick response of allies to the tariff threat and said it showed that countries realize "this is about more than Greenland."

"I think a lot of countries are afraid that if they let Greenland go, what would be next?"

Trump cites Nobel as escalation in text to Norwegian leader

Trump's Sunday message to Gahr Støre, released by the Norwegian government, read in part, "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace."

It concluded, "The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland."

The White House confirmed the authenticity of the message, with White House deputy press secretary Anna Kelly saying that Trump "is confident Greenlanders would be better served if protected by the United States from modern threats in the Arctic region."

The Norwegian leader said Trump's message was a reply to an earlier missive sent on behalf of himself and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, in which they conveyed their opposition to the tariff announcement, pointed to a need to de-escalate, and proposed a telephone conversation among the three leaders.

"Norway's position on Greenland is clear. Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and Norway fully supports the Kingdom of Denmark on this matter," the Norwegian leader said in a statement. "As regards the Nobel Peace Prize, I have clearly explained, including to President Trump what is well known, the prize is awarded by an independent Nobel Committee and not the Norwegian Government."

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is an independent body whose five members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament.

Trump has openly coveted the peace prize, which the committee awarded to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado last year. Last week, Machado presented her Nobel medal to Trump, who

said he planned to keep it, though the committee said the prize can't be revoked, transferred or shared with others.

Speaking Monday night to reporters before boarding Air Force One on his way back from Florida to Washington, Trump said he didn't "care about the Nobel prize."

"A very fine woman felt that I deserved it and really wanted me to have the Nobel prize. And I appreciate that. If anybody thinks that Norway doesn't control the Nobel prize, they're just kidding. ... And I don't care what Norway says. But I really don't care about that. What I care about is saving lives," he said.

Trump says he will use tariffs as a bargaining chip

In his latest threat of tariffs, Trump indicated the import taxes would be retaliation for last week's deployment of symbolic numbers of troops from the European countries to Greenland — though he also suggested that he was using the tariffs as leverage to negotiate with Denmark.

European governments said that the troops traveled to the island to assess Arctic security, part of a response to Trump's own concerns about interference from Russia and China.

The move by some European countries to deploy troops may have given the impression that an armada of ships was sailing to Greenland, when the reality was that European nations said they would send not more than a few dozen troops collectively, a senior European military official told The Associated Press speaking on condition of anonymity in order to talk publicly.

Trump threatened eight European countries with tariffs Sunday after they announced small numbers of troop deployments to the Arctic island — including Denmark, which Greenland is part of.

The European move was aimed at taking action on Trump's concerns, the senior official told the AP.

In a statement on social media, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said he had discussed how important the region was for the "collective security" of the security alliance in a Monday meeting with the foreign ministers of Denmark and Greenland.

Six of the eight countries targeted are part of the 27-member European Union, which operates as a single economic zone in terms of trade. European Council President António Costa said Sunday that the bloc's leaders expressed "readiness to defend ourselves against any form of coercion." He announced a summit for Thursday evening.

Indiana completes undefeated season and wins first national title, beating Miami 27-21 in CFP final

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Fernando Mendoza lowered his pads into a defender, spun in a full circle, used his hand to keep his balance, then launched himself horizontally and reached the ball over the goal line — an Indiana touchdown and a ready-made poster pic for a title run straight from the movies.

Maybe they'll call it "Hoosiers."

The Heisman Trophy winner's touchdown Monday night put an exclamation point on a 27-21 win over Miami that closed out an undefeated season and brought an improbable — maybe impossible? — national championship to a program that had known nothing but losing and indifference for almost 140 years.

"Let me tell you: We won the national championship at Indiana University. It can be done," said coach Curt Cignetti, who took over a program with a nation-leading 713 losses and turned it into the game's biggest winner in the span of two years.

Cignetti, the 64-year-old coaching lifer, started it. Mendoza helped get the Hoosiers over the line. He finished with 186 yards passing, but it was that tackle-breaking, sprawled-out 12-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-4 with 9:18 left that defined this game — and the Hoosiers' season.

Indiana would not be denied.

"I had to go airborne," said Mendoza, who had his lip split and his arm bloodied by a ferocious Miami defense that sacked him three times and hit him many more. "I would die for my team."

Mendoza's TD gave Indiana a 24-14 lead — barely enough breathing room to hold off a frenzied charge

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by the hard-hitting Hurricanes — a team that barely made the College Football Playoff and barely showed up in the first half of the final before coming to life behind 112 yards and two scores from Mark Fletcher.

"They're the best thing that happened to the University of Miami in 25 years," said coach Mario Cristobal, who was part of the title run that put this colorful program on the map in the 1980s and '90s.

The CFP trophy now heads to the most unlikely of places: Bloomington, Indiana — home of the college that famously boasts the most living alumni (805,000), including billionaire Mark Cuban and several thousand of his closest friends who packed Miami's home stadium and turned a title-game ticket into a \$4,000-or-more splurge.

"It's way up there, that's for damn sure," Cuban said when asked where this ranked among the out-of-nowhere success stories he helped bankroll on his reality show "Shark Tank."

Indiana finished 16-0 — using the extra games afforded by the expanded 12-team playoff to match a perfect-season win total last compiled by Yale in 1894. President Donald Trump was in the stands for what he said "turned out to be a great game" after a slow start — Indiana led 10-0 at half.

In a fitting bit of symmetry, this undefeated title comes 50 years after Bob Knight's basketball team went 32-0 to win it all in that state's favorite sport.

That hasn't happened since, and there's already some thought that college football — in its evolving, money-soaked, name-image-likeness era — might not see a team like this again, either.

Players like Mendoza — a transfer from Cal who grew up just a few miles away from Miami's campus, "The U" — certainly don't come around often.

Two fourth-down gambles by Cignetti in the fourth quarter, after Fletcher's second touchdown carved the Hurricanes' deficit to three, put the QB in position to shine.

The first was a 19-yard-completion to Charlie Becker on a back-shoulder fade those guys have been perfecting all season. Four plays later came a decision and play that wins championships.

Cignetti sent his kicker out on fourth-and-4 from the 12, but quickly called his second timeout. The team huddled on the field and the coach drew up a quarterback draw, hoping the Hurricanes would be in a defense they had shown before.

"We rolled the dice and said, 'They're going to be in it again and they were,'" Cignetti said. "We blocked it well, he broke a tackle or two and got in the end zone."

Mendoza's play could very well join John Elway's "helicopter" run in Super Bowl 32 as one of the greatest examples of a quarterback willing to put everything on the line to win it all. Mendoza might soon have something else in common with Elway: This game did little to diminish his projection as the first pick in the upcoming NFL draft.

"Everyone on the team, including my coach, makes fun of my running style," Mendoza said. "But it's fourth down, so you've got to put it all on the line. Every player, if they had that opportunity, they'd put their body on the line, too."

For Miami, it was a very close call.

A team listed 18th in the first CFP rankings moved to 10th and sneaked into the playoff, bringing as many questions about the process as the selection itself.

The Hurricanes proved they belonged all the way. Fletcher was a one-man force, hitting triple digits for the third time in four playoff games and turning a moribund offense into something much more.

His first touchdown run was a 57-yard burst through the right side that pulled Miami within 10-7 early in the third quarter.

But after forcing an Indiana punt deep into Miami territory, Hoosiers lineman Mikail Kamara slid past the 'Canes' protectors and blocked the kick. Isaiah Jones recovered to make it 17-7. Miami was in comeback mode the rest of the way.

It ended as a one-score game, and the 'Canes — the visiting team playing on their home field — moved into Indiana territory before Carson Beck's heave got picked off by Jamari Sharpe, a Miami native who made sure the only miracle in this season would be Indiana's.

How big a miracle?

This was a program that was so bad that coach Lee Corso stopped a game in 1976 to take a picture of

a scoreboard when it read "Indiana 7, Ohio State 6." Indiana lost 47-7.

There were hundreds of losses in front of half-empty stadiums between then and now.

But those days are over. The Hoosiers — yes, the Hoosiers — are national champions.

"I know nobody thought it was possible," Cignetti said. "It probably is one of the greatest sports stories of all time."

Trump threats and Bukele model on crime back Latin American progressives into corner

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Latin American progressive leaders are increasingly being backed into a corner on organized crime by pressure from the Trump administration and from their own voters, who point to the results from El Salvador president's war on gangs.

The hunger for a more heavy-handed response to endemic problems has been mounting for years in Latin America. El Salvador President Nayib Bukele's punitive tactics launched against his country's gangs in 2022, resulted in a sharp decline in homicides and soaring approval by Salvadorans.

Bukele not only touts the success at home, but has also looked to export his approach, winning fans among voters and conservative populists across the hemisphere, including U.S. President Donald Trump.

Over the past year, Trump has taken a more confrontational approach toward Latin America than any U.S. president in recent history. He's declared a slew of Latin American criminal groups foreign terrorist organizations, deposed former Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro for trial on drug-trafficking charges, threatened military action on an array of countries and pointed to Bukele as an example of what he wants to see for the rest of the region.

That ratcheted up pressure on more progressive administrations in Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala that had pitched more holistic solutions to endemic problems, like rooting out corruption and offering youth economic opportunities.

Guatemala President Bernardo Arévalo was the latest to feel that pressure when suspected gang members killed 10 police officers in apparent retaliation for the government denying privileges to imprisoned gang leaders. On Sunday evening, he declared a state of emergency curtailing some constitutional rights.

"The mix of growing U.S. pressure and the rightward reference of Bukele that gives an answer to security issues has ... forced governments to pragmatically balance their own principles with the growing requests for a crackdown," said Tiziano Breda, a senior analyst for Latin America and the Caribbean for the conflict analysis group, ACLED.

Guatemala state of emergency may limit rights

Things came to a head in an eruption of violence in Guatemala over the weekend when inmates in prisons notoriously controlled by gangs rioted and took guards hostage. When authorities retook one prison, suspected gang members in the capital slayed 10 police officers.

Arévalo said the emergency would stay in place for 30 days to combat the gangs, which he described as "violent criminals who commit acts of terrorism." The declaration can limit some constitutional rights like the freedoms of movement, gathering and protest, and was approved by Guatemala's congress Monday night.

"We will spare no resources to punish, to pursue, to find those responsible for these crimes," Arévalo said in a speech Monday at the funeral of the officers.

Arévalo's move echoed actions taken by his neighbor Bukele in 2022. El Salvador's state of emergency remains in place nearly four years later and more than 90,000 Salvadorans have been arrested under it, fueling accusations of human rights abuses. But the country recorded just 82 homicides in 2025, compared to 6,656 in 2015.

'Projecting toughness'

Arévalo is just the latest leader in Latin America to take a page out of Bukele's book, following in the footsteps of Ecuador, Honduras and Costa Rica, which just last week broke ground on a prison modeled

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after El Salvador's infamous prison for alleged gang members.

But efforts to piggyback on Bukele's political success have largely fallen flat even as the region experiences a rightward political shift. That is in part because many leaders are hesitant to go as far as Bukele, who has detained more than 1% of his country's population and is regularly criticized for what civil society groups describe as authoritarian tendencies.

When Arévalo was elected in 2023, the son of a former progressive president said bolstering legal institutions, including legislative reforms and rooting out corruption, was a solution to endemic gang violence, straying from competitors who called for a more Bukele-esque approach.

The Guatemalan president also proposed boosting security and building a maximum security prison, but the state of emergency marks an escalation. Arévalo said in a Jan. 15 interview with the Associated Press that combating drug trafficking and organized crime is a shared interest with the U.S.

"A lot of it is political theater and taking strong measures, but from there to actually being effective and actually delivering is the challenge," said Michael Shifter, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue. "Projecting toughness is a political winner."

Leaders face political pressure

Breda, the ACLED analyst, attributed the shift both to Trump's pressure and upcoming judicial elections in Guatemala, a decisive moment for Arévalo's anti-corruption agenda.

In Mexico, under mounting threats by Trump, President Claudia Sheinbaum has gone after cartels far more aggressively than her predecessor, who instead pushed a policy known as "hugs, not bullets," which sought to address poverty and the lack of opportunities as "root causes" of violence instead of directly confronting cartels.

In Colombia, President Gustavo Petro is facing a similar dilemma.

Petro, an ex-rebel, became Colombia's first leftist leader in 2022 on a promise that he would consolidate "total peace" and unravel decades of conflict in the Andean nation. Namely, he aimed to reach peace agreements with a range of illegal armed groups and provide opportunities to youth.

But as peace talks have stalled with guerrillas from the National Liberation Army, known as the ELN, and other armed groups, Petro has failed to follow through on his bold agenda. Frustration toward Colombia's left has simmered in much of the country in the months leading up to Colombia's presidential elections.

At the same time, Trump has threatened military intervention in Colombia and accused Petro of being a drug trafficker, most recently days after a U.S. military operation in Venezuela that ousted Maduro. Trump had accused Maduro too of being a drug trafficker and now he awaits trial in U.S. federal court.

Under pressure from Trump and fed up Colombians, Petro has turned to the same entity he once sharply criticized: the Colombian military, said Elizabeth Dickinson, a Colombia analyst at the International Crisis Group.

Last week, in a forceful pivot from his hopeful campaign discourse, the leftist threatened a joint military action with Venezuela if the ELN did not enter a peace process with his government.

"It takes a very long time to mobilize action on these holistic ideas, and even longer for those holistic ideas to yield results," Dickinson said. "What Bukele did, the reason it's attractive across the region is that it appears to provide a fast and simple, straightforward solution to a very complex problem."

Trump's Board of Peace has several invited leaders trying to figure out how it'll work

By SAMY MAGDY and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

Israel has been asked to join U.S. President Donald Trump's new Board of Peace that will supervise the next phase of the Gaza peace plan, an Israeli official said Monday, while France is holding off accepting for now.

It's not known whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accepted the offer, said the Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing a behind-the-scenes

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diplomatic matter.

Russia, Belarus, Slovenia, Thailand and the European Union's executive arm also were among the latest to receive invitations.

It's unclear how many leaders have been asked to join the board, and the large number of invitations being sent out, including to countries that don't get along, has raised questions about the board's mandate and decision-making processes. Also unknown is Israel's potential role on a board in charge of implementing the ceasefire agreement that directly involves them.

A Trump reference in the invitation letters saying that the body would "embark on a bold new approach to resolving global conflict" suggested it could act as a rival to the U.N. Security Council, the most powerful body of the global organization created in the wake of World War II.

France, though, does not plan to join the Board of Peace "at this stage" despite receiving an invitation, a French official close to President Emmanuel Macron said Monday. The issue is raising questions, particularly with regard to respect for the principles and structure of the United Nations, said the official, speaking anonymously in line with the French presidency's customary practices.

Told late Monday that Macron was unlikely to join, Trump said, "Well, nobody wants him because he's going to be out of office very soon."

"I'll put a 200% tariff on his wines and champagnes and he'll join," Trump told reporters in Florida before a flight back to Washington. "But he doesn't have to join."

Morocco's King Mohammed VI accepted a spot Monday, becoming the first Arab leader and at least the fifth world leader to join. Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Hungary and Argentina also have signed on.

Russian President Vladimir Putin received the invitation, and the Kremlin is now "studying the details" and will seek clarity of "all the nuances" in contacts with the U.S., said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Trump confirmed Monday night that Putin had been invited.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko is ready to take part, according to the country's Foreign Ministry. The Thai Foreign Ministry said it was invited and reviewing the details.

European Commission spokesperson Olof Gill said that Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the commission, would be speaking to other EU leaders about Gaza. Gill didn't say whether its invitation had been accepted, but that the commission wants "to contribute to a comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict."

Israel's objections to the board

Israeli far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Monday dismissed the Board of Peace as a raw deal for Israel and called for its dissolution.

"It is time to explain to the president that his plan is bad for the State of Israel and to cancel it," Smotrich said. "Gaza is ours, its future will affect our future more than anyone else's. We will take responsibility for what happens there, impose military administration, and complete the mission."

Smotrich, a hard-liner who opposed the Gaza ceasefire, even suggested that Israel renew a full-scale offensive on the territory to destroy Hamas if it doesn't abide by a "short ultimatum for real disarmament and exile."

Netanyahu said later on Monday that while there are differences with the U.S. about the composition of the advisory committee accompanying the next phase in Gaza, it would not harm his relationship with Trump.

"There will not be Turkish soldiers and Qatari soldiers in the (Gaza) Strip," he said.

Netanyahu's office earlier said the formation of an executive board that will work to carry out the vision of the Board of Peace wasn't coordinated with the Israeli government and "is contrary to its policy" without clarifying its objections. Turkey, a key regional rival, is among those invited to join the committee.

The final list

The U.S. is expected to announce its official list of members in the coming days, likely during the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Board members will oversee an executive committee that will be in charge of implementing the tough second phase of the Gaza peace plan that includes the deployment of an international security force, disarmament of Hamas and reconstruction of the war-devastated territory.

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A \$1 billion contribution secures permanent membership on the board, with the money going to rebuild Gaza, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity about the charter as he wasn't permitted to speak publicly about details of the board, which hasn't been made public. A three-year appointment has no contribution requirement.

According to the World Bank's Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (IRDNA) report released last year, it'll take \$53 billion to rebuild the strip.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Monday the United Kingdom is talking to allies about the Board of Peace.

Running Gaza

Egypt's top diplomat on Monday met with the leader of the newly appointed committee of Palestinian technocrats who will be running Gaza's day-to-day affairs during the second phase.

Foreign Minister Bader Abdelatty met with Ali Shaath, a Palestinian engineer and former official with the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, who was named last week as chief commissioner of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza.

Abdelatty expressed the Egyptian government's "complete support" of the committee and affirmed its role in running Gaza's daily affairs until the Palestinian Authority takes over the territory, said a statement from the Egyptian ministry.

Gaza humanitarian situation still fragile

The U.N. World Food Program on Monday said it has "significantly expanded" its operations across Gaza 100 days into the ceasefire, reaching more than a million people each month with hot meals and food parcels. But it warned the situation remains "extremely fragile."

It noted that malnutrition has been prevented for 200,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as children under 5.

Still, the most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in December indicated that 77% the population is facing crisis-level food insecurity.

Israeli forces move into Hebron

Israeli military and security forces launched what they called a large-scale counterterrorism operation in the West Bank city of Hebron to dismantle "terrorist infrastructure, eliminating illegal weapons possession and strengthening security."

The Israeli military said Monday the operation is expected to continue for several days. Israeli armored vehicles and soldiers patrolled city streets and put up barriers where operations were being conducted.

Hebron Mayor Khaled Dudin said Israeli forces targeted the area that's home to 80,000 people because it obstructs the construction of additional Israeli settlements.

Three Palestinians killed

Israeli forces on Monday killed three Palestinians, including a teenager, in southern Gaza, hospital authorities said.

Two men crossed into Israeli-controlled areas east of Khan Younis before being shot dead, while 17-year-old Hussein Tawfiq Abu Sabalah was shot and killed in the Muwasi area of Rafah, according to the Nasser hospital. It wasn't immediately clear whether the teen had crossed into or came close to the Israeli-controlled area.

More than 460 people were killed by Israeli fire and their bodies brought to hospitals since the ceasefire went into effect just over three months ago, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts.

Surrounded by billionaires in Davos, Trump plans to lay out how he'll make housing more affordable

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to use a key address Wednesday to try to convince Americans he can make housing more affordable, but he's picked a strange backdrop for the speech: a Swiss mountain town where ski chalets for vacations cost a cool \$4.4 million.

On the anniversary of his inauguration, Trump is flying to the World Economic Forum in Davos — an annual gathering of the global elite — where he may see many of the billionaires he has surrounded himself with during his first year back in the White House.

Trump had campaigned on lowering the cost of living, painting himself as a populist while serving fries at a McDonald's drive-thru. But in office, his public schedules suggest he's traded the Golden Arches for a gilded age, devoting more time to cavorting with the wealthy than talking directly to his working-class base.

"At the end of the day, it's the investors and billionaires at Davos who have his attention, not the families struggling to afford their bills," said Alex Jacquez, chief of policy and advocacy at Groundwork Collaborative, a liberal think tank.

Trump's attention in his first year back has been less on pocketbook issues and more fixed on foreign policy with conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and Venezuela. He is now bent on acquiring Greenland to the chagrin of European allies — a headline likely to dominate his time in Davos, overshadowing his housing ideas.

Trump noted the Europeans' resistance, telling reporters Monday night, "Let's put it this way: It's going to be a very interesting Davos."

The White House has tried to shift Trump's focus to affordability issues, a response to warning signs in the polls in a year where control of Congress is at stake in midterm elections.

About six in 10 U.S. adults now say that Trump has hurt the cost of living, according to the latest survey by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. It's an issue even among Republicans, who have said Trump's work on the economy hasn't lived up to their expectations. Only 16% say Trump has helped "a lot" on making things more affordable, down from 49% in April 2024, when an AP-NORC poll asked Americans the same question about his first term.

The president is banking on investment commitments from billionaires and foreign nations to create a jobs boom, even as his broad tariffs have crimped the labor market and spurred inflation. Trump supporters who attend his rallies — which the president resumed last month — are left to trust that Trump's business ties can eventually help them.

This strategy carries political risks. Voters are more interested in the economy they're experiencing in their own lives than in Trump's relationships with billionaires, said Frank Luntz, the Republican-affiliated pollster and strategist.

"If you're asking me, 'Are billionaires popular?' The answer is no — and they've haven't been for some time," said Luntz, who last year identified "affordability" as a defining issue for voters.

Wooing billionaires instead of the working class

Since Trump's first term in 2017, the wealthiest 0.1% of Americans have seen their wealth increase by \$11.98 trillion to \$23.46 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve.

The magnitude of those gains dwarfs what the bottom 50% of households — the majority of the country — received during the same period. Their net worth rose by \$2.94 trillion, roughly one-fourth what the top 0.1% got.

One of the biggest concerns for voters is the cost of housing. In recent weeks, Trump has floated proposals like reducing interest rates on home loans by buying \$200 billion in mortgage debt and banning large financial companies from buying homes. Yet those efforts would do little to address the core problem in the housing market: a multi-year shortfall in home construction and home prices that have generally risen faster than wages.

Trump regularly points to the investments made by the wealthy and powerful as signs of economic growth to come. To encourage billionaires to deliver, Trump in his first year pursued policies on artificial intelligence

and financial regulation that can benefit the wealthy, along with tax cuts, reduced IRS enforcement and fewer regulatory burdens for large-scale investments.

"Most billionaires don't share the interests of the working class," said Darrell West, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who has written about the "wealthification" of U.S. politics. "The ultrawealthy love tax cuts and deregulation, and those preferences make it difficult for government to provide the help that working class people want."

Trump has been trying to sell tax breaks on tips and overtime pay from what is known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill" as benefiting workers. But a Congressional Budget Office analysis indicated that middle-class families may only see savings of \$800 to \$1,200 a year, on average, while the top 10% of earners would receive \$13,600. A separate analysis by the Tax Policy Center, a think tank, said those earning above \$1 million would save on average \$66,510 this year.

The company Trump keeps

Trump regularly holds public events with the wealthy and powerful at the White House and beyond. He jetted to the Middle East and Asia with billionaires in tow as he had foreign countries announce investment commitments, promising that the money would flow down into factory jobs for the middle class.

At a September dinner with tech billionaires, Trump said it was an honor to be surrounded by the likes of Bill Gates, Tim Cook, Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg.

"There's never been anything like it," Trump said. "The most brilliant people are gathered around this table. This is definitely a high-IQ group and I'm very proud of them."

The White House said the previous Biden administration had alienated the business community to the detriment of the economy. "President Trump's pro-growth policies and friendly relationships with industry titans, on the other hand, are securing trillions in investments that are creating jobs and opportunities for everyday Americans," White House spokesman Kush Desai said.

Last month, Trump celebrated a charitable contribution of \$6.25 billion to the "Trump" investment accounts for children by Michael Dell. It was a chance to talk about economic inequality — but also another opportunity for Trump to showcase his relationship with billionaires.

Trump takes phone calls from billionaires and CEOs to chat about business, politics and interests such as his planned White House ballroom. He regularly peppers his speeches with shoutouts to Nvidia founder Jensen Huang, whose net worth was estimated by Forbes at roughly \$162 billion as of Sunday.

He's installed billionaires in his inner circle such as Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick (net worth: \$3.3 billion) and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff (net worth: \$2 billion). He put Elon Musk (net worth: \$780 billion) in charge of slashing government payrolls before a dramatic falling-out and, later, a public reconciliation.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt at a briefing last month portrayed Trump's own status as a billionaire as a positive for him with voters.

"I think it's one of the many reasons they reelected him back to this office, because he's a businessman who understands the economy and knows how to fix it," she said.

Death toll rises to 10 in gangsters' attacks on Guatemalan police as state of emergency is declared

By SONIA PÉREZ D. Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — The death toll from suspected gangsters' attacks on Guatemalan police rose to 10 on Monday, as Guatemalans saw heavier security in the streets and curtailed rights after Congress approved President Bernardo Arévalo's emergency declaration.

The violence started Saturday when inmates seized control of three prisons in apparently coordinated riots, taking 43 guards hostage. The gangs were demanding privileges for their members and leaders, according to authorities. Shortly after police liberated one prison Sunday morning, suspected gang members attacked police across the capital.

Officials said late Monday a tenth police officer died following the attacks.

Police honored the fallen officers in a ceremony Monday, where flag-draped coffins sat in the Interior

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Ministry.

"Today it pains me to give each one of the families this flag, symbol of the nation that will not forget the sacrifice and commitment of their police fallen in the fulfillment of their duty," Arévalo said Monday.

Outside the Interior Ministry, José Antonio Revolorio, 72, father of officer José Efraín Revolorio Barrera, 25, said, "I hope that the criminals who did this to my son will one day pay for it, that the law will go after them. And that this doesn't end here, because my son was an honest man, competent at his work."

Meanwhile, the government gazette published Monday Arévalo's declaration of a 30-day state of emergency, saying there were "coordinated actions by self-named maras or gangs against state security forces, including armed attacks against civilian authorities."

Among the rights that the declaration limits are freedom of action and demonstrations. It also allows police to arrest people without a judicial order if they are suspected gang members. Security forces could also prohibit the movement of vehicles in certain places or subject them to searches.

The unicameral Congress approved the state of emergency with minor changes Monday night on a vote of 149 in favor to 1 against, with 10 absent or on approved leave of absence. However, it had gone into effect Sunday.

Traffic in the capital Monday appeared lighter than usual.

"This situation is a shame. It affects people psychologically: they don't want to go out," said Óscar López, a 68-year-old radio technician who had a doctor's appointment. "I agree with the president imposing the state of emergency because it doesn't stop the violence, but it relaxes people."

Ileana Melgar, 64, said she was afraid of missing her appointment to renew her identification Monday. "But I was afraid to go out, I called my friend to go with me. You don't know if they will also stop (public) transportation and we can't get back home."

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala had instructed U.S. government personnel to shelter in place Sunday. That was lifted later in the day, but they were "advised to maintain a high level of caution when traveling."

On Monday, the embassy condemned the attacks on police. "These terrorists, as well as those who cooperate with them or are linked to them, have no place in our hemisphere. The security of the Guatemalan people and the stability of our hemisphere must prevail. We reaffirm our support for Guatemala's security forces to curb the violence."

In October, the Congress reformed laws to declare members of the Barrio 18 and Mara Salvatrucha gangs terrorists. The changes lengthened prison sentences for gang members who commit crimes.

The United States government also declared those gangs foreign terrorist organizations last year.

As a safety precaution, school was suspended nationwide Monday.

Researchers find Antarctic penguin breeding is heating up sooner, and that's a problem

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warming temperatures are forcing Antarctic penguins to breed earlier and that's a big problem for two of the cute tuxedoed species that face extinction by the end of the century, a study said.

With temperatures in the breeding ground increasing 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit (3 degrees Celsius) from 2012 to 2022, three different penguin species are beginning their reproductive process about two weeks earlier than the decade before, according to a study in Tuesday's Journal of Animal Ecology. And that sets up potential food problems for young chicks.

"Penguins are changing the time at which they're breeding at a record speed, faster than any other vertebrate," said lead author Ignacio Juárez Martínez, a biologist at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. "And this is important because the time at which you breed needs to coincide with the time with most resources in the environment and this is mostly food for your chicks so they have enough to grow."

For some perspective, scientists have studied changes in the life cycle of great tits, a European bird. They found a similar two-week change, but that took 75 years as opposed to just 10 years for these three

penguin species, said study co-author Fiona Suttle, another Oxford biologist.

Researchers used remote control cameras to photograph penguins breeding in dozens of colonies from 2011 to 2021. They say it was the fastest shift in timing of life cycles for any backboned animals that they have seen. The three species are all brush-tailed, so named because their tails drag on the ice: the cartoon-eye Adelie, the black-striped chinstrap and the fast-swimming gentoo.

Warming creates penguin winners, losers

Suttle said climate change is creating winners and losers among these three penguin species and it happens at a time in the penguin life cycle where food and the competition for it are critical in survival.

The Adelie and chinstrap penguins are specialists, eating mainly krill. The gentoo have a more varied diet. They used to breed at different times, so there were no overlaps and no competition. But the gentoos' breeding has moved earlier faster than the other two species and now there's overlap. That's a problem because gentoos, which don't migrate as far as the other two species, are more aggressive in finding food and establishing nesting areas, Martinez and Suttle said.

Suttle said she has gone back in October and November to the same colony areas where she used to see Adelies in previous years only to find their nests replaced by gentoos. And the data backs up the changes her eyes saw, she said.

"Chinstraps are declining globally," Martinez said. "Models show that they might get extinct before the end of the century at this rate. Adelies are doing very poorly in the Antarctic Peninsula and it's very likely that they go extinct from the Antarctic Peninsula before the end of the century."

Early bird dining causes problems

Martinez theorized that the warming western Antarctic — the second-fastest heating place on Earth behind only the Arctic North Atlantic — means less sea ice. Less sea ice means more spores coming out earlier in the Antarctic spring and then "you have this incredible bloom of phytoplankton," which is the basis of the food chain that eventually leads to penguins, he said. And it's happening earlier each year.

Not only do the chinstraps and Adelies have more competition for food from gentoos because of the warming and changes in plankton and krill, but the changes have brought more commercial fishing that comes earlier and that further shortens the supply for the penguins, Suttle said.

This shift in breeding timing "is an interesting signal of change and now it's important to continuing observing these penguin populations to see if these changes have negative impacts on their populations," said Michelle LaRue, a professor of Antarctic marine science at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She was not part of the Oxford study.

People's penguin love helps science

With millions of photos — taken every hour by 77 cameras for 10 years — scientists enlisted everyday people to help tag breeding activity using the Penguin Watch website.

"We've had over 9 million of our images annotated via Penguin Watch," Suttle said. "A lot of that does come down to the fact that people just love penguins so much. They're very cute. They're on all the Christmas cards. People say, 'Oh, they look like little waiters in tuxedos.'"

"The Adelies, I think their personality goes along with it as well," Suttle said, saying there's "perhaps a kind of cheekiness about them — and this very cartoon-like eye that does look like it's just been drawn on."

The US political climate spurs efforts to reclaim the MLK holiday

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

As communities across the country on Monday hosted parades, panels and service projects for the 40th federal observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the political climate for some is more fraught with tensions than festive with reflection on the slain Black American civil rights icon's legacy.

In the year since Donald Trump's second inauguration fell on King Day, the Republican president has adopted a scorched earth stance against diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and targeted mostly Black-led cities for federal law enforcement operations, among other policies that many King admirers have criticized.

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One year ago, Trump's executive orders "Ending Illegal Discrimination And Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity" and "Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing" accelerated a rollback of civil rights and racial justice initiatives in federal agencies, corporations and universities. Last month, the National Park Service announced it will no longer offer free admission to parks on King Day and Juneteenth, but instead on Flag Day and Trump's birthday.

A.R. Bernard, founder, pastor and CEO of the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, told an audience gathered at King's home church in Atlanta Sunday that the Trump administration is attempting to rewrite history.

"We are living in a moment where America is being tempted to forget the painful truth of its Black history. Slavery being renamed as labor, segregation reduced to a footnote, racial terror explained away as exaggeration," Bernard said, speaking at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. "This is irresponsible, historical revisionism."

Urgent calls to unite against injustice were interspersed with energetic gospel at Ebenezer, where King preached. A sense that civil and human rights are at stake infused the comments by many speakers there Monday.

U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Georgia Democrat and Ebenezer's senior pastor, invoked a story about King fighting for the Voting Rights Act after Congress passed the Civil Rights Act. He urged the crowd to keep pushing against Trump's policies, sweeping immigration enforcement and what he described as attempts from the "Trump-Vance regime" to sow division.

"They are trying to weaponize despair and convince us that we are at war with one another," Warnock said.

The fatal shooting this month of an unarmed Minneapolis woman in her car by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents sent there to target the city's Somali immigrant population, as well as Trump recently decrying civil rights as discrimination against white people, have only intensified fears of a regression from the social progress King and many others advocated for.

Still, the concerns did not chill many King holiday events planned this year. Some conservative admirers of King say the holiday should be a reminder of the civil rights icon's plea that all people be judged by their character and not their skin color. Some Black advocacy groups, however, vowed a day of resistance and rallies nationwide.

'We've always strived to be a more perfect union'

In a recent interview with The New York Times, Trump said he felt the Civil Rights Movement and the reforms it helped usher in were harmful to white people, who "were very badly treated." Politicians and advocates say Trump's comments are what are harmful, because they dismiss the hard work of King and others that helped not just Black Americans but other groups, including women and the LGBTQ+ community.

"I think the Civil Rights Movement was one of the things that made our country so unique, that we haven't always been perfect, but we've always strived to be this more perfect union, and that's what I think the Civil Rights Movement represents," Gov. Wes Moore, Maryland's first Black governor and only the nation's third elected Black governor, said this week in an interview with The Associated Press.

Maya Wiley, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, one of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights coalitions, said the Trump administration's priorities make clear it is actively trying to erase the movement.

"From health care access and affordable housing to good paying jobs and union representation," Wiley said, "things Dr. King made part of his clarion call for a beloved community are still at stake and is even more so because (the administration) has dismantled the very terms of government and the norms of our culture."

The White House did not respond to a request for comment. Trump did issue a proclamation late Monday, writing, "On this day, I encourage all Americans to recommit themselves to Dr. King's dream by engaging in acts of service to others, to their community, and to our Nation."

In Washington Monday, hundreds of people marched along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, braving cold

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weather to honor the civil rights leader. The parade began decades ago as part of the effort to establish a national holiday in King's honor.

Sam Ford, a retired broadcaster and member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade Committee, helped bring the parade back in 2012.

"We got to continue to do this because not just of Dr. King, but of what he stood for," Ford said. "The struggle continues."

Parade participant Harold Hunter echoed that sentiment.

"It's not just a white thing or Black thing. This is a people thing," he said.

The conservative Heritage Foundation think tank encouraged the holiday's focus to stay solely on King himself. Brenda Hafera, a foundation research fellow, urged people to visit the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta or reread his "I have a dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington nearly 63 years ago.

Using the holiday as a platform to rally and speak about "anti-racism" and "critical race theory" actually rejects King's ambition for the country, Hafera argued.

"I think efforts should be conducted in the spirit of what Martin Luther King actually believed and what he preached. And his vision was a colorblind society, right," Hafera said. "He says very famously in his speech, don't judge by the color of your skin, but the content of your character."

Groups call for holiday of reclamation, education and rallying

The NAACP, the nation's oldest civil right organization, which had many MLK Day events planned for Monday, asserted that the heightened fears among communities of color and in immigrant communities mean King Day observances must take a different tone. People will have to put their safety first, even if their government isn't, said Wisdom Cole, NAACP senior national director of advocacy.

"As folks are using their constitutional right to protest and to speak out and stand up for what they believe in, we are being faced with violence. We are faced with increased police and state violence inflicted by the government," Cole said.

The Movement for Black Lives, a coalition of organizations affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement, had planned its events under the banner "Reclaim MLK Day of Action." Organizers planned demonstrations in Atlanta; Chicago; and Oakland, California, among other cities, over the weekend and Monday.

"This year it is more important than ever to reclaim MLK's radical legacy, letting his wisdom and fierce commitment to freedom move us into the action necessary to take care of one another, fight back, and free ourselves from this fascist regime," Devonte Jackson, a national organizing director for the coalition, said in a statement.

Indiana school cancels historic MLK Day event

For the first time in its 60-year history, Indiana University in Indianapolis canceled its annual Martin Luther King dinner. Over the years, the event drew notable guest speakers including Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, and activist Angela Davis.

The reasoning was "budget constraints," according to a social media post by the school's Black Student Union. However, the group said it was worried this was "connected to broader political pressures." A few students responded by organizing smaller community dinners or "eat-ins" to fill the void, WTHR-TV in Indianapolis reported.

Meanwhile, the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Westbrook, Maine, canceled a MLK Day service due to "unforeseen circumstances," according to the parish website. But a member of the church's "social justice and peace committee" told NewsCenterMaine.com that the pastor was concerned about people's safety amid rumors of ICE agents being in the area.

Overall, there have been few reports of King Day events being majorly scaled down or canceled altogether.

In Memphis, Tennessee, the National Civil Rights Museum was going about its annual King Day celebration as normal. The museum is located on the site of the former Lorraine Motel, where King was shot on April 4, 1968. The museum offered free admission on the holiday, an annual tradition.

"This milestone year is not only about looking back at what Dr. King stood for, but also recognizing the people who continue to make his ideals real today," museum President Russell Wigginton said.

Hackers disrupt Iran state TV to support exiled crown prince as deaths from crackdown exceed 4,000

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Hackers disrupted Iranian state television satellite transmissions to air footage supporting the country's exiled crown prince and calling on security forces to not "point your weapons at the people," online video showed early Monday, the latest disruption to follow nationwide protests in the country.

The hacking comes as the death toll in a crackdown by authorities that smothered the demonstrations reached at least 4,029 people, activists said. They fear the number will grow far higher as information leaks out of a country still gripped by the government's decision to shut down the internet. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had his invitation to speak at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, withdrawn over the killings.

Meanwhile, tensions remain high between the United States and Iran over the crackdown after President Donald Trump drew two red lines for the Islamic Republic — the killing of peaceful protesters and Tehran conducting mass executions in the wake of the demonstrations. A U.S. aircraft carrier, which days earlier had been in the South China Sea, passed Singapore overnight to enter the Strait of Malacca — putting it on a route that could bring it to the Middle East.

State TV disrupted

The footage aired Sunday night across multiple channels broadcast by satellite from Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, the country's state broadcaster. The video aired two clips of exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi, then included footage of security forces and others in what appeared to be Iranian police uniforms. It claimed without offering evidence others had "laid down their weapons and swore an oath of allegiance to the people."

"This is a message to the army and security forces," one graphic read. "Don't point your weapons at the people. Join the nation for the freedom of Iran."

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, quoted a statement from the state broadcaster acknowledging that the signal in "some areas of the country was momentarily disrupted by an unknown source." It did not discuss what had been aired.

A statement from Pahlavi's office acknowledged the disruption that showed the crown prince. It did not respond to questions from The Associated Press about the hack. How much support Pahlavi has inside of Iran remains an open question, though there have been pro-shah cries at the demonstrations and at night since the crackdown.

Sunday's hack isn't the first to see Iranian airwaves disrupted. In 1986, The Washington Post reported that the CIA supplied the prince's allies "a miniaturized television transmitter for an 11-minute clandestine broadcast" to Iran by Pahlavi that pirated the signal of two stations in the Islamic Republic.

In 2022, multiple channels aired footage showing leaders from the exiled opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq and a graphic calling for the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

US aircraft carrier possibly on path to Mideast

As tensions remain high between Tehran and Washington, ship-tracking data analyzed by the AP on Monday showed the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, as well as other American military vessels, in the Strait of Malacca after passing Singapore on a route that could take them to the Middle East.

The Lincoln had been in the South China Sea with its strike group as a deterrent to China over tensions with Taiwan. Tracking data showed that the USS Frank E. Petersen Jr., the USS Michael Murphy and the USS Spruance, all Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers, were traveling with the Lincoln through the strait.

Multiple U.S. media reports quoting anonymous officials have said the Lincoln, which has its homeport in San Diego, was on its way to the Mideast. It likely would still need several days of travel before its aircraft would be in range of the region. The Mideast has been without an aircraft carrier group or an amphibious ready group, likely complicating any discussion of a military operation targeting Iran given Gulf Arab

states' broad opposition to such an attack.

Meanwhile, the World Economic Forum withdrew its invitation for Araghchi to speak at Davos.

"Although he was invited last fall, the tragic loss of lives of civilians in Iran over the past few weeks means that it is not right for the Iranian government to be represented at Davos this year," the forum said.

Araghchi denounced the decision, saying the forum "cancelled my appearance in Davos on the basis of lies and political pressure from Israel and its U.S.-based proxies and apologists."

The Munich Security Conference separately withdrew invitation for Iranian government officials over the crackdown.

Death toll from crackdown rises

The death toll exceeds that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades, and recalls the chaos surrounding the 1979 revolution. The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency put the death toll Tuesday to at least 4,029, warning it likely would go higher.

It said of the dead, 3,786 were demonstrators, 180 were security forces, 28 were children and 35 were people not demonstrating.

The agency has been accurate throughout the years of demonstrations and unrest in Iran, relying on a network of activists inside the country that confirms all reported fatalities. The AP has been unable to independently confirm the toll.

Iranian officials have not given a clear death toll, although on Saturday, Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand" people dead and blamed the United States for the deaths. It was the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began Dec. 28 over Iran's ailing economy.

The agency also reported over 26,000 people had been arrested. Comments from officials have led to fears of some of those detained being put to death in Iran, one of the world's top executioners.

"While the killers and seditious terrorists will be punished, Islamic mercy and leniency will be applied to those who were deceived and did not have (effective) roles in the terrorist event," a statement Monday from Iran's president, its judiciary chief and parliament speaker said.

100 vehicles pile up in Michigan crash as snowstorm moves across the country

HUDSONVILLE, Mich. (AP) — More than 100 vehicles smashed into each other or slid off an interstate in Michigan on Monday as snow fueled by the Great Lakes blanketed the state.

The massive pileup prompted the Michigan State Police to close both directions of Interstate 196 Monday morning just southwest of Grand Rapids while officials worked to remove all the vehicles, including more than 30 semitrailer trucks. The State Police said there were numerous injuries, but no deaths had been reported.

Pedro Mata Jr. said he could barely see the cars in front of him as the snow blew across the road while driving 20-25 mph (32-40 kph) before the crash. He was able to stop his pickup safely, but then decided to pull his truck off the road into the median to avoid being hit from behind.

"It was a little scary just listening to everything, the bangs and booms behind you. I saw what was in front of me. I couldn't see what was behind me exactly," Mata said.

The crash is just the latest impact of the major winter storm moving across the country. The National Weather Service issued warnings about either extremely cold temperatures or the potential for winter storms across several states starting in northern Minnesota and stretching south and east into Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

A day earlier, snow fell as far south as the Florida Panhandle and made it harder for football players to hang onto the ball during playoff games in Massachusetts and Chicago. Forecasters warned Monday that freezing temperatures are possible overnight into Tuesday across much of north-central Florida and southeast Georgia.

The Ottawa County Sheriff's office in Michigan said multiple crashes and jack-knifed semis were reported

along with numerous cars that slid off the road. Stranded motorists were being bused to Hudsonville High School, where they could call for help or arrange a ride.

Officials expected the road to be closed for several hours during the cleanup.

One of the companies helping remove the stranded cars, Grand Valley Towing, sent more than a dozen of its trucks to the scene of the chain-reaction crash. Several towing companies responded in the brutally cold weather.

"We're trying to get as many vehicles out of there as quickly as possible, so we can get the road opened back up," manager Jeff Westveld said.

Bills fire coach Sean McDermott after 9 seasons of falling short of reaching the Super Bowl

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Sean McDermott arrived in Buffalo in 2017, envisioning the day of looking out his office window and seeing a throng of fans celebrating a Super Bowl victory.

That possibility ended on Monday, when McDermott was abruptly fired by team owner Terry Pegula following a nine-year tenure in which the coach transformed the Bills into perennial contenders but fell short of reaching the Super Bowl.

The move came two days after a heart-wrenching 33-30 overtime loss at Denver in the divisional round of the playoffs.

"Sean helped change the mindset of this organization and was instrumental in the Bills becoming a perennial playoff team," Pegula said. "But I feel we are in need of a new structure within our leadership to give this organization the best opportunity to take our team to the next level."

The new structure features general manager Brandon Beane being promoted to president of football operations. Beane will oversee his first coaching search since arriving in Buffalo five months after McDermott, who replaced Rex Ryan following two seasons in Buffalo.

Beane is expected to target an offensive-minded coach to spur an offense in which quarterback Josh Allen was too often asked to carry the burden.

McDermott issued a statement through the NFL Network, in which he thanked the Pegula family, the Bills organization and fans, and referred to Buffalo "as a special place."

"For nearly a decade I have had the opportunity to wake up every morning as the head coach of the Buffalo Bills, which has truly been a gift," McDermott said. "God gave me and my family an incredible opportunity, one that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Yet we know that HE has a plan. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your head coach."

Playoff shortcomings

Despite a seven-year playoff run and Allen setting many franchise passing and scoring records and earning AP NFL MVP honors last season, the Bills advanced no further than the AFC championship game, which they lost both times to Kansas City in the 2020 and '24 seasons.

Buffalo became the league's first team to win a playoff round in six consecutive years but not reach the Super Bowl.

McDermott was aware of the shortcomings and addressed them in August.

"We take a lot of pride in what we've done here. And nobody has more internal drive and internal expectations than I do or we do. And very confident in who we are," McDermott said. "There's one thing that remains. We know what that is. But you can't get there tomorrow."

Tomorrow never came.

The Bills went 12-5 in the regular season and had their five-year run atop the AFC East end, finishing second behind the New England Patriots.

Coaching carousel

McDermott's firing is the latest in what's become a seismic shift in the NFL's coaching ranks this offseason. He became the 10th head coach to lose or step down from his job, joining a respected group that

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includes Baltimore's John Harbaugh and Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin. Harbaugh has since been hired by the New York Giants.

The 51-year-old McDermott finished with a 98-50 regular-season record and was 8-8 in eight postseason appearances, ranking second on the team in wins behind Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy (112-70, 11-8). McDermott's eight playoff wins are the most by any NFL coach to not include a Super Bowl berth.

To his credit, in McDermott's first season, Buffalo sneaked into the postseason on the final day to end a 17-year drought that stood as the longest active streak in North America's four major professional leagues.

Allen arrived a year later as a first-round draft pick to raise the franchise's national profile to among one of the NFL's elite.

There is increasing urgency in Buffalo to win with Allen turning 30 in May, and with the team now moving into a newly built \$2.1 billion stadium across the street from its old home.

Allen was nearly inconsolable following the loss at Denver. Choking up several times and wiping tears from his eyes, Allen stood at the podium and took the blame following the loss in which he threw two interceptions and lost two fumbles.

"I feel like I let my teammates down tonight," Allen said. "It's been a long season. I hate how it ended, and that's going to stick with me for a long time."

McDermott rallied to Allen's defense. He then let his emotions show in questioning the officials' ruling on Allen's second interception, which ended Buffalo's lone possession in overtime.

Receiver Brandin Cooks came down with Allen's deep pass, but had it wrestled out of his hands by Ja'Quan McMillian. Officials ruled McMillian had the ball before Cooks was down by contact, and Denver was awarded the turnover at its 20.

"I'm standing up for Buffalo, damn it. I'm standing up for us," McDermott said, noting he was particularly dismayed by how little time the league took to review the play.

'13 seconds'

Each of Buffalo's past three playoff losses have been decided by three points. And three of McDermott's playoff losses ended in overtime.

That includes a 42-36 loss to Kansas City in the 2021 divisional round that's become dubbed "13 seconds" — the amount of time Patrick Mahomes had to complete two passes for 44 yards and set up Harrison Butker's tying, 49-yard field goal on the final play of regulation.

McDermott, otherwise, led a team that won 10 or more regular-season games over seven straight seasons.

He also was credited with guiding the Bills through some difficult moments. The worst came in January 2023 when safety Damar Hamlin nearly died after collapsing and needing to be resuscitated on the field during a game at Cincinnati.

Hamlin was one of several current and former players to express their support for McDermott following his firing. He posted a note on X referring to McDermott as "A True Leader of Men."

Defensive tackle Jordan Phillips described the firing as "stupid honestly sickening." Former center Eric Wood posted a note that read: "Sean is a great man and will be a great hire for another organization, and I hate we couldn't get over the hump with him as HC in Buffalo."

McDermott moved up the NFL ranks as a defensive specialist, and was hired by Buffalo following six seasons as Carolina's coordinator, and where Beane worked in a front office role.

Coach/GM rift?

Together, McDermott and Beane provided the Bills with stability before fractures began showing this past season.

Without mentioning Beane specifically, McDermott seemed to question several personnel decisions by referencing Buffalo's depleted secondary and a receiver group that lacked a downfield threat.

Allen's 3,668 yards and 25 touchdowns passing were his fewest since 2019.

The defense struggled in part because of a transition to youth and a rash of injuries. Though Buffalo's defense finished ranked seventh in the NFL this season, the unit had difficulty stopping the run.

It's in the playoffs where the defense was criticized for collapsing too often. Buffalo allowed 30 or more points in four of its playoff losses.

Christian leaders urge protecting worshippers' rights after protesters interrupt service

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

Several faith leaders called urgently for protecting the rights of worshippers while also expressing compassion for migrants after anti-immigration enforcement protesters disrupted a service at a Southern Baptist church in Minnesota.

About three dozen protesters entered the Cities Church in St. Paul during Sunday service, some walking right up to the pulpit, others loudly chanting "ICE out" and "Renee Good," referring to a woman who was fatally shot on Jan. 7 by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Minneapolis.

One of the church's pastors, David Easterwood, leads the local ICE field office, and one of the leaders of the protest and prominent local activist Nekima Levy Armstrong said she's also an ordained pastor.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention called what happened "an unacceptable trauma," saying the service was "forced to end prematurely" as protesters shouted "insults and accusations at youth, children, and families."

"I believe we must be resolute in two areas: encouraging our churches to provide compassionate pastoral care to these (migrant) families and standing firm for the sanctity of our houses of worship," Trey Turner, who leads the convention, told The Associated Press on Monday. Cities Church belongs to the convention.

The U.S. Department of Justice said it has opened a civil rights investigation.

The recent surge in operations in Minnesota has pitted more than 2,000 federal immigration officers against community activists and protesters. The Trump administration and Minnesota officials have traded blame for the heightened tensions.

"No cause — political or otherwise — justifies the desecration of a sacred space or the intimidation and trauma inflicted on families gathered peacefully in the house of God," Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, said in a statement. "What occurred was not protest; it was lawless harassment."

Jonathan Parnell, the pastor who led the disrupted service, is a missionary with Ezell's group and serves dozens of Southern Baptist churches in the area. Cities Church, housed in a Gothic-style, century-old stone building next to a college campus on one of the Twin Cities' landmark boulevards, has not returned AP requests for comment.

Christians disagree on immigration enforcement

Christians in the United States are divided on the moral and legal dilemmas raised by immigration, including the presence of an estimated 11 million people who are in the country illegally and the spike in illegal border crossings and asylum requests during the Biden administration.

Opinions differ between and within denominations on whether Christians must prioritize care for strangers and neighbors or the immigration enforcement push in the name of security. White evangelicals tend to support strong enforcement, while Catholic leaders have spoken in favor of migrant rights.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. and has a conservative evangelical theology.

Miles Mullin, the vice-president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, said faith leaders can and often have led protests on social issues, but those should never prevent others from worshipping.

"This is something that just shouldn't happen in America," Mullin said. "For Baptists, our worship services are sacred."

On Facebook, Levy Armstrong wrote about Sunday's protest in religious terms: "It's time for judgment to begin and it will begin in the House of God!!!"

But Albert Mohler, the president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, called the protesters' tactics unjustifiable.

"For Christians, the precedent of invading a congregation at worship should be unthinkable," Mohler said in an interview. "I think the political left is crossing a threshold."

Brian Kaylor, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-affiliated minister and leader of the Christian media orga-

nization Word&Way, called having an ICE official serve as a pastor "a serious moral failure."

But Kaylor, who has spoken out against the Trump administration's treatment of immigrants, said he was "very torn" by the protesters' action inside a church.

"It would be very alarming if we come to see this become a widespread tactic across the political spectrum," he said.

Federal protections for houses of worship

Many faith leaders were dismayed when the government announced last January that federal immigration agencies can make arrests in churches, schools and hospitals, ending the protection of people in sensitive spaces.

No immigration raids during church services have been reported, but some churches have posted notices on their doors saying no federal immigration officers are allowed inside. Others have reported a drop in attendance, particularly during enforcement surges.

Following the protest in Cities Church, Harmeet Dhillon, the assistant attorney general for civil rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, said her office is investigating "potential violations of the federal FACE Act," calling the protest "un-American and outrageous."

The 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act prohibits interference or intimidation of "any person by force, threat of force, or physical obstruction exercising or seeking to exercise the First Amendment right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship."

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt warned in a social media post that "President Trump will not tolerate the intimidation and harassment of Christians in their sacred places of worship."

Several pastors called for better security in churches.

The Rev. Joe Rigney, one of the founding pastors at Cities Church in 2015 who served there until 2023, said safety would have been his first concern had a group disrupted service, especially since the fatal shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic school Mass last summer.

In a statement to the AP, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's spokesperson said that while people have a right to speak out, the governor doesn't support interrupting a place of worship.

Legal developments and protests in the Twin Cities

Also Monday, the Department of Justice notified a federal appeals court that it will appeal a ruling that federal officers in the Minneapolis area cannot detain or tear gas peaceful protesters who aren't obstructing authorities. The case was filed in December on behalf of six Minnesota activists who are among thousands of people observing the activities of federal immigration officers in the area.

Yet more protesters braved temperatures that dipped below zero (minus 8 Celsius) Monday to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in St. Paul. Some waved signs from vehicles bearing messages including, "What did you do while your neighbors were being kidnapped?" and "We love our Somali neighbors."

Dozens of protesters also staged a brief sit-in at a Target store in St. Paul demanding that the retailer bar entry to federal agents. Target, headquartered in Minneapolis, has been criticized by activists after a video showed federal agents detaining two employees at a store in Richfield, Minnesota.

Judge refuses to block new DHS policy limiting Congress members' access to ICE facilities

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge refused Monday to temporarily block the Trump administration from enforcing a new policy requiring a week's notice before members of Congress can visit immigration detention facilities.

U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb in Washington, D.C., concluded that the Department of Homeland Security didn't violate an earlier court order when it reimposed a seven-day notice requirement for congressional oversight visits to Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities.

Cobb stressed that she wasn't ruling on whether the new policy passes legal muster. Rather, she said, plaintiffs' attorneys representing several Democratic members of Congress used the wrong "procedural

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vehicle" to challenge it. The judge also concluded that the Jan. 8 policy is a new agency action that isn't subject to her prior order in the plaintiffs' favor.

Plaintiffs' lawyers asked Cobb to intervene after three Democratic members of Congress from Minnesota were blocked from visiting an ICE facility near Minneapolis earlier this month — three days after an ICE officer shot and killed U.S. citizen Renee Good in Minneapolis.

Last month, Cobb temporarily blocked an administration oversight visit policy. She ruled Dec. 17 that it is likely illegal for ICE to demand a week's notice from members of Congress seeking to visit and observe conditions in ICE facilities.

A day after Good's death, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem secretly signed a new memorandum reinstating another seven-day notice requirement. Plaintiffs' lawyers from the Democracy Forward legal advocacy group said DHS didn't disclose the latest policy until after U.S. Reps. Ilhan Omar, Kelly Morrison and Angie Craig initially were turned away from an ICE facility in the Minneapolis federal building.

On Monday, Cobb ruled that the new policy is similar but different than the one announced in June 2025. "The Court emphasizes that it denies Plaintiffs' motion only because it is not the proper avenue to challenge Defendants' January 8, 2026 memorandum and the policy stated therein, rather than based on any kind of finding that the policy is lawful," she wrote.

Democracy Forward spokeswoman Melissa Schwartz said they were reviewing the judge's latest order. "We will continue to use every legal tool available to stop the administration's efforts to hide from congressional oversight," she said in a statement.

Twelve other Democratic members of Congress sued in Washington to challenge ICE's amended visitor policies after they were denied entry to detention facilities. Their lawsuit accused Republican President Donald Trump's administration of obstructing congressional oversight of the centers during its nationwide surge in immigration enforcement operations.

A law bars DHS from using appropriated general funds to prevent members of Congress from entering DHS facilities for oversight purposes. Plaintiffs' attorneys from the Democracy Forward Foundation said the administration hasn't shown that none of those funds are being used to implement the latest notice policy.

"Appropriations are not a game. They are a law," plaintiffs' attorney Christine Coogle said during a hearing Wednesday.

Justice Department attorney Amber Richer said the Jan. 8 policy signed by Noem is distinct from the policies that Cobb suspended last month.

"This is really a challenge to a new policy," Richer said.

Plaintiffs' attorneys said the matter is urgent because members of Congress are negotiating funding for DHS and ICE for the next fiscal year with DHS's annual appropriations due to expire Jan. 30.

"This is a critical moment for oversight, and members of Congress must be able to conduct oversight at ICE detention facilities, without notice, to obtain urgent and essential information for ongoing funding negotiations," the lawyers wrote.

Government attorneys have said it's merely speculative for the legislators to be concerned that conditions in ICE facilities change over the course of a week. But the judge rejected those arguments last month.

"The changing conditions within ICE facilities means that it is likely impossible for a Member of Congress to reconstruct the conditions at a facility on the day that they initially sought to enter," wrote Cobb, who was nominated to the bench by Democratic President Joe Biden.

Karachi mall fire death toll rises to 23 as rescuers search for dozens missing

By MUHAMMAD FAROOQ and ADIL JAWAD Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The death toll from a massive fire at a shopping plaza in Karachi rose to 23 on Monday as rescuers recovered more bodies from the badly damaged building, police said. Dozens remain missing.

Firefighters extinguished the blaze at the multistory plaza late Sunday, nearly 24 hours after it erupted, allowing rescue teams to enter the building. Authorities fear the death toll will rise as they look for 46 more people, according to city police chief Asad Raza.

Raza told The Associated Press on Monday that only six bodies have been identified so far. The rest will need DNA testing as the “bodies were beyond recognition,” police surgeon, Dr. Summaiya Syed, said. She said that doctors were collecting DNA samples from the relatives of the missing individuals.

According to local media, at least 26 people died in the blaze.

Earlier, Sindh provincial Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah told a news conference in Karachi that rescue teams were searching for survivors and the dead. He said those killed in the fire included a firefighter and that the government would provide 10 million rupees (\$36,000) in compensation to the family of each person killed.

As night fell, rescuers continued to struggle to reach parts of the severely damaged building where some people were believed to be trapped after losing contact with their families the previous day. City Mayor Murtaza Wahab said the rescue operation would continue until all missing persons had been accounted for.

The fire spread quickly through shops storing cosmetics, garments and plastic goods, said Dr. Abid Jalal Sheikh, Karachi’s chief rescue officer.

Some of the relatives of the missing waited outside the burned-out plaza Monday, hoping for news.

Qaiser Ali said his wife, daughter-in-law and sister went shopping for an upcoming wedding event on Saturday and were inside the building when the fire broke out. He said he had spoken to all three by mobile phone on Sunday, but then they went silent.

“I don’t know what has happened to them or whether they are alive,” Ali told the AP. “We are praying that all those missing come out safely,” he said, as he continued trying to contact his missing family members.

Another man, Saifur Rehman, said he was inside the building when the fire broke. He said he managed to escape, but his brother Mohammad Abrar, who owns a shop in the plaza, was left behind. Rehman said he feared for his brother’s safety.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Police said an investigation was underway.

Karachi, the capital of Sindh province, has a history of deadly fires, often blamed on poor safety standards and illegal construction. In November 2023, a fire at a shopping mall in the city killed 10 people and injured 22 others.

A massive fire at a garment factory in Karachi in 2012 killed 260 people.

AP Source: Fed Chair Powell to attend Supreme Court argument on Cook case

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell will attend the Supreme Court’s oral argument Wednesday in a case involving the attempted firing of Fed governor Lisa Cook, an unusual show of support by the central bank chair.

The high court is considering whether President Donald Trump can fire Cook, as he said he would do in late August, in an unprecedented attempt to remove one of the seven members of the Fed’s governing board. Powell plans to attend the high court’s Wednesday session, according to a person familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It’s a much more public show of support than the Fed chair has previously shown Cook. But it follows Powell’s announcement last week that the Trump administration has sent subpoenas to the Fed, threaten-

ing an unprecedented criminal indictment of the Fed Chair. Powell — appointed to the position by Trump in 2018 — appears to be casting off last year's more subdued reponse to Trump's repeated attacks on the central bank in favor of a more public confrontation.

Powell issued a video statement Jan. 11 condemning the subpoenas as "pretexts" for Trump's efforts to force him to sharply cut the Fed's key interest rate. Powell oversaw three rate cuts late last year, lowering the rate to about 3.6%, but Trump has argued it should be as low as 1%, a position few economists support.

The Trump administration has accused Cook of mortgage fraud, an allegation that Cook has denied. No charges have been made against Cook. She sued to keep her job, and the Supreme Court Oct. 1 issued a brief order allowing her to stay on the board while they consider her case.

If Trump succeeds in removing Cook, he could appoint another person to fill her slot, which would give his appointees a majority on the Fed's board and greater influence over the central bank's decisions on interest rates and bank regulation.

Pro-Greenland protesters mock Trump's MAGA slogan with 'Make America Go Away' caps

By JAMES BROOKS Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Red baseball caps spoofing Donald Trump's iconic MAGA hats have become a symbol of Danish and Greenlandic defiance against the U.S. president's threat to seize the frozen territory.

The caps reading "Make America Go Away" — parodying Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan — have gained popularity along with several variants on social media and at public protests, including a weekend demonstration held in freezing weather in the Danish capital.

European governments are rallying behind Denmark, citing the need to defend Arctic regions and warning that threats against Greenland undermine Western security.

Protesters, however, are less diplomatic.

"I want to show my support to Greenland and also show that I don't like the president of the United States," said 76-year-old Copenhagen resident Lars Hermansen, who wore one of the red caps at a protest Saturday.

The mock hats were created by Copenhagen vintage clothing store owner Jesper Rabe Tonnesen. Early batches flopped last year — until the Trump administration recently escalated its rhetoric over Greenland. Now they are popping up everywhere.

"When a delegation from America went up to Greenland, we started to realize this probably wasn't a joke — it's not reality TV, it's actually reality," said Tonnesen, 58. "So I said, OK, what can I do?" Can I communicate in a funny way with a good message and unite the Danes to show that Danish people support the people of Greenland?"

Demand suddenly surged from a trickle to selling out in the space of one weekend. Tonnesen said he has now ordered "several thousand."

The original version designed by Tonnesen featured a play on words: "Nu det NUUK!" — a twist on the Danish phrase "Nu det nok," meaning "Now it's enough," substituting Nuuk, Greenland's tiny capital.

Protesters at Saturday's rally waved red-and-white Danish and Greenlandic flags and carried handmade signs mocking U.S. claims over the territory, which is slightly larger than Saudi Arabia.

"No Means No," read one sign. Another declared, "Make America Smart Again."

Wearing one of the spoof hats, protester Kristian Boye, 49, said the gathering in front of Copenhagen City Hall struck a lighthearted tone while delivering a serious message.

"I'm here to support the Greenlanders, who are going through a very hard time right now," he said. "They are being threatened with having their country invaded. I think it's totally unacceptable."

Inequality and unease are rising as elite Davos event opens with pro-business Trump set to attend

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Corporate chiefs and government leaders including U.S. President Donald Trump swarm into Davos, Switzerland, this week, joining an elite annual meeting that promotes dialogue and economic progress — even as a domineering tone from Washington has upended the global order and billionaires have reaped trillions in new wealth as the poor lag behind.

The World Economic Forum, the think tank whose four-day annual meeting opens Tuesday, has a stated motto of “improving the state of the world,” and this year’s theme is “A spirit of dialogue.” One question is whether Trump will speak with attendees — or at them.

Nearly 3,000 attendees from the interlinked worlds of business, advocacy and policy will tackle issues including the growing gap between rich and poor; AI’s impact on jobs; concerns about geo-economic conflict; tariffs that have rocked longstanding trade relationships; and an erosion of trust between communities and countries.

“It’s really going to be a discussion at a very important moment ... geopolitics is changing,” said Mirek Dušek, a forum managing director in charge of programming. “Some people think we’re in a transition. Some people think we’ve already entered a new era. But I think it’s undeniable that you are seeing a more competitive, more contested landscape.”

Trump set to loom large

Trump’s third visit to Davos as president comes as U.S. allies worry about his ambition to take over Greenland, Latin America is grappling with his efforts to reap Venezuela’s oil, and his hardball tactics toward Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell have stirred concern among business leaders and lawmakers alike.

Trump’s peace-making credentials also will be on the table: An announcement looms about his “Board of Peace” for Gaza, and he and his administration are expected to have bilateral meetings in the warren of side rooms at the Congress Center.

The U.S. leader seems to revel in strolling through the Davos Congress Center and among executives who back his business-minded, money-making approach to politics.

Critics will also be nearby. Trump has blown hot and cold recently with Colombian President Gustavo Petro, an invitee. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi of Iran was set to speak, but his appearance was cancelled. Iran’s leaders face U.S. sanctions over their handling of recent protests, and organizers said Monday that “the tragic loss of civilian lives” means “it is not right” for the government to be represented.

The two likeliest counterweights to Trump’s administration on the international scene — China and the European Union — get top billing on the first day: EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will speak Tuesday morning, right before Vice Premier He Lifeng, China’s “economic czar” — as Dušek put it.

Founder Schwab sits out, as Nvidia chief makes a debut

The forum will be without its founder, Klaus Schwab, who hosted the first event in Davos 55 years ago focusing on business, only to see it since balloon into a catchall extravaganza. He stepped down in April. New co-chairs Larry Fink, the head of investment firm BlackRock, and Andre Hoffman, vice chair of pharmaceuticals firm Roche, are in charge.

This year will also mark the debut appearance of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, arguably the world’s most important tech leader today, among some 850 CEOs and chairs of global companies — along with celebrities like Hollywood actor and safe-water advocate Matt Damon.

The future of AI, its impact on business and work, and the prospects for artificial general intelligence will be key themes.

The presidents of Argentina, France, Indonesia, Syria and Ukraine will be among the dozens of national leaders on hand.

As rich-poor divide widens, trust in institutions falters

Leading public-relations firm Edelman reports in its annual trust barometer — launched a quarter-century

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ago and this year surveying nearly 34,000 people in 28 countries – that trade and recession fears have climbed to an all-time high, optimism is falling especially in developed countries, and “grievance” last year has morphed into broader “insularity.”

“People are retreating from dialogue and compromise, choosing the safety of the familiar over the perceived risk of change,” said CEO Richard Edelman. “We favor nationalism over global connection and individual gain over joint progress. Our mentality has shifted from ‘we’ to ‘me’.”

The survey found that about two-thirds of respondents said their trust was concentrated toward CEOs of the companies that they work for, fellow citizens or neighbors, while nearly 70% believed institutional leaders — such as from business or government — deliberately mislead the public.

Oxfam, the world-renowned advocacy group, issued a report which showed that billionaire wealth rose by more than 16% last year, three times faster than the past five-year average, to more than \$18 trillion. It drew on Forbes magazine data on the world’s richest people.

Oxfam said the \$2.5 trillion rise in the wealth of billionaires last year would be enough to eradicate extreme poverty 26 times over. Their wealth has risen by more than four-fifths since 2020, while nearly half the world’s population lives in poverty, the group said.

The Trump administration has led a “pro-billionaire agenda,” the group said, through actions such as slashing taxes for the wealthiest, fostering the growth of AI-related stocks that help rich investors get richer, and thwarting efforts to tax giant companies.

The advocacy group wants more national efforts to reduce inequality, higher taxes on the ultra-rich to reduce their power, and greater limits on their ability to shape policy through lobbying.

With such concerns filtering through to policymakers, Trump, who is leading the biggest-ever U.S. delegation and will have about a half-dozen Cabinet secretaries in tow, is expected to discuss housing and affordability in his Davos speech on Wednesday.

Critics of WEF, and Trump, take to the streets

As usual, protesters rallied over the weekend in and near Davos ahead of the event. Hundreds of marchers scaled an Alpine road up to the town on Saturday behind a banner in German that read “No Profit from War” and alongside a truck that bore a sign: World Economic Failure.

Companies like Microsoft, India’s Tata Consultancy, social media titan TikTok and cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike joined governments from countries such as Nigeria, Qatar, Ukraine and the United States — a USA House is making a debut this year — to set up shop on the Davos Promenade to promote their services, products and national economies.

Davos storekeepers rent out their premises so that forum participants can have the prime real estate for the week.

Critics have long accused the annual meeting of generating more rhetoric than results, and they see Trump’s return as sign of the disconnect between haves and have-nots. Some say Swiss leaders who support the event and flock to Davos too are adding to the problem.

“It is worrying how Swiss politicians are courting warmongers and their profiteers in Davos,” said Mirjam Hostetmann, president of Switzerland’s Young Socialists, who have led protests against the event. “The WEF will never bring peace, but will only fuel escalation.”

Arizona a unanimous No. 1 for first time, Saint Louis and Miami of Ohio join AP Top 25

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Sports Writer

Arizona is the unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 men’s college basketball poll for the first time.

The Wildcats received all 61 votes from a media panel in Monday’s poll, a week after picking up all but one first-place vote.

Arizona (18-0) won both of its games last week to remain among the three undefeated Division I teams

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and earn the program's first unanimous No. 1 ranking — according to Sportradar — after Iowa State lost twice. The Cyclones, who received one first-place vote last week, dropped seven spots to No. 9 after their undefeated season ended.

Arizona has been ranked No. 1 for six straight weeks, its longest run since eight straight in 2013-14 when the Wildcats opened 21-0. UConn, Michigan, Purdue and Duke rounded out the top five.

No. 7 Nebraska (18-0) won both its games last week to remain undefeated and moved up a spot this week to notch its highest ranking ever.

No. 24 Saint Louis (17-1) is ranked for the first time since reaching No. 22 in 2021 after stretching its winning streak to 11 straight.

No. 25 Miami (Ohio) is ranked for the first time since a three-week stint in the AP Top 25 in 1998-99. The RedHawks blew out Central Michigan on Tuesday, but needed overtime to beat Buffalo 105-102 on Saturday, pulling it out on Pete Suder's 3-pointer with just over a second remaining.

Rising/falling

No. 18 Clemson made the biggest move among teams already in the poll, climbing four places with wins over Boston College and Miami.

Texas Tech moved up three places to No. 12 following wins over Utah and then-No. 11 BYU.

No. 22 North Carolina had the week's biggest drop, losing eight places after being swept by the ACC's Bay Area schools.

No. 9 Iowa State lost seven spots following losses to two unranked teams, Kansas and Cincinnati. No. 15 Vanderbilt dropped five places after seeing its undefeated season come to an end with losses to Texas and No. 16 Florida.

In and out

No. 19 Kansas returned to the poll after being left out last week after handing Iowa State its first loss and beating Baylor by 18.

Saint Louis and Miami (Ohio) were the only other teams to join this week's poll.

Tennessee dropped out from No. 24 after blowing a 17-point lead in an 80-78 loss to Kentucky. Utah State's road loss to Grand Canyon knocked the Aggies out of the poll from No. 23.

Seton Hall didn't receive a single vote and dropped out of the poll from No. 25 after losses to UConn and Butler.

Conference watch

Kansas' return to the poll gives the Big 12 Conference a nation's best six ranked teams. The Southeastern Conference, Big Ten and ACC each have five ranked teams.

The Big East, West Coast, Atlantic-10 and Mid-American conferences have one each.

Sheinbaum reassures Mexico after US military movements spark concern

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum quelled concerns on Monday about two recent movements of the U.S. military in the vicinity of Mexico that have the country on edge since the attack on Venezuela.

On Friday, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration urged U.S. aircraft operators to "exercise caution" when flying over the eastern Pacific Ocean near Mexico, Central America and parts of South America, citing "military activities."

The president said her administration waited a couple hours until the U.S. government provided "written" assurance that there would not be any U.S. military flights over Mexican territory. She said the U.S. government had not given Mexico a heads up about any military operations.

The U.S. government provided precise coordinates for where it was operating and Mexican authorities issued a statement saying the FAA advisory had no implications for Mexico.

Then, images of a U.S. military transport airplane on the tarmac at Toluca's airport about 39 miles (63 kilometers) west of Mexico City began circulating on social media.

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Sen. Clemente Castañeda, of the opposition Citizen Movement party, posted on social platform X asking for an explanation from the government, because Mexico's senate is supposed to approve sending Mexican troops abroad or allowing foreign troops into Mexico.

Sheinbaum described it as a "logistical" operation that did not require senate approval.

"The United States plane landed, public servants got on that plane and they went (to the U.S.) for training," Sheinbaum said. "Who authorized this? The Secretary of Defense."

Her security cabinet had posted on X Sunday night that such training operations "occur in conformity with established protocols and in adherence to the bilateral collaboration agreements."

Both events highlighted the sensitivity created by not only the Trump administration's unilateral action to capture Venezuela's then-President Nicolás Maduro earlier this month, but the subsequent renewal of offers and threats to take direct military action against the drug cartels in Mexico.

Sheinbaum and Trump spoke again last week on the subject. Both governments continue to say they will collaborate on security issues, with Mexico emphasizing that it will not accept violations of its sovereignty.

Security officials from both countries are scheduled to meet again Friday in an effort to "continue delivering tangible actions to strengthen security cooperation and meaningful outcomes to counter cartels, and stop the illicit flow of fentanyl and weapons from crossing our shared border," according to a joint statement released last Thursday.

What to know about the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP) — Nearly 3,000 high-level participants from business, government and beyond plus untold numbers of activists, journalists and outside observers are converging in the Swiss town of Davos for the World Economic Forum's annual meeting.

Here's a look at the latest edition of the elite affair in the Alpine snows:

The WEF and Davos

The forum is a think tank and event organizer based in Geneva whose main event — the annual meeting — debuted in 1971 in Davos, a ski-resort town of about 10,000 people at a height of about 1,500 meters (nearly 5,000 feet) in the Alps of eastern Switzerland.

The first edition, hosted by forum founder Klaus Schwab, featured a gathering of business executives.

Since then, the meeting has swelled into a catch-all conference on issues as diverse as economic disparity, climate change, technology, and global cooperation — as well as competition and conflict.

More than 200 sessions will tackle a wide array of issues.

Who's going?

Organizers says a record of nearly 400 top political leaders, including more than 60 heads of state and government, and nearly 850 chairs and chief executives of many of the world's leading companies.

Headlining the lineup is U.S. President Donald Trump, who's set to deliver a speech on Wednesday, and several Cabinet ministers and top advisers including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and special envoy Steve Witkoff.

President Emmanuel Macron of France, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, President Ahmad al-Sharaa of Syria, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, President Felix Tshisekedi of Congo, Vice Premier He Lifeng of China, and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine are among the who's-who of top attendees.

Organizers say 55 ministers for economy and finance, 33 ministers for foreign affairs, 34 ministers for trade, commerce and industry, and 11 central bank governors are also expected.

Tech titans scheduled to be on hand include Jensen Huang of Nvidia. Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Demis Hassabis of Google DeepMind, and Arthur Mensch of France's Mistral AI.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala are among scores of top officials from international institutions.

What's different this year?

The geopolitical context has become incredibly complex this year: Trump's pronouncements and policies on subjects as diverse as Venezuela, Greenland and Iran — not to mention his aggressive tariff policies — have upended the world order and raised questions about America's role in the world.

The advent of AI — its promise and perils — has also become a hot topic. Business executives will examine how to apply it to boost efficiency and profits; labor leaders and advocacy groups will warn of its threat to jobs and livelihoods, and policymakers will look to navigate the best way forward between regulation and right to innovate.

Davos conference organizers always trot out buzzwords for the meeting, and this year's is "A Spirit of Dialogue" — around five themes of cooperation, growth, investment in people, innovation and building prosperity.

Critics say Davos is too much talk and not enough action to rectify gaping inequality in the world and address troubles like climate change.

Death toll in Spanish train collision rises to 40 as authorities fear more bodies could be found

By IAIN SULLIVAN, JOSEPH WILSON and SUMAN NAISHADHAM Associated Press

ADAMUZ, Spain (AP) — Regional Spanish officials said Monday that at least 40 people are confirmed dead in a high-speed rail collision the previous night in the country's south when the tail end of a train jumped the track, causing another train speeding past in the opposite direction to derail.

Juanma Moreno, the president of Andalusia, the southern Spanish region where the accident happened, confirmed the new death toll in an afternoon press conference. Efforts to recover the bodies from the two wrecked train cars continued, he added.

The impact tossed the second train's lead carriages off the track, sending them plummeting down a 4-meter (13-foot) slope. Some bodies were found hundreds of meters (feet) from the crash site, Moreno said earlier in the day, describing the wreckage as a "mass of twisted metal" with bodies likely still to be found inside.

Authorities are also focusing on attending hundreds of distraught family members and have asked for them to provide DNA samples to help identify victims.

The crash took place Sunday at 7:45 p.m. when the tail end of a train carrying 289 passengers on the route from Malaga to the capital, Madrid, went off the rails. It slammed into an incoming train traveling from Madrid to Huelva, another southern Spanish city, according to rail operator Adif.

The head of the second train, which was carrying nearly 200 passengers, took the brunt of the impact, Spanish Transport Minister Oscar Puente said. That collision knocked its first two carriages off the track. Puente said that it appeared the largest number of the deaths occurred in those carriages.

Authorities said all the survivors had been rescued in the early morning.

Three days of mourning for a nation in shock

The accident shook a nation which leads Europe in high-speed train mileage and takes pride in a network that is considered at the cutting edge of rail transport.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez declared three days of national mourning for the victims of the crash.

"Today is a day of pain for all of Spain," Sánchez said on a visit to Adamuz, a village near the accident site, where many locals helped emergency services handle the influx of distraught and hurt passengers overnight.

Twisted metal after a violent impact

Moreno, the regional leader, said Monday morning that emergency services were still searching for bodies.

"Here at ground zero, when you look at this mass of twisted iron, you see the violence of the impact," Moreno said. "The impact was so incredibly violent that we have found bodies hundreds of meters away."

Video released by the Civil Guard showed the worst-hit carriages shredded open, train seats cast on

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the gravel packing under the tracks. One carriage lay on its side, bent around a large concrete pillar, with debris scattered around the area.

Passengers reported climbing out of smashed windows, with some using emergency hammers to break the glass.

Andalusia's regional emergency services said 41 people remained hospitalized, 12 of whom were in intensive care units. Another 81 passengers were discharged by late Monday afternoon, authorities said.

Train services Monday between Madrid and cities in Andalusia were canceled, causing large disruptions. Spanish airline Iberia added flights to Seville and another two to Malaga to help stranded travelers. Some bus companies also reinforced their services in the south.

Officials call accident 'strange'

Transport Minister Puente early Monday said the cause of the crash was unknown.

He called it "a truly strange" incident because it happened on a flat stretch of track that had been renovated in May. He also said the train that jumped the track was less than 4 years old. That train belonged to the Italian-owned company Iryo, while the second train was part of Spain's public train company, Renfe.

According to Puente, the back part of the first train derailed and crashed into the head of the other train. An investigation into the cause could take a month, he said.

The Spanish Union of Railway Drivers told The Associated Press that in August, it sent a letter asking Spain's national railway operator to investigate flaws on train lines across the country and to reduce speeds at certain points until the tracks were fully repaired. Those recommendations were made for high-speed train lines, including the one where Sunday's accident took place, the union said.

Alvaro Fernández, the president of Renfe, told Spanish public radio RNE that both trains were well under the speed limit of 250 kph (155 mph); one was going 205 kph (127 mph), the other 210 kph (130 mph). He also said that "human error could be ruled out."

The incident "must be related to the moving equipment of Iryo or the infrastructure," he said.

Iryo issued a statement on Monday saying that its train was manufactured in 2022 and passed its latest safety check on Jan. 15.

Identifying the victims

The Civil Guard opened an office in Cordoba, the nearest city to the crash, as well as Madrid, Malaga, Huelva and Seville for family members of the missing to seek help and leave DNA samples.

"There were moments when we had to remove the dead to get to the living," Francisco Carmona, fire-fighter chief of Cordoba, told Onda Cero radio.

A sports center in Adamuz, a town in the province of Cordoba, about 370 kilometers (about 230 miles) south of Madrid, was turned into a makeshift hospital. The Spanish Red Cross set up a help center offering assistance to emergency services and people seeking information.

"The scene was horrific. It was terrible," Adamuz Mayor Rafael Moreno told AP and other reporters. "People asking and begging for help. Those leaving the wreckage. Images that will always stay in my mind."

One passenger had been treated in a local hospital along with her sister before she returned to Adamuz with hopes of finding her lost dog. She was limping and had a small bandage on her cheek, as seen by an AP reporter.

First deadly accident for Spain's high-speed trains

Spain has spent decades investing heavily in high-speed trains and currently has the largest rail network in Europe for trains moving over 250 kph (155 mph), with more than 3,900 kilometers (2,400 miles) of track, according to the International Union of Railways.

The network is a popular, competitively priced and safe mode of transport. Renfe said more than 25 million passengers took one of its high-speed trains in 2024.

Iryo became the first private competitor in high-speed to Renfe in Spain in 2022.

Sunday's accident was the first with deaths on a high-speed train since Spain's high-speed rail network opened its first line in 1992.

Spain's worst train accident this century occurred in 2013, when 80 people died after a train derailed in the country's northwest. An investigation concluded the train was traveling 179 kph (111 mph) on a stretch with an 80 kph (50 mph) speed limit when it left the tracks. That stretch of track was not high speed.

As faith in the US fades a year into Trump 2.0, Europe tries to end a reliance on American security

By LORNE COOK Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — “Intimidation,” “threats” and “blackmail” are just some of the terms being used by European Union leaders to describe U.S. President Donald Trump’s warning that he will slap new tariffs on nations opposing American control of Greenland.

European language has hardened since Trump returned to the White House 12 months ago. Now it’s in reaction to the previously unthinkable idea that NATO’s most powerful member would threaten to seize the territory of another ally. Trade retaliation is likely should Trump make good on his tariff announcement.

A year into Trump 2.0, Europe’s faith in the strength of the trans-Atlantic bond is fading fast. For some, it’s already disappeared. The flattery of past months has not worked and tactics are evolving as the Europeans try to manage threats from an old ally just as they confront the threat of an increasingly hostile Russia.

Trump’s first term brought NATO to the brink of collapse. “I feared that NATO was about to stop functioning,” former Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg wrote in his recent memoir, after the U.S. president had threatened to walk out of a 2018 summit.

Now, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen is warning that should he try to annex Greenland, a semiautonomous part of Denmark, “then everything stops ... including our NATO.”

“We are at the very early stage of a rather deep political-military crisis,” said Maria Martisiute, a European Policy Centre analyst. “There is a greater realization, even though political leaders will not like to admit it, that America has abandoned NATO.”

Reading the riot act

In January 2025, U.S. allies at NATO were waiting to hear Trump’s plans for Ukraine.

Europe’s biggest land war in decades was about to enter its fourth year. The Europeans believed that President Vladimir Putin would pose an existential threat to their territory should Russia win.

Few thought that Biden administration policies would continue. But within weeks, any lingering hopes for the U.S. commitment to Ukraine dissolved. American arms supplies and funds began to dry up. Europe would have to fill the gap and pay for U.S. help.

In a speech at NATO headquarters in February, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth read the riot act to European allies and Canada. The United States had priorities elsewhere and Europe must handle security in its own backyard.

Ukraine would not join the alliance. Its territory seized by Russia would not be returned. The Europeans could pull together a force to help Ukraine if they wanted, but they wouldn’t get U.S. help if they went into the country and got attacked.

Trump has since blamed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the invasion, notwithstanding visits with royalty in the U.K. and the Netherlands meant to mollify him.

Days later that February, in Munich, Vice President JD Vance met the leader of a far-right party during election campaigning in Germany. He claimed that Europe’s main threat was internal, not Russia. Free speech is “in retreat” across the continent, Vance warned.

But after winning the poll, Chancellor Friedrich Merz, said that “in view of the increasing threat situation,” Germany and Europe “must now very quickly make very big efforts, very quickly,” to strengthen their defense capabilities.

Europe’s security independence

Over the course of last year, European leaders and Zelenskyy flew to Washington to try to keep Trump onside. A 28-point plan to end the war that he floated would acquiesce to many Russian demands.

The plan was reworked. Talks continue, but without Putin. Few expect him to accept. Trump mostly blames Zelenskyy for the stalemate.

Meanwhile, Europe pressed ahead with new defense measures, even as Trump waged a global tariff war, including against U.S. allies, roiling their economies.

The EU created a multibillion-euro fund to buy arms and ammunition, with the emphasis on sourcing

them from European companies and weaning nations off U.S. suppliers.

Debt rules were eased for security spending. Money was funneled into Ukraine's defense industry. In December, European leaders agreed to pay for most of its military and economic needs for the next two years as Kyiv teeters on the brink of bankruptcy.

A new U.S. national security strategy further soured trans-Atlantic relations. It paints European allies as weak, offers tacit support to far-right political parties, and criticizes European free speech and migration policy.

European Council President Antonio Costa warned the U.S. against interfering in Europe's affairs. Merz said that the U.S. strategy underscores the need for Europe to become "much more independent" from the United States.

Work has since begun on Europe's own security strategy. It aims to respond to "the geopolitical changes in our world and to give an appropriate answer to that," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

Part of it is to make Europe even more autonomous.

As France, Germany, the U.K., Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands sent troops to Greenland last week — small in number but highly symbolic in the message of resolve sent to the White House — French President Emmanuel Macron said that it's important "to stand at the side of a sovereign state to protect its territory."

"Europe is being shaken from some of its certainties," he told French military chiefs. "It sometimes has allies that we thought were predictable, fearless, always by our side, who are now causing us to doubt a lot, or are even turning against those who expected it the least."

For now, the eight European countries targeted by Trump's tariff threat say they "stand firmly behind" the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral."

US futures sink after Trump warns of higher tariffs for 8 countries over Greenland issue

By ELAINE KURTENBACH AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — European shares mostly fell and U.S. stock futures skidded Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to slap a 10% extra tariff on imports from eight European countries because they oppose having America take control of Greenland.

Germany's DAX lost 1.3% to close at 24,960.33 and the CAC 40 in Paris fell 1.9% to 8,101.96. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.4% to 10,190.26.

Among U.S. stock futures, the S&P 500 was down 1% as of 11:48 a.m. Eastern Time, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.8% and the Nasdaq composite was down 1.2%. U.S. stock markets are closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Trump said Saturday that he would charge a 10% import tax starting in February on goods from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland because of their opposition to American control of Greenland.

The European countries targeted by Trump blasted his threat to raise tariffs, saying they "undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral." The unusually strong joint statement was the most forceful rebuke from the European allies since Trump returned to the White House almost a year ago.

Trump's moves are testing the strategic alignment and institutional trust underlying support from Europe, the largest trading partner and provider of financing to the United States, Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

"In a world where geopolitical cohesion within the Western alliance is no longer taken for granted, the willingness to recycle capital indefinitely into U.S. assets becomes less automatic. This is not a short-term liquidation story. It is a slow rebalancing story, and those are far more consequential," Innes said.

In Asia, shares were mixed after China reported that its economy expanded at a 5% annual pace in

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2025, though it slowed in the last quarter. Strong exports, despite Trump's higher tariffs on imports from China, helped to offset relatively weak domestic demand.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 1.1% to 26,563.90. The Shanghai Composite index gained 0.3% to 4,114.00.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 declined 0.7% to 53,583.57. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was due to hold a news conference later Monday as she prepares to dissolve the parliament for a snap election next month.

Elsewhere in Asia, South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.3% to 4,904.66, pushing further into record territory on strong gains for tech-related companies. Computer chip maker SK Hynix climbed 1.1%.

Taiwan's Taiex added 0.7%, while the Sensex in India fell 0.6%.

On Friday, stocks edged lower on Wall Street as the first week of corporate earnings season ended with markets trading near record levels.

The S&P 500 fell 0.1% and the Dow industrials lost 0.2%. The Nasdaq composite shed 0.1%. They all notched weekly losses, while smaller company stocks fared better. The Russell 2000 eked out a 0.1% gain.

Technology stocks were the strongest forces behind the market's moves throughout most of the day. Several big technology stocks made strong gains and helped offset losses elsewhere.

Earnings updates might give investors a better sense of how consumers are spending their money and how businesses are faring with persisting inflation and higher tariffs. Results from the technology sector are being scrutinized by investors trying to figure out whether the high stock prices fueled by the craze around artificial intelligence are justified.

This week will bring a broader mix of earnings from airlines, industrial companies, and technology companies. United Airlines, 3M, and Intel are all scheduled to release their quarterly earnings results.

The U.S. central bank will get another update on inflation this week with the government's release of the personal consumption expenditures price index, or PCE. It is the Federal Reserve's preferred measure for inflation.

The Fed's next policy meeting is in two weeks, when it is expected to keep its current benchmark interest rate as it strives to balance a slowing jobs market with stubbornly high inflation, which remains above the Fed's 2% goal.

In other dealings Monday, U.S. benchmark crude oil rose 12 cents to \$59.58 per barrel. Price moves have settled down after a spate of volatility during widespread protests in Iran against that country's leadership.

Brent crude, the international standard, added 5 cents to \$64.17 a barrel.

The price of gold resumed its upward climb, gaining 1.8%, while the price of silver jumped 6.2%.

The U.S. dollar rose to 158.10 Japanese yen from 157.93 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1643 from \$1.1581.

Prince Harry says Daily Mail scoops made him 'paranoid beyond belief'

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The third and final round in Prince Harry's battle with the British tabloids began Monday with his lawyer alleging that the Daily Mail and its sister Sunday newspaper engaged in a "clear, systematic and sustained use of unlawful information gathering" for two decades.

Attorney David Sherborne said a longstanding culture of hiring private investigators who practiced "dark arts" to spy on celebrities for scoops had left Harry distressed and isolated.

It was "disturbing to feel that my every move, thought or feeling was being tracked and monitored just for the Mail to make money out of it," Harry said, according to his lawyer's written opening statement.

The intrusions were "terrifying" for his loved ones, created a "massive strain" on his personal relationships, and the distrust and suspicion they caused left Harry "paranoid beyond belief," Sherborne said.

Tens of millions of dollars are on the line in the privacy invasion case in which the Duke of Sussex is joined by Elton John, actors Elizabeth Hurley and Sadie Frost, and others who claim the publisher of the Mail hired private investigators to bug their cars, obtain their personal records and eavesdrop on phone calls.

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Associated Newspapers Ltd. has denied the allegations, called them preposterous and said the articles in question were reported with legitimate sources that included "leaky" associates willing to dish dirt on their famous friends.

The prince vs. the publishers

The trial in London's High Court is expected to last nine weeks and will see the return of Harry to the witness box Thursday for the second time since he made history in 2023 by becoming the first senior member of the royal family to testify in more than a century.

Harry, wearing a dark blue suit, cheerfully waved at reporters as he entered the court building via a side entrance. He took a seat in the back row of the courtroom near Hurley and Frost as John watched the proceedings online.

The case in the High Court follows two cases Harry brought against the other major tabloids that grew out of the widespread phone hacking scandal in which some journalists intercepted voicemail messages around the turn of this century.

Harry won a court judgment in 2023 that condemned the publishers of the Daily Mirror for "widespread and habitual" interception of phone messages. Last year, Rupert Murdoch's flagship U.K. tabloid made an unprecedented apology for intruding on Harry's life for years, and agreed to pay substantial damages to settle his privacy invasion lawsuit.

The litigation is part of Harry's self-proclaimed mission to reform the media that he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash in 1997 while being pursued by paparazzi in Paris. He also said persistent press attacks on his wife, Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, led them to leave royal life and move to the United States in 2020.

Defense says 'leaky' friends among sources of articles

Defense lawyer Antony White said the lawsuits were based on weak inferences by trying to connect articles to payments made to investigators.

But he said witnesses, from editors to reporters who have worked for the newspapers for decades, were "lining up" to dispute the allegations and explain their sources, which he said were often very close the subjects of the articles.

"This is in reality little more than guesswork — it involves jumping to conclusions based on insufficient evidence, or worse, artificially selecting and presenting evidence to fit the preconceived agenda," White wrote in his opening statement. "It also ignores the fact that references in articles to a 'friend', or similar, as a source can be accurate."

In addition to Harry's social circle, royal press officers, publicists and freelance journalists and photographers were also good sources, White said.

Associated Newspapers also argues that the claims, dating as far back as 1993, were brought too late when the suits were filed in 2022. Judge Matthew Nicklin refused to throw out the cases on those grounds but will reconsider that defense after hearing the evidence.

Skeletons in the closet

Sherborne said the company's vigorous denials, destruction of records and "masses upon masses of missing documents" had prevented the claimants from learning what the newspapers had done.

"They swore that they were a clean ship," Sherborne said. "Associated knew that these emphatic denials were not true. ... They knew they had skeletons in their closet."

Sherborne said his clients had not been aware they were phone hacking victims until private eye Gavin Burrows came forward in 2021 to help those he targeted.

Burrows said he "must have done hundreds of jobs" for the Mail between 2000 and 2005, Sherborne said in a previous hearing. Harry, Hurley, Frost, and John and his husband, David Furnish, were "just a small handful of my targets," Burrows said in a statement read in court.

But Burrows has since disavowed that sworn statement and said he never worked for the Mail.

White said a substantial part of the case collapses without Burrows on the side of the claimants.

"Indeed, in the case of several of the claimants, their explanations of their 'personal watershed moments' show that without Mr. Burrows they would never have brought their claims," he said.

But Sherborne, who said other witnesses have said Burrows did work for the newspapers, downplayed the investigator's significance to his case.

"Mr Burrows is just one of a large number of private investigators Associated used and, we say, engaged in unlawful activities," Sherborne said. "He was just the original whistleblower."

The other claimants are anti-racism activist Doreen Lawrence and former politician Simon Hughes.

ICE says an immigrant who died in a sprawling Texas detention facility killed himself

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — An immigrant from Nicaragua was found dead at a Texas immigration detention facility last week, federal officials said.

Victor Manuel Diaz appears to have killed himself Wednesday at the sprawling tent complex at the U.S. Army's Fort Bill base in El Paso, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement. The federal investigation into his death continues.

It's the same facility where ICE said another detainee died earlier this month as staff members tried to keep him from killing himself. But a fellow detainee said at least five officers were restraining the handcuffed inmate and at least one had an arm around his neck.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988.

Diaz was swept up on Jan. 6 in the federal crackdown on immigration in Minnesota and sent to Texas, ICE said.

Diaz entered the United States in March 2024 and Border Patrol officers took him into custody. He was released on parole pending a court date and a judge ordered him to leave the U.S. in an August hearing that Diaz did not attend, ICE said.

Diaz was given a final order for removal on Jan. 12, two days before he was found unconscious in his room, authorities said.

ICE did not release any other details on Diaz's death. The agency notifies Congress and releases a statement on its website of all in-custody deaths.

Diaz, 36, was being held at Camp Montana East where ICE said another detainee, Geraldo Lunas Campos, died as staff members tried to prevent him from killing himself.

But a preliminary investigation by the El Paso County Medical Examiner's Office found Lunas Campos, 55, died from asphyxia from chest and neck compression and said the death would likely be classified a homicide.

A fellow detainee told the AP that Lunas Campos was handcuffed and refused to go back into his cell when at least five guards pinned him to the floor. The detainee said at least one of the guards squeezed an arm around Lunas Campos' neck.

ICE said it is still investigating that death.

Czech town hall shooting leaves 1 dead and 6 wounded

PRAGUE (AP) — A shooting at a town hall in northern Czech Republic on Monday left one dead and six others wounded, including three police officers, police said.

Police said the suspect fatally shot himself and there was no further danger.

The shooting took place at the Chribska town hall. Police ruled out terrorism or an extremist attack.

"Nor is it a politically or religiously motivated attack. Everything indicates that it is a relationship-based motive," a police statement said.

The dead was a town hall employee. The town's mayor was among the wounded.

Police said the attacker was armed with three illegally held weapons.

President Petr Pavel and Prime Minister Andrej Babiš offered condolences to the victims' relatives.

Chribska is located near the German border and has a population of about 1,300.

Oregon baby is still battling infant botulism after ByHeart formula exposure

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

A Portland, Oregon, boy is struggling to recover from infant botulism after drinking contaminated ByHeart baby formula donated through a program that aims to help poor and homeless families.

Ashaan Carter, now 10 months old, was hospitalized twice and remains on a feeding tube after contracting the dangerous infection that has sickened more than 50 babies across the U.S.

His mother, Angel Carter, said she received a can of ByHeart formula from a case worker with the Oregon Department of Human Services in early November, days before a nationwide recall of the product.

Carter, who receives state food and housing assistance, said she had been exclusively breastfeeding her son, but her milk supply was waning. The case worker told the 27-year-old that the ByHeart formula "was closest to breast milk" and could help, she said.

"I accepted it thinking, 'OK, I'm hoping my baby can get on a bottle,'" Carter said. "It's been all downhill since then."

State officials wouldn't comment on Carter's case, but they acknowledged that the agency received ByHeart formula from PDX Diaper Bank. That was one of nearly two dozen nonprofit groups nationwide who are part of ByHeart's "OpenHearted Initiative" that donated formula to "families in need," according to the company's website.

Since June 2022, nearly 24,000 cans of formula have been distributed to groups that aid homeless and other vulnerable families, the company said. All the company's products have been recalled since production began in March 2022 because of potential contamination.

Soon after consuming the ByHeart formula, Ashaan developed severe constipation and muscle weakness, becoming so limp that he couldn't move his head, Carter said.

After a trip to an emergency room, he was sent to Randall Children's Hospital in Portland. Doctors there diagnosed him with presumed infant botulism tied to the ByHeart formula, according to Dr. Sylvia Peterson-Perry, a family medicine doctor who delivered Ashaan and cares for him and his mother.

He was treated with BabyBIG, an IV medication that provides antibodies to the infection to stop the progress of the disease.

Ashaan was hospitalized for nearly two weeks in November and discharged without a feeding tube. His health rapidly declined, including dramatic weight loss, and he was hospitalized again in December. He got so sick that his mother was afraid he would die.

"He was just withering away," Carter said.

The Oregon caseworker texted Carter after the recall, she said, warning her to stop using the formula.

But it was too late for Ashaan, who had to have the feeding tube down his throat replaced because his muscles remain weak, his doctor said. It's not clear how long it will remain. He is having to relearn how to crawl and to talk.

"It's devastating, especially for our vulnerable families who are trusting this product to nourish their child and trusting our social services to provide safe food for their babies," Peterson-Perry said.

ByHeart had partnered with Baby2Baby, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that includes high-profile celebrities among its supporters. The news outlet Healthbeat was first to report that recalled formula went to groups serving at-risk families.

PDX Diaper Bank received about 400 cans of donated ByHeart formula through Baby2Baby and distributed more than 300 of them before they were recalled, Rachel Alston, the group's executive director, said in an email.

"All of our partners confirmed that they took immediate action to inform families, and we offered support where we could along the way," she said in an email.

Baby2Baby officials did not respond to email requests for comment. ByHeart officials said the company worked with Baby2Baby and other groups that received formula to ensure that the products were pulled and families were notified.

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No new cases of infant botulism tied to the outbreak have been reported since Dec. 17, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has conducted inspections at ByHeart plants, but has released no information about the source of the outbreak. Production remains shut down.

Seattle food safety lawyer Bill Marler said Carter is one of more than 30 families he represents whose babies were sickened by ByHeart products. At least 18 lawsuits have been filed against ByHeart and stores that sold the contaminated formula. This week, Marler asked a federal panel to consolidate the cases in a U.S. district court in New York.

Today in History: January 20

American hostages released from Iran after 444 days

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2026. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Jan. 20, 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after Ronald Reagan was sworn in as president of the United States, succeeding Jimmy Carter.

Also on this date:

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded by China to Great Britain. It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.

In 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death. The king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn in for his second of four terms as president, becoming the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20; prior to the adoption of the 20th Amendment in 1933, presidential terms began on March 4.

In 1961, in his inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy urged Americans, "ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Democrat Barack Obama was sworn in as the first Black president of the United States.

In 2011, authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

In 2017, Republican Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States as protesters clashed with police blocks from the inaugural parade.

Today's birthdays: Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 96. Olympic figure skating gold medalist Carol Heiss Jenkins is 86. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 74. Comedian Bill Maher is 70. Olympic swimming gold medalist John Naber is 70. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 61. Actor Rainn Wilson is 60. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 56. Musician Questlove (The Roots) is 55. Nikki Haley, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and ex-governor of South Carolina, is 54. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 41. Actor and singer Joshua Colley is 24. Singer-songwriter Glaive is 21.