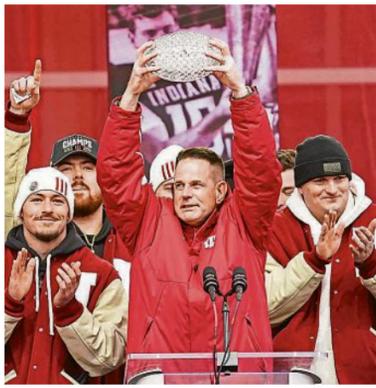


# College football must create playoff that looks like NFL

SPORTS, 1B



# VENTURA COUNTY STAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## FAA briefly closes airspace over southwest Texas

### Official says cartel drones were disabled

**Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Jeff Abbott**  
USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX – The airspace over the international airport in El Paso, Texas, was briefly closed on Feb. 11 after the Pentagon disabled drones controlled by Mexican cartels that breached U.S. air-

space, according to an administration official.

The military took action to disable the drones, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“The FAA and DOW acted swiftly to address a cartel drone incursion,” Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on X, citing the acronyms for the

Federal Aviation Administration and for the Department of War, the Trump administration’s new name for the Department of Defense.

“The threat has been neutralized, and there is no danger to commercial travel in the region. The restrictions have been lifted and normal flights are resuming.”

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Feb. 11 there was no information about drones on the border – if

the United States had information, it could ask the Mexican government, she told reporters.

“The Mexican airspace did not close ... We will learn what the reasons are for why the airspace closed,” she said.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, who represents El Paso, said at a news conference that she learned of the closure not through the Trump administration

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Los Angeles-area officials condemned the immigration raids as unnecessary and unwanted. TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY FILE

## Immigration raids, protests cost LA area over \$1 billion

### County report also lists \$200K in vandalism

**Trevor Hughes**  
USA TODAY

California officials say last summer’s immigration raids and subsequent protests around Los Angeles – some of which had turned violent – cost more than \$1 billion in lost productivity, sales and wages.

The new report commissioned by the Los

Angeles County Board of Supervisors also found that businesses disclosed about \$200,000 in losses from vandalism. In addition to widespread, spray-painted graffiti, participants also lit multiple vehicles on fire, including at least one police SUV.

President Donald Trump’s aggressive immigration enforcement sparked the protests in early June. These small-scale protests around federal facilities prompted Trump to deploy the National Guard and U.S. Marines,

See PROTESTS, Page 2A

## Grand jury rejects DOJ attempt to indict 6 Dems

**James Powel and Dinah Voyles Pulver**  
USA TODAY

A grand jury rejected an attempt by the Justice Department to indict six Democratic lawmakers who appeared in a video telling service members they have the right not to obey orders they believe are illegal.

Prosecutors sought to charge the lawmakers with violating a federal law barring interference with the loyalty, morale or discipline of the U.S. armed forces, Reuters reported on Feb. 10, citing a source familiar with the matter. The indictment was pursued by the office of U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro.

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### VENTURA COUNTY

## Super Bowl ad shows Brad Pitt movie shot at fairgrounds

**Tom Kisken**  
Ventura County Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Brad Pitt and the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

The unlikely duo was paired conclusively during Super Bowl LX on Feb. 8. A surprise trailer of the highly anticipated “The Adventures of Cliff Booth” movie aired as a commercial during the game.

It showed Pitt piloting a car at the fairground’s Ventura Raceway, confirming earlier speculation that scenes from the Netflix sequel to Oscar-winning blockbuster “Once Upon A Time ... in Hollywood” were shot at the state-owned beachside property in Ventura.

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