

The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4



Cloudy 46/12 • Tomorrow: Cloudy, cold 23/17 B20

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026 • \$4

What U.S. can expect as storm closes in

Snow and ice will start in the Rockies, Plains before moving eastward

BY BEN NOLL

Winter storm alerts stretched 2,000 miles from the Southwest to the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast on Thursday, a sure sign that a major storm would soon strike.

Snow and ice will start on Friday across the Rockies and Plains, push into the South, Midwest and Appalachians on Saturday, then reach the East Coast. The storm will bring dangerous travel conditions and probably road closures.

A wide area of 10 to 20 inches of snow is expected from the Southwest to New England, while a significant ice storm will unfold in parts of the southern Plains, mid-South, Appalachians, Southeast and southern Mid-Atlantic.

The nation's capital, where snow will start Saturday night, is bracing for one of its biggest winter storms in years.

While the snow will be light and fluffy, the ice will tug down tree branches and power lines, leading to widespread and potentially long-lasting power outages.

Where icing could be the worst: a corridor including northern Texas, southern Oklahoma, southern Arkansas, northern Mississippi, Tennessee, the Carolinas and southern Virginia.

To make matters worse, the storm will usher in record-
SEE STORM ON A8

D.C. area: At least 5 to 10 inches of snow is likely this weekend. **B13**

In House hearing, Smith defends his prosecution of Trump



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Former special counsel Jack Smith, right, during a hearing before the House Judiciary Committee. Smith told lawmakers he stood by his decision to charge President Donald Trump in two felony indictments. "No one should be above the law in our country, and the law required that he be held to account." **Story, A11**

Europe stays vigilant of U.S.

PRESSURE EASES AMID TRUMP U-TURN

Talks over U.S. presence in Greenland still loom

BY ELLEN FRANCIS AND EMILY DAVIES

BRUSSELS — President Donald Trump's U-turn on Greenland — proclaiming he was negotiating a deal for "total access" and dropping his tariff threats — has eased some pressure in the standoff with America's once-closest allies in Europe. But European officials said that the matter was not settled and they remain on guard.

Trump on Thursday suggested he could achieve his goals without the United States owning Greenland, as he had previously demanded. He said he was brokering a deal with "no end" or "time limit" while providing little detail. "We're going to have all military access that we want," Trump said on Fox Business. "We're getting everything we want at no cost."

The president suspended his threat of tariffs starting on Feb. 1 after meeting on Wednesday with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Trump had directed the levies at eight European nations for opposing his push to take Greenland, which is an autonomous territory
SEE GREENLAND ON A14

A 'mistake': European populists split from Trump over threats. **A14**

ICE detains 4 children from Minn. school district

BY ANDREW JEONG

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Minnesota have detained at least four children from the same school district this month, including a 5-year-old boy, school officials in a Minneapolis suburb said Wednesday.

The events have inflamed tensions between residents and ICE officers, sparked by the fatal shooting of 37-year-old Renée

Local education leaders say officers also used detained boy, 5, 'as bait'

Good by an ICE officer this month. The Trump administration has sought to justify the presence of ICE personnel by saying that the officers are detaining immigrants

convicted of violent crimes.

"Why detain a 5-year-old?" Zena Stenvik, the superintendent of the Columbia Heights Public Schools district, located just north of Minneapolis, said at a news conference. "You cannot tell me that this child is going to be classified as a violent criminal."

Five-year-old Liam Conejo Ramos and his father, whom the Department of Homeland Security identified as Adrian Alexander

Conejo Arias in an emailed statement, were detained in their driveway Tuesday afternoon, just as they were returning from the child's school, according to a news release from Columbia Heights Public Schools.

The father fled on foot when ICE officers approached him, DHS
SEE ICE ON A4

Memo: Directive says ICE can enter homes without warrants. **A4**

Discordant globe takes in 'Board of Peace'

Nations cheer, hedge, demur over Trump entity some fear is a U.N. rival

This article is by Emily Davies, Mikhail Klimentov, Victoria Bisset, Amaya Verde and Alvaro Valiño

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he wants his new "Board of Peace" to work with the United Nations, but it was unclear if that pledge would ease concerns among some leaders that he is trying to sideline the international body.

Trump discussed the potential for collaboration at the board's formal launch, which his administration has advertised as a tool to resolve global conflicts with a scope rivaling that of the U.N. He was joined by 19 world leaders but just two representatives from European Union nations, Hungary and Bulgaria, a contrast that underscored his ambition to reshape the world order and the limits of his approach.

"Once this board is completely formed, we can do pretty much whatever we want to do, and we'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," Trump said
SEE PEACE ON A16



LUCA BRUNO/AP

A symbol of sport draws nearer to Milan

A gondolier ferries a torchbearer carrying the Olympic flame on the Grand Canal in Venice on Thursday. The torch's journey to the Winter Games is set to conclude in Milan on Feb. 6.

Decline in crime continues across U.S.

Homicide rates in particular have fallen sharply since the pandemic's start

BY TIM CRAIG, JOHN D. HARDEN AND CARSON TERBUSH

The United States remains in a multiyear trend of falling rates of homicides and other crimes in cities nationwide, ushering in a period of relative safety that rivals the years before the pandemic, according to a Washington Post

analysis of data from more than 100 police departments.

The drop in both violent and property crime has extended throughout the country. Rates of aggravated assault and burglary hit their lowest point last year since the start of the pandemic in 2020, when a surge of public safety issues rattled elected officials, law enforcement and the public.

The most striking changes are seen in homicide data. Homicides have tumbled by about 38 percent since 2020 in 52 of the largest cities, some of which are now recording the fewest murders in half a century. Mass shootings, defined as incidents in which four or more victims die, are at their lowest level since The Washington
SEE CRIME ON A20

Trump's vision for Gaza belies reality on ground

Kushner presents plan for redevelopment with little Palestinian input

This article is by Claire Parker, Abbie Cheeseman, Louisa Loveluck, Lior Soroka, Hazem Balousha and Karen DeYoung

CAIRO — At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday, the Trump administration outlined what it described as a "master plan" for the Gaza Strip's future, replete with planned cities, data centers and a beachfront for tourists, but which was far removed from the destruction, desperation and political realities on the ground.

Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and key adviser, took to the stage to present a deck of slides with AI-generated images of gleaming high-rises and apartment blocks arranged in concentric rings. From 90,000 tons of rubble generated by the war, he said, a "new Gaza" would be born.

"We're committed to ensuring Gaza is demilitarized, properly governed and beautifully rebuilt. It's going to be a great plan," Trump said. He and other leaders were there to sign the founding charter of the "Board of Peace," which was originally conceived as an oversight body for the reconstruction of Gaza but has since morphed into a U.S.-led council with a more sweeping mandate.

"I think we can spread out to other things as we succeed with Gaza," Trump said.

According to a map included in Kushner's slideshow, Gaza's entire Mediterranean shoreline would be reserved for "coastal tourism," with 180 high-rise towers lining the beach. Across other parts of the enclave, parks and sports facilities would break up industrial complexes, data centers and advanced manufacturing facilities. Residential areas appear to take up only about half of the map, while some areas marked for agriculture are located in places with poor, sandy soil unsuitable for crops.

The residential zones would be restricted to preplanned cities laid out with multi-floor apartment buildings, according to an AI-generated picture of a zone called "New Rafah." The areas for housing are also separated from touching any portion of Gaza's borders by the resort strip in the west, the industrial areas in the east, a new airport and logistics zone along the southern border with Egypt, and an "industrial city" along the Israeli border in the north.

The vision contrasts sharply with the present reality in Gaza, where Israeli troops still control more than half of the enclave while some 2 million Palestinians are crowded into the other half, many living in ramshackle tents or bombed-out buildings that provide little shelter from winter storms.

On a visit to the Israeli-
SEE GAZA ON A15

IN THE NEWS

Trump sues JPMorgan The president alleges the bank and its CEO improperly closed his accounts in 2021 and sought to "blacklist" him and his family from doing business. **A17**

Walmart found negligent A federal jury ruled against the retailer in a Maryland civil trial involving a gun purchase and suicide. **B13**

THE NATION A law firm representing Renée Good's family described aspects of a private autopsy. **A4** A federal judge questioned Trump's authority to build a White House ballroom. **A6**

THE WORLD U.S. diplomats in Bangladesh have tried to engage with a once-banned Islamist party. **A13** Ukraine's president, speaking at Davos, said Europe must do more to help end the war. **A15**

THE ECONOMY States are stepping up to create or expand borrowing programs for graduate students to help offset new limits by the Trump administration on federal loans. **A9** In Congress, both parties joined in pillorying health care executives at a committee hearing. **A17**

STYLE Nate Ruess, who stepped back from his hit band fun., returns with a reinvented Format. **B1**

SPORTS The Nationals are trading all-star left-hander MacKenzie Gore to the Rangers for five prospects. **B7**

THE REGION A teacher agreed to a "Queer Eye" makeover in the show's final season, but only if it helped his school, too. **B13**

WEEKEND Winter gets a bad rap, its pleasures overlooked. In that spirit, here are 10 pursuits to help you savor the season.

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