



Five college football coaches on the hot seat

SPORTS, 1B

NORTHWEST FLORIDA

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Big winter storm pummels Northeast



Over 568,000 power outages were reported across the Northeast by the morning of Feb. 23, with most occurring in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, according to poweroutage.us. PETER PEREIRA/NEW BEDFORD STANDARD-TIMES

Cities report whiteouts, mass power outages

Christopher Cann, N’dea Yancey-Bragg, Dinah Voyles Pulver, Eduardo Cuevas, Doyle Rice and Brandi D. Addison

USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW YORK – An intensifying winter storm pummeled the Northeast on Feb. 23, unleashing blizzard conditions that blanketed major cities in snow, brought travel to a standstill and caused mass power outages.

The powerful nor’easter dumped more than 2 feet of snow across much of the Eastern Seaboard by the afternoon. The weather service had received at least 22 preliminary reports of 24 inches

of snow or more spanning a distance of nearly 200 miles, stretching from Freehold, New Jersey, to New Bedford, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island.

More than 40 million people were under blizzard warnings from Maryland to Maine, as several states recorded hurricane-force winds. Blizzard conditions were verified in Teterboro, Newark and Islip, New Jersey; Westhampton, New York; Groton, New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut, according to the weather service. Meteorologists announced that the nor’easter had officially achieved “bomb cyclone” status.

New York City lifted a travel ban on

Feb. 23 that had taken effect the night before, “but conditions on the roads remain icy,” said Mayor Zohran Mamdani in a post on X. Streets were eerily quiet as residents sheltered from the city’s first blizzard since March 2017.

In Central Park, more than 15 inches of snow fell by mid-morning, and totals of 14 to 20 inches were reported across the city – with another 1 to 2 inches in the forecast, Mamdani said. At Remsenburg-Speonk on Long Island, a preliminary report had measured 27.5 inches of snow, while the village of Quogue had recorded 23.5 inches and Montauk 22 inches.

Mark Pappas, head of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency,

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Crestview school zone speed cameras are active

Collin Bestor

For the Northwest Florida Daily News

CRESTVIEW — Drivers speeding through school zones along East Redstone Avenue are receiving warnings as the city rolls out a new automated speed enforcement program to protect students near Riverside Elementary School and Shoal River Middle School.

The School Zone Speed Safety Program began Feb. 11 with a 30-day grace period to educate motorists about newly installed speed detection cameras in designated school zones.

During the warning phase, violators will receive notices by mail, but no fines will be imposed.

City officials said the East Redstone Avenue corridor was selected following speeding complaints, direct observations and traffic speed studies. Crestview Police Chief Stephen McCosker said in a news release that the warning period is intended to change driver behavior before penalties take effect.

“This 30-day warning period is about keeping our children safe and giving parents peace of mind,” McCosker said in a statement. “By educating drivers and allowing time to adjust their behavior, we are working to reduce speeding in school zones and protect the children who walk, bike, and ride to school every day.”

In a video posted to the city of Crestview’s Facebook page, Crestview Police Maj. Brian McCallum said the program stems from a 2024 Florida law authorizing municipalities to use automated cameras to enforce school zone speed limits.

McCallum said additional cameras are planned for Davidson Middle School, Crestview High School and Northwood Elementary School, including the crossing on State Road 85.

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Destin residents ask county to mull interlocal on park future

Tina Harbuck

The Destin Log
USA TODAY NETWORK

More than 50 Destin residents, wearing green for solidarity of nature and conservation, showed up at the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioner meeting on Feb. 17, with about 20 voicing concerns over the proposed plans for the 4-acre parcel on Holiday Isle.

The messages were the same from most of the people who spoke: no commercialization of the park; listen to the residents; and sign an interlocal agreement with the city of Destin to work together.

“Please listen to us and let’s make something beautiful we can all be proud of,” said Destin Councilman Rodney Braden.

Braden was just one of the council members present and who spoke.

Council member Teresa Hebert, Jim Bagby and Mayor Bobby Wagner each spoke, as well as City Attorney Kimberly Kopp.

Others from the city in attendance were council members Sandy Trammell and Dewey Destin and City Manager Larry Jones.

Wagner had originally tried to get on the agenda for the Feb. 17 county commission meeting, to bring forward an interlocal agreement. The interlocal basically says the city and county would “collaborate and coordinate” plans for the 4-acre parcel.

So instead of being on the agenda, several people from the Destin/Holiday Isle area filled out cards to speak during the “public comment” portion of the county commission meeting, with each speaker getting 3 minutes.

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The Norriego Beach Access and Park is located just to the west of the 4-acre parcel on Holiday Isle where the county plans to develop a park.

TINA HARBUCK/THE DESTIN LOG

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