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SPORTS, 1B

Salina Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | SALINA.COM

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Farmers 'living with the damage' from Trump tariffs

Jason Alatidd
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kansas farmers and soybean producers especially are "living with the damage" done by tariffs and the result-

ing trade war as they face decisions on what crops to plant this year.

"The big thing that really sticks out for most of us in agriculture are the tariffs that are on our neighbors in Canada and Mexico, and then also with our largest trading partner, China," said Nick

Levendofsky, executive director of the Kansas Farmers Union. "We have seen the damage, and we're living with the damage from that move — from those tariffs, the trade war."

See FARMERS, Page 2A



Soybeans glow from the setting sun in a field off SE Paulen Road in Shawnee County on Oct. 9, 2025. EVERT NELSON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL



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

Winter storm pummels Northeast

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

See STORM, Page 5A

Smith pleads guilty to fraud

Stacey Saldanha-Olson
Topeka Capital-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The former CEO of Saint Francis Ministries pleaded guilty to taking money from the foster care nonprofit.

On Feb. 19, Robert Nelson "Father Bobby" Smith pleaded guilty to a single charge of wire fraud for a \$6,909.73 credit card payment.

As part of his guilty plea, Smith could get the 20-year maximum penalty in prison and a \$250,000 fine. His sentencing is set for July 15.

What fraud was the former Saint Francis Ministries CEO accused of?

Smith and William Byrd Whymark were indicted in November 2022 on 20 total counts of wire fraud, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

Federal prosecutors allege the two committed a massive fraud regarding Saint Francis Ministries, a faith-based nonprofit in Salina that contracts with the Kansas Department for Children and Families to provide such child welfare services as foster care and adoption.

The indictment alleged false invoices resulted in more than \$10 million in payments to Whymark, while Whymark paid Smith a \$50,000 kickback and Smith used Saint Francis credit cards for personal expenses.

On Nov. 18, Smith's co-defendant Whymark pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Topeka to two counts of money laundering.

In a hearing a few days after Whymark's guilty plea, Smith's legal team was denied a 13th postponement and his trial was set for May 5.

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Volume 156 | No. 46
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