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BUSINESS, 3A

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VETERANS PARADE



Mike Battaglino, a veteran and Wichita Falls City Council member, walks in the North Texas Veterans Council's Veterans Day Parade downtown Saturday. The parade drew participants ranging from members of Thomas Fowler American Legion Post 169 to the Mexican American Veterans Organization to the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans and others. NAOMI SKINNER/TIMES RECORD NEWS

City has new policy for tornado sirens

Lynn Walker

Wichita Falls Times Record News
USA TODAY NETWORK – TEXAS

The city of Wichita Falls has changed its warning sirens policy. Fire Chief Cody Melton told the City Council Tuesday the new criteria is “meant for clarity and effectiveness, not only for the citizens, but for the people who are going to be pushing the button.”

The biggest change occurs when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for all or part of the city. Now all 53 sirens will sound. Under the previous policy, sirens would sound only in the portion of the city when designated by the NWS.

The sirens will also sound when a tornado or funnel cloud is observed by a trained storm spotter forming in or approaching the city.

They will also be activated when NWS issues a severe thunderstorm warning that includes “a destructive wind ... of 80 mph or greater.”

Another change Melton announced was that during a tornado warning the sirens will sound for 3 minutes, rest for 5 minutes and repeat the procedure until the warning expires.

He also said to avoid confusion, there will no longer be an all-clear sounding of the sirens.

Under the previous criteria, the sirens sounded upon a confirmed report of a tornado within the city limits or one that will enter the city limits. The sirens would also sound upon confirmed report of winds in excess of 58 mph.

Melton said the purpose of the sirens is to warn people who are outdoors when danger occurs.

He said residents have a number of ways to stay informed, and “the sirens are just one piece of the puzzle.”

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Beef prices plan irks cattle ranchers

Kinsey Crowley, Anna Kleiber, Ana Goñi-Lessan, Josh Kelly and Mackensy Lunsford
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump is planning to bring beef prices down in the United States by importing more of it from Argentina.

“Prices are way down in our country. The only cost that’s really up is beef,” Trump said in the Oval Office on Oct. 22, according to a Reuters report. “We’re going to do something very quickly and easily on beef to get it down. The ranchers understand that.”

Trump also seemed to talk about cattle ranchers directly in an Oct. 22 Truth Social post, saying they were doing well due to his tariffs and calling on them to lower prices. Cattle prices are up, but an expert previously told USA TODAY it is a result of several events that have occurred over recent years. Also, meat-

packers largely set the price consumers pay for beef, not ranchers.

Part of his solution to address the beef prices is to quadruple imports of beef from Argentina. Federal agencies also released a longer plan meant to strengthen the American beef industry, including speeding up deregulation. But Trump’s announcement came after the United States announced a substantial financial bailout to Argentina. The leadership style of Argentina’s president has been compared to that of Trump and Elon Musk.

But the move has raised complaints from cattle ranchers around the country.

Argentina and U.S. beef industry

A pound of ground beef cost \$6.33 on average as of September, compared with \$5.58 the same month in 2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Sta-

istics.

Argentina accounts for 2.1% of U.S. beef imports and can ship up to 20,000 metric tons a year at a lower tariff rate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any amount above that is subject to a 26.4% tariff. The Trump administration plans to raise that quota to 80,000 metric tons, allowing more Argentinian beef to be imported at the reduced tariff rate.

“If President Trump is truly an ally of America’s cattle producers, we call on him to abandon this effort to manipulate markets,” Colin Woodall, the CEO of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, said in a statement.

The tariff pass for Argentina comes shortly after the Trump administration announced a \$20 billion currency swap and another potential \$20 billion in aid for the country that has been facing an

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