

Central Invitational: Broadcasting (BRO) News Program

Rounds 1 and 2-News Program (5 minutes): Students will select at least three (3) news stories (international, national, local) with music selection and commercial prompt to create a 5 minute News Program. Weather is optional. You may cut portions, or even all, of a story, but you may not update or paraphrase the news copy. Your edited newscast should consume about 3 to 3.5 minutes of your 5-minute News Program. The material below is the only allowable subject matter for the tournament.

Round 3-Breaking News (2 minutes): Students will have 2 minutes to sight-read a news story that they will be “breaking news live.” Students are encouraged to have an intro/outro that results in no more than 30 seconds. The total performance target time is 2 minutes. Students will prep on the day of the tournament.

Round 4/Final-Editorial (2 minutes) with 30 minutes prep. Topic released on the day of the tournament.

News Program – Music Genres & Artists

Choose one of the music genres below and use the artists listed to write your original music lead-in and lead-out segments. Your original music lead-in and lead-out should consume about 30 seconds-1 minute (total) of your 5-minute News Program. The options below are the only allowable subject matter for the invitational. *Central Invitational Note: All musicians are nominated in some way for the 2026 Grammy Awards (2/1/26)*

Música Urbana

Bad Bunny
Feid

Pop

Lady Gaga
Sabrina Carpenter

K-Pop

Rosé
KPop Demon Hunters

Rap

Doechii
Kendrick Lamar

News Program – Original Commercial Use the information below to create your original commercial. Your original commercial should consume about 1 minute of your 5-minute News Program. Please follow the guidelines for the invitational.

Prompt: Snickers (Candy)

- Slogans
 - You’re not you when you’re hungry.
 - Snickers satisfies.
- Ingredients
 - Peanuts
 - Caramel
 - Nougat
 - Milk Chocolate
- Products
 - Snickers
 - Snicker Almond
- Snickers Peanut Butter
- Snickers White Chocolate
- Snickers Peanut Brownie
- Snickers Dark Chocolate Almond
- Snickers Ice Cream Bar
- Various Sizes
 - Single Size (1.86 oz.)
 - Sharing Size (3.29)
 - 100 Calories Chocolate Candy Bar (0.76 oz)
 - Fun Size (10.59 oz. per bag)
- Miscellaneous Information
 - Manufactured by Mars Wrigley
 - Official Chocolate Sponsor of the NFL
 - History
 - Allegedly named after a horse
 - First manufactured and sold in Chicago for 5 cents

News Program – News Copy Selection

International

BERLIN (AP) — The eight European countries targeted by U.S. President Donald Trump for a 10% tariff for opposing American control of Greenland blasted the move Sunday, warning that his threats “undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral.”

The joint statement by some of America’s closest allies signaled a possible turning point in the recent tensions over sovereignty and security nearly 24 hours after Trump’s threat.

It was also the most forceful rebuke of Trump from the European allies since he returned to the White House almost a year ago. In recent months, Europeans have mostly opted for diplomacy and flattery around him, even when seeking an end to the war in Ukraine. Sunday’s statement, as well as some European countries sending troops to Greenland for a Danish military training exercise, appeared to be a step away from that strategy.

The unusually strong joint statement from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland said troops sent to Greenland for operation “Arctic Endurance” pose “no threat to anyone.”

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen told reporters in Oslo that a dialogue was opened with the U.S. last week and “we will not give up on that. ... So we will stay on track — unless [the] U.S. decides differently.”

Added Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide at the same news conference: “We will not allow ourselves to be put under pressure, and those types of threats (of U.S. tariffs) are unacceptable between close allies.”

Six of the countries targeted are part of the 27-member European Union, which operates as a single economic zone in terms of trade.

Following emergency talks among the EU’s national envoys Sunday, EU Council President Antonio Costa said the bloc’s leaders agree “that tariffs would undermine transatlantic relations and are incompatible with the EU-U.S. trade agreement.”

They expressed “readiness to defend ourselves against any form of coercion,” Costa said in a statement. He is expected to convene a summit of the bloc’s leaders later this week.

VIENNA (AP) — Three avalanches across Austria killed eight skiers, authorities said.

A female skier was fatally buried by an avalanche in the Bad Hofgastein area in western Austria, at an altitude of about 2,200 meters (7,200 feet), around 12:30 p.m. Saturday, according to the Pongau mountain rescue service.

Roughly 90 minutes later, an avalanche in nearby Gastein Valley, south of the city of Salzburg, swept away seven people. Four were killed, two seriously injured and one escaped unharmed.

In the town of Pusterwald in central Austria, three Czech skiers were killed in an avalanche shortly before 4:30 p.m., police said. Four of their companions were evacuated to safety.

“This tragedy painfully demonstrates how serious the current avalanche situation is,” said Gerhard Kremser, district head of the Pongau mountain rescue service, noting the “clear and repeated warnings” about avalanche risk.

RAQQA, Syria (AP) — The Syrian government Sunday announced a ceasefire with the Syrian Democratic Forces, taking almost full control of the country and dismantling the Kurdish-led forces that controlled the northeast for over a decade.

The announcement comes as tensions between government forces and the SDF boiled over earlier this month, eventually resulting in a major push by government forces toward the east. The SDF appeared to have largely retreated after initial clashes on a tense front line area in eastern Aleppo province.

Hours after the government announced the deal, SDF leader Mazloum Abdi confirmed it in a video statement, saying the group had accepted the agreement, which stipulates their withdrawal from Raqqa and Deir el-Zour provinces “to stop the bloodshed.” “We will explain the terms of the agreement to our people in the coming days,” he said.

Syria’s Defense Ministry said it ordered the fighting to halt on the front lines after the agreement was announced.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian drone strikes damaged energy networks in Russia-occupied parts of southern Ukraine, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without power on Sunday, according to Kremlin-installed authorities there.

Meanwhile, Moscow has kept up its hammering of Ukraine’s energy grid in overnight attacks that killed at least two people, according to Ukrainian officials.

More than 200,000 households in the Russia-held part of Ukraine’s southern Zaporizhzhia region had no electricity on Sunday, according to the Kremlin-installed local governor.

In a Telegram post, Yevgeny Balitsky said that nearly 400 settlements have had their supply cut, because of damage to power networks from Ukrainian drone strikes.

Russia has hammered Ukraine’s power grid, especially in winter, throughout the nearly four-year war. The strikes aim to weaken Ukrainians’ will to resist in a strategy that Kyiv officials call “weaponizing winter.”

Russia targeted energy infrastructure in Odesa region overnight on Sunday, according to Ukraine’s Emergency Service. A fire broke out and was promptly extinguished.

At least six people were wounded in the Dnipropetrovsk region from Russian attacks, the emergency service said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post that repairing the country's energy system remains challenging, "but we are doing everything we can to restore everything as quickly as possible." He said that two people were killed in overnight attacks across the country that struck Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi and Odesa.

In total, more than 1,300 attack drones, 1,050 guided aerial bombs and 29 missiles of various types were used by Russia to strike Ukraine this week, Zelenskyy said.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S.-based activist agency said Sunday it has verified at least 3,919 deaths during a wave of protests that swept Iran and led to a bloody crackdown, and fears the number could be significantly higher.

The Human Rights Activists News Agency posted the revised figure, up from the previous toll of 3,308. The death toll exceeds that of any other round of protest or unrest in Iran in decades, and recalls the chaos surrounding the 1979 revolution.

The agency has been accurate throughout the years of demonstrations in Iran, relying on a network of activists inside the country that confirms all reported fatalities. The Associated Press has been unable to independently confirm the toll.

Iranian officials have not given a clear death toll, although on Saturday, the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the protests had left "several thousand" people dead — and blamed the United States for the deaths. It was the first indication from an Iranian leader of the extent of the casualties from the wave of protests that began Dec. 28 over Iran's ailing economy.

The Human Rights Activists News Agency says 24,669 protesters have been arrested in the crackdown.

Iranian officials have repeatedly accused the United States and Israel of fomenting unrest in the country.

Tension with the United States has been high, with U.S. President Donald Trump repeatedly threatening Tehran with military action if his administration found the Islamic Republic was using deadly force against anti-government protesters.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a post Sunday on X, blamed "longstanding enmity and inhumane sanctions" imposed by the U.S. and its allies for any hardships the Iranian people might be facing. "Any aggression against the Supreme Leader of our country is tantamount to all-out war against the Iranian nation," he wrote.

During the protests, Trump had told demonstrators that "help is on the way" and that his administration would "act accordingly" if the killing of demonstrators continued or if Iranian authorities executed detained protesters.

But he later struck a conciliatory tone, saying that Iranian officials had “canceled the hanging of over 800 people” and that “I greatly respect the fact that they canceled.”

On Saturday, Khamenei branded Trump a “criminal” for supporting the rallies and blamed the U.S. for the casualties, describing the protesters as “foot soldiers” of the United States. Trump, in an interview with Politico on Saturday, called for an end to Khamenei’s nearly 40-year reign, calling him “a sick man who should run his country properly and stop killing people.”

No protests have been reported for days in Iran, where the streets have returned to an uneasy calm. Instead, some Iranians chanted anti-Khamenei slogans from the windows of their homes on Saturday night, the chants reverberating around neighborhoods in Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan, witnesses said.

Authorities have also blocked access to the internet since Jan. 8. On Saturday, very limited internet services functioned again briefly. Access to some online services such as Google began working again on Sunday, although users said they could access only domestic websites, and email services continued to be blocked.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has ordered about 1,500 active duty soldiers to be ready in case of a possible deployment to Minnesota, where federal authorities have been conducting a massive immigration enforcement operation, two defense officials said Sunday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military plans, said two infantry battalions of the Army’s 11th Airborne Division have been given prepare-to-deploy orders. The unit is based in Alaska and specializes in operating in arctic conditions.

One defense official said the troops are standing by to deploy to Minnesota should President Donald Trump invoke the Insurrection Act, a rarely used 19th century law that would allow him to employ active duty troops as law enforcement.

The move comes just days after Trump threatened to do just that to quell protests against his administration’s immigration crackdown.

In an emailed statement, Pentagon chief spokesman Sean Parnell did not deny the orders were issued and said the military “is always prepared to execute the orders of the Commander-in-Chief if called upon.”

ABC News was the first to report the development. On Thursday, Trump said in a social media post that he would invoke the 1807 law “if the corrupt politicians of Minnesota don’t obey the law and stop the professional agitators and insurrectionists from attacking the Patriots of I.C.E., who are only trying to do their job.”

He appeared to walk back the threat a day later, telling reporters at the White House that there wasn’t a reason to use it “right now.” “If I needed it, I’d use it,” Trump said. “It’s very powerful.”

Trump has repeatedly threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act throughout both of his terms. In 2020 he threatened to use it to quell protests after George Floyd was killed by Minneapolis police, and in recent months he threatened to use it for immigration protests.

The law was most recently invoked by President George H.W. Bush in 1992 to end unrest in Los Angeles after the acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of Rodney King.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat and frequent target of Trump, has urged the president to refrain from sending in more troops: “I’m making a direct appeal to the President: Let’s turn the temperature down. Stop this campaign of retribution. This is not who we are,” Walz said last week on social media.

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — College football leaders gave every indication Sunday that they remain stuck in a yearlong debate about expanding the playoff from 12 teams to 16 or beyond.

Commissioners and school presidents met on the eve of the College Football Playoff title game, facing a Friday deadline from ESPN — the \$7.8 billion bankroller of the postseason — to decide on changing or staying at the current 12-team model.

The debate boils down to two conferences, the Big Ten and Southeastern Conference, that both want to expand but have widely different visions of how far expansion should go.

“I think that’s up to two people,” American Conference Commissioner Tim Perneti said. He was speaking of Tony Petitti of the Big Ten and Greg Sankey of the SEC, who did not reach any agreement during the last scheduled meeting before Friday’s deadline.

“Still more work to do,” Pettiti said as he quickly made his way toward an escalator at the Miami Beach hotel where the meeting was held. “One-hundred percent, we’re still working.”

The Miami-Indiana final Monday night will mark the end of the current contract, and a six-year deal worth \$1.3 billion a year kicks in next season. Its revenue-distribution model doles out more to the SEC and Big Ten than the Atlantic Coast and Big 12, among the power conferences. Just as importantly, it leaves the two biggest leagues squarely in charge of what comes next.

The SEC is pushing for an expansion to 16 teams, with an emphasis on at-large bids — a format favored by the Power Four leagues other than the Big Ten and most of the smaller conferences that are hoping for access into whatever comes next.

The Big Ten has pushed for a bracket of up to 24 teams with multiple automatic qualifiers from each conference. It could do away with the need for conference title games and replace them with seeding games to determine, say, two or three of the automatic spots.

If the commissioners can’t agree on a new number, the tournament would automatically stay at 12, with a deadline of Dec. 1, 2026, to make any changes for the following season.

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A small part of Florida is the Snowy State for the second year in a row.

Snow briefly covered the grass and rooftops in parts of the western Florida Panhandle on Sunday morning as just enough frigid air rushed in behind a cold front to turn the last rain showers into snowflakes in the Sunshine State.

Elsewhere, the winter weather promised to interfere with playoff football in places — Boston and Chicago — more accustomed to it, although the visiting teams come from warmer climes. And in the upper Midwest, residents braced for blizzard conditions.

The southern snow wasn't a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Less than a year ago, on Jan. 21, 2025, some of the same areas of Florida that briefly saw frosty lawns received up to 8 inches of snow in what was the most significant snowfall in many places since the late 1800s. Snow photos flooded social media. There were a few flakes on the beach and snow nestled into palm fronds. It was too warm to stick to the roads, but a dusting of snow sat on the grass for a little while before mostly melting.

The rare snow in the South wasn't just in Florida. Southeastern Alabama and southern Georgia also reported snow in some areas as they also celebrated a second winter wonderland in less than a year.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A few thousand demonstrators gathered Sunday in Los Angeles in support of protesters in Iran.

Marchers, some waving the flag of Iran before the Islamic Revolution, rallied downtown near Los Angeles City Hall. The police department estimated the "Solidarity with the People of Iran" event drew about 4,000 demonstrators. The rally was peaceful and there were no arrests, the department said.

Activists say a crackdown on nationwide protests against the theocracy in Iran has killed thousands of people. Protesters have flooded the streets in Iran's capital of Tehran and its second-largest city. Los Angeles is home to the largest Iranian community outside of Iran.

Local

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE) — A couple of library branches in Newburgh will be undergoing renovations that officials say are much-needed.

Officials say the downtown branch will be closed while the Bell Road location will stay open.

They say some areas of the Bell Road branch will have some restrictions and services may be limited during this process. They will be painting, updating the roof, and renovating several other areas,

Director of the Newburgh-Chandler Library, Trista Smith, says these updates are crucial. They are hoping to have a date soon on when the renovations will start.

HENDERSON, Ky. (WFIE) — A major milestone in the I-69 ORX project: officials say Indiana and Kentucky created a tolling body of officials from both states.

Those officials will be in charge of tolling policies and much of the financing related to the new bridge. They also created a plan that might keep both Twin Bridges.

Henderson County Judge Executive, Brad Schneider, says it is a high priority.

“We’ve been searching for a way for both states to keep both twin bridges and keep them toll free for local commuters, and I think these steps Indiana and Kentucky have taken are going to open the door to that and make it much easier to keep the twin bridges because reduced truck traffic will lengthen their life, reduce maintenance, and make it easier on the 41 strip,” Schneider stated.

The plan is to make highway 41 concurrent with the new I-69 route, and reassign the current 41 as state roads.

It will be renamed “Kentucky Route 2341.” In Indiana, part of it will become “Indiana Route 141.”

Officials say if the Twin Bridges are on a state road, they can enforce weight limits, keeping heavy trucks off the bridge and off the Henderson strip.

Addison Hearn, Outreach Director for 4 Good Community, a local community center just off of 41, says it would make their commute much smoother, and safer as well.

“We have pretty much a direct view of 41. We also work directly with emergency management services, they’re here all the time and what we know is there are so many accidents. We see the accidents happen, we hear the accidents happen,” Hearn stated. “I’m hoping it will help with all the accidents we see, the accidents that cause traffic to back up.”

As for the tolls, all that money will be used to pay bonds used to fund the bridge, and once they are paid, the tolls will go away. Even though the tolling body is still new, officials say everything so far has moved smoothly.

“All the things that need to be happening to get that bridge open by 2031 are happening in both states,” Schneider stated. “Everything that needs to happen to keep the Twin Bridges open, free, and intact for local commuters is happening, it’s all good.”

Officials said the three groups submitting final designs for the new bridge will submit proposals this fall. A contract will be awarded by the end of the year, and construction will begin next spring.

The new bridge is expected to be complete by 2031.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (WFIE) — If you’re looking for love, Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden has you covered. Zoo employees are inviting community members to come out and “fla-mingle” at “Social Safari: Birds, Bees, & SSPs”.

The brand new after-hours speeding dating event will run on February 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Koch Carousel Event Lodge + Kley Building.

“Start the night with a fun, short talk on how love happens in the animal and plant kingdoms, how zoos help species survive, and why pollinators matter, then jump into interactive speed dating! Love is wild - are you ready for your Social Safari?” say organizers.

Mesker Park Zoo officials say you can expect:

- One-on-one chats
- Team games & problem-solving
- Animal & plant-themed activities
- A relaxed, playful way to meet potential matches
- A short questionnaire is required for the zoo to create match groups.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available for ages 21 - 35. Tickets include two drinks courtesy of Leroy's Tavern & Coca-Cola Consolidated, as well as chips and salsa from Hacienda.

Organizers say the rest of the zoo will be closed, so animal viewing will be limited. Go to meskerparkzoo.com to purchase tickets and learn more.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (Courier & Press) — After already weathering a sharp increase in electric rates in 2025 and facing the prospect of natural gas bills rising again this winter, Evansville residents could see another jump in their CenterPoint costs later this year.

But when exactly that will happen – and how much bills may change – is still uncertain. According to the settlement agreement that paved the way for last year's electric base rate hike, CenterPoint will submit a compliance filing for "phase two" of the new rates to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission "on or around March 1, 2026."

"Settlement Phase 2 rates will go into effect upon the effective date of the commission's approval," the settlement reads.

CenterPoint filed for "phase one" increases in February 2025. They went into effect around the middle of that year, and promptly caused Evansville-area ratepayers' bills to jump by nearly 25% compared to 2024, the IURC's July residential bill survey found.

"CenterPoint Energy's focus continues to be prioritizing affordability for our southwestern Indiana customers and communicating those bill impacts in a timely and transparent manner," the statement read in part.

WEATHER

Today — Cloudy. High 21F. Winds NNE at 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with snow showers around in the evening. Cold. Low near 10F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 40%. About one inch of snow is expected.

Tomorrow — Mostly cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 22F.

Tomorrow Night — A few clouds from time to time. Low near 10F.

Monday — A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny before clear skies at night. Winds light and variable High 31F. Low 17F.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy skies. High 29F. Low 14F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.