

The Washington Post

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Partly sunny 42/30 • Tomorrow: Mostly sunny 57/37 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026 • \$4

Reclaiming a hallowed space



EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

People gather Thursday at the Stonewall National Monument in New York, birthplace of the gay rights movement, to raise a Pride flag after authorities removed the existing one this week from the Greenwich Village site.

Partial shutdown looms as ICE negotiations stall

BY THEODORIC MEYER AND RILEY BEGGIN

Large swaths of the Department of Homeland Security are set to shut down Saturday after Senate Democrats on Thursday blocked two funding bills because the legislation did not include new restrictions on federal immigration agents.

Democrats demanded a long list of changes to DHS after federal immigration agents killed Alex Patti last month in Minneapolis, including tighter rules on warrants and a ban on agents wearing face masks. President Donald

Trump appeared open to some of them, but Democrats rejected a proposal the White House made Wednesday night, all but ensuring a partial government shutdown.

Every Democrat except one — Sen. John Fetterman, a Democrat from Pennsylvania — voted Thursday against advancing legislation to fund DHS through Sept. 30 before lawmakers left town for a week-long recess.

"Today's strong vote was a shot across the bow to Republicans," Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York) said. "Democrats will not support a

blank check for chaos."

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut) also blocked Republicans from extending DHS funding for two weeks, arguing that Democrats could not send the agency more money without new restraints on its agents.

"We have a constitutional obligation to only fund a Department of Homeland Security that is obeying the law, and this Department of Homeland Security is not obeying the law," Murphy said on the Senate floor.

Republicans accused Democrats of being unreasonable and not allowing enough time for

negotiations to play out. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-South Dakota) said talks would continue but warned that Democrats would have to make concessions of their own.

"Democrats are never going to get their full wish list," Thune said Thursday on the Senate floor. "That's not the way this works."

The Senate is not expected to hold any more votes before a shutdown starts at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time on Saturday, and many senators were set to leave town Thursday to travel to the

SEE SHUTDOWN ON A4

Homan declares an end to surge in Minnesota

STATE, LOCAL LEADERS CHEER WITHDRAWAL

Raids resulted in protests, killings of two U.S. citizens

BY MARIA SACCHETTI

President Donald Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, declared an end to Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota following widespread protests against immigration raids that led to the fatal shootings by officers of two American citizens.

"Operation Metro Surge is ending," Homan said at a news conference Thursday.

The Twin Cities surge marked the Trump administration's largest immigration operation since the president took office promising to deport millions of people. Federal officials deployed thousands of immigration officers purportedly to arrest criminals, but protesters filled the streets as officers scooped up working residents and some children. The aggressive tactics drew condemnation.

SEE ICE ON A8

tion from Democrats and some Republican legislators, and are at the center of negotiations over the Department of Homeland Security's funding. Large swaths of the agency are set to shut down Saturday if no agreement is reached.

State and local officials welcomed the withdrawal of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection on Thursday, but said the outcome did not justify the vast human and economic costs.

State and city officials estimate that the raids cost them millions in emergency services and revenue as police worked overtime, some schools and shops closed temporarily, and travel slumped. Court officials said they were inundated with lawsuits as immigrants sought release from detention and federal officials prosecut-



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GTY IMAGES

CBP Commissioner Rodney Scott prepares to exit Thursday after a Senate panel hearing amid scrutiny over immigration enforcement.

For these clergy, massive migrant crackdown lit a fire to take action

BY MICHELLE BOORSTEIN

If clergy are usually more priest or more prophet, Rabbi Darby Leigh saw himself as priest. Someone whose main calling was pastoral, helping teens prepare for bar mitzvahs, comforting congregants in hospice, bearing witness to intimate moments.

Then came Minneapolis. The massive ICE crackdown there — with its stories of federal law enforcement shooting U.S. citizens, separating families and deporting undocumented people, even those trying to go through legal channels — led Leigh to feel called in a new way, to go to Minnesota and join the opposition. He didn't end up doing it. But some of his congregants began pushing: What are we doing? How are we defending democratic norms?

"Historically, I had the idea I was leading the way to a better future. I was a kind of 'active,'" he said. "But in the moment we're in, I'm coming to a new realization. They say faith leaders' job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. This moment needs all of us to say: I'm willing to be a bit more uncomfortable."

SEE RABBIS ON A9

Recent warming burst takes scientists by surprise

BY JOHN MUYSKENS AND SHANNON OSAKA

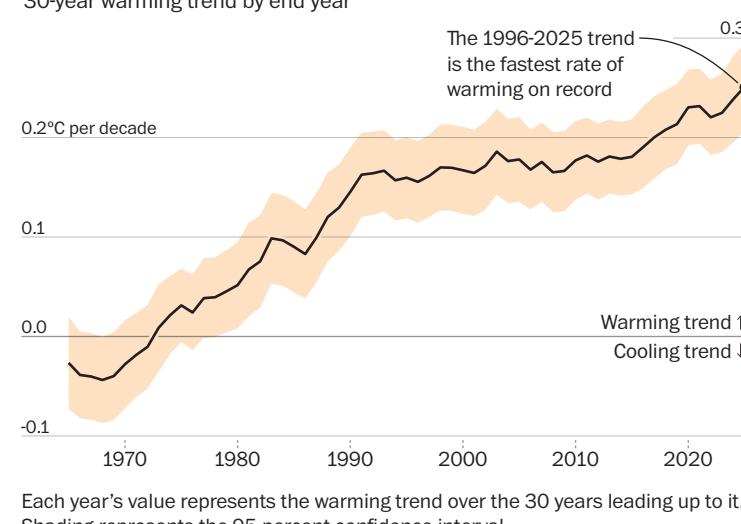
Global temperatures have been rising for decades. But many scientists say it's now happening faster than ever before.

Since the 1970s, the Earth — fueled by enormous quantities of greenhouse gas emissions — has been warming at a fairly steady rate.

But in the last few years, something changed. 2023, 2024 and 2025 were far warmer than the previous trend.

According to a Washington Post analysis, the fastest warming

The speed of global warming



rate on record occurred in the past 30 years. The Post used a dataset from NASA to analyze global average surface temperatures from 1880 to 2025.

"We're not continuing on the same path we had before," said Robert Rohde, chief scientist at Berkeley Earth. "Something has changed."

For about 40 years — from 1970 to 2010 — global warming proceeded at a fairly steady rate. As humans continued to pump massive amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the world warmed at about 0.19 degrees Celsius per decade, or around 0.34 degrees Fahrenheit.

Then, that rate began to shift. The warming rate ticked up a notch. Temperatures over the

SEE TEMPERATURES ON A6

White House quickly fires judge-picked U.S. attorney

BY JEREMY ROEBUCK

Federal judges in Albany, New York, appointed a new U.S. attorney on Wednesday, exercising a rarely invoked legal authority to appoint top prosecutors in regions without a Senate-confirmed nominee.

Their choice lasted less than five hours on the job.

Donald T. Kinsella, a 79-year-old former prosecutor and registered Republican, was summarily fired via an email from the White House later that evening. Justice Department officials said.

The move underscored a growing point of tension between the Trump administration and courts in parts of the country where the president's controversial picks for U.S. attorney have been unable to win Senate support.

Kinsella's swift termination also sent a signal to judges in several other federal court districts, including the Eastern District of Virginia, who have recently announced plans to make similar replacements of Trump-installed prosecutors whose ap-

SEE ATTORNEY ON A10

Trump repeals EPA finding underpinning climate policies

BY JAKE SPRING

Nearly 17 years after the Environmental Protection Agency declared that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases threaten the public's health and welfare, the agency on Thursday rescinded the landmark legal opinion underpinning a wave of federal policies aimed at climate change.

The agency issued its "endan-

germent finding" in 2009, concluding that the government had a sound legal basis to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In scrapping the policy this week, the EPA will seek to erase limits on emissions from cars, power plants and other industries that release the vast majority of the nation's planet-warming pollution.

At an event at the White House

on Thursday afternoon alongside EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, President Donald Trump called the decision "the single largest deregulatory action in American history." He added, "And I think we can add the words 'by far.'"

The announcement represents more than just the latest in a litany of rollbacks of climate and environmental safeguards by Trump, who has referred to cli-

mate change as "a hoax" and a "scam." Rather, it marks the culmination of years of effort by conservative and industry groups to undermine the cornerstone of federal rules that limit greenhouse gases — and to hamper future administrations from putting them back in place after Trump.

For years, wiping out the en-

SEE EPA ON A7

IN THE NEWS

Another DOJ departure The agency's top antitrust attorney was ousted amid conflict with leaders over how aggressively to enforce the nation's corporate competition laws. A2

Alien Enemies Act A federal judge in D.C. said some of the 137 Venezuelans deported can return to challenge their removals. A3

THE NATION
In Munich, Marco Rubio and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, potential 2028 presidential candidates, will offer dueling visions as European leaders recoil at America's populist politics. A12

THE WORLD
Russia launched a barrage of ballistic missiles and drones at Ukrainian cities, as President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow was "hesitating" about another round of peace talks. A12

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Mexican skier Sarah Schleper is 46 years old and in her seventh Olympics. Who's here with her? Her son. B1

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A new adaptation of "Wuthering Heights" by feminist director Emerald Fennell explores the birth of the toxic boyfriend. B7
WEEKEND
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THE REGION
Congress, in a rare move, blocked D.C. tax policy, which city leaders say will cost \$600 million in revenue through 2029. B13

WEEKEND
How do I love thee? 14 ways to celebrate romance or friendship to your heart's content. B7

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