



Monday, Feb. 26, 2024

- 1. Donald Trump won the South Carolina Republican primary.**

**What's happening?** Former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley has vowed to stay in the race despite Trump winning every primary. She lost her home state Saturday by about 20 points.

**Yesterday:** An influential conservative political group announced it would stop spending in support of Haley's campaign after her expected — but significant — loss.

**In related news:** Ronna McDaniel is stepping down as leader of the Republican National Committee.
- 2. The Supreme Court will consider whether states can control social media.**

**Today:** Justices will hear arguments over laws in Florida and Texas that prohibit social media companies from removing posts or accounts because of their viewpoints.

**It's a big deal:** A decision, expected by late June, could shape political speech on social media in the critical months before the U.S. presidential election.
- 3. The government could partially shut down in less than a week.**

**What to know:** About 20% of federal funding is set to expire if Congress doesn't act by Friday night, endangering vital services like food stamp and housing assistance programs.

**What's the holdup?** House Republicans are making policy demands on issues including LGBTQ+ rights, abortion and immigration.

**Looking ahead:** The deadline for a larger shutdown is March 8.
- 4. A cease-fire agreement in the Gaza Strip could be near.**

**What to know:** Negotiators have agreed to the basics of a deal, the White House said yesterday, and a temporary pause in fighting could come "in the coming days."

**What it contains:** The release of some hostages still held by Hamas and ramped-up aid to Gaza. But Israel said yesterday it would attack the Gazan city of Rafah even if a deal is reached.

**Yesterday:** An active-duty airman set himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in D.C. while shouting, "Free Palestine."
- 5. "Star Trek: Discovery" actor Kenneth Mitchell died at 49.**

**How we'll remember him:** For his portrayal of Klingon characters in the Paramount Plus series, as well as Aurelio, a human who used a hovercraft wheelchair.

**What to know:** Mitchell had been battling the rare neurological disease ALS for more than five years. He died Saturday, his personal Instagram page confirmed yesterday.
- 6. Record-breaking warmth will heat the Midwest and Eastern U.S. this week.**

**What to know:** Temperatures are forecast to surge 20 to 40 degrees above normal between today and Wednesday, fueling possible severe thunderstorms in the Midwest and South.

**What it means:** The Midwest's "lost winter" will carry on, with missing snow, thin ice cover on the Great Lakes and many cities experiencing their warmest winter on record.
- 7. A deep-sea robot may have discovered more than 100 new species.**

**What you're looking at:** Creatures that may be unknown to science, found 14,000 feet deep off the coast of Chile this year. Scientists will test to see if they're new species.

**What they tell us:** That the Chilean government's fishing restrictions may have helped bolster biodiversity under the sea — an example other countries could follow.



Speaker: Hannah Jewell

### Vocabulary 26/02/2024

1. **primary-** in the US, an election in which people choose who will represent a particular party in an election for political office
  
3. **food stamps -** official vouchers that are given to people with low incomes to be exchanged for food.  
**LGBTQ+ -** lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (or questioning), plus other sexual and gender identities .
  
4. **ceasefire -** an agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting in order to allow discussions about peace (Waffenstillstand)  
**to ramp up -** to increase the speed, power of cost of something
  
5. **hovercraft -** a vehicle that travels quickly just above the surface of water or land by producing a current of air under it to support it  
**ALS -** amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
  
6. **to surge -** to increase suddenly and strongly
  
7. **to bolster -** here: to make something stronger  
**beady eyes -** small and bright eyes  
**barbed -** stachelig  
**urchin -** small child

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