



Monday, February 23, 2026

1. Mexico's most powerful drug kingpin was killed by the nation's security forces.

Who? "El Mencho," the head of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. His killing yesterday set off violence in areas controlled by the cartel, with reports of burning cars blocking roads.

Zooming out: The killing was a major show of force by Mexico as President Donald Trump continues to pressure the nation to do more to fight drug trafficking organizations.

2. An armed man was shot and killed at Mar-a-Lago, the Secret Service said.

The incident: Secret Service agents and a sheriff's deputy fatally shot the man after he entered the perimeter of Trump's estate in Florida. Trump was not there this weekend.

The latest: The man was identified as 21-year-old Austin Tucker Martin. An Instagram account that appears connected to Martin heavily features illustrations of golf courses.

3. Sixty percent of Americans disapprove of Trump's job performance.

Digging deeper: Significant majorities also said they disapprove of how Trump is handling the economy, tariffs and relations with other countries, according to this new poll.

Looking ahead to the midterms: House Democrats are targeting some districts Trump easily won in 2024.

Over the weekend: Trump announced new global tariffs after the Supreme Court struck down most levies he put in place last year.

4. A powerful nor'easter dumped feet of snow on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast.

This morning: Around 35 million people from Maryland to Maine remained under blizzard warnings, as flights were delayed and households reported power outages.

What's to come: The storm will depart northern New England by tomorrow, but more storms could hit the Northeast this week.

5. The U.S. economy's dependence on AI may have been overstated, experts say.

In 2025: It became conventional wisdom that AI was a major driver of growth. But some prominent economists calculate that it contributed as little as 0% to economic gains.

AI power struggle: The Pentagon's rush to embed artificial intelligence across combat operations has exposed tensions with Anthropic, one of the nation's leading AI firms.

6. Some causes of autism could be preventable, new research suggests.

The "1,300-day window": Scientists are probing how exposure to toxins, stress and infections before conception through a child's second birthday might impact development.

One theory: A recent study suggested more than half of autism cases could be prevented with the right interventions. But such studies are raising uncomfortable ethical questions.

7. The U.S. men's hockey team ended its 46-year Olympic drought yesterday.

How they did it: With a dramatic overtime goal from Jack Hughes, who also lost some teeth, in the gold medal game against Canada. It was an emotional outcome for all. The U.S. finished second in the overall medal table:

Looking ahead: The spread-out Milan Cortina games might be a blueprint for the future. And 2028 L.A. Olympics organizers say some tickets will be cheap, but it won't be like 1984.



Vocabulary 23/02/26

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | kingpin - | main protagonist |
| | El Mencho - | nickname variant of Nemesio, El Mencho's given name |
| 2. | Mar-a-Lago - | Donald Trump's private residence in Palm Beach, Florida |
| | perimeter - | the outer Edge of an area of land or the border around it |
| 3. | midterms - | midterm elections in November, in the scope of which all seats in the House of Representatives and a number of seats in the Senate are to be newly elected |
| | State of the Union address - | A speech of the president that generally includes reports on the nation's budget, economy, news, agenda, progress, achievements and the president's priorities and legislative proposals. |
| | levy - | money that you have to pay to the government or an organization |
| 4. | nor'easter - | northeastern storm |
| 6. | to probe - | to carefully examine |
| | conception - | fertilisation |
| 7. | drought - | a long period with only little or no rain |

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