

# HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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## AMERICAN POLITICS: IOWA CAUCUSES MARK A DISTINCT VICTORY FOR DONALD TRUMP

AMENA STEENHUIS AND ARI SCHAER, GRADE 11, STAFF WRITERS

- The first event of the 2024 presidential election cycle was marked by the Iowa caucuses, the competition of the Republican Presidential Primary.
- The caucuses were a benchmark for the tenability of alternative Republican candidates on the 2024 ticket.
- Trump's victory over his competitors (Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida, Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina, and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy) seems to reinforce the belief that Trump has firmly secured the Republican nomination.
- Trump's triumph was achieved despite the various legal battles that the former President is currently embroiled in.
- The Iowa caucus has not accurately predicted the Republican nominee in the last 20 years.
- Voter turnout for the Iowa caucus was the lowest in years with only 15% of registered voters voting. This can be partially attributed to the freezing conditions in Iowa.
- Ramaswamy pulled out of the Presidential race and promptly endorsed Trump's candidacy.

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## GLOBAL CONFLICT: US AND ALLIES CARRY OUT STRIKES ON HOUTHIS TARGETS IN YEMEN

JESSI ZHENG AND JOYCE LEE, STAFF WRITERS, GRADE 11

- The Houthis are backed by the Iranian government
- The attack came as a result of "repeated drone and missile attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea" according to CNN
- These attacks caused many international shipping companies to sail alternate, lengthy routes
- Struck over 60 targets at 16 Iranian-backed Houthi locations.
- Houthi leader, Abdul Malek Al-Houthi warned that any U.S. attack on Yemen will not go unanswered
- At least four strikes have occurred on Houthi targets as of January 19.

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## MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS: THEODORE CACY, GRADE 10, AND JACK MCCURRY, GRADE 11, STAFF WRITERS

- As one of the many latest swatting incidents, a false 911 call on Monday claimed a fire had trapped someone in the White House. DC's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department was able to determine that there was no emergency before law enforcement arrived. (USA Today)
- A federal court blocked JetBlue from purchasing Spirit Airlines for fear of monopolization. Some analysts say that this is likely to cause Spirit Airlines to go bankrupt and out of business. (CNN)
- America's conservative Supreme Court is looking to overturn *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*. Overturning it would make it more difficult for the Federal Government to regulate interaction with the environment and the economy. (New York Times)

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