

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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Global Events: Sweden, the Official 32nd Member of NATO

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- On March 7th, 2024, Sweden became an official member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a result of concerns of Russian aggression in Europe.
- Sweden's entrance differs from its historical stance of neutrality in Europe, amid rising concern over Russia's encroachment into Europe and reports of Russian military activity in close proximity to Sweden's borders.
- Sweden will provide advanced military technology and troops to the alliance. Contributions include submarines designed for the tumultuous waters of the Baltic Sea that Sweden shares with Russia.
- Turkey and Hungary delayed Sweden's membership due to the two countries' political ties to Russia. Turkey ratified Sweden's entrance on January 25th, 2024, leaving Hungary as the only country refusing to accept Sweden's entrance into NATO. On February 26th, Hungary's government conceded and approved Sweden's bid, allowing them to become a member of NATO.
- Russia stated it would take undefined "political and military-technical measures" in response to Sweden's membership status.

American Politics: Super Tuesday Issues and Results

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- Super Tuesday is an important day in the US Election calendar in which fifteen states and one territory hold presidential primaries. The results of Super Tuesday are a good indicator of each party's eventual nomination.
- Incumbent president Joe Biden won every state and territory in the Democratic Super Tuesday Primary. Biden currently holds 1,561 out of the 1,986 delegates required to win the nomination.
- Arab-American Democrats, angered by Biden's support for Israel in the Israel-Hamas Conflict, lead a campaign urging Democratic primary voters to vote uncommitted in several state Democratic primaries.
- Former president Donald Trump won every Republican Super Tuesday Primary besides Vermont, which was won by Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley. Trump has 1,083 out of the 1,215 delegates needed to win the nomination, while Haley has only 89.
- After her major loss on Super Tuesday, Nikki Haley dropped out of the Republican primary on March 6th, leaving Trump as the only likely candidate. Despite this, Haley did not endorse Trump.

Miscellaneous News:

Kaela Glaser, Grade 10, Staff Writer, and Adam Ripp, Grade 11, News Editor

- Amphibious aid in Gaza: Among reports of widespread famine, the United States recently announced a plan to build a floating pier off Gaza in order to allow aid to pass into the embattled enclave. The project is estimated to take 30-60 days to complete, and will allow hundreds of aid trucks to provide services to Gazan civilians.
- Military in the subways: After Governor Hochul announced a plan to station National Guard and State Police in New York City subway stations, many New Yorkers pushed back on the measure, with the NYPD's chief of patrol posting a rare criticism on X (formerly Twitter).
- The Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx announced that the school would be tuition-free after former professor Ruth Gottesman made a \$1 billion gift.
- An Alabama bill protecting in-vitro fertilization (IVF) was signed by Republican Governor Kay Ivey. The passage of the bill comes only a few weeks after the Alabama State Supreme Court issued a decision claiming that embryos are children, causing Alabama's largest IVF providers to shut down operations for fear of legal action.

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