



TAYLOR SWIFT AND THE PRESIDENT 'PLOT'!

THERE'S a bizarre theory flying around online that Taylor Swift and her sports star boyfriend are faking their relationship in order to rig this year's US election!

Swift is dating Travis Kelce, who plays American football for the Kansas City Chiefs. This Sunday (11 February), his team is playing against the San Francisco 49ers in one of the biggest US sporting events of the year – the Super Bowl.

However, lots of Donald Trump supporters have spread rumours online that Swift and Kelce's romance isn't real. They say the couple are just pretending, so they can use their combined fame to sway people into voting to keep Trump's rival, Joe Biden, as president.

Some even reckon that this year's Super Bowl has been fixed so that Kelce's team will win, which would boost their combined star power even further.

Swift's super-stardom makes her one of the most influential celebrities in the world. In 2020, when Trump and Biden last went head-to-head in the polls, she criticised Trump's "ineffective presidency" and chose to support Biden. Trump's fans think she'll announce her support for Biden again this year, and urge her millions of fans to vote for him, too.

Spreading the rumour

A lot of crazy rumours get created on social media and they usually don't go anywhere, but this one is growing because important people in the US are talking about it.

They include Vivek Ramaswamy, who recently tried to campaign to be president himself. Now, he's backing Trump to win the election and return to the White House.

Ramaswamy has two million followers on X, and with a pinch of sarcasm, he posted: "I wonder who's going to win the Super Bowl... and I wonder if there's a major presidential endorsement coming from an artificially culturally propped-up couple this autumn."



The star couple!

Trump-supporting TV channels and political pundits in the US have spoken about the rumour, too. Experts say that celebrities, pop culture and the media are having a bigger influence on politics.

A recent poll in the US found that 60% of American adults are Taylor Swift fans. It also found 80% of adults had heard about Swift and Kelce's relationship – and most people believed it was real, rather than fake.

Half of Gaza's buildings hit by war



A child in the rubble

MORE than half of all the buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed in the war between Israel and Hamas.

Gaza is a region controlled by a group called Hamas, which is classed as a terrorist group in the UK. In October, Hamas invaded Israel, killing more than 1,000 people and taking others as hostages. Since then, Israel has bombarded Gaza with rockets, and Hamas sources say more than 22,000 people there have died.

Satellite data seen by the BBC

suggests that at least 144,000 (50%) of Gaza's buildings have been damaged or destroyed, and it could actually be as many as 175,000 buildings (61%).

The United Nations (UN) says that about 1.7 million people have had to leave their homes, which is eight out of ten people in Gaza. Most of them are living in makeshift structures, in tents or out in the open air.

It's been hard to get aid (food, water and medicine) in to help them, and the UN has warned that a famine "is looming".

Elon Musk drops to second on rich list

A JUDGE has hit the brakes on a £44 billion bonus that Elon Musk received from his electric car company, Tesla.

Musk received the bumper payout in 2018 for his performance as the company's chief executive. It was the biggest ever bonus in US history and helped to make him the richest person in the world.

However, a shareholder in Tesla called Richard Tornetta argued it was too much.

Judge Kathaleen McCormick agreed that the deal was "unfathomable". She

said the Tesla directors who organised the pay-out were "perhaps starry-eyed" by Musk's "superstar appeal".

The bonus has been cancelled – and French businessman Bernard Arnault has overtaken Musk as the world's richest person. Arnault has £168 billion, while Musk has £158 billion.



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Do you think it's fair for billionaire bosses to get bonuses?

Let us know at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)

EDITOR'S COMMENT



Nicky Cox MBE

IT'S not always easy to look on the bright side of life, especially when there seems to be a lot of bad news around.

But, experts in the science of happiness say there are things we can all do that can help us to feel, well, happier. We have listed some of those on the front page.

Once I was told that happiness is not just about what happens to us, but how we choose to see things. Obviously, some very difficult things happen to people, which makes it really hard to feel cheerful all the time.

But, instead of feeling sad or worried, I try to see problems as puzzles waiting to be solved. And, with a positive attitude, solutions can always be found.



Hughie (left) is cancer-free!

Hughie and Freddie

THE fundraising best friends have had a week to celebrate, as Hughie rang the bell at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital to mark the end of his treatment for leukaemia (a type of cancer). The pair have raised more than £350,000 for charity since Hughie became ill at the age of ten.

Clumsy deer

OH deer. This poor little fella, a muntjac, somehow managed to get himself stuck upside-down in a tiny gap between two houses in Lincolnshire. Karen Nix, an RSPCA officer who helped with the rescue, said: "It must have been terrifying for him. Thankfully he was freed and it was such a relief to watch him run free."



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