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ADAM GRAY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal judge in Minnesota has ordered the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to appear before him Friday to explain why he shouldn't be held in contempt for failure to comply with court orders to hold hearings for detained immigrants.

Judge orders ICE into court

MIKE CATALINI AND STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The chief federal judge in Minnesota says the Trump administration has failed to comply with orders to hold hearings for detained immigrants and ordered the head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to appear before him Friday to explain why he shouldn't be held in contempt.

In an order dated Monday, Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz said Todd

Lyons, the acting director of ICE, must appear personally in court. Schiltz took the administration to task over its handling of bond hearings for immigrants it has detained.

"This Court has been extremely patient with respondents, even though respondents decided to send thousands of agents

to Minnesota to detain aliens without making any provision for dealing with the hundreds of habeas petitions and other lawsuits that were sure to result," the judge wrote.

The order comes a day after President Donald Trump ordered border czar Tom Homan to take over his administration's immigration crackdown in Minnesota following the second death this month of a person at the hands of an immigration law enforcement officer.

It also follows a federal court hearing Monday on a request by the state and the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul for a judge to order a halt to the immigration law enforcement surge. The judge said she was prioritizing the ruling, but didn't give a timeline.

Schiltz wrote that he recognizes ordering the head of a federal agency to appear personally is extraordinary. "But the extent of ICE's violation of court orders is likewise extraordinary, and lesser measures have been tried

and failed," Schiltz wrote.

"Respondents have continually assured the Court that they recognize their obligation to comply with Court orders, and that they have taken steps to ensure that those orders will be honored going forward," he wrote.

"Unfortunately, though, the violations continue."

Messages were sent Tuesday to ICE and a DHS spokesperson seeking a response.

The order lists the petitioner by first name and last initials: Juan T.R. It says the court granted a petition on Jan. 14 from the person to provide him with a bond hearing within seven days. On Jan. 23, the person's lawyers told the court the petitioner remained detained.

The order says Schiltz will cancel Lyons' appearance if the petitioner is released from custody.

Catalini reported from Trenton, New Jersey.

Freshwater production moving beneath sea

ANNIKA HAMMERSCHLAG
Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — About four miles off the Southern California coast, a company bets it can solve one of desalination's biggest problems by moving the technology deep below the ocean's surface.

OceanWell's planned Water Farm 1 would use natural ocean pressure to power reverse osmosis — a process that forces seawater through membranes to filter out salt and impurities — and produce up to 60 million gallons of freshwater daily.

Desalination is energy intensive, with

worldwide producing between 500 and 850 million tons of carbon emissions annually — approaching the approximately 880 million tons emitted by the entire global aviation industry.

OceanWell claims its deep sea approach — 1,300 feet below the water's surface — would cut energy use by about 40% compared to conventional plants while also tackling the other major environmental problems plaguing traditional desalination: the highly concentrated brine discharged back into the ocean, where it can harm seafloor habitats, including coral reefs,



Jaden Gilliam, OceanWell project engineer, left, and Mark Golay, director of engineering projects, lower a prototype reverse osmosis pod Dec. 1 into Las Virgenes Reservoir in Westlake Village, Calif.

and the intake systems that trap and kill fish larvae, plankton and other organisms at the base of the marine food web.

"The freshwater future of

the world is going to come from the ocean," CEO Robert Bergstrom said. "And we're

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Crackdown helps drop growth rate in the US

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration contributed to a year-to-year drop in the nation's growth rate as the U.S. population reached nearly 342 million people in 2025, according to population estimates released Tuesday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 0.5% growth rate for 2025 was a sharp drop from 2024's almost 1% growth rate, which was the highest since 2001 and was fueled by immigration. The 2024 estimates put the U.S. population at 340 million people.

Immigration increased by 1.3 million people last year, compared with 2024's increase of 2.8 million people. The census report did not distinguish between legal and illegal immigration.

In the past 125 years, the lowest growth rate was in 2021, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic, when the U.S. population grew by just 0.16%, or 522,000 people, and immigration increased by just 376,000 people because of travel restrictions into the U.S. Before that, the lowest growth rate was just under 0.5% in 1919 at the height of the Spanish flu.

Tuesday's data release comes as researchers have been trying to determine the effects of the second Trump administration's immigration crackdown after the Republican president returned to the White House in January 2025. Trump made the surge of migrants at the southern border a

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Senator blasts agency's advice to taxpayers

HOWARD FISCHER
Capitol Media Services

PHOENIX — The head of the Senate Finance Committee says the Arizona Department of Revenue is misleading many Arizonans by urging them to file their state taxes now, even though legislators have yet to decide changes in the law that could affect what they owe.

In an extensive hearing Monday, Chandler Republican Sen. J.D. Mesnard grilled department employees about the advisory issued last week telling Arizonans not to wait to file.

The advisory was based on the premise that nearly 90% of individuals will not itemize their expenses and will take the standard deduction. And there does appear to be agreement between Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs and Republican legislative leaders that they will increase that figure to conform with changes made in federal law — and conform with changes Hobbs ordered the revenue department to put into the already prepared forms.

But there are other proposed changes in the law where the governor and lawmakers differ. Potentially more

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