



Arizona Daily Star

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 | tucson.com

US aids ships in strait

Mail-order abortion drug access reinstated

MAUREEN GROPPE
USA TODAY Network

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday reinstated mail-order access to the widely used abortion drug mifepristone, a temporary decision that gives the justices more time to consider the issue.

The court intervened after the Food and Drug Administration was ordered on May 1 to revive a requirement that doctors prescribe the drug only after an in-person exam. It was the first time access to mifepristone had been significantly curtailed during years of litigation over the the drug, which was first approved in 2000.

At the request of drug makers, the justices paused until at least May 11 the restrictive ruling by a lower court while they decide what the rules for mifepristone should be as Louisiana challenges expanded access.

State officials argue that allowing the drug to be dispensed through the mail ignores the threat of complications from mifepristone, such as sepsis and hemorrhaging. Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill also says mailed delivery of the drug allows women to get around abortion bans.

In its May 1 ruling, the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Louisiana is likely to win its challenge and blocked mail-order access for now.

Danco Laboratories, which makes Mifeprex, the brand-name version of mifepristone, said that decision injected “immediate confusion and upheaval into highly time-sensitive medical decisions.”

Danco also told the Supreme Court that Louisiana’s challenge should be rejected for the same reasons the justices in 2024 tossed out a similar lawsuit brought by anti-abortion doctors.

In that case, the court said the

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AMIRHOSEIN KHORGOOI, ISNA/WANA

Vessels in the Strait of Hormuz Monday near Bandar Abbas, Iran.

U.S. says it has started to ‘guide out’ ships through the Strait of Hormuz

PARISA HAFEZI, AHMED TOLBA AND IDREES ALI
Reuters

The U.S. military said two U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers had entered the Gulf to break an Iranian blockade and that two U.S. merchant ships had transited the Strait of Hormuz, after Iran said it had prevented a U.S. warship entering the Gulf.

U.S. Central Command said its forces were supporting President Donald Trump’s “Project Freedom,” which aims to “guide out” commercial ships stranded in the Gulf by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, and were enforcing a blockade of Iranian ports.

The intervention appeared to raise the risk of a direct confrontation between the U.S. and Iran in a waterway that usually carries a fifth of the world’s seaborne oil and gas but has been blocked for two months as a result of the war.

CENTCOM said two U.S.-flagged merchant vessels had crossed through the strait as the U.S. destroyers operated in the Gulf, adding: “American forces are actively assisting efforts to restore transit for commercial shipping.”

Earlier, Tehran said it had forced a U.S. warship to turn back from the Strait of Hormuz, although CENTCOM quickly denied a report by Iran’s semi-official Fars news agency that two missiles had hit the ship near the



AVI OHAYON, REUTERS

Israeli artillery units and military vehicles in formation Monday along the Israel-Lebanon border, in northern Israel. A senior Iranian official has confirmed that a U.S. peace proposal envisages ending the war on all fronts — including Israel’s attacks on Lebanon.

Iranian port of Jask.

A senior Iranian official told Reuters Iran had fired a warning shot and that it was unclear whether the warship had been damaged.

Shipping industry awaits clarity on safety of strait

Oil prices had jumped 5% on reports of the warship being turned back, but

later gave up half of that.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News that the U.S. had absolute control of the strait.

But the shipping industry remains to be convinced that the vital oil route, whose closure has damaged global business and trade, is safe to use, with little sign of progress towards a

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Scams proliferate amid ICE sweeps

NAISHA ROY
Northwestern University
AND FRANCESCA D’ANNUNZIO AND J. DAVID MCSWANE
ProPublica

As an asylum-seeker living in the U.S., Jasmir Urbina worried as she watched violence break out amid the military-style immigration sweeps across the country. Then she read about legal residents being arrested at immigration court and wondered when federal agents would set their sights on her city.

Urbina had fled Nicaragua in 2022 and legally resided with her husband, a fellow asylum-seeker, in New Orleans while reporting to immigration agents for check-ins as she awaited her day in court. Finally, the date was approaching in late November 2025. Days later, the Trump administration would flood the region with federal officers in “Operation Swamp Sweep.”

Urbina, 35, began searching for a Spanish speaker who could help her, and said she stumbled on a Facebook post advertising the services of Catholic Charities, a prominent aid organization whose services include assisting immigrants. After a few clicks, she connected via WhatsApp with “Susan Millan,” who claimed to have a law degree. The woman’s photo looked professional, showing a small library in the blurry background, according to a screenshot Urbina shared with ProPublica. The asylum-seeker said she discussed her predicament with the woman she thought was an attorney.

Millan told Urbina the ordeal could be settled over a virtual hearing with U.S. immigration authorities. Millan sprinkled in details about her own life — a sick husband, two kids, a supportive church — so Urbina felt comfortable. In an interview, Urbina said she completed

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Doomed to die, one man chose a risky experiment that changed history

KAREN WEINTRAUB
USA TODAY Network

BOSTON — Tim Andrews was so close to death, he was ready to risk what little life he might have left.

The retired grocery store manager was told he would have to wait five years before reaching the top of the transplant list and qualifying for a new, life-saving kidney. He knew he wasn’t going to make it. Already he could no longer walk or hold down food.

So last year, he volunteered

for an experimental surgery at the leading edge of scientific research: He agreed to get a pig kidney to replace his own failing organ.

“I’m gonna die anyways, why wouldn’t I do something for all these [other people with kidney disease] that are suffering?” said Andrews, of Concord, New Hampshire.

“I don’t care if I die the next day as long as you learn something,” he told his doctor.

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JASPER COLT, USA TODAY

Tim Andrews, a 66-year-old resident of Concord, New Hampshire, is now the fourth person to ever have a genetically modified pig kidney transplant. Andrews previously underwent more than two years of dialysis due to advanced kidney disease and getting a human kidney transplant would take considerably longer due to his O-group blood type. The pig kidney bought him the time he needed to wait for a human kidney to replace it.

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