



Plumes from the Dragon Bravo Fire visible from Mather Point on the Grand Canyon's South Rim, July 14.
PHOTOS BY JOE RONDONE/THE REPUBLIC

Hobbs seeks probe into North Rim fire response

Blaze grew fast after immediate suppression was delayed

Perry Vandell
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Katie Hobbs questioned the federal government's handling of the Dragon Bravo Fire, which destroyed numerous structures on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, including the historic Grand Canyon Lodge.

Officials opted to manage the wildfire, which started July 4, as a controlled burn rather than immediately extinguish it.

The lightning-sparked fire had consumed between 50 and 80 structures and grown to 5,000 acres by July 13.

"I am incredibly saddened by the destruction of the historic Grand Canyon Lodge, and my heart goes out to every person impacted by the Dragon Bravo Fire near the Grand Canyon's North Rim," Hobbs said in a statement. "As someone who was born and raised in Arizona, I know what the Grand Canyon National Park means to so many people, not just in Arizona, but all over the world, and how devastating it is to see this damage done to one of Arizona's most cherished landmarks."

The lodge was the only hotel inside Grand Canyon National Park boundaries at the North Rim. Other lodging options near the main visitor hub of the North Rim are limited, with the closest more than a dozen miles further from the canyon's edge.

Hobbs thanked the firefighters and first responders tasked with combating the blaze while calling for an independent investigation into the decision-making that resulted in devastation.

"An incident of this magnitude demands intense oversight and scrutiny



The Dragon Bravo Fire burns near the Grand Canyon Lodge, with flames visible from the South Rim's Mather Point on July 13.

Inside

Canyon fire was fueled by strong winds, hot temperatures, **4A**

into the federal government's emergency response," Hobbs said. "They must first take aggressive action to end the wildfire and prevent further damage. But Arizonans deserve answers for how this fire was allowed to decimate the Grand Canyon National Park. While the flame was started with a lightning strike, the federal government chose to manage that fire as a controlled burn during the driest, hottest part of the Arizona summer."

The fire was at 0% containment as of

July 13. Here's what to know about the Dragon Bravo Fire:

When did the Dragon Bravo Fire start?

The Dragon Bravo Fire began on July 4 due to a lightning strike within Grand Canyon National Park. About 70 firefighters were working the fire as of July 13.

What was the initial strategy for handling the wildfire?

Fire crews implemented a "confine/contain" strategy that allowed the fire to

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Feds nab Tucson murder suspect

County says transfer came without warning

Raphael Romero Ruiz
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A man accused in a deadly Tucson crime spree is being held in federal custody, blocking local authorities from moving forward with a state prosecution that includes a first-degree murder charge.

Julio Cesar Aguirre, 42, was arrested after a violent series of events on the morning of June 30, when a man attempted to carjack multiple vehicles in a midtown neighborhood. Authorities said Aguirre, who is in the country without legal status, shot and killed 69-year-old Ricky E. Miller Sr., then fled before being found hiding in a shed.

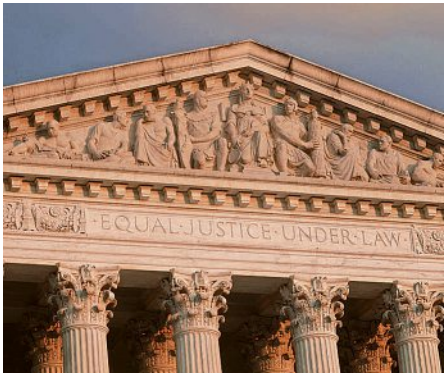
Pima County prosecutors ultimately filed 14 charges against Aguirre, including first-degree murder, six counts of aggravated assault and several firearm- and vehicle-related charges.

Prosecutors said Aguirre was supposed to be booked into the Pima County Jail once medically cleared, following what the county described as a "normal course" prosecution.

"He was never booked into the Pima County Jail. He was never in the sheriff's custody," Pima County Attorney Laura Conover told reporters during a virtual news conference July 10.

Instead, federal agents took Aguirre

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The Justice Department told the U.S. Supreme Court that the harms to the government from having to rehire the workers as the litigation continues are greater than any harms the challengers said they'll suffer from diminished department services. LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS FILE

Justices rule Education Dept. firings can resume

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

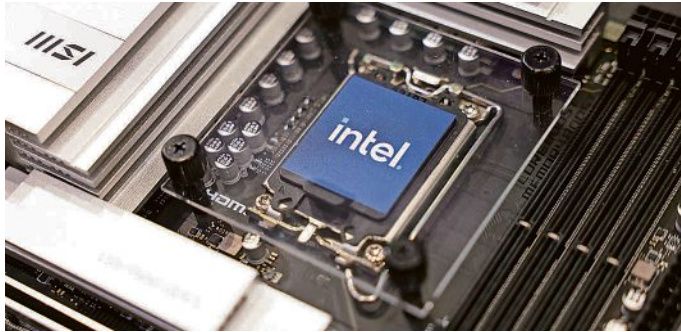
WASHINGTON – An ideologically divided Supreme Court on July 14 allowed the Trump administration to fire hundreds of workers from the Education Department and continue other efforts to dismantle the agency.

The court's three liberal justices opposed the order.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the majority handed Trump the power to repeal laws passed by Congress "by firing all those necessary to carry them

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT BUSINESS 11A



Intel will quadruple planned layoffs in Arizona. GETTY IMAGES

AZ launches reading push

Arizona aims to raise third-grade reading proficiency from 39% to 72% by 2030 with more literacy coaches, teacher support, and family engagement. **3A**

DBacks' all-time All-Stars

Franchise greats like Luis Gonzalez, Randy Johnson, and Ketel Marte headline Arizona's best-ever All-Star roster picks. **1B**

