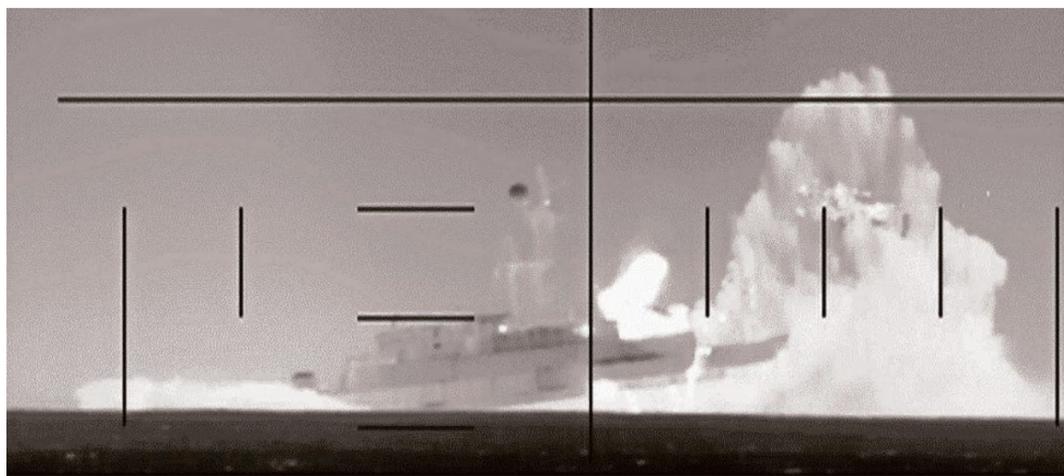


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This frame from a video released by the Department of War on March 4 shows what the department says is footage of a U.S. Navy submarine firing on and sinking an Iranian warship.

PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

American sub sinks an Iranian warship

U.S. military helping citizens trying to leave region

Michael Loria, Jeanine Santucci, Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Bart Jansen USA TODAY

Trump administration officials pledged more firepower in the war with Iran after officials said a U.S. submarine sank an Iranian warship, with reports of at least 80 people killed.

The United States and Israel will soon control Iranian airspace, and the leader of Iran's military unit that tried to assassinate President Donald Trump has been killed, Trump administration officials said during a news conference on March 4 touting U.S. achievements in the war.

U.S. troops in the area remain under attack by Iran and its proxies, and over 1,000 U.S. citizens are still looking to escape the region as the war expands to neighboring countries, causing panic in the financial markets and oil prices to surge.

The United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran on Feb. 28. Iran's counterattacks

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thus far led to several U.S. embassies closing in the region, including in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Kuwait.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine told reporters March 4 that the military has begun ferrying Americans out of the region when space is available on planes but he encouraged people to register with the State Department for assistance. "We've also opened up space-available seats on C-17s and other airplanes," Caine added.

U.S. military officials late on March 3 released the names of four of six American soldiers killed so far in

See IRAN, Page 12A

State ESA audit finds 'unallowed' purchases

Shows millions spent in violation of homeschool program's guidelines

Alexandra Hardle Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Audit data shows over 20% of vendor purchases made with Empowerment Scholarship Account dollars could be barred under the program's guidelines.

The program, run through the Arizona Department of Education, allows expenses for homeschooled students under \$2,000 to be automatically approved by the department and later audited. But that audit could come months later, a process that Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne has blamed on understaffing.

The program was initially designed primarily for students with disabilities but was expanded to be available for all students in 2022. Many homeschooled students are eligible to receive about \$7,000 per year through the program, though money allocated to special needs students can be much higher. Records released by the Arizona Attorney General's Office show Arizonans have spent millions of dollars on expenses that appear to fall afoul of the program's guidelines. A risk-based audit performed by the Department of Education found that 20% of purchases were "unallowed." A risk-based audit is a financial audit that examines where problems are most likely to happen. In this case, the audit examined a random sample of purchases made through the ESA program.

When the department's risk-based audit detects "unallowed" purchases, it then performs a full audit of the account to review the account holder's other purchases. Of the accounts that received a full audit, 46% of the purchases made by those account holders were "unallowable."

Attorney General Kris Mayes, a Democrat

See ESA AUDIT, Page 12A

Boy Scouts sue AZ LGBTQ+ travel company

Taylor Seely Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Boys Scouts of America wants to stop an Arizona-based LGBTQ+ travel company from using the word "scout" and a pink fox logo to market its business.

The youth organization sued "Queer Scout" in late February for "diluting Boy Scouts' famous trademarks and falsely associating with Boy Scouts." The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Texas, says Queer Scout was intentionally trying to confuse consumers by using the word "scout" and a fox logo in social entertainment

events, guided tours and online marketing.

Boy Scouts claims it offers "similar" services and also "prominently uses names and images of animal figures."

The lawsuit comes after years of the two companies failing to privately resolve their trademark dispute and has left Queer Scout founder Sam Holdren questioning whether the Trump administration's pressure on Boy Scouts of America for its LGBTQ+-inclusive policies influenced the litigation.

See BOY SCOUTS, Page 12A

SLAIN PHOENIX TEEN HONORED 3A



Jesus Guzman, left, and Christian Espinoza light candles at a memorial for Michael Montoya outside Maryvale High on Feb. 26. DIANNIE CHAVEZ/THE REPUBLIC

Sun Devils upset Kansas

The ASU men's basketball team stuns No. 14 Kansas 70-60 in Big 12 play in what could have been head coach Bobby Hurley's last home game. 1B

Spring break with kids

The Republic has compiled an extensive list of things to do with kids in Arizona during spring break to help take the stress of planning off parents. 1C

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Volume 136 | No. 291
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