

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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“We are increasingly seeing under the Trump administration, people who simply can’t take it anymore ... and stop fighting.”

Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, American Immigration Council senior fellow



Fragile detainees have defenders

Faith leaders speak up for them

David Ulloa Jr Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Clergy members were turned away at the door of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when they tried to deliver a letter that called for the humanitarian parole of people currently in ICE detention.

The religious leaders called for the humanitarian parole of detainees who they said had medical conditions such as partial hearing loss, diabetes, high blood pressure and lymphocytic leukemia.

Religious leaders and the detainees’ relatives said their health had progressively gotten worse since they were detained, leaving some of them disabled by their medical conditions.

The includes Arbella “Yari” Rodríguez Márquez, who was first detained by immigration officials and placed into ICE custody at the Eloy Detention Center in southern Arizona a little over a year ago. Rep. Yasamin Ansari, D-Ariz., and Rodríguez Márquez’s partner, Sonia Almaraz, have repeatedly said Rodríguez Márquez’s health has rapidly

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RIGHT: Andy Hernandez holds a sign saying “Immigrants are our friends, stop the cruelty” outside the ICE Phoenix Field Office in Phoenix on April 23. PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/ THE REPUBLIC

TOP: Sonia Almaraz speaks about the living conditions of her partner, Arbella Rodríguez Márquez, during a press conference.



ROUTE 66 TURNS 100 EXPLORE AZ 1C



The Mother Road is turning 100 this year. Find out how to celebrate. PROVIDED BY KINGMAN VISITOR CENTER

‘Kidfluencers’ protection

Family vloggers and content creators in Arizona could soon be required to set money aside for their children. An Arizona bill would expand protections reserved for child actors and performers to children appearing in YouTube videos and other content. **3A**

Find cheapest metro gas

The price of gasoline in Arizona is still mostly in the \$4 range, but at least two gas stations in Phoenix are selling fuel at more than \$5. **7A**

North Rim wildfire was avoidable, official says

Fire management plan ignored and threats were downplayed

Stephanie Murray and Robert Anglen

Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Destruction caused by a massive wildfire at the Grand Canyon could have been avoided, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said.

Ignited by a lightning strike last summer, the Dragon Bravo Fire grew into the seventh-largest fire in Arizona history. The inferno was the nation’s biggest fire of 2025, excluding Alaska, and it destroyed the historic lodge at the Grand Canyon North Rim.

An investigation by The Arizona Republic found National Park Service officials ignored the Grand Canyon’s own fire management plan and downplayed threats to public safety when they decided to let the fire burn for seven days.

Fuel and weather conditions repeatedly reached the brink of critical thresholds for fire risk, and the blaze spiraled out of control on July 11, 2025.

“In retrospect, an approach of suppression versus containment might have saved hundreds of millions of dollars of historic properties,” Burgum said.

The Interior secretary made the comments during a Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee hearing April 22. Burgum, who oversees the National Park Service, was there to discuss President Donald Trump’s fiscal 2027 budget request for his department.

Burgum’s view of the Dragon Bravo Fire was a shift from summer 2025, when National Park Service spokesperson Rachel Pawlitz maintained that the fire

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Smoke from the Dragon Bravo Fire is seen in the lower basin areas of the Grand Canyon on July 12, 2025. PROVIDED BY GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Federal racial discrimination lawsuit against Suns dismissed

Miguel Torres

Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A federal discrimination lawsuit filed by a former Phoenix Suns security executive was dismissed, ending a case that alleged racial bias, retaliation and serious security risks inside the organization.

The case, filed by Gene Traylor in May 2025, was dismissed “with prejudice” April 23, meaning it is permanently closed and cannot be refilled.

The case was one among four discrimination cases against the Suns brought on by the same attorney, Sheree Wright, who, weeks ago, was reprimanded by the court.

It is unclear whether the Suns will seek attorneys’ fees or other costs, which would typically require a separate motion filed after the dismissal.

The dismissal comes after discovery and depositions, meaning the two sides shared the evidence they would likely have presented in court.

The filing did not explain why the case was

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