



BRINGING THE HEAT



Sonnie Madrid and Shane Suhy attempt to stay cool at Petco Park on Wednesday as the Padres faced the Washington Nationals. Temperature records were set around the county, including at Petco, where it was 95 degrees at the first pitch, marking the hottest game held at the ballpark. Stories, B2 and D1. **K.C. ALFRED / U-T**

Trump: Iran meddling in midterms

President predicts war will end, gas prices will fall right after election

By Dan Lamothe, Rachel Chason & Isaac Arnsdorf
THE WASHINGTON POST

President Donald Trump on Wednesday accused Iran of trying to influence the midterm elections as the country's leaders signaled increasing aggression and the latest violence pushed oil prices above \$100 a barrel.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps targeted the U.S.

air base of Al-Azraq overnight, part of a ramp-up of attacks and rhetoric as Iranian leaders face increasing pressure from the U.S. naval blockade and a bevy of sanctions, experts say.

The Jordanian military said that it had successfully intercepted 18 of the 20 missiles, adding that two fell in unpopulated areas. The strikes came after U.S. forces hit five Iranian tanker ships on Tuesday in response to attempted missile attacks on an American warship, U.S. military officials said.

Trump, speaking to reporters as he left Washington for a midterm convention in Dallas,

acknowledged for the first time that he wasn't poised to resolve the 6-month-old conflict or reduce pump prices until after the November midterms. He blamed Iran for holding out in an effort to influence U.S. politics.

"The war will end immediately after the election because they can't hold out any longer, they're desperate to try and affect the election," he told reporters at Joint Base Andrews. "Shortly, but right after the election, because they'd like to have it that way — but right after the election, oil prices are going to be tumbling downward."

Iran's top negotiator, parlia-

mentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, warned earlier this week that Tehran would be responding more forcefully to future U.S. attacks.

"The Americans must have understood that the era of proportionate responses has come to an end," Ghalibaf said in a speech carried by Iranian state media.

In recent days, the Iranian-backed Houthis have also launched a wave of attacks in Saudi Arabia that targeted oil infrastructure as well as air bases in Saudi Arabia. At least

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Salvadoran refugees could face removal from U.S.

Temporary protected status expired on Wednesday for many living here for decades

By Ted Hesson & Arellis R. Hernández
THE WASHINGTON POST

Scores of immigrants from El Salvador who have been shielded from deportation for decades because of ongoing violence and natural disasters in their homeland could now face removal from the United States after their benefits were set to expire Wednesday.

Salvadorans were the first immigrant group granted temporary protected status or TPS, initially in 1990 to those fleeing the country's civil war, and again in 2001 after two massive earthquakes. Proponents of extending TPS for Salvadorans say ending it would upend the lives of people who now have roots in the United States, and that it remains dangerous for many to return.

The Department of Homeland Security has been canceling TPS for immigrants from countries experiencing war and disaster since President Donald Trump returned to the White House last year. Trump officials argue that conditions in many of those nations have improved and that allowing the immigrants to remain runs counter to U.S. interests.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin is required to make a decision on whether to extend TPS for any given group at least 60 days before the expiration. As of Wednesday afternoon, DHS had not revealed whether he has done so for Salvadorans, saying only that

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Return of deported Oceanside resident ordered

San Diego federal judge rules that the government violated migrant's due process rights

By Alexandra Mendoza
UNION-TRIBUNE

A San Diego federal judge on Tuesday ordered the immediate return of the father of a former U.S. Marine who was arrested last year and later deported following a family visit to Camp Pendleton.

Esteban Ríos, 57, an Oceanside resident for decades, was detained in September with his wife while visiting their daughter, who was pregnant at the time and lived on the base with her active-duty Marine husband.

At the time of their arrest, the couple had work permits due to their pending U non-immigrant status cases, granted to victims of certain crimes, according to the court order.

In October, Ríos was deported to Mexico, and his wife was later released from the Otay Mesa Detention Center due to her U visa deferred action status.

U.S. District Judge Janis Sammartino ruled in a court order filed Tuesday that Ríos must be restored to his previous immigration status "and be entitled to all the rights and benefits afforded to him pursuant to his deferred action as if his October 2025 removal never occurred."

Neither the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, nor the U.S. Department of Justice responded to a request for comment on Wednesday.

Ríos filed a habeas corpus petition in late July, alleging that his deportation was "without justification or consideration of his individualized circumstances" and

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Suit against groups tied to Chavez makes new rape claim

Woman alleges attack by labor leader in '70s in first accuser filing

By Manny Fernandez & Sarah Hurtes
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A longtime volunteer with the United Farm Workers claims in a new lawsuit that Cesar Chavez, the civil rights leader, raped her one night in the 1970s at the union's headquarters in central California.

The woman's suit, filed last week in state court in California, accuses nonprofit groups affiliated with the Chavez family and the UFW of negligence, sexual harassment and violations of state civil rights laws. It appears to be the first such suit of its kind since an investigation by The New York Times published in March found compelling evidence that Chavez had sexually abused, assaulted and harassed underage girls and adult women as he built the most influential farmworkers union in the United States.

The suit illustrates the legal and financial risks faced by groups with ties to Chavez in the

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Victoria Prado of Cortez Hill fills up her Toyota SUV at the Petromerica gas station in downtown San Diego Wednesday. The cost of a gallon is nearing \$6. **ROB NIKOLEWSKI / U-T**

As gas prices surge, S.D. drivers counting pennies

'Some people are desperate,' only partially filling tanks

By Rob Nikolewski
UNION-TRIBUNE

With fuel prices rising at a relentless pace, some drivers around San Diego are coming up with unusual strategies to scrape their way from one trip to the pump to another.

Managers of the Petromerica gas station on 16th Avenue and F Street say a few customers come to the counter with coins.

No, not bitcoin — actual coins.

"Like \$1.50 in quarters," said station owner Issa Meamari. "Yes, some people are desperate. They want just to move from their place to just around the corner. I've never seen that before."

Earlier this week, one customer bought \$3 of gas — with pennies.

"He brought me six packs of pennies that he

had collected for like two months," Meamari said.

"Every penny counts."

The average price for regular-grade gasoline is poised to surpass \$6 a gallon in the San Diego area and according to AAA, the average price for diesel fuel Wednesday hit an all-time for the area, reaching \$7.75 a gallon. That breaks the previous record of \$7.72, set

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