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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump fires Bondi as U.S. attorney general



Pam Bondi – a former Florida state attorney general – represented President Donald Trump during his first impeachment trial.

ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Sources say he has floated Zeldin as replacement

Bart Jansen and Terry Collins
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump fired Attorney General Pam Bondi after several investigations of his perceived enemies were thwarted and her handling of files related to accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein came under

criticism.

“Pam Bondi is a Great American Patriot and a loyal friend, who faithfully served as my Attorney General over the past year,” Trump said in a social media post. He said she would be moving to “a much needed and important new job in the private sector.”

Bondi’s ouster represented Trump’s second removal of a Cabinet official in his second term. He fired Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in March and replaced her with Markwayne Mullin, a former senator from Oklahoma.

Bondi will be succeeded temporarily

by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

Lawmakers of both parties accused Bondi of botching the release of the Epstein files, which Congress directed in December 2025. The legislation came after Bondi refused in July 2025 to release the files, despite Trump and his supporters campaigning for the release of all federal records in the case.

The department eventually released about 3 million pages of documents but left 2.5 million additional pages sealed.

See BONDY, Page 2A

Abandoned mountain lion kitten rescued



Wildlife officials discovered a weeks-old mountain lion kitten alone in the western Santa Monica Mountains in late March.
PROVIDED BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service intervenes in the Thousand Oaks area

Cheri Carlson

Ventura County Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Wildlife officials have rescued a weeks-old mountain lion found in the western Santa Monica Mountains.

The National Park Service tracked the kitten’s mother, part of a long-term study of the mountain lion population in Ventura and Los Angeles counties, and believed the cougar recently had kittens. Scientists with the park service have studied local pumas since 2002 to see how they’re surviving in an increasingly urban area.

The work includes outfitting mountain lions with GPS collars and tagging kittens in dens. In this case, however, researchers found just one kitten, now dubbed P-131, in a

den. The small, spotted lion was missing toes on one of his hind feet, an injury officials believe may have been caused by umbilical strangulation.

Using GPS collar data, telemetry and remote cameras, researchers monitored the den over several days to allow for the possibility of the mother’s return, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. But after multiple days, authorities decided that intervention was needed.

It had become clear the kitten was alone and his condition was declining, officials said. The kitten, found in the Thousand Oaks area, was 22 days old, the department reported.

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CALIFORNIA

Millions lack documents as voter ID push gains steam

Daniella Segura

Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

Millions of eligible Californians may not have the identification or documents needed to vote if the state were to change its election rules, according to a new study released April 2.

The research, conducted by the non-partisan nonprofit VoteRiders in partnership with the University of Maryland, takes a closer look at who in California lacks a current driver’s license, state ID or proof of U.S. citizenship. The findings come as voter identification requirements are being discussed at both the state and federal levels, raising questions about how potential changes could affect voter access in the nation’s most populous state.

See VOTER ID, Page 2A

ANALYSIS

Trump: Victory at hand in Iran war ‘very shortly’

Susan Page

USA TODAY

On Day 33 of the war with Iran, President Donald Trump declared victory was at hand. Almost.

In a prime-time address from the White House on April 1, Trump extolled what he called “swift, decisive, overwhelming victories on the battlefield” – victories so decisive he suggested the war would wind down after an additional two or three weeks of military strikes that could “bring them back to the stone ages, where they belong.”

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