

# The Washington Post

Prices may vary in areas outside metropolitan Washington.

RE V1 V2 V3 V4

T-storms 87/63 • Tomorrow: Shower 72/56 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 • \$4

*A ruling that upholds the president's order ending birthright citizenship "would be an earthquake in American life, with radical consequences that we can't completely predict."*

**Cecilia Wang**, national legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, who will argue to uphold birthright citizenship before the high court



EVA MARIE UZCATEGUI/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A baby born in Florida to parents from Colombia and Argentina could lose her citizenship as the Supreme Court reconsiders the issue.

## Born on U.S. soil, but a future in limbo

The Supreme Court will consider whether children of noncitizens have a country to call home

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

FLORIDA — The husband cried after turning over the stick from the pregnancy test, showing his wife was pregnant with their second child after three years of trying. The couple hugged, burying their faces in each other's shoulders.

The mother was buoyant in that moment, which she recorded. She hoped to finally use the girl's name she had picked out nearly two decades earlier, when she was 17.

Two weeks later on Jan. 20, 2025, that joy turned to dread. The mother watched

in shock as a TV newscaster announced that President Donald Trump, in one of the first acts of his second term, had signed an executive order denying citizenship to any child born to parents who lacked permanent immigration status.

Suddenly, the woman and thousands of immigrants like her faced a prospect largely unheard of in a nation that had long granted citizenship to virtually every child born on its soil: Her daughter might not have a country to call home.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court will hear arguments about whether Trump's order violates the Constitution. Many legal

scholars believe it does, but this court has shown a willingness to upend expectation and precedent.

The woman — who spoke on the condition of anonymity because she fears her immigration status could be jeopardized by speaking out — was brought to the United States as a child by her mother, who was fleeing persecution in Colombia. Now 35, she eventually obtained temporary

SEE BIRTHRIGHT ON A2

**Conversion therapy:** Ban loses at court. A3

**2006 case:** Racism alleged in picking jury. A3

## Judge freezes construction of Trump ballroom

PRESIDENT IS 'STEWARD,' LACKS AUTHORITY

White House criticizes ruling, notifies court of appeal

BY DAN DIAMOND AND JONATHAN EDWARDS

A federal judge ordered a halt to construction of President Donald Trump's White House ballroom, ruling that Trump lacks authority to fund the estimated \$400 million project through private donations.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon disagreed with the Trump administration's argument that the president has broad authority to make changes to the White House without congressional approval, including projects on the scale of his planned, 90,000-square-foot ballroom.

"The President of the United States is the steward of the White House for future generations of First Families. He is not, however, the owner!" Leon wrote in a 35-page ruling issued Tuesday afternoon.

"No statute comes close to giving the President the authority

he claims to have," he wrote.

Leon, an appointee of President George W. Bush, also wrote that Trump has not identified a law that allowed him to demolish the White House's East Wing last year without congressional approval.

He stayed his order for two weeks and ruled crews could continue construction necessary to ensure the safety and security of the White House.

Within hours, the Trump administration notified the court it would appeal Leon's decision, which the White House called "egregious."

"President Trump clearly has the legal authority to modernize, renovate, and beautify the White House — just like all of his predecessors did," White House spokesman Davis Ingle said in a statement, adding: "We ... are confident we will prevail."

Speaking in the Oval Office, SEE BALLROOM ON A6

## Trump again rips NATO over aversion to aid war

Blocking of bases, denial of overflights are latest instances of pushback

BY ANTHONY FAIOLA, ELLEN FRANCIS AND STEFANO PITRELLI

ROME — As President Donald Trump on Tuesday amped up criticism of NATO countries for refusing to do more in the Iran war, European allies were doubling down on their pushback.

Italy in recent days denied landing rights to U.S. war planes seeking to land at Sigonella base in eastern Sicily after determining their flight plans were linked to the war effort, according to a senior Italian official.

That revelation — involving a

nation led by a key Trump ally, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni — emerged a day after Spain's defense minister said the country was going further in its direct opposition to the war, denying not only U.S. use of its bases but also overflight rights to aircraft involved in the attacks on Iran.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, previously struggling in polls, has found a new political lease on life as he leads the European resistance to the war.

Trump has grown exasperated with European reluctance and has suggested it means Washington should not feel obligated to help defend Europe, although NATO's collective defense clause applies specifically to attacks on allies in North America and Europe.

On Tuesday, the president lashed out on social media. European nations should "build up

SEE IRAN ON A18

## Gas hits \$4 a gallon for the first time since 2022, and costs may keep rising

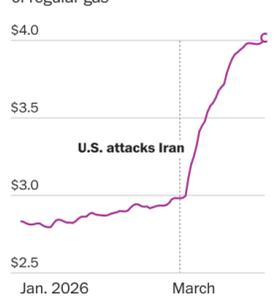
BY RACHEL LERMAN, LUIS MELGAR AND RACHEL SIEGEL

Gas prices at U.S. pumps spiked above \$4 a gallon for the first time since the summer of 2022, as the war in Iran sends oil costs surging and family budgets feel the strain.

The national average price for a gallon of gas was \$4.02 on Tuesday, according to AAA. That's after weeks of steady increases that have surprised households and businesses. One month ago, gas was less than \$3 a gallon.

The last time gas prices tipped over \$4 a gallon was during the inflationary surge in 2022, fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and lingering effects of the pandemic. Back then, the price per gallon eventually climbed above \$5, fueling a run-up in inflation that weighed heavily on the economy, prompting many to predict a recession. (The economy perse-

Average price for a gallon of regular gas



Data as of March 31

Source: AAA

vered, buoyed by a strong labor market.)

Similar signs are bubbling up again. Small businesses in agriculture, logistics, transportation, health care and more are grappling with increased costs on top

SEE GAS ON A13

## Panel exempts Gulf drilling from Endangered Species Act

BY JAKE SPRING

A committee led by the interior secretary known as the "God Squad" voted Tuesday to exempt oil and gas companies from complying with the Endangered Species Act when drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, a move expected to threaten Rice's whale and other species with extinction.

Meeting for the first time in more than 30 years, the group — nicknamed for its ability to decide the fate of species — ap-

proved the exemption on "national security" grounds in a discussion that took about 15 minutes. Trump officials said the decision would protect critical domestic energy production at a time when global supplies are disrupted by the war with Iran. It's the first time an administration has sought a national security exemption since the passage of the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Defense Secretary Pete SEE DRILLING ON A9

## Airport in Florida is renamed for a frequent flier — Trump

BY PRAVEENA SOMASUNDARAM

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed legislation this week clearing the runway for President Donald Trump's home airport to bear his name.

Come July, Palm Beach International Airport will be renamed President Donald J. Trump International Airport. Trump flies through the airport on the way to and from his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach.

The new law authorizing the name change marks another example of Trump's name and likeness appearing on American buildings and institutions — a phenomenon that was exceedingly rare for a sitting president before Trump's second term. In Washington, Trump's name is newly affixed to the U.S. Institute of Peace and the Kennedy Center. Last week, the Treasury Department said it would print Trump's signature on paper currency to

SEE AIRPORT ON A6



GREGG NEWTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## NASA readies Artemis mission

Humans could return to the moon's environs for the first time in more than 50 years in a mission set to launch tonight. Story, A8

## IN THE NEWS

A rare reprieve DHS officials allowed a Mexican woman to return to the U.S. after a judge found her deportation was unlawful. A4

Money for NPR, PBS A federal judge struck down part of Trump's order cutting funding, calling it viewpoint discrimination and a First Amendment violation. A4

**THE NATION** Attorneys for Rep. Eric Swalwell demanded that the FBI refrain from releasing files. A7  
**The White House** reaffirmed support for its surgeon general pick after Trump's remarks. A7

**THE WORLD** Israeli lawmakers voted to make death by hanging the default penalty for Palestinians from the West Bank who are convicted of killing someone in a terrorist act. A11

**THE ECONOMY** A lawsuit from the Trump administration signals a historic shift for the EEOC, whose chair issued an appeal asking White men to report discrimination. A12  
**Stocks** surged to their best day since last spring as doubt on war swung back to hope. A12

**STYLE** The Met added a child to the end of "Tristan und Isolde," and the opera world can't stop arguing about it. B1

**SPORTS** Aday Mara's parents traveled from their native Spain to support their son and Michigan at the Final Four. B7

**THE REGION** D.C.'s Streetcar made its final stop after just a decade of operation plagued by high costs and low ridership. B13

**FOOD** Try rye flour to take your baking to the next level, a sneaky way to add complex flavors and a little nutrition.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A12  
COMICS.....B4  
OBITUARIES.....B17  
OPINION PAGES.....A15  
TELEVISION.....B6  
WORLD NEWS.....A8

CONTENT © 2026  
The Washington Post  
Year 149, No. 54538

