



Fed minutes show officials dealing with policy split

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Dems call for refunds after tariffs ruled illegal



“Donald Trump has been illegally taxing your groceries, furniture and cars for over a year. Time for a refund,” said California Gov. Gavin Newsom. JOHANNES SIMON/GETTY IMAGES

Judge orders ICE to grant man bond hearing

Houston Harwood
Evansville Courier & Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – A federal judge on Thursday ordered immigration authorities to release an Indiana man who came to the United States as an unauthorized minor nearly two decades ago, rejecting the Trump administration’s legal justification for holding him without a bond hearing as a deluge of similar cases wind through district courts nationwide.

Judge Matthew P. Brookman, of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, gave Immigration and Customs Enforcement until Feb. 24 to either provide the man, Jonathan Enrique Meza Ruiz, a bond hearing before an immigration judge or release him from custody under supervision.

The ruling marks one of the latest developments in a fast-moving legal battle playing out in federal courthouses across the country over whether the Trump administration can detain long-term residents of the United States’ interior — people who have lived within the country for years and in some cases decades without authorization — under a legal provision that concerns people arriving at the border.

The Southern District encompasses a broad swath of Indiana, from Evansville in the south through Indianapolis in the north, meaning Brookman’s rulings on immigration matters can have implications for anyone arrested by ICE within the region. Brookman is one of two federal judges who serve in the Southern District’s Evansville division.

As a sign of just how far-reaching the legal fight over interior detention has become, also on Thursday the

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Idea of rebate checks floated amid skepticism

Jeanine Santucci
USA TODAY

After the Supreme Court ruled against President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariffs on imports, some Democrats are demanding that refunds be sent to Americans, the latest hypothetical plan to redistribute tariff income back to everyday Americans.

The nation’s highest court on Feb. 20 ruled that Trump doesn’t have the power to unilaterally impose the tariffs he enacted under an emergency powers law, which he has used as part of his foreign policy strategy with ever-changing

rates on targeted countries.

Democrats including California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker have demanded refunds of at least \$1,700 per household, with Pritzker sending the Trump administration an invoice for that amount per family in his state.

“Donald Trump has been illegally taxing your groceries, furniture, and cars for over a year. Time for a refund,” Newsom said.

Their idea follows months of speculation about Trump’s long-floated plan to send \$2,000 tariff rebate checks to some Americans. The fate of that plan

remains unclear. Meanwhile, Trump announced plans to enact tariffs using different legal mechanisms.

Americans have felt the impact of tariffs, from higher costs for products they regularly buy to surprise tariff bills in the mail. The average American family has paid more than \$1,700 in tariff costs as of January, according to a report by Democrats on the congressional Joint Economic Committee.

The nonpartisan Tax Foundation said in a report earlier in February that the tariffs cost each household an

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Obituaries detail lives of 3 Evansville kids killed in fire

Jon Webb
Evansville Courier & Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – The three young siblings who died in an Evansville house fire earlier this month were alternately described as humble and kind, a fighter and a joker, and a music and video game lover who excelled on the school robotics team.

Obituaries for Aleister, Jeramy and Paxton Craig provide a small glimpse into the lives of the victims of the blaze that ignited in the early-morning hours inside the house at 604 E. Powell St. on Feb. 8. Jeramy Craig, 14, and 10-year-old Paxton Craig were pronounced dead at a hospital later that day, Evansville Fire Department officials said.

Aleister Craig, 11, died from his injuries two days later at Peyton Manning Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis.

During a news conference Feb. 9, EFD Chief Deputy Kim Garrett said it could take weeks or even months to determine a cause of the fire. The Evansville Police Department and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are assisting in the investigation.

The Courier & Press reached out to EFD Friday to see if they could provide any updates. No charges have been filed in the case.

Until the fire erupted, the three children inside had years of life ahead of them. They’re survived by their mother, father, sister, grandparents and friends.

Here’s how their obituaries describe them.

Aleister Craig

The Highland Elementary student

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The two-story home at 604 E. Powell Street bears shattered windows, soot and debris on Feb. 9, one day after the fatal fire. PROVIDED BY HOUSTON HARWOOD

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