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'It's a new world. It's the same Constitution.'

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS, in response to a lawyer's argument against birthright citizenship

Citizenship at crossroads



TOM BRENNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators rallied outside the US Supreme Court as justices heard oral arguments on birthright citizenship.

Justices grill both sides of debate over rights of those born in US

By Abbie VanSickle
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — A majority of the Supreme Court appeared skeptical of President Trump's efforts to limit birthright citizenship during arguments Wednesday.

Key conservative justices raised doubts about the constitutionality of the president's executive order that would end automatic citizenship for children born on US soil to immigrants in the country illegally and some temporary foreign visitors.

When a lawyer for the Trump administration suggested that the realities of modern migration required a new assessment of whether the Constitution guarantees birthright citizenship, Chief Justice John Roberts, who is seen as a key vote, retorted: "It's a new world. It's the same Constitution."

Still, in an argument that lasted more than two hours, Roberts and several other of the court's conservatives also asked tough questions of a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, which brought the legal chal-

lenge, making the outcome of the legally complicated and hugely consequential case not fully clear.

In an unprecedented move and a signal of the stakes of the landmark case, Trump attended the first part of the argument, watching from a public gallery as his solicitor general defended the policy. During the ACLU's argument, the president abruptly rose from his seat and left the courtroom. After returning to the White House, he posted on social media, falsely, that the United States is the "only Country in the World STUPID enough to allow 'Birthright' Citizenship!"

The case before the court has enormous stakes, potentially re-

defining what it means to be an American. A decision to limit birthright citizenship could also have sweeping practical consequences, stripping the promise of citizenship from the estimated 200,000 babies or more born in the United States each year to immigrants who lack legal status.

Although the Trump administration has said that the executive order, which was blocked by lower courts and has never gone into effect, would affect only babies born in the future, opponents say a decision to uphold it could potentially cast doubt over the status of millions of people who have benefited from birth-

SUPREME COURT, Page A5

Trump's push against mail ballots irks voting clerks

Order called confounding, difficult to implement

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — With his sweeping election overhaul bill stalled in Congress, President Trump made a new play this week — tapping the power of the presidential pen to crack down on voting by mail across the country.

As with the president's previous attempts to reshape the American voting system, many election leaders warned his executive order targeting vote-by-mail is unworkable and potentially unconstitutional.

Trump's executive order Tuesday requires the Department of Homeland Security to create a new federal database of all eligible voters in each state, drawing on other government sources, such as the Social Security Administration.

States would use that list to send voter information to the US Postal Service, which would ultimately be responsible for enforcement by ensuring only eligible voters receive mail ballots marked with identifying data.

For many county election administrators — who make up the backbone of the US system — the executive order's policy proposals are seen as confounding. But few expect them to become the law of the land, due to inevitable court challenges and the fact that the 2026 elections are already underway in many jurisdictions.

"When I see these new things come out, I just laugh and say, that's going to be tied up in the courts for a while," said Forrest Lehman, director of elections for Lyncoming County, Pa., in the north-central part of the state. "We don't have time to

BALLOT, Page A5

For DraftKings, a new market of risk, reward

Prediction bets offer way to expand, but some wary

By Jon Chesto
GLOBE STAFF

The hot topic at the DraftKings headquarters in early March wasn't its core business of sports betting or online casino games.

Instead, for industry insiders attending DraftKings's Investor Day, it was the Boston company's entry into what many see as the next frontier of gambling: prediction markets.

DraftKings is ramping up to take on Kalshi and Polymarket in a burgeoning industry that could be worth billions of dollars. It's also an industry that's experiencing similar legal pushback to what DraftKings encountered when it was still primarily a purveyor of fantasy sports games.

While similar to online sports betting, prediction markets differ in at least one crucial aspect: The bet is with another party, not a centralized oddsmaker. The bettors enter into contracts with opposing players, just as contracts for oil, pork bellies, or other commodities are traded. The kind of trading used in prediction markets has been around for centuries but only recently has it been used to home in on the sports-betting business.

DRAFTKINGS, Page A6

A hole in the fabric of a small town

For many in Williamsburg, the place just isn't the same without author

By Brooke Hauser
GLOBE STAFF

WILLIAMSBURG — Tracy Kidder often wrote about the idea of home, but to his friends and neighbors, he also embodied it.

He moved to this rural hill town in 1976, six years before winning the Pulitzer Prize for his book about the computer industry, "The Soul of a New Machine," and would frequently travel for work.

But whether Kidder had been in Burundi or Boston, he would always come home to "Burg" and pick up where he'd left off.

Mitch Cichy Jr. was 11 when he started fixing Kidder's cars at his family's shop, Cichy's Garage, which he now owns. They later became

friends and would go on long mountain bike rides.

"The conversations you'd have with him, it's hard to explain," said Cichy, 60, sitting on a stone wall by the Mill River and wiping his eyes. "He always cared. If there was something going on with you, he wanted to know if he could fix it."

Kidder died of lung cancer at the age of 80 on March 24 in Boston. For many in this town of around 2,700, where he lived with his wife, the artist Frances Kidder, it's hard to imagine the place without him. Not everyone knew he was a famous author. He was also a volunteer firefighter for a time and a familiar face at the Post Office and the town dump.

"It's a big void," said José Garcia, another Williamsburg friend, who invited Cichy over for a toast in Kidder's memory. "I loved him."

Kidder's loss is felt here and across the Pioneer Valley, itself a recurring character in several of his books.

Chris Zajac, the teacher in "Among Schoolchildren" whose Holyoke fifth-grade classroom Kidder followed for a year, is now retired and lives on the Cape. She recalled how the celebrated author could always find common ground. "I mean, he could be with the biggest muckety-mucks in the whole world and yet relate to my 10-year-old fifth-graders," she said. "Some didn't have a lot of money, some struggled every

KIDDER, Page A7



Doing a deep dive

Thursday: A 30-degree drop. High 39-44, low 34-39.

Friday: Warm again, some sun. High 61-66, low 54-59.

Sunrise: 6:25. Sunset: 7:11.

Weather and comics, **D5-6**.
Obituaries, **C9**.

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Shutdown agreement

GOP Capitol Hill leaders announced a plan to end Homeland Security shutdown and fund ICE. **A2**.

World Cup organizers offered some details about their preparations but questions on funding remain. **B1**.

US intelligence agencies don't believe Iran is ready to engage in talks as President Trump says US war objectives almost completed. **A3**.

The Artemis mission to the moon blasted off, starting a 10-day journey farther on propelling people forth into space than ever before. **A2**.

Reeling in some trout — and a little flak

State's stocking effort a big hit with fishermen; others say it's misguided

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

It's a frigid Saturday afternoon and John Yemma is one of a couple dozen anglers lining the banks of Horn Pond in Woburn, participating in a rather peculiar game. Many anglers love this game; many despise it. And many, like Yemma, are conflicted.

"The more I understand it, the more I feel like it's not a good thing. But I still do it, and I can see the arguments for it," said 40-year-old Yemma, an avid fisherman from Winthrop. He gestured toward the other anglers on the bank. "I do a lot in the outdoors, and I certainly never see this many kids fishing otherwise."

Here's how the game works: This time of year, MassWildlife trucks will begin leaving the state's five fish hatcheries on covert missions. The trucks carry tanks holding rainbow, brown, and tiger trout, non-native species that have been raised inside concrete troughs at the hatcheries. They will be released into 450 lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams throughout the state for one purpose: so they may be caught and eaten.

In all this spring, half a million trout will be loosed into places including Walden Pond in Concord, the Brookline Reservoir,

TROUT, Page A7



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

In the spring, MassWildlife will release half a million trout in some 450 lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.