



Analysis: World absorbs historic wartime oil disruptions

BUSINESS, 4A

SERVING TAUNTON, RAYNHAM, DIGHTON, BERKLEY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1848

TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026 | TAUNTONGAZETTE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



MIDDLEBORO SUMMER FUN

▲Jack Aucoin, 13, competes in the watermelon eating contest at Peirce Playground in Middleboro on July 4.

PHOTOS BY MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

►Jax Bickford, 13, was a winner in the greasy pole competition at Peirce Playground on July 4.



More inside

See more photos from the events at Peirce Playground on July 4. **3A**

Birthright citizenship limits face slim odds

GOP unlikely to pass legislation this Congress

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – House Speaker Mike Johnson is insisting that congressional Republicans are “looking at all angles” to slap limits on birthright citizenship after the Supreme Court shielded it from President Donald Trump’s order to redefine who is an American.



Johnson

In a July 5 interview on “Fox News Sunday,” the Louisiana Republican said GOP lawmakers in the House of Representatives would move quickly to respond.

“If there’s some legislative fix, we’ll advance that immediately,” Johnson said. “If it’s a constitutional amendment, as you know, it takes a little more time. But we’ve got to address this.”

While that promise certainly isn’t hollow, the chances of Congress intervening in the near future to curb birthright citizenship are very low.

Whatever the options Johnson has, they’re long shots – especially in a mid-term election year, when GOP leaders are dramatically struggling to capitalize on the little time they have left before November.

With ultra-slim Republican margins in the House and Senate, lawmakers are having a tough time completing the basics of legislating. There’s no realistic way for a constitutional amendment that controversial – which requires two-thirds approval from both chambers and three-fourths of the states to ratify – could pass in this Congress.

Still, Trump is adding it to his list of demands for GOP legislators, even though that demand could derail them from tending to the rest of his legislative agenda.

“Congress should start TODAY to work on ending expensive and unfair to our Country, Birthright Citizenship. They will have my Complete and Total Support!” he wrote in a June 30 social media post.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump appointee, was part of the 6-3 court majority that overturned the president’s executive order on June 30.

He was not, however, part of the 5-4 majority that held that the 14th Amendment ensured citizenship for everyone born in the United States. He wrote

See BIRTHRIGHT, Page 2A

Poll: Residents doubt police in Read case

Bailey Allen
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Most Massachusetts residents believe police concealed evidence in the Karen Read case, according to a recent survey from the University of New Hampshire.

In June 2025, Read was found not guilty of second-degree murder and leaving the scene of a collision resulting in death. Prosecutors had accused her of backing into her Boston police officer boyfriend, John O’Keefe, with her Lexus SUV in a drunken rage and leaving him to die in the snow outside a Canton



Read

home in January 2022.

Her defense attorneys claimed that she was framed by police in an investigation they described as rife with bias and incompetence.

Since her acquittal last year, Read has filed two lawsuits related to the case – one in November against witnesses and investigators, including former Massachusetts State Police Trooper Michael Proctor, and another in June against the Massachusetts State Police and the Town of Canton.

According to a statement sent to USA TODAY last month, Read’s defense team alleged that both agencies “negligently permitted virulent misogynists and bigots to target her,” referring to claims that investigators in her case sent hateful, racist, and sexist messages over the years.

Throughout the case, Read has amassed supporters from near and far, some of whom stood outside the courtroom during her trial wearing pink in solidarity and chanting “Free Karen Read.”

See READ, Page 2A



Looking to Make a Move?
Find Your Dream Home Here.

Call, Scan, or Visit
888-620-8813
addressUSA.com



Scan to discover your dream home and start your journey.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to tauntongazette.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 179 | No. 26
To subscribe 508-676-2517
©2026 \$2.00



8 71534 00551 5