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# The Philadelphia Inquirer

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## Appeal to end birthright citizenship cites white supremacists

**Legal experts say the Trump administration's Supreme Court arguments will draw from an 1896 case that buttressed Jim Crow laws.**

By Justin Jouvenal  
Washington Post

Alexander Porter Morse, a Confederate officer during the Civil War

and a Louisiana attorney, argued for legalized segregation in the landmark 1896 Supreme Court case that established the "separate but equal" doctrine and buttressed Jim Crow laws.

He is again playing a key role in a monumental case to be argued before the justices Wednesday: The Trump administration has tapped Morse as an authority in its push to upend long-settled law that virtually everyone born in the United States is a citizen.

Over a century ago, Morse was among a trio of thinkers who spearheaded a failed effort — steeped in

anti-Black and anti-Chinese racism — to erase birthright citizenship. The Trump administration is reviving their arguments to make its case today, some legal scholars say.

The administration is citing arguments "built on a racist foundation," Justin Sadowsky, an attorney for the Chinese American Legal Defense Alliance (CALDA), wrote in a friend-of-the-court brief.

Lucy Salyer, a University of New Hampshire history professor who has written on Morse and others, said she was struck that the Trump administration had chosen to elevate those figures and their ideas:

"If you know the history and the broader context of what they were trying to achieve, it does ring alarm bells."

The case, which could redefine who is considered an American, centers on the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof."

When asked for comment about relying on Morse and his compatriots, the Trump administration pointed to a brief in which it wrote, "this Court has repeatedly cited

their work in other contexts." Some legal scholars also argued their stance on birthright citizenship was shared by a number of prominent politicians who did not have racist views.

The Trump administration argues the 14th Amendment does not apply to people in the country illegally or on temporary visas. If the high court agrees, and reverses the long-held interpretation, it could render hundreds of thousands of children born to immigrant parents stateless.

"The Supreme Court has the  
→ SEE BIRTHRIGHT ON A9



## Israel uses AI platform to target Iranian leaders

**Its effective decapitation campaign relies on technological advances its intelligence forces have developed for years.**

By Greg Miller  
Washington Post

TEL AVIV — As U.S. and Israeli military commanders met to map out war with Iran, they deliberated over how to divide responsibility for an array of targets, including missile batteries, military bases, and nuclear sites.

It was clear from the outset, however, that one grim mission would belong to Israel: hunting and killing Iran's leaders.

Israel has pursued this assignment with ruthless efficiency, killing Iran's supreme leader in the opening salvo of the war and more than 250 other "senior Iranian officials" since, according to a count maintained by the Israeli military. The latest blow came Thursday when Israel said it had killed the naval commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The decapitation campaign relies on an assassination apparatus that Israel spent decades building but transformed over the past several years to achieve new levels of lethal proficiency, according to senior Israeli military and intelligence officials.

The officials cited a proliferation of sources and surveillance capabilities inside Iran — regime insiders recruited to spy for Israel as well as cyberpenetrations of thousands of targets including street cameras, payment platforms, and internet choke points that Iran installed to impose communications blackouts on its citizens. These and other streams of data are being scoured by what Israeli officials described as a new, classified artificial intelligence platform programmed to extract clues to leaders' lives and movements.

Israel's targeted killing tactics — bombs planted months before being detonated, drones capable of  
→ SEE ISRAEL ON A4

## Big wheel in Phoenixville

The Phoenix Wheel, once a fixture at the Jersey Shore, is being reconstructed in Phoenixville. The Phoenix Wheel predates the patent for the Ferris wheel, drawing its lineage back to 1893. Story, B1. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

## Lawsuit accuses sportsbooks of pushing 'dangerous' microbets

By David Gambacorta  
Staff Writer

When he was a younger man, fresh out of college, Terry Thompson placed occasional bets on NFL and college football games with a neighborhood bookie.

Those pregame wagers on point spreads remained a manageable hobby for nearly two decades. Then, in October 2020, Thompson created an account with FanDuel Sportsbook, and used its app to bet on his favorite team, the Philadelphia Eagles.

Thompson, of Montgomery County, soon grew addicted to a more modern form of gambling: placing countless microbets during live NFL games through FanDuel and one of its peers, DraftKings. In the five years that followed,

Thompson wagered more than \$22 million between the two companies, and they rewarded him with VIP perks, including Champagne and tickets to Eagles games, court records show.

He also lost more than \$1.8 million, and his life crumbled. Thompson sold his finance company, took out additional mortgages on his home, and finally, in February, gambled away his last dollar. Rather than reveal the scope of his losses to his family, Thompson planned to kill himself, according to a lawsuit that the Public Health Advocacy Institute filed March 24 on his behalf in Common Pleas Court of Philadelphia against FanDuel and DraftKings.

The advocacy institute, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit, alleges that the sports betting companies  
→ SEE LAWSUIT ON A10

## Wait times easing at airports as TSA paychecks arrive

By Josh Funk and John Seewer  
Associated Press

Frustrating security lines dwindled at U.S. airports on Monday, removing some of the worst bottlenecks as Transportation Safety Administration officers began receiving back pay for working during the government shutdown.

What was a four-hour checkpoint line at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport turned into a wait of 10 minutes or less on Monday. Wait times pushed beyond two hours at New York's LaGuardia Airport Monday morning, but that appeared to be an exception, with normal waits at previous trouble spots such as Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

After weeks of airport chaos, there was finally optimism for the beleaguered aviation system.

Weary travelers hope the overdue paychecks will end the seemingly endless security lines and missed flights that many experienced in recent weeks. It remains unknown how long it will take for wait times to normalize — and how long federal immigration officers will maintain a visible presence in airport terminals — as the busy spring break travel season continues.

TSA workers told union leadership Monday that they received some — but not all — of their back pay, according to Johnny Jones, secretary-treasurer of the TSA union. He said the rest, from a partial paycheck at the start of the shutdown, is expected by next week.

The TSA chapter of the American  
→ SEE TSA ON A9

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