

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

The Seattle Times

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Homeowners, farmers say land 'stolen' for data centers



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Ismael Quintero Jr., 14, plays soccer with his father, Ismael Quintero, in the front yard of their home south of Quincy, Grant County. Grant County PUD is proposing to erect 100-foot-tall transmission lines through their property, larger than the neighborhood distribution lines that already pass over their property.

GRANT COUNTY | PUD pushes power lines through private property to serve centers.

CLIMATE LAB

By GREG KIM
Seattle Times climate reporter

O GRANT COUNTY — In a warm Tuesday evening last week, Felicitas Quintero made dinner on the grill while her husband played soccer with their kids. Every day after work, the family gathers on the front lawn — their watering hole.

Now, she's fighting to keep it. "It's the place we find peace," Quintero said. "Why do we have to give that up?"

Grant County Public Utility District has filed lawsuits to take part of Quintero's property along with portions of eight other homes and farms in order to build electric transmission lines — part of a quarter-billion-dollar project to move more power to Quincy, a town that has become the state's de facto data center hub.

Data centers are demanding more energy than ever to fuel



ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

artificial intelligence, and the utility is not only running out of locally sourced electricity but also power-line capacity. To build more, the PUD considered running lines through public lands, protected habitats, farms or people's homes. In the end, the utility concluded it would be fastest to take private property.

Time is precious, as the utility stands to make millions potentially every month the new lines are up, officials said. But it's trying to buy the land it needs to do that at a fraction of its value.

Property owners say the utility's actions amount to theft, and are asking a judge to throw out the condemnation cases, which are

awaiting a decision. They say the lines will make it more difficult to farm their land and are worried the high voltage will interfere with electronics keeping them alive.

Chuck Allen, a spokesperson for the PUD, declined an interview but wrote in an email the non-profit utility is required to serve

See > **CENTERS, A5**

Multiple companies, including Sabey Data Centers, operate data center campuses in and around Quincy.

Trump says ceasefire on 'life support,' proposes gas tax pause

By JON GAMBRELL, SAMY MAGDY AND SEUNG-MIN KIM
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said the Iran ceasefire is on "life support" after rejecting Tehran's latest proposal, which officials said included some nuclear concessions.

Trump also proposed suspending the federal gas tax to help with higher fuel prices caused by the war.

The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict. Iran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global oil and gas shipments, and America is blockading Iranian ports.

Asked at the White House if the ceasefire was still in effect, Trump said it's on "life support."

"I would call it the weakest right now after reading that piece of garbage they sent us," Trump added. "I didn't even finish reading it."

Trump also said he supported a suspension of the federal tax on gasoline — just over 18 cents per gallon and 24 cents for diesel. Congress, which is controlled by Republicans, would have to approve. The tax brings in more than \$23 billion each year.

His pledge came after fuel prices surged past \$4.50 a gallon last week. Trump predicted that the price of oil and gas would drop "like a rock" as soon as hostilities are over.

Trump has demanded a major rollback of Iran's nuclear activities. See > **IRAN, A6**

One infusion could stifle HIV for years, a new study has found

By APOORVA MANDAVILLI
The New York Times

For about a decade, scientists have had remarkable success curing some blood cancers by modifying a patient's own immune cells to recognize and kill the malignant cells.

That same approach may help control HIV, among the wildest of viruses, scientists will report Tuesday. After a single infusion of immune cells engineered to recognize the virus, two people in a new study have suppressed their HIV to undetectable levels, one of them for nearly two years.

The data is scheduled to be presented at a gene therapy conference in Boston, but the researchers shared an early copy with The New York Times.

The treatment is years, if not decades, from being widely available, but the study offers what scientists call "proof of concept," and the tantalizing hope that a single shot could one day offer lifelong relief from HIV.

"It is inspiration and a potential See > **HIV, A5**

Suit accuses Tukwila-based immigration attorney of malpractice, 'even fraud'

By NINA SHAPIRO
Seattle Times staff reporter

Calling herself a "lawyer of miracles," Alexandra Lozano built a sprawling Tukwila-based business with five primary U.S. locations and back offices in Colombia, Mexico and Argentina.

The business uses what Lozano has described as a novel approach to immigration law. It has served, according to its website, almost 80,000 people and helped thousands obtain work permits and hundreds get green cards. She has also taught her approach to others, in part by authoring several books. But a lawsuit filed Monday in the

U.S. District Court of Western Washington on behalf of nine former clients says her services were "illusory, negligent, and even fraudulent" — harming rather than helping plaintiffs and perhaps many others.

Thousands, the lawsuit says, have been affected.

The 50-page complaint lodges a barrage of claims against Lozano (also known as Lozano Kennedy after a 2023 separation), her business and other entities believed to be associated with her. The claims include legal malpractice, breach of contract and fiduciary duty, and violation of the Consumer Protec-

tion Act. The lawsuit also accuses Lozano and other entities of violating civil racketeering and conspiracy laws.

Among the specific allegations are participating in a "scheme" to file false or fraudulent immigration documents and, in some cases, asking clients to sign blank pieces of paper so the signatures could be attached to documents they hadn't reviewed.

The lawsuit comes as Lozano is facing scrutiny from a branch of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services called the Fraud Detection and National Security Directorate, according to four people who have been in contact with one of its officers and an email from that directorate reviewed by The Seattle Times. USCIS said it does not confirm or deny investigations.

"I take these matters seriously, and any issues involving regulatory See > **LAWSUIT, A6**

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