

The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Shower 73/54 • Tomorrow: Partly sunny 84/67 B18

Democracy Dies in Darkness

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 • \$4

Birthright citizenship looks likely to survive

Supreme Court skeptical of arguments supporting Trump's order to end it

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL

The Supreme Court appeared poised Wednesday to uphold the legal principle that almost everyone born on U.S. soil is a citizen, as justices heard arguments in a major case that raises fundamental questions about who is considered American.

The justices seemed ready to hand President Donald Trump a significant defeat in his push to end birthright citizenship, as the president sat watching the first part of the proceedings in the public gallery — a historic first. Trump is the only sitting chief executive known to have attended arguments before the high court.

His presence ratcheted up the drama in what was already one of the most significant cases of the Supreme Court's term. The case tests the constitutionality of a signature policy that could have sweeping political, economic and social ramifications. Trump has also repeatedly attacked the justices in recent weeks over their rulings against him.

The president went to court seeking to redefine American identity in ways not seen for more than 150 years, since the 14th Amendment was ratified guaranteeing citizenship to the formerly enslaved and their children in the wake of the Civil War.

The amendment was written to overturn the high court's infamous *Dred Scott* decision, which

SEE BIRTHRIGHT ON A7

Teacher's AI is designed to argue, not summarize

Goal is to help students reliant on ChatGPT to think through solutions

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

Something shifted in Dan Wang's class at Columbia Business School in the fall of 2022. Instead of his students showing up prepared with persuasive arguments about business decisions, many students had asked ChatGPT to summarize case studies.

It was understandable that they wanted to finish their homework more efficiently, he said. But that made class discussions more challenging.

Now, students still pull out their phones to prepare for his class — but they talk to an artificial intelligence app Wang designed. Before they are faced with tough questions from the professor and classmates, they argue at home with Caisey, as Wang nicknamed it.

"A lot of AI tools in education are designed to make things more efficient," he said. "Caisey capitalizes on precisely the opposite: the capacity to slow students down, to actually make them focus and to also make them consider very different ways of thinking about questions."

While many faculty members worry about the impact of AI on

SEE LEARNING ON A18

NASA's Artemis II lifts off on historic moon mission



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Four astronauts blast off before sunset Wednesday, starting a historic 10-day journey to loop around the moon for the first time since the Apollo era and propel people farther into space than ever before. The astronauts will circle the Earth, testing life support systems and making final checks before heading toward the moon. **Story, A18**

Trump is loath to ask Congress for ballroom

BY DAN DIAMOND AND JONATHAN EDWARDS

President Donald Trump isn't inclined to seek Congress's approval for his controversial \$400 million White House ballroom — and many lawmakers are not inclined to give it.

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that Trump must obtain congressional authorization to complete his ballroom project, which the president has sought to fund with private donations. The White House immediately appealed the decision, and Trump struck a defiant tone in remarks to reporters and on social media.

"In the Ballroom case, the

And lawmakers aren't keen to give approval in wake of judge's ruling

Judge said we have to get Congressional approval. He is WRONG!" Trump wrote Tuesday on his Truth Social platform. "Congressional approval has never been given on anything, in these circumstances, big or small, having to do with construction at the White House."

In interviews with The Washington Post, lawmakers and aides said that Trump was wrong about

Congress's role, pointing to decades of examples of legislators approving changes to the White House grounds, including setting aside funding to construct the White House's original West and East wings more than a century ago.

"What happens now if the law is followed is that Trump is forced to do the thing he hates the most: actually play by the rules and go through Congress," said Rep. Jared Huffman (California), the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee. That committee has historically overseen construction in national parks, including the park surrounding the White House.

Lawmakers and staff also said they expected any legislation around the White House ballroom to spark a fight in Congress, noting polling showing the project is unpopular and many Democrats' opposition to it. Fifty-six percent of Americans said they disapproved of Trump's renovations to the White House, according to an Economist/YouGov poll conducted March 27-30, while 28 percent said they supported them. Members of the public sent more than 35,000 comments about the project to a federal commission reviewing the project, and a Post analysis found more than 97 percent of those

SEE BALLROOM ON A2

Trump: War is nearing its end

DEFENDS HIS CHOICE TO ATTACK IRAN

Speech comes amid souring moods on conflict

BY CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR. AND KAREN DEYOUNG

Facing economic and political headwinds a month after launching a surprise attack on Iran, President Donald Trump defended the increasingly unpopular conflict Wednesday night, but assured the nation that the military activity in the Middle East was "nearing completion."

In a speech from the White House, Trump said the United States was on track to complete all of its military objectives "shortly, very shortly" but first there would be a period of military buildup: "We're going to hit them extremely hard," he said. "Over the next two to three weeks, we're going to bring them back to the Stone Age."

Trump also sought to clear up contradictory statements about the competing objectives of the bombardment launched on Feb. 28, saying it was a continuation of political promises he's made for years: to deny Iran a nuclear weapon.

"From the very first day, I announced my campaign for president in 2015 I have vowed that I would never allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon," Trump said. "They were right at the doorstep for years, everyone has said that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons, but in the end, those are just words if you're not willing to take action when the time comes."

The president's defense of his actions, and his direct entreaty to the American people, comes as the White House tries to contain the consequences of a conflict that has sent gas prices soaring

SEE SPEECH ON A10

Musk's SpaceX files IPO, seeking a massive debut

Aerospace firm could break record for largest public offering in history

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI AND ELIZABETH DWOSKIN

Rocket maker SpaceX has filed to make an initial public offering, according to a person familiar with the matter, becoming the second company run by Elon Musk to eye a stock market listing after the first one, Tesla, vaulted the billionaire to become the world's richest person more than a decade after its 2010 debut.

SpaceX's debut marks the most anticipated IPO in years, one that could set a record by making shares of the trillion-dollar firm publicly available. Since its founding in 2002, SpaceX has established a foothold in satellite delivery, taken on numerous missions for NASA, put thousands of satellites into orbit and pioneered reusable rockets. Bloomberg News, which first reported on SpaceX's confidential filing to go public, said the company could

seek a \$1.75 trillion valuation and debut on the stock market in June.

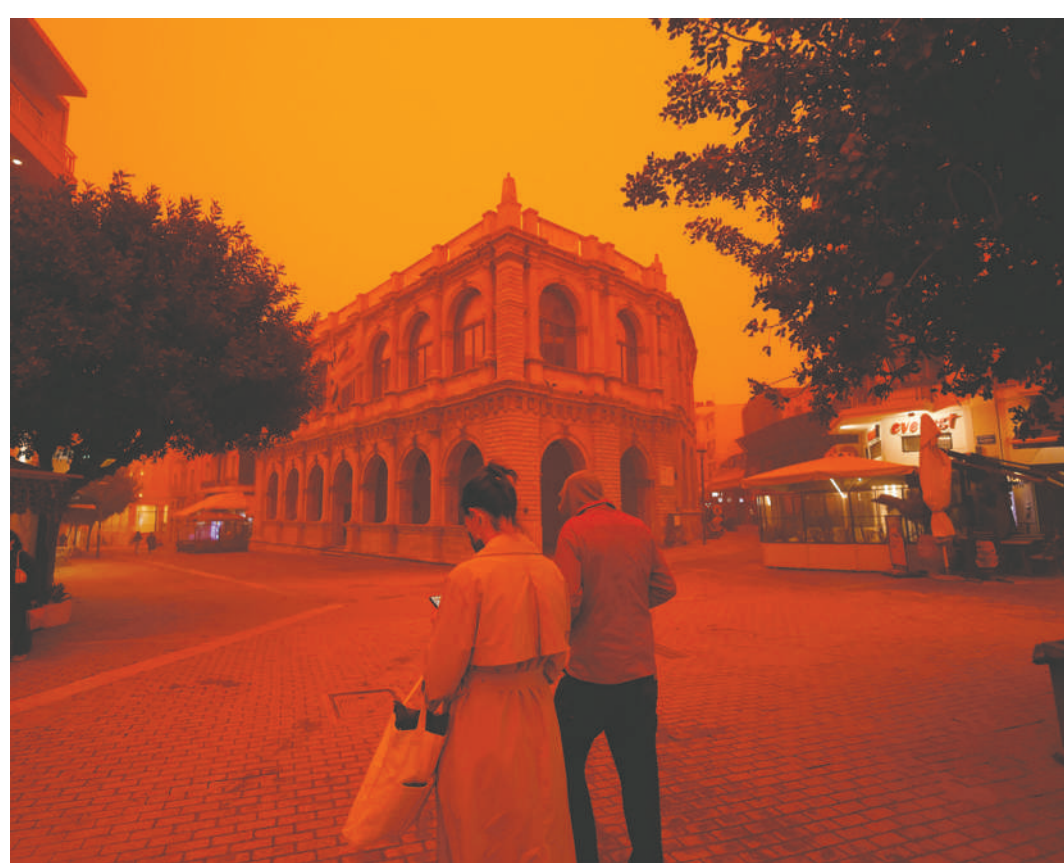
SpaceX did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The person familiar with the matter spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private dealmaking.

SpaceX, which acquired the Musk artificial intelligence start-up xAI earlier this year, is dedicated to his bets on placing humans on the moon and eventually taking them to Mars, establishing a colony there. Musk has also pushed the company to corner the market on satellite-based internet and has announced plans to put data centers, a key to AI, in space. Through its xAI acquisition, SpaceX also now encompasses X, the social media site Musk bought for \$44 billion in 2022 when it was called Twitter.

Gene Munster, managing partner at SpaceX investor Deepwater Asset Management, said the IPO is expected to "easily" set the record for market debuts, raising more than \$80 billion in his estimate.

"The narrative around space is that it's early and they've got the

SEE SPACEX ON A14



STEFANOS RAPANIS/REUTERS

Sand storm alters skies

People in Heraklion, Crete Island, walk amid a haze Wednesday caused by sand dust from the Sahara. According to NASA, a dry, dust-laden wind known as the harmattan swept across northwestern Africa, bringing cold temperatures, high winds and heavy dust.

IN THE NEWS

A royal speech King Charles III has been invited to address a joint meeting of Congress this month to mark the 250th anniversary of America's independence from Britain. A12

U.S. journalist kidnapped Shelly Kittleson was taken in Baghdad, officials say, as one suspect with militia ties is interrogated. A9

THE NATION

The president issued a sweeping order that attempts to change rules for mail-in voting. A3
Trump attended the Supreme Court hearing in an unusual role for him: silent observer. A3

THE WORLD

Dozens of premature babies born in Gaza during the first week of the war and being cared for in dire conditions were evacuated. Eleven have now returned to uncertain futures. A8

THE ECONOMY

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The government spends far more on retirees than any other age group, a sign of the breadth of Medicare and Social Security. A14

STYLE

"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" is expected to be one of the biggest hits of the year. Because, Mario. B1

SPORTS

Geno Auriemma is taking an undefeated U-Conn. team into the women's Final Four for the ninth time. B7

THE REGION

In a rare step, the D.C. Council overrode a mayoral veto on a bill that requires police to document the presence of federal agents. B12

LOCAL LIVING

The art of the grievance: How to complain, and get results, when a company does you wrong.

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