

NATIONAL BRIEFS

FDA OKs first new sunscreen ingredient in more than 25 years

WASHINGTON — Federal health regulators have signed off on the first new sunscreen ingredient for the U.S. market in more than 25 years. The announcement Tuesday by the Food and Drug Administration will give Americans access to a skin-protecting chemical long used in Europe. The FDA says the chemical, bemotrizinol, meets the agency's standards for protecting from dangerous sun rays while causing little irritation. It will initially be sold in the U.S. under the brand name Parsol Shield. Efforts to introduce new sunscreen products have long been delayed by the FDA's bureaucratic system for updating its list of safe drug ingredients

Social Security's retirement trust fund faces funding shortfall one year earlier than expected

WASHINGTON — Social Security's retirement trust fund is projected to face a funding shortfall in 2032, a year earlier than previously expected. That's according to an annual report released Tuesday. Medicare's hospital insurance trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits in 2033, unchanged from last year's estimate. Rising health care costs and government spending contributed to these projected depletion dates. The programs will continue issuing benefits after these dates, but at reduced amounts. The trustees emphasize the urgency of changes, but political challenges remain. AARP's CEO is urging Congress to act, highlighting the importance of these benefits for retirees.

New York's busiest train station to get \$8 billion remodel with columns, sunlight and Trump's name

NEW YORK — Renderings of a dramatically redesigned Pennsylvania Station in New York City have been released by Amtrak and the developers. Images of the estimated \$8 billion project were released Monday and show a return to hub's original classical style, with a stone facade and rows of Roman-style columns. Inside, commuters are greeted by a sun-drenched grand concourse with soaring ceilings. There are bronze finishes and other ornamental details, like a bas-relief of the city's famous skyline and a large, classic station clock. An interior wall near a entryway bears the seal of President Donald Trump.

Stadium workers near LA say they have a tentative deal, averting strike ahead of World Cup

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Stadium workers near Los Angeles say they have reached a tentative contract deal, averting a strike ahead of the U.S. men's soccer team's opening World Cup match. The union announced the deal at a news conference Tuesday and said workers will vote on whether to ratify the agreement on Wednesday. The tentative contract will give stadium cooks among the highest wages for the job in the country, with many earning \$40 an hour in about two years. The union representing 2,000 bartenders, servers, cooks and dishwashers at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, voted last week to authorize a strike after contract talks had stalled with the stadium's food service provider.

US and Iran launch airstrikes after Trump blamed Tehran for downing Army helicopter

BY JON GAMBRELL, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Kuwaiti air defenses opened fire Wednesday as the small Mideast nation came under attack from Iran.

Iran had said it targeted the nation to retaliate over American airstrikes earlier Wednesday morning.

Iran also claimed attacks targeting Bahrain and Jordan.

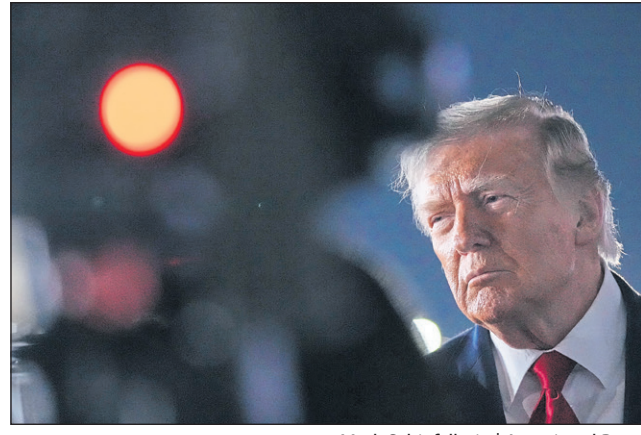
Tehran had vowed to respond after the U.S. launched airstrikes on Iran following the crash of an Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said earlier on social media that Iran had shot down the aircraft while it was on patrol over the strait.

The U.S. military launched airstrikes Wednesday on Iran following the crash of an Army helicopter near the Strait of Hormuz that U.S. President Donald Trump blamed on the Islamic Republic.

Tehran vowed to respond, again throwing into question efforts to reach a permanent ceasefire in the Iran war that's seen the Strait of Hormuz effectively choked off and global energy prices spike. Missile alert sirens sounded in the island kingdom of Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, which Tehran said it targeted for retaliation.

Fighter jets from the U.S. Air Force and Navy conducted the strikes, the U.S. military's Central Command said, targeting "air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites." Iran acknowledged strikes around Bandar Abbas and Qeshm Island, but gave no details on the damage.



Mark Schiefelbein | Associated Press

President Donald Trump talks with reporters before boarding Air Force One at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on early Tuesday.

"The operation was a proportional response to recent attacks on U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters," Central Command said.

Trump said earlier in a social media post that Iran had shot down the aircraft while it was on patrol over the strait and declared that the U.S. "must, of necessity, respond to this attack." Iran's top diplomat said foreign military forces near its territory "are at constant risk" and later vowed that there would be a response to the new U.S. strikes.

Iranian forces "will leave no attack or threat unanswered," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X. "Leave our region if you want to be safe."

The downing of the Apache attack helicopter and the strikes by the U.S. military further strained a two-month ceasefire a day after Iran and Israel exchanged fire for the first time since the fragile truce took effect. Iranian state television said Tuesday that the Israeli attacks killed at least two members of the country's air-defense units.

Since the U.S. and Israel began striking Iran on Feb. 28, the war has shaken the global economy, driven up energy

prices around the world and made many basics, including food, more expensive.

Officials have been unable to turn the April ceasefire into a deal to permanently end the conflict, particularly as Israel intensifies and expands its military campaign in Lebanon against the Iranian-backed militia Hezbollah.

US HELICOPTER COLLIDED WITH IRANIAN DRONE, OFFICIAL SAYS

The Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopter went down after colliding with an Iranian drone, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

It wasn't clear whether the collision was intentional, and official statements only said the crash is under investigation. CNN, CBS News and other outlets earlier reported the collision.

In the first known operation of its kind by the American military, a drone boat rescued two aviators at 3:30 a.m. local time Tuesday, about two hours after their aircraft went down during a patrol off the coast of Oman, U.S. Central Command said.

Trump said both service members were "safe

and uninjured."

The U.S. service members were spotted and picked up by a drone boat that took them to another location on the water, where they were picked up by a helicopter, said Capt. Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command. He initially said the drone took the two to shore, and he did not elaborate on the updated timeline.

It was the first known drone rescue at sea by the U.S. military, Hawkins said.

AH-64 Apache helicopters have been a key asset for the American military as it enforces a blockade on Iranian crude oil shipments and tankers, seeking to pressure Tehran into a deal. The helicopters have also been used by the United Arab Emirates to shoot down Iranian drones.

The drone used to perform the rescue was a 24-foot (7.3-meter) vessel called a Corsair, Hawkins said. It's manufactured by Saronic Technologies.

The drone was assigned to the Navy's Task Force 59, established in 2021 as the Navy's first uncrewed and artificial intelligence unit that focuses on maritime security in the Middle East, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal.

Soon after Trump made his accusation that Iran shot down the aircraft, Araghchi said the strait is "thousands of miles away from U.S. shores."

"Foreign forces in proximity to our territory are at constant risk on account of their own human errors, plain accidents, or potentially being caught in cross-fire," Araghchi wrote on social media. "To reduce risk, best solution is for them to leave."

House passes \$70B bill to fund immigration enforcement for 3 years

BY KEVIN FREKING AND LISA MASCARO ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A bill to provide nearly \$70 billion for immigration enforcement narrowly passed the House on Tuesday and now goes to President Donald Trump for his signature, bolstering the administration's deportation agenda for the remainder of his time in the White House.

Republicans used their majority to get the bill over the finish line, funding a pair of Homeland Security agencies through the next three years. The bill passed by a vote of 214-212, over the objections of Democrats. Trump is expected to sign it into law on Wednesday.

The White House says the bill will provide \$38 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, \$26 billion for the Border Patrol and another \$5 billion to cover unforeseen costs. It frontloads routine annual funding, ensuring a virtually uninterrupted flow of money as the Trump administration seeks to deport some 1 million people per year.

Speaker Mike Johnson needed near-perfect attendance and unity on his side to complete weeks of action. The legislation got sidetracked over \$1 billion for White House security, including for Trump's new ballroom, and a \$1.8 billion



Manuel Balce Ceneta | Associated Press

Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Air Marshals, patrol around Washington Dulles International Airport, in Chantilly, Va. on March 24.

fund to compensate his allies who claim they have been unjustly investigated and prosecuted. Those proposals proved politically toxic and were scrapped.

Now, the bill is focused entirely on immigration enforcement, a topic that Republicans have treated as a defining issue between the two major political parties and one they hope will carry them to victory in this year's midterm elections.

"It's long overdue," said Johnson, R-La., of the bill. "We have to fund border security and immigration enforcement, and it's sad that Republicans have to do it on our own."

But Democratic Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Texas called it a "slush fund for ICE."

FUNDING ACCELERATES TRUMP'S DEPORTATION AGENDA

The funding comes on top of the nearly \$140 billion that the Republican-controlled Congress gave ICE and Customs and Border Protection last year as part of Trump's tax and spending cuts bill.

Democrats objected to giving the agencies more money without significant changes in the way they operate after the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good in Min-

neapolis. For example, Democrats insisted that agents remove masks and be required to display their ID badges during enforcement operations and that they get a judicial warrant before entering private property. Instead, the funding will come with virtually no strings attached.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said Republicans weren't focused on the top priorities of the American people and have cut access to Medicaid and nutrition assistance through Trump's earlier tax and spending cut bill.

"Republicans have now come back for more, to

give ICE and Donald Trump's violent mass deportation machine another \$70 billion blank check, with no oversight, no accountability and no guardrails," Jeffries said.

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise countered that Democrats were not adequately supportive of law enforcement.

"Make no mistake, if you're voting yes, you're not only voting to secure America's border, you're voting to fund law enforcement," Scalise said. "And if you vote no, you are voting to defund the police."

HOMELAND SECURITY FACED THE LONGEST SHUTDOWN IN HISTORY

The package is the result of a monthslong standoff in Congress after Democrats refused to fund the Department of Homeland Security in the wake of the immigration enforcement actions in Minneapolis and other American cities, leading to the longest shutdown in agency history.

Negotiations had been underway with the White House to alter ICE operations as Democrats were demanding. When those negotiations failed, Republicans turned to a complicated procedural maneuver to get around the filibuster and pass the immigration funding with no Democratic votes.

Rep. Jodey Arrington,

R-Texas, the chairman of the Budget Committee, said the money would provide "regular, normal funding" that ICE and the Border Patrol would get through the annual budgeting process.

"And we're going to do it, not for one year, but for three years, so we don't end up here again."

The Senate completed its work on the legislation last week during an overnight session on a nearly party-line vote, with Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska the only Republican to oppose it.

MONEY COMES AT A PIVOTAL TIME FOR TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION AGENDA

The money will come at a pivotal time for the Department of Homeland Security, which is under new leadership after Trump replaced Kristi Noem with new Secretary Markwayne Mullin in March.

While Mullin has vowed to keep the department out of the headlines, the administration is under pressure from anti-immigration advocates to deliver on Trump's campaign promise of the largest deportation operation in American history.

At the same time, the administration is making it more difficult for certain legal immigrants to remain in the U.S. with Temporary Protective Status or to obtain green cards.