

HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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American Politics: Man Mistakenly Deported to El Salvador Remains There Despite Court Ruling

Adam Ripp and Maya Brener, Grade 12, Editors-in-Chief

- On March 12, Kilmar Abrego Garcia was arrested in Maryland by ICE. He was sent to El Salvador and placed in a prison meant for gang members.
 - On April 4, a district court judge ordered Abrego Garcia to be returned by April 7th. The Trump Administration appealed the ruling and later sent an emergency application to the Supreme Court to have the case heard as soon as possible by SCOTUS.
 - Chief Justice John Roberts granted an “administrative stay”, pausing the April 7th deadline of return. On April 10, SCOTUS ruled 9-0 that the Trump Administration must abide by the district court’s ruling to return Abrego Garcia.
 - El Salvador’s president said he would not return the deportee during a meeting with President Trump.
 - The Trump Administration and the Justice Department have continued to refuse to return Abrego Garcia and said he would be arrested and removed from the country again if he were to return.
 - A US Senator from Maryland visited El Salvador to campaign for the return of the deported man, but El Salvador’s government refused the Senator a meeting with Abrego Garcia.
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Global Events: Trump Rocks the Global Economy

Syeda Ahmed and Saja Amrati, Grade 9, Staff Writers

- Since taking office in January, Trump announced a 10% baseline tariff on virtually all U.S. imports as well as reciprocal tariffs on 57 countries (all of which were later rescinded except for the reciprocal tariffs on China, which have increased to 145%).
 - Constant altercations of global tariffs and several social media posts on Trump’s platform Truth Social have created an intense environment of uncertainty in the global market, which has led to recession-like statistics.
 - Trump has argued that these tariffs are meant to even the playing field and prevent other countries from exploiting trade with the U.S. but economists argue that reciprocal trades are counterintuitive.
 - China, the European Union, and Canada have responded to Trump’s reciprocal tariffs with their own, sparking concern among experts of a full fledged trade war.
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Miscellaneous Events:

Theodore Cacy, Grade 11, News Editor, and Jack McCurry, Grade 12, Staff Writer

- The mayor of Miami-Dade County vetoed legislation to remove fluoride from the county’s drinking water. This comes as Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has called for states to ban fluoride in drinking water, with Utah being the first state in the nation to do so.
- A man named Cody A. Balmer turned himself in to the Pennsylvania State Police on April 13th, claiming responsibility for the arson attack on Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro’s residence. Thankfully, no one was injured in the attack, though the residence sustained significant damage.
- South Carolina executed a convicted murderer named Mikal Mahdi by firing squad. This comes about a month after another South Carolina inmate named Brad Sigmon was executed by firing squad. Before this year, there hadn’t been a firing squad execution in the United States since 2010.
- Mommy, a critically endangered Galapagos tortoise at the Philadelphia Zoo, just gave birth to four hatchlings. At 97 years old, she is the oldest first-time tortoise mother in history.

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