

Gorsuch Stresses Judicial Independence at Hearing

By BRITAIN EAKIN

Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch said Tuesday that he believes “no man is above the law” as he tried to assure the Senate Judiciary Committee that he would not hesitate to rule against President Trump if he exceeded his authority.

SCOTUS Limits President’s Power to Fill Temp. Posts

By DAN MCCUE

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday curtailed the president’s power to temporarily fill vacant government posts while nominations are tied up in partisan political fights.

Free College? Tax Millionaires, Calif. Lawmaker Says

By NICK CAHILL

With California State University trustees plotting to raise tuition for the first time in six years, a state lawmaker on Monday announced a plan to make state college free by taxing California millionaires.

LA Mayor Increases Immigrant Protections

By MATT REYNOLDS

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti signed an executive directive Tuesday that bars ports and airport officials from being deputized as federal immigrant agents, amid dips in Latinos reporting crimes against them and a drop in attendance at parks, schools, and other public places.

Expert Details Houston Jail’s New Risk-Assessment Tool

By CAMERON LANGFORD

The expert behind a data tool touted as a cure for overcrowding in Texas’ biggest jail explained in federal court Tuesday how the system will make bond recommendations within 30 minutes of an arrest.

Calif. State Bar Ducks Whistleblower Claims

By MARIA DINZEO

A state arbitrator dismissed retired state Sen. Joe Dunn’s remaining retaliation and whistleblower claims against the California State Bar, putting an end to the three-year legal battle between the agency and its former executive director.

Fan Says Singer Berated Him for Seeking Autographs

By KEVIN KOENIGER

A Michigan autograph collector seeking Iggy Pop’s signature claims he was verbally and physically assaulted by Queens of the Stone Age frontman Josh Homme before TMZ falsely reported he called the singer names.

Oregon Fishermen Say Uncle Sam Let Them Down



The U.S. government thinned forests and plans dam work that will harm fisheries on nine wild and scenic rivers in Oregon rather than protect them, two fishermen’s groups told a federal judge.

Austin, but not Texas, Resists Immigration Holds

By KELSEY JUKAM



Texas’ top politicians have led the fight against undocumented immigration — except in Travis County, home of Austin, which declined more immigration holds recently than any other county in the country, the Department of Homeland Security said Monday.

High Court Signals Defeat for Xbox 360 Gamers

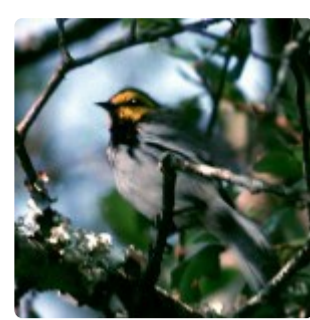
By TIM RYAN



A group of gamers trying to hold Microsoft liable for their scratched-up Xbox 360 discs may have run out of lives Tuesday at Supreme Court oral argument.

Texas Leads Fight Against Endangered Songbird

By ERIK DE LA GARZA



The golden-cheeked warbler, a migratory songbird whose loss of habitat landed it on the endangered species list a generation ago, has been targeted by a Texas group that’s fixin’ to sue the United States to delist the bird.

Experts Say Chinese Sanctions Could Influence N. Korea

By BRANDI BUCHMAN

Experts say the key to slowing nuclear proliferation in North Korea while avoiding full-scale military action is to levy hefty economic sanctions on China — one of the country’s remaining trade partners.

Health Care Bill Gets a Tune-Up Prior to Vote

By TIM RYAN

No longer appearing to distance himself from a bill meant to replace the federal health care law, President Donald Trump began meeting with House Republicans Tuesday to whip up party support.

OPINION

The Face of News

By BILL GIRNER

I asked one of our editors last week if he reads The New York Times online. “Not really,” he said. “Too old fashioned, it feels very stilted, very stuffy.” I asked him about the Guardian. “Love the Guardian.” “It’s just a bunch of pictures,” I protested. “That’s my generation,” he answered.

Apache Tribe Blames US for Forest Ailments

By BRANDI BUCHMAN

Taking the United States to court, an Arizona-based Native American tribe blames federal mismanagement for putting their once thriving timber industry against the ropes.

Dylann Roof Confidante Heading for Prison

By DAN MCCUE

The only person Dylann Roof told of his plan to slaughter worshippers at a historically black church in Charleston, S.C. in 2015 has been sentenced to 27 months in prison for failing to report a crime and lying to the FBI.

Justices Reject Application of Laches in Patent Cases

By DAN MCCUE

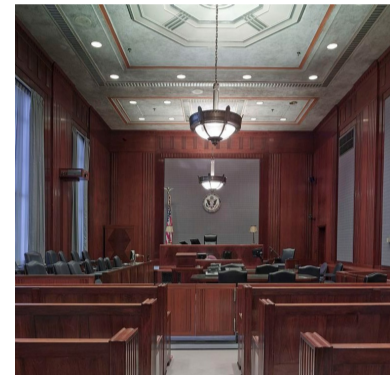
The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled laches is not a defense to patent infringement suits that are brought within the Patent Act’s limitations period.

Polygamous Mormon Sect Taken Back to Court

By JONNY BONNER

Fundamentalist Mormons bowing to the imprisoned “prophet” Warren Jeffs use community property for secret meetings to banish members, reassign wives and children and defraud public assistance, a trust claims in court.

LAW



Retired Judges Fight for Right to Double Dip

By NICK RUMMELL

New York is cracking down on double-dipping — the practice by which state judges collect both pensions and salaries after they hit retirement age — but the Court of Appeals focused Tuesday on whether putting retirees to work is actually cost-effective.

Texas Senate Advances Two Anti-Abortion Bills

By KELSEY JUKAM

The Texas Senate passed two anti-abortion bills Monday, including one that would effectively ban second-trimester procedures.

7th Circuit Affirms Discretionary Visa Denials

By LORRAINE BAILEY

The Seventh Circuit upheld the State Department’s decision to deny a visa to a Palestinian man hoping to join his American wife because he threw stones at Israeli soldiers at age 13, which a consular official called an act of terrorism.

Ohio Cities Oppose Wireless Equipment Law

By BRIAN GROSH

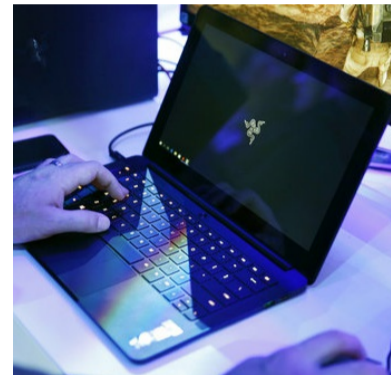
Joining dozens of other cities across the state, Cleveland claims in court that an Ohio law taking effect Tuesday, originally meant to regulate dog sales, will violate its home-rule rights to decide where wireless equipment can be installed.

Child Abuser’s Strip-Poker Appeal Crushed in NJ

By CHRISTINE STUART

Reinstating the conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 11-year-old, the New Jersey Supreme Court found that prosecutors were right to admit evidence that he played strip poker with the child in another state.

NATIONAL



US Bars Electronic Carry-Ons from Mideast, N. Africa Flights

By AP

The U.S. government, citing unspecified threats, is barring passengers on nonstop, U.S.-bound flights from eight mostly Middle Eastern and North African countries from bringing laptops, tablets, electronic games and other devices on board in carry-on bags.

Feds Sue to Strip al-Qaida Conspirator’s Citizenship

By DIONNE CORDELL-WHITEY

The Justice Department filed court papers Monday to revoke the U.S. citizenship of a man who was convicted in 2003 of conspiring to help al-Qaida destroy the Brooklyn Bridge.

Ex-Congressman Accused of Election Violations

By KELSEY JUKAM

A former lawmaker from southeast Texas is accused of diverting charitable funds to his campaigns for public office and making false statements to the Federal Election Commission in an attempt to hide the sources of the cash.

Military Seeks New Ways to Punish Bad Online Behavior

By AP

The Navy and the Marine Corps say they’re considering new ways to punish inappropriate online activity by service members, including posts of “intimate” images on social media sites.

All Ears: Caro Working on Audio-Only Project

By AP

Robert Caro’s next project is for ears only. The Pulitzer Prize-winning historian is planning an audio-only release, “On Power,” drawing upon his years as an investigative journalist and his research into the lives of President Lyndon Johnson and municipal builder Robert Moses.

REGIONAL



San Diego Tackles ‘Manmade Disaster’ of Homelessness

By BIANCA BRUNO

The man accused of killing homeless San Diegans last summer was found competent to face criminal charges Monday, even as City Council members held a special meeting to address the city’s growing homelessness problem.

Movie Company Says It Was Defrauded by Investment Firm

By JEFF FERRIS

A motion picture production company says it was taken for a ride by Florida-based investor whose empty promises caused it to pour an extra \$20 million into a Natalie Portman western.

Bassoonist Accuses Indiana Orchestra of Age Bias

By DAVID WELLS

The 62-year-old lead bassoonist of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra claims in a federal lawsuit that his young conductor tried to force him out of his position because of his age.

Bridge Closure Leaves California’s Big Sur Reeling

By AP

Almost all the hotels, restaurants and state parks cut off when a bridge on the Central California coast crumbled last month remain closed, but Kurt Mayer chose to keep his deli and taproom open — even though it’s costing him.

11th Circuit Blocks Execution in Alabama

By ELLEN ROBINSON

The 11th Circuit blocked the execution of an Alabama death row inmate ruling he is incompetent.

INTERNATIONAL



Ukraine Lawmaker Says Manafort Tried to Hide \$750,000 Payment

By AP

A Ukrainian lawmaker on Tuesday released a document that he said links Donald Trump’s former campaign chairman Paul Manafort to attempts to hide a \$750,000 payment from a pro-Russia political party — a claim strongly denied by Manafort’s spokesman.

EU and Japan Say They’re Getting Closer to Free Trade Deal

By AP

The European Union and Japan have pledged to get to a free trade at the earliest possible opportunity, with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker saying it should be used as a beacon against isolationism.

Czechs Saw Off Rhino Horns as Precaution After France Attack

By AP

A Czech zoo is taking no chances after the killing of a rhinoceros at a wildlife park near Paris by assailants who stole the animal’s horn.

Heartbreak and Paperwork Weigh on Brussels Attack Victims

By AP

In the year since suicide bombings ripped through the Brussels airport and subway, those affected have found themselves fighting to be recognized as victims, battling for compensation, and dealing with insurance bureaucracy like seeking three price estimates for a prosthetic limb.

Germany: 3 Teenagers Convicted in Bomb Attack on Sikh Temple

By AP

A German court convicted three 17-year-olds on Tuesday of participating last year in a bomb attack on a Sikh temple that was motivated by hatred of other religions. They were given prison sentences ranging between six and seven years.

In Brief

Beauty Pageant

An Illinois state’s attorney claims the promoter of a state beauty pageant add-on called Miss Photogenic told contestants that money from the competition would be donated to a children’s hospital, but he kept it for his own benefit.

Meth Dealing

The United States claims in a federal complaint that Terry Raymond and Dawn Marie Peters, of Fresno, conspired to distribute and distributed methamphetamine and laundered \$5 million in proceeds through a Chinese bank.

Make America Support My Hat Again

A Trump supporter endured the “saddest hour of his life,” he claims in court, when a West Village bar called The Happiest Hour threw him out in the cold because of his Make America Great Again hat.

Rowland Conviction Stands

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to overturn the convictions of former Connecticut Gov. John Rowland, for conspiring to hide his work on two Republican congressional campaigns.

Diet Supplements

A federal class action claims GNC Holdings, diet supplement stores, sold “millions” of customers discount Gold Cards for \$15 a year, then terminated the program.

Bridgeway Ruling

A New Jersey judge for the second time declined Friday to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate a citizen’s charges of official misconduct against Gov. Chris Christie, who allegedly knew about and encouraged the 2013 Bridgewater lane closures.

Lyft Drivers’ Settlement

A federal judge on Thursday gave final approval to a \$27 million settlement between ride-hall app Lyft and its drivers, who claimed they were classified as independent contractors so Lyft could skirt minimum wage laws.

Nightly Brief

Top CNS stories for today including the Supreme Court curtailing the president’s power to temporarily fill vacant government posts while nominations are tied up in partisan political fights; a California lawmaker unveils plans to make state college free by taxing the state’s millionaires; Oregon fishermen tell a federal judge that the federal government has let them down by taking steps that endanger the state’s scenic rivers; the healthcare reform bill gets a tune-up as the House barrels to vote, and more.

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