

1 United States Gas Prices Jumped more than thirty cents a gallon last week According to the American Automobile Association AAA regular gas averages Four Dollars and Forty Six Cents a gallon Two days before the Iran war began the average price per gallon was Two Dollars and Ninety Eighty Cents

2 New York New Jersey and California Trump Will Pay More Energy Firms to Cancel Wind Farms In exchange the companies will invest in oil and gas projects echoing an earlier deal with the French energy giant TotalEnergies Three Hundred Ten Wind turbines stand in ocean water against a cloudy sky President Trump has disparaged wind power for decades claiming falsely that offshore wind turbines do not work and that they are killing whales Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times April 27 Two Thousand Twenty Six Trump will pay energy companies hundreds of millions of dollars to abandon their plans to build two wind farms off the US coast the Interior Department said Monday in a repeat of a tactic the government used to cancel other offshore wind leases last month The firms will forfeit their leases in federal waters for the two wind farms one of which would have been built off New York and New Jersey and the other off California The government will reimburse the companies a combined Eight hundred eighty five million dollars the amount they paid for the leases under the Biden administration In exchange the companies have pledged to invest that money in oil and gas projects including liquefied natural gas facilities along the Gulf Coast The deals are modeled after a similar agreement last month with the French energy giant TotalEnergies Total Energies forfeited its leases for two wind projects planned off the coasts of New York and North Carolina while committing to a range of fossil fuel investments The agreements are extraordinary transfers of taxpayer dollars to private companies for the purposes of throttling offshore wind power a source of clean energy that Trump has disparaged for decades The president has claimed falsely that offshore wind turbines do not work and that they are killing whales Trump has pursued a shifting strategy for stifling the US developing offshore wind industry In December Interior ordered a halt to construction of five wind farms off the East Coast but federal judges have struck down those moves By dealing directly with developers the administration may be able to avoid legal challenges The first new agreement affects Bluepoint Wind a wind farm in the early stages of development off New York and New Jersey The project was proposed by Global Infrastructure Partners a part of asset manager BlackRock and Ocean Winds which is itself a joint venture between Engie and EDP Renewables two European clean energy firms The second deal would cancel Golden State Wind another early stage venture off the California central coast Golden State Wind is a 50 50 partnership between the developers Ocean Winds and Reventus Power Both Bluepoint Wind and Golden State Wind agreed not to pursue any new offshore wind projects in the United States although that pledge would not necessarily apply to the companies behind the ventures Ocean Winds has also been developing another giant wind farm known as South Coast Wind off Marthas Vineyard Massachusetts that is much further along in the planning and permitting process That project is not affected by the announcement Monday although it has essentially been paused since Trump took

office last year New York Governor Kathy Hochul said the deal would be bad for the state This is what we have been up against since Trump returned to the White House an overt and never ending hostility toward offshore wind that hurts our ability to meet our energy needs create good jobs and reach New York emission reduction targets she said Legal experts and congressional Democrats have raised questions over the Interior Department attempts to buy back leases saying that it is unclear whether the agency has the authority to voluntarily reimburse companies for lease payments This month two top House Democrats sent the Interior Department a letter asking for more details of the deal with TotalEnergies **On its face this agreement is an unprecedented use of taxpayer funds to pay a private company for voluntarily relinquishing legally obtained leases the lawmakers wrote** They added **There is no clear legal basis for this closed door settlement** It is also unclear how much the companies will actually invest in new fossil fuel infrastructure In documents released this month Interior revealed that it would count investments that TotalEnergies made before the deal toward its pledge **raising questions over whether the company had any obligations to make additional investments**

3 Texas Trump is clearly worried about the upcoming midterm election especially after Democratic backed Quentin Wiltz yesterday flipped a seat in the Houston suburb of Pearland Texas that had been a reliable Republican stronghold

4 Utah and Arizona Smog in Phoenix and Salt Lake City? The EPA Is Blaming Asia Trump says the cities should not be penalized for unhealthy air because pollution can blow in from abroad Some experts say that is preposterous The sky over Phoenix is filled with thick grey and brown haze Phoenix has long struggled with smog collecting in its bowl shaped topography The city failed to meet a federal air pollution standard in Two Thousand Twenty Four **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times April 30 Two Thousand Twenty Six For decades Phoenix has struggled with smog that gets trapped in its bowl like topography and is detrimental to human health In 2024 when the city failed to meet a federal air pollution standard it risked being hit with stricter rules designed to force more aggressive pollution limits Then President Trump returned to the White House And **now the Phoenix Mesa region has gotten off the hook for an unusual reason Trump is blaming foreign countries for the pollution** Without contaminants blowing in from Mexico and Asia the reasoning goes Phoenix would have been in compliance with federal pollution limits Other regions are now taking up that strategy Last week the Environmental Protection Agency accepted similar reasoning to propose that the area around Salt Lake City in Utah get a reprieve from stricter emissions rules governing vehicles factories and power plants These places should not be penalized due to foreign sources of emissions **The Utah Petroleum Association lauded the EPA moves The oil and gas industry has been on the forefront of the move to shift the blame for smog away from local polluters and onto foreign countries** **Some environmental groups and experts say that argument is preposterous** The Clean Air Act does allow regions to take account of cross border emissions to avoid penalties for failing to meet federal air quality standards **But it was not meant for pollution from thousands of miles away they say** Moreover accounting for emissions from elsewhere does not excuse local authorities from tackling local sources of pollution said a former EPA lawyer who is

now with the Natural Resources Defense Council an environmental group This is going to mean more heart attacks more lung disease more asthma for the residents of Phoenix In March Senator Mark Kelly Democrat of Arizona hosted Zeldin the head of the Trump EPA at an air quality round table of local officials and industry representatives A key topic of discussion was the need to modernize EPA guidance and cut red tape for local governments and businesses Kelly later said in a news release The following month during a trip to Utah Zeldin announced that he would repeal the strict guidance of Biden saying he was removing cumbersome red tape Some researchers pointed out the irony of the United States currently the second biggest polluter on the planet pointing its finger at other countries In fact dirty air from the United States can and does travel abroad just as the United States receives pollution from across the globe said a professor in atmospheric science at Georgia Tech What is blowing in he said is also blowing out

5 United Kingdom London Marathon The Step by Step Evolution of the Super Shoe The race to near weightlessness has been a driving force of innovation in running sneakers and helped lead to records shattering at the London Marathon The reporter laces up Saucony running shoes and prefers the cushioning provided by treadmills **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** The New York Times May 1 Two Thousand Twenty Six When the messenger Pheidippides ran from the battlefield of Marathon to Athens to announce the Greek victory over the Persians in the Six Hundreds BC he did it without shoes His time was not officially tracked Millenniums later at the London Marathon on Sunday two men became the first to break the two hour barrier in an official marathon and a world record for women was set All three did it in featherweight footwear The shoe the Adidas Adizero Adios Pro Evo Three weighs Ninety Seven grams or about Three point Four ounces depending on the shoe size It is the lightest running sneaker approved for competition It sold out on Monday The race to near weightlessness has been a driving force of innovation in running sneakers in the Twenty Five centuries since the shoeless run of Pheidippides The rise of the rubber sole added flexibility and waterproofing Better durability and grip were bonuses New technologies made foam lighter shoemakers soon could not get enough of it Runners could hardly feel the ground anymore It was the thick soled Nike Vaporflys that captured the most attention They came with a carbon fiber plate in the midsole that was very light and gave stability to all the squishy foam The plate stores and releases energy with each stride and is meant to spring runners forward The Vaporflys also use polyether block amide or PEBA a bouncier lighter foam The twin technologies led to the nickname super shoes Adidas used its lightest foam in the sole of the Adizero Adios Pro Evo 3 which were worn by the record breaking marathoners The shoe has carbon fiber rods mimic the bone structure of the human foot In other words closer to the bare feet in the Pheidippides run

6 Spain and Italy On Thursday Trump suggested to reporters that he might pull troops out of Spain and Italy Why should not I? he said Italy has not been of any help to us And Spain has been horrible Absolutely horrible

7 Germany Trump to withdraw Five Thousand Troops from Germany **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** Heather Cox Richardson May 4 Two Thousand Twenty Six Last week German chancellor Friedrich Merz

said that [t]he Americans obviously have no strategy and suggested that Iranian officials were outwitting Trump saying the US was being humiliated by the Iranian leadership. Trump did not take that comment well, posting screeds attacking Merz repeatedly and claiming He does not know what he is talking about! On Friday the Defense Department said it was pulling Five Thousand troops from Germany and was cancelling a plan formulated under the Biden administration to put an artillery unit equipped with missiles in Europe. The US had increased its European presence after Russia invaded Ukraine in Two Thousand Twenty Two. These moves will take US forces back to where they were before the invasion. As scholar of authoritarianism Timothy Snyder wrote You can apply lots of normalizing frameworks or you can just make a timeline of Trump calls with Putin. We do not have a sovereign foreign policy. We have superpower suicide. Senior defense officials wanted the force reduction to be understood as a punishment for Germany after the Merz comment. In fact US bases in Germany are staging areas for US operations in the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Defense officials were stunned by the announcement and on Saturday the chairs of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, Senator Roger Wicker, Republican of Mississippi and Representative Mike Rogers, Republican of Alabama, declared they were very concerned by the decision to withdraw a US brigade from Germany. They noted that any significant change to the US force posture in Europe warrants a deliberate review process and close coordination with Congress and our allies. We expect the Department to engage with its oversight committees in the days and weeks ahead on this decision and its implications for US deterrence and transatlantic security. **8** Russia. On Wednesday Trump talked to Putin for an hour and a half. It was the twelfth phone call between the two leaders since Trump took office a second time and just hours later posted about removing US troops from Germany. Putin has wanted to weaken the US commitment to Europe and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for a long time. European officials worry that Putin is making plans to attack a NATO country. **9** Ukraine. The Russian war against Ukraine. **Excerpts edited by Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization**. Kiev Independent. May 4 Two Thousand Twenty Six. Firefighters work through the site of a Russian attack on Dnipro on May 3 Two Thousand Twenty Six that killed one person and injured 11 others. Luxury Moscow tower reportedly hit by Ukrainian drone strike. Ukrainian forces launched a drone attack on Moscow overnight on May 4 reportedly hitting a high rise residential complex in the Russian capital. Russian Telegram media channels reported. Ukraine hits 2 Russian shadow fleet vessels near Novorossiysk port. These tankers were actively used to transport oil. Now they will not be. President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Ukraine strikes Russian Kalibr missile carrier patrol boat in Leningrad Oblast. Zelensky says. Prolonging the war will only scale up our defensive operations. President Volodymyr Zelensky said. Zelensky arrives in Yerevan for European Political Community Summit, his first visit to Armenia. President Volodymyr Zelensky held bilateral meetings with the prime ministers of the U.K., Norway, Finland and the Czech Republic. Ukraine war latest. The Poland prime minister condemns NATO disintegration as Trump says US will further reduce troop presence in Europe. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on May 2 condemned the disintegration of NATO from within as US President Donald Trump said further reductions in American troops stationed in Europe are coming.