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# The Newport Daily News

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The Museum of Newport Irish History will host a virtual lecture on Thursday. PROVIDENCE JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

## Trump escalates Canada trade war

Premier changes course after Trump threat

Francesca Chambers, John Bacon and Jorge L. Ortiz  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump escalated his trade war with Canada on Tuesday, pledging to double his planned steel and aluminum tariffs on America's northern neighbor after the province of Ontario said it would charge U.S. customers more for electricity.

Broader 25% levies on all steel and aluminum imported to the U.S. from anywhere are due to take effect early on Wednesday. Trump said he would increase from 25% to 50% the tariffs for Canada only, using his authority to declare a national emergency on electricity in the affected areas.

His action came one day after Ontario said it would put a 25% fee on U.S. energy users in Minnesota, New York and Michigan. Ontario Premier Doug Ford said he expected the surcharge to raise costs for those American consumers by an average of \$100 a month.

"If the United States escalates, I will not hesitate to shut the electricity off completely," Ford added.

Ford said Tuesday that Trump launched an "unprovoked attack" on Canada when he increased steel and aluminum tariffs.

"We will not back down. We will be relentless. I apologize to the American people that President Trump decided to have an unprovoked attack on our country, on families, on jobs. And it's unacceptable," Ford said on MSNBC.

Ford said CEOs should try to change Trump's mind.

"You see the market tumbling. Consumer confidence is down. And if he continues on with this, assembly plants in Michigan will shut down and around the country, whoever makes autos, and as well as businesses, they're going to hurt," he said.

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### More inside

Car buyers rush to avoid tariff-related price hikes. **2A**

EU prepares for first round of tariffs; Aluminum, steel imports affected. **3A**

## Beyond the parade

### 5 ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Will Richmond  
Newport Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK

The annual Newport St. Patrick's Day parade is almost here.

Yes, Saturday is the big day when the streets of downtown Newport will be stuffed with parade-goers of all ages celebrating the holiday, and there will be plenty happening both before and after the bands, floats and marchers have passed through, but the weekend is full of events to get you into the spirit.

Whether you're Irish or not, these events will have you feeling green with pride and give you the opportunity to begin the celebration early and continue it right through St. Patrick's Day.

Take a look at these five events beyond parade day that will have you celebrating into next week.

#### Visit the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center

Visit the Museum of Newport Irish History Interpretive Center, 648 Thames St., Newport, from noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday and learn about Irish immigration to the Newport area and of the contributions to the community by individuals

of Irish descent from the 1600s to the present through various exhibits, including photographs, artifacts and more. Admission by donation. MNIH Members and children under 16 are free. For more information, visit [newportirishhistory.org](http://newportirishhistory.org).

#### Turas Concert

Head over to The Jane Pickens Film + Event Center, 49 Touro St., Newport, on Friday at 6 p.m. to experience the magic of traditional Irish music with the band Turas and 13-year-old Irish step-dancing prodigy Kira Nagle. An intimate showcase of musical craft and charm that appeals to all, especially those who love the Emerald Isle.

Admission for Jane Pickens Concert/Film members is \$22, General Admission is \$24. For more information and to purchase tickets: [janepickens.com/shows/turas-st-patricks-day-eve-concert](http://janepickens.com/shows/turas-st-patricks-day-eve-concert)

#### Trolley Tour of "Irish Newport"

The annual Trolley Tour of "Irish Newport" departs from Hibernian Hall, 2 Wellington Ave., Newport at 1:00 p.m. sharp on Sunday. Explore "Irish Newport" on this narrated tour by Mike Slein, presented by the Museum of Newport Irish History. The 2-hour tour will include stops at sites connected with Newport's Irish heritage, including Forty Steps and the Barney Street Cemetery.

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## Department of Justice will appeal federal aid injunction

RI among states that fought funding freeze

Katie Mulvaney  
Providence Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PROVIDENCE – The U.S. Department of Justice filed notice Monday that it would appeal a court order that its agencies keep federal assistance flowing to states.

Lawyers for President Donald Trump's administration indicated they will appeal U.S. District Court Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr.'s order bar-

ring the government from freezing federally appropriated funding to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

McConnell ruled in favor of a challenge brought by Democratic-led states, including Rhode Island, to a federal funding freeze that they argued created chaos and jeopardized crucial services.

Shortly after Trump took office, federal agencies were directed to ensure that all spending aligned with the administration's priorities on gender ideology, climate change and foreign aid.

"Here, the Executive put itself above Congress. It imposed a categorical mandate on the spending of congress-

sionally appropriated and obligated funds without regard to Congress's authority to control spending," McConnell said in granting a preliminary injunction.

#### 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last month

Last month, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the federal government's request for an immediate stay of McConnell's previous order barring it from pausing federal spending.

Carl Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law, observed that four judges on the appeals

court were appointed under President Joe Biden and that the chief judge was named by President Barack Obama.

According to Tobias, legal observers are suggesting that cases challenging Trump executive orders and other actions may now be filed first in district courts of the 1st Circuit instead of the 4th and 9th circuit appeals courts as was the case in the first Trump administration.

That is due, in part, he said, to Trump's appointment of 10 conservative judges to the 9th circuit court.

The case is one of dozens of challenges brought against the Trump administration.

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# DC begins removal of Black Lives Matter mural

Karissa Waddick and Josh Morgan  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The shrill, metallic clatter of a jackhammer echoed around the White House on Monday as crews started removing the large, yellow Black Lives Matter mural down the street from the president’s home.

The city erected the artwork in 2020 amid nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed by Minneapolis police. But Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser last week announced plans to replace the mural after Republican lawmakers threatened to revoke millions of dollars in transportation funding for the capital city if it wasn’t removed.

President Donald Trump and his fellow GOP leaders have widely targeted diversity efforts in the federal government, schools, private businesses and more. Many of those diversity pushes were ushered in during the demonstrations after Floyd’s death.

“We have ended the tyranny of so-called diversity, equity and inclusion policies,” Trump said during his joint address to Congress last week. “And our country will be woke no longer.”

Most of the people who stopped to watch the demolition told USA TODAY they were sad to see the installation go. Sitting on a nearby bench, Karen Long, a former D.C. resident who moved back to neighboring Arlington, Virginia, two years ago, described the scene as “somber.”

Long, 55, said she heard about the demolition on the morning news and needed to see it for herself. Although disheartened, Long said she viewed the mural’s removal as part of the long, “moving process” of change.

Black lives, she said, would matter regardless of yellow paint on the ground.

Bowser ordered the painting of the mural in June 2020 after protesters were removed from the area with smoke canisters and pepper spray just before Trump, then in his first term, walked through Lafayette Park to pose



The “Black Lives Matter” mural in Washington D.C. is being removed after Rep. Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., introduced legislation that would require the city to repaint and rename the plaza or else lose millions of dollars in transportation funding.

JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

for photographs at a nearby church.

The mayor’s chief of staff at the time said she wanted to make it “abundantly clear” the street belonged to the city and its residents. The plaza quickly became a symbol of defiance for Democrats against the Trump administration in the deep-blue capital.

Not all the mural’s critics came from the right. The D.C. chapter of Black Lives Matter has long criticized the artwork, calling it in 2020 “a performative distraction from real policy changes” and alleging Bowser was not doing enough to help Black people in the city. Black Lives Matter D.C. did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the mural’s demolition.

Sharifa Ganthier, a DJ, walked to the mural with her husband Marvin from their home near D.C.’s Union Market. When the mural was constructed in 2020, she said, it brought a bit of “togetherness” to a city that saw turmoil during the COVID-19 pandemic and protests over racial injustice.

Removing the mural is expected to take about six weeks. Bowser said the plaza will be repainted as part of a city-wide mural project for the country’s 250th birthday next year.



Former first lady Michelle Obama will collaborate with her brother Craig Robinson for “IMO With Michelle Obama & Craig Robinson.”

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Michelle Obama’s podcast to feature frank discussions

Anna Kaufman  
USA TODAY

The politics-to-podcast pipeline is alive and well. Four years after her husband teamed up with Bruce Springsteen for “Renegades: Born in the USA,” former first lady Michelle Obama is releasing a podcast of her own.

Obama will collaborate with her older brother Craig Robinson for “IMO With Michelle Obama & Craig Robinson.” Debuting Wednesday, the series will feature candid conversations with celebrities and thought leaders.

A starting lineup of guests, shared in a release Monday, included Issa Rae, Glennon Doyle, Jay Shetty, Dwyane Wade, Seth Rogen, Tracee Ellis Ross and Keke Palmer.

“With everything going on in the world, we’re all looking for answers and people to turn to,” Obama said in the release. “My brother Craig and I launched the ‘IMO’ podcast to create a space for people to come as they are, ask honest questions, give their opinions, and have thoughtful conversations about life.”

The announcement comes as Obama has drawn away from public political functions. The former first lady was

absent from both President Donald Trump’s second inauguration and Jimmy Carter’s funeral earlier this year.

“IMO” will mark a reopening of public access to one half of the ex-first couple. A popular author and public speaker in her own right, Michelle Obama has often been characterized as the more candid of the two. Her fiery speech at the Democratic National Convention in August was viewed as a powerful and indignant rallying cry for the party.

That no-nonsense tone is central to the newest project, she wrote on Instagram.

“I’m going to be honest. We don’t have all the answers. But there will be a lot of opinions,” Obama captioned a post announcing the project. “A lot of learning. And plenty of laughs. Because we all need some moments of light right now.”

“We grew up talking through life’s big and small questions together,” Robinson, who is president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, said in his own statement in the release. “And now, we’re inviting listeners into that conversation, with the hope that it sparks new ideas, new perspectives, and creates the connection we could all use right now.”

### NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

#### Measles cases rise to 223 in Texas, state health department says

The Texas health department reported 223 measles cases in the state on Tuesday, an increase of 25 cases from March 7, nearly two weeks after an unvaccinated child died of the disease amid one of the largest outbreaks the U.S. has witnessed in a decade.

As of Tuesday, cases reported in Gaines County, the center of the outbreak, increased to 156 from 137 on March 7, the Texas Department of State Health Services said.

Hospitalizations in the state rose to 29 from 23 compared to the March 7 count, the agency said.

In its first health alert on the measles outbreak this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told physicians last week that the risk for widespread measles in the United States remained low due to robust immunization and surveillance programs and the country’s outbreak response capacity.

#### Israel agrees to talks on Lebanon border, frees 5 Lebanese

CAIRO – Israel said on Tuesday it had agreed to hold talks to demarcate its border with Lebanon, adding it would release five Lebanese held by the Israeli military in what it called a “gesture to the Lebanese president.”

A statement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said Israel had agreed with Lebanon, the U.S. and France to establish working groups to discuss the demarcation line between the two countries.

Lebanon said it had received the four Lebanese hostages from Israel, with a fifth to be handed over on Wednesday, according to a statement by the Lebanese president’s office on X.

Lebanese media including the state news agency NNA reported that the released Lebanese hostages had arrived in a hospital in southern Lebanon’s Tyre.

In a statement on X the same day, Deputy Presidential Special Envoy Morgan Ortagus said: “Today, the United States announced we are bringing to-

gether Lebanon and Israel for talks aimed at diplomatically resolving several outstanding issues between the two countries.”

#### Pakistan police say gunmen take 35 hostages in attack on train

QUETTA, Pakistan – Separatist militants have taken 35 passengers hostage after attacking a train in southwestern Pakistan, and nearly 350 other passengers are believed to be safe, local police said on Tuesday.

The Baloch Liberation Army, a separatist militant group, said it blew up the track and “swiftly took control of the train.” The group said it had 214 hostages and threatened to kill them if Baloch prisoners are not freed.

## Celebrate

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Tours include an introductory visit to the Museum’s Interpretive Center on Lower Thames Street.

Sponsored by Viking Tours of Newport in memory of Karen A. Oakley. Free, but gratuities for the driver are gratefully accepted. Reservations are a must as space is limited. Arrive no later than

12:45 p.m. to check in. For more information and to reserve a seat, visit the “Events” page at [newportirishhistory.org/eventscalendar/trolley-tour-of-irish-newport/](http://newportirishhistory.org/eventscalendar/trolley-tour-of-irish-newport/) or call Larry Bartley at 401-965-7276.

#### Traditional Irish Music Sessions

The Fastnet Pub, One Broadway, Newport, 6-9 p.m. on Sunday will be the place for live traditional Irish music hosted by A.O. Gutierrez, Tim May and

Jack Wright. There is no cover to enter and the session is family-friendly. Arrive early if you’d like a table. Visit [the-fastnetpub.com](http://the-fastnetpub.com) for information.

#### “Gaelic & Garlic” Celebration Supper

What better day to celebrate Irish and Italian heritage than the day between St. Patrick’s and St. Joseph’s days? This annual fundraiser in memory of Ralph J. Gizzi benefits the philanthropic efforts

of Forum Lodge #391, Sons & Daughters of Italy in America. The dinner will be held Tuesday at the Vasco da Gama Hall, 15 Fenner Ave., Newport, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets \$35 and the dinner will feature corned beef and potatoes, pasta and sausage, Irish and Italian desserts. A cash bar will be available. Tickets are limited and may not be available at the door. For advance tickets contact Paula Morris at 401-829-5180 or [PaulaMorris1@msn.com](mailto:PaulaMorris1@msn.com) or Greg Gizzi at 401-226-3705.



Broader 25% levies on all steel and aluminum imported to the U.S. from anywhere are due to take effect Wednesday. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Trade war

Continued from Page 1A

For his part, Trump, in a post on Truth Social, questioned why the U.S. allows another country to provide electricity, even for a small area.

“Who made these decisions, and why?” Trump wrote. “And can you imagine Canada stooping so low as to use ELECTRICITY, that so affects the life of innocent people, as a bargaining chip and threat? They will pay a financial price for this so big that it will be read about in History Books for many years to come!”

Trump’s tariff tit-for-tats have rattled markets. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped more than 600 points within two hours of the stock market’s opening on Tuesday. A day prior, the

Dow plunged by nearly 900 points.

The sell-off has accelerated as U.S. officials battled recession fears. In an interview that aired over the weekend, Trump would not rule out an economic slowdown.

“I hate to predict things like that. There is a period of transition because what we’re doing is very big,” Trump said on “Sunday Morning Futures With Maria Bartiromo.”

Trump has delayed some of his previously announced tariffs, saying, for instance, that products that fall under the USMCA trade agreement would not face levies until April. Trump also delayed tariffs on automakers until April 2, effectively halting much of his trade agenda for at least a month. He plans to unveil reciprocal tariffs on nations that charge the U.S. fees on the same date.

Contributing: Sudiksha Kochi, USA TODAY