

SUPREME COURT

Consumer bureau wins ruling over its budgeting

No need for funds from Congress

By ALEX SWOYER AND STEPHEN DINAN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Congress has broad powers to delegate its spending power to federal agencies and upheld the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's power to set its budget without going to Capitol Hill for money each year.

The decision is a victory for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat who championed the CFPB as an independent check on Wall Street and big banks in the wake of the Great Recession from December 2007 to June 2009. The agency's ability to set its own budget was critical to that independence, leaving outside the usual give-and-take of the annual spending process.

Opponents argued that the structure violated Congress' power of the purse, one of its core duties under the Constitution. The justices ruled 7-2 that Congress can lend that power to federal agencies.

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the majority, said all the Constitution requires is that Congress authorize an "appropriation," or expense. It doesn't dictate how or how often it must do so.

"Based on the Constitution's text, the history against which that text was enacted, and congressional practice immediately following ratification, we conclude that appropriations need only identify a source of public funds and authorize the expenditure of those funds for designated purposes to satisfy the Appropriations Clause," Justice Thomas wrote.

He pointed historically to the U.S. Postal Service, which does not have annual appropriations.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented. He said the Constitution is intended to

» see **COURT** | A9**CROSS-EXAMINED:** Michael Cohen, the prosecution's star witness, appeared to be caught off guard during an exchange about a phone call.

NEW YORK

Cohen's credibility erodes before jury

with hours of Trump team questioning

Defense slams memory of phone call about hush payment

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Attorneys for former President Donald Trump, using cross-examination to portray Michael Cohen on Thursday as a man who lies about anything and everything, sought to eviscerate the credibility of the prosecution's main witness to a 2016 hush payment and alleged crimes to cover it up.

For hours, defense attorney Todd Blanche jabbed Mr. Cohen over his history of falsehoods and conflicting statements, including misleading Congress about his efforts to seek a pardon and

claims that he felt pressured to plead guilty to tax crimes in 2018 despite taking responsibility in front of a judge.

Mr. Blanche also attacked Mr. Cohen's claim that he told Mr. Trump that he was finalizing a payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels and wiring \$130,000 to her attorney.

Oddly, the call included Mr. Cohen's complaints to Mr. Trump's bodyguard, Keith Schiller, that a prankster identifying himself as a 14-year-old was calling him too much.

"You had enough time in that one minute and 36 seconds to update Mr. Schiller about all the problems you were

having with this harassing phone call and also update President Trump on the status of the Stormy Daniels situation?" Mr. Blanche asked Mr. Cohen, who served as Mr. Trump's loyal attorney and "fixer" before turning against him.

Mr. Cohen said that was his belief, based on records he could review that refreshed his memory.

"Yes, I believe I was telling the truth," Mr. Cohen said.

"We are not asking for your belief. This jury does not want to hear what you think happened," Mr. Blanche said

» see **TRUMP** | A4

REV. BILLY GRAHAM STATUE UNVEILED AT U.S. CAPITOL



The Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the late Rev. Billy Graham, unveiled a bronzed sculpture of his father at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday. Graham, known as America's pastor, died in 2018 at age 99. The statue will represent his native North Carolina.

ELECTIONS

States seek help to keep noncitizens from voting

Federal data not easily accessible

By STEPHEN DINAN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The federal government must give states access to critical databases to weed out noncitizens who are registering and casting ballots in elections, Florida's secretary of state told Congress on Thursday.

Cord Byrd said the feds have data that can help, but they don't make it easily available in a timely manner.

"The federal government has a legal obligation to provide up-to-date citizenship information to the states," Mr. Byrd told the House Administration Committee. Without that, he said, state efforts to maintain clean voter lists can have "a gap."

Republicans called the hearing to highlight what former President Donald Trump and House Speaker Mike Johnson have identified as a major issue six months before the 2024 vote.

Rep. Bryan Steil, the Wisconsin Republican who led Thursday's hearing, was particularly irked over the District of Columbia's new noncitizen voter system, which the city says will allow those who have been city residents for at least 30 days to vote in local elections, regardless of citizenship or legal status.

The District is running a public relations campaign to try to boost noncitizen enrollment.

Mr. Steil said the city maintains one voting list and will struggle with separating noncitizens voting only in local elections from ballots of citizens who will be voting in the presidential election.

» see **VOTE** | A4

CONGRESS

Garland nears contempt decree for shielding Biden

By SUSAN FERRECHIO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The House Judiciary Committee voted Thursday to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over audio recordings of special counsel Robert K. Hur's interviews with President Biden over his mishandling of classified documents.

The Republican-led panel voted 18-15 hours after the president sought to shield the attorney general. Mr. Biden asserted executive privilege over the audiotapes

House investigators reject executive privilege, demand Hur interview tapes

that Mr. Hur used during his two-day interview in October.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, Ohio Republican, said the president's last-minute executive privilege assertion underscores the recordings' "unique perspective" and that the panel wants to review them to determine whether Mr. Biden received favorable treatment by the Justice Department.

"This latest invocation does not change the fact that the attorney general has not complied with our subpoena," Mr. Jordan said.

The measure now moves to a vote before the Republican-led House. If the House passes the resolution, the contempt charge will be referred to the Justice Department.

People prosecuted and convicted

of a contempt citation face a fine of up to \$100,000 and imprisonment "for not less than one month nor more than 12 months." Mr. Garland, who oversees the department, is likely to ignore it.

In his interview with Mr. Hur, Mr. Biden revealed his mishandling of classified documents while vice president and dating back to his time as a senator.

Mr. Garland has also denied House lawmakers the audio recordings of Mr. Hur's interview with Mark Zwonitzer, the ghostwriter for Mr. Biden's 2017

» see **GARLAND** | A9

SOUTH AFRICA

Mandela's party struggles to reach majority as elections approach

By GEOFF HILL
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

JOHANNESBURG | One party has had a stranglehold on power for three decades, but this year's contest, on May 29, brings new questions for South Africans.

The African National Congress (ANC), which Nelson Mandela led to victory at the post-apartheid nation's first democratic vote in 1994, is polling below 50% and has intraparty divisions in Africa's largest economy and fourth most populous country.

The result will likely have reverberations far beyond the region. The U.S. has

cultivated South Africa as an economic and strategic partner, but Pretoria and the capitals of other nations in the BRICS bloc — Brazil, Russia, India and China — have been vocal in recent years challenging the U.S. and what they say is an international order set by the West that holds down those who try to contest Washington's global dominance.

Also straining U.S.-South African relations is Pretoria's lead role in pressing a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice over its campaign against Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the

» see **ANC** | A5**BLUE-STATE OUTLIER:** Larry Hogan, Maryland's Republican nominee for Senate, said in an interview, "I support restoring Roe as the law of the land."

MARYLAND

'Pro-choice' Hogan vows to restore Roe abortion protections in Senate

By SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Larry Hogan, Maryland's Republican nominee for U.S. Senate, has thrown his support behind codifying abortion rights into federal law and embraced the "pro-choice" label, breaking with former President Donald Trump and most of the rest of his party.

Clarifying where he stands on the thorny issue two days after cruising to victory in the Republican primary, Mr. Hogan said he supports reviving the constitutional right to abortion that was protected under the now-defunct 1973

Roe v. Wade ruling.

"I support restoring Roe as the law of the land," the former governor told The New York Times in an interview published Thursday. "I'll continue to protect the rights of women to make their own reproductive choices just like I did as governor for eight years.

"I think Marylanders know and trust that when I give them my word, I'm going to keep it, and I've protected these rights before," he said.

"And I'll do it again in the Senate by supporting a bipartisan compromise to

» see **HOGAN** | A9

POLITICS

Trump will welcome Kennedy at debates if threshold met. A3

NATION

Presbyterians cancel panel on polarization over divisive writer. A6

WORLD

Sailor killed in attack at Pearl Harbor finally buried at Arlington. A8

REGION

Moore signs bill for gun violence prevention center in Maryland. A10

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A REPUBLICAN REMINDER

“President Biden is still responsible for the worst border crisis on record — and it’s not even close,” said Jake Schneider, rapid response director for the Republican National Committee.

“New data shows 179,725 illegal immigrants were encountered at the southern border in April — the 38th straight month where monthly encounters have been HIGHER than even the highest month under President Trump and a 272 percent increase from the average month of the Trump administration,” Mr. Schneider said in a written statement.

“Since Biden took office, 9.6-plus million illegal aliens have crossed the southern border, including 1.8-plus million known ‘gotaways’ who escaped past Border Patrol and into the country. Biden is aiding and abetting an invasion with no end in sight. His unprecedented border crisis took hold after he took 94 executive actions in his first 100 days to systematically dismantle border security,” he continued.

“Now, Biden is allegedly floating executive action to allow 4,000 illegal border crossings per day before shutting down the border — an election year play on which Biden has waffled for months. Last month, approximately 6,000 illegal aliens crossed the border every single day,” Mr. Schneider said.

“For context, former Obama-Biden DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson once said 1,000 illegal crossings per day overwhelms the system. I cannot begin to imagine what 4,000 a day looks like. It’s simply an attempt to gaslight a new normal into the minds of Americans fed up with the dire consequences of the Biden-led bloodbath. But Americans don’t have to ‘imagine’ under Biden — it’s an everyday reality,” he concluded.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Republican National Committee says in a statement that President Biden is responsible for the worst crisis on the southern border in U.S. history.

MONITORING THE BENEFITS

Rep. Nancy Mace has introduced a joint resolution before the House to “express congressional disapproval” of the Biden administration’s recent rule to extend eligibility under the Affordable Care Act to over 100,000 DACA recipients by redefining “lawfully present.”

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals — DACA — is a Homeland Security Department program created in 2012 that temporarily delays the deportation of illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

This rule is set to “conveniently” take effect shortly before the 2024 presidential election, according to the South Carolina Republican.

“Joe Biden, ‘Border Czar’ Kamala Harris, and impeached DHS Secretary [Alejandro] Mayorkas flung our borders wide open, caused an invasion of our country by illegal aliens, and prioritized giving taxpayer benefits to illegal aliens over American citizens,” Ms. Mace said in a written statement.

“This rule to give taxpayer-subsidized healthcare to 100,000 illegal aliens is yet another

example of this administration putting America Last and actively incentivizing illegal immigration,” she said.

Rep. Jefferson Van Drew, New Jersey Republican, similarly denounced President Biden’s ACA move, saying it “not only incentivizes illegal immigration across our border but also grossly misuses federal funds.”

“This action would only strain our already burdened healthcare resources and undermine the hard work and contributions of the American taxpayers who would be footing the bill. We will not stand for it,” he said, also in a written statement.

FOXIFIED

Fox News anchor Harris Faulkner — who just celebrated the 10th anniversary of her show “Outnumbered” — is stepping in to host a new Fox Nation special that takes her to Vietnam to retrace her father’s journey when he served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War.

It is a personal journey. Ms. Faulkner traveled 8,000 miles to retrace the footsteps of her father, Army Lt. Col. Bobby Harris, who was a combat pilot when he served in Vietnam.

“The Vietnam War was such a pivotal moment in our nation’s history, and it is both an honor and privilege to view the war through the footsteps of my father. I am so grateful for the opportunity to journey to Vietnam and look forward to sharing this remarkable story with our viewers,” Ms. Faulkner said in a statement.

Fox Nation — the online outreach of Fox News — also noted that the three-episode feature will highlight “lessons of bravery, faith and perseverance” and share insight from historians, veterans and family members.

Launched in 2018, Fox Nation is an on-demand streaming service available through a variety of online providers such as Apple TV, Comcast Xfinity and others. Find the details at FoxNation.com.

WEEKEND REAL ESTATE

For sale: Artist’s retreat, built in 1974 of stone and wood for acclaimed Disney illustrator Frank Armitage on 10 acres near Ojai, California. Unobstructed mountain and dramatic valley views. Two bedrooms, three baths, open floor plan with large gathering space, wood beamed ceilings, fireplace and wood-burning stove. Views of mountains and valley areas on all sides, outdoor decks, orange and avocado trees; the property includes two other cottages, one with a music studio. Priced at \$2.9 million through Douglas Elliman Real Estate; visit the home at www.1807ladera.com/.

POLL DU JOUR

- 41% of U.S. voters agree that it is “extremely important” to have debates between President Biden and former President Donald Trump.
- 54% of Republicans, 32% of Democrats and 31% of independents agree. 45% of men and 37% of women also agree.
- 23% overall say it is “very important” to have the debates.
- 22% of Republicans, 24% of Democrats and 25% of independents agree. 23% of men and 23% of women also agree.
- 15% overall say it is “somewhat important” to have the debates.
- 10% of Republicans, 19% of Democrats and 19% of independents agree. 14% of men and 17% of women also agree.
- 20% overall say it is “not at all important” to have the debates.
- 14% of Republicans, 23% of Democrats and 24% of independents agree. 17% of men and 22% of women also agree.

SOURCE: A FOX NEWS POLL OF 1,126 REGISTERED U.S. VOTERS CONDUCTED ONLINE AND BY TELEPHONE MAY 10-13.

• Follow Jennifer Harper on X at HarperBulletin, on Facebook at HarperUniverse. Have a good weekend.

GEORGIA

Georgia mulls replacing Confederate leader statue at U.S. Capitol with baseball’s Aaron

By SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Georgia lawmakers are flirting with replacing the statue of Confederate leader Alexander Stephens at the U.S. Capitol with a sculpture of Atlanta Braves Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Aaron.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Thursday that Republican state Rep. Trey Kelley is looking to trade the statue of Stephens with a statue of “Hammerin’ Hank” and that Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, the president of the Senate, is on board.

“There’s nothing more American than baseball, and no one personifies American values more than Hank Aaron,” Mr. Kelley told the newspaper. “He used his influence to advance civil rights, inspire

entrepreneurship and hammer home the Georgia we know today.”

Lawmakers previously sought to replace the statue of Stephens, the first and only vice president of the Confederacy.

In 2020, Gov. Brian Kemp and other Republican leaders backed a push to replace the statue with a likeness of late Democratic Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon, but lawmakers failed to agree and the plan sputtered out.

The statue of Stephens is part of the National Statuary Hall Collection, in which each state can place two statues of whatever figures they believe deserve a spot inside the halls of Congress.

The collection includes a dwindling number of other statues of members of the Confederacy,

including statues of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States, and Joseph Wheeler, a Confederate military commander.

They share the space with statues commemorating the likes of President Abraham Lincoln, abolitionist Frederick Douglass and civil rights icon Rosa Parks.

Georgia gifted the statue of Stephens in 1927. Stephens also served in the Georgia Legislature, the House of Representatives and as governor of Georgia.

The other Georgia statue in the collection honors Crawford W. Long, a physician who became the first to use ether for surgical anesthesia in 1842.

The debate over Confederate statues at the U.S. Capitol intensified following the 2017 Unite the

Right rally in Charlottesville and the 2020 murder of George Floyd.

Both events inflamed racial tensions, and the Floyd death sparked racial justice protests across the country and led to some Confederate statues being demolished.

The Southern Poverty Law Center found that 168 Confederate symbols were renamed or removed from public spaces in 2020 alone.

The number of Confederate statues also fell on Capitol Hill after states decided to change their lineups.

Democrats on Capitol Hill have tried, but failed, to remove all the remaining Confederate statues and Confederate busts from public areas in the Capitol.



STATE OF THE UNION

Surgeon says Biden was ‘on something’

Rep. Greg Murphy suspects that President Biden was “on something” for his State of the Union speech in March based on his performance.

“I was in the State of the Union address, and Joe Biden must have been jacked up on something that day. I absolutely believe that from a medical viewpoint and actually have a little bit of good knowledge that happened,” Mr. Murphy, North Carolina Republican, said Thursday on Fox Business.

“He can’t stand, and he can’t stand under the lights for that long, and I don’t think he can keep a concept in his brain that long,” he said.

Mr. Murphy, the only practicing surgeon in Congress, is co-chairman of the GOP Doctors Caucus and of the Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus.

“That was not Joe Biden. I was in there. He screamed for two hours,” he told host Maria Bartiromo.

— Mallory Wilson

Henderson, whose father, Oliver Brown, was the lead plaintiff in the case, and Adrienne Jennings Bennett, the daughter of James Jennings, a plaintiff in *Boiling v. Sharpe*, a separate 1954 decision that outlawed school segregation in the District of Columbia.

— Jeff Mordock

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Rule to reclassify marijuana submitted

The Justice Department has formally moved to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, a historic shift in generations of U.S. drug policy.

A proposed rule sent Thursday to the Federal Register recognizes the medical uses of cannabis and acknowledges it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation’s most dangerous drugs.

The plan approved by Attorney General Merrick Garland would not legalize marijuana outright for recreational use.

If approved, the rule would move marijuana away from its current classification as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. Pot would instead be a Schedule III substance, alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids.

— Associated Press

BORDER SECURITY

Immigrant charged with multiple rapes

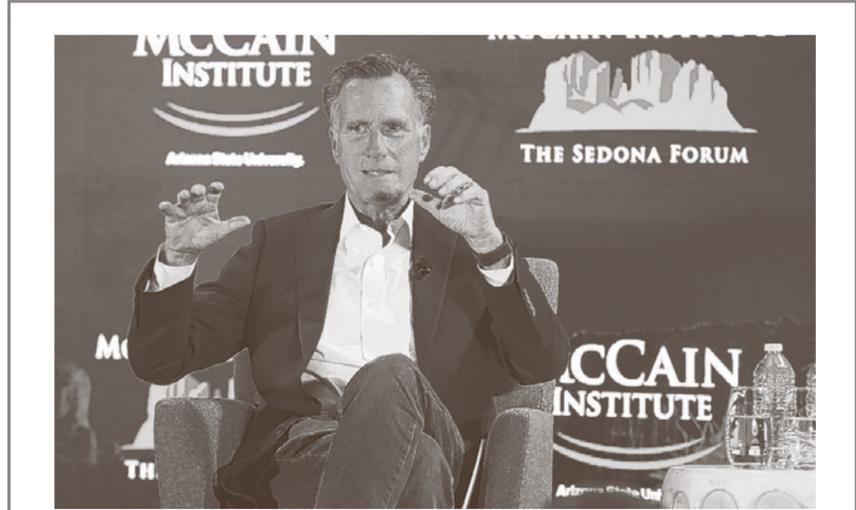
California authorities have charged a man with rape after they say he assaulted two women in the Angeles National Forest, and a TV news station identified the man as an illegal immigrant.

The Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department said it believes there may be others who fell victim to Eduardo Sarabia, who they say used a white van in the Sunday and Monday evening attacks.

Mr. Sarabia has been charged with forcible rape and other sex crimes. He is being held without bail.

Fox11 in Los Angeles cited sources who called the van a “rape dungeon on wheels” and who said Mr. Sarabia is an illegal immigrant from Mexico.

— Stephen Dinan



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Mitt Romney said Thursday that if he were President Biden, he would have “immediately pardoned” former President Donald Trump when the indictments were issued.

REPUBLICANS

Romney says Biden should have ‘immediately’ pardoned Trump

Sen. Mitt Romney said President Biden should have pardoned former President Donald Trump and leaned hard on state prosecutors not to bring their cases to trial.

Mr. Romney, Utah Republican and a frequent critic of Mr. Trump, said such a move would not only save the nation from the unedifying spectacles of the trials but would have aided Mr. Biden politically.

“You may disagree with this, but had I been President Biden, when the Justice Department brought on indictments, I would have immediately pardoned him. I’d have pardoned President Trump,” he said in a Thursday interview on MSNBC.

Mr. Romney said the cases are rallying Republicans around Mr. Trump and letting him play victim to his political benefit.

But a pardon “makes me, President Biden, the big guy and the person I pardoned a little guy,” he added.

Presidents can only issue pardons in federal cases but Mr. Romney said a president can get things done at the state level.

“If LBJ had been president, and he didn’t want something like this to happen, he’d have been all over that prosecutor saying, ‘You better not bring that forward or I’m gonna drive you out of office,’” he said.

— Victor Morton

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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Politics

HOUSE

House passes bill forcing Biden to send weapons to Israel

Democrats caught in political crossfire after attempts to dismiss

By ALEX MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Republicans tried to drive a wedge between Democrats and President Biden on Thursday in passing legislation that would compel the White House to arm Israel in its war against Hamas terrorists.

Democrats were forced to either side with Mr. Biden or side with ally Israel and Jewish voters who have long been loyal Democrats. They chose Mr. Biden.

The House passed the Israel Security Assistance Support Act 224 to 187, with just 16 Democrats joining the Republican majority in support of the bill.

The bill authored by Rep. Ken Calvert, California Republican,

responded to Mr. Biden's threats to further pause arms shipments to the Jewish state over concerns of possible mass civilian casualties when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent forces into Rafah.

Mr. Calvert's bill would force the administration to send weapons to Israel and to send any arms that have been withheld. Mr. Biden has paused the shipment of thousands of bombs.

The bill also put Democrats on record on their stance on Israel, an issue that has split the party between its historic support for Israel and the left-wing's increasingly anti-Israel fervor.

Democrats attempted to dismiss the legislation as mere political messaging, saying it



"It is not a serious effort at legislating, which is why some of the most pro-Israel members of the House Democratic Caucus will be voting no," House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said of the bill.

wouldn't help Israel or send any new weapons or aid but could hinder Mr. Biden's ability to make foreign policy decisions.

"It is not a serious effort at

legislating, which is why some of the most pro-Israel members of the House Democratic Caucus will be voting no," said House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries,

New York Democrat.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul, Texas Republican, said that the specific weapons that Mr. Biden was trying to block — heavy bombs and precision munitions — were necessary to root out Hamas because the terrorist organization has an extensive tunnel network in Rafah.

He argued that Mr. Biden and his Democrats were making a sudden about-face just months after proudly standing with Israel.

"War is hell, war is horrific, war is messy, nobody wants war," Mr. McCaul said on the House floor before the vote. "But Israel did not start this war, Hamas did. And sadly, civilian casualties are part of urban warfare."

Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that Mr. Biden has long supported

Israel and the GOP misconstrued his stance as supporting Hamas over the Jewish state.

"Our values are to try to save innocent lives. Not save Hamas, but to try to save innocent men, women and children while we pursue Hamas," Mr. Meeks said.

The bill is all but dead now that it has passed the House.

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat, declared that he would not put the bill to a vote after Mr. Biden vowed to veto it earlier this week.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged Mr. Schumer to reconsider, saying refusing to consider the measure was a "catastrophic decision with global implications."

"Yet again, it is President Biden and Sen. Schumer himself who are standing in the way of getting Israel the resources it desperately needs to defend itself," said Mr. Johnson, Louisiana Republican.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Trump has no problem with Kennedy on debate stage if he qualifies

By MALLORY WILSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump said he would have no problem having independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on the debate stage with him and President Biden if he met the qualification threshold.

"I have no problem with him. I think he's really not doing well in the polls at all. His numbers have gone down a lot lately, but I would have no problem if he got

whatever the threshold is," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Scripps News on Thursday. "But he's very low and seems to be heading in the other direction, in the wrong direction."

After Mr. Biden said Wednesday he is willing to debate Mr. Trump, the ball got rolling quickly and the two campaigns agreed to a June 27 debate hosted by CNN and a Sept. 10 debate hosted by ABC.

Mr. Kennedy took to social media to say the two candidates were "colluding" to keep him out

of the presidential race.

"Presidents Trump and Biden are colluding to lock America into a head-to-head match-up that 70% say they do not want," he said in an Xpost. "They are trying to exclude me from their debate because they are afraid I would win. Keeping viable candidates off the debate stage undermines democracy."

"By excluding me from the stage, Presidents Biden and Trump seek to avoid discussion of their eight years of mutual failure including deficits, wars, lockdowns,

chronic disease, and inflation," he said.

CNN outlined the qualifications for its debate in Atlanta, which includes a candidate's name appearing on enough ballots to reach 270 electoral votes to win the presidency, accepting the rules and format of the debate and receiving at least 15% in four separate national polls of registered or likely voters that meets CNN's standards.

Mr. Trump accused Mr. Biden of not wanting Mr. Kennedy in

the debates in an X post Thursday morning because "Junior is far left [of] him and they would be debating over the same territory."

He said Mr. Kennedy is "sharper and far more intelligent" than the president.

Mr. Kennedy, a Democrat-turned-independent, has been trying to get on the presidential ballot in all 50 states. His campaign has said it is officially on the ballot in California, Delaware, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah and has collected enough signatures

in Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina and Ohio.

In Real Clear Politics' five-way match-up averages of polls between Mr. Biden, Mr. Trump, and independent candidates Mr. Kennedy, Cornel West and Green Party's Jill Stein, Mr. Kennedy is the only third-party candidate seeing support in the double digits, but not enough support to get to 15%.

The Washington Times has reached out to the Biden campaign for comment.

SENATE

Menendez reveals wife has cancer as first evidence in corruption trial

By MIKE CATALINI
AND LARRY NEUMEISTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | Sen. Robert Menendez said Thursday that his wife has breast cancer and will require a mastectomy, a revelation made just as the presentation of evidence began at his New York bribery trial.

The New Jersey Democrat said he was revealing his wife's health crisis at her request after repeated inquiries from the media.

"We are, of course, concerned about the seriousness and advanced stage of the disease," he said in a statement.

He added: "She will require follow-up surgery and possibly radiation treatment. We hope and pray for the best results."

Previously, lawyers for Nadine Menendez had requested her trial on charges in the case be delayed after she had been diagnosed with a serious health issue. Judge Sidney H. Stein had postponed her trial until at least July. She has pleaded not guilty. The couple began dating in 2018 and married two years later.

Mr. Menendez issued the statement as opening statements were completed and the presentation of evidence began at his trial in Manhattan federal court with testimony from an FBI agent who led the raid on the Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, home he shared with his wife.

The agent, Aristotelis Kougemitros, described the June 2022 raid when gold bars and more than \$400,000 in cash were discovered by a team of agents at the home.

He said the agents also recovered cellphones and jewelry among 52 items seized from the home.

The senator is on trial this week with two of three businessmen who have been charged along with him. The senator pleaded not guilty to charges



Sen. Robert Menendez said that his wife, Nadine Menendez, has breast cancer. He said this just as the presentation of evidence began at his bribery trial Thursday. Mr. Menendez said she will require surgery.

of bribery, fraud, extortion, obstruction of justice and acting as a foreign agent of Egypt. A third businessman has pleaded guilty and will testify against the others.

Lawyers for New Jersey real estate developer Fred Daibes and businessman Wael Hana spoke to jurors Thursday, a day after a prosecutor and Mr. Menendez's lawyer gave opening statements.

Attorney Lawrence Lustberg, representing Mr. Hana, said prosecutors had built their case against his client on "innocent acts."

He said Mr. Hana was long-time friends since 2009 with Mrs. Menendez and that Mr. Hana and Mrs. Menendez had exchanged expensive gifts over the years. He said there was never a time when Mr. Hana either directly to Mr. Menendez or indirectly through Mrs. Menendez gave a bribe in exchange for official acts by the senator.

Attorney Cesar De Castro, representing Mr. Daibes, told jurors the case was about

relationships and prosecutors were trying to exploit facts about a three-decade friendship between the senator and Mr. Daibes to claim crimes occurred. He said they will conclude his client was not guilty.

On Wednesday, attorney Avi Weitzman, representing Mr. Menendez, told jurors his client was unaware that his spouse had accepted gifts from the three businessmen and did not know about cash and gold bars hidden in a closet at their home.

The statement came after an opening statement by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lara Pomerantz in which the prosecutor repeatedly highlighted gold bars and cash found in the home.

Mr. Menendez has held public office continuously since 1986, serving as a state legislator before 14 years as a U.S. congressman. In 2006, then-Gov. Jon Corzine appointed Mr. Menendez to the Senate seat he vacated when he became governor.

The trial, which began Monday, is projected to last up to two months.

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CONGRESS

Democrats push agencies to combat banking discriminations

Call threat of de-risking 'stark' for Muslim Americans

By Mallory Wilson
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democrats in Congress are calling on financial regulatory agencies to combat banking discrimination against Muslim Americans and immigrants.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota wrote a letter Wednesday to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell and five other regulatory group leaders, urging them to prevent de-risking, used by financial institutions to mitigate suspicious activity by closing accounts associated with people they deem a money problem.

"We write to ask your agencies to take robust action to modernize anti-money laundering and financial crimes compliance obligations to protect

and promote equitable banking access for Muslim Americans and immigrant communities," the lawmakers wrote. "While Congress can and should take action to expand financial inclusion, the Biden administration can also take executive action to prevent discriminatory account closures and restrictions."

They wrote that the threat of de-risking practices is "especially stark" for Muslim Americans.

"Financial institutions may consider Muslim and Arab, Middle Eastern and South Asian Americans 'high risk,' potentially erroneously, when sending payments or remittances abroad or donating to charities or religious institutions," they wrote. "De-risking can also undermine the stability and sustainability of countries that depend on remittances for economic development."

The lawmakers said they wrote a similar letter in 2022 to express their concern over this issue, but the reports of de-risking have only increased since then. They cited a New York Times report from December that revealed hundreds of reports from customers getting their accounts shut down without warning.

They acknowledged that some "encouraging steps" have been taken to combat the issue, like the Treasury Department releasing a strategy on de-risking, but more could be done.

They gave six examples of proposals the regulatory groups should take, including issuing a joint statement that affirms that financial inclusion is a "public priority" for anti-money laundering policy, creating an advisory group on financial inclusion and creating guidelines for financial



Sen. Elizabeth Warren (left) and Rep. Ilhan Omar wrote a letter to financial regulatory group leaders urging them to prevent de-risking, which is used to mitigate suspicious activity by closing problem accounts.

institutions to follow when they want to shut down an account.

They also called on the Treasury Department to change its examiner training to include financial inclusion discourse and for banks to provide banking customers with "pre-clearance mechanisms" for any transaction that might be flagged as a risk. They requested that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau enforce giving customers

notice when their accounts are shut down or flagged.

Sens. Ed. Markey, Massachusetts Democrat, and Bernard Sanders, Vermont independent, along with Democratic Reps. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Katie Porter of California, Barbara Lee of California, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Pramila Jayapal of Washington, Joyce Beatty of Ohio and Jonathan Jackson of Illinois, signed the letter as well.

The other groups the letter was addressed to were the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the National Credit Union Administration.

The Federal Reserve Board said it received the letter and planned to respond. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau also said it received the letter and was reviewing it. The National Credit Union Administration declined to comment. An Office of the Comptroller of the Currency spokesperson said that OCC "does not comment on congressional correspondence."

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network directed the Times to reach out to the Treasury Department for comment.

The Washington Times reached out to the other regulatory group leaders for comment.

VOTE

From page A1

"The Board of Elections says it is on the noncitizen to understand they cannot vote in federal races," Mr. Steil said.

In a statement to The Washington Times, the board said the hearing spread "misinformation" about the city's system.

The board said it stores the noncitizen information in a "separate component" of its registration system and is confident it can deliver the correct ballots to the right voters, including only a local ballot to noncitizens.

"We do have strong systems in place to ensure all voters in D.C. receive their correct ballot," the board said.

It said mailers urging registration are part of the board's mission "to ensure that eligible voters in D.C. are aware of their rights and responsibilities."

The board said, "This extends to all eligible voters, including noncitizens,



Noncitizens have voted in Pennsylvania, although authorities are not sure how many. The state motor vehicle bureau's system encourages everyone to register.

through nonpartisan, voter education activities. We do not advocate for any particular group to register to vote."

J. Christian Adams, president of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, testified to the committee that noncitizens are

often duped into registering and voting by bungling bureaucrats and bad systems.

He pointed to Pennsylvania, where the motor vehicle bureau's system prompts everyone, including noncitizens, to register to vote. Mr. Adams said people have been wrongly registered.

"The question is whether it was 10,000 or 100,000," he said.

Democrats complained about the entire tenor of the hearing. They said it was an attempt to undermine confidence in the presidential election before the first votes are cast.

"The coup starts here. This is where it begins," said Rep. Joe Morelle, New York Democrat. He said he has seen no evidence that noncitizen voting is an issue.

Democrats' witness during the hearing, Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center for Justice, said Congress should instead focus on cutting barriers to voting and should expand the Voting Rights Act to force jurisdictions to undergo scrutiny before they change

voting rules.

Mr. Waldman's group conducted a review after the 2016 elections and said it came up with just 30 instances where someone was investigated for being a noncitizen who cast a ballot that year.

"Our system is secure," Mr. Waldman said.

Republican witnesses said it's impossible to gauge the extent of noncitizen voting because officials often don't investigate it even when they are made aware.

Hans von Spakovsky, a former Federal Election Commission member who is now at The Heritage Foundation, said he served on the Fairfax County elections board in Virginia and in 2011 he prompted the registrar to match its voting records against DMV records.

The registrar found 278 people who were noncitizens registered to vote, and 117 of them had voted.

He said the names were then stripped from the county rolls and forwarded to prosecutors, but they did nothing about it.

TRUMP

From page A1

even louder, prompting an objection from prosecutor Susan Hoffinger.

The dramatic exchange seemed to catch Mr. Cohen off guard. Defense attorneys will probably make the phone call revelation a major part of their closing argument, and the clash likely pleased Mr. Blanche's demanding client.

Mr. Blanche said Mr. Cohen was bitter after Mr. Trump went to Washington in 2017 without giving him a plum White House position. He used Mr. Cohen's love of the limelight against him by pulling up old media interviews and clips from his "Mea Culpa" podcast in which the star witness took glee at Mr. Trump's legal problems.

Mr. Blanche is chasing one goal in the cross-examination: instilling enough doubt about Mr. Cohen to make at least some jurors unwilling to convict Mr. Trump, resulting in a hung jury or acquittal.

The cross-examination, which will continue Monday, is critical because Mr. Cohen is the linchpin of prosecutors' case against Mr. Trump.

On direct examination, Mr. Cohen said Mr. Trump told him to pay hush money to Ms. Daniels to suppress a story about a 2006 sexual encounter at Lake Tahoe. Mr. Trump denies the encounter. The state says the scheme showed an intent to commit election and financial crimes.

Mr. Trump has pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records. The defense is trying to distance Mr. Trump from the accounting tactics used to reimburse Mr. Cohen after he used a home equity credit line to pay Ms. Daniels.

Mr. Trump signed a series of \$35,000 checks to Mr. Cohen, though he says he believed the payments were for legal services and he was busy with presidential duties when he signed them.

Mr. Blanche stressed that the non-disclosure agreement is perfectly legal.

"In your mind, then and now, this is a perfectly legal contract, correct?" Mr. Blanche asked.

"Yes sir," Mr. Cohen said.

The former president, dressed in a navy suit and red tie, looked directly at Mr. Cohen while his attorneys confronted the witness with past comments to undermine his credibility. Mr. Trump tapped his attorneys' arms at times or passed notes to them and seemed to be in good spirits because his side put points on the board after listening to days of unflattering testimony.



Defense attorney Todd Blanche said Michael Cohen, a former "fixer" for Donald Trump, now makes a living by attacking his former boss through ads on his podcast.

A battery of House Republicans, including Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida and Lauren Boebert of Colorado, attended the trial Thursday to support Mr. Trump. Mr. Gaetz and Ms. Boebert are known for being outspoken thorns in the side of Republican leadership.

Mr. Gaetz said prosecutors put together the "Mr. Potato Head of crimes, where they had to stick together a bunch of things that did not belong together."

Prosecutors complained that Mr. Trump's political entourage sometimes walked in during testimony.

"It's — with their security detail for the jury and the witnesses to see," Ms. Hoffinger said.

State Supreme Court Judge Juan Merchan agreed that it was inadvisable, but Mr. Blanche said it was out of his control.

"I have less than zero control over what is happening on anything or anyone that's behind me when I am crossing a witness," he said.

During the cross-examination, Mr. Blanche said Mr. Cohen makes a living

by attacking Mr. Trump through ads on his podcast. The jurors heard a clip in which Mr. Cohen revealed his animus for Mr. Trump.

"It won't bring back the year that I lost or the damage done to my family. But revenge is a dish best served cold," Mr. Cohen, who went to prison after pleading guilty to election offenses, says in the clip played for the jury. "You'd better believe that I want this man to go down."

Mr. Cohen sounded more animated in the clip than he did in the witness box, where he was mostly calm and measured.

The defense says Mr. Cohen is pursuing Mr. Trump in part to sell books and raise money through advertising on his podcasts.

"You called him 'Dumbass Donald,' is that right?" Mr. Blanche said.

"Sounds correct," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Blanche said Mr. Cohen explored ways to shorten his supervised release from prison by helping prosecutors pursue Mr. Trump. The defense pointed

to an embarrassing moment when Mr. Cohen gave his attorney nonexistent, AI-generated legal cases to back up an application last year to end his post-prison court supervision early.

"The three cases that you gave to your attorney were not real cases, correct?" Mr. Blanche said.

"That's correct," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Blanche cast Mr. Cohen as an unethical person who tended to record conversations with people without their knowledge. More relevant to the case, the defense pointed to instances in which Mr. Cohen seemed to manipulate news coverage of Mr. Trump.

Mr. Cohen insisted he updated Mr. Trump on his efforts because "one, [not doing so would] cause him to blow up at me, and two, it would probably mean the end of my job."

Jurors also saw texts between Mr. Cohen and the young phone prankster, which led to the Schiller call.

The call, in which Mr. Cohen said he lumped into the Daniels matter with

complaints about the prankster, could create a new headache for prosecutors.

They haven't called Mr. Schiller as a witness, making him another notable absentee alongside Allen Weisselberg, the former chief financial officer at the Trump Organization whose name came up often when discussing the reimbursement scheme for Mr. Cohen. Weisselberg is in jail on a perjury conviction, and both men are likely seen as unhelpful to the state because of their loyalty to Mr. Trump.

The court will not convene on Friday because Mr. Trump is attending his son Barron's high school graduation.

Mr. Cohen will be one of the last witnesses for the prosecution before Mr. Trump mounts his defense.

Attorneys could deliver closing arguments as early as next week before the judge gives the jury instructions on the law and sends them into the deliberation room.

• This article is based in part on wire service reports.

ANC

From page A1

government's refusal to break ties with Russia or condemn Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Past reports of the ANC's demise have proved exaggerated, but President Cyril Ramaphosa, a former business executive and union leader who took the helm in 2018, heads a ruling party that limps into the final weeks of the campaign split by factions, some ethnic but mostly political.

Former President Jacob Zuma, 82, whose tenure was cut short in 2018 over allegations of corruption, has formed his own party, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), named for the ANC's military wing that fought White rule. In those days, Mr. Zuma, exiled in nearby Zambia, was head of intelligence for the original MK, which had close ties to the Soviet Union.

The ANC's former youth leader, Julius Malema, now 43, is also trying to dislodge his former party with his leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). His platform calls for nationalizing banks, mines and farmland without compensation.

Another former ANC president, Thabo Mbeki, who took over from Mandela as head of state in 1999, has been brought out of retirement to challenge Mr. Zuma over the multiple charges of financial abuse he faces in the courts. Mr. Ramaphosa surely would have voiced these accusations had it not emerged in 2022 that \$580,000 in U.S. currency was stashed in a sofa at Mr. Ramaphosa's farm 100 miles north of the capital.

The ANC used its numbers in Parliament to block discussion on the issue and defeated a motion for their leader's impeachment. Still, "sofagate" has given Mr. Zuma the perfect retort should Mr. Ramaphosa try to portray him as a crook. Both deny any wrongdoing during their time in office.

Bumpy ride

The South African Constitution allows a president to serve just two five-year terms. On May 29, voters will elect a new lower house of the National Assembly. Depending on the share of votes each party gains, members of the upper house will be nominated. On the same day, voters will choose a provincial legislature in each of the nine provinces.

Since the end of apartheid, the ANC has held a majority in both houses of the Assembly and has never needed a coalition partner to form a government.

SOUTH AFRICA SET FOR PIVOTAL ELECTION

The ruling African National Congress may lose its parliamentary majority for the first time since Nelson Mandela swept to power after the end of apartheid 30 years ago.



African National Congress (ANC)
Led by President **Cyril Ramaphosa**, its support has dwindled in recent years due to stubbornly high unemployment, persistent inequality, allegations of corruption and rampant crime.

Democratic Alliance (DA)
Pro-business party led by **John Steenhuisen**, wants to scrap ANC's Black empowerment scheme in favor of policies focused on reducing poverty regardless of skin color.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)
Led by **Julius Malema**, party presents itself as Marxist, advocating nationalization of industries and land redistribution to redress racial economic imbalances.

uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK)
Newly formed party boosted by endorsement of former President **Jacob Zuma**, who has fallen out with ANC, MK could make strong showing in Zuma's home province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Other parties include socially conservative **Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)**, led by **Velenkosini Hlabisa**, and **ActionSA**, led by former Johannesburg Mayor **Herman Mashaba**.

Parties and candidates seek election to 400-seat National Assembly under proportional representation system.

*Ipsos poll of 2,545 respondents, conducted March 9 - April 15. Margin of error ± 1.9 points

SOURCES: Reuters, BBC, FT Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Mr. Mbeki's second stint was cut short in 2008. The ANC removed him from office at the instigation of Mr. Zuma, who then suffered the same fate at the hands of Mr. Ramaphosa.

The ANC reached its zenith in 2004 under Mr. Mbeki, when it took almost 70% of the 400 seats in the national Parliament, more than the two-thirds required to change the constitution. Support has been steadily eroding since, with rising unemployment, seemingly endless corruption scandals and a string of troubles at state-owned entities.

In 2020, the once-profitable South African Airways went into liquidation. During the Zuma presidency, the state airline — which in its heyday flew the world's longest nonstop route between Johannesburg and Washington Dulles International Airport — ran up losses of more than a half-billion dollars.

Until recently, power cuts have been a

daily problem. Eskom, a state monopoly that provides most of the country's electricity, has struggled to meet demand. In campaign mode, Mr. Ramaphosa cited repairs and other reforms that abruptly ended two years of disruptive and debilitating power outages and announced in February that "the worst is behind us."

The authorities insist it was not an election stunt, but a cynical public has responded by joking that May 30, the day after the election, will be "South Africa's D-Day." The D stands for darkness as the lights go out after the election is safely over.

Perilous polls

Opinion polls are costly and challenging in a country with 11 official languages and rural voters across almost 500,000 square miles. No survey this year has put the ANC above 45%, and some peg it below 40%. It is the first time the party

has had less than half the electorate in its camp.

Five years ago, Mr. Ramaphosa took office with 57.5% of the national vote. Now, Mr. Zuma's MK party is polling up to 13%, which analysts agree has come mostly from the ANC's political base.

Mr. Ramaphosa has an easy manner and, more than any of his predecessors, has made himself accessible to voters at meetings across the country. He is close to his party's political center but has not been able to reverse the fall in support.

The ANC received more bad news as the campaign entered the home stretch. Statistics South Africa reported Tuesday that the national jobless rate in the first quarter of 2024 rose nearly 1 percentage point to 32.9%. Meanwhile, the national youth unemployment rate is 45.5%.

It did not take long for the liberal Democratic Alliance (DA), the country's main opposition party, to highlight the weak employment numbers and the political problem they pose for Mr. Ramaphosa's government. DA Shadow Labor Minister Michael Bagraim told reporters that "the jobs bloodbath" is "a more compelling reason to vote the ANC out in two weeks' time."

The Zulu vote

South Africa, with a population of 62 million, has no ethnic majority, but speakers of the Zulu language make up a quarter of the population. Mr. Zuma is now by far the most senior figure among the Zulu.

He portrays the government as heavy with lawyers and economists, an elite out of touch with the masses. This message resonates way beyond ethnicity with the legions of youths who live four or five in a shack and struggle to make a living. On Saturday, they will be at Johannesburg's Orlando Sports Stadium as Mr. Zuma rallies his MK party.

The Democratic Alliance, led by John Steenhuisen, 48, has attracted about a quarter of the support in recent polls. His appeal extends across racial boundaries in a country with a White population of just 8%. The DA is leading in Pretoria and the industrial hub of Johannesburg and has long-held power in Cape Town.

It is a 34-year-old openly gay White man from the DA, Chris Pappas, who looks set to become provincial premier in KwaZulu-Natal. He stands out as the greatest challenge to the ANC and MK because, unlike most other White South Africans, Mr. Pappas speaks flawless Zulu and has drawn massive crowds to his rallies.

An opposition agenda

Mr. Steenhuisen has warned that the ANC will likely form a "doomsday coalition" with Mr. Malema's EFF if it loses its majority. EFF appears set to win 12% of the vote. The price, he says, would be the EFF's demand for wholesale nationalization of the economy and a further drift away from the U.S. and the rest of the West.

Mr. Steenhuisen told The Washington Times that if his party wins enough votes to lead a rival coalition into office, he would adopt a much different approach to world affairs.

"South Africa has never been a client state to any of the great powers, though we served with the Allies in both World Wars and in Korea," he said. "But there is almost a knee-jerk reaction in the current government against anything proposed or supported by the United States, even though it is one of our biggest partners in trade."

He said conflicts in central Africa and instability in Somalia and the Sahel region "have led to vast numbers of refugees coming south and — while it is important that we help these people — what we really need is to find solutions that bring peace to their home countries."

The DA's shadow foreign minister, Emma Powell, said that instead of debating wars in Ukraine and Gaza, South Africa should "focus on the bloodbath unfolding on the African continent." She said wars in Congo and the fight against extremist groups in West Africa had been ignored.

"If the ANC was genuinely interested in peace, human rights or the rule of law, they would have spoken out against the tragedy unfolding in Sudan, where more than 10,000 civilians have been killed in some of the most brutal ethnic cleansing the world has witnessed in a generation."

In October, South Africa abstained from a resolution at the United Nations Human Rights Council calling for a cease-fire in Sudan.

On talk radio and in the press, South Africans voice the same concerns as voters in other democracies. Mr. Steenhuisen's campaign has focused on this.

"People want a safe place to call home, a job that has meaning, education that provides our children with opportunity, and the freedom to say what we think. And be it in Cape Town or Kansas, these are the basic rights every government has to deliver. And my party intends to do exactly that."



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Nation

RELIGION

Presbyterians cancel panel on polarization over divisive columnist

By MARK A. KELLNER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Presbyterian Church in America has scrapped a panel on political polarization over its inclusion of a New York Times columnist who supports same-sex marriage and drag queen “story hour” presentations to children.

The PCA had invited columnist David French, a former church member, to participate in the “Supporting Your Pastor and Church Leaders in a Polarized Political Year” panel at its annual business session next month in Richmond.

The PCA’s administrative committee instead has decided that delegates will undertake “a prayer convocation” asking God to provide “for the good of his church” during this election year.

Former church member supports drag queen ‘story hours’

PCA officials noted that seminars have been a regular feature of the church’s annual gatherings “for the past two decades” and included a session for all delegates on “a wide range of topics.” Church critics were outspoken in opposing Mr. French’s inclusion on the panel.

The Rev. Ben C. Dunson, a PCA teaching elder, noted in an article for American Reformer that Mr. French appeared in a documentary film claiming that evangelicals who support Donald Trump for president are “dangerous Christian nationalists.”

“Virtually everything French writes or says is about the danger posed to

America by Donald Trump and a sizeable percentage of the Republican Party and evangelical church. And French routinely besmirches the character of Christians who disagree with him on these issues,” Mr. Dunson wrote.

Critics also called out Mr. French’s wife, author Nancy French, for telling the Deseret News that their former PCA congregation was “brimming with neo-Confederates.” She said that she had been “accosted at the communion table” by “hostile” people over her family having adopted their youngest daughter from Ethiopia.

PCA Stated Clerk Bryan Chapell said he was unaware of Mr. French’s views

before approving him for the political polarization panel.

“Had I known some of the ways that the panelist has expressed himself or been understood in past writings, I would have made a different choice for the purposes of this seminar,” Mr. Chapell said in a statement. “I did not become aware of significant background issues before making this decision. This was my mistake, and I apologize to the PCA that I love.”

Mr. French had some PCA supporters: Marvin Olasky, former editor of World magazine, said in an article in the online opinion journal Current that The New York Times columnist would make

a discussion session “more interesting than it otherwise might be.”

Mr. Olasky, a longtime journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said the PCA needs to hear from ex-members such as Mr. French for their perspectives.

“At many churches, members weary of politically red (or blue) rhetoric just slip away. Church leaders need to discuss ways to stop the slide,” wrote Mr. Olasky, who said he is an elder in congregation with liberal and conservative members.

Mr. French said he’s “not commenting, for now” in response to an email request.

The Presbyterian Church in America, with its 394,000 members, is the country’s second-largest Presbyterian denomination, behind the 1.1 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA).

WALL STREET

Dow Jones briefly tops 40,000 level before dipping back down again

GameStop falls 30%: AMC lost 15.3%

By STAN CHOE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | The Dow Jones Industrial Average briefly topped the 40,000 level for the first time Thursday, though U.S. stocks would edge back a little from those record heights later in the day.

The Dow slipped 38.62 points, or 0.1%, to 39,869.38. The S&P 500 index, which is much more widely followed on Wall Street, dipped 11.05, or 0.2%, to 5,297.10, and the Nasdaq composite fell 44.07, or 0.3%, to 16,698.32. All three indexes had rallied on Wednesday to all-time highs.

Agriculture giant Deere weighed on the market and sank 4.7% despite reporting stronger profit for its latest quarter than expected. It cut its forecast for upcoming profit this fiscal year, below analysts’ estimates, as farmers buy fewer tractors and other equipment.

Homebuilders also helped drag the market lower following a weaker-than-expected report on the housing industry. They gave back some of their big gains from the day before, when hopes for lower mortgage rates had sent them sharply higher. D.R. Horton sank 4.2%, Lennar fell 3.3% and PulteGroup dropped 2.8%.

Also sinking were GameStop and AMC Entertainment, which slid for a second straight day following their jaw-dropping starts to the week. They’ve been moving more on excitement drummed up by investors than any changes to their financial prospects.

GameStop fell 30%, though it’s still up nearly 59% for the week so far. AMC Entertainment lost 15.3%.

Such drops helped offset a 7% jump for Walmart, which reported stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. The retailer also said its revenue for the year could top the forecasted range it had earlier given.

Walmart’s strength could be an encouraging signal for the broader economy. Worries have been rising about whether U.S. households can keep up with still-high inflation and more expensive credit-card payments, particularly households at the lower end of the

income spectrum.

Target, which reports its quarterly results next week, climbed following Walmart’s report, along with other retailers like Dollar General and Dollar Tree. Each added at least 2%.

Chubb rose 4.7% after Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway disclosed it had built an ownership stake in the insurer.

The company announced a restructuring plan to cut costs and also announced a program to buy back up to \$500 million of its stock. It dropped 1.3%.

Stronger-than-expected profit reports have been one of the main reasons U.S. stock indexes have broadly jumped through May to records following a tough April.

Another has been revived hopes that the Federal Reserve will be able to cut its main interest rate at least once this year. The Fed has been keeping its federal funds rate at the highest level in more than two decades.

A string of worse-than-expected reports on inflation at the start of the year had put the potential for such cuts in jeopardy, but some more encouraging data has since arrived.

Treasury yields have largely eased in May as hopes rose that the economy could hit the hoped-for sweet spot, where it cools enough because of high interest rates to stifle inflation but not so much that it causes a bad recession.

Yields rose Thursday following some mixed data on the economy, including the report that hurt homebuilder stocks, which showed the industry broke ground on fewer projects than expected.

One report showed slightly more workers applied for unemployment benefits last week than economists expected, though the number remains low compared with history. Others said manufacturing growth in the mid-Atlantic region was weaker than hoped and import prices rose more than forecast.

“Today’s numbers were in line with the overall theme of the week — nothing dramatic, but showing signs of a steady-cooling economy,” said Chris Larkin, managing director, trading and investing, at E-Trade from Morgan Stanley.



Workers dismantle a pro-Palestinian encampment across a grassy expanse known as “the Quad” at DePaul University in Chicago on Thursday. The encampment was taken down hours after the school’s president told students to leave the area or face arrest.

ILLINOIS

Police clear pro-Palestinian campsite at DePaul; coalition remains defiant

By TERESA CRAWFORD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO | Police began dismantling a pro-Palestinian encampment early Thursday at DePaul University in Chicago, hours after the school’s president told students to leave the area or face arrest.

Officers and workers in yellow vests cleared out tents and camping equipment at the student encampment, leaving behind yellow squares of dead or dying grass where the tents had stood. Front-loaders were being used to remove the camping equipment.

Just across the street from where the encampment was spread across a grassy expanse of DePaul’s campus known as “the Quad,” a few dozen protesters stood along a sidewalk in front of a service station, clapping in unison as an apparent protest leader paced back and forth before them, speaking into a bullhorn.

All of the protesters at the encampment “voluntarily left” the area when police arrived early Thursday, said Jon Hein, chief of patrol for the Chicago Police Department.

“There were no confrontations and there was no resistance,” Chief Hein said at a news briefing. “As we approached, all the subjects voluntarily

left the area.”

Chief Hein said, however, that two people, a man and woman in their 20s, were arrested outside the encampment “for obstruction of traffic.”

DePaul President Robert Manuel said in a statement that one of those arrested is a current DePaul student and the second is a former student. He added that no injuries were reported to the university.

The move to clear the campus comes less than a week after the school’s president said public safety was at risk.

The university on Saturday said it had reached an impasse with the school’s protesters, leaving the future of their encampment on the Chicago campus unclear. Most of DePaul’s commencement ceremonies will be held the June 15-16 weekend.

In a statement then, Mr. Manuel and Provost Salma Ghanem said they believe that students intended to protest peacefully, but “the responses to the encampment have inadvertently created public safety issues that put our community at risk.”

“I understand that the last 17 days have been stressful for many, not only within our campus, but also for those who live and work in our neighboring community,” Mr. Manuel said later Thursday in a statement. “We are

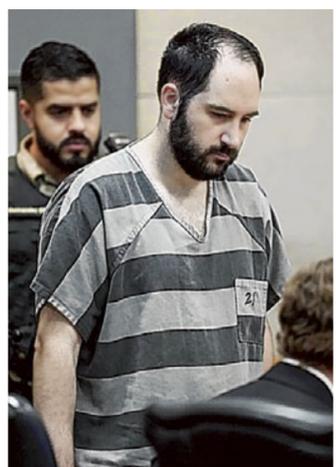
saddened that the situation came to the point where law enforcement intervention was necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all — both within and outside the encampment.”

Efforts to resolve the differences with DePaul Divestment Coalition over the past 17 days were unsuccessful, Mr. Manuel said in a statement sent to students, faculty and staff Thursday morning.

Students at many colleges this spring set up similar encampments, calling for their schools to cut ties with Israel and businesses that support it, to protest Israel’s actions in the war with Hamas. The protests began as schools were winding up their spring semesters and are now holding graduation ceremonies.

Separately, some students and faculty were detained Wednesday after police removed an encampment and pro-Palestinian demonstrators briefly took over a lecture hall at the University of California, Irvine.

There was a large law enforcement response when demonstrators demanding the university divest from Israel blocked the building’s entrance with a makeshift barricade. Police declared an unlawful assembly, cleared the building and took an unknown number of people into custody.



Daniel Perry has been pardoned by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott after being convicted of murder in the 2020 fatal shooting of armed protester Garrett Foster.

TEXAS

Abbott pardons protester’s killer who claimed self-defense

By JIM VERTUNO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN | Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a full pardon Thursday for a former Army sergeant convicted of murder for fatally shooting an armed demonstrator in 2020 during nationwide protests against police violence and racial injustice.

Mr. Abbott announced the pardon shortly after the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles announced a unanimous recommendation that Daniel Perry be pardoned and have his firearms rights restored.

Mr. Perry had been in state prison on a 25-year sentence since his 2023 conviction in the killing of Garrett Foster, and he was released shortly after the pardon,

a prison spokeswoman said.

Mr. Perry, who is White, was working as a ride-hail driver when his car approached a demonstration in Austin. Prosecutors said he could have driven away from the confrontation with Foster, a White Air Force veteran who witnesses said never raised his gun.

A jury convicted Mr. Perry of murder, but Mr. Abbott called it a case of self-defense brought by a liberal prosecutor who opposes Texas law on the subject.

“Texas has one of the strongest ‘Stand Your Ground’ laws of self-defense that cannot be nullified by a jury or a progressive district attorney,” Mr. Abbott said.

A Republican in his third term, Mr. Abbott has typically issued pardons only for minor offenses, and he avoided a posthumous pardon recommendation

for George Floyd for a 2004 drug arrest in Houston. Floyd’s killing by a White police officer in Minneapolis in 2020 set off national demonstrations.

Mr. Abbott ordered the board to review Mr. Perry’s case shortly after the trial, and said he would sign a pardon if recommended. Under Texas law, the governor cannot issue a pardon without a recommendation from the board, which the governor appoints.

Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza blasted the pardon as a “mockery of our legal system.”

“The board and the governor have put their politics over justice,” Mr. Garza said. “They should be ashamed of themselves. Their actions are contrary to the law and demonstrate that there are two classes of people in this state where

some lives matter and some lives do not.”

Mr. Abbott’s demand for a review of the Perry case followed pressure from conservatives, including former Fox News commentator Tucker Carlson, who had urged the governor to intervene after the sergeant was convicted at trial in April 2023.

They also noted that Mr. Perry was sentenced after prosecutors used his social media history and text messages to portray him as a racist.

Between conviction and sentencing, the court unsealed dozens of pages showing hostile views toward Black Lives Matter protests. In a comment on Facebook a month before the shooting, Mr. Perry wrote, “It is official I am a racist because I do not agree with people acting like animals at the zoo.”

RELIGION

Osteen to deliver 1,000th sermon at megachurch in Houston

By MARK A. KELLNER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

If Joel Osteen has said it once, he's said it 999 times: "I'd like to talk to you today about" a Bible verse or Christian subject.

On Sunday, Mr. Osteen will deliver his 1,000th sermon in the pulpit of Lakewood Church in Houston — the nation's largest megachurch, which seats 16,000 at each service.

But he says never expected to be a preacher, even as he marks 25 years as Lakewood's senior pastor.

"I just never knew this was in me," Mr. Osteen said in an interview.

His father, John Osteen, founded the Lakewood congregation 65 years ago in an abandoned feed store, and Joel worked as a television producer for the church. The elder Osteen asked his son many times during those 17 years of television production to "step up and minister for him," but Joel Osteen declined, thinking he didn't have the training his father possessed.

John Osteen died in January 1999.

"All of a sudden, when my dad passed, I felt like I knew I was supposed to step



"I just never knew this was in me," pastor Joel Osteen said in an interview. Mr. Osteen is to deliver his 1,000th sermon on Sunday in the pulpit of Lakewood Church in Houston. He is about to mark 25 years as the megachurch's pastor.

up," Mr. Osteen said. "I didn't know if I could do it, I didn't know people would listen, I don't know if I'd be any good, but I thought I'm going to take that step of faith."

Lakewood has grown exponentially under Mr. Osteen's leadership. His

sermons are broadcast weekly to millions on television and continuously on a SiriusXM satellite radio channel.

Additionally, his Joel Osteen Ministries places weekly sermon recordings on local TV stations after the Sunday evening news program, offering what

Mr. Osteen says is a message of hope in response to the usually dismal headlines.

He also has written numerous best-selling inspirational books and has conducted sold-out "Night of Hope" events at Yankee Stadium and other large venues.

"It's the amazing goodness of our God, of how he puts things in us that we don't know we have," he said. "That's why it's been so easy for me to encourage people that [they] have gifts and talents and God knows how to open doors that we can't open."

Mr. Osteen has his fans: 27 million people follow him on Facebook, 10.1 million on X and 3.5 million on YouTube. He also has his critics, who label his sermons "Christianity lite" and say he proffers a "prosperity gospel" that emphasizes rewards in this life over spiritual gains.

But Max Lucado, an evangelical pastor and author with more than 125 million books in print, disagrees with the detractors. He has preached several times at Lakewood and said Mr. Osteen has a specific target for his messages.

"Joel has a word for people who don't like the church," Mr. Lucado said in an interview. "He's trying to talk to the

person that is turned off from church, turned off from religion, and he's just trying to tell them the simple message of hope."

Coming up with those simple messages is a multistage process, Mr. Osteen said. He begins with Bible study and note-taking on Wednesdays, followed by more study the next day.

"On Friday, I get up and I type it like I'm going to talk it, so I'll write every word down," he said. "I get it memorized and I give it on Sunday."

He said he's unlike other preachers who extemporize from a written outline.

"I'm much better when I write it down," he said.

Mr. Osteen says he has "grown considerably" since that first sermon in Lakewood's old sanctuary. He personally greets 500 visitors to the church every Sunday after the 11 a.m. service, and dealing with people over the years has shown him that "everybody's fighting a battle" in their lives, he says.

"There's no perfect theology that fits every person," he said, so he tries to make his messages "maybe more loving, understanding, compassionate" than he had at the outset.

COLORADO

Fiery crash involving fuel tanker kills one, shuts down I-70

DENVER | One person died and another was hospitalized after a vehicle crashed into a tanker truck carrying fuel on Colorado's main east-west highway near Denver on Thursday, sending up a fireball and a huge plume of black smoke, authorities said.

The crash happened on the westbound Interstate 70 near Morrison, 18 miles west of Denver, where the highway begins its climb into the mountains.

The tanker truck, which was carrying diesel and gasoline, was parked on the shoulder when another vehicle crashed into it, Colorado State Patrol Trooper Gabriel Moltrre said. Investigators are still looking into why, he said.

A person in the vehicle died, and the truck driver was hospitalized, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Jacki Kelley said.

Details on the truck driver's injuries

were not available, Trooper Moltrre said.

— Associated Press

GEORGIA

Lawyer for slain Black man: Footage shows police mistakes

STONECREST | A lawyer for the family of Roger Fortson said Thursday that police radio traffic and the body camera footage of the Florida sheriff's deputy who killed the Black U.S. Air Force airman reinforce their claim that the deputy was directed to the wrong apartment while responding to a domestic disturbance call.

In police radio traffic that lawyer Ben Crump played at a news conference surrounded by Fortson's family, a dispatcher said all they knew about the disturbance was "fourth-party information."

"Uh, don't have any further other than a male and female," the dispatcher told officers. "It's all fourth-party information from the front desk

BRIEFLY
THE NATION

at the leasing office."

Mr. Crump also highlighted two portions of the bodycam video in which the deputy asked the woman leading him around the complex, "Which door?" The woman responded, "Um... I'm not sure." Seconds later, the woman told the officer that she heard a disturbance two weeks ago, but "I wasn't sure where it came from."

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Drones used to smuggle drugs over river from Canada into U.S.

BUFFALO | A smuggling operation used drones to fly drugs across the Niagara River from Canada into upstate New York, using a newly purchased

\$630,000 house along the river as a drop point, according to a criminal complaint unsealed this week.

One person has pleaded guilty, and two others face charges after an investigation that started in September 2022.

U.S. Border Patrol agents tracked a drone through an overnight excursion from an upscale neighborhood on the U.S. side of the border to the vicinity of an Ontario winery and back.

On the return trip to the house in Youngstown, New York, a package hung from the drone's chassis. Law enforcement officers were in place as the drone hovered in the backyard before landing near the suspects.

— Associated Press

MASSACHUSETTS

Autopsy: Teen died from eating spicy tortilla chip in challenge

BOSTON | A teen who participated in a spicy tortilla chip challenge on social media died from ingesting a substance

containing a high amount of the chili pepper extract capsaicin, according to an autopsy report.

Harris Wolobah, a 10th grader from the city of Worcester, died on Sept. 1, 2023, after eating the Paqui chip as part of the manufacturer's "One Chip Challenge."

"We were and remain deeply saddened by the death of Harris Wolobah and extend our condolences to his family and friends," Paqui, a Texas-based subsidiary of the Hershey Co., said in a statement Thursday.

Harris died of cardiopulmonary arrest "in the setting of recent ingestion of food substance with high capsaicin concentration," according to the autopsy from the Chief Office of the Medical Examiner. Capsaicin is the component that gives chile peppers their heat.

The autopsy also said that Harris had cardiomegaly, meaning an enlarged heart, and a congenital defect described as "myocardial bridging of the left anterior descending coronary artery."

— Associated Press



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World

SLOVAKIA

Prime minister's would-be assassin acted alone

By BELA SZANDELSZKY, PETR DAVID JOSEK
AND PHILIPP JENNE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANSKA BYSTRICA, SLOVAKIA | Slovak authorities charged a man Thursday with attempting to assassinate Prime Minister Robert Fico, saying he acted alone in a politically motivated attack that left the longtime leader in serious but stable condition.



Fico

Mr. Fico's pro-Russia views have contributed to deep divisions in the small European country that borders Ukraine, and the shooting attack Wednesday shocked the nation and reverberated

across the continent weeks ahead of elections for the European Parliament.

While President-elect Peter Pellegrini and President Zuzana Caputova urged people to dial back the sharp rhetoric that has characterized the country's political debate, some Fico allies took aim at Slovakia's media for contributing to the polarization.

Dialing back of rhetoric urged as Fico's pro-Russia views caused deep divisions

Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok asked journalists to "reflect" on how they had covered Mr. Fico's policies. He referred to the suspect — who was charged with premeditated murder — as a "lone wolf" who did not belong to any political groups, though he said the attack itself was politically motivated.

"I can confirm that this person is not a member of any right-wing or left-wing radicalized party," Mr. Estok said.

Mr. Fico, 59, was in serious but stable condition a day after being shot multiple times, a hospital official said. Mr. Pellegrini said he spoke to Mr. Fico and that his condition "remains very serious."

Mr. Fico has long been a divisive figure in Slovakia and beyond. His return to power last year on a pro-Russian, anti-American message led to even greater worries among fellow European Union and NATO members that he would abandon his country's pro-Western course — particularly on Ukraine.

At the start of Russia's invasion, Slovakia was one of Ukraine's staunchest

supporters. Mr. Fico halted new arms deliveries to Ukraine when he returned to power, his fourth time serving as prime minister.

Slovak police have provided little information on the identity of the suspect. But unconfirmed media reports suggested he was a 71-year-old retiree who was known as an amateur poet, and may have previously worked as a security guard at a mall in the country's southwest.

At a news conference on Thursday following a meeting of Slovakia's Security Council, government ministers gave more details about the man, while still not naming him.

Mr. Estok said the suspect cited his dissatisfaction with several of Mr. Fico's policies as the motivation for the attack. The minister said presidential elections in the spring prompted the assault, and that the suspect had attended a recent anti-government protest.

"I can confirm to you that the reason it was a politically motivated, attempted

premeditated murder is as the suspect himself said: The media information that he had at his disposal," he said. "I think each of you can reflect on the way you presented it."

At the same news conference, Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinak also blamed the media for tensions in the country.

The tenor of those remarks stood in contrast to a news conference earlier in the day when the country's outgoing and next presidents — political rivals — appeared together in an appeal for Slovaks to overcome their increasingly tense political differences.

"Let us step out of the vicious circle of hatred and mutual accusations," said Ms. Caputova, the outgoing president and a rival of Mr. Fico's.

Mr. Pellegrini, the president-elect, called on political parties to suspend or scale back their campaigns for European elections, which will be held June 6-9.

"If there is anything that the people of Slovakia urgently need today, it is at least basic agreement and unity among the Slovak political representation. And if not consensus, then please, at least civilized ways of discussing among each other," Mr. Pellegrini said.

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

UKRAINE

Kyiv says Russian advance halted in area near Kharkiv

KYIV | Ukrainian units locked in street battles with the Kremlin's forces in a key northeastern Ukraine town have halted the Russian advance, military officials in Kyiv claimed Thursday, though a senior Moscow official said the frontline push had enough resources to keep going.

Russian attempts to establish a foothold in the town of Vovchansk, which is among the largest towns in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region with a prewar population of 17,000, "have been foiled," Ukraine's general staff said in a midday report.

Ukrainian authorities have evacuated some 8,000 civilians from the town. Vovchansk, located just three miles from the Russian border, has been a hot spot in the fighting in recent days.

Russia launched an offensive in the Kharkiv area late last week, significantly adding to the pressure on Ukraine's outnumbered and outgunned forces which are waiting for delayed deliveries of crucial weapons and ammunition from Western partners.

Russia has also been testing defenses at other points along the roughly 620-mile front line snaking from north to south through eastern Ukraine. That line has barely changed over the past 18 months in what became a war of attrition.

— Associated Press

NAVY

USS Ronald Reagan leaves Japan after 10-year mission

Hundreds of sailors in dress white uniforms stood at attention Thursday on the flight deck of the USS Ronald Reagan, as the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier steamed out of Tokyo Bay in its final deployment from Japan, where it had been based for nearly a decade.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel joined U.S. and Japanese military officials in bidding farewell as the warship departed Yokosuka for the last time as the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier.

The Reagan's departure from Japan marked the beginning of the carrier's final scheduled Indo-Pacific patrol. The USS George Washington will take its place in Japan later this year, after which the Reagan will change home ports to Bremerton, Washington, Navy officials said.

Before being based there in 2015, the carrier was heavily involved with the disaster relief mission following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan. In addition to flying humanitarian reconnaissance missions, the USS Ronald Reagan and its crew refueled Japanese naval vessels and provided food, water, and supplies to devastated communities, officials said.

— Mike Glenn

FRANCE

Emergency declared after clashes in New Caledonia

PARIS | Violence raged across New Caledonia for the third consecutive day Thursday, hours after France imposed a state of emergency in the French Pacific territory, boosting security forces' powers to quell unrest in the archipelago that has long sought independence.

French authorities in New Caledonia and the interior ministry in Paris said five people, including two police officers, were killed after protests earlier this week over voting reforms pushed by President Emmanuel Macron's government turned deadly.

At least 60 members of the security forces were injured and 214 people were arrested over clashes with police, arson and looting Thursday, the territory's top French official, High Commissioner Louis Le Franc, said.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said after a meeting at the Elysee presidential palace in Paris that in addition to the 1,700 security forces troops that have already been deployed to help police, 1,000 more are on the way.

He said 10 people, all allegedly from the pro-independence movement known as The Field Acton Coordination Unit, were under house arrest. In April, the group had backed several protests against French authorities on the island.

— Associated Press

MILITARY

Sailor who died in Pearl Harbor attack laid to rest

Forensic program aided identification

By MIKE GLENN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

ARLINGTON, VA. | U.S. Navy veteran Frank Hryniewicz was buried with full military honors Thursday at Arlington National Cemetery, more than 80 years after the Massachusetts native was killed when Japan launched its Dec. 7, 1941, attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii.

Hryniewicz, then 20, was aboard the USS Oklahoma when the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked "Battleship Row" with swarms of torpedo bombers. The Oklahoma was hit by several Type 91 aerial torpedoes, which split open the ship's port side along much of its length. The battleship quickly rolled over and sank to the bottom of the harbor.

Several Oklahoma sailors trapped inside the upturned hull were later cut free through the efforts of sailors and civilian Navy Yard employees. But more than 400 of the crew were lost — including Hryniewicz.

His remains were among those recovered from the USS Oklahoma after the attack but couldn't be individually identified at the time. Later, they were buried as "unknowns" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

Frances Griffin was not yet born when Uncle Frankie — as the family called

him — died at Pearl Harbor.

"This is something we've lived with all our lives. The finality of it is wonderful. There is a certain joy to know that he's finally here," Ms. Griffin said following the interment ceremony.

Frank Hryniewicz, the youngest of five children, never imagined that he would find himself in the middle of a shooting war. He had joined a peacetime Navy and was excited when he learned that his duty station would be a tropical paradise.

"He went to Hawaii to have a good time. He was a young, handsome sailor," Ms. Griffin said.

A U.S. Navy band and honor guard, immaculate in their dress whites, escorted the family to the site at Arlington National Cemetery where the funeral service was held. The Navy personnel placed a small wooden box containing his remains on a table that had been set before the family. They unfurled an American flag and held it like a protective shroud over their fellow sailor.

Advances in forensic science prompted the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in 2015 to initiate a reexamination of the unidentified remains from the USS Oklahoma. The agency's "USS Oklahoma Project" has resulted in the identification of more than 360 of the 394 sailors assigned to the battleship whose remains could not



Frank Hryniewicz, a U.S. Navy veteran, was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday. He was killed in the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941, but his remains were only recently identified via forensic science.

be identified by earlier forensic efforts.

"The success of the Oklahoma Project has brought answers to these families and has also served as a milestone undertaking that has since helped shape and inform other successful disinterment projects within DPAA," the agency said in a statement.

The forensic examinations began in 2003 with the disinterment of a single casket from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific that was thought to contain the remains of five individuals serving on the USS Oklahoma.

"Upon analysis by the DPAA laboratory, this casket was determined to have contained partial remains of nearly 100 individuals, revealing the breadth of research and scientific work necessary to

fully account for the Oklahoma's missing sailors and Marines," the agency said.

The DPAA asked Ms. Griffin's brother and her nephew for an example of their DNA to confirm the identity of the remains. They notified the family that a positive match had been made only a few days after her father's death.

"My father never knew that his little brother had been positively identified. Our family coming here was not only a tribute to Frankie but to our parents," Ms. Griffin said.

Ms. Griffin said she was in awe of the efforts made by the DPAA and other government officials over the years to provide important closure to the family.

"It took a lot. They never gave up on him," she said.

CHINA

Putin, Xi eye closer strategic ties while attacking U.S. policies

By BILL GERTZ
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a day of talks Thursday in Beijing with Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a visit meant to forge closer strategic ties and portray the United States as an aggressive Cold War hegemon attempting to destabilize the world.

The summit comes amid mounting tensions both states are experiencing with Washington. In a joint press appearance, Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi signed a statement that criticized the United States on two hot-button issues — Russia's war in Ukraine and the growing concern of a U.S.-China clash over Taiwan.

"The parties reiterate their serious concern over the attempts of the United States to disrupt the strategic security balance in the region," the document said, according to Russian press accounts.

The 7,000-word statement said examples include America's global missile defenses using regional components and assets in space, as well as the Pentagon's development of precision non-nuclear strike weapons that they warned could be used to take out the leaders of foreign governments.

The two leaders also criticized U.S.

plans to deploy ground-based intermediate-range and short-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific and European regions that will include transfers of the missiles to American allies.

"The parties strongly condemn these extremely destabilizing steps, which pose a direct threat to the security of Russia and China," the statement said. "The parties oppose the hegemonic attempts of the United States to change the balance of power in Northeast Asia by building up military power and creating military blocs and coalitions."

The Biden administration has watched the growing closeness of Moscow and Beijing with concern.

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded in an annual threat assessment earlier this month that Chinese support for Russian defense industrial base is tipping the balance of the war in Ukraine in Moscow's favor. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Kruse, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, also cited mounting concern over the growing collaboration among U.S. adversaries such as China, Russia and Iran.

Gen. Kruse said the Pentagon is reworking joint force military planning for a potential conflict over Taiwan, based on increasing Chinese and Russian military cooperation. The State

Department earlier this month imposed economic sanctions on several Chinese companies for providing defense-related goods to Russia.

The official state visit, Mr. Putin's first abroad since assuming a fifth term in office last month, included a red-carpet review of People's Liberation Army troops, a 21-gun salute and cheering schoolchildren waving Chinese and Russian flags at a welcoming ceremony at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

On Friday the two leaders are scheduled to visit the northeast city of Harbin, once known as "Little Moscow" because of its historically large Russian population and Russian Orthodox-style architecture. Mr. Putin's visit is meant in part to mark 75 years of relations between with two autocratic neighbors.

Greater technology cooperation and stable operation of manufacturing and supply chains are also being strengthened, the Chinese leader said, and the two leaders also discussed the need for a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Ukraine war.

"China and Russia believe that the Ukraine crisis must be resolved by political means," Mr. Xi said.

At the Chinese Foreign Ministry, spokesman Wang Wenbin, asked what new material support China is offering

Russia's "war economy," said the question was an attempt to "shift the blame to China."

"China is committed to promoting talks for peace," Mr. Wang said. "But we refuse to be the scapegoat, still less will we foot the bill for others' actions."

China has accused the United States of causing the conflict in Ukraine and preventing its resolution through providing arms to the Ukrainian government.

China expert Miles Yu said Mr. Putin is on the International Criminal Court wanted list as a result of Russian war crimes in Ukraine, making it difficult to travel without being arrested.

"So Putin's international engagement venues are extremely limited," said Mr. Yu, director of the Hudson Institute China Center. "That's where China steps in to give Putin a global stage, acting like a godfather to provide protection for others shunned by the international community," he said.

"The one-on-one meeting with Xi is sending a different message to the West that a new global arrangement has arrived with China now the leader of the pack and Russia as China's new proxy, along with Iran and North Korea," Mr. Yu said.

The joint statement announced plans for expanded joint military drills, but did not provide details.

HOGAN

From page A1

restore Roe as the law of the land.”

Mr. Hogan went further when pressed on how he would classify his position.

“Given the definition of what I’m supporting — women’s rights to make their own decision — I would say that’s pro-choice,” he said.

Angela Alsobrooks, his Democratic rival, countered that Mr. Hogan is playing politics and cannot be trusted on the issue.

“Time and again, Larry Hogan has refused to support federal protections for abortion rights,” Ms. Alsobrooks said in a video that featured clips in which Mr. Hogan dodged questions

related to federal protections for abortion rights.

Ms. Alsobrooks said the Republican caucus that Mr. Hogan pledged to join in the Senate has made its abortion “agenda crystal clear.” It was an apparent reference to a push by Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina to put strict limits on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Democrats have benefited at the ballot box from the blowback against the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and send the issue back to the states.

They hope that energy will help President Biden win reelection and power down-ticket Democrats to victory in swing states and congressional districts that will decide whether they

defend their slim Senate majority and whether Republicans defend their razor-thin hold on the House.

Mr. Trump has sought to take some of the sting out of the unrelenting attacks from Democrats.

Although he takes credit for nominating the conservative Supreme Court justices who helped overturn Roe, Mr. Trump vows, if elected, to take a hands-off approach at the federal level. Like it or not, Mr. Trump says, the states will decide.

Mr. Hogan faces a different set of challenges in Maryland, where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans by roughly 2-to-1.

“If he is going to get close in Maryland, that is basically a prerequisite,” said J. Miles Coleman of the University

of Virginia Center for Politics. “With Maryland being such a blue state, basically Trump and ... powers that be in the Republican Party, they are going to have to give Hogan a lot of leeway or even let him take Democratic positions in a state like Maryland.”

The National Republican Senatorial Committee, the Senate Republicans’ campaign arm, did not respond to a request for comment.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee said Mr. Hogan “would vote to give far-right Republicans the Senate majority, putting Marylanders’ reproductive rights at risk.”

“That’s a dealbreaker for Maryland voters,” the group said on X. “No political posturing will change that.”

Mr. Hogan’s newfound abortion

stance could help insulate him from Democrats’ attempts to argue that he will do whatever Republican leaders want if they take over the Senate.

Before Thursday, Mr. Hogan was relatively coy about his stance on abortion rights at the federal level.

Pro-choice activists, including Planned Parenthood, accused him of having an extreme record on abortion.

At his primary election night party, Mr. Hogan hinted that he could take a firmer pro-choice stand.

“To the women of Maryland, you have my word that I will continue to protect your right to make your own reproductive health decisions just like I did for eight years when I had the honor and privilege to serve as your governor,” Mr. Hogan said.

GARLAND

From page A1

memoir, “Promise Me, Dad.”

The Justice Department released redacted transcripts of the Hur interviews earlier this year, but lawmakers say they need the audiotapes to determine whether prosecutors are delivering impartial justice.

Mr. Biden’s Republican opponent in November, former President Donald Trump, is facing dozens of charges in Florida by special counsel Jack Smith over a stash of classified documents he took from the White House in January 2017 and stored at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

Mr. Biden received an \$8 million advance for his memoir, and Mr. Hur cited it as one of the president’s motivations for taking the classified documents.

“We have motive. We have the elements of the crime. But he doesn’t get charged, and yet President Trump does,” Mr. Jordan said. “Is this the impartial administration of justice by the Justice Department? That’s our objective. That’s our goal. And the best way to figure all that out is to get all the evidence.”

Mr. Jordan said lawmakers need the audiotapes because Mr. Hur’s transcript of the interviews is “not sufficient evidence of the state of the president’s memory, frankly because the White House has a track record of altering the transcripts.”

Mr. Biden, 81, has low approval ratings and poll numbers that show voters question whether he is too old for a second term. Mr. Hur reported that Mr. Biden had several memory lapses during the interviews and forgot when his son Beau Biden died from brain cancer.

Democrats seeking to shield Mr. Biden from the potentially embarrassing



House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan (left) and ranking member Jerrold Nadler oversaw an 18-15 vote Thursday to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt of Congress. Hours earlier, President Biden asserted executive privilege.

audio said the Hur transcripts are sufficient. They accused Republicans of seeking the audiotapes to distort them for political purposes.

“They want the video for Donald Trump’s campaign commercials,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, California Democrat.

Hours before the contempt vote, Justice Department attorneys wrote to Mr. Jordan and Oversight and Accountability Committee Chairman James Comer,

Kentucky Republican, informing them of the executive privilege assertion.

The letter said releasing the recordings would “damage future law enforcement efforts and that the committee’s continued demands raise serious separation of powers concerns.”

On Thursday, White House counsel Ed Siskel wrote a separate letter to House lawmakers saying the effort to obtain the recordings was a politically

motivated effort to embarrass Mr. Biden. He said Republicans didn’t have a legitimate purpose for the materials beyond to “chop them up, distort them, and use them for partisan political purposes.”

Republicans said the president waived executive privilege when the transcripts were released and that Congress needs the tapes to conduct legitimate oversight into Mr. Biden’s removal and improper storage of classified documents.

Mr. Hur, who has since resigned from the Justice Department, cited the audio recordings in his decision not to charge Mr. Biden with mishandling classified documents. In a final report, Mr. Hur wrote that the president came across as “a sympathetic, well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory.”

Republican lawmakers said the audiotapes would help them determine whether Mr. Hur’s assessment of the president was accurate and whether he deserved to escape criminal charges.

“If our commander in chief is so incompetent that he cannot stand trial and he’s not fit to stand trial, then he’s too incompetent, for God’s sake, to be the leader of the most powerful nation on the face of the Earth,” said Rep. Jefferson Van Drew, New Jersey Republican. “If President Biden is competent and special counsel Hur’s assessment was incorrect, then President Biden should face a jury for his crimes of mishandling classified materials.”

Mr. Hur’s report said Mr. Biden shared classified information with Mr. Zwonitzer. When Mr. Zwonitzer learned of Mr. Hur’s appointment in the case, he deleted some audio recordings of his interviews with Mr. Biden.

Mr. Biden testified in March that Mr. Biden revealed classified documents about the war in Afghanistan to Mr. Zwonitzer in February 2017 and “read classified information out loud” to him.

The author did not hold a security clearance.

Mr. Hur’s testimony undermined Mr. Biden’s argument that he did not willfully take or share boxes of classified information found in his Washington office and at his home in Wilmington, Delaware. Some of the material was left in a pile in his garage.

Mr. Biden’s book reached No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list.

COURT

From page A1

separate the branches of government and that spending is Congress’ responsibility.

“The Framers would be shocked, even horrified, by this scheme,” Justice Alito wrote in an opinion joined by Justice Neil M. Gorsuch.

He said the effect is to insulate the CFPB from Congress’ direct oversight, leaving the board free to pursue policies such as a recent warning to banks not to deny credit to illegal immigrants because of their unlawful presence and a proposal to delete medical bills from Americans’ credit reports.

All sides acknowledged that the CFPB’s funding is “novel,” though Justice Thomas said it wasn’t far afield from how early congresses funded the customs service through collected fees.

Rather than receiving allocations from Congress, the CFPB gets its money from the Federal Reserve, which raises

it from fees and securities sales.

Ms. Warren, then a Harvard University law professor, pushed the idea of a consumer bureau after the 2008 Wall Street crash. She said the political branches of government were either too captured by donors or too asleep to act.

The CFPB was created with a single director insulated from firing except in egregious circumstances, protecting the person from a president’s ire. The director can set the agency’s budget, protecting the bureau from direct congressional meddling.

In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that the firing restrictions were unconstitutional but left the bulk of the bureau intact.

Opponents hoped to use the funding issue as a deeper strike at the CFPB.

The Community Financial Services Association of America and the Consumer Service Alliance of Texas challenged CFPB’s payday lending rule, which restricted lenders’ ability to

provide overly burdensome loans and to access borrowers’ accounts to demand repayment.

The groups won their case before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year. The judges ruled that Congress illegally surrendered its power to appropriate funds to the bureau.

That court said the payday rule must be vacated because it can be traced back to the CFPB’s unconstitutional funding structure.

Other federal appeals courts have upheld the CFPB’s arrangement. Those courts noted that other federal agencies, such as the Federal Reserve and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, also have budget autonomy.

House Financial Services Committee Chairman Patrick McHenry, North Carolina Republican, said the Supreme Court’s decision invites Congress to revisit the CFPB’s funding and impose more oversight on the “rogue” agency.

“It’s past time the CFPB is held accountable to the American people

through their elected representatives,” he said.

Congress’ willingness to hand over powers and responsibilities to the executive branch has been a long-running issue at the Supreme Court. Many conservative legal scholars have urged the justices to play a more active role in protecting Congress from itself.

Dan Greenberg, general counsel at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, said in a statement that the ruling shows the high court will not do that.

“This decision marks an alarming failure by the Court to police the proper exercise of Congress’s constitutional powers,” he said.

Joseph Lynyak, a partner at Dorsey & Whitney, said a ruling against the CFPB might have invalidated every decision the bureau has made since its founding. It also could have undermined other financial regulatory agencies with levels of budget autonomy.

“The Supreme Court today did the correct thing by rejecting the extremely

narrow reading of the Appropriations Clause,” he said.

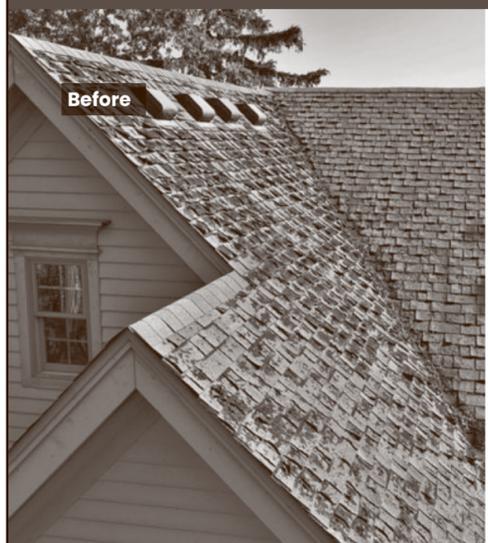
Ms. Warren took a victory lap. She said the agency has effectively protected consumers against big banks and aggressive lenders and has “returned more than \$20 billion in ill-gotten funds to American families.”

“This isn’t the last attack on the CFPB we’ll see from Wall Street, the banks & their Republican allies. When an agency is this effective at sticking up for families against industry’s consumer abuses, it’s an obvious target for million dollar lobbying campaigns,” Ms. Warren said on X.

In his dissent, Justice Alito acknowledged that the majority’s ruling provided a clear rule, but he said it “comes at too high a price,” delivering the kind of budget independence that a monarchy government “would envy.”

“There are times when it is our duty to say simply that a law that blatantly attempts to circumvent the Constitution goes too far. This is such a case,” he said.

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Region

MARYLAND

Moore signs bill to create state gun violence prevention center

Two measures honor slain Baltimore tech CEO

By **BRIAN WITTE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNAPOLIS | Maryland Gov. Wes Moore signed a bill into law on Thursday to create a new state-wide center to help prevent gun violence.

The governor described the center as the first of its kind since the White House urged states to form their own centers to better focus efforts to stop gun violence.

Mr. Moore also signed two other measures related to guns into law, including a bill that would enable state and local officials to hold members of the firearm industry accountable in civil court if they fail to meet minimum standards to prevent harm.

Another law expands the definition of "rapid fire trigger activator" to include auto sears, also known as Glock switches, banning

them in the state.

Last year, President Biden created the first-ever federal office of gun violence prevention, which is overseen by Vice President Kamala Harris. The office coordinates efforts across the federal government to offer help and guidance to states struggling with gun violence. The administration has called on states to create their own offices to help focus federal grants to reduce violence.

"Maryland became the first state in the nation to officially answer President Biden's call," Mr. Moore, a Democrat, said at a news conference during his fourth bill-signing ceremony of the year.

The center, which the governor proposed in his legislative package, is being created to foster a statewide partnership with federal and local agencies to reduce gun violence. The Center for

Firearm Violence Prevention will be part of the state health department to implement a public health approach to the problem.

The governor also highlighted other public safety measures he signed Thursday that were passed in the state's annual 90-day legislative session, which ended last month.

Two of the bills honor the memory of Baltimore tech CEO Pava Marie LaPere, who was killed last September. One of the new laws will prohibit a person imprisoned for first-degree rape from receiving early release credits automatically for good behavior. The man charged in LaPere's slaying had been released from prison in October 2022 after serving a shortened sentence for a 2013 rape because he earned good behavior credits behind bars.

Another bill creates the Pava



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore on Thursday signed legislation to create a center to help prevent gun violence. He called it the first of its kind since the White House urged states to focus their efforts to improve safety.

LaPere Innovation Acceleration Grant Program to provide grants to technology-based startup companies founded by students.

"They both make sure that the tragedy that happened to Pava never happens again, and they also celebrate the light that Pava was and that she still is," said Mr.

Moore, who had met LaPere.

Mr. Moore also signed a package of juvenile justice reforms into law that are aimed at improving accountability and rehabilitation in response to complaints about increasing crimes like auto theft and handgun violations in parts of the state.

"Children in the system do not have clear pathways to rehabilitation, and there is no meaningful oversight of this process," Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones, Baltimore County Democrat, said before the governor signed the legislation designed to change that. "All the while, we've seen a spike in behavioral health issues and a proliferation of handguns in our communities since the pandemic. House Bill 814 acknowledges this reality and says we want to help."

Mr. Moore also signed other public safety measures he prioritized, including a bill to increase apprenticeships in public safety to help boost the ranks of law enforcement officers. He also signed a bill to compensate victims of crime.

The governor also signed a bill to create a permanent funding source for the state's 988 mental health crisis helpline by adding a fee of 25 cents to cellphone bills.

MARYLAND

Crew's future remains an open question

Detainment since bridge collapse nearly over for 21 still aboard

By **BEN FINLEY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A crew of Indian and Sri Lankan men has spent the last eight weeks confined to a hulking and motionless cargo vessel in Baltimore, its bow pinned by what's left of the shattered bridge it struck.

Demolition crews set off explosives Monday to push broken bridge trusses away from the grounded Dali container ship, which lost power and struck one of the columns of the Francis Scott Key Bridge on March 26, causing the entire structure to collapse. But even as the ship moves closer to freedom, the crew's future remains an open question.

The 21 crew members are still on board. They've had their phones seized by investigators. And bodies of the six construction workers who were fixing potholes on the bridge when it collapsed have been pulled from the water around them.

Some worry they'll be held personally liable for the disaster. "While some crew members are coping, morale has understandably dipped," two unions representing the seafarers said in a statement.

Here's what we know about the Dali's crew, what they've been doing and what their concerns are:

The Rev. Mark Nestlehutt, president and executive director of the New York-based Seamen's Church Institute, said he and others boarded the Dali about a week after the crash to



The 21 crewmen remain aboard the grounded Dali container ship eight weeks after the vessel lost power and struck one of the columns of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore.

provide a "compassionate ear" to the crew.

"Everybody was trying to make the best out of a tragic situation," Mr. Nestlehutt said. "At that point, the only real question for the seafarers was when they might be able to go home."

Food has not been a concern. The Dali was well-stocked for what was supposed to be a long voyage, while additional food has been brought onboard as well, said Darrell Wilson, a spokesperson for Synergy Marine, the Dali's Singapore-based management company.

Crew members have stayed busy, focused on the many tasks of running a large cargo vessel. They've also participated in the ongoing federal investigation into the crash and assisted with salvage operations of the collapsed bridge.

They've received visits from unions and religious groups. Most of the crew are Hindu, Mr. Nestlehutt said, but others are Muslim and Christian.

Bishop Adam J. Parker of the Archdiocese of Baltimore visited the ship in early May and held mass with three Roman Catholic crew members in a small office, said Andrew Middleton, director of the archdiocese's Apostleship of the Sea.

Mr. Middleton said they also passed along care packages, including from a stranger in Minnesota, that had candy, socks and puzzles, among other things.

Crew members have expressed concerns about their phones being seized by federal investigators, Mr. Nestlehutt said.

Mr. Wilson said the phones have been replaced with new

ones, and Synergy Marine said in a statement in early April that the crew had unlimited use of the ship's satellite communications to stay in touch with family.

But Mr. Nestlehutt and unions say the new phones lack the important personal information that's on the old phones, such as contacts, family photos and banking apps for transferring money back home to their families.

The two unions representing crew members, the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union and the Singapore Organisation of Seamen, called for the "swift return" the phones in a statement.

The unions said the men also suffered emotional distress from witnessing the crash and have an "unfounded fear of personal criminal liability."

MARYLAND

Appeals court rejects parents' objections to LGBTQ books

Panel says case not made to remove kids from elementary school classes

By **MARK A. KELLNER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A federal appeals court has ruled that parents in Montgomery County can't remove their elementary school-age children from classes that include books on human sexuality and gender.

The parents — Muslim, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish — had asked the court to uphold their religious free-exercise rights to opt their children out of classes where the books were being used.

Montgomery County Public Schools, the state's largest school district, unveiled the "inclusivity" reading program in the fall of 2022 for students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

One of the books to which the parents objected, "Pride Puppy," tells three- and four-year-old students to find images from a vocabulary list including "intersex flag," "drag queen," "underwear," "leather," and the name of a celebrated LGBTQ activist and sex worker.

Another volume, "Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope," promoted what attorneys representing the parents said was a "child-knows-best" view of gender transitioning. They claimed teachers were "instructed to say doctors only 'guess' when identifying a newborn [child's] gender."

Initially, MCPS allowed parents to remove their children from the discussions. But the district, with the backing of the county's board of education, reversed its policy for the 2023-2024 school year, and would no longer notify parents in advance about readings from the disputed texts.

Two members of a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond said Wednesday the parents hadn't made their case for a preliminary injunction against the county's school district, and couldn't show that their fears about classroom instruction had been realized.

"We understand the Parents' contention that the Storybooks could be used in ways that would confuse or mislead children and, in particular, that discussions relating to their contents could be used to indoctrinate their children into espousing views that are contrary to their religious faith," Judge G. Steven Agee, named to the bench by President

George W. Bush, wrote for the majority. "But none of that is verified by the limited record that is before us."

Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, a Biden appointee, joined Judge Agee in refusing the parents' request.

Throughout the majority opinion, Judge Agee emphasized that there was no "developed record" of how the storybooks were actually being used in a class. That a book is present in a given classroom is not enough to demonstrate an imposition on religious free exercise, he said.

"Proof that [classroom] discussions are pressuring students to recast their own religious views — as opposed to merely being exposed to the differing viewpoints of others — could serve as evidence that the Storybooks are being used in a coercive manner," Judge Agee added.

Dissenting Judge A. Marvin Quattalbaum Jr. took issue with MCPS' reversal on allowing parents to remove their pre-K to fifth-grade students from such discussions.

"The board granted religious opt-outs for the texts during the 2022/2023 school year, when it advanced the same interest of making its schools safe and inclusive for those in the LGBTQ+ community," wrote Judge Quattalbaum, a Trump appointee. "And still today, the board permits opt-outs for family life and human sexuality instruction. How can barring religious opt-outs be narrowly tailored to the board's stated interests when it has permitted less restrictive measures in the past and currently?"

Eric Baxter, vice president and senior counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represented the parents, said an appeal would follow the 4th Circuit decision.

"The court just told thousands of Maryland parents they have no say in what their children are taught in public schools," Mr. Baxter said in a statement. "That runs contrary to the First Amendment, Maryland law, the school board's own policies, and basic human decency."

Parents should have the right to receive notice and opt their children out of classroom material that violates their faith."

The Washington Times has contacted Montgomery County Public Schools for comment.

VIRGINIA

Biden's National Park Service blocks Memorial Day Mass at cemetery

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The same Biden administration that has allowed a migrant encampment on National Park Service land is drawing the line at the Knights of Columbus.

For the second year in a row, the agency has rebuffed the Catholic fraternal group's request to hold a Memorial Day Mass at the Poplar Grove National Cemetery at the Petersburg National Battlefield in Petersburg, Virginia, interrupting a tradition that dates back more than 60 years.

Attorneys for the Knights of Columbus Council 694 urged agency officials in Petersburg to

reconsider, requesting a response by Friday and warning of litigation unless the permit is granted.

"In 2023, for the first time in memory, NPS denied the Knights a permit to hold the service in the cemetery, citing a new policy which, you say, forbids a 'religious service' in the cemetery as a prohibited 'demonstration,'" said the letter this week from John Moran, attorney for the local council, and the First Liberty Institute.

The letter said that the Knights were asked to hold the Mass outside the cemetery.

"Because the mass is religious, you insist that the Knights must hold their service, if at all, outside the cemetery walls in a

designated 'free speech' zone. But to be clear, that is not an adequate substitute," he said.

Alexa Viets, Petersburg National Battlefield superintendent, said officials "are currently reviewing" the permit request.

"The National Park Service recognizes and respects the First Amendment rights of individuals and groups to express their views and assemble in designated park areas," she told The Washington Times.

The incident comes with the Biden administration under investigation by the House Natural Resources Committee for allowing a migrant encampment on Brooklyn's Floyd Bennett Field,

which NPS manages.

In their letter, attorneys for the Knights traced the denial to an August 2022 policy memorandum from NPS Director Charles Sams, a Biden appointee, emphasizing that "demonstrations," which include "picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding a vigil or religious service," are prohibited in national cemeteries.

The guidance said the definition of "demonstrations" depends on whether the event "involves communication or expression of views or grievances," and likely will "attract a crowd or onlookers."

What's puzzling is that another Knights of Columbus council has been cleared to hold its annual Memorial Day Mass on May 27 at the Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia, an event NPS is promoting on its website.

Roger Byron, First Liberty Institute senior counsel, said he hopes the rejection was a mix-up that can be easily resolved.

Si, puedo nadar Democrats confounded by swimmers, border walls and presidential debates

New York Mayor Eric Adams just returned from Rome for a field trip to learn how to deal with the exploding Biden migrant population residing illegally in his city. He met with the pope.

There is no telling what Pope Francis told the mayor, but the answer should have been pretty clear.

Since about the 840s, the Vatican has protected itself by erecting massive stone walls surrounding the city — welcoming all, but requiring all visitors to enter through big beautiful gates controlled by the pope himself.

Elegant, simple and pretty smart, if you think about it. No word yet if Mr. Adams learned the right lesson.

Back in the USA, still struggling with the invasion of illegal Biden migrants staying rent-free at some of New York City's finest addresses, Mr. Adams tried to ignore the real problem and find some kind of silver lining to a problem that his party refuses to solve.

"How do we have a large body of people that are in our city and country that are excellent swimmers and at the same time we need lifeguards?" Mr. Adams pondered when asked about the chronic shortage of lifeguards at the city's public pools.

It was a fair question, one that might be obvious to anyone trying to actually solve an actual problem. Which meant it was kryptonite to the political experts who attacked Mr. Adams for somehow being racist — though nobody wants to explain exactly how this is racist.

Certainly, the city officials sitting with Mr. Adams agreed with him in the moment, nodding vigorously as if in church when the preacher says something particularly deep and illuminating.

Who knows? Maybe they are not sending their best swimmers. But Mr. Adams should be commended for trying to solve a problem in a thoughtful way that benefits — even saves the lives of — New York City's nonswimming population.

Already, the Biden password for getting into the USA illegally is "permiso." Perhaps Mr. Adams should drop leaflets in Mexico advising new waves of border crossers who want free access to New York City to say, "Si, puedo nadar."

Yes, I can swim.



New York Mayor Eric Adams

ASSOCIATED PRESS

And to further expedite the process, President Biden could instruct Border Patrol agents to issue swimming licenses to all illegals who successfully swim across the Rio Grande and maybe provide swimming lessons for those who require water wings to get across.

It looks like we might actually see a presidential debate after all. President Biden issued a desperate ultimatum to former President Donald Trump this week for two debates — moderated, of course, by Mr. Biden's shameless defenders in the left-wing media.

Anytime you see an incumbent politician demanding to debate the challenger, you know the incumbent is in deep trouble. This comes as polling shows Mr. Biden's effort to jail Mr. Trump rather than face him in an election is backfiring badly.

Mr. Biden and his Democratic allies have concocted no fewer than five court cases designed to distract, humiliate, bankrupt and even jail Mr. Trump. Yet polls show that the trials only seem to help Mr. Trump and solidify his bona fides as an outsider agent of change for Washington.

The current case in New York, orchestrated by Democratic prosecutors and argued by Mr. Biden's No. 3 man from the Department of Justice, was designed to humiliate not just Mr. Trump but his entire family.

Yet now it is Democrats who are desperate to distance Mr. Biden from the trial. CNN pundits from Anderson Cooper to James Carville are repeating absurd talking points that Mr. Biden had nothing to do with the prosecutions.

Um-kay. Just goes to show how badly these dishonest and disgusting court cases have backfired politically.

Voters realize that Mr. Biden's use of the judicial system to attack his political enemy is not really an attack on Mr. Trump. It is an attack on our judicial system and every freedom-loving American who cherishes our judicial system.

And voters are ready to punish somebody for it.

Charles Hurt is the opinion editor at The Washington Times.

Speaker Johnson offers a lesson in the power of intellectual honesty And the dangers of predisposed bias

By Daniel N. Hoffman

Training in clandestine operations in the earliest days of my CIA career was a formative experience, and not just because I learned how to recruit spies and steal secrets. Equally important, my fellow trainees and I were imbued with the preeminent importance the agency places on intellectual honesty.

It all began when my CIA instructors called me out when my performance was lacking. I had to demonstrate that I could listen to their constructive feedback and incorporate it into ensuing training exercises. Otherwise, I would have washed out.

I learned early on to appreciate honest feedback — even if it was not pleasant to hear. Why? Because someday, our sources' lives might depend on it.

On subsequent overseas and headquarters assignments, I learned valuable lessons about analytical precision and the dangers of predisposed bias, which could warp one's interpretation of events. Intelligence analysis is a rigorously inductive process, whereby conclusions are drawn based on facts and source information.

That's why the biblical quotation John 8:32 is fixed in stone at the CIA's headquarters building: "And Ye Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free."

Over the course of my career, I regularly testified before the House and Senate intelligence panels and briefed CIA directors, White House aides and Cabinet officials. In my experience, most elected officials, no matter their political affiliation, appreciated that they would be briefed on what they needed to know, even when it was not necessarily what they wanted to hear.

I remember how, when he was serving as CIA director, retired Gen. David Petraeus told us he would, figuratively speaking, take a moment to "sit under a tree" to let an idea sink in after receiving analysis in the packed CIA seventh-floor conference room, especially an idea that conflicted with one of his assessments. His commitment to gaining a 360-degree perspective on the issue at hand made it clear he valued our work and was focused solely on the success of the mission.

Last month, House Speaker Mike Johnson demonstrated that same high standard of leadership when he put the \$95 billion supplemental military assistance package, which included \$60 billion for Ukraine, to a vote. The Louisiana Republican initially opposed the

package, but — like some of my best mentors — he demonstrated the strength of character to challenge his own assumptions.

I learned firsthand that when the CIA's reporting conflicted with an elected official's view of the world, we would face follow-up questions and be sent back to our sources for further data collection. Real policy debate happens only when both sides agree on the facts and use intelligence briefings to inform rather than justify an a priori policy.

Mr. Johnson reportedly received highly sensitive briefings from CIA Director William Burns and sage counsel from House committee chairs who support Ukraine's fight against Russia. Lauding the intelligence analysis he received, the speaker emphasized that "Vladimir Putin would continue to march through Europe if he were allowed. I'd rather send bullets to Ukraine than American boys."

Among those American boys, Mr. Johnson no doubt had in mind his own son, who is to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in the autumn.

Mr. Johnson's deft stewardship of this legislation reflected his ability to forge bipartisan consensus, even when our country is so deeply divided. There's a lot of gridlock on Capitol Hill because Democrats and Republicans so rarely see their way to compromise, and the speaker is working with the tiniest of majorities in the House.

Mr. Johnson's inspired leadership recalled the days when House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill and President Ronald Reagan, two political polar opposites, found common ground with a lot of good humor despite their political differences, all to the benefit of our nation. They never let the perfect be the enemy of the good, even though Reagan saw the government as "the problem" and O'Neill believed the government existed to improve the lives of our citizens.

Reagan and O'Neill practiced the true art of the deal: They compromised on everything from tax reform to Social Security and prioritized what was best for our nation, even if it meant not getting everything they wanted. The secret of their success was simple: intellectual honesty, mutual respect and goodwill.

Reagan and O'Neill understood that what binds us together as Americans should always outweigh whatever drives Democrats and Republicans apart on the passing issues of the day. As we face off against an unprecedented number of ruthless foreign adversary nation-states and terrorists, we should be thankful to Mr. Johnson for honoring their example and their legacy.

Daniel N. Hoffman is a retired clandestine services officer and former chief of station with the Central Intelligence Agency. His combined 30 years of government service included high-level overseas and domestic positions at the CIA. He has been a Fox News contributor since May 2018.



THE BIG PICTURE
BY DANIEL N. HOFFMAN



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

Today's college students are being educated into imbecility Marxist indoctrination has led to narrow-minded and destructive mentality

By Craig J. DeLuz

The upheaval happening on college campuses today is no accident. It is the fruition of a long-standing trend toward Marxist indoctrination in our universities.

For decades, elite institutions such as Columbia, Harvard,

Yale, MIT and Princeton have favored applicants who display the appropriate "social justice" opinions and hired faculty who promote these ideals. They have solidified this mindset by pushing the language of identity and the "oppressed vs. oppressor" narrative. Few have played a greater role in this transformation of education than a little-known Brazilian educator named Paulo Freire.

Freire transformed modern education by emphasizing the importance of political education. He believed true education was not just about passing on facts and information but rather about empowering individuals to challenge "oppressive systems" and work toward social change.

Through his influential work, such as "Pedagogy of the Oppressed," Freire challenged traditional teaching methods. He advocated a more "participatory and democratic" approach to education that de-emphasized reading, writing and arithmetic in favor of encouraging students to become "agents of change in their communities." He showed that

education is a powerful tool for Marxist transformation. His impact on education continues to be felt worldwide.

Instead of fostering critical thinking and open-mindedness, his ideas have led to a narrow-minded and often destructive mentality in some students. This has far-reaching consequences, as seen in the current issue surrounding Israel and the Palestinians.

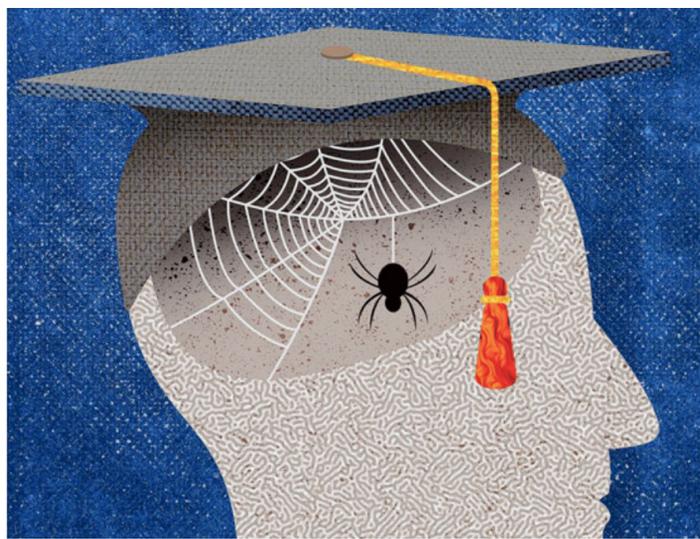


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

My heart aches for the Jewish students who, in 2024, in America no less, are living in fear on their own campuses. We have reached a point where Rabbi Elie Buechler of Columbia University has advised Jewish students to stay home because the university and the police cannot guarantee their safety.

How have American Jews found themselves caught up in this turmoil? It is no surprise, as the left has labeled Israel as the "oppressor" in the narrative of the Middle East. And it seems not to matter that just a few months ago, on Oct. 7, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel and massacred 1,200 people, the majority of whom were innocent civilians, including women and children. But this is what happens when a simplistic "us vs. them" ideology prevails and justifies any cruelty.

The version of Marxism that is now rampant on our campuses has

» see DELUZ | B3

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Expand the ban on NGO earmarks

Taxpayers shouldn't be underwriting left-wing activist groups

Radical pressure groups are agitating for a return of congressional earmarks for “nonprofit” organizations. This was in response to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole, Oklahoma Republican, who announced last month that members would no longer be allowed to secure pork for nongovernmental organizations in their districts.

Representatives use earmarks to create expensive projects as tangible proof they're getting things done in Washington for their constituents. This abuse of the public purse is a major reason why incumbents win reelection 94.5% of the time.

Republicans ought to have outlawed all forms of earmarking, but it's hard to see how that's possible while operating with a bare majority. Well intentioned as they may have been, Republicans such as Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia dramatically weakened the GOP leadership's position by forcing the speaker to cut deals with moderates and Democrats.

And Democrats are simply better at using earmarks to advance their agenda and dish out rewards to political allies. Earmarks ensure groups that aren't funded by the administration's budgetary discretion can still enjoy the pile of cash sent their way by individual member designation.

This fuels the left-wing “non-profit” groups that serve as foot soldiers of the Democratic Party. It's also why LGBTQ groups are agitating to lift the new NGO funding ban, arguing that its only purpose is to deny essential funding for valuable organizations. You know, the ones that put on drag shows and promote child mutilation.

Earmarks remain a major drag on the federal budget. The most recent “Pig Book” from Citizens Against Government Waste

calculated the impact of nearly 7,400 earmarks at \$36.1 billion.

Among the set-asides were \$11 million for taking away space on the road for cars to build bike paths that will be used exclusively by a handful of wealthy, liberal White men — the primary demographic of bicycle commuters — eager to signal their virtue at taxpayer expense.

Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy of Connecticut and Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts secured \$3 million for local aquariums that are sitting on \$107 million in assets, according to Citizens Against Government Waste. All of these nonpolitical earmarks will continue.

Congress also dispatched over \$1 billion in earmarks to universities around the country, according to Inside Higher Ed. Both Republicans and Democrats share a fascination with shoveling money at these left-leaning institutions despite their massive endowments.

Why, for example, send \$6 million in taxpayer funds to the University of California to investigate “Offshore Pollution Impacts on Living Marine Resources and Bioremediation Assessment of DDT” when the UC System has \$169 billion in its treasure chest? Why should taxpayers give UC San Francisco \$500,000 to buy all-electric shuttle buses? The answer is, it boosts the reelection prospects of Sen. Alex Padilla, California Democrat.

The national debt is nearing \$34.6 trillion, and consumers are battling rising inflation and interest rates. At some point, politicians in Washington need to learn restraint. The ban on NGO earmarks is a good start, but it ought to be expanded into a complete ban should voters entrust the GOP with a more stable majority.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judiciary should absorb DOJ

There are three equal branches of the federal government, each designed to balance the powers of the others. The president, however, appoints or approves the heads of the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

When the three-branch concept was established by our Founders, none of these agencies existed. As a direct result of their existence, the executive

branch has grown far more powerful than ever intended. These agencies are fundamentally loyal to the president. They have unlimited-seeming funds and apparently unlimited access to personal and public information, which they use to decide who gets investigated, who gets prosecuted and more importantly, who doesn't.

Obvious abuses of that vast power have seen the mainstream press turn a blind eye, as it is joined at the hip with the current administration's ideology.

Let's take the Biden family, for example, whose members have more than 155 suspicious financial transactions reported by the banking industry. In that matter, the Justice Department has served only as an obstruction to the House's investigation.

Isn't it time the Justice Department be made part of the judiciary branch of the federal government?

CHUCK EARLY
Fenwick, Delaware

Constitution are all at stake, a few “bull---s” don't make it onto the radar screen, especially from a man uniquely qualified to restore our democracy — again.

ELIZABETH WARD NOTTRODT
Baltimore

Cursing hardly disqualifies Trump

Cal Thomas is a fine gentleman and a good writer. He would never say “s---,” as former President Donald Trump has (“Trump undermines himself with crude language,” web, May 13). But can he restore our democracy the way Mr. Trump has done?

I can happily, eagerly endure a

few “s---s” (a mild reaction to the unthinkable persecution Mr. Trump has endured since taking office in 2017) from a man who can reverse the tide of Marxism engulfing us.

At a time when all patriots need to stand up and be counted, when religion, freedom of speech and the

be convicted of some make-believe crime.

I do not understand how this judicial and election travesty is permitted to go on. Is the entire legal system of New York corrupt?

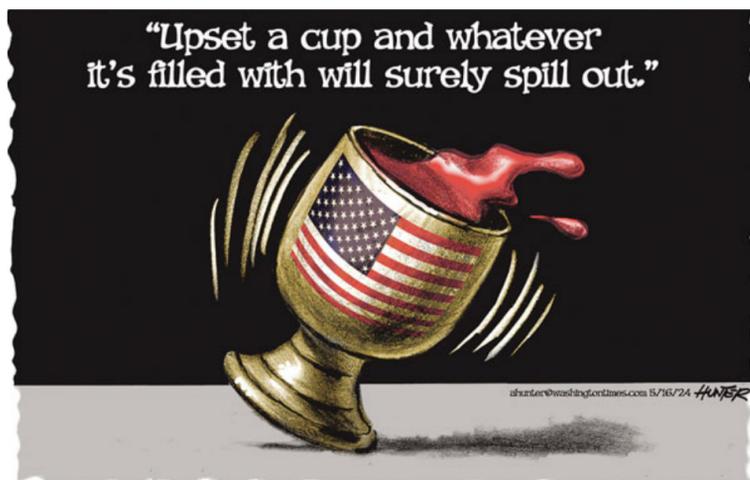
BOB SEGAL
Burke, Virginia

What qualifies as relevant?

The New York judge in the Donald Trump trial has denied Mr. Trump's request to have Mark Pomerantz, the unethical, book-writing former Manhattan special assistant district attorney, testify because, in the judge's words, the information he would provide would not be “relevant and material” to the proceedings.

Really? Well, isn't that interesting? Pray tell, what was in Stormy Daniels' testimony that was “relevant” or “material” to the proceedings?

This judge truly does not care what the public thinks of his running of this trial. He apparently cares only that Mr. Trump is kept trapped in the courtroom, where he can hopefully



An old proverb

BOOK REVIEW

THE ACHILLES TRAP: SADDAM HUSSEIN, THE C.I.A., AND THE ORIGINS OF AMERICA'S INVASION OF IRAQ

By Steve Coll

Penguin Press
556 pages, \$23.99

By Martin Di Caro

In the 21 years since the U.S. invaded Iraq, the world has sought answers as to why our political and intelligence leaders blundered into strategic and moral catastrophe. In “Confronting Saddam Hussein” (2023), the eminent historian Melvyn Leffler exonerated the George W. Bush administration of deliberate deception. Rather, in Mr. Leffler's view, the misguided war of choice stemmed from an earnest impulse to protect the country from terrorism.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author Steve Coll renders a somewhat harsher verdict in his latest work of narrative journalism covering decades of cooperation and conflict between Washington and Baghdad. “The Achilles Trap” winds back the clock to the Ba'ath Revolution and then proceeds inside Saddam's presidential palaces, where the dictator held sway over underlings afraid to challenge his delusional worldview.

Mr. Coll is an accomplished chronicler of American spycraft. “Ghost Wars” (2004) was a sublime account of the CIA's involvement in the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan and the pursuit of Osama bin Laden before 9/11. The follow-up volume, “Directorate S” (2018), charted the spy agency's hunt for radical Islamists in Afghanistan and Pakistan. These books demonstrate that Mr. Coll has few equals in the quality of his sources and ability to obtain classified documents. Add his storytelling flair and a cast of characters teeming with eccentric henchmen and shameless con men, and Mr. Coll has delivered another must-read book.

“The Achilles Trap” is partly based on more than 100 interviews with event participants — from clandestine operatives to Iraqi nuclear scientists. Even better, Mr. Coll obtained never-before-published audiotapes of Saddam's internal deliberations along with loads of Iraqi government documents.

These sources make it “possible to see in new ways what drove Saddam in his struggle with Washington, and to understand how and why American thinking about him was often wrong, distorted, or incomplete,” Mr. Coll writes. They reveal a leader consumed by suspicions of foreign spies and assassination plots who failed to grasp the nature of U.S. decision-making, not least because he espoused crude conspiracy theories about all-powerful Zionists manipulating events.

This is a story of mutual misperceptions and miscalculations rarely tempered by sufficient self-reflection. But Mr. Coll argues that the “forever war” between the U.S. and Iraq was avoidable. The missed opportunities began in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq War.

Amazing as this may seem today, Washington and Baghdad worked together from 1982. The Reagan White House authorized the CIA to share “satellite-derived intelligence about Iranian military vulnerabilities” to save

The errors of Iraq

‘The Achilles Trap’ details how ‘forever war’ could have been avoided

Saddam from losing his war of aggression against the ayatollahs. Even after the regime's genocidal gassing of the Kurds in 1988, President Ronald Reagan's team “did not want to break with Saddam,” Mr. Coll writes.

The year before, an Iraqi warplane killed 37 Americans aboard the USS Stark in a mistaken attack. Reagan did not publicly criticize Saddam, who immediately apologized.

“Saddam asked Reagan to ‘kindly convey to the families of the victims my personal condolences and sympathy,’” Mr. Coll writes. Partnership preserved. But the Iran-Contra scandal of 1986, which had exposed U.S. double-dealing, confirmed in Saddam's mind that the Americans could not be trusted.

Because U.S. leaders “pulled their punches when Saddam gassed his enemies,” the dictator figured he might get away with invading Kuwait. Days before Saddam sent his tanks into his defenseless neighbor on Aug. 2, 1990, President George H.W. Bush sent a letter to “reassure” Iraq's president that “my Administration continues to desire better relations with Iraq.”

“In the cascade of errors that led to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003, the Bush administration's failure to deter Saddam Hussein from invading Kuwait — as well as Saddam's

failure to grasp what would happen after he acted — stand out,” Mr. Coll writes. The U.S.-led campaign to liberate Kuwait in 1991 did not end the conflict. What followed was a succession of limited wars, cruel sanctions, and U.N. weapons inspections amid the alarm caused by the discovery of Iraq's secret (and then dormant) nuclear program.

By the time a second Bush was in the White House, Saddam was convinced the all-knowing CIA had to be aware he no longer possessed weapons of mass destruction. U.N. inspectors found no weapons. Yet both the agency and neoconservative hawks, fed false reports by a parade of con men and fabulists, held a “collective presumption” that Saddam was hiding something and, therefore, was a threat to world peace.

Top Clinton administration officials believed the same, and President Bill Clinton embraced the goal of regime change without any practical idea of how to achieve it. Did President George W. Bush and his war Cabinet lie about WMD? Lie is not the word the author chooses. Rather, they “marketed through exaggerations of available evidence and unabashed fearmongering.”

Given the consequences — the hundreds of thousands dead, maimed and displaced, the shredding of U.S. prestige — Mr. Coll's conclusion is tough to dispute. America's most persistent enemy might have been managed rather than eliminated. More vexing is why history's most powerful nation thought a tin-pot dictator was worthy of attention.

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Martin Di Caro hosts the “History as It Happens” podcast at *The Washington Times*.

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The Wisconsin model

Badger State blazes trail in limiting government overreach, empowering taxpayers

By Scott Walker and Jake Curtis

During the Walker administration, we enacted some of the boldest reforms in the nation. Five years later, Wisconsin still ranks second in the nation on the Federalism Scorecard issued by the State Policy Network. Our reforms protected the role of elected officials over unelected bureaucrats and prevented the federal government from exerting undue influence over state policy.

Fueled by grassroots energy and the desire to reform state government, Wisconsin set off on a bold course in 2011. While much attention was focused on the historic Act 10 legislation that wrested bargaining power from public sector unions to the benefit of Wisconsin taxpayers, the Walker administration began working with reform-minded legislators to address the administrative state that for far too long had left state agencies with nearly limitless power to exert policy preferences over the will of the elected Legislature.

First, 2011 Act 21 provided that no agency could implement or enforce any standard, requirement or threshold (including as a term or condition of any license it issued) unless such an action was explicitly required or permitted by statute or rule. Implied or perceived authority would no longer be the norm.

In addition, each proposed rule would require state agencies to submit a “statement of scope” to the governor for his review. An economic impact analysis relating to specific business sectors, public utility ratepayers, local government units and the state’s economy as a whole was also required.

Other important laws followed. 2017 Act 39 required that agencies submit a proposed rule to the Legislature before a scope statement expired, resulting in certainty to the regulated community and a 30-month deadline. 2017 Act 57 was the state version of the REINS Act.

While this is a longtime policy goal of conservatives nationwide, Wisconsin became the first state to enact such a reform (just last month, Kansas became the second). Congress has failed to turn this into a reality at the federal level. Wisconsin agencies must determine whether a proposed rule would impose \$10 million or more in implementation and compliance costs over two years. If such a finding is made, an agency is prohibited from promulgating



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

the rule without authorizing legislation or germane modification to reduce the costs below the threshold.

Solidifying the connection to Act 21, Act 57 also required that the Wisconsin Department of Administration review an agency’s scope statement before presentation to the governor. Finally,

2017 Act 108 created an expedited process for the repeal of certain “unauthorized rules.”

On top of these acts, the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued its groundbreaking decision in *Tetra Tech v. Wisconsin Department of Revenue*. The court’s lead opinion, written by then-Justice Daniel Kelly (appointed to the court by Gov. Scott Walker)

ended its “practice of deferring to administrative agencies’ conclusions of law.” The Legislature ultimately codified the new standard in 2017 Act 369.

Combined, these acts and the *Tetra Tech* decision have unsurprisingly resulted in Wisconsin’s being the state least vulnerable to federal pressure, second only to Utah. It’s critical to recognize that the report looks at internal and external factors.

The report explained: “A state that does not afford its legislature adequate powers of oversight, investigation, and reversal of executive branch actions is therefore incapable of protecting its citizens from a key entry point for federal influence: its own state officials.”

This is a diplomatic way of stating the obvious: If a state legislature can’t exercise oversight over its own executive branch, how could it be expected to resist the creeping tentacles of the federal bureaucracy?

The report’s findings are telling and make clear that internal and external controls should receive bipartisan support. Recent history has shown that control of the White House and Congress is in a continuous cycle of change. A “friendly” federal government may be considered an adversary two years later. But this shouldn’t be the case. Whether a state is red, blue or purple, it should ensure that the “will of the people,” best represented by a state legislature, exercises oversight of state executive agencies. And in so doing, it makes it less susceptible to federal intrusion into policymaking.

We must continue to argue that elected officials, not bureaucrats, making decisions at the state and local levels is far better than power centralized in the federal government. Most people would prefer that their taxes be used in their communities — supporting schools, fixing roads, caring for older adults — and not sent to the federal government, where we get back pennies on the dollar.

The latest report from the State Policy Network shows that our administration was a trailblazer in limiting government overreach and empowering Wisconsin’s taxpayers. The Wisconsin model charts a path forward for other reform-minded governors and legislatures to follow.

Scott Walker is president of Young America’s Foundation and served as the 45th governor of Wisconsin. Jake Curtis is general counsel at the Institute for Reforming Government in Delafield, Wisconsin, and previously served as an agency chief legal counsel in the Walker administration.

By David Safavian

Recently, the D.C. Court of Appeals upbraided a longtime federal judge in Washington for his treatment of a Jan. 6 defendant. A public rebuke of a federal judge is noteworthy enough. The issue on which an appellate court reversed Judge Reggie Walton, however, highlights a larger problem in the federal supervision system.

Last year, Daniel Goodwyn was sentenced to two months in prison for the equivalent of trespassing on federal property. Aside from a ridiculous term of incarceration for a nonviolent, first-time trespassing charge, Judge Walton added an unprecedented condition to the period of postincarceration supervision. Federal officers were ordered to monitor Mr. Goodwyn’s computer to ensure he didn’t spread “disinformation.” The Court of Appeals slammed this condition, finding that Judge Walton plainly erred.

The federal supervision system requires officers to oversee newly released offenders to help them reintegrate and become law-abiding citizens. Because conditions of supervision are not supposed to be further punishment, their imposition must be reasonably related to the underlying crime and no greater than necessary to facilitate reentry. Evidently, Judge Walton failed to grasp those nuances.

Mr. Goodwyn wasn’t convicted of anything related to computer crimes or disinformation. He was charged with being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Thus, Judge Walton willingly stepped out of his lane to restrict Mr. Goodwyn’s computer use, regardless of the content of his social media posts.

But that’s the problem with this system. Judges routinely impose extra conditions on those who are subject to

Justice system must manage probationers more efficiently

Passing the Safer Supervision Act would be a good first step



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

federal supervision, conditions that are often disconnected from the interests of public safety or reintegration of those returning home from prison. Thankfully, Judge Walton got called on it in this case — a rare occurrence in our justice system.

Eleven years ago, I was caught up in a political scandal, and after fighting in two trials and two appeals, I was convicted of making false statements and obstructing an agency proceeding. (I was pardoned by President Donald

Trump in 2020.) When I was on supervised release, I had to undergo weekly drug testing and provide all my bank statements to the probation officers. I was forbidden from opening credit accounts — despite not having been convicted of any financial or drug crimes. It simply made no sense.

Unfortunately, the government is prone to rely upon one-size-fits-all solutions to many problems facing Americans. This is certainly the case in the area of criminal justice, even

though tailored pathways to success are most effective. The one-size-fits-all approach costs more than it should yet accomplishes less than taxpayers deserve in terms of curbing recidivism and helping people become contributing members of society again.

The Safer Supervision Act, now before Congress, would change how the federal government runs supervised release. Not only would the legislation make clear that supervision conditions must be related to the underlying charges, but it would also establish a system that gives people incentives to complete their education, hold jobs, undergo mental health treatment, and take programming that has been proved to cut reoffending. Those who maintain a clean record and hit their targets can earn a presumption to reduce their supervision periods. This makes sense. They are a low risk for reoffending and have demonstrated that supervision is no longer necessary.

The Safer Supervision Act’s incentive system is not unlike the incentives created in Mr. Trump’s signature First Step Act, which allowed inmates to earn credits to move from prison to home confinement sooner. The system has proved a success, lowering recidivism by 37%, according to the Council on Criminal Justice.

Why should policymakers focus on lowering recidivism? Because every repeat offense is another crime, another victim, and often another prison term, all of which have tremendous costs in terms of government spending and affliction for victims and families.

There is also another benefit to moving people through the supervision system who have demonstrated their commitment to being on the straight and narrow. As the number of Americans on supervised release has grown, probation officers have become overwhelmed. With large case files, they can’t devote the time and resources to those who need more intense supervision because they oversee so many people who are no longer threats to society.

This is what happened with Jaycee Dugard, who was kidnapped at age 11 and held captive for 18 years by someone under supervision. During that time, she was repeatedly raped and gave birth to two children in a shed. All the while, her kidnapper was visited regularly by probation officers who missed the signs because they had too many others to oversee.

The Safer Supervision Act would lower probation officers’ caseloads while offering incentives for good behavior. Because it will improve our justice system and reduce costs, the Safer Supervision Act has earned support from law enforcement and conservative policy organizations. It deserves immediate attention and action from Congress.

David Safavian is executive vice president and general counsel for the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Those who maintain a clean record and hit their targets can earn a presumption to reduce their supervision periods. This makes sense.

DeLuz

From page B1

evolved from its original economic roots, first formulated by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels’ “The Communist Manifesto,” published in 1848. Katharine Cornell Gorka and Mike Gonzalez have titled their latest book “NextGen Marxism” because what they see now has undergone a cultural transformation in Europe and has been further distorted here in the United States, with other elements such as race, sex and climate being added.

But make no mistake: The “oppressor vs. oppressed” paradigm is the essence of Marxism. In the opening lines of “The Communist Manifesto,” Marx and Engels state that “the history of all



hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles,” and they proceed to list various groups as the oppressed and their oppressors. This mentality has been dressed up in the language of

“social justice” by the revolutionaries who seek to fundamentally change our society, as President Barack Obama famously promised.

But we must be wary of this “social justice” idea because the goal is not to improve the lives of those they claim to help. In fact, many Marxists have realized that capitalism actually improves the lives of the poor. For example, Max Horkheimer, the German intellectual who devised the culturally Marxist critical theory approach, stated in 1969 that capitalism does not impoverish workers but helps them toward a better life.

But here in America, the torch of revolution has been passed to racial and sexual minority groups who are deemed by the Marxists as the “most oppressed” and, therefore, the most

deserving of a revolution. This is evident in the Black Lives Matter movement, whose leaders openly state that their goal is societal reconstitution. These leaders are all self-proclaimed Marxists, and their ideology is deeply rooted in the American version of critical theory known as critical race theory.

Yet these so-called revolutionaries fail to see that capitalism is not the enemy. Melina Abdullah, the head of Black Lives Matter Grassroots, went as far as to say that “when we feed capitalism, we feed racism” and claimed that “White capitalism feeds itself through the exploitation of Africa and Black people.” It is no surprise that this movement, fueled by Marxist ideas, has found a common cause with the Palestinian cause and views Israel

as an oppressor.

It is a sad reality that universities have allowed this poison to seep into their halls, and now we see the dire consequences in 2024. Perhaps it is time to reconsider where our tax dollars are going and demand that these universities cleanse themselves of this destructive ideology and cease educating students into imbecility.

Project 21 member Craig DeLuz is the founder of the Uncommon Sense Media Group. He has almost 30 years in media, political advocacy, policy analysis and grassroots activism. He is president and CEO of 2A News Corp. as well as spokesman for the California Republican Assembly, the Golden State’s largest and fastest-growing Republican volunteer organization.

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BRIEF

FAIRFAX COUNTY NOTICE

May 21, 2024

Public hearing before the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, to be held in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

TIME SUBJECT

3:30 p.m. SEA 91-D-016-02 - VIRGINIA RESTAURANTS, LLC, SEA Appl. to amend SEA 91-D-016 previously approved for an increase in height and FAR in the C-8 District for a hotel, a restaurant and two restaurants with drive throughs to allow site modifications, and an increase in the number of drive through lanes at an overall FAR of 0.58. Located at 2170 Centreville Rd., Herndon, 20170 on approx. 7.86 ac. of land zoned C-8. Dranesville District. Tax Maps 16-1 ((1)) 8 and 9.

3:30 p.m. PCA 79-P-038-03 (RZPA 2023-PR-00082) - JUNIPER PLACE, LLC, PCA Appl. to amend the proffers for RZ 79-P-038 previously approved for Industrial development to permit associated modifications to proffers and site design with an overall Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 0.069. Located on the W. side of Juniper St., approx. 600 ft. N. of Route 29 on approx. 20,066 sq. ft. of land zoned 1-5 and HC. Comp. Plan Rec: Mixed Use. Providence District. Tax Map 49-2 ((5)) 5.

3:30 p.m. SE 2023-SU-00030 - TYSON & FRIENDS LLC D/B/A THE DOG STOP, SE Appl. to permit the use of outdoor components associated with an indoor kennel. Located at 6001 Centreville Crest Ln., Centreville, 20121 on approx. 43,062 sq. ft. of land zoned C-7, HC, SC and WS. Sully District. Tax Map 54-4 ((1)) 117 (pt.).

3:30 p.m. SEA 2015-MV-003 - CLAUDIA C. TRAMONTANA AND FIRST YEARS LEARNING CENTER LLC, SEA Appl. to amend SE 2015-MV-003 previously approved for a home child day care facility, to amend development conditions to permit up to 12 children. Located on approx. 10,488 sq. ft. of land zoned PDH-2. Mount Vernon District. Tax Map 99-2 ((17)) 34.

3:30 p.m. RZ 2022-DR-00007 - DULLES CENTER LLC, RZ Appl. to rezone from PDC to PDH-12 to permit 48 stacked townhouse dwellings with an overall density of 11.38 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) inclusive of bonus density associated with affordable housing and to carry forward the previously approved drive through financial institution on a conceptual development plan. Located in the N.W. quadrant of the intersection of Centreville Rd. and Coppermine Rd. on approx. 4.69 ac. of land. Comp. Plan Rec: Residential Use at 8-12 du/ac. Dranesville District. Tax Map 16-3 ((1)) 6A, 6A1, 6B, 36 and 36A.

3:30 p.m. PCA 2011-PR-023-04/CDPA 2011-PR-023-03/(RZPA 2022-PR-00115) - CITYLINE PARTNERS LLC, PCA and CDPA Appl(s). to amend the proffers and conceptual development plan for RZ 2011-PR-023 for Block C2, previously approved for office and retail uses, to permit residential and retail uses and associated modifications to proffers and site design at a 2.18 Floor Area Ratio (FAR). Located on the S. side of Westpark Dr., E. of its intersection with Westbranch Dr., and W. of its intersection with Jones Branch Dr. on approx. 2.92 ac. of land zoned PTC. Comp. Plan Rec: Transit Station Mixed Use. Providence District. Tax Map 29-4 ((7)) 3A1.

4:00 p.m. PRC 80-C-111-02 (RZPA 2023-HM-00058) - FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, A BODY CORPORATE, PRC Appl. to approve the PRC plan associated with RZ 80-C-111 to permit renovation and building additions for Armstrong Elementary School. Located along Fairfax County Parkway (Rt. 286) and N. of Lake Newport Rd. on approx. 14.31 ac. of land zoned PRC. Comp. Plan Rec: Public Facilities, Governmental and Institutional. Hunter Mill District. Tax Map 11-3 ((1)) 12.

4:00 p.m. Public hearing regarding the acquisition of certain land rights necessary for the construction of Project 2G40-087-003, Burke Road Realignment from Aplomado Drive to Parakeet Drive (Springfield District). This project consists of the realignment of Burke Road to eliminate the sharp substandard curve between Heritage Square Drive and Mill Cove Court and includes replacement of the existing storm drainage pipe at the stream crossing, improving both safety and sight distance, while minimizing roadway flooding. This project also includes the installation of ADA-compliant ramps, pedestrian sidewalk, asphalt trail, and a connection to the existing Liberty Bell Trail along the project length of Burke Road from Aplomado Drive to Parakeet Drive. Plans and plats describing the work proposed to be done and the property interests to be acquired for this project are on file in the Land Acquisition Division of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

4:00 p.m. Public hearing to consider the conveyance of a Deed of Easement for Fiber Optic Lines on Board-Owned Property with an address of 6900 Newington Road and identified as Tax Map Nos. 0994 01 0015 and 0017, Mount Vernon District, to MetroDuct Systems VA LLC.

4:00 p.m. Public hearing on the proposed abandonment of portions of Cannonball Road pursuant to Virginia Code § 33.2-909, consisting of approximately 2,341 square feet, in the location as shown on that certain plat entitled "Exhibit Plat Showing the Abandonment of Portion of Cannonball Road Route 3150 Braddock District, Fairfax County, Virginia", dated November 29, 2023, and prepared by Pennoni Associates Inc. The road is located on Tax Map 56-3 and is described on the vacation metes and bounds schedules prepared by Smith Engineering, which are on file with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, Virginia 22033, Telephone Number (703) 877-5600.

4:00 p.m. Public hearing on the proposed vacation of James Place pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2272, consisting of approximately 30,260 square feet, in the location as shown on that certain plat entitled "Plat Showing the Vacation and Abandonment of James Place (Deed Book 861 Page 332) Fairfax County, Virginia Mount Vernon District", dated December 6, 2022, and prepared by Dominion Surveyors Inc. The road is located on Tax Map 113-4 and is described on the vacation metes and bounds schedules prepared by Dominion Surveyors Inc., dated December 6, 2022, both of which are on file with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, Virginia 22033, Telephone Number (703) 877-5600.

4:30 p.m. Public hearing on the proposed revision to Articles 3 and 7 of Chapter 3 of the Code of the County of Fairfax; purchase of prior active-duty military service in the Police Officers and Uniformed Retirement Systems, and purchase of prior service as a full-time sworn employee of another federal, state, or local government law enforcement agency in the Police Officers Retirement System.

4:30 p.m. Public hearing on the Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Competition grant application. Fairfax County is applying to receive \$39.9 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's PRICE Competition Grant to preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of manufactured housing or a Manufactured Housing Community (MHC), to redevelop MHCs, and to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income residents. The County is seeking community feedback on proposed priorities, strategies, goals and activities of the application to guide the investment of these funds. The PRICE Competition application is online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/public-comments-price-grant>. Physical copies of the application are available for review during regular business operating hours at the information desks at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax), the Gerry Hyland Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria), the Department of Housing and Community Development (3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax), each Fairfax County Public Library branch, and other public facilities where advertised on-site. Submit your comments online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/public-comments-price-grant>, by email to rha@fairfaxcounty.gov (Subject: PRICE Main Grant), or in writing or hand-delivered* to the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development, attention: Affordable Housing-PRICE Main Grant, 3700 Pender Drive, Suite 300, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m., on May 21, 2024. *If you are hand-delivering comments, please bring to the 1st floor reception.

4:30 p.m. Citizens and Businesses of Fairfax County are encouraged to present their views on issues of concern. The Board will hear public comment on any issue except issues under litigation, issues which have been scheduled for public hearing before the Board (this date and future dates), personnel matters and/or comments regarding individuals. Each speaker may have up to three minutes and a maximum of 10 speakers will be heard. Speakers may address the Board only once during a six-month period. Individuals wishing to provide public comment must sign up in advance no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day of the public comment period either online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form> or by calling 703-324-3151.

The public hearings are available to view live on Channel 16 and stream live online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/stream>. Live audio of the meeting may be accessed at 703-324-7700. Those wishing to testify may do so in person, or via phone or pre-recorded YouTube video. Speakers wishing to testify via video must register by signing up online below or by calling the Department of Clerk Services at 703-324-3151, TTY 711, and must submit their video no later than 9 a.m. on the day prior to the hearing. Speakers wishing to testify via phone must sign up to testify no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the hearing to be placed on the Speakers List. Speakers not on the Speakers List may be heard after the registered speakers have testified. In addition, written testimony and other submissions will be received by mail at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 552, Fairfax, Virginia, 22035 or by email at ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov. More information on the ways to testify can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/clerkservices/ways-provide-public-hearing-testimony>.

Copies of the full text of proposed ordinances, plans and amendments, as applicable, as well as other documents relating to the aforementioned subjects, are on file and available for review at the Office of the Clerk for the Board of Supervisors and on the County's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov. To make arrangements to view the documents, please contact the Office of the Clerk for the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities and supports the Americans with Disabilities Act by making reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. All televised government meetings are closed captioned in English and Spanish (*los subtítulos en español*). Reasonable accommodation is available upon 48 hours advance notice by calling 703-324-3151 or TTY 711.



Ad Run Dates: May 10th, 2024
May 17th, 2024

AD#83618

Legal Notices

WASHINGTON GLOBAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Washington Global Public Charter School in accordance with section 2204(c) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 solicits proposals for the following services for SY24-25:

Development Consultant Services

Proposal Submission

A Portable Document Format (pdf) election version of your proposal must be received by the school no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 unless otherwise stated in associated RFP's. Proposals should be emailed to bids@washingtonglobal.org.

No phone call submission or late responses please. Interviews, samples, demonstrations will be scheduled at our request after the review of the proposals only.

Interested parties and vendors will state their credentials and qualifications and provide appropriate licenses, references, insurances, certifications, proposed costs, and work plan. Please include any pertinent disclosures that may be present.

May 17, 2024 Ad#74612

Legal Notices

Public Notice Cedar Tree Academy PCS Request for Proposals

Cedar Tree Academy Public Charter School invites proposals for the following:

- 1. Meals Breakfast, Lunch and Snack
2. Finance Management
3. Student Data Management
4. Heating and Air Services
5. General Plumbing
6. Legal Services for New Construction
7. Professional Development
8. Special Education Related Services
9. Electrical Services
10. Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
11. IT Services
12. School Uniform Services
13. Maintenance Services

Bid specifications may be obtained from our website at www.Cedartree-dc.org. Any questions regarding these bids must be submitted in writing to bids@cedartree-dc.org before the RFP deadline.

Cedar Tree Academy will receive bids until Friday, May 31, 2024, no later than 4:00PM.

May 17, 2024 Ad#83698

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 2417 Windbreak Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated May 14, 2010 and recorded May 18, 2010 in Book 21049 Page 0809 in the Clerk's Office for the Fairfax County Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$238,000.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the entrance of the Fairfax County Courthouse located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

June 07, 2024 at 11:00 AM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

Lot T-151, in accordance with plat entitled "Resubd. Parcel B, MOUNT VERNON SQUARE TOWNHOUSES" which plat is attached to Deed of Resubdivision duly recorded in Deed Book 4515, Page 279, among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale.

Additional terms will be announced at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price, with interest at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date said funds are received in the office of the SUBSTITUTION TRUSTEE, will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, Maryland 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

TRUSTEE SALE 9036 Jeffery Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066 Fairfax County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$850,000.00, dated November 30, 2020 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax County, Virginia, in Document No. 2020153627.001, in Book No. 26710, at Page 1695, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, on June 4, 2024 at 11:30 AM the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Lot 1, containing 2.1060 acres, more or less, as shown on plat recorded in Deed Book 5575 at Page 1271, with any improvement

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale.

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C., Substitute Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (79267) 448 Viking Drive, Suite 350 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452 757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at www.siwpc.net

May 6th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2024 AD#83474

Trustee Sales: Alexandria

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE 203 Yoakum Parkway, Unit 1-603, Alexandria, VA 22304

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated October 21, 2013 and recorded November 15, 2013 in Instrument Number 130025576 in the Clerk's Office for the City of Alexandria Virginia Circuit Court, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally \$134,226.00. The appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Commonwealth Trustees, LLC will offer for sale at public auction at the Circuit Court for City of Alexandria located at 520 King Street, Courthouse, Alexandria, VA 22314.

June 17, 2024 at 12:30 PM

improved real property, with an abbreviated legal description of the following described property, to wit:

The land referred to herein below is situated in the County of Alexandria City, State of VA, and is described as follows:

Condominium Unit 1-603, Watergate at Landmark Condominium, Alexandria, Virginia and the limited common elements attached thereto, pursuant to the declaration at Deed Book 806 at Page 38 and amendment to Declaration in Deed Book 825, at Page 519 among the land records of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

AND as more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust to be announced at the time of sale. A deposit of \$20,000 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale, in the form of certified check, cashier's check or money order by the purchaser.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rosenberg & Associates, LLC (Attorney for the Secured Party) 4340 East West Highway, Suite 600 Bethesda, Maryland 20814 301-907-8000 www.rosenberg-assoc.com

May 17th, 2024

May 24th, 2024

AD#82710

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE - Real property at 15717 BUCK LANE DUMFRIES, VA 22026

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$188,285.00 dated November 25, 2005 and recorded in the land records of Prince William County, Virginia in recorded in the Land Records of Prince William County at Instrument 20051128020578 on November 28, 2005, default having been made in the indebtedness secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the Front Entrance for the Circuit Court for Prince William County, located at 9311 Lee Avenue Manassas VA 20110, the above referenced property and fixtures or improvements thereon briefly described as "Lot 505, Section 2, Country Club Lake"

May 31, 2024 at 10:00 AM

TERMS OF SALE: The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO any environmental or other conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, prior liens, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any. Substitute Trustee shall have no obligation to deliver possession of the property or any other obligation as to the premises.

A bidder's deposit of \$19,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required at the time of sale in the form of a certified check or cashier's check from the purchaser or the bid will be rejected. Successful bidder will be required to sign a memorandum of sale at the time of the sale and settle by remitting the balance of the purchase price within fourteen (14) days of sale.

All other public charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges to be prorated through date of sale; those incurred after the sale date, and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. In the event taxes, any other public charges have been advanced, a credit will be due to the seller, to be adjusted from the date of sale at the time of settlement. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale or whether other legal impediment to title exists.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Cohn Goldberg Deutch, 410-296-2550 or www.cgd-law.com re: CGD #461315. Cohn Goldberg Deutch is a debt collector; any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

BLUE RIDGE TRUSTEES LLC

Run Dates: May 17 and May 24, 2024 Ad#83588

Legal Notices DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903



The Washington Times



JOIN THE CONVERSATION @WashTimes



The Washington Times

Trustee Sales: Virginia

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE 42899 Pamplin Terrace, South Riding, VA 20152 (Parcel ID: 164-19-9865-001)

In execution of certain liens for unpaid assessments as perfected by the recording of certain memoranda of liens for unpaid assessments in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Loudoun ("Land Records") on April 9, 2020, as Instrument Number 20200409-0024792, on April 13, 2021, as Instrument Number 20210413-0043666, and on May 24, 2022, as Instrument Number 20220524-0031176 (the "Liens"), The Amberlea at South Riding Condominium Unit Owners Association ("Association"), by its appointed Trustee, as identified below, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on May 28, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., at the main outside entrance to the Courthouse of the Circuit Court of Loudoun County at 18 E. Market Street, Leesburg, VA 20178, the real property and improvements with the street address of 42899 Pamplin Terrace, South Riding, VA 20152 (Parcel ID: 164-19-9865-001) and briefly described as:

Unit 67A, Phase 67, of The Amberlea at South Riding Condominium, Section 81, South Riding, as created by Declaration recorded as Instrument Number 200403050019662, and as shown on plat attached thereto and recorded as Instrument No. 200403050019663, and amendment to condominium instruments for The Amberlea at South Riding Condominium adding additional land recorded as Instrument Number 200804220024004, with plat recorded as Instrument Number 200804220024005, among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia, amended from time to time, TOGETHER WITH any limited common elements appurtenant thereto, and TOGETHER WITH an undivided interest in the common elements of the Condominium.

TOGETHER WITH and SUBJECT TO all those easements, rights, privileges, and obligations of that certain Declaration for South Riding, recorded in Deed Book 1357 at Page 985, Condominium Declaration recorded in Instrument No. 200403050019662 and as shown on plat attached thereto and recorded as Instrument No. 200403050019663, as such Declarations might have been or may be amended, modified and/or supplemented from time to time, among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia, and to the other conditions, reservations, restrictive covenants, agreements, rights-of-ways, charges, liens, covenants, easements and other provisions contained in the Condominium Act, condominium documents and in the deeds forming the chain of title to this property, all of which are incorporated in this Deed by reference and constitute and shall constitute covenants, easements, and conditions as contained in the Association's original Declaration, Bylaws and other governing instrument, and any amendments thereto.

TERMS OF SALE: The Property will be sold in "AS IS" condition and without any warranty as to any restriction, restriction, covenant, or condition of the Property and subject to any liens, violations, and or all other matters taking priority over the Association's Liens, including, but not limited to, any needs of trust. The sale is further subject to all provisions, restrictions, covenants, and conditions as contained in the Association's original Declaration, Bylaws and other governing instrument, and any amendments thereto.

A nonrefundable bidder's deposit of \$10,000 will be required to be paid by the successful bidder in cash, certified funds or by cashier's check. Settlement within 30 days of sale and title will transfer by trustee's deed with special warranty of title. Additional terms to be announced at sale. If Trustee is unable for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title to the Property, the successful bidder shall have no claim or right in law and equity shall be the return of its deposit, without interest. Trustee reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (1) announce additional terms at the time of sale, (2) waive or modify the requirement with respect to the bidder's deposit, (3) accept or reject any or all bids, (4) extend the time to receive bids, (5) withdraw the Property from the sale at any time, and (6) postpone settlement following sale for a reasonable period of time as determined by Trustee.

Direct any inquiries to counsel for the Association, Kristen L. Buck, Rees Broome, P.C., 190 Gallows Road, Suite 700, Vienna, Virginia 22182, (703) 790-1911.

M. Wilcox Law, PLLC, Trustee, Attn: Mona Wilcox, 2018 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22207, (412) 779-9927 (Telephone), mona@mwilcoxlaw.com

May 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2024 AD#83478

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462152-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CLAVIJO ALACOMA, YAIAIRA L. ALACOMA LIMACHI, FANNY V. CLAVIJO TAIPE, CARLOS

The object of this suit is to: SUJUS CUSTODY CLAVIJO ALACOMA, YAIAIRA

It is ORDERED that the defendant CLAVIJO TAIPE, CARLOS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 5, 2024 10:20 AM 3D.

May 10,17,24 & 31, 2024 AD#83641

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462153-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MERCADO LEDEZMA, BRUNO RAMON LEDEZMA MONTERO, LENY V. MERCADO SUAREZ, VICTOR HUGO

The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY/SUIS

It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 5, 2024 10:20 AM 3D.

May 10,17,24 & 31, 2024 AD#83640

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462643-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEDINA, DARLIN YULIS MEDINA, ROSALINA V. RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR DARLIN RODRIGUEZ MEDINA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:00 AM 3D.

April 26, 2024 May 3,10 & 17, 2024 AD#83220

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462643-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEDINA, DARLIN YULIS MEDINA, ROSALINA V. RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR DARLIN RODRIGUEZ MEDINA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:00 AM 3D.

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462153-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MERCADO LEDEZMA, BRUNO RAMON LEDEZMA MONTERO, LENY V. MERCADO SUAREZ, VICTOR HUGO

The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY/SUIS

It is ORDERED that the defendant appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 5, 2024 10:20 AM 3D.

May 10,17,24 & 31, 2024 AD#83640

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462643-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEDINA, DARLIN YULIS MEDINA, ROSALINA V. RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR DARLIN RODRIGUEZ MEDINA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:00 AM 3D.

April 26, 2024 May 3,10 & 17, 2024 AD#83220

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462643-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEDINA, DARLIN YULIS MEDINA, ROSALINA V. RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR DARLIN RODRIGUEZ MEDINA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:00 AM 3D.

April 26, 2024 May 3,10 & 17, 2024 AD#83220

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J462643-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RODRIGUEZ MEDINA, DARLIN YULIS MEDINA, ROSALINA V. RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND TO MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR DARLIN RODRIGUEZ MEDINA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant RODRIGUEZ GUEVARA, GERMAN E appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 10:00 AM 3D.

ACHIEVEMENT PREPARATORY ACADEMY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

NOTICE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR MULTIPLE SERVICES

Achievement Preparatory Academy Public Charter School in accordance with section 2204(c) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 solicits proposals for vendors to provide the following services for SY24-25:

- Speech Therapy Services
Security Services
Locker Systems
Kitchen and Cafeteria Supplies
Recruitment Services
Food Services
Technology Upgrade Services
HVAC Repair Services
Communication Board Services
Consulting Services
Tutoring Services
Special Education Services
Legal Services

Proposal Submission

A Portable Document Format (pdf) election version of your proposal must be received by the school no later than 4:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. Contact bids@achievementprep.org for a copy of the Scope of Work. Proposal submissions should be emailed to bids@achievementprep.org. No phone calls.

May 17, 2024 Ad#83674

KIPP DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Off-Duty Police Officer Staffing and Consulting Services

KIPP DC is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors for Off-Duty Police Officer Staffing and Consulting Services. The RFP can be found on KIPP DC's website at www.kippdc.org/procurement. Proposals should be uploaded to the website no later than 5:00 PM EST on May 31, 2024. Questions should be addressed to irene.holtzman@kippdc.org.

May 17, 2024 Ad#83679

INGENUITY PREP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - TRASH REMOVAL

Ingenuity Prep Public Charter School solicits proposals for the following services:

o Trash removal services

Full RFP available by request. All proposals must be submitted in PDF format and emailed to bids@ingenuityprep.org no later than 5:00 PM on May 28th, 2024. No phone calls please.

May 17, 2024 Ad#83862

INGENUITY PREP PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - UNIFORMS

Ingenuity Prep Public Charter School solicits proposals for the following services:

o Shirts, jackets, bottoms

Full RFP available by request. All proposals must be submitted in PDF format and emailed to bids@ingenuityprep.org no later than 5:00 PM on May 28th, 2024. No phone calls please.

May 17, 2024 Ad#83860

It appearing that a report of the accounts of Sophia Saad Khawaja, Executor of the Estate of Samina Thany, deceased, and the debts and demands against her Estate has been filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court of the County of Fairfax, and that six (6) months have elapsed since the qualification of the Executor. On the Petition of the Executor, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 64.2-556, it is hereby ORDERED that the creditors of and all others interested in the Estate of Samina Thany, do show cause, if any they can, on the 24th day of May, 2024, at 9:00 AM, before this Court at its courtroom located at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, against the payment and delivery of the Estate of Samina Thany, deceased, to the legatees without requiring refunding bonds.

May 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 22, 2024

AD#83574

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Remodel of the Gymnasium

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for Remodel of the Gymnasium. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Carl Dyson Campus Operations Manager THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C. 4300 C Street, SE Washington, DC 20019 CDyson@seedsschoolsdc.org 202-248-7773 x 5045

The deadline for submitting bids is May 28th, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.

May 13th thru May 24th, 2024 AD#83720

HOWARD UNIVERSITY PUBLIC CHARTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS To Provide Classroom and Office Furniture

Howard University Public Charter Middle School - Request for Proposal - for the opportunity to bid on providing Classroom and Office Furniture. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP) may be obtained beginning on May 17, 2024 from Leslie Boler at info@hu-ms2.org

Proposals will be accepted at 405 Howard Place, NW, Washington, DC 20059 no later than 2:00 PM Eastern time on Friday, May 31, 2024.

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: J1462381-01-00-02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CANALES MEZA, JELVIN VIRGILIO CANALES MEZA, MARIA FIDELIN V. MEDINA ORBINA, MANUEL ERNESTO The object of this suit is to: PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FINDINGS FOR JELVIN VIRGILIO CANALES MEZA It is ORDERED that the defendant MEDINA ORBINA, MANUEL ERNESTO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 2, 2024 10:00 AM 3D. DATE: April 25, 2024 JQ CLERK May 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2024 AD#R3637

Order Of Pub - Domestic

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF LOUDOUN LINA HU Plaintiff, v. Civil Docket No. CL24-1917 JEFFREY M CHEN Defendant. Sent by Certified Mail to: Jeffrey M Chen At last known mailing address of: 14295 Autumn Gold Road Boyds, MD 20841

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this case is for the Plaintiff to obtain an Order of Divorce from the Defendant on the grounds of the parties having lived separate and apart, without any cohabitation and without interruption, for a period of more than six months before this case was filed. An Affidavit having been made and filed that due diligence has been used and on behalf of the Plaintiff to ascertain in what County or City the Defendant is, without effect, that the last known name of the Defendant is Jeffrey M Chen, and that the last known address of the Defendant is 14295 Autumn Gold Road, Boyds, MD 20841. UPON CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, this Order of publication is granted, it is therefore, hereby ORDERED, in the name of the Commonwealth of Virginia, that the Defendant enter a written appearance in this suit on or before the 2:00pm on June 28, 2024, or appear in person in the Loudoun County Circuit Court located at 18 E. Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia on the 28th day of June, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., and do what is necessary to protect his interest in this suit, and that this Order be also published once a week for four successive weeks in the Washington Times, and posted pursuant to §1-211.1 of the Virginia Code, and a copy mailed to the Defendant according to law. ENTERED this 30th day of April, 2024. Matthew P. Snow Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge

I ASK FOR THIS: RACHEL L. VIRK, P.C. Rachel L. Virk Counsel for Plaintiff 4690 Lake Center Plaza, Suite 307 Sterling, Virginia 20165 Telephone: (703) 444-3355 Facsimile: (703) 444-0293 E-mail: Rachel@lrvirk-law.com VSB: 30865 May 3,10,17 & 24, 2024 AD#R3431

Auctions: Maryland

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction at the location indicated: 1212 West Patrick St Frederick, MD 21703, 5/23/24 at 12:00 p.m. Unit - B385. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageexpress.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. May 17, 2024 Ad#83877

Auctions: Virginia

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held at Mini U Storage (formerly Storage USA), 10930 Clara Barton Drive, Fairfax Station, VA, 22039, on May 23, 2024 at 1:00PM to satisfy the lien on the property stored at the address above. All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. May 17, 2024 Ad#83748

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held at Mini U Storage, 13901 Smoketown Road, Woodbridge VA 22192 on May 23rd, 2024 at 3:30PM to satisfy the lien on the property stored at the address above. All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. May 17, 2024 Ad#83652

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held at Mini U Storage, 13721 Wall Road, Herndon VA 20171 on May 23, 2024 at 11:00AM to satisfy the lien on the property stored at the address above. All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. May 17, 2024 Ad#83485

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held at Mini U Storage (formerly Springfield Self Storage), 7711 Loisdale Road, Springfield, VA 22150, on 05/22/24 at 2:30 pm to satisfy the lien on the property stored at the address above. All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. May 17, 2024 Ad#83509

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that a Lien Sale will be held at Mini U Storage (formerly Self Storage Plus, 2514 Richmond Hwy.), 405 Swann Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301 on May 22, 2024 at 11:00am to satisfy the lien on the property stored at the address above. All units must be paid for at the time of sale. Cash only will be accepted. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to attend the sale. Each person attending must sign in and agree to follow all Rules and Regulations of the sale. The landlord reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed within 48 hours following the sale. Shelving is property of landlord; do not remove unless authorized. Buyers must provide a current, original or a photocopy of their original resale permit at time of sale in lieu of sales tax. This sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between landlord and obligated party. May 17, 2024 Ad#83667

Notice After Sale: Montgomery Co.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND Richard E. Solomon Richard J. Rogers Michael McKeefery Christianna Kersey Kevin Hildebeidel 1099 Winterson Road, Suite 301 Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 Substitute Trustees Plaintiffs v. Case No. C-15-CV-23-001047

Seth Haskins 11445 Stoney Point Place Germantown, MD 20876 Defendant

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of May, 2024, by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, that the sale of the property mentioned in these proceedings, made and reported to be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary thereof be shown on or before the 17th day of June, 2024, provided a copy of this notice be published in a newspaper of general circulation in Montgomery County, once in each of three successive weeks before the 17th day of June, 2024. The Report of Sale states the amount of the foreclosure sale price to be \$284,000.00. The property sold herein is known as 11445 Stoney Point Place, Germantown, MD 20876.

Karen A. Bushell Clerk of the Circuit Court Montgomery County, Maryland Filed: March 8, 2024 Publish: The Washington Times Cohn, Goldberg & Deusch, LLC Attorneys at Law 1099 Winterson Road, Suite 301 Linthicum Heights, MD 21090 410-296-2550 x3031 File# 458574 Ad No. 83800 May 17, 24 & 31, 2024

Notice After Sale: Prince Georges Co.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND Thomas W. Hodge, et al. Substitute Trustees Plaintiffs, v. Case No. CAEF19-12055

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this 7th day of May, 2024, that the sale of the property in this case, 1800 Brierfield Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745, reported by Thomas W. Hodge, Brennan Ferguson, Christine N. Johnson, Jeana McMurray, Robert A. Oliveri, Melissa Alcocer, Substitute Trustees, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the 7th day of June, 2024, provided a copy of this Notice be inserted in The Washington Times, a newspaper published in Prince Georges County, Maryland, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before the 7th day of June, 2024. The Report states the amount of sale to be \$336,000.00. /s/ Mahasin El Amin Clerk of the Circuit Court 723 Filed May 6, 2024 Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince Georges County, Maryland BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 (910) 392-4988 Ad No. 83628 May 10, 17 & 24, 2024



TWEET LIKE COMMENT SHARE POST FOLLOW Find us on Twitter @WashTimes The Washington Times LET'S TALK SPORTS Follow us on Twitter @WashTimesSports

Widowed spouse makes plea to all living partners

DEAR ABBY: Today I ironed and folded my late husband's lucky fishing shirt and placed it into a box going to Goodwill. Continuing with the task, I matched up 14 pairs of my good merino wool socks, most of which had been gifts from him in times that were not so flush. After three months, I have finally moved the box containing his ashes from the kitchen table. Yesterday, I saw a couple sitting together in a fast-food restaurant. They were both focused only on their phone screens. I wanted so badly to shake them, to tell them to look at each other and talk to each other. They are so fortunate to have each other's company. Is it human nature to miss the water only when the well goes dry? Snuggle, hold hands, converse and say "I love you" every day. Don't wait for Valentine's Day. I was so lucky; you can be too. Abby, please remind your readers to appreciate their special someone EVERY day and show it. — LOVED EVERY DAY

I see women on dating sites saying, "You must love my dog," and I find it really annoying. I know some women adore their dogs, but demanding that a man should love your dog if he really cares about you is insane. — IRRITATED IN GEORGIA

DEAR IRRITATED: There is a school of thought that if someone wants loyalty and constancy, the way to find it is to adopt a dog. For some people, regardless of gender, their dog becomes like their child, and anyone becoming romantically involved with them must accept that it will be a package deal. Because you are not an animal lover, these women would not be an appropriate match for you.

DEAR ABBY: My family and I like to entertain, so our powder room is used often. Instead of laundering the same three hand towels, I bought a nice-looking vertical paper towel holder with a roll of paper towels that now stands by the bathroom sink. Hubby says paper towels are only for the kitchen and look tacky in a powder room. Who's right? — USEFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR LOVED: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved husband. More people than young lovers have been known to become captives of their cellphones. I have observed the same phenomenon among older couples, but it also applies to parents with small children. Your message that we should love and show appreciation for each other every day is important, because no one is guaranteed a tomorrow.

DEAR ABBY: What is this thing about dogs? ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 17). You're often ambitious, as the dreamy outcome of your work gets addictive. Why keep expectations in the realm of reality when certain fantasies seem intent on creating themselves? More highlights: You'll explore a strange world that changes how you think. You'll make a move and shed excess baggage. You'll give resources to those who need them and heal yourself in the process. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 12, 7, 15 and 44. ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're comfortable being uncomfortable and for this reason, you'll get more opportunities, increase your odds at the prize and win a few, too. The more you try, the more impervious you become to fear. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your resources and knowledge overflow in certain areas, and you'll have the excellent luck to be in the company of those who most appreciate what you know. Give some away for free, and hold some back for revenue. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Whims can add wonder to your world or they can waste your time. Much depends on the urgency of your first priority. Being around other focused people will inspire you to make quick work of the more tedious tasks. CANCER (June 22-July 22). Keeping yourself open to the opportunities is key today. It will benefit you to mix things up, lest you grow too fond in one direction. Test theories, talk through the script, do a trial run — whatever it takes to keep your mind from fixating. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). True to your feline nature, you will be highly discerning as you choose who gets the pleasure of your attention. Furthermore you bestow your affection strictly at your own whimsical discretion. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It feels as though the

problem isn't your fault or responsibility, which may be true, but believing it only makes your work as a problem-solver harder. Assume there's something here that's yours to fix. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll dive in and do the work without thinking about what it will be like. Whether it's fun or interesting is really beside the point. Those determinations have to do with your mood, and your mood is better when the work is done. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are leaving yourself open in some way. It's as though you're wearing a loose leash that could be snatched up by someone intent on keeping you close. Unless you have garden shears, it's best to tuck and hide this tether. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Since your unique style and preferences are more than enough, trends have to be very special for you to get on board. Today it's fun to try what's new, as long as it's free. Wait and see what sticks, both in the culture and in your interest. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Feedback is your friend, so express yourself and watch the reactions. Whatever comes back will help you improve. This is true even for things that are hard to hear or are just dead-wrong. Any data you can make sense of will sharpen your work. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The most effective traps are hidden, though if you're lucky you'll catch a glint of them in the sun, like light on the gossamer geometry of a spider's web, and you'll step to the side or duck to miss the sticky web. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Home can be where you stay, or where you hate to leave. It's usually a place, but it's also a feeling you find out in the world. Today you'll get the sense you are home somewhere distant from your mailbox. CREATORS.COM

washingtontimes.com

Legal Notices DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903 The Washington Times

3			5	4	
	4			2	1
5			4	9	3
	9		1		6
8	3	5		7	1
	6		2		3
4	6		7		9
	5		3		4
		1	9		7

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Silver

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

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ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

4	7	9	2	1	5	3	6	8
6	3	1	8	4	7	5	2	9
5	2	8	9	6	3	7	4	1
8	4	3	7	5	1	6	9	2
7	5	6	4	9	2	8	1	3
9	1	2	6	3	8	4	5	7
1	6	4	3	7	9	2	8	5
3	8	5	1	2	4	9	7	6
2	9	7	5	8	6	1	3	4

DATE	AVER	BEAD
ABORC	MINI	INRT
FRIDA	STOP	ANDGO
TALONS	AKIN	CUD
CAFFEINE	FREE	
RAJ	SOL	TWEE
INUIT	ISAW	DDAY
CONTAINS	NOJUICE	
ONKP	STEW	APTNO
DROP	ATV	SEW
ZEROCALORIES		
OVA	TRAP	CLOROX
NEWMOTHER	ILOVE	
AREA	OTRO	NOTIN
LYRE	FIAT	SODA

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

It is Rocket Science

- ACROSS
- 1 Cathedral spaces
 - 6 Smart-alecky
 - 10 Barely
 - 14 Smart-alecky talk
 - 15 Transportation system
 - 16 Barely there bit
 - 17 "In your dreams!"
 - 18 With 37- and 59-Across, historic 1919 treatise
 - 20 Send forth
 - 21 Posthaste
 - 22 Is not for a lot
 - 23 With 51-Across, author of the treatise
 - 25 Harsh oratory
 - 27 Cuban beat
 - 29 First National Leaguer with 500 homers
 - 31 Let pass
 - 34 Subcontinental shrine site
 - 36 Go head-to-head
 - 37 See 18-Across
 - 41 Big body of eau
 - 42 All over, to Twain
 - 43 Toaster's opening
 - 44 Jumped from concealment
 - 47 Sought long fish
 - 49 Find a job
 - 51 See 21-Across
 - 55 Ancestry
 - 56 James Patterson sleuth
 - 58 Smoke director
 - 59 See 18-Across

- DOWN
- 1 Doubleday of baseball lore
 - 2 TV teaser
 - 3 Jungle Book title
 - 4 Not known by many divisions
 - 5 GPS reading
 - 6 Blazing, loud explosive
 - 7 Succotash morsel
 - 8 Unhandy
 - 9 Most favored
 - 10 Unprincipled
 - 11 Sustained temporarily
 - 12 Formerly
 - 13 Skillfully done
 - 19 Fabled loser
 - 21 Mail convenience
 - 24 Book after Judges
 - 26 Supersized screen
 - 28 Person studying dairy science
 - 30 Platforms with points
 - 31 Administrative divisions
 - 32 Chasms
 - 33 Alternatives to Omniscience
 - 35 Doesn't keep, as a promise
 - 38 Othello antagonist
 - 39 Fort Worth neighbor's nickname
 - 40 Whom Ray's Oscar actor took his surname to honor
 - 45 Creative person
 - 46 Turtle's hangout
 - 48 Fuel used by 23-/51-Across
 - 50 Spanish tennis star
 - 52 Name on the cover of The Color Purple
 - 53 Autocrat, for instance
 - 54 Coped (with)
 - 55 Ratchet (up)
 - 57 Filmmaker Dunham
 - 60 Mask-wearing home worker
 - 61 Penpoint shape

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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TPRAA
CIRPE
MMLBEE
DAURIS



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

RUBES/Leigh Rubin



IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



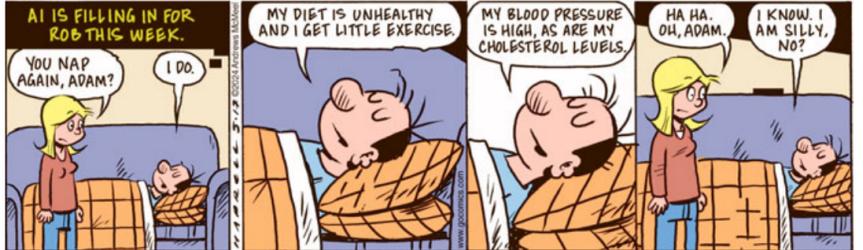
LOLA/Todd Clark



BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



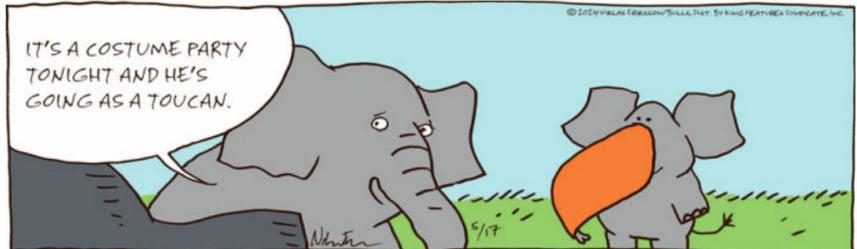
DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley



CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers



DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis



POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan



STRANGE BREW/John Deering



BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



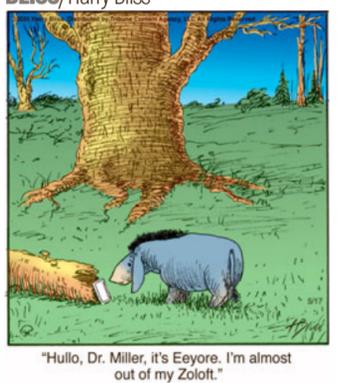
THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



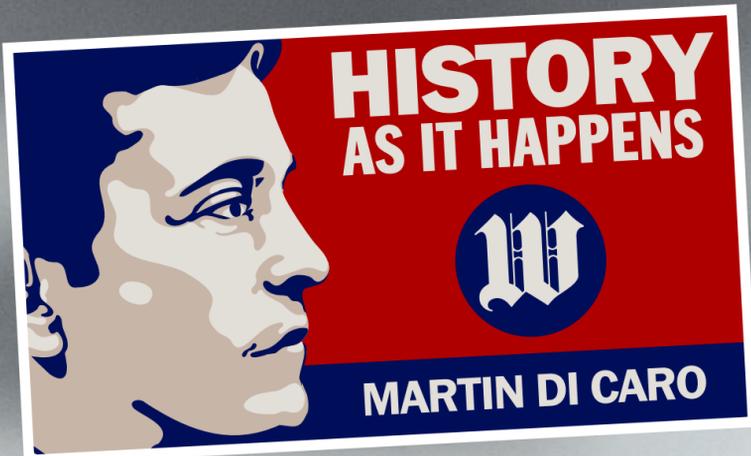
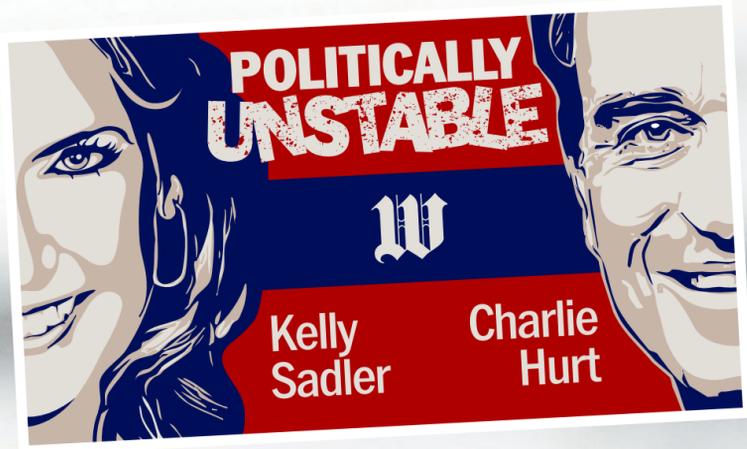
PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss



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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Soto open to in-season contract talks with Yankees

MINNEAPOLIS | Juan Soto has settled in just fine with the Yankees, marveling at the reach and intensity of the fan base, relishing New York's rich culture

and, of course, hitting in a loaded lineup right in front of Aaron Judge.

He'll have a decision to make sooner than later

on whether to re-up, with his first time as a free agent looming in the fall. But perhaps he won't make it to the open market at all. Soto said Thursday he would give his blessing to contract talks during the season if the Yankees want to approach his agent Scott Boras about a long-term contract.

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner told the team's YES Network he'd consider such a tactic for the three-time All-Star and four-time Silver Slugger who's still just 25 years old.

"I think we'd like to see him here for the rest of his career. I don't think there's any doubt in that. His agent, Scott, doesn't tend to do deals in the middle of the season. Neither do I. I think it can be a distraction," Steinbrenner said in the interview. "But as I said in spring training ... this is a unique situation and a very unique player, so I wouldn't be shocked if there was a conversation or two had possibly during the course of a season. I think it's worth doing at some point."

WNBA

Every WNBA team to begin using charter flights by May 21

Every WNBA team will start using charter flights to travel to games by May 21.

The league made the announcement Thursday, following through on plans to commit \$50 million over the next two years to provide full-time charter flight service for its teams during the season.

The move addresses years of player safety concerns and means the players no longer have to deal with long security lines. It comes at a time when the league's popularity has grown to all-time highs, boosted by the arrival of Caitlin Clark and other well-known rookies like Angel Reese and Cameron Brink.

Only two of the four teams that traveled for the opening-night games used charter planes. The Indiana Fever and Minnesota Lynx were on charters, and New York and Phoenix traveled commercially.

YOUTH SPORTS

New Hampshire Senate passes transgender athlete ban bill

CONCORD, N.H. | A New Hampshire bill that would ban transgender athletes in grades 5-12 from teams that align with their gender identity is headed to the governor's desk.

The Republican-led Senate voted 13-10 along party lines Thursday in favor of a bill that would require schools to designate all teams as either girls, boys or coed, with eligibility determined based on students' birth certificates.

Supporters of the legislation said they wanted to protect girls from being injured by larger and stronger transgender athletes.

"When we talk about fairness and rights, we can't cover every circumstance. And so in a very narrow way that I think to most of us is very clear, biological boys have an advantage over biological girls," said Senate President Jeb Bradley, a Republican from Wolfboro. "We'll never be able to legislate total fairness. But what we can't do is create rights for one at the expense of another."

AUTO RACING

Ericsson, Lundqvist involved in Indy 500 prep wrecks

INDIANAPOLIS | Former Indianapolis 500 winner Marcus Ericsson and rookie Linus Lundqvist were involved in separate crashes during a busy day of practice.

That left their teams from Andretti Global and Chip Ganassi Racing with a lot of work ahead of them Thursday with qualifying ahead this weekend.

Both of the drivers appeared to hit the curb in the turn, which shot them into the outside wall. Ericsson sustained heavy damage to the left side of his car while Lundqvist tore up the right rear of his car. Ericsson was passed by Josef Newgarden on the last lap a year ago trying to defend his 2022 title.

Rain washed out Tuesday and most of Wednesday and more rain is in the forecast for Friday.

"I think we were in good shape," Ericsson said, "but obviously you have a big crash like this. It sets everything back to zero."

From wire dispatches and staff reports.

NHL

Marchand: Hurting players comes with the territory

By Pat Graham
Associated Press

Boston Bruins captain Brad Marchand wasn't too outraged over the disputed hit he took that's sidelined him for the past two games. Because in his view, hurting players comes with the territory in the postseason.

"The more guys you take out, the more advantage your team has," Marchand said Thursday on the eve of Game 6 against Florida as the Bruins try to avoid playoff elimination. "People don't say that but that's just a fact of the game. So every time you step on the ice, someone's trying to hurt someone. That's just how it goes in the playoffs."

Marchand may be back in the lineup Friday after being out since being staggered on a hit to his head from Panthers forward Sam Bennett in the first period of Game 3. Bennett, who was not penalized on the play, has denied punching Marchand intentionally.



Bruins captain Brad Marchand may be back in the lineup Friday after being out since being staggered on a hit to his head by the Panthers' Sam Bennett in Game 3.

Asked if he thought it was a cheap shot, Marchand said, "I think he got away with one but, I mean, that's part of the game and definitely part of playoff

hockey.

"It sucks to be on the other side of it, but that stuff happens," Marchand added as his team trails 3-2. "I'm not going to

LOVERRO

From page B10

might welcome a change in ownership.

But to Transparent Ted?

He uses the word "credible," but his credibility took a big hit with the way he strutted and declared victory before his Potomac Yard arena deal was even financed by the state of Virginia. And it's uncertain what his Nationals bid would look like, because one of his major partners in the original bid, David Rubenstein, was the one who spent \$1.725 billion to buy the Orioles.

It's curious that Leonsis wasn't part of that bid.

Bloomberg News reported in August 2022 that he and Rubenstein, while bidding for the Nationals, would also be interested in the Orioles if they were for sale.

But when Rubenstein made the bid, Leonsis was not part of it.

Still in the way is the MASN television partnership between the Orioles and the Nationals that has essentially held Washington's television rights hostage.

Despite a reported settlement and agreement in their dispute for rights fees from 2012 to 2021, no one in Washington has seen that money yet, according to sources — unless the Lerner's are pocketing it and not telling anyone.

They are certainly not spending it on a contract extension for C.J. Abrams yet.

Even with the hope that Rubenstein's new ownership will result in a solution to the bitter battle between the two teams, lawyers are currently taking depositions for the revenue shared between the two teams since

2022. So MASN remains a roadblock to any sale of the Nationals. No one is going to want to buy a baseball team with uncertainty about their television revenue rights.

What may change things? Mark Lerner's health.

Lerner, 70, was diagnosed with spindle cell sarcoma above his left knee in 2017 and his left leg was amputated. This spring, there was concern expressed within the organization about his health.

It's not clear what happens if, for any reason, Mark Lerner cannot continue in his role as managing principal owner of the Nationals.

I've asked team officials several times, to no response, if there is any succession plan in place if Mark Lerner cannot continue in the top position.

But those familiar with the

sit here and complain about it ... Part of playoffs is trying to hurt every player on the other team."

Similar to Boston, Colorado returns home Friday with a chance to avoid elimination against Dallas. Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar and the Avalanche rallied to grab a third-period lead Wednesday and relied on the stellar play of goaltender Alexandar Georgiev to secure a 5-3 win. It was the first lead of the series for the Avalanche, other than Miles Wood's overtime winner to end Game 1.

"It was great," MacKinnon succinctly said of playing from ahead as the Avalanche drew to within 3-2 in the series. "It was do-or-die and we just couldn't lay an egg again."

The Avalanche are trying to make some team history, because never have they won a series in which they trailed 3-1. Under that circumstance, they're 0-5 and only once have sent a series to a decisive Game 7.

organization believe that no one else in the ownership family has an interest in running the baseball team. That may change the availability of the team.

Leonsis needs the team to be available, the sooner the better. He owns a regional sports network which he just sunk \$60 million into for new broadcast and production studios that no one watches, with Wizards and Capitals games garnering low ratings.

In his 106.7 interview, Leonsis said, "We need year-round programming."

It would be nice to have a baseball owner who thinks of the team as something more than repeat broadcasts of "Gilligan's Island."

But those may be the choices — Transparent Ted or the invisible Lerner's — and that choice may be made soon.

• You can hear Thom Loverro on "The Kevin Sheehan Show" podcast.

GOLF

From page B10

straight birdies and finished with a 65.

Even so, this was a special round. Schauffele one-putted 12 times — two of them for par that he considered crucial to his round — and he didn't go more than one hole without a birdie until the very end when he finished par-par for the record. The three-shot lead matches the 18-hole record held by Bobby Nichols in 1964 at Columbus (Ohio) Country Club and Raymond Floyd in 1982 at Southern Hills. Both went on to win.

Schauffele had plenty of attention, playing alongside Louisville native Justin

Thomas and in the group ahead of Tiger Woods, who was followed by Rory McIlroy. Thomas rallied late for a 69 that required some perspective of his own.

"When you're playing with one of the easiest 9 unders you've ever seen, it makes you feel like you're shooting a million," Thomas said.

Finau closed with four pars for his 65. Theegala had 65 by finishing with three straight birdies. Hubbard had three birdies over his last four holes to join them late in the afternoon.

McIlroy, back on the course where he won his last major 10 years ago, ran off three birdies late in his round for a 66 that left him in a large group that included Morikawa and Tom Kim.

"You knew there were a lot of birdies out there," Morikawa said. "It played soft and the greens were pretty slow."

Defending champion Brooks Koepka played his final three holes in 3 under for a 67, while Jordan Spieth bogeyed his last hole for a 69 in his bid for the final leg of the Grand Slam.

There had been 17 scores of 63 at the PGA Championship, most recently Koepka in the opening round at Bethpage Black in 2019. The list includes Jose Maria Olazabal at Valhalla in 2000 during the third round.

Schauffele had to get up-and-down from behind the green on the par-3 eighth to a front pin, a chip of 60 feet that was right in the jar until stopping 2

feet short. His two-putt par from about 30 feet on the ninth hole gave him the PGA record.

That makes four rounds of 62 in all the majors, and Schauffele has two of them. He and Rickie Fowler shot 62 in the first round of the U.S. Open last year at Los Angeles Country Club (par 70), while Branden Grace shot 62 in the third round at Royal Birkdale in the 2017 British Open.

Woods three-putted for bogey on his final two holes for a 72. That marked the eighth straight round in which he failed to break par in a major.

"That wasn't the way I like to finish off a round," Woods said. "Long way to go, and we'll see what happens."

PREAKNESS

From page B10

bigger field. Most of the Derby horses would come."

Three Derby horses are set to take part in the Preakness on Saturday, up from one last year, two in 2022 and one in 2019. Except for 2020, when the Triple Crown was run out of order because of the pandemic, the traditional spacing has been two weeks between the Kentucky Derby and Preakness and then another three to the Belmont since 1969.

Top thoroughbreds nowadays rarely

run every 14 days, a development two-time Triple Crown-winning trainer Bob Baffert compared to pitch counts in baseball and analytics alterations in other sports.

"It's changed in a way," said Baffert, who has won the Preakness a record eight times. "I remember when I first came in, the Preakness has always been a very historical race, and people liked to run in the Preakness — the Triple Crown and whatever. I'm probably old-school when I came in, so now there's a different approach to it where they want to give their horses extra time."

Last summer, 1/ST Racing, which

operates the Preakness, floated the concept of moving it back — possibly as far as four weeks after the Derby. The New York Racing Association said at the time it had no plans to change the date of the Belmont from its spot in early June, with the idea of it pushing back to potentially conflict with Fourth of July celebrations a nonstarter.

Trainers often name the Belmont as a target destination for horses who run in but don't win the Derby. The third jewel of the Triple Crown also has no concerns about prestige each of the next two years because of the novelty of the Belmont being run at historic Saratoga Race Course.

BUTKER

From page B10

man who publicly and proudly proclaims his Catholic faith but at the same time is delusional enough to make the sign of the cross during a pro-abortion rally."

He also called out The Associated Press in particular for a May 1 article on a surge in Catholic traditionalism in America. The article looked at, among other things, Benedictine College and the Catholic atmosphere at the school.

"I am certain the reporters at the AP could not have imagined that their attempt to rebuke and embarrass places and people like those here at Benedictine wouldn't be met with anger, but instead with excitement and pride. Not the deadly sin sort of pride that has an entire month dedicated to it," Butker said, alluding at the end to Pride, the LGBTQ celebration of queer identity that lasts for all of June.

Butker urged students to abide by traditional gender roles, telling women that they "have had the most diabolic lies told to you. Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

Butker mentioned that his wife

Isabelle Butker "would be the first to say that her life truly started when she began living her vocation as a wife and as a mother." His mother, Elizabeth Butker, is herself a career woman, having worked in the Emory University Department of Radiation Oncology since 1988 according to her LinkedIn.

Butker urged the men in the audience to "be unapologetic in your masculinity. Fight against the cultural emasculation of men."

In comments warning clergymen not to be too familiar with parishioners, Butker also alluded to a song by billionaire pop starlet Taylor Swift, who he referred to only as "my teammate's girlfriend." Swift is romantically involved with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

Some of the graduates who heard the speech were critical afterward.

"We should have compassion for the people who have been told all their life that the person they love is like, it's not OK to love that person," Elle Wilbers, who aims for medical school, told the AP regarding Butker's jibes at the LGBTQ community.

Joslyn Lewis, a psychology graduate and volleyball player at the school, told WDAF-TV that "Of course, [Butker's wife, Isabelle] is fine with where she's at. She doesn't have to struggle day-to-day to try to make ends meet. What's to say if a woman is in a bad situation with an abuser or they can't financially support

themselves?"

ValerieAnne Volpe, who graduated with an art degree, praised Butker for expressing the views that "people are scared to say" and that "you can just hear that he loves his wife. You can hear that he loves his family."

Across social media, however, Butker is getting torched — one petition calling for the Chiefs to cut the kicker has more than 100,000 signatures, with organizers saying that his "dehumanizing remarks ... perpetuate division and undermine human rights."

"Harrison Butker doesn't represent Kansas City nor has he ever. Kansas City has always been a place that welcomes, affirms, and embraces our LGBTQ+ community members," Justice Horn, a former Kansas City commissioner, said in a post on X.

Swift's ever-rabid fans also honed in on Butker's reference to the singer, and focused their ire by comparing her career to Butker's advice for women.

"I dare Harrison Butker to tell Taylor Swift she has no value unless she is a wife, mother, and homemaker. ... Tell America's sweetheart she belongs in the kitchen Harrison, TRY IT!" one "Swiftie" wrote in a pair of posts on X.

Others defended Butker's right to speak out, even if they disagreed with his remarks.

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas

said on X that Butker should not be censored.

"I hate 'stick to sports' when used to muzzle Black athletes. I'm with consistency," Lucas wrote.

Actress and "The View" host Whoopi Goldberg took the same tack.

On Thursday's program, she said that Butker "is a staunch Catholic. These are his beliefs and he's welcome to them. ... The ladies in the audience do not have to accept them. The same way we want respect when Colin Kaepernick takes a knee, we want to give respect to people whose ideas are different from ours."

Sen. Josh Hawley, Missouri Republican, also defended Butker. The two appeared together at the Stronger Men's Conference held in Springfield, Missouri, last month and spoke on stage about Jesus.

"We need a different generation of kids that are willing to say no that's not right, there is such a thing as right and wrong, I'm not going to go in for all of this lefty garbage and I just thought that his calls for folks to stand up and be bold was great," Hawley told Spectrum News.

Noelle Fitchett, a Christian podcaster and junior fellow for the nonprofit Independent Women's Forum wrote on X that she has three degrees and agrees with Butker "that the world needs more masculinity and that wives/mothers are vital for society."

Leonsis still in the hunt to purchase the Nationals

Transparent Ted Leonsis hasn't let the embarrassment of his Virginia stadium collapse keep him down.

First, he did his "I Can't Be as Dumb as I Look" media tour to try to repair his damaged reputation, selling himself as an innocent victim of politics.

Of the failed negotiations to move his Monumental Sports franchises from the District to Alexandria, he told Axios: "I'm a businessman ... I'm not a politician."

Never mind that Leonsis worked on the political campaigns of Paul Tsongas for Congress early in his career. Never mind he was once the mayor of a small Florida town. He was

blindsided by Virginia politics.

Now, with the wind at his back from the \$515 million the District is giving him to refurbish his Capital One Arena, he is spreading the word that Transparent Ted Industries is still open for business.

He told 106.7 The Fan radio that he has not abandoned his desire to buy the Washington Nationals.

"We will make a credible and strong offer and we'll continue speaking," Leonsis said. "I'm very interested but there's no rush. We all have other pursuits and businesses, and they're not going anywhere and,

obviously, I'm not going anywhere."

When the Lerner family put the team on the market in April 2022, Leonsis had reportedly put in a bid to purchase the franchise for more than \$2 billion. That wasn't good enough for the Lerner family, and in February, principal owner Mark Lerner announced they were no longer looking to sell the team.

There wasn't a line around South Capitol Street looking to buy the team, certainly not for more than \$2 billion. And the \$1.725 billion the Orioles sold for earlier this year — a lower-than-expected price — won't

help the selling price of a franchise 35 miles down the road.

So the Lerner family pulled back, fueled by Mark Lerner's desire to hold onto the team. The real estate moguls, though, have operated the team like an office building with 20% occupancy, getting rid of longtime and valuable high-salaried employees and barely spending to put a competitive team on the field.

That they have been competitive is a testament to general manager Mike Rizzo and manager Davey Martinez.

Mark Lerner's public promises of a financial commitment to the roster have proven hollow, and many fans

» see **LOVERRO** | B9



THOM LOVERRO

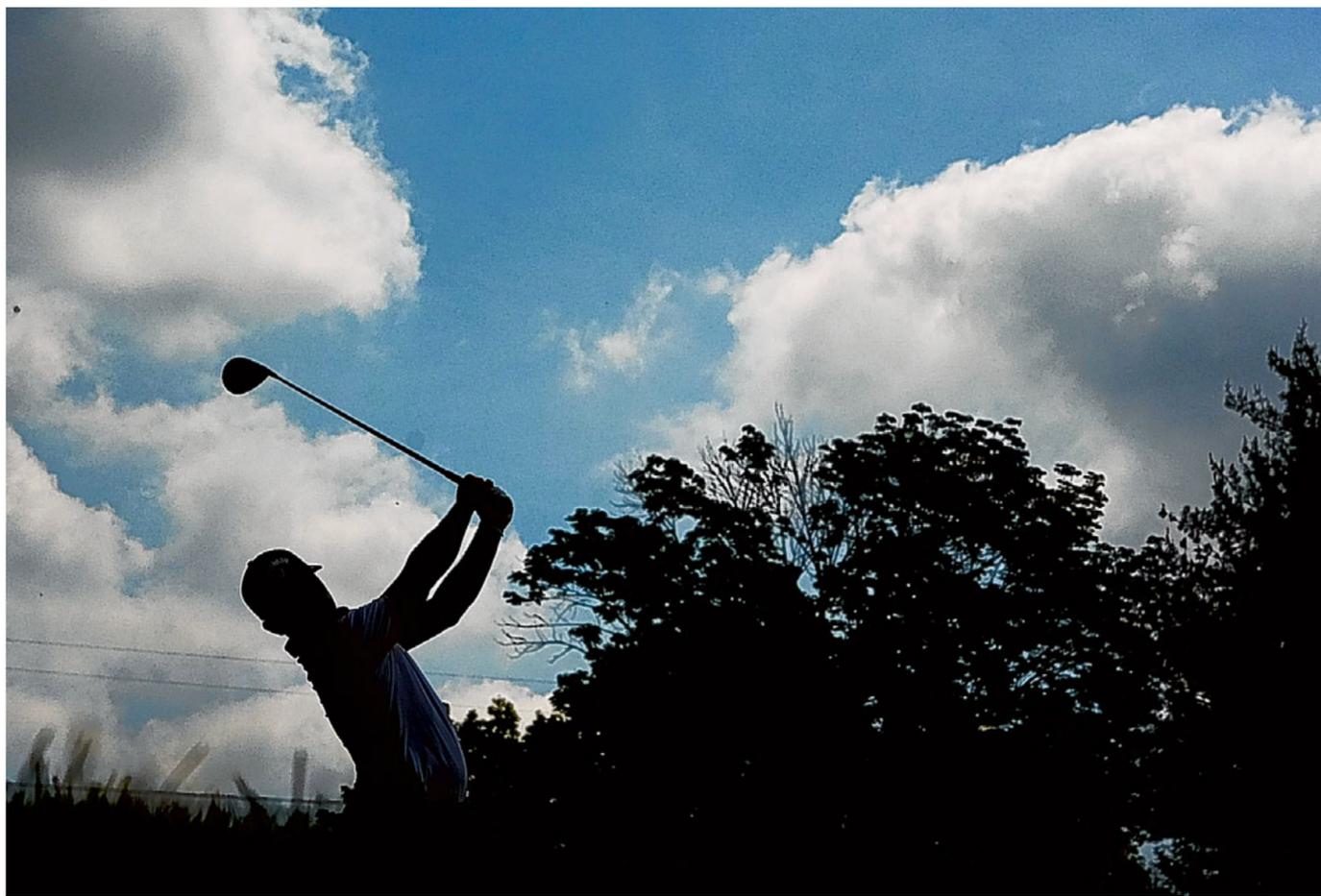


ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capitals and Wizards owner Ted Leonsis told a local radio station that he has not abandoned his desire to buy the Nationals from the Lerner family.

GOLF

Setting the pace



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Xander Schauffele hits on the fifth hole in Thursday's first round of the PGA Championship in Louisville, Kentucky. Schauffele's 62 was the lowest round in tournament history.

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, KY. | Xander Schauffele is playing some of his best golf without a trophy to show for it. He at least put his name in the PGA Championship record book Thursday with a 9-under 62, and gave himself another entry in the record book for all majors.

Schauffele seized on the rain-softened conditions at Valhalla with a bogey-free 62, the lowest round in PGA Championship history, and matched the PGA record for largest margin after 18 holes with a three-shot lead over Tony Finau, Sahithi Theegala and Mark Hubbard.

Schauffele takes PGA Championship lead with another major scoring mark

Schauffele, a 30-year-old who oozes California chill, kept this one in perspective.

"It's just one day," he said. "Very happy with how I played. I can't think much more of it. I have to tee it up tomorrow."

Masters champion Scottie Scheffler saw Schauffele's score and cared only about putting together a good round in his first competition since his son was born last week.

That he did, holing out with a 9-iron from 167 yards on the first hole for eagle, the highlight in a round of 67. Scheffler failed to birdie the par 5s on the back nine and had a few other mistakes that sent him to the range after his round, but otherwise felt OK about it.

"I felt like there was a couple things I can clean up going into tomorrow, but overall today was a solid round," Scheffler said after his 41st consecutive round at par or better.

This was an easy day to keep that streak going. A record 64 players broke par. The previous record for the first round of a PGA was 60 sub-par rounds in 2006 at Medinah, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Even players who stumbled from the start had ample opportunity to turn it around.

Jon Rahm opened with four bogeys in six holes, threw a club in disgust on the 16th hole and still managed a 70 by making four birdies down the stretch. Collin Morikawa was 2 over through five holes, but he responded with three

» see **GOLF** | B9

HORSE RACING

'Stepchild' image fuels debate at Preakness

Triple Crown's 2nd leg has lost prestige

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE | D. Wayne Lukas sat in his corner of the stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course earlier this week and pointed several stalls down.

"Thank God the Derby horse came," Lukas said, referring to Kentucky Derby winner Mystik Dan running in the Preakness. "It isn't always a cinch."

It used to be automatic, something that until recent years made the Preakness a must-see event with a Triple Crown chance

nearly always on the line. That was not the case from 2019-22 for various reasons, and the mere possibility of Mystik Dan skipping the Preakness has led to debate over whether the race should be

moved back a week or more and what can be done to restore the prestige it has had for the better part of 150 years.

Lukas, the 88-year-old Hall of Fame trainer whose next two Preakness runners will be his record-extending 47th and 48th over more than four decades coming to Baltimore, said the thought of it becoming the "stepchild" of the Triple Crown doesn't sit well with horsemen who love showing up.

But he does worry about younger colleagues being reluctant to send their top 3-year-olds back from the Derby on the first Saturday in May to the Preakness on the third Saturday in May, comparing the loss of big-name horses to having an NFL game without Patrick Mahomes.

"With the mindset of the younger trainers, that the two weeks, I don't know where they got that, but a lot of the younger trainers don't want to come back in two weeks," Lukas said. "If they extend that, I've been preaching this for 25 years though, you would get a



Lukas

» see **PREAKNESS** | B9

NFL

Chiefs kicker sharing his conservative views causes uproar

By **BRAD MATTHEWS**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker, a conservative Catholic who has been outspoken about his religious beliefs, is suddenly the most controversial topic in the NFL after criticizing abortion and LGBTQ Pride month, and suggesting that motherhood might be more rewarding for some women than a professional career.

Butker, 28, shared his conservative views with graduating students and guests at Benedictine College, a small

private Catholic school of around 2,200 students in Atchison, Kansas, on Saturday in a commencement speech that drew a standing ovation, according to a report in the Daily Mail.

The reception elsewhere has been decidedly less appreciative, with activists racing to dismiss the Georgia Tech product's views as homophobic, racist and sexist.

The NFL officially distanced itself Thursday from Butker.

"Harrison Butker gave a speech in his personal capacity. His views are not those of the NFL as an organization. The

NFL is steadfast in our commitment to inclusion, which only makes our league stronger," NFL Senior Vice President Jonathan Beane, the league's top diversity officer, told People magazine.

On the league website, the NFL said that it "is committed to building a diverse, equitable and inclusive work environment that reflects our incredibly diverse fan base," and "honors and celebrates the broad ranges of human difference among us, while also embracing the commonalities we share."

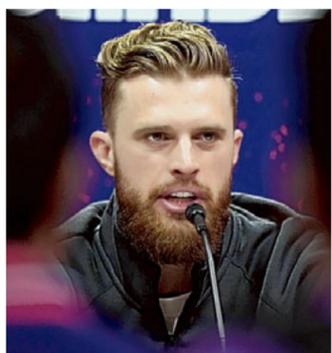
The speech was not Butker's first foray into giving speeches to college

students, as he decried "identity politics" and encouraged students to "get married and start a family" in a commencement address at his alma mater last year.

In the Benedictine College graduation ceremony speech, Mr. Butker urged the students in attendance to be "unapologetically Catholic" and denounced "the tyranny of diversity, equity and inclusion."

Butker also took a shot in the speech at President Biden, a fellow Catholic. Butker said that America was "led by a

» see **BUTKER** | B9



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists have raced to dismiss Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker's conservative views at a recent commencement speech as homophobic, racist and sexist.

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WASHINGTON COMMANDERS 2024 SCHEDULE RELEASE

After months of anticipation, we finally have a full look at what the first year of the Dan Quinn era will look like.

The NFL released the full 2024 schedule for each team Wednesday night, and the Commanders will have nine home matchups included in their slate of 17 games. They're tied for 16th strength of schedule, and aside from their road game against the Arizona Cardinals, all their games will be played in the eastern or central time zones. In fact, they'll travel the fewest miles for road games this season.

No. 2 overall pick Jayden Daniels is going to be tested in his first season, regardless of when he's ultimately named the starting quarterback. He'll see six different playoff teams in 2024, including in-division rivals like the Cowboys and Eagles.

Daniels will also play No. 1 overall pick Caleb Williams for the first time. It will be the third time in four years that Washington and Chicago will play each other, and for the last two seasons, the road team has emerged victorious. The last time the Bears came to the DMV, they got their first win of the 2023 season by taking down the Commanders handedly, 40-20. D.J. Moore had a career game, catching eight passes for 230 yards and three touchdowns.

Williams isn't the only new face on offense. The Bears made sure to surround their new quarterback with talent by trading for Keenan Allen, drafting Rome Odunze and signing D'Andre Swift. Time will tell how those pieces work together, but it's certainly a more potent group on paper.

The Commanders have made similar moves to make Daniels' job easier when he is eventually named the starting quarterback. They signed running back Austin Ekeler, bolstered the offensive line with Tyler Biadasz and Nick Allegretti and drafted young weapons like Luke McCaffrey and Ben Sinnott. Add that to players like Terry McLaurin, Jahan Dotson and Brian Robinson, and it could be enough to improve a unit that struggled to maintain balance in 2023.

It likely won't be the last time Williams and Daniels meet, but the first time should be one of the most anticipated moments on the schedule for both teams.

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HOME **W** SCHEDULE 2024 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

	09.15 WK 02 1:00 PM
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	10.06 WK 05 1:00 PM
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	10.20 WK 07 4:05 PM
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	10.27 WK 08 1:00 PM
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	11.10 WK 10 1:00 PM
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	12.22 WK 16 1:00 PM
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	12.28/29 WK 17 TBD
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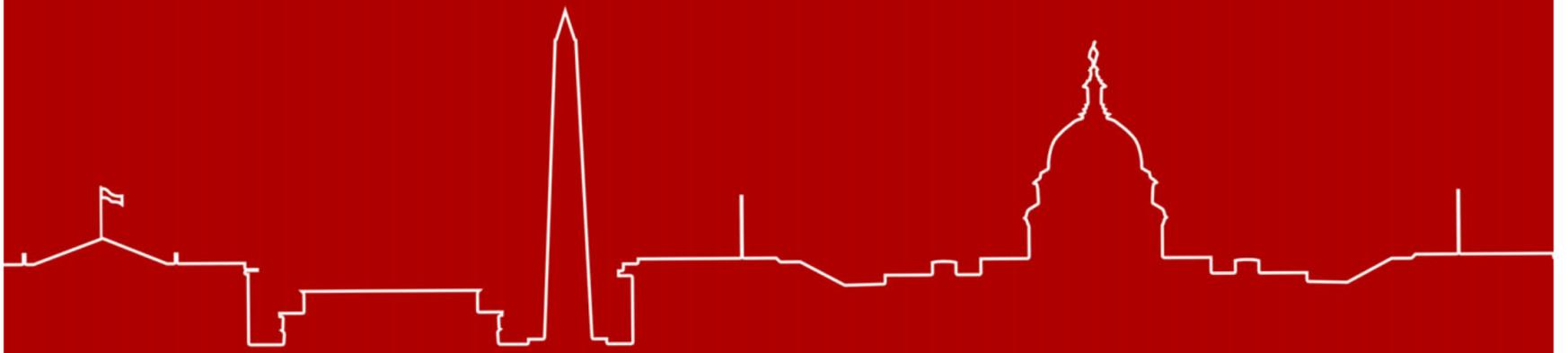


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2024 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS **W**SCHEDULE

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PRESEASON




09.08
 WK 01 4:25 PM


09.15
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MNF

09.23
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09.29
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HOME


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AWAY


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BYE WEEK


12.15
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12.22
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12.28/29
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TBD
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