



DELAWARE

President's son faces common punishment

Trial set to begin for gun charges

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Hunter Biden says it's inconceivable for anyone to be charged with gun crimes for his kind of behavior.

Tell that to David Jon Ray, an Illinois businessman who failed to pay taxes over three years and, when authorities moved to investigate him, admitted he was a habitual cocaine user with a penchant for guns.

He earned a 37-month federal prison sentence for those offenses.



Biden

Mr. Biden, who also faces a battery of tax and gun possession charges, goes on trial in a federal court in Delaware on Monday for the gun charges.

The president's son is accused of possessing a revolver while a user of unlawful drugs and of lying about his drug habit while going through the federal firearms purchase background check.

He argues he is being singled out for prosecution because of his famous father.

Yet a Washington Times review of federal gun prosecutions has found many cases of prosecution, conviction and incarceration for those kinds of charges.

Nicole Blakely, an Arkansas woman who tried to help her boyfriend escape conviction on gun charges by claiming at trial she owned a handgun and all the marijuana found in their home, was ultimately convicted and served a year of home confinement.

Federal prosecutors in Vermont this year charged a man as a drug user in possession of a shotgun after local police found him asleep in a vehicle with

» see **BIDEN** | **A6**



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

After building empire, Trump can't escape New York wrath

By **TOM HOWELL JR.**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEW YORK | Former President Donald Trump fled the Manhattan playground where he built his brand for the sunny climes of Florida in 2019. It turns out his hometown wasn't finished with him.

New York and its legal system have eaten away at Mr. Trump's finances and, potentially, his freedom this year as he runs for the White House for a third time.

Civil judgments in the defamation case of former magazine columnist E. Jean Carroll and a sprawling fraud case against the Trump Organization have resulted in penalties exceeding a half-billion dollars, and 12 Manhattan jurors on Thursday made him the first former U.S. president convicted of a crime.

"I cherish New York, and the people of New York, and always will, but unfortunately, despite the fact that I pay millions of dollars in city, state and local taxes each year, I have been treated very badly by the political leaders of both the city and state," Mr. Trump said in a social media post in November 2019 as he decamped for Florida.

In some ways, those parting words have become prophecy. Midtown construction workers and minorities in the



PAINFUL: Former President Donald Trump was stuck for weeks in Manhattan while District Attorney Alvin Bragg carried out his mission to convict the New York native of crimes. Mr. Trump must return to the city on July 11 for sentencing.

Bronx gave Mr. Trump a hero's welcome while Democratic officials threw the book at him in the courtroom.

Mr. Trump grew up in Queens and built his empire in Manhattan. Before his political rise, he was a tabloid darling in the 1980s and a reality TV star in the

2000s. Democratic officials' eagerness to turn his long New York paper trail into lawsuits and an indictment transformed his old stomping ground into the

» see **MANHATTAN** | **A6**

SENTENCING

Trump sees a 'breaking point' for Americans

House arrest too tough to tolerate

By **MALLORY WILSON AND ALEX MILLER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump said Americans will reach their "breaking point" if he is sentenced to house arrest after his conviction of 34 felony offenses.

"I'm not sure the public would stand for it," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Fox News that aired Sunday. "I think it'd be tough for the public to take. At a certain point, there's a breaking point."

He didn't say what would happen after the breaking point, but he warned that the U.S. was on a dangerous trajectory after what he described as a politically motivated conviction.

"It's weaponization, and it's a very dangerous thing. We've never had that in this country," said Mr. Trump, the first former president to become a convicted felon.

He is scheduled for sentencing on July 11, four days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where he will be named the party's nominee for president.

Mr. Trump was found guilty Thursday of 34 counts of falsifying business records in connection with a \$130,000 hush money payment to adult film actress Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election.

The maximum sentence is four years in prison for each count. Mr. Trump could also be sentenced to probation, home confinement and fines.

He said people understand the trial was "a scam."

"And the Republican Party is really, they're stuck. They stick together in this. They see it's weaponization of the Justice Department, of the FBI," he said.

The historic conviction resonated for days across America's political

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► Trump will be allowed to vote unless penalty includes jail. **A6**

COURTS

Influential Trump judges reshape legal arguments, Supreme Court rulings

By **ALEX SWOYER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Trump's judicial nominees have impacted abortion limits, gun rights and administrative law, but legal experts say their written opinions have often guided Supreme Court oral arguments and rulings.

Conservative court watchers Carrie Severino, president of the Judicial Crisis Network, and Curt Levey, president of

the Committee for Justice, noted the high caliber of the Trump circuit court appointees.

Mr. Levey pointed to disputes out of the conservative-leaning 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, such as the abortion pill battle, the constitutionality of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and immigration cases that have come before the justices this term.

"Trump will be remembered not just for conservative circuit court

appointments but for the fact that a lot of them were really great intellectuals that wrote opinions that were noticed by the Supreme Court," Mr. Levey said.

"The way they are setting things up for the Supreme Court is really important and significant, and that is one of the things that sets his judges apart," said Ms. Severino. "That is important for helping the court understand the full range of

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

FROM BOTTOM UP: The Supreme Court has taken notice of opinions written by conservative intellectuals whom President Trump appointed to circuit courts. Opponents lament ideologies that have led to rulings affecting all areas of the law.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Feds expand traveler poop-snooping program to help stave off viruses

By **RYAN LOVELACE**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Waste is a terrible thing to waste.

The U.S. government is expanding its program to collect poop and thinks picking through the nation's feces is key to ensuring national security by helping officials spot and stop the next pandemic.

The Traveler-based Genomic Surveillance program is expanding efforts

at airports to detect more viruses and increase its government funding. The program's director says a supranational governing body is needed to coordinate poop collectors worldwide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's surveillance program already gathers waste from international air travelers landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Washington Dulles International Airport

and Boston and San Francisco airports.

Officials started wastewater surveillance to look for outbreaks and new variants of COVID-19 and are expanding their scope to include other viruses, such as influenza.

Dr. Cindy Friedman, founding director of the CDC's program, said research from Northeastern University has shown that the U.S. government can buy three months' worth of early

detection capability, critical for infectious diseases such as COVID-19, if 10 to 20 countries participate in the wastewater surveillance.

Dr. Friedman said at a Ginkgo Bio-works conference in April that she supported a major European effort to create a global wastewater consortium to oversee governments' human waste surveillance programs.

"We definitely need global

cooperation and supranational leadership because, really, it's in all our best interests," she said. "The early detection piece, and whatever mitigation and public health actions come from that for whatever pathogen, really can help avoid the costly border closures, they can help avoid travel and trade disruptions, which is in everybody's best interest."

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POLITICS

Louisiana redistricting hands Republicans another headache. A5

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Ukraine facing energy shutdowns after Russia hits infrastructure. A9

REGION

Hogan condemned for stance on Trump trial verdict. A10

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ONWARD AND UPWARD

One South Carolina Republican believes that an emerging unifying force is at work in the Republican Party in the wake of former President Donald Trump’s recent hush-money trial.

“There’s no doubt that this verdict has actually unified our party,” Sen. Tim Scott told “Fox News Sunday” anchor Shannon Bream.

“Without any question, what we’ve seen is ‘Never-Trumpers’ calling me and saying, ‘Tim, I’m on the bandwagon now. I’ve seen this two-tiered justice system working against the president of the United States. It could work against me, too.’ I’ve seen donors who’ve been on the sidelines this entire process now jumping in — one of the reasons why we saw more than \$50 million raised in 24 hours,” the South Carolina Republican said.

The exact amount was \$52.8 million. The campaign has also scheduled three major fundraisers in California this week as well.

“The issues that are going to drive the results of this Nov. 5 election will be, can Donald Trump close the southern border? The answer is he already has closed the southern border,” Mr. Scott continued.

“Can he bring inflation down under 2%? The answer is it was 1.4% when he left office. Can he create jobs for the poorest Americans? The good news is he created more than 7 million jobs with the highest percentage going to women, African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians,” the lawmaker said.

“What we know about four years under Donald Trump is we had low unemployment, low inflation, high enthusiasm, law and order in our streets. And we’ve had the exact opposite under Joe Biden. We’ve had incredibly crushing



“There’s no doubt that this verdict has actually unified our party,” Sen. Tim Scott said of the result in former President Donald Trump’s hush-money trial.

inflation leading to high interest rates, crime in the poorest communities, devastating single mothers like the one that raised me,” Mr. Scott said.

“And we’ve had the greatest invasion in American history across our southern border, left wide open, unsafe, because Joe Biden on Day One started unraveling border security put in place by Donald Trump,” the lawmaker noted.

BEACH REPORT

The Republican National Committee had a simple observation to make after evaluating President Biden’s most recent visit to the Delaware seashore this past weekend.

It marked Mr. Biden’s 471st day of vacation, according to committee chairman Michael Whatley.

“While hardworking Americans are wrapping up their work weeks, Joe Biden skipped town on an already short week and heading to Delaware for another beach weekend. Families are struggling to enjoy fun summer activities thanks to high gas prices, unaffordable housing, and

soaring grocery bills caused by failed Bidenomics but Biden cannot be bothered by Americans who are unable to afford vacations of their own,” Mr. Whatley said in a statement.

Mr. Biden attended evening mass at St. Edmond’s Catholic Church in Rehoboth Beach and was greeted by demonstrators, according to WRDE-TV, an NBC affiliate located in Milton, Delaware.

“Across the street from the church, a crowd of protesters waved large Palestinian flags. One flag stated “Free Palestine,” while some protesters chanted ‘16,000 children killed!’ and ‘16,000 children dead!’ As the president was leaving the church, protesters chanted ‘Palestine will be free!’” wrote Eleisa Weber, a reporter for the station.

ON THE RADAR

One historic and significant event will receive much press attention this week. That, of course, is the historic anniversary of D-Day on Thursday.

Here’s a minuscule look at the upcoming media coverage, with more to come:

Fox News Channel’s anchor and executive editor of “The Story,” Martha MacCallum, will host her 3 p.m. news program from France next week in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. From Tuesday to Thursday, Ms. MacCallum will broadcast live from the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, speaking with World War II veterans and a bipartisan delegation of U.S. senators taking part in the ceremony about the milestone.

ABC News also reported Sunday that “more than 60 U.S. veterans of World War II arrived in France on Saturday ahead of ceremonies marking 80 years since D-Day.”

“The group traveling from Dallas included six Medal of Honor recipients from wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Vietnam who wish to honor the WWII veterans. There are also two Rosie the Riveters, representing women who worked in factories and shipyards during the war. There

will be a number of ceremonies to commemorate the day in France and to thank veterans, some of whom will make the long trans-Atlantic journey despite advanced age, fatigue and physical difficulties,” the network said.

DAD AND GRANDDAD REPORT

Father’s Day is June 16, less than two weeks away. For those seeking a very special, unique gift for dad, granddad, uncle, brother or those who are like a dad to them — here’s a resource.

History Salvaged offers some appealing items custom created from wood obtained from historic and unique spots indeed — including Independence Hall, the USS Constitution and a dozen other famous ships, well-known beach boardwalks, wooden seats from Yankee Stadium, and even wood barrels that were used to age Jack Daniel’s whiskey and a variety of other famous libations.

The pens are handcrafted with many featuring 24k gold plating — along with black titanium, rhodium or chrome plating. They are indeed specialty items.

Curious? Find the details, prices, pen descriptions and more at [historysalvagedonline.com](https://www.history salvaged online.com)

POLL DU JOUR

- 54% of U.S. adults would not vote for former President Donald Trump if he were convicted of a felony by a jury.
 - 90% of Democrats, 58% of independents and 14% of Republicans agree.
 - 34% overall would vote for Mr. Trump despite the conviction.
 - 5% of Democrats, 28% of independents and 66% of Republicans agree.
 - 11% don’t know, or refused to answer.
 - 5% of Democrats, 15% of independents and 20% of Republicans agree.
- SOURCE: A REUTERS/IPSON POLL OF 2,556 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED ONLINE MAY 30-31.
- Follow Jennifer Harper on X @HarperBulletin, on Facebook @HarperUniverse.

ECONOMY

Inflation remained at historically high levels in April in a worrying sign for Biden

By Jeff Mordock
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Inflation held steady at historically high levels in April, suggesting that price increases could last much longer than expected.

The Commerce Department’s personal consumption expenditures index, released Friday, showed inflation remained 2.7% higher last month compared with April 2023. That’s identical to the March numbers, which also showed that prices that month were up 2.7% versus the same period last year.

The identical inflation numbers suggest that

high prices won’t budge soon even though April’s forecast was in line with economists’ forecasts.

On a month-by-month basis, prices rose 0.3% in April compared with March, according to the PCE index. Monthly inflation readings of 0.2% over time are needed for inflation to calm down.

The PCE measures how much more Americans spent last month compared with April 2003. It’s the gauge favored by the Federal Reserve to determine whether to lower interest rates.

Core PCE inflation, which measures prices excluding the volatile food and energy categories, came in at 2.8% in April. That’s also flat from March.

Friday’s report is unwelcome news for President

Biden, who needs inflation to slow down as he makes his pitch for reelection. Polls show consumers are angry over high prices and may take out their frustration on him at the ballot box in November.

White House National Economic Advisor Lael Brainard acknowledged that inflation remains high, but said that overall, inflation is down 60% from its peak in 2021.

“The cost of living is still too high for too many working families, but today’s PCE report shows continued progress bringing down inflation,” she said in a statement.

In a Gallup poll released this month, 41% of Americans named inflation or the high cost of living

as the most important financial problem facing their family. That’s up from 32% in 2022. Before 2022, the highest percentage saying inflation was their top problem was 18% in 2008.

A separate Gallup survey found that only 38% of Americans have confidence that Mr. Biden will do the right thing for the economy, the lowest total since Gallup began measuring economic confidence in a president in 2001.

In contrast, the same poll shows that 46% of Americans have “a great deal” or “a fair amount” of confidence that former President Donald Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee, will do the right thing when it comes to the economy.



TRUMP TRIALS
Trump, GOP set fundraising records

A day after a New York jury convicted former President Donald Trump in his hush-money trial, the Trump campaign team and Republicans smashed fundraising records after donations poured in from an electrified GOP base.

The Trump campaign announced a massive small-dollar donation haul following the verdict, totaling \$34.8 million, which campaign officials said is nearly double their prior one-day fundraising record. Nearly a third of the money came from “brand new donors,” the campaign said.

The guilty verdict spurred an immediate flood of donations to Mr. Trump’s main fundraising site, WinRed, causing it to crash temporarily.

The guilty verdict spread the surge in donations to other GOP fundraising entities.

Jack Pandol, spokesman for the National Congressional Campaign Committee, said the House GOP campaign arm “broke fundraising records” Thursday night, pulling in \$300,000, which shattered the previous one-day record of \$125,000.

— Susan Ferrechio

BORDER SECURITY
Johnson calls crackdown irrelevant

House Speaker Mike Johnson said “It’s too little too late” for President Biden to get credit for the administration’s expected executive order on immigration.

When asked by host Shannon Bream on “Fox News Sunday” whether the Louisiana Republican would give Mr. Biden credit, he said, “I don’t.”

“He’s trying to desperately show the American people that he wants to address the issue that he himself created,” he said.

“We documented 64 specific executive actions

that President Biden and Secretary [Alejandro] Mayorkas at DHS took ... beginning on the first day that President Biden took office, to open the border,” he said. “Why? They did it intentionally.”

— Mallory Wilson

CONGRESS
Speech invitation sent to Netanyahu

The four congressional leaders formally extended an invitation Friday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress after months of delay.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who acted as a driving force to get Mr. Netanyahu to Washington, announced that a letter inviting the longtime Israeli leader had been sent.

No date, however, was included on when Mr. Netanyahu, consumed with a war in the Gaza Strip with Hamas in the aftermath of the deadly Oct. 7 attack, would address lawmakers.

The letter was signed by Mr. Johnson, Louisiana Republican; Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat; Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican; and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, New York Democrat.

— Alex Miller

HOUSE
Vote set on ICC sanctions bill this week

The House will vote this week on a bill to impose sanctions on individuals connected to the International Criminal Court if they target U.S. or Israeli citizens for investigation or prosecution.

It is a response to ICC’s chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, announcing on May 20 an effort to secure arrest warrants against top Israeli officials for war crimes committed in and around Gaza.

The sanctions include revoking or blocking visas and other documentation needed to enter the U.S. and freezing U.S. property and transactions.

Republicans should have enough votes to pass the bill, although White House opposition makes Senate passage unlikely.

— Lindsey McPherson



Rep. Adam Schiff said the Biden campaign should lean on former President Donald Trump’s conviction, saying the GOP would go “after Joe Biden with a vengeance” if he was a Republican.

DEMOCRATS
Schiff says Biden should explicitly campaign on Trump convictions

Rep. Adam Schiff said President Biden should be “leaning” into the conviction of former President Donald Trump as the presidential race forges on.

“I think for the president, there’s a time and a place for each argument. I think on the day of the conviction that day thereafter, I can understand the president staying above the fray and demonstrating his respect and expressing his respect for the jury system,” the California Democrat said Sunday on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

“But I think the president should be leaning into this going forward. His competitor is a convicted felon,” said Mr. Schiff, who is running for the Senate.

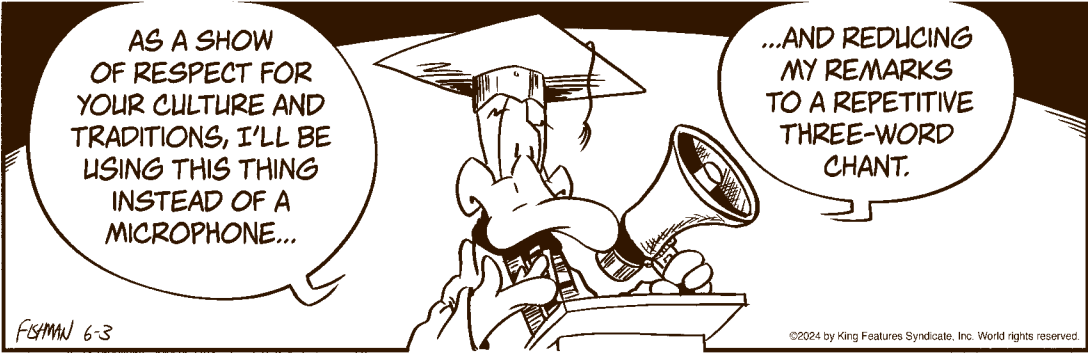
The Californian said if the situation was reversed, “they would be going after Joe Biden with a vengeance.”

“They’re making those false claims about Joe Biden, regardless. So I think not only the president, but Democrats need to be making the case forcefully to American people,” he said.

The presumptive Republican nominee was found guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records Thursday in connection to hush money payments made to porn actress Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election. He is the first former president to become a convicted felon.

— Mallory Wilson

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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Do You Suffer With NEUROPATHY?

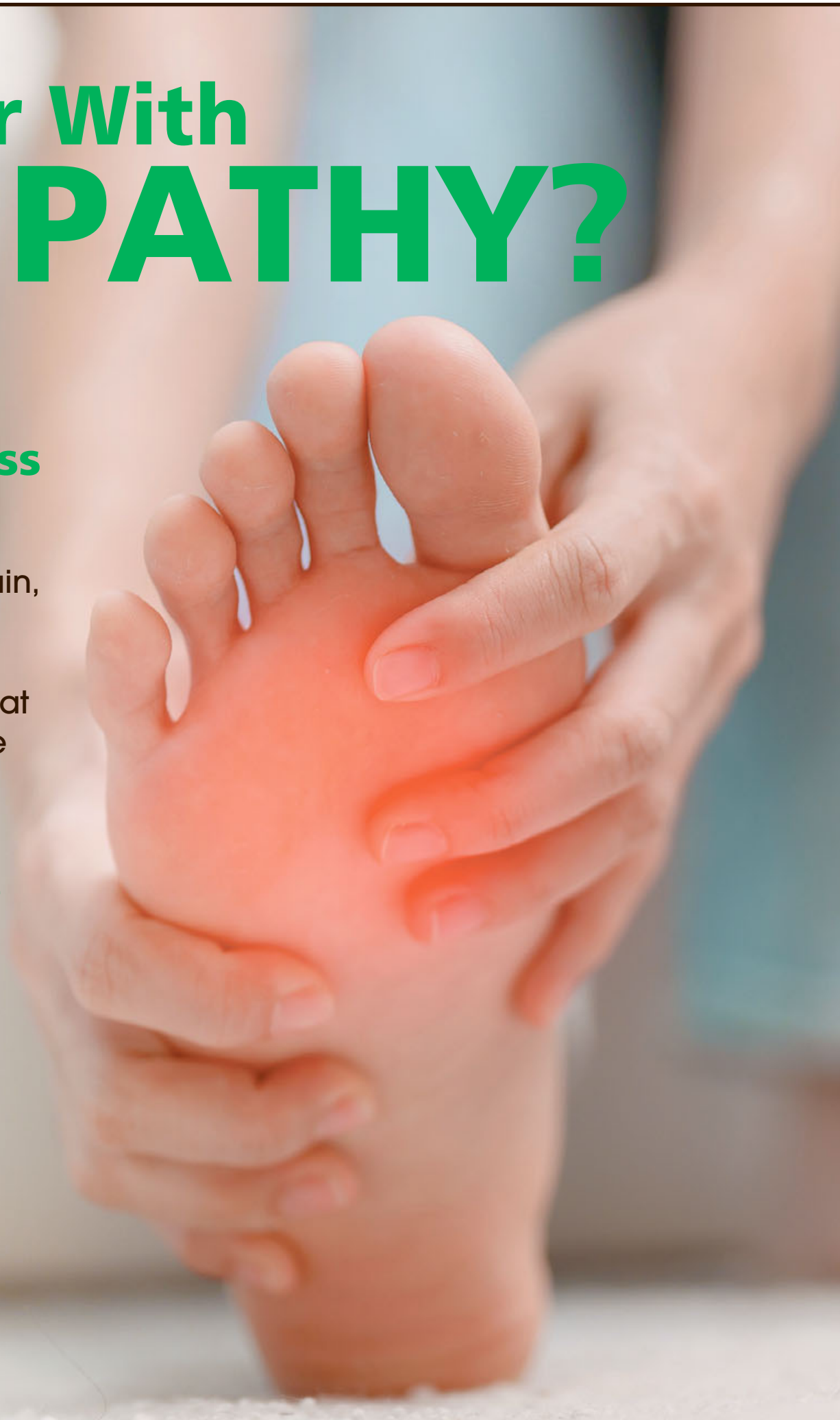
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Politics

ACCOUNTABILITY

Investigators begin to shut down cases of pandemic fraud
Labor starved of cash, authority

By STEPHEN DINAN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A federal inspector general sent a stark warning to Congress, saying they are leaving a massive amount of stolen taxpayer money in scammers' pockets because lawmakers haven't extended the statute of limitation on pandemic unemployment fraud.

Labor Department Inspector General Larry D. Turner said he's already let staff go, shut down some potential cases and put 150,000 cases on hold as he waits to see whether Congress gives him more money and more time to complete the investigations.

As a result, the OIG has been forced to wind down its pandemic oversight work.

"I remain concerned that these actions will have detrimental results, thus leading to fewer OIG audits and recommendations, lost opportunities to hold fraudsters accountable, and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars left unrecovered," Mr. Turner said last week in his latest semiannual report to Congress.

Congress opened up the national wallet in March 2020 to pump money into the economy through three big assistance programs. Two were small business lending and the third was expanded unemployment benefits, which saw some \$800 billion doled out.

Analysts say hundreds of billions of those dollars were stolen by fraudsters who filed applications in others' names, taking advantage of ancient state systems and lax identity checks.

The result was a pay-and-chase model where the government paid most claims and figured it would try to claw back wrong payments.

Except the statute of limitations is five years, and that means the first claims will start aging out early next year.

Mr. Turner said his office has already spurred 1,700 cases, but it has some 150,000 more open complaints. And now it's starting to shelve them.

"Despite our dwindling resources, the OIG anticipates continuing the investigation of already open pandemic-related UI fraud matters until the statute of limitations expires," he said.

"However, due to the lack of resources and impending expiration of the statute of limitations, we will significantly curtail the opening of any new pandemic UI fraud investigations. Further, we will continue the pause in reviewing the approximately 150,000 open UI fraud complaints we currently have awaiting review."

Congress has doubled the statute of limitations to 10 years for fraud in the two small business lending programs, but for some reason has been unable to agree on an extension for unemployment fraud.

"It's the taxpayers' money and Congress should do everything possible to get some of it back. But investing in those kinds of activities doesn't make headlines back home," said Thomas A. Schatz, president of Citizens Against Government Waste.

The House did pass legislation last year to extend the statute of limitations.

It cleared on a 230-200 vote with just 10 Democrats joining the GOP in backing it. Most Democrats objected to some provisions the GOP added, including cuts to money already allocated to states to improve their unemployment systems.

Some Democrats have also fretted about a focus on fraud, worrying it would sour Americans on the importance of government assistance programs.

Still, there seems to be general agreement that those who did balk the government should be held to account.

Key senators have announced their own bipartisan plan to double the statute of limitations, and President Biden touted the idea in his State of the Union address, which makes the lack of action all the more striking.

Mr. Turner, the inspector general, said Congress also gave him less money than he'd anticipated for last year and this year.

Mr. Schatz said it should be easy for lawmakers to find the money. His group will soon release its latest "Pig Book," an annual compilation of pork-barrel spending, and he said there's more than enough money in there to cover what the inspector general would need to claw back.

"It's multiple return on the investment," Mr. Schatz said.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Rep. Bob Good received a "cease and desist" letter to stop using former President Donald Trump's name and likeness in materials.

REPUBLICANS

Feud escalates with 'cease and desist'
Trump warns Good campaign to stop faking endorsement

By LINDSEY MCPHERSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

An attorney for former President Donald Trump sent a "cease and desist" letter Friday to Rep. Bob Good, warning his campaign to stop using Mr. Trump's name and likeness in campaign materials that falsely suggest his support.

It escalates the hostile relationship between Mr. Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, and Mr. Good, the chair of the House Freedom Caucus.

The letter comes just days after Mr. Trump endorsed Mr. Good's Republican primary opponent, John McGuire.

Trump attorney David A. Warrington said in the letter that they were informed Mr. Good's campaign was producing yard signs "purporting to indicate President Trump's endorsement of your candidacy." The letter included a photograph of a yard sign that had Mr. Trump's name listed above Mr. Good's name.

"You know that is false," Mr. Warrington wrote, citing Mr. Trump's endorsement last Tuesday of Mr. McGuire, a state senator and former Navy SEAL.

"To be clear, neither you nor your campaign are authorized to use President Trump's

name or the Campaign's to falsely imply their support of your candidacy," he said. "Nor are you or your campaign authorized to claim that you represent or are otherwise associated with President Trump or the Campaign."

The Washington Times has obtained a copy of the letter.

It was unclear when the yard sign pictured in the letter was produced or when the photo was taken.

Mr. Good's campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Mr. Good has been on the outs with Mr. Trump since May 2023, when the congressman endorsed Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in the Republican presidential primary cycle.

When Mr. DeSantis dropped out of the White House race earlier this year, Mr. Good immediately endorsed Mr. Trump and started courting his support. He and Mr. McGuire were among the Republicans who flocked to Manhattan this month to support Mr. Trump in his hush money trial.

Mr. Trump said in a Truth Social post last Tuesday that Mr. Good's endorsement came "too late" and "the damage has been done!"

"Bob Good is BAD FOR VIRGINIA, AND BAD FOR



The Trump campaign's "cease and desist" letter comes days after he endorsed Mr. Good's Republican primary opponent.

THE USA," Mr. Trump said. "He turned his back on our incredible movement, and was constantly attacking and fighting me until recently, when he gave a warm and 'loving' Endorsement - But really, it was too late."

Mr. Trump went on in the post to endorse Mr. McGuire, who he called a "highly respected State Legislator" and "true American Hero."

Mr. Warrington accused Mr. Good of committing "fraud" on the voters of Virginia's 5th Congressional District and Republican donors by producing campaign materials implying he has Mr. Trump's support.

"It is an abuse of the voters' trust to make such false

statements," he wrote, adding that if Mr. Good is using Mr. Trump's name in any fundraising efforts that would also be an issue.

"There are a lot of unscrupulous people and groups who seek to make money off President Trump's name and Campaign," Mr. Warrington wrote. "President Trump is very concerned with ensuring that his supporters are not deceived into thinking they are contributing to a candidate — like you — that President Trump does not support."

Despite not having the former president's support, Mr. Good has not turned on Mr. Trump. He voiced support for the ex-president after a jury on Thursday found Mr. Trump guilty of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the hush money trial.

"The American people will have the final verdict on November 5," Mr. Good wrote on his campaign Facebook page. "Everyone in the country — except the illegal aliens — are far worse off under Joe Biden, than they were when Trump was in office, and that is what this is about. This is election interference by the Democrat Party, Joe Biden, and Merrick Garland, facilitated by a corrupt judge and a crooked prosecutor."

HOUSE

GOP calls on FBI official to testify on revoking security clearances

Seeks details on misuse of process against whistleblowers

By KERRY PICKET
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

GOP lawmakers have called on a senior official in the FBI's general counsel's office to testify behind closed doors about the bureau's misuse of the security clearance suspension and revocation process against whistleblowers.

House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan, Ohio Republican, sent a letter to the official saying that the committee and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government want transcribed testimony from the official given their work related to the FBI's security division (SecD).

Mr. Jordan said lawmakers learned the official was involved in critical decisions concerning the FBI's adjudication of security clearances.

SecD is the division at FBI headquarters tasked with investigating allegations against FBI employees that may require the suspension or revocation of their security clearance through the adjudication process.

As part of this process, SecD says it applies uniform, government-wide protocols to make a final determination as to whether an individual is approved to hold a clearance.

However, recent protected FBI whistleblower disclosures to the committee revealed that the official did not provide due process to bureau employees whose division was investigating.

"In your position... you had the authority to review and concur with final adjudication outcomes. The Committee and Select Subcommittee have received specific information from multiple individuals that you personally reviewed the security clearance adjudication recommendations for several FBI whistleblowers, including Staff Operations Specialist (SOS) Marcus Allen and Special Agent (SA) Garret O'Boyle," Mr. Jordan wrote in his letter Thursday.

The Washington Times is not disclosing the official's name.

The FBI declined to comment for this story.

Mr. Jordan said the panels received information that the official recommended opening the case against Mr. Allen, based on informal conversations the individual had with FBI employees in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He also said the committee learned that the official was aware of concerns from within SecD that the FBI about not providing employees with due process during the security clearance investigations.

"Instead of pausing the investigations due to these concerns, you instead permitted SecD to move forward with the suspension and/or revocation of the whistleblowers' security clearances," Mr. Jordan said. "SOS Allen and SA O'Boyle are two specific employees for whom you failed to provide sufficient due process."

Mr. Allen and Mr. O'Boyle publicly testified to Congress in May 2023 about abuses they witnessed at the bureau and how the FBI retaliates against its employees who speak out against the agency. More recently, The

Washington Times exclusively reported that an FBI whistleblower, a special agent, notified Congress in early May that the bureau's top brass removed him from his job in retaliation for defending Mr. O'Boyle.

The agent, an attorney who worked as an adjudicator investigating misconduct within the FBI, said his superiors turned on him when he recommended ending the suspension and lifting the security clearance of Mr. O'Boyle.

Mr. O'Boyle has been at the center of a whistleblower saga since his security clearance was suspended in September 2022 for allegedly leaking information about a criminal investigation into Project Veritas.

Mr. Allen had his security clearance suspended after the bureau accused him of having conspiratorial views about the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol and of sympathizing with criminal conduct.

According to a November 2023 protected whistleblower disclosure sent by a SecD employee to lawmakers, Senior SecD officials Dena Perkins and Jeffrey Veltri opened an investigation against

Mr. Allen because he had emailed several news items within his office related to former President Donald Trump that were deemed conspiratorial.

However, the executives in Mr. Allen's Charlotte field office were not pushing for him to lose his security clearance or even have an administrative misconduct charge leveled against him.

The Charlotte field office planned to handle the matter by having Mr. Allen transferred from working in Domestic Terrorism to another branch within the field office.

The investigation into Mr. Allen continued despite SecD not finding any anti-American issues about Mr. Allen, initially, the disclosure says.

According to the disclosure, SecD concluded Mr. Allen was sympathetic to conservative viewpoints when he performed two background checks on subjects with whom he found no glaring issues. However, SecD investigators did subsequent checks and found information that they were sympathetic to right-wing ideologies.

"There was no indication that

Allen had actually ever seen the information, however, Perkins and Veltri had decided that Allen had hidden the information because he was sympathetic to anti-American conservative groups," the protected disclosure said.

The disclosure also says a senior SecD employee challenged Ms. Perkins about her deeming that Mr. Allen was anti-American, and told her that she could not just make things up about a Marine who had fought in combat. Ms. Perkins responded by having that SecD employee transferred to a "do-nothing" job until he left SecD.

Another SecD employee also complained to Ms. Perkins about her treatment of Mr. Allen, but she had her mind made up and Allen had his security clearance revoked, according to the whistleblower disclosure.

The committee previously called upon Mr. Veltri, special agent-in-charge of the Miami field office and former SecD official, to talk to both panels. The committee recently released a transcribed interview with FBI former Assistant Director of Human Resources Jennifer Moore.

HOUSE

Louisiana redistricting gives House GOP another headache

Johnson presses Graves to stay in Democrat-heavy area

By **ALEX MILLER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redistricting in Louisiana could jeopardize the House Republicans' quest to keep the majority and knock a one-time rising GOP star out of Congress.

The new congressional map changed Rep. Garret Graves' 6th Congressional District from a safe Republican district to a majority Black voter district that Democrats should win.

Mr. Graves has vowed to run again, but whether he stays in the same district remains up in the air.

"We are running for reelection in a district anchored in the Capital Region," Mr. Graves said

in a statement. "Because of the absurdity of the map, we are looking through these districts to determine where we can best represent the interests and priorities of the people or Louisiana for the next two years until a reasonable map is restored."

The new map was snarled in the courts since the Legislature passed it in January, with one court decision ruling it a racial gerrymander. But the Supreme Court decided earlier this month that the map would stand, at least for the 2024 election.

The new version of the 6th District was created to include more Black voters. The district now spans nearly 200 miles and slashes through the center

of Louisiana from the capital of Baton Rouge up to Shreveport in the state's northwest corner.

Mr. Graves, who has represented the area surrounding Baton Rouge since 2015, has a tough choice to make — stay in the new district or run against an incumbent Republican.

If he stays put, the lawmaker will face state Sen. Cleo Fields, a Democrat. But if he jumps ship, his most likely opponent would be Rep. Julia Letlow, to whom Mr. Graves has close personal ties, in Louisiana's 5th Congressional District.

Mr. Johnson has urged members to not fight one another in state primaries and general elections, stressing that a unified GOP



Louisiana Rep. Garret Graves must decide whether to stay in the new 6th Congressional District or run against an incumbent Republican.

hurt, but it may not be the death blow to the GOP majority. Republicans expect to gain seats from redistricting in other states. The new map in North Carolina, for example, nets the party at least three likely pickups.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, endorsed Mr. Graves earlier this month with the caveat that he should stay in his current district to avoid a messy, member-on-member fight.

He said that the lawmaker could win, in part because Mr. Graves is a popular incumbent, and because he can ride former President Donald Trump's coattails on the November ballot.

"I think it bodes very well. I think Garret could win it," Mr. Johnson told the radio show "Talk Louisiana." "And I'm really hopeful he'll run in that district."

JUDGE

From page **A1**

arguments, especially the full range of originalism arguments."

Mr. Trump appointed three Supreme Court justices, 54 circuit court judges and 174 district court judges. President Obama appointed two Supreme Court justices and 55 circuit court judges during two terms in office.

Mr. Trump's nominees flipped three circuit courts from majority Democratic to majority Republican.

Jake Faleschini, legal director of state courts at the liberal Alliance for Justice, said the number of Trump appointees on the bench and their ideologies have led to rulings impacting every area of the law. In his view, the decisions have had a negative effect.

"There are decisions the Supreme Court and Trump judges have made that influence your walk down the street every day," Mr. Faleschini said, "everything from abuse of government authority, age discrimination, criminal justice, the rights of corporations and the undermining of rights of consumers, the death penalty, education, and environment — freedom of speech, gun violence."



Trump judicial appointees' arguments for originalism have influenced rulings, including the Supreme Court's decision in 2022 that any gun control law had to be consistent with the nation's history and tradition dating back to its founding.

"It is entirely and completely invasive," he said.

Perhaps the most notable decision of Mr. Trump's appointments was the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 landmark decision that gave women a national right to abortion. In a 6-3 ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in 2022, the high court returned jurisdiction over the issue to the states.

Since then, more than a dozen states have moved to outlaw abortion.

Elliot Minberg, senior fellow for the liberal People for the American Way, said even conservative justices had kept *Roe* intact while weighing abortion-related matters before Trump-appointed justices eliminated the roughly 50-year-old precedent.

"It took the Trump justices to really turn it around," Mr. Minberg said.

The Trump judicial nominees also made a major impact on the Second Amendment in 2022 with the ruling in

New York State Rifle & Pistol Association. The court's conservative majority held that any gun control law had to be consistent with the nation's history and tradition dating back to its founding. If a firearm restraint did not date back to the founding, then the law would likely be unconstitutional.

Mr. Faleschini said the Trump appointees practice originalism when it works for their goal. He said the justices "didn't bother to do an analysis of the

actual hardware that was in circulation in the late 1700s, so originalism as to what? So that methodology can always be manipulated to fit an outcome that you want."

Mr. Levey said that Mr. Trump's appointments have also reshaped administrative law. He pointed to the high court striking down President Biden's move to forgive student debt for more than 40 million Americans and a case in which the conservative majority limited the Environmental Protection Agency's reach over wetlands, citing the Clean Water Act.

"I would say administrative law has probably been where his Supreme Court appointments have had the biggest effect," he said.

Mr. Faleschini said Trump judges have reshaped voting rights. He noted a recent move by two Trump appointees on a three-judge panel that struck down Louisiana's congressional map, which had added a second majority Black district. That dispute is being appealed to the Supreme Court.

"There is no more damage that the Trump judges or the Supreme Court can do to our Constitution than to undermine the right of the people to choose their representatives in free and fair elections," Mr. Faleschini said.



Travelers at the nation's largest airports undergo government surveillance beyond security checkpoints and even restroom doors. Officials are looking at wastewater for outbreaks of infectious diseases.

WASTE

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CDC spokesman Dave Daigle said the government has spent more than \$60.3 million on the program since 2021. The program gathers samples from planes' wastewater, airport wastewater sampling devices and travelers' nasal swabs.

Taxpayer spending on the program is doubling as the endeavor expands. Mr. Daigle said nearly \$19 million was added early this year to the program's contract for its second-year allocation, up from approximately \$17.7 million.

Ginkgo Bioworks, a Boston-based biotechnology company, has partnered with the U.S. government on the program. It said in March that the genomic surveillance efforts would soon operate at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and Miami International Airport.

Mr. Daigle said the government's efforts to dig through dung have included only four of the busiest international airports in the U.S.: John F. Kennedy International Airport, Newark Liberty International Airport, San Francisco International Airport and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

"The frequency of new outbreaks around the world reminds us every day that persistent and strategically focused biosurveillance is paramount to ensure readiness and rapid response,"

Matthew McKnight, Ginkgo Bioworks general manager, said in a statement in March.

Government officials hope a global network of wastewater surveillance will enable pandemic forecasting, similar to how meteorologists forecast hurricanes.

Northeastern University said last year that it received \$17.5 million from the CDC to take a lead role in the Epistorm project.

Epistorm's website said Northeastern, Ginkgo and eight other entities are participating in the project contracted with the CDC.

The project is part of \$262.5 million that the CDC is spending over five years on outbreak analytics and disease modeling, according to the Health and Human Services Department's website documenting government grants and a CDC announcement.

The CDC, its partners and foreign governments say more genomic surveillance is necessary worldwide. In March, the European Union announced plans to create an international system of wastewater surveillance at airports and other strategic locations to set up an early warning system for health threats.

The resulting GLOWACON, or Global Consortium for Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance for Public Health, is collaborating with the CDC, the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others.

Growing international

genomic surveillance may not sit well with privacy-conscious travelers, but China's restroom surveillance technology is perhaps more likely to disturb the huddled masses yearning to pee free.

In April, China-based filmmaker Christian Petersen-Clausen documented health-checking urinals across Shanghai in a series of posts on X.

Mr. Petersen-Clausen said he paid a small fee after using one of the urinals and soon received medical results on his phone that showed he lacked calcium. He acknowledged having privacy concerns about sharing his health data but said on X that "the convenience is unbeatable."

The U.S. government's program is more discreet. It collects wastewater from planes rather than from airport terminals.

The Biden administration intends to use its collection protocols, which are less invasive than nasal swabs, to avoid passenger delays.

The CDC appears willing to move on if the wastewater surveillance efforts prove ineffectual.

"There are some really good use cases for airplane wastewater surveillance, community wastewater surveillance, and all these innovations that have come out of the pandemic, but we should never be doing it just to do it because it's a shiny new object," Dr. Friedman said at the April conference. "We really need to know that it has public health value."



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MANHATTAN

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epicenter of his legal woes as he takes on President Biden.

Other cases haven't gone far:

- Special counsel Jack Smith's case alleging Mr. Trump conspired against voters after the 2020 election is mired in Washington as the Supreme Court mulls whether Mr. Trump has presidential immunity against criminal charges.
- A second Smith case, in Florida, is stuck in neutral as a Trump-appointed judge slowly and carefully analyzes security concerns and legal issues around

TRUMP

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landscape, delighting Mr. Trump's opponents and outraging his supporters.

It remains to be seen how the verdict will impact voters in the handful of states that will decide the presidential election.

A nationwide poll by Reuters after Mr. Trump's conviction found that the all-important independent voters split on the issue. A quarter of independent voters said the conviction made them less likely to support his reelection bid, 18% said they were more likely to back him and 56% said the verdict would not affect their decision in November.

For President Biden's reelection campaign, the conviction will reinforce the cornerstone anti-Trump message.

"The single biggest threat to our democracy is Donald Trump," former U.S. Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn, who is working with the Biden campaign, said on MSNBC. "This is literally about what this country was founded on, democracy, and that the threat of that not existing anymore. It really scares people."

Mr. Biden, who has scolded Mr. Trump for undermining faith in the justice system by calling the trial "rigged," laughed off Mr. Trump's allegation that he is behind the prosecutions.

"I didn't know I was that powerful," Mr. Biden said jokingly to reporters at the White House.

He shrugged off Mr. Trump's claims that the prosecution will backfire on Democrats, in particular Mr. Biden, who could one day find themselves in court.

"I didn't do anything wrong. The system still works," Mr. Biden said.

Rep. Dean Phillips, a Minnesota Democrat who unsuccessfully challenged

allegations that Mr. Trump unlawfully stored classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate.

- A case alleging Mr. Trump violated Georgia racketeering laws after the 2020 election stumbled out of the gate because Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis was found to have had a romantic relationship with the man she hired to help lead the investigation, raising financial conflict concerns.

Ms. Carroll has successfully sued Mr. Trump twice in federal court over claims he defamed her after she publicly accused him of sexual assault in a New York department store in the 1990s. Mr. Trump denies the

incident but faces nearly \$90 million in judgments.

New York Attorney General Letitia James persuaded a New York judge to find Mr. Trump and his business liable on claims he submitted fraudulent financial statements to gain favorable terms on loans and insurance. He faces more than \$450 million in fines and interest, a judgment that could wipe out his cash stores if it is upheld.

The cases have forced Mr. Trump to fly from Florida and sleep at Trump Tower, his old domicile on Fifth Avenue. He held a post-conviction press conference Friday in the gilded lobby.

He railed against Manhattan District

Attorney Alvin Bragg for making a top priority of getting Trump.

"We had a DA who is a failed DA. Crime is rampant in New York. Violent Crime. That's what he's really supposed to be looking at," said Mr. Trump, noting a machete-wielding attacker at a Times Square McDonald's. "Bragg is down watching [my] trial on what they call crimes?"

It's unclear whether the Big Apple battering will hamstring Mr. Trump politically in the state. If anything, he seems to be on the upswing.

A new poll shows Mr. Trump trails Mr. Biden by only 7 percentage points in New York. Mr. Biden won the state by

triple that margin in 2020. The Emerson College Polling/The Hill/PIX11 survey said independents who typically vote for Democrats have swung toward Mr. Trump.

The former president wasn't as lucky in the courtroom, where he faced a jury drawn from Manhattan stocked with lawyers, an investment banker and others from professional classes who don't make up Mr. Trump's base.

Mr. Trump is no longer stuck in New York and can spend time at his Florida estate or campaign against Mr. Biden at his leisure, though he will be back in New York on July 11 for sentencing.

Trump can still vote unless sent to jail by judge

By **ALEX SWOYER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump will still be able to vote for himself in November — so long as he isn't behind bars.

In New York, a convicted felon can still register to vote if he or she isn't in prison, under a law passed in 2021. For convicts in jail, they regain their right to vote once they're released.

State laws vary on when or if a convicted felon loses the right to vote temporarily or permanently.

Although Mr. Trump was convicted in New York, he's a Florida resident residing at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach.

"Florida defers to other state laws when it comes to disenfranchising voters who are tried and convicted elsewhere. ... [In New York], those convicted of felonies who do not go to prison never lose their voting

rights," said Blair Bowie, director of the Campaign Legal Center's Restore Your Vote project.

The only way Mr. Trump wouldn't be able to vote is if New York Supreme Court Judge Juan Merchan sends him to jail for his conviction. Sentencing is set for July 11.

The former president faces jail time or probation.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis vowed Friday to back Mr. Trump, saying the former president "hasn't lost his voting rights in Florida."

"Rights are not removed in Florida where they haven't yet been stripped in the convicting jurisdiction. That said, given the absurd nature of the New York prosecution of Trump, this would be an easy case to qualify for restoration of rights per the Florida Clemency Board, which I chair," Mr. DeSantis wrote on X.

He added, "The bottom line is that Donald Trump's vote this November

will be one of millions that demonstrate Florida is now a solid Republican state!"

On Thursday, a 12-member jury in New York found Mr. Trump guilty on 34 felony counts for falsifying business records, reportedly documenting money paid to Stormy Daniels during the 2016 election as "legal fees" to keep her quiet about an alleged affair from a decade before.

His former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, paid the porn actress \$130,000 not to talk to the press about the affair, which Mr. Trump denies having.

Prosecutors charged the falsified business records were done to cover up another crime. Critics thought that other crimes could be a campaign finance violation, though the judge did not require the underlying crime to be specified for the conviction.

Mr. Trump has said he is not guilty of any crime.

He plans to appeal.

Mr. Biden for the party's presidential nomination, said Mr. Trump should be pardoned.

He called on New York Gov. Kathy Hochul to pardon Mr. Trump "for the good of the country," regardless of how despicable the former president may be.

In Congress, Republicans began channeling their anger into action over what they said was mistreatment of Mr. Trump.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, said Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and his prosecutor, Matthew Colangelo, would be called to

testify before the Judiciary Committee's weaponization of the federal government panel on June 13.

"We're going to drag, at least attempt to drag, Alvin Bragg in ... to answer for this," Mr. Johnson told radio host Mark Levin. "And these rogue prosecutors, we're going to have them come in and try to explain to us how this is fair."

"We'll see if they defy that order to come and testify to us, but we're going to do our job and hold the line in every possible way we can and get accountability for this because we have to do it," Mr. Johnson said.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia Republican and an ardent supporter of Mr. Trump, posted on X that her colleagues had "better prepare to take action" when the House returns to session on Monday.

"Words are meaningless," she said, citing House Republicans' subpoena power and control over the appropriations process. "No more excuses."

In the Senate, eight Republicans threatened to halt work in the chamber or at least make it more difficult for the Democratic majority to accomplish anything.

BIDEN

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cocaine and a short-barreled shotgun.

In Iowa, Tyshawn Bush was a passenger during a vehicle stop where police found a shotgun he had bought. Police determined he was a marijuana user at the time he bought the weapon, and prosecutors won a conviction for lying on the background check form. He was sentenced to four years in prison.

Mr. Ray lied on three years of tax returns, bilking the government out of \$1.2 million in taxes owed. When agents moved to search his Illinois home in 2012, they found 110 grams of cocaine and nearly 100 firearms.

The fact patterns are different, but the core facts of each case are the same as Mr. Biden's: A drug user had a firearm.

Feeding the beast

Mr. Biden faces three charges: making a false statement in the purchase of a firearm, making a false statement related to information required to be kept by a licensed gun dealer and possession of a firearm by an unlawful drug user.

He has provided most of the evidence being used against him.

His 2021 memoir, "Beautiful Things," explored the depths of his drug struggles. He gave dates and details, including repeated mentions of his quest for crack around the time he showed up at a Delaware firearms dealer in 2018 to buy a Colt Cobra revolver.

"All my energy revolved around smoking drugs and making arrangements to buy drugs — feeding the beast," he wrote.

Mr. Biden's laptop, which he abandoned at a computer store, and his iCloud account, which federal investigators obtained through a warrant, filled in other details. In one text message dated the day after he bought the revolver, he talked about waiting for his "dealer named Mookie." The next day, Mr. Biden said he had been "smoking crack on 4th street and Rodney."

He had the gun for less than two weeks. Hallie Biden, the widow of his brother who became his paramour, plucked the gun from his car and dumped it into the garbage at Janssen's Market in Delaware. She said she thought he was a danger, and she worried children might have found the gun, which she said he left unlocked in his truck.

Given his own words, Mr. Biden's attorneys have done little to contest the evidence. Instead, they asked the judge in his case to dismiss the felony gun



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hunter Biden has provided most of the evidence being used against him through his 2021 memoir and messages on a laptop computer, so his attorneys will argue that he is facing vindictive prosecution because his father is president.

charges by arguing that Mr. Biden faced vindictive prosecution.

They pointed to government statistics that showed just 1.8% of gun crime prosecutions from 2008 to 2017 were for unlawful drug users in possession of a firearm. Given the more than 132,000 prosecutions, that works out to more than 2,000 cases.

Mr. Biden's attorneys said there are fewer than 1,000 investigations per year into lying about drug use on a firearms purchase background check form or being involved in transporting a weapon illegally.

The judge rejected Mr. Biden's motion to dismiss the charges.

Warren Eller, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, said Mr. Biden's case is rare — but then again, so is Mr. Biden's set of circumstances.

For much of his life, he operated in his father's updraft, securing business deals, a cushy job with the Navy Reserve and lenient treatment upon his discharge from the service after failing a drug test. Now, the tail wind

has become a headwind, Mr. Eller said, as the president's tough talk on guns is trained on his son.

"Fortunately or unfortunately, I think the reason Hunter is in the position he's in is his father's president of the United States, and he's a public figure, and that's largely because of who his father is," Mr. Eller said. "The difference is Hunter's been on the front page and Hunter's father's been on the front page talking about the need to strengthen and enforce gun laws."

In an op-ed in USA Today last year after the indictment was handed up, Hunter Biden said he felt persecuted.

"My struggles and my mistakes have been fodder for a vile and sustained disinformation campaign against him, and an all-out annihilation of my reputation through high-pitched but fruitless congressional investigations and, more recently, criminal charges for possessing an unloaded gun for 11 days five years ago — charges that appear to be the first-ever of their kind brought in the history of Delaware," he said.

He suggested that the "weaponization

of my addiction" would prevent others from getting sober.

Probation

Mr. Biden is being prosecuted under a section of the law that makes it illegal for a drug user to purchase or possess a firearm. He is charged with possession of the weapon and with lying on the background check when he denied being a user of unlawful drugs.

The same section of the law also bars convicted felons, most illegal immigrants, dishonorably discharged veterans, fugitives, those with mental illness and several other categories from obtaining a gun.

Prosecutions of felons are the most common charge under the law, with 79% of prohibited person prosecutions in 2021, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Drug use was a distant second at 5.3%. That works out to about 440 drug users who were sentenced for possession of a firearm in 2021.

Illegal immigrants and temporary visa holders were third at 2.9% of cases

completed.

In 2020, 332,200 people attempted and were denied purchase because they were prohibited, and 28,683 of them — some 8.6% — were because of drug use or addiction.

Mr. Eller said many of those cases constitute crimes but hardly any are prosecuted.

"We've got a system that's meant to keep people who shouldn't have guns from having guns, and not a single person is going in to buy a gun who doesn't know the answers to those questions before they go in," Mr. Eller said. "Unfortunately, the one thing this should demonstrate to us is how little time we spend on prevention in looking for people who test the system, who fail the system and are never followed up on."

Many of those prosecuted for being illegal drug users with guns have had other legal entanglements.

Paul Lachapelle Jr. faced several misdemeanor charges over the years before police in Springfield, Vermont, encountered him after a homeowner reported she had seen a man with a holstered handgun on her door camera.

By the time police arrived, Lachapelle had tossed the gun into the grass. Authorities retrieved it, persuaded Lachapelle to admit it was his, and then looked at his police record and figured out he was also a regular drug user.

He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to time served — about eight months.

Other cases The Times found involved a drunken man at a bar who seemed to be threatening other patrons with his gun; a woman whom police officers pulled over for driving a stolen vehicle and found her with drugs and a gun; a woman who helped arrange an armed robbery of the gun store where she worked; a man who shot his brother-in-law after a fight over whether they were sober enough to drive; and numerous cases of people who were found with stolen firearms or guns with obliterated serial numbers.

Lawyers told The Times that the gun charge is the easiest to make stick because all it requires is proving possession of the weapon and some element of drug use. The result is an easy felony conviction. Other circumstances, such as threatening behavior, can be used to argue for longer sentences.

Mr. Biden faces a maximum of 25 years in prison, but Mr. Eller said that's unthinkable and probation is a more likely outcome if he is convicted.

"I would be really surprised if he got jail time for it," Mr. Eller said.

Nation



THE PRESS DEMOCRAT PHOTOGRAPHS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resident evacuates with his horse as the Corral Fire bears down on ranches west of Tracy, California. Gusty winds were fueling the Corral Fire that began Saturday.

CALIFORNIA

Crews continue battling wind-driven wildfire

Thousands told to evacuate city 60 miles east of San Francisco

By TRAN NGUYEN AND THOMAS PEIPERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO | California firefighters expected to gain ground Sunday on a wind-driven wildfire that scorched thousands of acres 60 miles east of San Francisco, burned down a home and forced residents to flee the area near the central California city of Tracy.

The fire erupted Saturday afternoon in the grassy hills managed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, one of the country's key centers for nuclear weapons science and technology. The cause was under investigation.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the research center was not under immediate threat from the blaze, dubbed the Corral Fire, which had devoured some 20 square miles by Sunday afternoon and was 30% contained.

Thousands of people in the area, including parts of the city of Tracy with a population of 100,000, were ordered to leave for evacuation centers. Tracy is about 70 miles south of California's capital in Sacramento.

CalFire Battalion Chief Josh Silveira said Sunday afternoon the fire "burned right up the homes" in the area and destroyed one house. With calmer winds and milder weather Sunday, Chief Silveira said he didn't expect the fire to grow.

Two firefighters suffered minor to



A home burns during the Corral Fire at an intersection just west of Tracy, California on Saturday. Thousands of people in the area, including parts of the city of Tracy with a population of 100,000, were ordered to leave for evacuation centers.

moderate burns on Saturday and were expected to make a full recovery, Chief Silveira said.

The wildfire presented no threat to any laboratory facilities or operations and had moved away from the site, Lawrence Livermore spokesperson Paul Rhien said in a statement to the Associated Press early Sunday.

"As a precaution, we have activated our emergency operations center to monitor the situation through the weekend," Mr. Rhien said.

Photos showed a wall of flames

moving over the parched landscape as dark smoke billowed into the sky.

The wildfire also forced the closure of two major highways, including an interstate that connects the San Francisco Bay Area to San Joaquin County in central California, but they had reopened by Sunday afternoon.

The San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services issued an evacuation order for areas west of the California Aqueduct, south of Corral Hollow Creek, west to Alameda County and south to Stanislaus County. A temporary

evacuation point was established at Larch Clover Community Center in Tracy. The order was still in place as of early Sunday afternoon.

Sunday's high temperature for Tracy was expected to reach 85 degrees with no rain in the forecast, but hotter conditions are on their way.

The National Weather Service said "dangerously hot conditions" with highs of 103 to 108 degrees were expected later in the week for the San Joaquin Valley, an area that encompasses Tracy.

NEW YORK

City parade for Israel focuses on solidarity

Gaza war casts grim shadow this year

By LISET CRUZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | Marchers chanted for the release of hostages in Gaza on Sunday at a New York City parade for Israel that drew thousands of people under heightened security.

The parade kicked off almost eight months after the unprecedented Oct. 7 terrorist attack by Hamas, the deadliest in Israel's history.

Dubbed "Celebrate Israel," the annual parade's normally exuberant atmosphere was markedly toned down this year.

People chanted "Bring them home now!" and waved Israeli flags as they marched up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan for what this year is being called "Israel Day on Fifth."

Crowds of spectators and hundreds of police officers lined the route, and steel barricades were installed along the sidewalk. One sign read: "From the river to the sea, Hamas will cease to be."

"Especially this year, after Oct. 7, it's especially important to have this show of unity," said Rena Orman, a Bronx native who attended as part of Mothers Against College Antisemitism.

"Everybody wants hostages back. Everyone wants this to end. No one is cheering for this. Everyone wants peace," she said.

Mark Treyger, CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council, said earlier this week that the event would focus on solidarity, strength and resilience.

"This is not a mood of confetti and music," Mr. Treyger said. "This is more of a mood of unwavering, ironclad solidarity with hostages to bring them home, and also our unwavering love and pride in our Jewish identity."

The parade, which is in its 59th year, kicked off late Sunday morning with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams among the elected officials attending. Spectators came from around the New York City region.

"I think it's important — especially with what's going on in the Middle East, in Israel with the war going on — to show our support and to show that the hostages aren't forgotten and the country itself is not forgotten," said participant Michael Garber of neighboring New Jersey.

There was never a thought of canceling the parade this year, Mr. Treyger said, despite an astronomical rise in antisemitism.

"This is a moment that we have to meet," he said.

But there was significant security. New York Police Department officials employed measures typically used for high-profile events such as New Year's Eve and July 4. That included drones, K-9 units, bike patrols, fencing and barriers and designated entry points for spectators all along the parade route.

Backpacks, large bags and coolers were prohibited, and spectators had to pass through metal detectors.

Police did not report any parade-related arrests by late Sunday afternoon.

City officials stressed Friday there were no specific or credible threats to either the parade or the city, and any protestors have the right to demonstrate so long as it is done peacefully.

"We're not going to allow any unlawfulness and any disruption of any celebration of one's heritage in this city," Mr. Adams said at a security briefing.

The parade represents the first large-scale Jewish event in the city since the war started, although there have been roughly 2,800 protests in the city, with about 1,300 of them related to the conflict, Mr. Adams said.

Israel faces growing international criticism over its offensive in Gaza.

Israeli bombardments and ground offensives in the besieged territory have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which is run by Hamas and does not distinguish between combatants and civilians.

WISCONSIN

Warden quits amid lockdown, federal smuggling probe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, WIS. | The warden at a troubled Wisconsin prison will step down later this month amid lockdown conditions, an ongoing federal investigation and multiple inmate deaths.

Waupun Correctional Institution Warden Randall Hepp resigned Tuesday, the Wisconsin State Journal reported.

The newspaper obtained an email Warden Hepp sent to prison staff in which he wrote his decision wasn't easy but he believes it will serve the institution well. He added that the prison has moved closer toward improving safety.

State Department of Corrections spokesperson Beth Hardtke told The Associated Press on Sunday that Warden Hepp actually announced his retirement, not his resignation. She did not respond

to a request for a copy of his Tuesday email.

Gov. Tony Evers spokesperson, Britt Cudaback, referred questions to DOC officials.

Brad Mlodzik, who previously worked as deputy warden at Waupun, will take over as warden there on June 30, the State Journal reported.

A chronic lack of guards forced the state Department of Corrections to institute a lockdown at Waupun as well as at prisons in Green Bay and Stanley. Agency officials have labeled the restrictions "modified movement" rather than calling them a lockdown because they can adjust them over time.

Waupun inmates filed a federal lawsuit in October saying the conditions amounted to cruel and unusual

punishment. That lawsuit is still pending.

Stanley resumed normal operations in late November. Movement restrictions have eased at Waupun and Green Bay, but some remain in place.

According to the Department of Corrections' latest update in April, in-person visitation had not resumed at Waupun and recreation time was still limited but inmates had been issued electronic tablets they can use to make phone calls and send emails and texts.

Ms. Cudaback, Mr. Evers' spokesperson, said in March that federal authorities are investigating an apparent smuggling ring involving Waupun Correctional employees. She said then that multiple sweeps of the prison revealed people were obtaining prohibited items such as cellphones and illegal drugs.

At least 11 prison employees have been suspended since May 2023 in connection with the probe.

Four inmates have died at Waupun since June 2023. One killed himself in solitary confinement, one died of a fentanyl overdose and another died of a stroke. The fourth inmate was found dead at the facility in February. His death remains under investigation.

The daughter of the inmate who killed himself in solitary confinement has filed a federal lawsuit alleging Waupun officials failed to provide him with adequate mental health care and medication.

Warden Hepp took over as warden at Waupun in May 2020. He began his career in the state prison system in 1984 as a guard at Dodge Correctional Institution.

EDUCATION

Millions of students lag behind peers from school shutdowns

By Collin Binkley
Associated Press

On one side of the classroom, students circled teacher Maria Fletcher and practiced vowel sounds. In another corner, children read together from a book. Scattered elsewhere, students sat at laptop computers and got reading help from online tutors.

For the third graders at Mount Vernon Community School in Virginia, it was an ordinary school day. But educators were racing to get students learning more, faster, and to overcome setbacks that have persisted since schools closed for the COVID-19 pandemic four years ago.

America's schools have started to make progress toward getting students back on track. But improvement has been slow and uneven across geography and economic status, with millions of students — often those from marginalized groups — making up little or no ground.

Nationally, students made up one-third of their pandemic losses in math during the past school year and one-quarter of the losses in reading,



Fifth grade students work on computers at Mount Vernon Community School in Alexandria. The school district received \$2.3 million in additional state money to expand online tutoring to students lagging behind due to pandemic-era setbacks.

according to the Education Recovery Scorecard, an analysis of state and national test scores by researchers at Harvard and Stanford.

But in nine states, including Virginia, reading scores continued to fall during the 2022-23 school year after previous decreases during the pandemic.

Clouding the recovery is a looming financial crisis. States have used some money from the historic \$190 billion in federal pandemic relief to help students catch up, but that money runs out later this year.

“The recovery is not finished, and it won’t be finished without state action,” said Thomas Kane, a Harvard economist behind the scorecard. “States need to start planning for what they’re going to do when the federal money runs out in September. And I think few states have actually started that discussion.”

Virginia lawmakers approved an extra \$418 million last year to accelerate recovery. Massachusetts officials set aside \$3.2 million to provide math tutoring for fourth and eighth grade students who are behind grade level, along with \$8 million for literacy tutoring.

But among other states with lagging progress, few said they were changing their strategies or spending more to speed up improvement.

Virginia hired online tutoring companies and gave schools a “playbook” showing how to build effective tutoring programs. Lisa Coons, Virginia’s super-intendent of public instruction, said last year’s state test scores were a wake-up call.

“We weren’t recovering as fast as we needed,” she said in an interview.

U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has called for states to continue funding extra academic help for students as the federal money expires.

“We just can’t stop now,” he said at a May 30 conference for education journalists. “The states need to recognize these interventions work. Funding public education does make a difference.”

In Virginia, the Alexandria district received \$2.3 million in additional state money to expand tutoring.

At Mount Vernon, where classes are taught in English and Spanish, students are divided into groups and rotate through stations customized to their skill level. Those who need the most help get online tutoring. In Ms. Fletcher’s classroom, a handful of students wore headsets and worked with tutors through Ignite Learning, one of the companies hired by the state.

GEORGIA

Water pressure returning to normal in downtown Atlanta

ATLANTA | Water pressure was returning to downtown Atlanta and nearby neighborhoods on Sunday after a two-day water outage shut down businesses and left faucets dry at many homes.

A large swath of the city remained under an order to boil water before drinking it, but Mayor Andre Dickens said in a late Saturday news conference that one of the two major water main breaks affecting the city had been repaired.

“I know it’s been a tough and frustrating day for many of you, but I’m glad to have some positive news to report tonight,” Mr. Dickens said.

The first-term Democratic mayor, who faces reelection in 2025, was again apologetic, even as residents continued to savage the city’s response. Among the critics: Megan Thee Stallion, whose Friday and Saturday night shows at downtown’s State Farm Arena were canceled.

“Call the mayor! All day they’ve been telling us we can perform,” the rapper said in a video she posted Saturday.

— Associated Press

OHIO

One fatally shot, 24 injured in attack on Akron block party

AKRON | The mayor and police chief of Akron called on witnesses to come forward with any information about who carried out a mass shooting in the Ohio city that killed one person and injured 24 others, some critically.

“This was a tragic incident which impacts our entire community,” Mayor Shammus Malik said about the shooting that took place just after midnight Sunday. “The sheer number of victims is shocking and disconcerting. I want to be very clear: Anyone who was involved in last night’s shooting will be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law.”

No arrests were immediately reported.

A 27-year-old man died, Police

BRIEFLY
THE NATION

Chief Brian Harding said. The victim’s identity wasn’t immediately released.

Those injured ranged in age from 19 to 43, Chief Harding said.

Two agencies — Summit County Crime Stoppers and the U.S. Marshal’s Service — are offering a total of \$12,500 in rewards.

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Murdoch weds Russian biologist in his fifth marriage

NEW YORK | Media magnate Rupert Murdoch, 93, has married for the fifth time, his corporation, News Corp, confirmed Sunday.

Mr. Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, a 67-year-old Russian-born retired molecular biologist, wed Saturday in a ceremony at his vineyard estate in

Bel Air, California. Photographs of the newly married couple were released by News Corp.

Mr. Murdoch was last married to model and actress Jerry Hall. They were wed in 2016 and divorced in 2022.

Ms. Zhukova is the ex-wife of Alexander Zhukov, a billionaire energy investor and Russian politician. Their daughter, Dasha, was previously married to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, who used to own the Premier League soccer club Chelsea.

Last fall, Mr. Murdoch stepped down as leader of both Fox News’ parent company and his News Corp media holdings.

Son Lachlan Murdoch took his place in a media empire that spans continents.

— Associated Press

ARIZONA

Indian tribe bans dances in wake of fatal police shooting

SANTAN | The Gila River Indian Community has issued a temporary ban on dances after a tribal police officer was fatally shot and another wounded while responding to a reported disturbance at a Santan home, tribal officials said Sunday.

Stephen Roe Lewis, governor of the tribe south of Phoenix, said a special meeting of community council’s leaders was held Saturday night.

The council approved a temporary moratorium on all permitted and non-permitted dances in the community, effective immediately, along with enhanced penalties for trespassing and disorderly conduct, he said.

The Arizona Republic reported that the shooting occurred at a teenager’s birthday party in Santan, in one of the tribal community’s seven districts.

Joshua Briese, who had been with the Gila River Police Department for less than a year, responded to the scene along with another tribal police officer around 2 a.m. Saturday on a disturbance call involving a large crowd.

Police said multiple gunshots were fired and both officers were struck, with four other people wounded, one of whom later died.

— Associated Press

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World



Ruling party presidential candidate Claudia Sheinbaum casts her ballot for president in Mexico City on Sunday. Even if she wins, she is unlikely to get the unquestioned devotion given to outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

MEXICO

Vote likely to give Mexico first female president as heat, violence continue

By MEGAN JANETSKY AND MARK STEVENSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY | Polls closed Sunday in a national vote that will likely give Mexico its first female president, but the heat, violence and polarization continued almost right through election day.

People turned out to vote in the township of Cuitzeo, in the western state of Michoacán, despite the fact that a town council candidate was shot to death by two hitmen aboard a motorcycle just hours before the election.

Residents voted under a heavy police guard — but later passed by the home of murdered candidate Israel Delgado to light a candle for the well-known local politician at an improvised altar on his doorstep.

Nationwide, the voting was largely peaceful, but it appeared that even if the front-runner — former Mexico City mayor Claudia Sheinbaum — wins, she is unlikely to enjoy the kind of unquestioning devotion that outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has enjoyed.

Both belong to the ruling Morena party.

Araceli Hernandez, 49, a university professor in international studies in Mexico City, said she was voting for Morena.

“Even though there are things we don’t like, like militarization, there has been progress,” she said, referring to Mr. Lopez Obrador’s policy of relying on the army and the quasi-military National Guard, rather than police, to fight crime.

While she was going to vote to continue the ruling party’s grip on national politics, she noted “we are going to continue to be critical” of some government policies.

Mexico City voter Yoselin Ramirez, 29, said she voted for Ms. Sheinbaum, but split her vote for other posts because she didn’t want anyone holding a strong majority.

“I don’t want everything to be occupied by the same party, so there can be

a little more equality,” she said without elaborating.

The main opposition candidate, Xochitl Galvez, a tech entrepreneur and former senator, tried to seize on Mexicans’ concerns about security and promised to take a more aggressive approach toward organized crime.

Nearly 100 million people were registered to vote in the race to replace Mr. Lopez Obrador.

Voters were also electing governors in nine of the country’s 32 states, choosing candidates for both houses of Congress, thousands of mayorships and other local posts in the biggest elections in the nation, including some marked by violence.

The elections were widely seen as a referendum on Mr. Lopez Obrador, who has expanded social programs but largely failed to reduce cartel violence in Mexico. His Morena party holds 23 of the 32 governorships and a simple majority of seats in both houses of Congress.

Mexico’s constitution prohibits the president’s reelection.

Both major presidential candidates are women, and either would be Mexico’s first female president. A third candidate from a smaller party, Jorge Alvarez Maynez, trailed far behind.

Ms. Sheinbaum, who was leading in the race, has promised to continue Mr. Lopez Obrador’s policies, including a universal pension for seniors and a program that pays youths to apprentice.

Ms. Galvez, whose father was indigenous Otomi, rose from selling snacks on the street in her poor hometown to start her own tech firms. A candidate running with a coalition of major opposition parties, she left the Senate last year to focus her ire on Mr. Lopez Obrador’s decision to avoid confronting the drug cartels through his “hugs not bullets” policy. She has pledged to pursue criminals more aggressively.

The persistent cartel violence and Mexico’s middling economic

performance were the main issues on voters’ minds.

Julio García, a Mexico City office worker, said he was voting for the opposition in Mexico City’s central San Rafael neighborhood.

“They’ve robbed me twice at gunpoint. You have to change direction, change leadership,” the 34-year-old said. “Continuing the same way, we’re going to become Venezuela.”

On the fringes of Mexico City in the neighborhood of San Andres Totoltepec, electoral officials filed past 34-year-old homemaker Stephania Navarrete, who watched dozens of videographers and electoral officials gathering where the front-running Ms. Sheinbaum was set to vote.

Ms. Navarrete said she planned to vote for Ms. Sheinbaum despite her doubts about Mr. Lopez Obrador and his party.

“Having a woman president, for me as a Mexican woman, it’s going to be like before when for the simple fact that you say you are a woman you’re limited to certain professions. Not anymore.”

She said the social programs of Ms. Sheinbaum’s mentor were crucial but deterioration of cartel violence in the past few years was her primary concern in this election.

“That is something that they have to focus more on,” she said. “For me, security is the major challenge. They said they were going to lower the levels of crime, but no, it was the opposite. They shot up. Obviously, I don’t completely blame the president, but it is in a certain way his responsibility.”

In Iztapalapa, Mexico City’s largest borough, Angelina Jimenez, a 76-year-old homemaker, said she was voting “to end this inept government that says we’re doing well and there are so many dead.”

She said the violence plaguing Mexico worried her so she planned to vote for Ms. Galvez, who promised to take on the cartels.

ISRAEL

Netanyahu allies seek to ‘dismantle’ government if Biden cease-fire accepted

Israel PM under pressure to negotiate

By BEN WOLFGANG
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced immense pressure from all sides Sunday as the Biden administration urged him to accept a cease-fire deal that would wind down the war in the Gaza Strip — but some of Mr. Netanyahu’s far-right allies threatened to “dismantle the government” if the Israeli leader agrees to the proposal.

For Mr. Netanyahu, it is another example of the difficult political position he has found himself in as the war against Hamas in Gaza drags on, and as the international backlash grows louder each day amid allegations that Israel’s military campaign has led to near-unprecedented civilian suffering for the Palestinians in Gaza.

Politics seemed at play in the U.S., too, as top Biden administration officials described the cease-fire proposal as an “Israeli deal,” seemingly trying to make it more difficult for Mr. Netanyahu to walk away from the negotiating table now.

President Biden on Friday declared that “it’s time for this war to end” as he put forward a multi-step peace proposal that would halt the fighting in Gaza in exchange for the release of some of the Israeli prisoners still held by Hamas.

The Palestinian terrorist group took those prisoners on Oct. 7 during its rampage through southern Israel, which also killed more than 1,200 Israelis.

In its reaction to Mr. Biden’s proposal, the Netanyahu government has sent mixed signals. On Saturday, the prime minister seemed to reject the deal, which in his words would end the fighting before Israel achieves its goal of destroying Hamas.

“Israel’s conditions for ending the war have not changed: the destruction of Hamas military and governing capabilities, the freeing of all hostages and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel,” Mr. Netanyahu’s office said in a statement on X.

But on Sunday, one of Mr. Netanyahu’s senior advisers characterized the proposal as a “deal we agreed to” and seemed to say that Israel was not rejecting the deal outright. Ophir Falk, the key military adviser to Mr. Netanyahu, also said that Israel wants to see changes to the proposal.

“There are a lot of details to be worked out and that includes there will not be a permanent ceasefire until all our objectives are met,” he told Britain’s Sunday Times newspaper.

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said that the administration hopes that both Israel and Hamas will soon sign off on the deal currently on the table.

He also went out of his way to portray the deal as one that the Netanyahu government had deep involvement in crafting.

“What we would hope will happen is they would agree to start phase one as soon as possible, and phase one would allow for some hostages, the elderly, sick, women hostages to get out over a period of six weeks,” Mr. Kirby told ABC’s “This Week” program on Sunday.

“This was an Israeli proposal,” he said. “We have every expectation that



Netanyahu

if Hamas agrees to the proposal, as was transmitted to them, an Israeli proposal, that Israel would say yes.”

The administration is navigating its own domestic politics as it presses for an end to hostilities in Gaza while trying to avoid the impression it has turned against Israel, traditionally one of America’s closest and most important strategic allies.

Top Republicans say that some Democrats, particularly those who have publicly chastised Israel, need to make clear whose side they’re on.

“Our Democrat colleagues have to make a choice. Are they going to stand with our most important ally in the Middle East, at this most desperate time as has traditionally been the case in Washington,” House Speaker Mike Johnson told “Fox News Sunday.”

“Or are they going to take this new side and stand with Hamas and the ayatollah?” the Louisiana Republican said, referring to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran’s 85-year-old religious leader.

Domestic politics is at the forefront in Israel as well, as the Netanyahu government faced significant pressure from all sides.

The Israeli leader faces immense public pressure to secure the release of the remaining hostages and to articulate a plan for post-war Gaza. Tens of thousands protested in Tel Aviv over the weekend, demanding that the Israeli government secure the hostages’ release. Even members of his own “war cabinet” have pressured Mr. Netanyahu to put forward such a plan.

At the same time, far-right Israeli officials have threatened to bring down the government if Mr. Netanyahu agrees to the U.S. proposal.

“We will not agree to end the war before the destruction of Hamas — not to the grave harm that an [Israeli military] retreat [from Gaza] would cause to the achievements of the war thus far, not to the return of Gazans to northern Gaza, and not to the wholesale release of terrorists who will return, God forbid, to murdering Jews,” Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said late Saturday, according to the Times of Israel.

Another of Mr. Netanyahu’s far-right allies, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, echoed that stance, vowing that his Otzma Yehudit party, part of Mr. Netanyahu’s broad coalition government, is willing to take drastic action.

“If the prime minister puts this deal into action under the conditions that have been published today, the meaning of which is the end of the war and abandoning [the goal of] destroying Hamas, Otzma Yehudit will dismantle the government,” he said, according to Israeli media.

In his remarks Friday, Mr. Biden said Hamas is no longer capable of carrying out a large-scale attack against Israel. He urged both sides to come together and accept a ceasefire proposal that would end fighting in Gaza.

UKRAINE

Energy shutdowns hit Ukraine after Russian attacks target infrastructure

By SAMYA KULLAB AND ELISE MORTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, UKRAINE | Ukraine imposed emergency power shutdowns in most of the country on Sunday, a day after Russia unleashed large-scale attacks on energy infrastructure and claimed it made gains in the eastern Donetsk province.

The shutdowns were in place in all but three regions of Ukraine following Saturday’s drone and missile attack on energy targets that injured at least 19 people.

Ukraine’s state-owned power grid operator Ukrenergo said the shutdowns affected both industrial and household consumers.

Sustained Russian attacks on Ukraine’s power grid in recent weeks have forced the government to institute

nationwide rolling blackouts. Without adequate air defenses to counter assaults and allow for repairs, though, the shortages could still worsen as need spikes in late summer and the bitter-cold winter.

Among the most significant recent strikes were an April barrage that damaged Kyiv’s largest thermal power plant and a massive attack on May 8 that targeted power generation and transmission facilities in several regions.

Following Saturday’s barrage, Ukraine’s air force said Sunday that air defenses had shot down all 25 drones launched overnight.

Russia claimed Sunday that it had taken control of the village of Umanske in the partially Russian-occupied Donetsk region.

Russia’s coordinated new offensive has centered on Ukraine’s northeastern

Kharkiv region, but seems to include testing Ukrainian defenses in Donetsk farther south, while also launching incursions in the northern Sumy and Chernihiv regions.

In Russia, six people were injured in shelling in the city of Shebekino in the Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said Sunday.

Speaking at Asia’s premier security conference in Singapore, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused China on Sunday of helping Russia to disrupt an upcoming Swiss-organized peace conference on the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Zelenskyy said that China is pressuring other countries and their leaders not to attend the upcoming talks. He did not say which ones.

“Russia, using Chinese influence in

the region, using Chinese diplomats also, does everything to disrupt the peace summit,” he said at a news conference at the Shangri-La defense forum. “Regrettably this is unfortunate that such a big independent powerful country as China is an instrument in the hands of” Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China has staked out what it says is a neutral position on the war, putting it at odds with Ukraine, the United States and most of Europe. Its trade with Russia has grown, easing the economic impact of Western sanctions.

American, Ukrainian and other intelligence agencies say there is evidence that Chinese parts are winding up in Russian weaponry, even if China is not directly arming its neighbor.

Also on Sunday, White House National Security Communications Adviser

John Kirby confirmed President Biden agreed to allowing Ukraine to use some U.S.-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to relieve “incredible downward pressure” that Russia has put on Kharkiv.

Earlier this week, four U.S. officials, who requested anonymity, said Mr. Biden had given Ukraine the go-ahead to use American weaponry to strike inside Russia for the limited purpose of defending Kharkiv.

Ukraine asked for permission to use the U.S.-provided weapons to strike against “imminent threats just across the border,” Mr. Kirby said Sunday on ABC’s “This Week.”

But he added that the permission is “limited to the Kharkiv region and it is limited with respect to the kinds of targets they can hit, and how far back they can go.”

Region

VIRGINIA

Former abortion clinic helps crisis pregnancies

Church provides free emergency care

By MARK A. KELLNER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Maria, a 34-year-old woman from Guatemala, had complications with her pregnancy and found the care she needed in an unlikely setting — an abortion clinic turned Catholic medical clinic.

The expectant mother, who had gestational diabetes, said the Catholic Charities Mother of Mercy free clinic in Manassas, Virginia, made her “feel like I’m well taken care of.”

She asked The Washington Times not to publish her last name.

“I know that that is a high risk for me and the baby and so I know that I can get it under control, just by taking care of myself,” she said, through a translator.

Helping women in crisis pregnancies — and those who lack all of the resources that many take for granted — is the mission of the clinic housed in a former abortion clinic. Volunteer doctors and nurses support the operation, and no client pays for anything, according to the Diocese of Arlington.

The Diocese said the annual value of the clinic’s services — if patients were charged — is \$2.1 million.

“I think we’ve easily seen over 1,000 women” since Mother of Mercy began providing prenatal care in January 2019, said Alexandra Luevano, a nurse who is program director for the clinics.

“We get women who just aren’t able to find prenatal care services, and who didn’t qualify for Medicaid,” she said. “Most of our pregnancies are not the typical regular pregnancy, but a lot of them have comorbidities that make their pregnancy high risk.”

The complications often include gestational diabetes and high blood pressure, as well as obesity in some cases.

Initially, the clinic had a greater number of women coming in to seek an abortion, which Catholic facilities do not provide.

“We were able to help them and counsel them through to

help them choose life,” Ms. Luevano said. “I think the biggest thing is, we help them see the benefits of having this child and not only to keep the baby but they could also give that baby up for adoption.”

Mother of Mercy also helps dispel the belief that those who oppose abortion are merely “pro-birth” and don’t help mothers and children afterward, she said, including assistance with rent and utilities, or in finding a safe place to live in instances of spousal abuse.

“At our clinic, we believe that life includes the mother, so it’s not just having that baby born but we promote the mother’s health, so the mother’s health is very important for us,” Ms. Luevano said.

“During pregnancy and after pregnancy, we provide material assistance. ... We want to make sure that these women have the resources they need and I can tell you that we’ve had many women that stay with us and come back to us for years. I mean, we have women that come back and get regular health care needs from us.”

Initially, she said, the Mother of Mercy clinics — a second location is in Woodbridge — were only going to be open for a few hours a week in their first five years of operation.

“That didn’t last very long, it didn’t even last a year before we were open full-time,” Ms. Luevano said, “I’m excited to see what God has in store for us in the future.”

Stephen Carattini, Catholic Charities president and CEO, said the clinics allow the church to help with more than prenatal care.

“We walk with mothers and children in some of the other ways through our ministries for people who might be in need of secure housing, people, diapers, food, housing and job training,” he said.

“We have a variety of ministries that work with women and children and families throughout the spectrum of care, so I’m very happy and very grateful that we can be with women in times of unexpected or difficult pregnancies.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maryland Senate candidate Larry Hogan separated himself from most of the GOP when he said to “respect” the verdict in Trump trial.

MARYLAND

Hogan’s stance on Trump verdict condemned

Distance between Republican Party, Senate candidate grows

By SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Maryland Republican Senate candidate Larry Hogan cut a path all his own last week when he preemptively implored the public to “respect” the jury’s verdict in former President Donald Trump’s hush money trial.

The stance drew swift condemnation from the Trump world and separated him from most of his party — including Republicans running in battleground states and anti-Trumpers.

Even Sen. Susan Collins, the Maine Republican who said she can’t support Mr. Trump in the November election, bashed the verdict as politically motivated. She said it threatens “to blur the lines between the judicial system and the electoral system.”

That is the sort of reaction Mr. Hogan warned against in a statement released moments before Mr. Trump was found guilty on 34 felony counts of trying to cover up hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels.

“At this dangerously divided moment in our history, all leaders — regardless of party — must not pour fuel on the fire with more toxic partisanship,” Mr. Hogan said. “We must reaffirm what has made this nation great: the rule of law.”

The statement came two weeks after Mr. Hogan ditched the pro-life base of the Republican Party on the issue of abortion.

Mr. Hogan, who served two terms as governor in deep blue Maryland, is running for an open Senate seat against Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the Democratic nominee.

Mr. Hogan has not weighed in on the verdict since it was returned, and his campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump campaign senior adviser Chris LaCivita said the Hogan response dashed his chances of winning.

“You just ended your campaign,” Mr. LaCivita wrote on X.

Republican National Committee co-chair Lara Trump said Sunday on CNN’s “State

of the Union” program that Mr. Hogan “doesn’t deserve the respect of anyone in the Republican Party at this point.”

When pressed about whether the RNC would still support Mr. Hogan, Mr. Trump’s daughter-in-law said “of course the party” wants to win and when asked again, Mrs. Trump said would have to get back to the host “on all the specifics monetarily.”

Steve Daines, chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the campaign arm for the Senate GOP, told Fox News the group will continue to support Mr. Hogan and give him the freedom to “run his race.”

Mr. Hogan is making a calculated gamble that the risk of infuriating parts of the GOP base is worth the reward in Maryland, where Democrats have roughly a 2-to-1 voter registration advantage over Republicans, according to political analysts.

“It is the balancing act that he was already working on,” Todd Eberly, a political science professor at St. Mary’s College

of Maryland, said referring to Mr. Hogan’s recent tack to the left on abortion.

Mr. Eberly said the electoral reality for Mr. Hogan is he likely needs to win over at least a quarter of those Democrats to defeat Ms. Alsobrooks and become the first Republican from Maryland elected to the Senate since 1980.

“Him coming out and trashing the legal system and questioning the motivations of the jury is not going to help him in Maryland,” he said. “Maybe Larry Hogan only represents 40 or 50 percent of what Republicans want from a candidate, but they have to ask how much Angela Alsobrooks represents what they want.”

Mr. Hogan has urged Republicans to recognize he needs nearly all of them on his side to win, as well as most independents and a healthy slice of Democrats.

“Whether they don’t agree with me on a couple of issues or not, it really is a choice between me and a far-left Democrat,” Mr. Hogan said in a recent interview with WGMD radio.

REGION

Sex offender arrested in connection with slaying of Maryland probation officer

By MATT DELANEY
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. Marshals arrested a parolee Saturday in West Virginia after police said the convict killed his Maryland probation officer and fled the state.

Montgomery County police said federal agents nabbed Emanuel Edward Sewell, 54, while he was driving on Interstate 64 near Hurricane, West Virginia, around

5 p.m. Saturday.

Police said Sewell — a registered sex offender who was released from prison in 2021 — is facing murder charges in the Friday slaying of his 33-year-old parole officer, Davis Martinez.

Sewell is being held in Putnam County, West Virginia, and awaits extradition back to Montgomery County.

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said Mr. Martinez became the

first parole officer in the state to be killed by a client on duty.

“Agent Martinez served with distinction and our state is safer because of him — our entire state grieves his loss along with those he held dear,” Mr. Moore said in a Saturday statement. “I would like to thank our dedicated law enforcement community for their relentless and successful efforts in apprehending the suspect and for their unwavering pursuit of justice

for Agent Martinez, his family, his friends and colleagues.”

Police said Mr. Martinez was killed Friday night during a resident check on Sewell in Chevy Chase.

The parole officer arrived at a home on the 2800 block of Terrace Drive, police said, but failed to report back to work afterward.

Authorities said officers sent to check on Mr. Martinez’s welfare found him dead from “multiple

injuries” inside the home. Police haven’t said what kind of injuries the victim suffered.

A medical examiner determined the death to be a homicide.

“This loss impacts not only his family, who we again send our deepest sympathies to as well, and colleagues, but also the community that he served,” Police Chief Marcus Jones said Saturday. “Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day

to ensure the safety of our community and the death of agent Martinez is a stark reminder of the dangers we face every day.”

Mr. Martinez was a six-year veteran with the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services.

Department head Carolyn Scruggs said Mr. Martinez was alone during his visit to Sewell, which is normal for parole officers.

MARYLAND

ELKCRIDGE

Police: Three dead, as suspect takes own life

A Maryland man killed three family members and critically wounded his son before taking his own life, police said.

The motive for Thursday night’s shootings at a townhouse in the Baltimore suburb of Elkridge was unknown, Howard County Police spokesperson Sherry Llewellyn said at a news conference Friday.

Neighbors called 911 saying they heard gunshots. At around the same time, the suspect called 911 indicating he had just shot members of his family and that he intended to take his own life, Llewellyn said.

BRIEFLY

THE REGION

The victims lived at the townhouse. The suspect, who did not live there, routinely visited the home. There was no sign of forced entry and police had no prior calls to the home, Llewellyn said.

A 3-month-old girl was found unharmed.

Police identified the three women who died as the suspect’s wife, Syeda Aalia Nayyar, 57; daughter, Syeda Fatima, 25; and daughter-in-law, Alizey Fatima, 33. The suspect’s son, Muhammad Ali Hamza, 31, was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

The suspect, Nayyar Abbas Syed, 61, later died at a hospital, Llewellyn said.

Llewellyn said the baby was placed in the care of a family member.

— Associated Press

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND

Retired officer sentenced in family slayings

A retired Virginia police officer has been sentenced to 150 years in prison for killing his estranged wife and stepdaughter and firing gunshots at law enforcement officers.

Richard Colon Crowder of Henrico was sentenced Friday in Henrico County Circuit Court.

Diane Crowder was moving her belongings out of the

couple’s home and stepdaughter Carrie Szakasz was helping her in July 2022. While moving company employees were upstairs, Crowder shot the women multiple times outside the home, according to court records. Richard Crowder then barricaded himself inside the home and fired shots that struck two Henrico County police vehicles.

Crowder pleaded guilty in February to two counts of first-degree murder and entered an Alford plea to the attempted murder of two officers. In an Alford plea, a defendant does not admit guilt but recognizes there may be enough evidence for a conviction.

Richard Crowder had retired in 2014 from the Henrico County police department.

— Associated Press

NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE

Probe: No friendly fire in officers’ shooting deaths

A man who fatally shot four law enforcement officers with an assault rifle in April acted alone and was solely responsible for all casualties, police in North Carolina’s largest city said Friday.

“At this point in the investigation, it has been determined there was one shooter and no friendly fire,” Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Deputy Chief Tonya Arrington told reporters.

Four other officers were also wounded in the April 29 incident in a residential neighborhood, the deadliest shooting against law enforcement

officers since 2016, when a sniper killed five officers at a Dallas protest. President Biden traveled to Charlotte and met privately with the families of the officers who died.

Officers from a U.S. Marshals Task Force based in Charlotte came under fire at a home when they tried to serve warrants for possession of a firearm by an ex-felon and fleeing to elude. Law enforcement officers shot and killed 39-year-old Terry Clark Hughes Jr., who had been wanted in adjoining Lincoln County.

Hughes was on the second floor of the home. Ms. Arrington said he ran between windows, giving some the impression that there could have been two shooters.

— Associated Press

Brazen Trump prosecutions threaten constitutional order

Two-tiered system of justice accepted and normalized by Democrats

By Rick Manning

Former President Donald Trump's verdict is in: guilty on all accounts. After observing the convoluted jury instructions, the denial of the Trump defense team to demonstrate that the federal election crime that the Manhattan district attorney depends upon didn't exist, and the judge effectively shutting down the only witness Mr. Trump offered who directly contradicted Michael Cohen, the prosecution's star witness demonstrates how brazen the leftists are in their attack on the former president. For them, the ends justify the means.

Civil libertarians and criminal defense attorneys across the nation should be up in arms over the disgraceful abuse of power by the George Soros-funded DA and a judge whose family is personally profiteering from the case.

Political activist and journalist Laura Loomer uncovered another example of this profiteering when she revealed that one of the judge's daughter's top clients, the Brennan Center for Justice, has been afforded a coveted seat in the courtroom so it can provide breathless play-by-play commentary to its funders. Ms. Loomer notes that the judge's daughter brags that she has doubled the size of the far-left Brennan Center on her website, pitching other potential clients to hire her.

But a corrupt local New York City judge using the Biden family enrichment model is not the story.

The story is that the obvious injustice in this case and the silence of a vast majority of the left demonstrates clearly that a two-tiered system of justice has now been accepted and normalized by the Democrats and their supporters.

America's system of laws depends upon the consent and compliance of a vast majority of the people in the country. When those people see that entering the country illegally puts you at the head of the line for public housing and other assistance, they rightfully question why they are following the law.

When workers making minimum wage see hordes of people overtake the retailer they are employed by and steal as much as they can carry with no legal ramifications, they ask why they are working to pay their rent when others can come in and steal more than they make in a week.

When the average American sees a series of court cases brought against a former president, whether

they support him or not, that are effectively little more than "orange man bad" fairy dust depending on judges and jurors who are little more than partisan hacks in deep blue areas, it is fair for them to question whether our justice system is irretrievably broken.

There is a battle going on among those who

support former President Donald Trump, with one side urging that legal retribution be sought and achieved against those who have so callously abused both the criminal justice and the nation's intelligence gathering systems. The other urges a return to civility to prevent our nation's politics from devolving into what has been the historical norm for nations



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

worldwide, where winning and losing is a matter of life and death.

In the past, one of the key distinctions to American-style governments is that the loser of an election is not jailed or executed but instead plays an important role in leading dissenting opinion and, at times, coalescing with the victor on issues where they come together.

The Obama-Biden wholesale attack on the expectation of a politically blind justice system, combined with their willingness to use every federal intelligence gathering mechanism at their disposal to discredit and harm their political opponents, has put the idea of returning to a civil norm in the crosshairs.

If the liberals were going to prosecute a former president, the charges should have been clear, concise, and easily proven. Instead, they chose a "trust me, Trump must have done something wrong, we just aren't quite sure what it was" approach.

If what is good for the goose is good for the gander, Americans can expect the dirtiest, most corrupt election in history. The Democrats cannot afford to lose, now that they have set a prosecution standard where the opposition party can be subjected to a trial without even the basic protections of needing the jury to agree unanimously on a specific crime being committed.

The far-left liberals know that if they were subjected to the Trump prosecution standard, they would all be sitting in Leavenworth, and from what we have witnessed over the course of the Biden administration, it is clear that they have no intention of returning to the norms of civil society should they win.

Should Mr. Trump eventually win, from a jail cell or not, the question will be either "Is it possible to turn back the clock to 2008?" or "Is it time to face the new reality and do unto the Democrats as they have done unto you?"

In 2008, then-presidential candidate Barack Obama called for the "fundamental transformation of America." Little did anyone expect that a mere 16 years later, we are witnessing the collapse of the belief in the rule of law.

As one nursery rhyme has ingrained in many of us, once Humpty Dumpty falls, it is very hard to put him back together again. The same can be said of the social fabric of American society.

Rick Manning is president of Americans for Limited Government.

June and Pride Month

Humiliation for our divided and suffering country

By Everett Piper

It's June, and for the rest of the month, we will be inundated with our country's monthlong celebration of pride.

We will see it everywhere. It will be pervasive. The rainbow's ever-increasing colors will be inescapable. We will see it in the news. We'll see it at Target. We'll see it in Walmart. We'll see it in our public parks and at our schools. We'll see it in our theaters. We'll see it on T-shirts, umbrellas, bumper stickers, and even at our churches.

Pride, pride, pride! This is the singular message that silences all others. Say it with me and say it over and over again: "We are loud and are proud!" If you refuse to do so, you're a bigot.

In case you've forgotten, up until about five minutes ago, in the course of human history, pride was listed as one of the seven deadly sins. But that is no longer the case. Rather than being considered sacrilege, pride is now sanctified. Pride has become America's ultimate virtue. Pride is now our nation's summum bonum. Pride is our highest good. Not courage. Not chivalry. Not modesty, maternity, sacrifice, chastity, family or fatherhood. Not confession or repentance, but pride. Pride is our trump card against all other hands.

It's almost as if we are listening to Michael Douglas paraphrasing his infamous speech in the 1987 movie "Wall Street," whereby his character, Gordon Gekko, elevated another of the seven deadly sins, greed, to a virtue.

Can you hear him? "The point is, ladies and gentlemen, that pride, for lack of a better word, is good. Pride is right. Pride works. Pride clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Pride in all its forms has marked the upward surge of mankind, and pride, you mark my words, will save the United States of America."

Nearly 100 years ago, G.K. Chesterton wrote that if he had "only one sermon to preach, it would be a sermon against pride." Pride, he said, "is a poison so very poisonous that it not only poisons the



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

virtues; it even poisons the other vices."

He went on: "It is amazing to me that [we] really have so very little to say about the cause and cure of a moral condition that poisons nearly every family and every circle of friends. There is hardly [anyone] who has anything to say about

it that is half so illuminating as the literal exactitude of the old maxim of the priest: that pride is from hell."

Chaucer once said, "The root of all these seven [deadly] sins is pride: the general root of all harms." Augustine added that pride is "inordinately enamored with

its own power [and] despises the more just dominion of a higher authority." St. James added that "God opposes the proud," and Solomon said, "Pride goes before destruction. ... God detests all the proud."

C.S. Lewis tied it all together in his book "Perelandra."

"Pride," he said, "leads to every other vice. Pride is the complete anti-God state of mind. Pride ultimately leads all who embrace it to declare, 'I am it. I am the universe. I am your God.'"

Any nation that devotes an entire month to glorifying pride is one teetering on the edge of disaster. We now stand divided rather than united because of our arrogance, our hubris, our defiance, our pride. As Pogo stated in 1970, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

As you watch the daily news — news of antisemitism and racial disdain, news of colleges collapsing under the weight of their ideological nihilism, news of our borders being invaded because we no longer have borders, news of lawfare under the guise of law, news of men pretending to be women and women pretending not to care — remember that this is not a time to be proud of who we are but to be humiliated by what we have become.

In 1863, when America was on the verge of collapse, as many fear we are today, Abraham Lincoln didn't call for a day of "pride," but rather one of "national humiliation." After pleading with Americans to repent of their cultural, personal and collective sins, he concluded: "Let us then rest humbly in the hope ... that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high and answered with ... the restoration of our now divided and suffering Country, to its former happy condition of unity and peace."

"Humiliation for our divided and suffering country." Amen, President Lincoln. Amen.

Everett Piper (dreverettpiper.com, @dreverettpiper), a columnist for The Washington Times, is a former university president and radio host.



Justice denied — for now

Democrats show their contempt for the Constitution

By Robert Knight

"Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret — it only causes harm." (Psalm 37:7-8)

The Scriptures are the best place to go when something makes no sense — like the unanimous jury conviction of former President Donald Trump.

A friend of mine who is wired into international intelligence added some perspective to the stunning 34-count guilty verdict against Mr. Trump in a New York courtroom on Thursday.

He said many of our allies are looking at the Democrats' show trials of opponents and the kangaroo court prosecution of the 45th president and are appalled.

The free world has long looked to America for its remarkable defense of the rule of law, which allows property rights, freedom of religion, speech, press and assembly, and reliably fair elections.

My friend said some are actually fearful. They note that one of the constants in this tumultuous world is faith in the United States' legal system, which has stood as the standard of justice.

"When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Proverbs 21:15-16).

Political enemies are routinely

» see KNIGHT | B3

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Democrats cross the Rubicon

New York show trial results in guilty verdict for Trump

Justice died in America on Thursday. A jury of Democrats in an all-Democratic jurisdiction pronounced the Republican candidate guilty in the first case of its kind.

It was a successful exercise of raw power by progressives desperate to brand former President Donald Trump a felon in advance of the November election. Those behind the scheme ignored the lasting damage their actions have done to our system of government.

Moving forward, all outgoing presidents will wonder which states dominated by the opposition faction are going to file the next indictment. Partisans have a recipe to follow: File vague charges in the most favorable jurisdiction and ensure the case is assigned to a like-minded jurist with a personal stake in the outcome of the proceeding.

The desired verdict is guaranteed, just as they were for Stalin’s show trials, and just as they are in South American dictatorships.

Every commander in chief will have no choice but to preemptively issue pardons at the end of each term to deny the incoming party’s ability to charge the Justice Department with finding a crime — any crime will do — to threaten the other side with imprisonment.

Our 235-year history of peaceful transitions of power dissolves into an endless cycle of revenge.

Polls prior to the verdict showed most Americans won’t alter their vote as a result of the verdict, but the gravity of what just happened will take time to sink in. Progressives may be popping Champagne corks now, but there’s a good chance ordinary Americans will feel revulsion at what Democratic elites have done.

It’s not a given that the New York

Court of Appeals will undo this miscarriage of justice, as all seven of its judges were appointed by Democrats. The U.S. Supreme Court, on the other hand, recognizes exactly what’s happening.

On Thursday, the high court blocked New York’s brazen attempt to use state power to shut down the National Rifle Association. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for her unanimous colleagues: “Government officials cannot attempt to coerce private parties in order to punish or suppress views that the government disfavors.”

First Amendment suppression was also at work in Judge Juan Merchan’s courtroom, as Mr. Trump had to operate under a gag order preventing him from explaining the Biden administration’s direct involvement in the plot. The court also allowed the prosecution to avoid disclosing the precise nature of the charges against Mr. Trump until closing arguments, depriving him of his due process rights.

Justices won’t have to look far to find violations of federal rights that require overturning the verdict, but the political stain Democrats have left behind can be erased only by voters.

In the immediate aftermath of the ruling, outraged Republicans crashed GOP servers trying to show support for Mr. Trump’s presidential bid. Come November, they will be motivated as they have never been before.

A verdict delivered by a rigged system deserves scorn, not respect. Those suggesting otherwise are willfully blind to the left’s ongoing destruction of societal norms. The restoration of our republic begins when the parties responsible for this injustice are forever removed from positions of authority. This must never happen again.



Justice adjourned

It is a well-known feature of life in Washington that as we get closer to the end of the year, members of Congress, like students toward the end of the semester, tend to lose focus and sometimes turn in less-than-optimal work.

Everyone is acquainted with the phrase “clearing the decks,” which will be forever associated with the terrible practice of packing a bunch of spending and assorted losing propositions into lame-duck legislation.

But the questionable workmanship extends beyond spending money we don’t have on things we don’t need without anything that looks even remotely like a regular order.

Sometimes, Congress unwittingly ties the hands of an incoming president.

Such is the possibility concerning the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. For those who may not have heard of FERC, it is an agency that regulates the provision of electricity, permits transmission lines and natural gas pipelines, and shares responsibility for the electric system’s reliability.

So the commission — and the five commissioners who run it — are kind of important. Important enough that the law requires that no more than three commissioners come from one political party to ensure the place doesn’t careen into naked partisanship.

This importance was highlighted recently when the commission issued an order about how regional transmission

Senate needs to keep its eyes on November

Key federal agency fully at odds with incoming Trump presidency

two Republican commissioners. One of the Republican commissioners’ terms expires in June 2025.

As a practical matter, that means that if former President Donald Trump wins — which at the moment is more likely than not — FERC, which is, apart from the Environmental Protection Agency, the most important federal agency for energy, would be run by three Democratic commissioners and just one Republican commissioner.

It takes no special wisdom or insight to conclude that such an arrangement — in which commissioners selected by Mr. Biden would run the agency responsible for permitting dams, natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas projects — might not wind up being the best answer for the new administration or really, for anyone in favor of coherent government.

Fortunately, the Senate can address this potential challenge. On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a meeting to consider Mr. Biden’s three nominees. Let’s be clear: Each of the nominees is an outstanding public servant with unique perspectives and experiences. Americans would be fortunate to have the service of all three as FERC commissioners.

For the system to work as designed, however, the people’s will needs to be incorporated into the federal government’s activities. That happens through elections. If Mr. Trump is sworn in as president in January, he — and those who voted for him — should have an energy regulatory body that reflects their preferences.

At this point in the electoral cycle, the Senate should avoid creating a situation in which FERC is fundamentally at odds with the person who is likely to be the next president.

Michael McKenna is a contributing editor at The Washington Times and a co-host of the podcast “The Unregulated.”



ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS BY MICHAEL MCKENNA

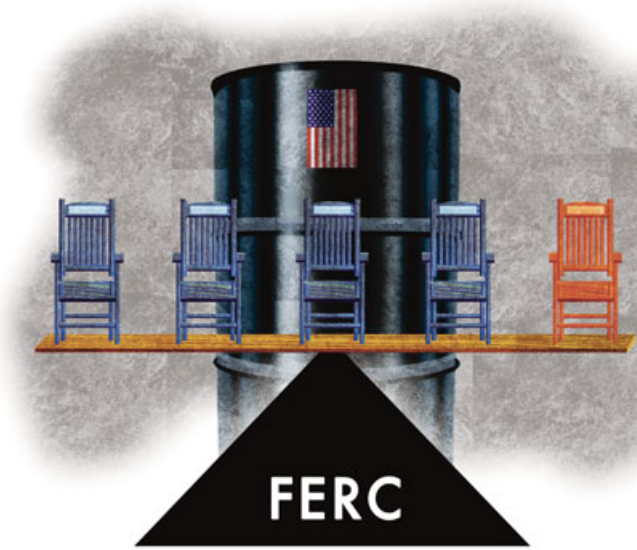


ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

projects should be planned and paid for. It will not surprise you to learn that a federal agency run by President Biden’s appointees created a regulatory structure that set the stage for an increase in alternative energy. That’s how the system should work: Mr. Biden won the 2020 election, so his government will pursue that sort of thing.

One of the current commissioners is leaving, however, which — combined with two current vacancies — has caused Mr. Biden to nominate three new commissioners: one Republican and two Democrats. If they are all confirmed by the Senate, the commission will have three Democrats and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump will have the last laugh

The conviction of Donald Trump could be the thing that awakens a sleeping giant, significantly affecting the upcoming election (“Here are Trump’s top three arguments for appeal after guilty verdict in hush money trial,” web, May 30).

The American public is not dumb. Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, liberal or conservative, one trait all decent people have is a basic sense of fairness. Whether they like Donald Trump or not, they know this

trial was not fair. It was initiated by a district attorney who campaigned on the platform that he would “get Trump” and a judge who consistently overruled the defense’s objections and sustained those of the prosecution. Not to mention the fact that the judge disallowed defense witnesses but not the prosecution’s. This trial was a miscarriage of justice.

A broad swath of society may be Republican, Democrat or independent, but many “vote their

conscience.” People are cropping up all over X saying they never voted for Mr. Trump before but they will now.

The liberal media are now giddy with laughter, but when the moral outrage of the sleeping giant arrives at the polls Nov. 5 and the final verdict of the people is read, they may not be quite so happy. After all, he who laughs last laughs best.

KEN BARNES Mechanicsville, Virginia

How big is the Biden pardon blanket?

In the aftermath of his felony conviction, former President Donald Trump claimed the legal proceedings against him were orchestrated by the Biden administration to damage him politically. I believe Mr. Trump needs to take this blistering charge one step further by accusing President Biden of promising presidential pardons to all the district attorneys and judges who are doing his dirty work for him.

The power of the presidential pardon is absolute, and after viewing all the judicial misconduct and

“unprecedented” occurrences in the various Trump trials, it’s clear that it’s all rigged against Mr. Trump. All of Mr. Biden’s henchmen have a “get out of jail free” card in their back pockets. This is the only explanation as to why everything is so tilted against Mr. Trump — those doing the tilting believe they won’t face any consequences.

Now that Mr. Biden has achieved his goal of having Mr. Trump labeled a convicted felon, Mr. Trump’s best counter move would be to make his campaign pivot to “Survive ‘Til ’25.”

This solidarity-driven slogan on hats and apparel would raise billions of dollars from his loyal MAGA base down the homestretch.

Pundits on TV wonder aloud whether, if Mr. Trump were elected president, he would be able to pardon himself. But this is the wrong question to ask. The real question is just how mind-bogglingly massive the Biden pardon blanket will be on Mr. Biden’s last day in office.

EUGENE R. DUNN Medford, New York

Biden, not Trump, is guilty

As a staunch defender of law and order, I believe it is plain to see that former President Donald Trump was railroaded by a judge, prosecutor and jury who were all biased against him from the start. Given this, the trial should be considered unconstitutional and the verdict thrown out.

Both the judge and the prosecution in the case should be investigated for misconduct. The prosecution’s key witness is a liar and convicted felon whose testimony

was objectively unbelievable. Yet somehow that jury bought it. This conviction is a blatant attempt to derail the former president in his quest to regain office. As such, it should be considered election fraud.

The person who should be investigated and tried is President Biden. Since he has been in office, he has committed crimes including aiding his son, who is under investigation for his dealings with China and has been charged with tax fraud and

other crimes. President Biden withheld munitions from Israel, which in my book amounts to aiding and abetting terrorists. He had classified documents in his possession. He is intellectually deficient, weak and incompetent.

Mr. Biden should be impeached for treason. He should be in a nursing home or jail, not the Oval Office.

JOHN KUBENSKI JR. Trabuco Canyon, California

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Dr. Fauci and the 2024 election

Ex-White House chief medical adviser personifies threat to democracy Biden is so fond of discussing

By Tom Basile

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the millionaire government pensioner who left a trail of human wreckage behind him from scores of vacillating media interviews pushing junk science, will undoubtedly face some tough questions from Congress. Those whose lives were forever harmed by his maniacal manipulation of the COVID-19 pandemic will likely be left wanting. He was the face of America's pandemic response and the personification of our constitutional crisis. Dr. Fauci may not end up being prosecuted, as many believe he should, but the methods he and countless others in the public health complex sanctioned deserve to be at the forefront of our national conversation in this election cycle.

Dr. Fauci's appearance before Congress is an opportunity, particularly for Republicans, not to make this a one-day spectacle but to launch a full-throated campaign to remind Americans that President Biden and his far-left allies threatened democracy and lives by empowering actors such as Dr. Fauci.

It's an opportunity to expose the seedy and dangerous underbelly of the federal government and how unaccountable leftists, squirreled away for decades in executive agencies, are a threat to our freedom.

Dr. Fauci personifies the threats to democracy Mr. Biden is so fond of discussing. His abuses of power should be another millstone hung around the neck of Mr. Biden as he struggles to win reelection.

Dr. Fauci drove widespread fear and panic when science should have called for risk stratification and reasonable safeguards. Dr. Fauci's approach amounted to gross experimentation with the lives, livelihoods and liberties of every American.

He relished the attention, posing for photos and magazine spreads while Americans needlessly died alone or lost their income because of his junk medicine. He even had a devotional candle with his face on it in his office.

While then-President Donald Trump became captured by the public health bureaucracy and was dealing with a novel situation in the first months of the pandemic, he quickly came to the realization that the economy needed to open, people needed to get back to work, schools needed to be in normal session, and COVID-19 needed to be treated as a highly manageable virus.

Regrettably, he expressed those views clumsily or combatively and frequently failed to exhibit the kind of compassion Americans expect from their chief executive in an emergency. Nevertheless, within a few months, Mr. Trump knew that the prescriptions Dr. Fauci and others were pushing would lead to permanent injury.

While Mr. Trump, albeit belatedly, tried to sideline Dr. Fauci, Mr. Biden took the opposite approach. He emboldened him.

By the time Mr. Biden took office, the scientific community knew that widely reported case counts,

hospitalizations and death counts were fiction. They knew that COVID-19 was not a threat to children or even adults who didn't have at least three to four other medical conditions.

Most Americans had come to appreciate that social distancing and the ever-changing mask protocols weren't stopping the spread and "stop the spread" itself was a scientifically unsupported strategy.

Worst of all, it was apparent that the vaunted vaccines would not stop infection or transmission of the virus. Despite that, the Biden administration led the nation in vaccination mandates that led to the firing of teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, service members and others while forcing millions to take a shot they didn't need.

There was evidence early on after the rushed approval of these experimental therapeutics that they

would have limited effectiveness and that they were only an advanced therapeutic for high-risk patients — at best.

As for Dr. Fauci, he kept on denying all of this. The public health complex, of which he was the face, kept on telling people that there were no therapeutics and that Ivermectin was dangerous.

The public health complex in this country is critically important. But thanks to Dr. Fauci, the misinformation spread by Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the time, and the state health

officials who either parroted their nonsense or used the crisis for political gain, Americans' trust in public health has sunk to new lows in recent years.

It has been uncovered that Fauci staffer David Morens at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases may have conspired with other government officials to cover up, delete or otherwise obscure emails related to COVID-19 and Dr. Fauci.

Thousands of pages of emails also show how Dr. Fauci's forces in the public health complex colluded with the Biden White House and Department of Justice to censor legitimate scientific discussion. One top Biden aide, Andy Slavitt, even successfully pressured Amazon to change its algorithm to depress the visibility of books about the COVID shots.

Our government sought to eliminate the scientific method, squash dissent and skirt safety protocols. Doctors and scientists were censored and threatened. Lives were destroyed by government misinformation.

COVID-19's origins are worthy of investigation, as is any associated cover-up. The bigger mission here is to ensure the public understands the depth of the deception and the damage done to this country by the likes of Dr. Fauci and those in government more than willing to shred the Constitution.

When your opposition gives you ammunition, use it. Mr. Biden and Dr. Fauci did that in spades. Nearly every American was financially, physically or psychologically harmed. The Fauci factor in the 2024 election must be given the attention and resources it deserves.

Tom Basile is the host of "America Right Now" on Newsmax TV and a columnist with The Washington Times.

By Don Feder

Former President Donald Trump reaches out to voters. President Biden tries to terrify them.

Franklin Roosevelt said we have nothing to fear but fear itself. Fear is all Mr. Biden has.

Mr. Biden stops short of referring to Mr. Trump as Hitler and his supporters — half the country — as brownshirts. One Democratic consultant went the distance, charging, "The Republican Party is basically a domestic terrorist cell at this point, and they should be treated as such." Guantanamo?

Like those in 1932 and 1980, this will be a pivotal election. Voters will decide not just on policies and personalities but also on whether they want to be guided by hope or fear.

President Biden is like the man with wild hair in a trench coat, carrying a sign that reads, "Repent, the end of the world is coming." In the president's case, it's "Vote Democratic — or democracy will end."

Everything is framed in apocalyptic terms. At his 2022 Independence Hall address, the president's remarks were titled "The Continued Battle for the Soul of America." When the president puts on his pants in the morning, he probably sees it as part of the continued battle for the soul of America.

In Philadelphia, Mr. Biden declared: "There is no place for political violence in America. Period. None. Ever." He was alluding to Jan. 6, which Democrats maintain was the greatest upheaval since the Civil War.

He says there is no place for political violence — except for the violence and intimidation from the left. The president has never denounced threats against Supreme Court justices — including the attempted assassination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh — or attacks on pro-life centers and churches that oppose abortion.

It wasn't until September 2020 that he finally disavowed the months of arson, assault and murder that followed the killing of George Floyd and then only because polls showed voters were troubled by his silence.

He won't condemn the antisemitism that has rocked college campuses unless it's watered down with an indictment of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim prejudice, as though Zionist mobs were taking over college buildings and keeping Arab students from attending classes.

The Independence Hall speech is endlessly repeated in one form or another. At this year's NAACP dinner in Detroit, the president said his opponent was "unhinged" and bent on "revenge." He forgets to tell them that Republicans want to "put y'all back in chains."

While Mr. Biden bellows, Mr. Trump calms and reassures.

Mr. Trump delivered pizzas to a New York City firehouse, hugged a Black supporter at a Chick-fil-A in Atlanta while the staff watched and smiled, and addressed an estimated 10,000 supporters at a rally in the South Bronx.

Mr. Trump has the common touch the president lacks. He called the family of the missionary couple killed in Haiti. When the bodies came

In 2024, hope will win over fear

Biden is still trying to terrify voters

back from the Kabul airport, the president waited on the runway — repeatedly checking his watch.

Like President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Trump is one of those rare creatures, a conservative populist. He likes people, and they know it. As a Black schoolteacher said at the South Bronx rally, "he speaks to you," not at you.

Mr. Trump is always upbeat. We can solve our problems, he tells us. We can beat inflation, control the border, produce abundant energy, cut taxes and prevent World War III.

Opinion polls show who's ahead in the race between hope and fear.

Mr. Trump is making historic inroads among traditional Democratic constituencies — those under 30, minorities and independents.

In the latest New York Times poll, Mr. Trump is tied with Mr. Biden among voters under 30 in six battleground states. In 2020, Mr. Biden car-



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

ried them by 24 points.

The fearmongering isn't working. First, it was Mr. Trump who would abolish abortion everywhere. (Not true. He says state voters should decide.) Then, the ex-president was a threat to democracy. So why did he leave office peacefully after the last election despite significant evidence of voter fraud?

The latest was Hollywood gargoyle Robert De Niro, in full "Dirty Grandpa" mode, at a New York presser, raving that Mr. Trump "wants to destroy the world." Again with the end of the world.

Mr. Biden's backers are moved by animosity, not burning passion for their guy. In the latest Rasmussen poll, a majority of Democrats said they want the president replaced at the head of their ticket.

Mr. Trump's troops are loyal. They stand in line for hours to hear him speak. The president inspires only a collective yawn.

Democrats hope that fear will win in November. Afraid not.

Don Feder is a columnist with The Washington Times.

Knight

From page B1

persecuted and denied fair trials in many other countries. Now it's happening here.

During the Obama-Biden presidency (2009-2017) and since President Biden took power on Jan. 20, 2021, the federal government has gone rogue, persecuting its perceived domestic enemies while giving aid and comfort to our actual foreign enemies such as Iran.

As Attorney General Merrick Garland's goons went after parents protesting at school board meetings, peaceful pro-lifers and traditionalist Catholics whom they labeled potential "terrorists," many people shook their heads in disbelief.

Many also could not believe their eyes when Mr. Biden issued a National Transgender Visibility Day proclamation on Easter Sunday or when he deliberately whipped up racial wounds in recent appearances before Black audiences.

"The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men" (Psalm 12:8).

Even the National Park Service got in on the act, barring the Knights of Columbus from holding a Memorial Day Mass at Poplar Grove National Cemetery in Petersburg, Virginia.

The Knights had been doing this for the past 60 years until the Park Service suddenly redesignated "religious services" as "demonstrations," which are prohibited at national cemeteries.

The absurd, anti-Christian dictate was reversed hours after the Knights filed a lawsuit through the First Liberty Institute, joined by an amicus brief from Republican Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and public opposition to the policy by Republican Gov. Glenn



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Youngkin.

Think about this one. The cemetery contains the graves of men who died defending the United States of America along with our most basic freedoms. The Democratic-run Park Service ran over religious liberty with a bureaucratic tank.

Yes, elections matter.

Given this kind of overreach, you have to wonder how far Democrats will actually go to impose a Marxist, top-down system on all of us. "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3).

We all know that the trials of Mr. Trump in four different Democratic jurisdictions under Democratic judges and by Democratic

prosecutors before Democratic juries are the stuff of communist and Third World countries. And it was all cheered on by an utterly compromised national media.

But Thursday's verdict was still stunning. "Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living" (Psalm 27:12-13).

As many legal experts have observed, the trial conducted by uber-Democratic Judge Juan Merchan, whose daughter is raising millions off it, has been uniformly unfair, with one-sided gag orders and suppression of defense witnesses.

The appeal writes itself, but the nation cannot wait as the wheels of justice grind slowly through different court levels. Given the gravity of this assault on the legal and political process and on citizens' rights to choose our president, it should go right to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It's hard not to get angry watching Democrats who daily show contempt for the Constitution smugly proclaim that the jury has "upheld the rule of law."

We should pray diligently and work to see justice done here on earth. We should do all we can to save America in November. But we should also take heart in knowing that justice will not be denied forever.

"For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth" (Psalm 37:9).

And there's this: "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!" (Psalm 27:12-14).

Robert Knight is a columnist for The Washington Times. His website is roberthknight.com.

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Lost & Found

*Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Pedro Cardona, please contact Father Steve Zorzos at Saint Sophia Cathedral: 202-333-4730.

Employment Opportunities

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Legal Notices

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON CO., VA, on June 15, 2024 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 307, Arlington Virginia 22201 in a meeting at 9:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as matters may be heard, will consider the following cases, after offering the public an opportunity to be heard in a public hearing.

Sign up to speak in advance at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/County-Board> or call 703-228-3130 between 8am and 5pm starting the week before the meeting. Members of the public may participate virtually and in person. Speakers signing up will also be available in-person on the day of the meeting. The meeting will be available via live stream at www.arlingtonva.us and local cable stations on Comcast 25 & 1085 and Verizon FiOS 39 & 40. Contact the County Board office at 703-228-3130 or countyboard@arlingtonva.us 3 days in advance to request reasonable accommodations or language translation services.

NOTE: Copies of proposed plans, ordinances, amendments and applications, and related planning case materials may be viewed in-person at Arlington County offices available in the Permit Arlington Center (or PAC) (2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 107, Arlington, VA) between 9 AM – 3 PM each Tuesday and Thursday, except for the third Thursday of each month when the PAC's hours are 9AM-1PM. Text of proposed County Code amendments may be examined in the County Board Clerk's Office, Suite 300; 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA by contacting staff at (703) 228-3130. The term Site Plan in this notice refers to a Special Exception Site Plan as defined in the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance and is not the same as an engineering site plan or construction plans submitted in satisfaction of other codes or ordinances. The terms ACZO and GLUP means Arlington County Zoning Ordinance and General Land Use Plan, respectively. Please contact Planning Division staff at 703-228-3525 or cphd@arlingtonva.us with any questions about the operating hours of the Permit Arlington Center.

Planning application materials are also available online at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Minor-Site-Plan-Use-Permit-Applications>

THE FOLLOWING CASES TO BE HEARD BY COUNTY BOARD:

SUBJECT: Ordinance of Encroachment to Permit the Encroachment of an Existing Underground Garage, at-Grade ADA Ramp, Piers, Planters, and Proposed Above-Grade Canopy, All Under, Upon, or Over Portions of a Public Street and Utilities Easement for Wilson Boulevard, Located Along the Frontage of the Building Located at 2425 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, Virginia, RPC No. 15-060-004, with conditions.

SUBJECT: Consideration of Adoption of the 2024 Arlington County Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan, if adopted, would replace the County's 2004 Solid Waste Management Plan.

SUBJECT: Ordinance of Vacation to Vacate an Existing 10' Easement for Public Utilities, Water and Sewer on Property Known as Lot D, Paxton Clebdivision, Located at 6019 22nd Road N., RPC No. 11-001-061, with Conditions.

SITE PLAN AMENDMENTS:

SPLA24-00005 phased development site plan amendment request located at 1901 S. Bell St., 244 19th Ct. S., 269 19th Ct. S., 2050 S. Bell St., and 2051 S. Bell St.; and identified as RPC#s 34-026-041, -042, -043, and 34-020-292, -293.

SPLA24-00006 site plan amendment request located at 1901 S. Bell St., 244 19th Ct. S., and 269 19th Ct. S.; and identified as RPC#s 34-026-041, -042, -043.

SPLA24-00007 site plan amendment request located at 2050 and 2051 S. Bell St.; and identified as RPC#s 34-020-292, -293.

SPLA24-00010 site plan amendment request located at 1901 S. Bell St., 244 19th Ct. S., and 269 19th Ct. S.; and identified as RPC# 34-026-041, -042, -043.

SPLA24-00011 site plan amendment request located at 3500 and 3550 S. Clark St.; and identified as RPC# 34-027-567, -PCB.

SPLA24-00015 phased development site plan amendment request located at 3500 and 3550 S. Clark St.; and identified as RPC# 34-027-567, -PCB.

SPLA24-00014 site plan amendment request located at 1635, 1715 N. George Mason Dr., and 1800 N. Edison St.; and identified as RPC# 09-016-214, -PCA, -PCB.

SPLA24-00020 site plan amendment located at 1900 Fort Myer Drive; and identified as RPC# 16-022-257.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE PERMITS:

UPER23-00059 use permit located at 1101 N. Highland St.; and identified as RPC# 18-013-010.

FCBN24-00002 Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Form Based Code use permit located at 1320 S. George Mason Drive; and identified as RPC# 27-002-006.

UPER24-00005?use permit located at 712 and 716 N. Barton St.; and identified as RPC# 18-039-031, 030.

UPER24-00007 use permit located at 3033 Wilson Blvd.; and identified as RPC# 15-067-002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 033, 036.

UPER24-00008 use permit located at 3033 Wilson Blvd.; and identified as RPC# 15-067-002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 033, 036.

UPER24-00009 use permit located at 3033 Wilson Blvd.; and identified as RPC# 15-067-002, 003, 005, 006, 007, 033, 036.

UPER24-00011 use permit request located at 4704 Columbia Pike; and identified as RPC# 27-004-002.

THE FOLLOWING ARE USE PERMIT AND SITE PLAN REVIEWS:

FOR ONE YEAR:

SPLA23-00007 site plan amendment review located at 1635, 1715 N. George Mason Dr., and 1800 N. Edison St.; and identified as RPC# 09-016-214, -PCA, -PCB.

UPER22-00020 use permit review located at 2461 S. Clark St.; and identified as RPC# 34-020-035.

UPER22-00023 use permit review located at 915 N Oakland St.; and identified as RPC# 14-039-001; -002; -003.

UPER23-00014 use permit review located at 1305 N Jackson St.; and identified as RPC# 15-077-007.

UPER23-00016 use permit review located at 2207 and 2217 Columbia Pike; and identified as RPC# 25-018-022, 23, & 28.

UPER23-00020 use permit review located at 5204 N. Carlin Springs Road; and identified as RPC# 13-051-010.

UPER23-00031 use permit review located at 1125 N. Patrick Henry Drive; and identified as RPC# 09-067-001.

Mason Kushnir,
Acting Clerk to the County Board

Publication dates CB June 3rd, 2024,
and June 10th, 2024

AD#84350



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9	5	8			1	7		3
	2				3			5
	3			7		2		8
			1					3
2		9		8		4		1
	4				7			
6			8		4			5
5				9				1
4		2	3			8	7	6

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Bronze

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:

1	7	8	3	6	4	5	2	9
5	9	4	8	1	2	6	7	3
2	6	3	7	5	9	8	1	4
7	3	2	1	9	6	4	8	5
8	1	9	5	4	7	2	3	6
6	4	5	2	3	8	1	9	7
4	8	1	6	7	3	9	5	2
9	5	7	4	2	1	3	6	8
3	2	6	9	8	5	7	4	1

J	E	S	T	D	R	I	P	E	T	H	I	C		
U	T	A	H	E	A	S	E	R	H	O	D	A		
M	A	Y	A	J	U	N	K	D	R	A	W	E		
P	S	S	T	A	L	T	E	R	N	E	A	T		
L	A	V	I	D	K									
C	A	R	L	G	U	S	T	A	V	J	U	N	G	
I	P	A	D	S		L	U	G	E	S		E	L	M
N	I	N	O		T	A	T	A	R		T	H	E	E
E	N	C		P	O	N	T	I		E	A	R	N	S
T	H	E	R	A	G	I	N	C	A	J	U	N	S	
A	L	I	T		E	E	R	I	E		A	M	A	J
J	U	N	G	L	E	G	Y	M	S		H	U	L	
A	R	O	M	A		G	N	A	T		A	N	O	N
R	E	T	A	G		S	E	N	S		L	I	T	E

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PGYUP

SIOTJ

SUWNIE

TIYGEH

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Print your answer here:



THE YOUNG CANINE CAMPERS WERE HAVING FUN SETTING UP THEIR...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Friday's Jumbles: INPUT MONTH GOALIE CANNAS Answer: The meteorite that created the huge crater east of Flagstaff, Arizona made a -- LASTING IMPACT

RUBES/Leigh Rubin



Playtime with Li'l Zilla

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



"Not even close."

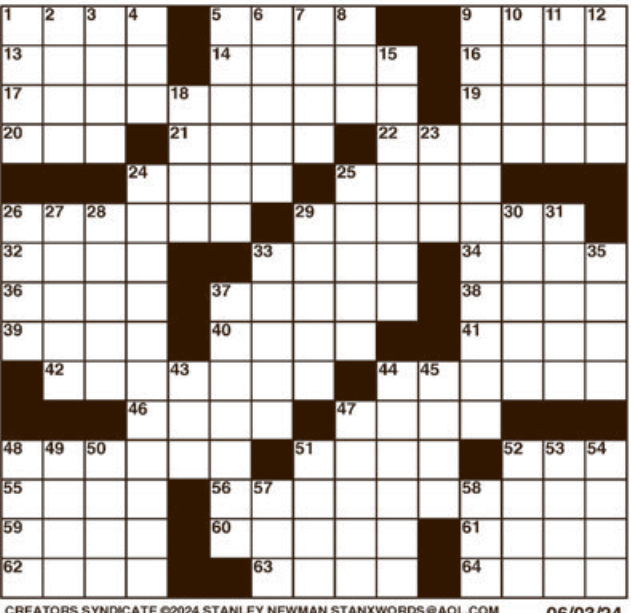
NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Sidewalk Sights

ACROSS

- 1 Local sandwich shop
- 5 Bank's drive- window
- 9 Common office plant
- 13 Give off, as heat
- 14 What your belt encircles
- 16 Creative notion
- 17 Covered waiting area for a "crosstown" ride
- 19 Car's ___view mirror
- 20 Small sugar amount: Abbr.
- 21 Initial poker stake
- 22 For all to see
- 24 Crunchy sandwiches, for short
- 25 Insect attracted to light
- 26 Officially inform
- 29 Yellow tropical fruits
- 32 Long heroic tale
- 33 Confused state
- 34 Tiny bit of rain
- 36 Overly stylish
- 37 Person using oars
- 38 Grain in sushi
- 39 Very soft mineral
- 40 Extremely long time
- 41 Makes a request
- 42 Assistants
- 44 Most elegant
- 46 Snakelike fishes
- 47 Quite often
- 48 Pay by credit card
- 51 Share a border with
- 52 Become more mature
- 55 Mountain lion
- 56 Dining surfaces outside restaurants
- 59 Actor Baldwin
- 60 Rich layer cake

- 61 At once, in a memo
- 62 Fell gradually
- 63 Sports defeat
- 64 ___ apart (in shreds)
- DOWN
- 1 Amount owed
- 2 Flightless Aussie birds
- 3 Have trouble saying "s"
- 4 "___ about time!"
- 5 One-fifth of 100
- 6 Stops marching
- 7 Any formal ceremony
- 8 Find a function for
- 9 Curbside water source
- 10 Genesis garden
- 11 Not artificial
- 12 ___ a soul (no one)
- 15 Officer patrolling highways
- 18 50%
- 23 Grade school support group: Abbr.
- 24 Stand for locking up two-wheelers
- 25 Pathfinding puzzles
- 26 Without any clutter
- 27 Winfrey of TV
- 28 Name of a book or movie
- 29 Smallest chess pieces
- 30 Get out of bed
- 31 Anklets and argyles
- 33 Building entrances
- 35 Nuisance
- 37 Vote back into office
- 43 Wooden pin
- 44 High-pitched wind instruments
- 45 Tiny amount
- 47 Assists with a crime
- 48 Tax law experts: Abbr.
- 49 Luau dance
- 50 Prayer ending
- 51 Spherical hairstyle
- 52 In addition
- 53 Car transmission choice
- 54 Sports cable channel
- 57 "You've got mail"
- 58 Mammal that flies



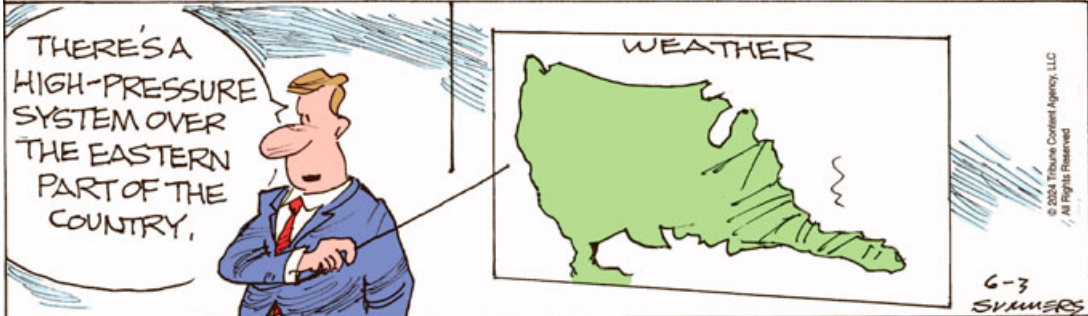
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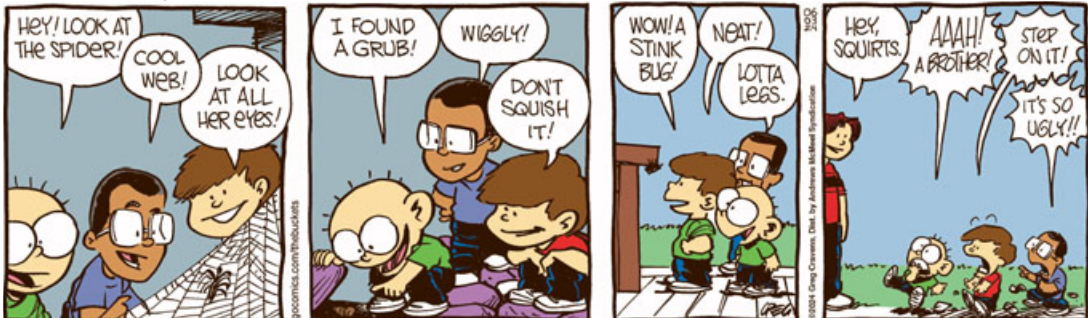
B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



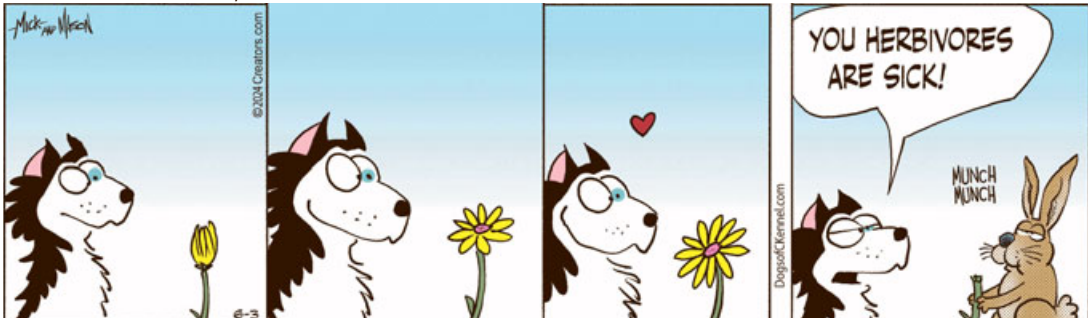
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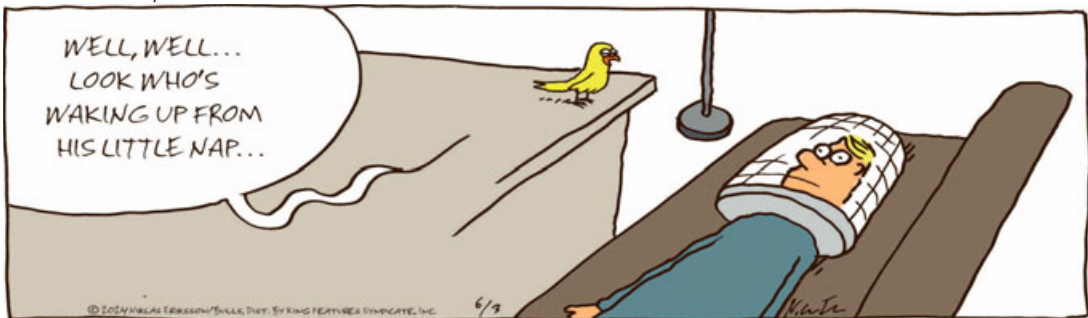
THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



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THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss





Garfield, voiced by Chris Pratt, gets ready to eat in a scene from the animated film “The Garfield Movie.” The animated orange cat crept ahead of “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” and a slew of holdovers from Memorial Day weekend to earn a chart-topping \$14 million in ticket sales this weekend.

MOVIES

Slow summer movie season grinds on

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was a quiet weekend at North American movie theaters, dominated once again by Sony’s “The Garfield Movie,” Warner Bros.’ “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga” and a slew of holdovers.

Flipping the script from their Memorial weekend openings, the animated orange cat crept ahead of the wasteland warrior in their second outing.

“The Garfield Movie” earned a chart-topping \$14 million in ticket sales while “Furiosa” settled into third place in a close race with “IF,” according to studio estimates on Sunday. Both “IF” and “Furiosa” are estimated to have earned \$10.8 million, with “IF” getting the slight edge.

“Garfield” fell only 42% in its second weekend in North America. It also topped the global box office adding \$27 million from international territories, bringing its running worldwide to \$152.2 million. The animated pic featuring the voice of Chris Pratt will essentially have the market to itself until “Inside Out 2” arrives on June 14.

“Furiosa,” meanwhile, fell 59% from its first weekend, adding just under \$10.8 million from 3,864 locations in the U.S. and

‘Garfield,’ ‘Furiosa,’ other holdovers repeat atop box office

Canada. That puts its running domestic total at \$49.7 million and its global sum at \$114.4 million against a \$168 million production budget.

There were several new releases that opened on over 1,000 screens this weekend: Sony/Crunchyroll’s anime “Haikyu!! The Dumpster Battle”; IFC’s horror “In a Violent Nature”; Roadside Attractions’ Diane Keaton-Alfre Woodard-Kathy Bates comedy “Summer Camp”; and Bleecker Street’s father-son drama “Ezra.” None managed to crack the top five, however.

Disney also released the well-reviewed “Young Woman and the Sea,” starring Daisy Ridley as the first woman to swim the English Channel, but did not report its ticket sales. Likewise, Richard Linklater’s “Hit Man” is currently playing in select theaters around the country before it comes to streaming next week, but Netflix does not release box office numbers.

Second place went to Paramount’s “IF,” with \$10.8 million in its third weekend. John Krasinski’s imaginary friends fantasy

starring Ryan Reynolds and Cailley Fleming has now made over \$80.4 million domestically and \$138 million worldwide.

Disney/20th Century Studios’ “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes” landed in fourth place in its fourth weekend with \$8.8 million. It has now made \$140 million domestically and \$337.1 million globally.

And the Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt action-comedy “The Fall Guy,” which is currently available to purchase at home, rounded out the top five with \$4.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$80.3 million. Globally, the Universal release has made \$157.9 million.

The 2024 box office is struggling compared to both last year (down 23.9%) and pre-pandemic standards (down 42.2% from 2019 and 46.4% from 2018), according to data from Comscore.

On this weekend last year, “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse” opened to \$120.7 million while “The Little Mermaid” was still pulling in over \$41.4 million in its second weekend. This year has yet to have any film open to

over \$100 million domestically.

“It should come as no surprise given the nature of this year’s trajectory that we are running this far behind,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “I understand why people are concerned about where this year is going, but it’s never too late to get things running again.”

“It’s a momentum business,” he added. “The attention right now is focused on what will be the big movie to get the summer moving in the right direction.”

Mr. Dergarabedian also noted that absent a big superhero movie, it’s the family-oriented films that have been resonating recently. They might not open to the biggest numbers, but as “IF” and “The Garfield Movie” have proven, they have staying power.

The top-grossing movie of this year remains “Dune: Part Two,” which Warner Bros. released in early March and has made over \$711 million globally. Its domestic take of \$282.1 million represents 10.5% of the overall box office for 2024.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Wife discovers husband up to his same old tricks

DEAR ABBY: I did some investigating and recently found out my husband of 28 years has been corresponding with other women. This is the second time I have caught him. He’s sworn that nothing ever developed out of it, but I can’t help but wonder how far it would’ve gone had I not discovered it.

Should I walk away and start over, or stay in this marriage not knowing if I can stand another betrayal? Our sons are in their 30s, and we have no grandchildren yet. — MAR-RIED TO A CHEATER

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

DEAR SHOULD I STAY: Please put down that burden of guilt. After 25 years taking care of others, you have earned the right to do what you need to for yourself. Explain to your adult children that after 25 years in a high-adrenaline profession (to put it mildly), you need quiet and solitude and to decompress. You won’t be out of their lives forever; they can travel to visit you and bring along the grandkids, or you can visit them a couple of times a year.

DEAR MARRIED: I wish you had been more specific about what your husband and these women were writing about. If it was sexual in nature, I can understand your concern. Has he met either of them in person? If the answer is no, then it may be a bit dramatic to accuse him of betrayal. Rather than walk away, tell him you think it’s time for marriage counseling, and then ask your doctor for a referral for the both of you.

DEAR ABBY: I’m 60 and retired. My adult children and grandchildren live in the same city as I do. I want to move somewhere with fewer people, preferably a cabin, probably in another state. I feel extremely guilty at the thought of leaving my family, but at the same time I don’t want to regret not finding my little patch of peace and quiet. I spent 25 years in law enforcement and really prefer solitude. I hope you can give me some advice. — **SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO**

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I have been diagnosed with a type of blood cancer with a life expectancy of two to eight years. My question is, how do I let people know? I have told a few close friends and asked them not to tell others until I get a few things settled. I have also told them if others comment about my weight loss (I’ve lost about 20 pounds) that I’m OK with letting them know. I’m not sure a blast email or text would be the way to do it. Looking for suggestions. — **UNSURE IN ARIZONA**

DEAR UNSURE: I’m sorry you received bad news. A diagnosis of cancer has serious implications, even if it doesn’t involve an expiration date. I agree a mass email blast wouldn’t be the best way to deliver this news. If someone comments on your weight loss, explain about your diagnosis. Do not ask anyone else to keep it to themselves, and word will trickle out. Of course, your family and closest friends should be told by you so they won’t hear about it secondhand.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (June 3). Essential needs will be filled all around, and your part in it

HOLIDAY MATHIS
HOROSCOPE

gives you a profound sense of belonging. It’s as though you were destined to be part of the groups, people and endeavors that make your year so rich. More highlights: An adventure over water being reprised several times. Building financial resources for yourself and loved ones in a way that’s smart and fun. Taurus and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 18, 7, 5, 21 and 15.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You typically manage the luck you’re given, but when none is forthcoming, you don’t hesitate to conjure up your own. Your good fortune will begin with that posture of respect and reverence you so naturally extend to the things and people you cherish.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). How a person leaves a thing will say more about their character than how they got into it in the first place. Leave things better than they were. You want everything to end on a sweet note, sometimes with a big tip or a promise about the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Often the highest, best and most correct thing is an unwanted choice that doesn’t look like much fun, but nonetheless delivers joy in the end. You’ll bear from your own plans because there is something more important to handle.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Typically, you strive to make things convenient for those around you, but the opposite approach works better today. Let them work for your approval. It’s a game, and games are no fun until they start to engage problem-solving skills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You go in with the idea that something big is going to happen, and what happens is a small move toward something big that’s going to happen. Getting ready to do a thing is an essential step in getting it done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). Make it a priority to get more support. No resource will help you more than one person who sees you and understands your goals, challenges, talents and priorities. The belief in what is possible is the start to making it so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is said that if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it. It’s not because busy people are better than other people, rather it’s because they have momentum on their side. You know this and will be an example of it today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Official training and the attainment of a broad knowledge base is favored. The strategies of others will be helpful to know and adapt, but don’t use them straight out of the box. You’ll get far better results once you get into your own, unique groove.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The thing you feel you need to protect is what you should be protecting yourself from. Consider what you are giving your time to that does not seem to be paying you back in any way that makes a difference.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are moments that life plays out as though you’ve transcended the need to see yourself as a separate person. Your emotions are felt in the context of others. You don’t believe your experience is better unless theirs is, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Tools that don’t cost much will be better than the ones you pay for because the low-cost allows for carefree experimentation, which will bring about the best results. Also, if you pay too much for a tool, you’ll feel obligated to make it work even when it just doesn’t.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It happens more often than not: People think they want one thing, then order up another. Primal need and subconscious desire crouches in waiting for the opportunity to take over the controls, and it rarely misses.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Daughter of Jolie, Pitt seeks name change

Petitions court to drop father’s surname on day she turned 18

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A daughter of actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt filed paperwork on the day she turned 18 that would legally remove “Pitt” from her name.

Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt submitted a petition in Los Angeles County Superior Court on May 27 to change her name to Shiloh Nouvel Jolie, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The third-eldest of the former couple’s six children was born in Swakopmund, Namibia, on May 27, 2006. The siblings also include Maddox, Pax, Zahara and twins Knox and Vivienne.

Shiloh, who performs as a

voice actor in the film “Kung Fu Panda 3,” is the first of the siblings to file a petition for a legal name change, but some of the other children have dropped public use of their father’s last name in recent years, the Times reported.

Angelina Jolie filed for divorce from Mr. Pitt in September 2016, but the details of the divorce have not yet been finalized.

The actors, who were married in August 2014, have filed lawsuits against each other in recent years stemming from disagreements over their shared business ventures and property including a winery in France, the Times reported.



Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt, a daughter of Angelina Jolie (left) and Brad Pitt filed paperwork on May 27 to legally remove “Pitt” from her name. She is the first of her siblings to file a petition for a legal name change.

MUSIC

‘Completely heartsick and devastated’

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | Jennifer Lopez has canceled her 2024 North American tour, representatives for Live Nation confirmed to the Associated Press.

“Jennifer is taking time off to be with her children, family and close friends,” they said in a statement.

The tour was to be her first in five years, in support of her first solo album in a decade, “This Is Me... Now” and its companion film.

The tour was scheduled to kick off on June 26 in Orlando,

Lopez cancels summer tour to take time off to be with family

Florida, and conclude in Houston on Aug. 31. Live Nation shared that attendees who purchased tickets through Ticketmaster will be automatically refunded.

Ms. Lopez offered her own statement to fans on her On-theJLo website and newsletter, writing, “I am completely heartsick and devastated about letting you down. Please know that I wouldn’t do this if I didn’t feel that it was absolutely necessary.”

She continued: “I promise I will make it up to you and we will all be together again. I love you all so much. Until next time...”

“This Is Me... Now” was released early this year, 20 years after her hit album, “This Is Me... Then.”

Ms. Lopez told the AP that the new album was a “miracle” and “a second chance. And I’d love to capture this moment in time the way that album captured that moment in time.”



INVISION VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

“I am completely heartsick and devastated about letting you down,” Jennifer Lopez told fans about canceling her summer tour.

NFL

Commanders release McManus after sexual assault allegations

The Washington Commanders released kicker Brandon McManus on Sunday night, less than a week after news broke that two women planned



to sue the 32-year-old for alleged sexual assaults.

Tony Buzbee, the lawyer for the women, said last week that they are filing a civil

suit against McManus. The alleged assault occurred last year on a flight to London while McManus played for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

A Commanders spokesperson said the team was looking into the allegations.

According to an ESPN report, the women say McManus rubbed up against them during a team charter flight. The women planned to seek \$1 million in damages and a jury trial.

McManus joined the Commanders as a free agent in March. He signed a one-year, \$3.6 million deal that included a \$1.5 million signing bonus.

The Temple product played nine seasons with the Denver Broncos to start his career before joining the Jaguars last year.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Saso wins U.S. Open for second time, her first for Japan

LANCASTER, PA. | Yuka Saso became a U.S. Women's Open champion for the second time Sunday and took her place in history with a rare footnote — the first Filipino to win the Women's Open in 2021, and now the first from Japan to win women's golf's biggest event.

No matter the flag, the 22-year-old Saso delivered a masterful performance at Lancaster Country Club with a 2-under 68. She ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine amid a series of collapses and won without much drama.

Saso got up-and-down for par from short of the 18th green to finish at 4-under 276, winning by three shots over Hinako Shibuno, who in 2019 became the first Japanese player to capture the Women's British Open.

They were the only two players under par, the fewest for the Women's Open in 10 years. Saso, who has two titles on the Japan LPGA, joined Se Ri Pak and In Gee Chun as the only players to make their first two LPGA victories major championships.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Rays rally for another one-run win, top Orioles to avoid sweep

BALTIMORE | Jose Siri hit a two-run double in the eighth to put Tampa Bay ahead, Garrett Cleavinger escaped the bottom of the inning thanks to a bases-loaded double play, and the Rays avoided a sweep with a 4-3 win over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Gunnar Henderson hit his sixth leadoff homer of the season for the Orioles, who led 3-0 in the fourth before Tampa Bay's comeback. With the score 3-2, Dillon Tate (2-1) allowed two straight singles to start the eighth and then fell behind in the count against Siri, who was squaring around to bunt.

Siri swung away at a 3-1 pitch and drove it to right-center field to put Tampa Bay on top.

Shawn Armstrong (2-1) won in relief, but Cleavinger nearly gave up the lead. With a man on first and one out, he walked Henderson — the Baltimore shortstop reached in all five of his plate appearances — and then allowed a single to left by Adley Rutschman.

Ramon Urias was held at third on that sharp hit, leaving the bases loaded, and then Ryan Mountcastle hit a roller to third on the first pitch.

AUTO RACING

Dixon wins record fourth Detroit Grand Prix

DETROIT | Scott Dixon won a record fourth Detroit Grand Prix, outlasting the competition in a caution-filled race on Sunday to become the first IndyCar driver with two victories this season.

The six-time IndyCar Series champion won his 58th career race, trailing only A.J. Foyt's total of 67 in the series. Dixon, who is from New Zealand, broke a tie in the Detroit Grand Prix record books with Will Power and Helio Castroneves. The Chip Ganassi Racing driver finished nearly a second ahead of Marcus Ericsson, followed by Marcus Armstrong, Kyle Kirkwood and Alexander Rossi.

In the shadow of General Motors' world headquarters, Honda dominated in Detroit, with only Rossi cracking the top five in a Chevrolet.

Late in the race, Josef Newgarden lost control of the back end of his car — with no one nearby — and hit a wall to set up a 26th-place finish in the 27-car field.

From wire dispatches and staff reports.

NFL

Howell adjusts going from being a starter to likely backup

By Tim Booth

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENTON, WASH. | Between the change in the coaching staff and a high draft pick, quarterback Sam Howell was pretty certain after last season ended, he'd no longer be in Washington even if he spent the entire year as the Commanders starting quarterback.

But with a change in scenery came the realization that Howell would have to accept the idea of taking on a backup role — which appears to be the situation he faces now as a member of the Seattle Seahawks.

Howell said Thursday after the team hit the midway point of their offseason OTA practices that he was excited by the chance to join Seattle even if it meant coming to a team with an established starter already in place with Geno Smith.

"In this league to be able to play, you've got to compete and that's what I'm willing to do, no matter what the situation is, no matter who the starter is. If I'm the starter, I'm coming to compete every single day," Howell said. "Geno has been great. I've learned a lot from Geno and he's a great player. I have a lot of respect for him and everything he's been through in his career."

In just two seasons, Howell's been through a lot himself. He went from being a 2022 fifth-round pick of the Commanders who appeared in one game as a rookie to a starter who led the league in attempts, interceptions and sacks in just his second season.

But within that season also included some highlight moments that showed Howell has the talent to be a starter in the league. And one of his best games came against the Seahawks when he threw for 312 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions in a 29-26 loss.

"We should have won," Howell said.

Now given some time, Howell said he's reflected on what he learned and what he could have done differently to cut down on some of the mistakes.

Howell threw 21 interceptions and was sacked 65 times behind an offensive line that was ravaged by injuries and poor play.

"I think I could play some smarter ball. I think there were times where we



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I think there were times where we were down big in some games I was a little too aggressive just trying to make something happen trying to get us back in the game," Seahawks quarterback Sam Howell said of his time with the Commanders.

were down big in some games, I was a little too aggressive just trying to make something happen trying to get us back in the game," Howell said. "The turnovers are just way too high for what I wanted and what the team needed. I think that's definitely something I can take from last year."

Howell's trade to Seattle also included

some swapping of draft picks, but the confidence the Seahawks have in what Howell can be in the short term was displayed a little more than a month ago.

While Seattle wasn't in the running to pick one of the elite QBs that dominated the beginning of the first round of the draft, the Seahawks still had plenty of chances to grab a developmental quarterback in the

later rounds of the draft.

But they didn't, opting to go with just two quarterbacks for now - Smith and Howell.

"I think he's representative of where we are as a football team," Seattle coach Mike Macdonald said of Howell. "I think Sam has improved every time we've come out here and it's really exciting."

LOVERRO

From page B10

embodied by the iconic logo must be made right by both the new team ownership and the NFL. Doing so would honor the Blackfeet tribe, my constituents, in Montana."

Since then, the team has met with family members and is believed to be working toward an agreement.

The Van Hollen opposition is driven by Maryland's efforts to keep the team in the state.

The team's lease at the existing stadium — now called Commanders Field after FedEx opted out of its naming rights deal last year — ends in 2027, though there is nothing to keep the team from extending the lease.

This is why I believe that ultimately, the team will wind up in a new stadium next door to Commanders Field. It is the path of least resistance. The Buffalo Bills and Tennessee Titans are both building new stadiums next to their existing ones.

Near the end of Dan Snyder's ownership, team officials discussed

plans for a new stadium closer to the Morgan Station metro stop, currently about a mile from the stadium. In 2022, Maryland approved \$400 million to develop the area around the stadium.

The RFK site has been the strong favorite among the fan base for the new home for the football team, and it is believed that Josh Harris and his ownership group favor a return to the city.

Harris and his group are putting \$75 million into improvements at Commanders Field, which has been ranked among the worst stadiums in the NFL.

Mayor Muriel Bowser has been determined to bring the team, which left the District for Landover after the 1996 season, back to the RFK location, and, given her win in keeping the Wizards and Capitals in the city after owner Transparent Ted Leonsis' failed attempt to move the teams to Alexandria, her ability to land the football team shouldn't be underestimated.

But it has become a lot more difficult because of Van Hollen.

• You can hear Thom Loverro on The Kevin Sheehan Show podcast.

NATIONALS

From page B10

33rd-round draft pick in 2018.

"It's a day I'll remember for a really long time," Schneemann said. "It was a fun day. It was a day I waited a long time for."

Thomas hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth to push the Nationals' lead to 5-2. The

Nationals had scored just three runs while losing the first two games of the series.

Carrasco (2-5) had a rocky return from the injured list, as he was tagged for five runs on seven hits in four innings. He had been sidelined since May 16 with neck spasms.

Kyle Finnegan pitched a scoreless ninth for his 16th save in 18 opportunities.

Vargas had two hits, as did Will

Brennan for the Guardians.

Nationals catcher Drew Millas was recalled from Triple-A Rochester and catcher Riley Adams was optioned there. Adams will also play some first base at Rochester.

Nationals center fielder Jacob Young (right hand soreness) did not play after being injured during Saturday's game. He underwent an X-ray, which was negative.

Shortstop CJ Abrams (left shoulder soreness) was a late scratch for a second straight day.

Nationals left-hander MacKenzie Gore (4-4, 2.91 ERA) is scheduled to pitch Monday night in the opener of a three-game home series against the Mets after having 18 strikeouts and one walk while winning his last two starts. New York will pitch right-hander Tylor Magill (0-2, 1.69).

TENNIS

From page B10

and safety of the players it would be in the sport's best interest to try to avoid those matches finishing, or starting, after a certain time."

Gauff says there's also a fine balance to be struck.

"Obviously I don't want to complain too much about it because we are very blessed and privileged to be playing for a lot of money. There's people working real jobs under worse conditions for less money and just trying to get by," she said. "It's just tough for me knowing where some of my family come from and where things are, and I think about the people hearing this. Yes, if I was a person working, I would be upset to hear, you know, players complain."

Potapova attributed her crushing defeat to the constant rain delays in recent

days sapping her energy.

"Unfortunately in the last couple of days I started feeling not well, eating not well. Last night I did not get an hour of sleep. It's very tough to be honest. Especially when you want to play good you have to try to keep everything inside," she said. "But unfortunately if you keep it inside it doesn't go away, it just keeps growing. The stress inside my body kept growing and unfortunately today was the day when it exploded."

Saturday didn't help much.

"Yesterday I spent all day on site because I had doubles. We came at 9:00 (a.m.) and at 7:00 p.m. it got (postponed). I spent all day here without hitting a ball," she said. "That's not the preparation for the fourth round of a grand slam against the world number one."

Swiatek remains on course for her third consecutive French Open title and fourth overall. The top-ranked Pole plays Wimbledon champion

Marketa Vondrousova after the fifth-seeded Czech beat unseeded Serb Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2.

Gauff faces No. 8-seeded Tunisian Ons Jabeur, who advanced to her second straight French Open quarterfinal after beating unseeded Dane Clara Tauson 6-4, 6-4.

In the men's draw, two-time Grand Slam title winner Carlos Alcaraz and 2021 French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas set up a quarterfinal showdown, while No. 10 Grigor Dimitrov got to the final eight in Paris for the first time in 14 appearances and will meet No. 2 Jannik Sinner next.

Dimitrov eliminated No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (5), 6-4, 7-6 (3), and Australian Open champion Sinner recovered from a terrible start to beat unseeded Corentin Moutet 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1. Sinner got broken in each of his first three service games — after holding in 41 of 43 during his first three matches — and

fell behind 5-0 just 22 minutes in, before getting going.

The third-seeded Alcaraz beat No. 21-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Auger-Aliassime appeared to struggle with his left leg and called a trainer at the changeover at 3-2 down in the second set, then left the court for a medical timeout.

Tsitsipas beat unseeded Italian Matteo Arnaldi 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-2, and the ninth-seeded Greek celebrated enthusiastically with the Court Suzanne Lenglen crowd.

"Now me and the crowd are on this, so it felt amazing," said Tsitsipas, who was close to finding himself in a two-set deficit but saved four set points in the second. "I felt there was power within me to turn this game around."

What about playing Alcaraz? "He has said in the past that he likes to play against me," Tsitsipas said. "I hope he likes it a little bit less."

GYMNASTICS

From page B10

Minneapolis with plenty of momentum. Three years after her bid to make the 2020 Olympic team ended with an injury, Blakely is peaking at the right time.

Suni Lee, the 2020 Olympic champion who has spent the last year-plus battling

kidney issues that have limited her training, shook off an early mistake on vault to put together elegant routines on uneven bars and balance beam that few in the world — even Biles — can match.

Olympians Jordan Chiles and Jade Carey are in the mix, though both endured falls on beam on Sunday. Third-place finisher Kayla DiCello slipped off the uneven bars. Leanne Wong, perhaps

looking fatigued after a long season competing at Florida, also endured uncharacteristic miscues.

Shilese Jones, considered the best all-around gymnast in the U.S. without the last name Biles, pulled out of the championships on Friday, citing a shoulder injury though she said Sunday she was feeling better and plans to be available for trials. So will 18-year-old Kaliya

Lincoln, who opted not to compete on Sunday after tweaking something during Friday night's opening session.

Both — if healthy — figure to be serious contenders to earn an invitation to Paris (Jones in particular). If they're not, the door could swing wide open for others and test the depth the senior elite program has been touting for years.

Politicking surprisingly gets Landover back in running for stadium

A U.S. senator has emerged as the major roadblock to the District's efforts to gain control of the federal land that RFK Stadium sits on for a new home for the Washington Commanders, but not the one that has gotten all the attention.

Montana Sen. Steve Daines said last month in a hearing on the bill before the Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee that he would block a bill transferring control of the land from the federal



government to the District until the football team agrees to honor the American Indians who helped create the team's former logo.

The logo was created by an Indian designer and based on a real-life chief, both from the Republican's home state of Montana.

But the real threat to the District's effort to reclaim the team isn't in Montana — it's much closer to home.

Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen quietly has made it clear he wants the team to stay in his state.

Van Hollen is backing Maryland Gov. Wes Moore's efforts to keep the team in the state, with a new stadium to be built next to the existing one in Landover.

"Van Hollen is the much bigger problem," said a source familiar with the District's stadium campaign.

The veteran Democrat's office issued the following statement: "Maryland has served as the proud home of the Commanders for over 20 years. As the team looks to the future, I hope that they will choose to stay in Maryland and appreciate the efforts of Governor Moore and others working to make that happen. As discussions continue, the priority is to ensure a fair process in the selection of a site and prevent actions that unfairly tilt the scales in favor of one location over another."



Van Hollen

The fight over the future home of the Commanders is about to get ugly.

Like Daines, Van Hollen can stop the D.C. RFK Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act, which would transfer control of the land to the city, even though there would likely be majority support for the legislation, which overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in February.

Under Senate protocols, a single piece of legislation like the RFK transfer can be blocked by one senator who can likely prevent a vote from taking place.

This was why supporters wanted the legislation attached to the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act, which would have made passage easier, sources said.

Van Hollen's opposition seriously

jeopardizes the chances of the bill passing this year, with the Senate scheduled to go on a lengthy break late this month and come back for a short session in September before the November elections.

Daines' opposition remains problematic as well. He is lobbying on behalf of the Wetzel family, whose grandfather Blackie helped create the Indian logo that adorned the team's helmets from 1972 to 2020, when the franchise dropped the Redskins nickname.

"The logo itself remains a point of pride for many in Indian country and specifically the Wetzel family," Daines said in a statement. "The failure to properly honor the pride and history

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NATIONALS

STREAK BUSTERS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Nationals' Ildemaro Vargas high-fives teammates after scoring in the second inning of a 5-2 win over the Guardians on Sunday. Vargas had reached base on an RBI single.

By JOHN PERROTTO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND | Joey Meneses' two-run double keyed a four-run second and Jake Irvin pitched six strong innings to lead the Washington Nationals to a 5-2 victory over the Cleveland Guardians on Sunday.

Meneses' double to deep center field opened the scoring against Carlos Carrasco. Ildemaro Vargas and Lane Thomas had back-to-back RBI singles later in the second to put the Nationals up 4-0 as they avoided a series sweep.

"I'm just looking to stay up the middle and I connected on that pitch very well

Meneses, Nationals stop Guardians' run of nine straight home wins

and it felt great," Meneses said through a translator.

Nationals manager Dave Martinez was happy to see his team grab a big lead early.

"We harp about scoring first to let our pitchers settle in because they are going to keep us in a lot of games," Martinez said. "It's really important to understand that we have to beat up on their starter and let our pitcher get settled down and pitch a little deeper into the game."

That was enough support for Irvin (3-5), who allowed five hits and one walk while striking out six. Irvin had gone 1-3 in his previous five starts despite a 2.55 ERA.

"It's awesome. It makes my job a lot easier," Irvin said of the early lead. "I can just go out there and continue to pound the zone and keep us in that game. Props to those guys. They took a little weight off my shoulders and it was awesome to see."

The AL Central-leading Guardians' nine-game home winning streak, their longest since 2017, was snapped.

"We just couldn't see to square anything up against (Irvin)," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said.

Daniel Schneemann cut the Nationals' lead in half in the bottom of the second inning by lining a two-run double to right field on the first pitch he saw in the major leagues. Schneemann, an infielder/outfielder, had his contract selected by the Guardians from Triple-A Columbus prior to the game.

Schneemann was Cleveland's

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TENNIS

Swiatek, Gauff sprint into French quarterfinals
Work quick after men's marathons

By JEROME PUGMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS | After the French Open marathon came the sprints.

Defending champion Iga Swiatek swept into the quarterfinals at Roland Garros in just 40 minutes after a crushing 6-0, 6-0 win against Anastasia Potapova.

U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff took only 60 minutes to rout unseeded Italian Elisabetta Cocciaretto 6-1, 6-2.

The 20-year-old American looked set for an even quicker victory when she led 5-0, but Cocciaretto fought back, getting a hearty cheer from the crowd after winning the next game.

Swiatek wound up with 48 points to just 10 for Potapova. The match ended when Potapova hit a forehand into the net on the first match point.

"I was just really focused and in the zone," Swiatek said. "It went pretty quickly, pretty weird."

Their match started at around 11 a.m. on Court Philippe Chatrier.

That's just eight hours after men's defending champion Novak Djokovic finished his five-set, 4 1/2-hour marathon against Lorenzo Musetti just after 3 a.m. in the latest finish in tournament history.

Swiatek said late finishes don't just end with the match and are not healthy.

"Usually it takes us, like, four hours to even chill, and you need to do recovery, media. It's not like the work ends with the match point," she said. "I was always one of the players that said that we should start a little bit earlier."

Gauff thinks the issue needs to be addressed.

"It's a complicated thing," she said. "But I definitely think for the health



Swiatek

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GYMNASTICS

Biles continues Olympic prep with her ninth U.S. title

By WILL GRAVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH, TEXAS | Gymnastics superstar Simone Biles won her ninth U.S. Championship on Sunday, leaving little doubt that at 27 and a decade-plus into her run atop the sport, she is as good as ever.

Biles posted a two-day all-around total of 119.750, nearly six points clear of runner-up Skye Blakely and leaving little doubt that she appears ready to add a second all-around Olympic gold to go with the one she captured in 2016.

In front of an audience that included her husband, Chicago Bears safety Jonathan Owens, Biles put on a four-rotation clinic that featured all the trademarks of a typical Biles performance. There was jaw-dropping athleticism mixed with precision and more than a splash of swagger.

Biles finished with the highest two-day score on all four events — something she'd done only once before at nationals (2018) — to build plenty of momentum ahead of the Olympic trials later this month in Minneapolis.

Her only misstep on Sunday came on

vault. She came up short on her Yurchenko double pike — two back flips with her hands clasped behind her knees — during warmups and overcompensated when it counted, generating so much force she wound up on her back. She still received a 15.000 for her effort, a testament to a vault that's never been completed in competition by another woman and only attempted by a select group of men.

Not that it bothered her. Biles collected herself, took a couple of deep breaths then followed it up a Cheng vault that was rewarded with a 15.1 and put a

ninth national title within reach, heady territory considering no other gymnast in the history of the sport in the U.S. has more than seven.

While Biles remains above the fray as usual, there is plenty of competition for the other four spots on the five-woman U.S. team that will head to Paris as heavy favorites to return to the top of the podium after finishing second to Russia in Tokyo three years ago.

Blakely, 19, put together another impressive performance and will head to

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simone Biles won her ninth U.S. Gymnastics Championship on Sunday in Fort Worth, Texas, after two-day all-around total of 119.750.