



## CAMPAIGN 2024

# Trump aims to lean on Congress for agenda Heads to Capitol with big wish list

By **SETH McLAUGHLIN AND KERRY PICKET**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump will discuss his legislative priorities in more detail when he meets with Republican lawmakers Thursday on Capitol Hill.

In his third bid for the White House, Mr. Trump has laid out a wide-ranging Agenda 47, which focuses heavily on reversing President Biden's executive



Trump

actions on immigration, energy and equity programs.

Mr. Trump needs Congress to score policy wins in Washington and, more importantly, enact structural changes to how the federal government operates. He said

some of the restrictions handcuffed him in his first term.

The former president will make his first visit to Capitol Hill since the Jan. 6, 2021, riot and since he became a convicted felon. A senior Trump campaign official said the meeting will focus on how Republicans can advance policies "protecting Social Security and Medicare, securing the southern border, and cutting taxes for hardworking families."

Rep. Jim Jordan, a top Trump ally from Ohio, said the Trump agenda includes reauthorizing the expiring 2017

» see **TRUMP** | **A6**

► Johnson, Senate Republicans weigh 2025 policy agenda. **A5**



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**CENTER OF INVESTIGATION:** Internal sources at Voice of America said a director of the Persian news network is sympathetic to Iran's theocracy.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

# 'Corruption' keeps Persian news chief on job at Voice of America

By **BILL GERTZ**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The federal agency in charge of nearly \$1 billion in funding for government broadcasting sought to cover up improper activities by a fired Voice of America manager who was rehired under the Biden administration, according to a three-year investigation by a House oversight panel.

A report by the House Foreign Affairs Committee said the U.S. Agency for Global Media, known as USAGM,

## Whistleblowers report lies, bias

engaged in corrupt practices related to the vetting of Setareh Derakhshesh Sieg, a director of Voice of America's Persian news network.

Ms. Sieg was fired in the closing days of the Trump administration but was rehired a day after President Biden took office.

The report accuses USAGM of

attempting to cover up its mishandling of the case but failing because of persistent congressional oversight.

The report said the media agency failed to investigate internal VOA whistleblowers' complaints that Ms. Sieg, who remains a manager, lied about receiving a doctorate from France's Sorbonne University and misspent VOA funds.

The French government confirmed that Ms. Sieg never received the

» see **VOICE** | **A6**

## RUSSIANS SAIL TO U.S. NEIGHBOR



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first two warships in a Russian fleet entering the Caribbean caught attention in Cuba on Wednesday, less than two weeks after President Biden authorized Ukraine to use U.S.-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to protect Kharkiv. Story A9.

## REPUBLICANS

# Center, far right take battles to primaries

## Lawmakers boost colleagues' rivals

By **ALEX MILLER AND LINDSEY MCPHERSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Republican drama and Washington infighting is spilling into Republican primaries across the country, pitting far-right rebels against the center-right establishment. The rebels are losing.

Hard-line conservatives have come up short in efforts to replace more moderate Republicans with anti-establishment candidates.

At the same time, establishment Republicans are wading into primaries in efforts to oust far-right members of Congress who have caused headaches for the conference.

In a half dozen or more primary races this cycle, Republican lawmakers have targeted their colleagues by lending time, money or both to candidates seeking to unseat incumbents.

In most of the contested races, the incumbent has faced or will face a conservative newcomer backed by Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida and House Freedom Caucus Chair Bob Good of Virginia.

So far, none of the attempts to eject an incumbent has been successful.

The latest lawmaker to prevail in the primary war is Rep. William Timmons of South Carolina.

On Tuesday, he defeated state legislator Adam Morgan, who chairs the South Carolina Freedom Caucus and was backed by Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Good and other national Freedom Caucus members, by 4 percentage points.

» see **PRIMARY** | **A6**

## TECHNOLOGY

# Pro-Hamas deepfakes try to manipulate Americans

By **RYAN LOVELACE**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Artificial-intelligence-generated propaganda supporting the Palestinian militant group Hamas is deliberately targeting an American audience, according to a deepfake detection company studying online influence efforts that employ cutting-edge AI technology.

Investigators at Sensity AI say they have uncovered manipulated online content backing both sides of the Israel-Hamas war, but the intended audiences for each side appeared far different,

## 'Massive propaganda conflict' grows out of Israel war, AI detectors say

providing a rare window into whom the deepfake creators seek to engage and persuade.

"Hamas propaganda targets were definitely [Europeans] and American citizens," Francesco Cavalli, co-founder of Sensity AI, said in an email. "Israeli propaganda tried to focus more on influencing the internal audience, not only Israeli people (in order to gather support

for the military operation in Gaza) but also Palestinians who are not supporting Hamas."

The report said a "massive propaganda conflict" is playing out on social media between partisans of Hamas and Israel.

The Amsterdam-based company said pro-Hamas content used AI to generate images of Gaza residents, especially

children, next to rubble and victims of alleged Israeli attacks. The pro-Israel side, meanwhile, depicted large crowds waving Israeli flags and used deepfake videos and voice-cloning tools to portray celebrities expressing their support for Israel.

Sensity AI said its findings heightened concerns about the AI tools affecting the U.S. elections in November, but much of what the company found in the early stages of the 2024 campaign could be categorized as concerning or satirical,

» see **FAKE** | **A10**

## LAW AND ORDER

# Teen arrests for scooter scuffs on Pride mural stir backlash

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

You may get away with spray-painting graffiti on statues of American heroes in the nation's capital, but don't try putting skid marks on the Pride street mural in Spokane, Washington.

Three teenagers were arrested on June 5 for using their Lime e-scooters to create black scuff marks on the colorful Pride flag crosswalk at Howard Street and Spokane Falls Boulevard. The offense carries a maximum of five years in prison under the state's newly enhanced felony hate crime law.

Responding to a 911 call, police arrested 19-year-old Ruslan VV. Turko and two minors whose names were

not released. All three were booked on first-degree malicious mischief. Mr. Turko was released on his own recognizance, according to the Spokane Police Department.

The scooter riders hardly sound like model citizens. One of the minors shouted profanities when confronted by witnesses, according to court documents cited by KREM-TV in Spokane.

That said, the specter of teenagers facing years in prison for scuffing up a street mural trampled each day by innumerable cars, bicycles and pedestrians struck some observers as excessive.

"The symbol is so revered officials placed it on the ground on a public road,"

» see **MURAL** | **A8**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**ON A 'ROCKET SHIP'** The top-ranked pickleball players can earn valuable cash prizes in tournaments such as the one in the District this weekend.

## SPORTS

# Pickleball pros to show off prowess, bankrolls in D.C.

By **LIAM GRIFFIN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

That familiar "pock, pock, pock" of pickleball is turning into "ka-ching, ka-ching, ka-ching" for players and team owners in the nation's fast-growing professional sport.

Major League Pickleball brings its hybrid of pingpong and tennis to the District beginning Thursday for a four-day event showcasing the burgeoning sport's best players and teams while flexing the league's growing box office muscle.

The Washington Tennis and Education Foundation in Southeast will host 15 of the 22 teams from the nascent league, which has attracted big-name owners such as NBA superstar LeBron James and

two-time NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes.

Former league CEO Julio DePietro told one network recently that MLP team values have grown a hundredfold since the league began in 2021 and are now fetching up to \$10 million per team.

"This is a rocket ship right now," the league's chief operating officer, Bruce Popko, told The Washington Times.

Pickleball, played on half of a tennis court with a paddle instead of a racket and a hollow plastic ball instead of a tennis ball, has been the fastest-growing sport in the United States for three consecutive years, with no slowdown in sight.

The Association of Pickleball

» see **PICKLEBALL** | **A8**

## POLITICS

# Hunter Biden's law license challenged after felony conviction. **A4**

## NATION

# Federal Reserve signals single rate cut this year as inflation cools. **A7**

## WORLD

# Biden, Zelenskyy to ink bilateral security pact while at G7 summit. **A9**

## REGION

# Tidal Basin visitors see uprooted trees, other seawall restoration. **A11**

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 119







TRUMP TRUMPS BIDEN

A Monmouth University Polling Institute survey released Wednesday has some noteworthy news for President Biden and former President Donald Trump.

“Trump’s retrospective job rating is better than Mr. Biden’s current numbers,” an analysis of the findings said.

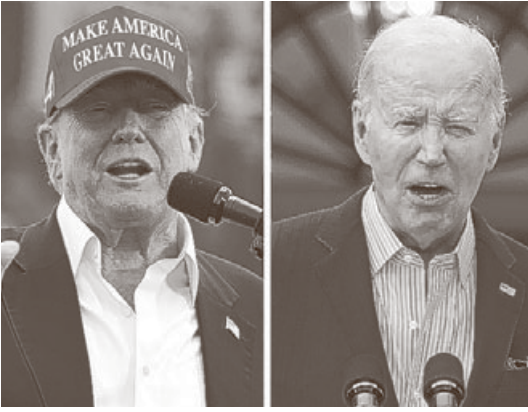
“President Biden’s overall job rating remains decidedly negative. On top of that, his rating is lower than public memory of how his predecessor, Donald Trump, performed when he occupied the White House,” the analysis said.

“Opinion of Mr. Biden’s job performance as president is nominally lower than it was in April, but in statistical terms, it is in line with his ratings since last fall. Currently, 38% approve and 58% disapprove of the job Biden is doing. This is down slightly from two months ago (42% approve and 55% disapprove), but within the range of his ratings since September (which bottomed out at 34% approve and 61% disapprove in December),” the analysis said.

“Monmouth also asked Americans to give a retrospective rating of how former President Trump did when he was in office. Mr. Trump not only gets higher ratings – 47% approve and 50% disapprove – than the current president, but he gets a nominally better rating now than he did during most of his actual presidency. Trump’s best marks in Monmouth’s polling during his term came in March 2020 (46% approve and 48% disapprove) and just after he lost reelection to Biden in November 2020 (46% approve and 51% disapprove).

“Otherwise, Mr. Trump’s job approval rating tended to hover in the low-40s during his time as president,” the analysis said.

“If reelection bids are a referendum of



Former President Donald Trump’s job approval rating is better than what President Biden is getting from voters now, according to a survey from the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

presidential job performance, 2024 presents a unique case with two officeholders on the ballot. And that is posing a problem for Mr. Biden. Independents who are unhappy with the current incumbent seem to have developed a view of the Trump presidency that is somewhat rosier than the opinion they held when he was actually in office,” Monmouth polling director Patrick Murray said in a written statement released Wednesday.

REPUBLICAN KNOW-HOW

The Republican National Committee is tracking the economy and job creation, along with the role of politics in the trends.

“Republican-led states are the ones creating jobs and leading economic growth. The latest state jobs report shows that 12 of the top 16 states for jobs recovered since the coronavirus pandemic began are led by Republican governors,” the committee said in a report shared with Inside the Beltway.

The report also noted that all 14 of the top jobs-recovery states have Republican legislatures.

“Tennessee and Mississippi, both Republican-controlled states, have been the only states to

reach new record low unemployment rates in 2024. The latest report from the Bureau of Economic Analysis found that nine of the top 10 states with the highest real [gross domestic product] growth in the fourth quarter of 2023 have Republican governors,” the report said.

“The top 10 states with the largest increases in personal income in the fourth quarter of 2023 are all led by Republicans,” it said.

WEARY OF INFLATION

Tired of ever-rising prices? Rep. Jodey Arrington — who had a thought or two on the consumer price index report for May, which was released Wednesday. It revealed that inflation remained unchanged from April, with year-over-year inflation coming in at 3.3%.

The House Budget Committee, which Mr. Arrington chairs, said that’s not even the whole story.

“Americans continue to feel the effects of Bidenomics on the economy. Since President Biden took office, prices have increased by a total of 19.3%. This means that the average family of four is paying an additional \$17,080 per year or \$1,423 per month to purchase the same goods and services,” the committee’s study of the report released Wednesday said.

“The American people have suffered the consequences of Democrats’ runaway spending and Biden’s failed economic policies for far too long,” Mr. Arrington said in a statement shared with Inside the Beltway.

“Falling workforce participation, worsening consumer confidence, and doubts about future economic growth all paint a bleak picture for our nation’s fiscal health. Under President Biden, prices have risen almost 20% and inflation has proved painfully persistent making life for working Americans very difficult and unsustainable,” the Texas Republican said.

“We must stop the unbridled spending and return to pro-growth policies to Reverse the Curse of a looming recession and debt crisis and get America back on a sustainable fiscal path,” Mr. Arrington said.

MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK

The active New York Young Republicans Club is planning a “patriotic evening” for its many members at a private location in the city on Thursday evening.

The star of the event is Newsmax anchor Carl Higbie, a former Navy SEAL and author of “Profiles in Freedom: Heroes Who Shaped America.”

The club is not done yet, however. It will also host an official celebration of “cigars, bourbon, scotch and more” on Friday in the city.

“Space is limited so get your tickets fast. Our last Cigar Night sold out,” the club told its members in an advisory.

The club was founded in 1911, by the way, and is a “descendant” of the New York Young Men’s Republican Union, founded in 1856.

POLL DU JOUR

- 43% overall say they are “worse off financially” than they were a year ago; 61% of Republicans, 45% of independents and 24% of Democrats agree.

- 47% of Whites, 37% of Hispanics and 29% of Blacks also agree.

- 39% of U.S. adults say they are “about the same financially” as they were a year ago; 29% of Republicans, 38% of independents and 50% of Democrats agree.

- 37% of Whites, 50% of Hispanics and 40% of Blacks also agree.

- 14% overall say they are “better off financially” than a year ago; 9% of Republicans, 11% of independents and 23% of Democrats agree.

- 15% of Whites, 11% of Hispanics and 19% of Blacks also agree.

- 4% overall are not sure about the issue; 1% of Republicans, 7% of independents and 3% of Democrats agree.

- 2% of Whites, 2% of Hispanics and 11% of Blacks also agree.

SOURCE: AN ECONOMIST/YOUGOV POLL OF 1,595 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED ONLINE JUNE 9-11.

• Follow Jennifer Harper on X @HarperBulletin, on Facebook @HarperUniverse.

INVESTIGATION

Whistleblower: FBI internal investigators asked employees about co-worker’s politics

By KERRY PICKET  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The FBI Security Division officials’ investigation of an FBI employee included questions about the employee’s political and personal beliefs, according to whistleblower disclosures recently sent to the Department of Justice’s Office of Inspector General.

The disclosure cited Security Division questionnaires given to the agent’s co-workers that asked if the employee under investigation had: “Vocalize support for President Trump” or “Vocalized objection to COVID-19 vaccination” or “Vocalized intent to attend 1/6/2021.”

The watchdog group Empower Oversight released a copy of the June 8 whistleblower disclosure letter sent to DOJ Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz.

It’s the latest in a flood of whistleblower complaints that have prompted congressional scrutiny of the FBI’s top brass for unfair treatment of agents and other bureau employees, including for their political ideology.

This time, the whistleblower is an unnamed now-retired FBI worker who served the bureau for 12 years.

The Security Division, also known as SecD, also asked on the document if the employee under investigation had attended the Richmond Lobby Day event, an annual Second Amendment rally at the Virginia

State Capitol.

The FBI did not respond to a request for comment.

The FBI employees approached by SecD were told that the Clearance Investigations Unit was conducting an administrative investigation of the employee’s ability to maintain a top-secret security clearance.

The co-workers were presented with a document reminding them that the FBI employees have a duty to respond to the questions and any failure to reply fully and truthfully may result in SecD taking action against their security clearances, according to the disclosure.

Tristan Leavitt, president of Empower Oversight,

wrote in the letter to Mr. Horowitz that based on these documents, it is reasonable to say for his client to believe that SecD has been doing this more broadly to “purge employees with disfavored views from the FBI.”

“The three pre-printed questions that SecD asked our client’s fellow employees show that the FBI systematically compelled them to report on our client’s personal political beliefs and views of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Mr. Leavitt said the information officials at SecD compelled FBI employees to disclose was “completely irrelevant” to any “legitimate security risk determination [and] violates the First Amendment.”



IMMIGRATION  
Biden sued over border asylum crackdown

Immigrant-rights groups sued Wednesday in a bid to derail President Biden’s new border policy limiting migrants’ ability to lodge asylum claims.

Led by the American Civil Liberties Union, the groups say the policy violates immigration law and procedural laws governing executive branch actions.

The groups said migrants have a right to apply for asylum under U.S. law and Mr. Biden’s new limits hinder that right, potentially stranding desperate people in Mexico.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., and challenges a rule issued by the Justice and Homeland Security departments.

“While Congress has placed some limitations on the right to seek asylum over the years, it has never permitted the Executive Branch to categorically ban asylum based on where a noncitizen enters the country,” the groups said.

— Stephen Dinan

CONGRESS  
Usher talks health care to lawmakers

Grammy-winning performer Usher visited the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday to meet with lawmakers about treatments for Type 1 diabetes one week after meeting with Apple CEO Tim Cook to discuss the topic.

Usher’s son was diagnosed with the disease at age 6. The R&B singer is an outspoken advocate for those afflicted with the disease.

He’s also a spokesman for French drugmaker Sanofi, one of the largest producers of insulin.

Usher’s trip to the Capitol included a meeting with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries,

New York Democrat, and other lawmakers to discuss health care policy, a legislative aide told The Washington Times.

— Susan Ferrechio

VICE PRESIDENCY  
Norman to push Trump to choose Haley

Rep. Ralph Norman said he won’t give up his plans to urge former President Donald Trump to select former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley as his running mate when the presumptive GOP nominee meets with congressional Republicans on Thursday in Washington.

Mr. Norman, South Carolina Republican, previously endorsed Ms. Haley when she ran in the GOP presidential primary this year.

“Who can bring the party together more than her? Who can beat twelve other candidates other than President Trump?” Mr. Norman told reporters Wednesday. “He should pick Nikki Haley. Now it’s his call, but I’m just a little minion ... in a big ocean.”

— Kerry Pickett

WHITE HOUSE  
Biden calls son’s prosecution political

President Biden said Hunter Biden’s plea deal would have held up if not for his reelection campaign, according to a report.

“If I weren’t running for reelection, he would have gotten the plea deal,” the elder Mr. Biden told someone close to him, according to Politico.

Hunter Biden had reached a plea deal with prosecutors to resolve the tax and gun charges without him having to spend time in prison. The deal fell apart amid heavy scrutiny from U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika.

On Tuesday, Hunter Biden was found guilty on three counts stemming from his purchase of a handgun in October 2018 while in the throes of crack addiction. He faces up to 25 years in prison, though as a first-time offender it is unlikely he would actually serve a lengthy prison term.

— Jeff Mordock



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rock musician Alice Cooper is running for president. The faux presidential run is his 14th. A link on his campaign website takes visitors to a page to buy concert tickets for his tour.

CAMPAIGN 2024  
14th time’s the charm? Cooper running for president again

School’s out for summer, and ‘70s rocker Alice Cooper is running for president again, a gag he’s done every four years since the release of his song “Elected” in 1972.

In a campaign video, the musician says, “Well, I’m Alice Cooper and I’m a troubled man for troubled times. I have absolutely no idea what to do, so I should fit right in.”

AliceforPresident.com encourages people to “stay in the loop” with the presidential campaign and sign up to receive updates on the “campaign kick-off, ongoing virtual rallies, Q&A sessions, and more.”

A link for his “campaign trail” takes visitors to his site to buy tickets for his tour.

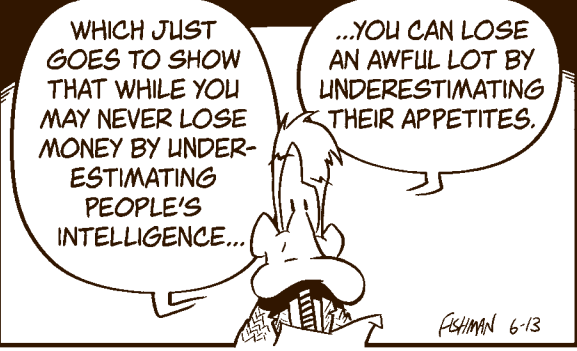
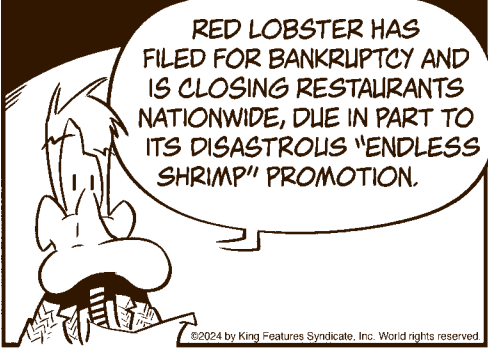
In a 2018 interview with the Guardian, Mr. Cooper, who legally changed his name from Vincent Furnier in the 1970s and is known for his raspy voice and wild stage shows, said he doesn’t “mix politics and rock ‘n’ roll.”

“When musicians are telling people who to vote for, I think that’s an abuse of power,” he said. “You’re telling your fans not to think for themselves, just to think like you. Rock ‘n’ roll is about freedom — and that’s not freedom.”

It’s his 14th run for the White House but Mr. Cooper, 76, is younger than both President Biden and former President Donald Trump.

— Mallory Wilson

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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The Washington Times (ISSN 0732-8494) is published Monday through Friday.  
© 2024 by The Washington Times, LLC, 3600 New York Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002

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# The rise of LIG Nex1 as leading ROK defense complex:

## From U.S. missile maintenance to ROK-U.S. defense cooperation

- We began with U.S. furnished missile depot maintenance. We evolved into a protector of freedom with advanced weapon systems
- The 2.75-inch guided rocket ‘Poniard’ will be a catalyst, bolstering ROK-US partnership to true R&D partner

LIG Nex1 stands as a testament to ROK’s sovereign defense, having spearheaded the development and deployment of cutting-edge weapon systems spanning precision-guided munitions, surveillance and reconnaissance, command and control, communications, avionics, and electronic warfare, both domestically and abroad.

LIG Nex1’s journey is a history of solid ROK-US alliance and defense collaboration. Born out of Gold Star (currently LG Electronics), LIG Nex1 was established in 1976 for depot maintenance of U.S.-furnished missile systems such as NIKE Hercules and HAWK.

In the 1970s, missile systems were a flag bearer of defense technology. Being able to participate in the depot maintenance of such weapon systems symbolized the strength of the ROK-U.S. alliance and laid the cornerstone for ROK’s defense technology and industry growth. This led LIG Nex1 to put its best effort toward investing in technology exchange with the U.S., becoming the first ROK private company to undergo an overseas training program at the U.S. missile maintenance school.

This collaboration with the U.S., initiated through missile depot maintenance, has expanded to the latest precision-guided missile (PGM) technology such as the Rolling Airframe Missile and Korean Patriot upgrade program, but also to other areas, such as the collaborative production of the heads-up display for the KF-16 fighter jet, that serve as a catalyst in fortifying ROK-US defense ties. Moreover, by establishing a U.S. office in 2009, LIG Nex1 has strengthened collaboration with global defense companies in North America. Now, the company continues to broaden the scope of technological collaboration and to offset trade endeavors in satellite and aerospace domains between ROK and the US.

LIG Nex1 is a main sponsor for publishing ‘Korea Reborn,’ which honors U.S. soldiers who fought in the Korean War and portrays Korea’s post-war growth. The company also hosts numerous activities, such as KDVA (Korea Defense Veterans Association) to strengthen the ROK-U.S. relationship.

Over the years, LIG Nex1 has evolved into a comprehensive defense industry representative of ROK, providing all defense solutions from sensor to shooter. It contributes to the nation’s sovereignty by participating in the development of numerous weapon systems like the MSAM-II to counter various aerial threats and ballistics penetrating at medium and low tiers; the Raybolt infantry medium-range guided weapon; the 2.75-inch guided rocket for coastal defense against threats from small, high-speed ships; the Chiron portable surface to air missile; the SDR(Software Defined Radio); and the long range radar and weapon-locating radar. With nearly 60% of its workforce dedicated to research, LIG Nex1, an example of an R&D-centric entity, boasts the most substantial and top-tier research capability pool among ROK defense companies. The company eagerly pursues the fusion of past research experience and core technologies, including guided munitions slated for integration into ROK’s indigenous fighter aircraft (KF-21), avionics, electronic warfare suites, and the acquisition of next-generation cutting-edge technologies spanning space, unmanned systems, cybersecurity, and AI.

It is time for both ROK and the U.S. to elevate the level of cooperation from conventional collaboration methods, such as offset and technology cooperative production, to co-working from initial stages of the weapons acquisition process. Working together from creating requirements to R&D and deployment will be a new trend for both countries. The company is demonstrating the performance of the Poniard 2.75-inch guided rocket through the foreign comparative test (FCT) program. Having originated from an ROK-US collaborative R&D effort, the Poniard thus is an outcome of ROK-US military alliance. The deployment of Poniard would be a big step to enhance ROK-US collaboration.



Politics

DISTRICT

Hunter Biden’s law license challenged after felony conviction

May affect ability to travel, conduct business abroad

By Stephen Dinan  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Hunter Biden’s license to practice law in the District of Columbia is being challenged after his conviction on felony charges relating to his purchase of a gun while using drugs.

At least one challenge was filed after the jury delivered its verdict Tuesday, joining another challenge that had been filed before the conviction.

These are just some of the consequences of Biden’s new status as a felon.

His international travel could suffer — dozens of countries have rules against felons visiting — and

his ability to make money off consulting, trading on his family connections, could become dicier, particularly if he does lose his law license.

But his burgeoning career as an artist seems unlikely to be affected.

Wayne L. Johnson, a retired Navy commander and member of the Judge Advocate General Corps, asked the D.C. bar to take a look at Biden’s ability to practice.

“The D.C. Bar, nor any other state bar, should want such a low life as a member,” Mr. Johnson told The Washington Times. “I am a member of the Georgia Bar, emeritus, and am sure they would disbar him in a nanosecond.

Hunter is truly a disgrace to the legal profession.”

Trump alums had made a similar request earlier this year, as Biden’s legal troubles mounted.

D.C. bar records show Robert H. Biden was admitted on April 9, 2007, and was still listed in “good standing” as of Wednesday afternoon.

The bar declined to comment, saying court rules require disciplinary proceedings to be kept confidential until charges are filed.

But under the bar rules, it appears Biden should have his license immediately suspended. The rules say any felony counts as a “serious crime,” and once the court has been notified of a

conviction of a serious crime, “the Court shall enter an order immediately suspending the attorney” and begin a formal proceeding to determine final discipline.

That’s true even if an appeal is planned.

The bar can decline to suspend a lawyer in cases “when it appears in the interest of justice to do so.”

Ty Clevenger, a lawyer who has pursued disbarment against several high-profile figures, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, wondered whether the D.C. bar would be willing to disbar Biden altogether.

“Unfortunately, the D.C. Bar is grotesquely partisan, so it’s hard to say whether Hunter Biden will be disbarred,” he said.

He pointed to Kevin Cline-smith, the FBI lawyer who was

convicted of a felony for fabricating evidence to spy on the Trump campaign and faced only a one-year suspension from the D.C. bar.

“I think it’s distinctly possible that the D.C. Bar will let Biden off the hook with a suspension,” Mr. Clevenger said.

The Washington Times has reached out to Biden’s lawyer for this story.

The challenge to Biden is the latest in a series of high-profile bar investigations in the current heated political environment.

John Eastman, who helped craft then-President Trump’s election challenge strategy in 2020, has been suspended from practicing law in California and the District of Columbia.

Rudolph W. Giuliani had his

law license suspended in New York, and the D.C. Board on Professional Responsibility has recommended he be suspended in the nation’s capital, too.

D.C. Bar officials have also recommended Jeffrey Clark, who argued at the Justice Department in 2020 to question the election outcome, be disbarred.

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Kentucky Republican, last week asked the Supreme Court to consider taking disciplinary action against Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island. Mr. McConnell said the two Democrats have engaged in unseemly attempts to skew high court action through baseless demands for recusal by GOP-appointed justices.

SENATE

Democrat launches probe into investment firm run by Kushner

Parallel to Hunter Biden investigation

By Tom Howell Jr.  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden launched an investigation Wednesday of an investment firm run by Jared Kushner, saying the vast amount of foreign funding raises the risk that Middle Eastern states will curry favor with politically connected people who may return to power in Washington.

Mr. Wyden, Oregon Democrat, alleged the structure of the payments to Affinity Partners, founded by Mr. Kushner, husband of Ivanka Trump, shields them from public scrutiny and may be an end-run around the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

“It is deeply concerning that several Middle Eastern governments are using funds managed by Affinity as a means to pay tens of millions of dollars in fees every year to former President Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner, creating significant conflicts of interest and potential counterintelligence risks,” Mr. Wyden said.

The Democrat launched the probe on the heels of President Biden’s son Hunter being convicted in Delaware of three federal gun crimes.

Some Republicans say the trial obscured larger questions about Hunter Biden’s work to trade off his famous father’s name through businesses such as Seneca Global Advisors, which claimed to help companies expand into foreign markets. Hunter Biden’s foreign deals are also central to House Republicans’ impeachment inquiry into President Biden, though the probe has largely stalled.

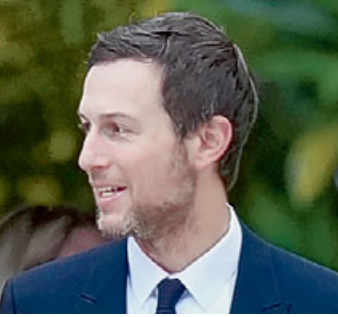
House investigators say Hunter Biden and his partners used shell companies to obscure the foreign money, and the investments appeared to be an attempt to influence the elder Mr. Biden, who served as vice president from 2009 to 2017.

Mr. Kushner’s firm, meanwhile, has made over \$1 billion in investments in companies around the globe. The firms include car-leasing businesses, food companies in the Middle East and a \$500 million hotel and condominium complex in Serbia.

Mr. Kushner has said he follows the law and will make plenty of money for investors. He has also downplayed the idea he’s eager to return to the White House after serving as an adviser to President Trump.

House Republicans defended Mr. Kushner.

“The idea that Jared Kushner did something wrong is ridiculous. Mr. Kushner is a legitimate businessman, unlike Hunter Biden, and did amazing work to help the United States secure



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Senate Democrat launched an investigation into the investment firm run by Jared Kushner, husband of Ivanka Trump.

the historic Abraham Accords,” said Russell Dye, a spokesman for House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan of Ohio.

The Abraham Accords were historic agreements brokered by the Trump administration in which Arab states normalized relations with Israel.

House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer said “Democrat hypocrisy knows no bounds.” He pointed to questions about the president’s alleged involvement in Hunter Biden’s foreign business deals and lack of Senate action to punish Sen. Robert Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat facing trial on bribery charges.

“Instead, they continue to obsess over President Trump and his family’s financial success,” said Mr. Comer of Kentucky.

Mr. Wyden says he has legitimate concerns because Affinity Partners received 99% of its money from foreign sources, leaving it fraught with potential conflicts of interest as Mr. Trump plots his return to the Oval Office.

“This series of events creates an appearance that Affinity’s investors are motivated not by commercial interests of seeking a return on investment, but rather by strategic considerations of foreign nationals seeking to funnel money to U.S. individuals with personal connections to former President Trump,” Mr. Wyden wrote to Affinity Partners Chief Financial Officer Lauren Key.

The Washington Times submitted a press inquiry to Affinity Partners through its website to seek comment on the probe.

Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho, the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, had no comment on Mr. Wyden’s probe, according to his spokeswoman.

Mr. Wyden requested an exhaustive list of information by June 26, including a list of Affinity employees and investors since 2021, communications with foreign entities and details on investment values, compensation and fees.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

The House voted to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt for not releasing President Biden’s interview tapes.

CONGRESS

Garland to be held in contempt

House votes after AG refused to hand over tapes of Biden interview

By Susan Ferrechio  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The House voted along party lines to hold President Biden’s attorney general in contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over audio tapes of a memory-challenged Mr. Biden answering questions about his illegal stash of classified documents.

The GOP-led House had initially wavered about holding Attorney General Merrick Garland in contempt amid pushback by Republican moderates running for reelection in districts Mr. Biden won in 2020.

All but one Republican lawmaker ultimately voted to rebuke Mr. Garland for blocking the release of audio tapes, which Republicans say are needed to complete their impeachment inquiry into Mr. Biden.

“Congress has a constitutional duty to perform oversight which is what we’re doing,” said Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Louisiana Republican. “We’re in the middle of an impeachment inquiry, which has been voted on by the House already. And now we need to get the facts.”

The contempt resolution, which passed 216-207, will be referred to Mr. Garland’s Justice Department, which is all but certain to ignore it.

The contempt resolution also authorized lawmakers to sue in federal court for the release of the audio, a process that could take months or longer.

Mr. Biden is under investigation by House lawmakers



“What we do know is one former president is charged, Joe Biden is not being charged and ... we know we are entitled to all the evidence and the best evidence,” Rep. Jim Jordan said.

for corruption related to his involvement in his family’s business deals.

Separately, Mr. Biden was interviewed by Special counsel Robert K. Hur last Oct. 8 and 9 as part of an investigation of the president’s stash of classified documents taken during his time in the Senate and the vice presidency.

Republicans say the transcript of the interview released by the Justice Department is not enough, noting that it includes redaction and unspecified changes.

Lawmakers say the audio tapes would reveal “important verbal context, such as tone or tenor, or nonverbal context, such as pauses or pace of delivery.”

Mr. Biden asserted executive privilege over the tapes on May 16.

In rebuffing lawmakers, Justice Department officials said Congress has not provided “a legitimate

congressional need” for the audio recordings and accused the GOP of seeking the tapes for political purposes.

The battle over the audio recordings comes amid questions and concerns about the 81-year-old president’s mental and physical fitness for a second term.

Boxes of classified documents were discovered in November 2022 at Mr. Biden’s former Washington think tank and in the garage of his home in Delaware. Their existence was revealed publicly in January 2023.

The news of Mr. Biden’s classified documents hoard broke several months after Mr. Garland ordered an FBI raid of former President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home where he stored classified documents after his exit from the White House.

In a 345-page report issued in February, Mr. Hur, who has since resigned from the

Justice Department, said he decided not to prosecute Mr. Biden despite his mishandling of classified documents. The president, he wrote, would be difficult to convict because he came across as “a sympathetic, well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory.”

Mr. Trump, who is leading Mr. Biden in most presidential election polls, did not escape prosecution.

Special counsel Jack Smith charged him with 40 counts related to his classified documents, including unlawful retention of sensitive national defense information.

“What we do know is one former president is being charged, Joe Biden is not being charged and we think we are entitled, actually we know we are entitled to all the evidence and the best evidence,” said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, Ohio Republican. “Transcripts alone are not sufficient evidence of the state of the president’s memory. Especially since the executive branch has a history of changing transcripts.”

Democrats urged the GOP to fight for the documents in court.

“The president asserted executive privilege in this matter,” said Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. “Maybe that was proper. Maybe not. But the way to contest executive privilege is not by a contempt resolution. It’s by going to court and letting the court decide whether the executive privilege is warranted or not.”



IMMIGRATION

# ISIS-linked migrants caught and released at southern border

## Lawmakers demand briefing on ever-growing threat

By **STEPHEN DINAN**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Members of Congress demanded answers Wednesday after reports that eight people associated with ISIS had to be recaptured after first being caught and released at the border.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked Senate leaders to rush to schedule an all-senators briefing on the matter, saying the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria poses an ever-growing threat at

the southern border.

“I believe that the threat is urgent,” Mr. Graham wrote.

And House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mark Green, Tennessee Republican, said the arrests are the latest flashing warning sign about the “madness” at the border under President Biden.

“Such bad actors exploiting our borders used to be the exception — it’s quickly becoming the rule,” he said. “It’s only a matter of time before one of these individuals connected to a terrorist group is

involved in something devastating on U.S. soil, and this administration will be responsible.”

The eight men, all from Tajikistan, crossed the border, where they were encountered by U.S. authorities. They were given some vetting, which apparently came back clean, and they were released and dispersed into the country.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement recaptured them in operations in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia.

Authorities appear to have had some of the migrants under

surveillance and The New York Post reported they had a wiretap running that detected one of the men talking about bombs.

ICE is now holding the migrants on immigration cases. They are not currently charged with any terrorism-related crime.

One of the men is reported to have been granted “parole” by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas under a special immigration program he set up outside the usual immigration system for migrants who pre-schedule their unauthorized arrivals.

The cases challenge Mr. Mayorkas’ claim that those showing

deporting just four people back to the country in fiscal year 2023.

But the U.S. has seen a stunning rise in migrants from beyond the usual sending areas of Mexico and Central America, which experts attribute in part to pressures in other countries and to the generous use of parole and other catch-and-release measures by the Biden administration.

It’s not clear whether any of the eight men triggered the terrorism watchlist.

Mr. Mayorkas has been reluctant to say publicly whether a migrant who sneaks across the border and appears on the watchlist means automatic detention.

CONGRESS

# Johnson, Republican senators begin discussion on policy agenda for 2025



By **LINDSEY MCPHERSON**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Speaker Mike Johnson met with Republican senators to discuss a policy agenda they could push through in 2025, if they win the election.

House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Republicans met Wednesday to begin discussions on a policy agenda they can muscle through Congress next year if their party has full control in Washington.

Central to the developing GOP agenda is renewing a significant chunk of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that is set to expire in 2025. But Mr. Johnson is urging Republicans to think bigger than extending those tax breaks and look at a wider swath of policy areas that could be packed into a Senate filibuster-proof budget reconciliation package.

The budget reconciliation process allows both chambers to set unified revenue and spending goals for a legislative package and draft policy to achieve those targets. In the Senate, reconciliation bills are subject to strict rules but are not subject to the filibuster, meaning they can pass on a simple majority, party-line vote instead of the traditional 60 votes it would take to clear a minority blockade.

Budget reconciliation is how Republicans and former President Donald Trump passed their 2017 tax law. But after watching Democrats use it to pass much broader legislation under President Biden — the 2021 coronavirus relief law known as the

American Rescue Plan and the 2022 climate and tax law called the Inflation Reduction Act — Republicans want to do more if they control Congress and the White House.

“The main idea is let’s think big,” said Sen. Kevin Cramer, North Dakota Republican.

He said some GOP senators floated “having the guts to talk about mandatory spending” and looking at ways to trim that part of the federal budget without cutting Social Security or Medicare benefits.

Other GOP senators at the meeting said it was effectively a brainstorming session with broad ideas floated such as trying to tackle energy and border

policy changes that have been atop the GOP to-do list for years.

While some senators encouraged Mr. Johnson to go big, others cautioned that the Senate “Byrd rule” governing reconciliation may limit his ambitions. That rule says that policies included in reconciliation must have more than a “merely incidental” impact on the budget — meaning the goal is to influence federal spending or revenues, not make significant policy changes.

North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis said Republicans should take note of the policies Democrats tried and failed to get into their recent budget reconciliation bills because of the Byrd rule, like a minimum wage

hike and a proposal to create a path to permanent legal status for millions of undocumented immigrants.

A key take-away from the meeting was a desire to ensure House and Senate Republicans and Mr. Trump are on the same page as they flesh out this policy agenda in the coming months, so they have a unified plan come January.

“Obviously, nobody knows for sure the results of the election,” said Sen. Ted Cruz, Texas Republican. “But I am glad the speaker is thinking proactively about being prepared to hit the ground running on Day One. And historically, the first 100 days can be very consequential.”

## How ‘Bidenomics’ is crushing Generation Z

Young Americans are increasingly dissatisfied with “Bidenomics,” and recent data on consumer debt helps explain why. About 1 in 7 Generation Zers have maxed out their credit amid skyrocketing prices and sagging real wages. Dreams of retirement and homeownership have become little more than just dreams for this generation. The culprit: failed public policy.

When President Biden took office, he was handed an economy growing at an annualized rate of \$1.5 trillion. Inflation was a mere 1.4%. Yet instead of simply allowing the economic recovery to continue, Mr. Biden spent trillions of dollars the nation didn’t have and declared war on American energy.

Since the Treasury couldn’t borrow enough money to meet the avalanche of spending, the Federal Reserve created the money for the government to spend. That devalued the dollar by about 20%, causing prices everywhere to rise.

In addition, Mr. Biden’s so-called green energy policies drove up energy costs across the board.

The price of gasoline, for example, rose by about 46%, and the price of electricity by about 29%. Since energy affects the price of everything we do and everything we buy, this added insult to injury, increasing prices beyond the effect of runaway government spending.

For young Americans, these higher prices have been devastating. Necessities like food and rent have increased in price by more than 20% while wage growth hasn’t kept up. To try to make ends meet, many have responded by picking up a second or even a third job, which is why a record number of Americans have more than one job.



Young Americans have also cut back their savings, and many aren’t saving at all.

Instead, they’re doing the opposite: going into debt. Until the next paycheck comes, many Gen Zers have been relying on credit cards to get by.

As more of them max out their credit cards, however, there’s nowhere left to turn. In just four years, the American standard of living for young people went from being enjoyed to endured.

The situation is little better for millennials; 1 in 8 of that generation have maxed out their credit. Americans in both generations are abandoning hope of ever achieving long-term goals such as retirement or owning a home — anything that requires saving.

As the saying goes, there’s too much month left at the end of the money. Small wonder that few young Americans have an emergency fund. But it’s hard to blame them when prices have risen so much faster than wages.

Since Mr. Biden took office, the average American’s hourly wage has risen \$4.98, but what that larger hourly wage can purchase has dropped by 67 cents. The hourly loss from inflation is a whopping \$5.65, which is more than the average worker loses per hour to federal income tax.

Even if a young family today does squirrel away the money for a down payment on a house, it’s impossible for most of them to afford the monthly payment.

For just a median-price home, that payment has more than doubled under

Mr. Biden, to about \$2,100 per month.

That means it now costs over \$13,000 more per year for the same house. If young Americans have to put groceries on a credit card, chances are they don’t have thousands of dollars lying around.

Likewise, many Gen Zers and plenty of millennials have stopped saving for retirement since things like 401(k) contributions don’t make much sense when you can’t make your car payment. And it’s no coincidence that auto-loan defaults for young Americans are rising at the fastest rate since the global financial crisis of 2007-2009. They are completely tapped out.

Young adults have been hit particularly hard by Bidenomics because they’re less likely to have assets such as housing and stocks that would appreciate rapidly in this time of high inflation.

Younger workers also tend to have jobs whose salaries adjust more slowly to inflation.

Financially crushed Gen Zers, hit by this one-two punch, need to understand what is to blame for their troubles: the big-government agenda defined by multitrillion-dollar federal budgets and a burdensome regulatory state.

If the leviathan isn’t turned back, younger generations will become a reflection of their government — perpetually in debt.

• E.J. Antoni is a public finance economist and the Richard F. Aster fellow at The Heritage Foundation, and a senior fellow at the Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

CAMPAIGN 2024

## Social Security advocacy groups back Biden for 2024 based on protection vow

By **JEFF MORDOCK**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Three senior groups backed President Biden’s reelection bid Wednesday based on his pledge to protect Social Security, but so far he has only offered vague promises to protect the program as insolvency looms.

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, which bucked its 38-year tradition of avoiding endorsements to back Mr. Biden in 2020, has done so again this election. Social Security Works PAC and the bipartisan National United Committee to Protect Pensions also said they are endorsing Mr. Biden.

All three organizations cited Mr. Biden’s commitment to protect the Social Security trust fund reserves from being depleted. The Treasury Department said last month that the trust funds — which cover old age and disability recipients — will be unable to pay full benefits in 2035. If that happens, Social Security would only be able to pay 83% of benefits.

Last year, the Treasury Department pegged the go-back date for the trust funds at 2034, estimating that it would only be able to pay

71% of promised benefits.

Neither Mr. Biden nor his opponent, GOP presumptive nominee former President Donald Trump, have issued a formal plan to keep Social Security solvent beyond the next decade.

Max Richtman, president and CEO of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, said it’s not Mr. Biden’s job to come up with a plan to save Social Security. He noted that President Reagan’s 1983 law reforming the entitlement was developed in Congress.

“It traditionally is not the president who presents a detailed Social Security plan,” he said. “No president in the past 50 years has laid out a detailed plan for Social Security. It is Congress’ responsibility and Congress has failed to act.”

Mr. Richtman pointed to a few lawmakers, including Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island Democrat, and Rep. John B. Larson, Connecticut Democrat, for proposing Social Security reforms.

In 2016, Mr. Richtman was appointed to the platform committee for the Democratic National Committee. He is a former staff director of the Senate Special

Committee on Aging.

Mr. Biden’s budget blueprint released early this month did not include a detailed plan for fixing Social Security. Instead, it simply said he would work with Congress “in a way that ensures no benefit cuts.”

The budget blueprint included a detailed plan to protect Medicare, another entitlement program that is equally popular but expensive. The proposal included as much ink on improving Social Security Administration customer service as it did on strengthening the program.

During his 2020 presidential campaign, Mr. Biden vowed to save Social Security by increasing payroll taxes for people with annual incomes higher than \$400,000. He mentions the idea in campaign speeches, but with a Republican Congress, it is unlikely the idea will go far.

Mr. Richtman pointed to the president’s 2020 pledge as one of the reasons his group backs Mr. Biden.

“Our endorsement is based on President Biden’s commitment to these core principles and putting the moral authority of the White House behind them,” he said.

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TRUMP

From page A1

tax cuts, opening up energy production by slashing federal regulations, stopping the weaponization of government agencies and “most importantly securing the border.”

Others said they would seek more clarity from Mr. Trump.

“I want to hear a really clear vision of what we’re going to do in January,” said Rep. Chip Roy, Texas Republican. “I just want to hear specifics about what we’re running on.”

Mr. Trump’s Agenda 47 makes it clear he plans to lean on lawmakers to reshape the congressional budget process to give

the executive branch more control over federal spending. He said it is “a crucial tool with which to obliterate the Deep State, Drain the Swamp, and starve the Warmongers — these people that want wars all over the place; killing, killing, killing, they love killing — and the Globalists out of government.”

Mr. Trump wants to “totally reform FISA courts [and create] an independent auditing system to continually monitor our intelligence agencies to ensure they are not spying on our citizens or running disinformation campaigns against the American people,” according to the plan. The Trump legislative wish list also includes:

- Requiring all U.S. states to recognize concealed carry permits issued by

other states.

- Establishing universal school choice and a parental bill of rights.
- Giving “baby bonuses” to new parents.
- Creating a constitutional amendment mandating term limits for Congress.
- Banning sex-change procedures for minors and biological males playing in women’s sports.

On the policy front, Mr. Trump has frustrated budget hawks by vowing to stop Republicans from voting to cut a single penny from Medicare or Social Security.

The presumptive Republican nominee’s legislative agenda also aims to build off signature policy wins from his

first term.

Mr. Trump has vowed to extend the 2017 tax cuts, which are set to expire next year.

He has promised to push Congress to slash the tax increases on oil and gas producers that Mr. Biden approved in the Inflation Reduction Act and eliminate taxes on tipped income for hospitality workers.

On trade, he wants to expand on the United States-Mexico-Canada trade deal he signed into law in 2020, which fulfilled his campaign promise to update NAFTA and strengthen protections for workers.

Mr. Trump has proposed a Trump Reciprocal Trade Act that would give him and his successors the power to

slap countries with the same tariffs they impose on U.S.-made exports and more overall leeway to negotiate import tariffs.

Mr. Trump is also looking to advance immigration legislation, which he failed to do during his first term. Instead, he relied on unilateral moves to strengthen the border.

He will push Congress to approve legislation establishing a merit-based immigration system, the death penalty for drug dealers and human traffickers, and safeguards ensuring illegal immigrants do not receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits.

Congress also would likely have to approve his pledge to end birthright citizenship for the children of illegal immigrants.

PRIMARY

From page A1

Two weeks earlier, a primary battle in Texas’ 23rd District was decided by less than 2 percentage points. Rep. Tony Gonzales won against YouTube star Brandon Herrera, who was backed by the conservative duo.

Mr. Gonzales told The Times that the primary competition is healthy but the time and resources Republicans invest in competing against colleagues distract from the party’s larger goal.

“I think Republicans should focus on winning the majority and winning the White House and winning the Senate,” Mr. Gonzales said. “But a lot of people have a lot of free time on their hands.”

Mr. Good told The Times that his establishment colleagues fired the first shot in endorsing his challenger, John McGuire, in next week’s Virginia primary.

“That began in this conference with the group who endorsed against me, and the speaker failed to intervene and to prevent that from happening,” the Virginia Republican said. “And so members on the conservative side began to endorse in some races as well.”

Member-on-member fights outside the halls of Congress are not out of the ordinary, but current and former leaders of the House Republicans’ campaign arm, the National Republican Congressional Committee, told The Times that the number of incumbent primary battles this cycle stands out.

“I mean, it’s not unusual, but yeah, I think you’ve got more right now,” said House Majority Whip Tom Emmer of Minnesota, who previously chaired the NRCC.

Rep. Elijah Crane, who endorsed Mr. Morgan, Mr. Herrera and other far-right candidates, told The Times he is trying to mold the House into a more



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. William Timmons of South Carolina, supported by the House Freedom Caucus, is the latest Republican to prevail in the primary war. So far, none of the lawmakers’ attempts to keep an incumbent out of the general election has been successful.

conservative body. Other Freedom Caucus members who have endorsed against establishment incumbents share his goal.

“I say all the time, whether people like it or not, I don’t think we’re going to save this country with the people that we have here,” the Arizona Republican said.

The far-right conservatives are also being tested. Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Good, and Mr. Crane face primary battles against opponents backed by former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who is out for revenge against the lawmakers who

ousted him in October.

Mr. McCarthy lost his first test Tuesday when Rep. Nancy Mace, South Carolina Republican, demolished the primary challenger he backed, Catherine Templeton, by 27 percentage points.

“The McCarthy revenge tour is sort of off to the same start as his speakership,” said Mr. Gaetz, the ringleader of the eight Republicans who voted to depose Mr. McCarthy. He cited the former speaker’s inability to field candidates to run against Reps. Andy Biggs of Arizona and Tim

Burchett of Tennessee, the challenger he found to run against Mr. Crane sharing the same name as Jack Smith, the Justice Department official prosecuting former President Donald Trump’s federal case, and Ms. Mace’s decisive victory as signs of Mr. McCarthy’s waning influence.

“So I’m pretty excited about how our team is doing,” said Mr. Gaetz, who faces an opponent in his August primary whom he is expected to defeat.

Mr. Good, however, is in a tough race against Mr. McGuire, who has

endorsements from more than a dozen Republican members of Congress and, more important, Mr. Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Rep. Don Bacon, who pummeled his primary opponent that Mr. Good endorsed, said he is backing Mr. McGuire to teach the hard-liner a lesson.

“So I donated \$3,000, gave a good endorsement quote to McGuire, and I called my wealthiest donors to ask them to support McGuire,” Mr. Bacon told The Times. “And so maybe Bob Good will learn a lesson, but I don’t like it. It’s not healthy.”

Rep. Derrick Van Order endorsed Mr. McGuire and had a “wonderful conversation” with Mr. Gaetz’s primary opponent, former Navy officer Aaron Dimmock.

“The reason that this Congress is so discombobulated lies directly on Bob Good and Matt Gaetz’s shoulders,” the Wisconsin Republican said. “They feed off of people’s fear and anger, and they’re bullies.”

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers said his endorsements against far-right Republicans are about “getting more serious legislators elected who want to come here and find a way to get things done rather than finding a way to stop things from happening.”

The Alabama Republican warned that if his party does not tame its rebels, the far left will be emboldened to deploy similar tactics and create a permanently dysfunctional House.

“Their nuts are watching our nuts and learning from them,” Mr. Rogers said. “So you watch, they’re going to start replicating some of these tactics unless we demonstrate that these tactics are not going to be tolerated. And that’s why you’re seeing a lot of us get engaged in primaries to try to get more reasonable, productive members into office.”

VOICE

From page A1

doctorate, the report said.

The House report confirms reporting on the case of Ms. Sieg first disclosed by The Washington Times in February 2021.

Internal VOA sources said Ms. Sieg is sympathetic to Iran’s Islamist theocracy and has skewed VOA reports in favor of the Tehran government.

Rep. Michael McCaul, Texas Republican and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said Ms. Sieg should be removed from her VOA post immediately.

Acting VOA Director Yolanda Lopez resigned in September during the House investigation.

The report quotes Ms. Lopez telling congressional investigators that she was ordered to reinstate Ms. Sieg from administrative leave to “protect” USAGM.

USAGM CEO Amanda Bennett said the agency cannot comment on specific personnel matters.

“However, we unequivocally reject the committee’s allegations that the agency’s investigation of an employee’s background was politicized, corrupt or mismanaged in any way,” Ms. Bennett said.

The agency rebutted the “damaging mischaracterizations” of USAGM employees outlined in the report.

Ms. Bennett said in a statement that the agency would “condemn the committee’s callous attempts to malign hard-working civil servants, including the main subject of the investigation.”

The agency mission cannot be “swayed by political influence,” Ms. Bennett said, and “any notion that our

work has been politicized is categorically false.”

The agency conducted a thorough investigation and stood by its findings, she said.

Ms. Sieg declined to respond to an email request for comment. Her attorney, Mark Zaid, rejected the report’s findings as biased.

“The committee’s one-sided report continues an unexplained vendetta that has spanned two administrations against Setareh Sieg, a dedicated journalist who has devoted years of service to the U.S. government,” Mr. Zaid said.

“While it is difficult to address a 68-page report in a short statement, there are many incomplete, misinterpreted and defamatory conclusions,” he said.

Mr. Zaid said he agreed with the report’s conclusion that USAGM mishandled the investigation of Ms. Sieg from the beginning by interfering with her right to counsel and denying due process.

“The only reason I have not sued [Mr. McCaul] is because he has congressional immunity,” the lawyer added.

Mr. McCaul had a different take.

“For years, Sieg misrepresented her credentials and cultivated a culture of fear and dysfunction while she abused taxpayer dollars for lavish personal trips and contracts for friends,” he said.

“Unfortunately, Sieg’s case is the tip of the iceberg,” he said.

The committee’s 73-page report said efforts to uncover details of the mishandling of the matter are continuing. USAGM officials declined to make Ms. Sieg available to the committee for its investigation.

“The committee’s work to expose this

sort of corruption at USAGM does not end with this report,” the report said.

Mr. McCaul said U.S. broadcasters, which have requested a budget of \$950 million for fiscal 2025, conduct important work involving great power competition.

“I am extremely concerned about the agency’s serious investigative blunders despite the alarming complaints piled against Sieg,” he said.

Democrats who criticized USAGM under the Trump administration “have gone silent” instead of working to fix the problems at U.S. broadcasters, he said.

The House report criticizes Ms. Bennett for lobbying Congress to close the Sieg investigation without resolving the whistleblower complaints.

The House committee’s report said USAGM was guilty of a “stark failure of employee vetting” that highlights longstanding concerns about poor security at official U.S. broadcasters.

“They have also shown that basic administrative and management functions can and have become tainted — and unduly influenced — by political biases and groupthink,” the report said.

“As a result, top level executives at USAGM failed to acknowledge wrongdoing even after internal whistleblowers, Congress, and a foreign government not only cried foul, but exposed credible evidence of corruption.”

The report said Ms. Sieg used taxpayer funds at VOA for personal travel and “falsified her educational credentials to obtain high-level employment.” She allegedly engaged in favoritism at VOA that unfairly benefited some employees over others.

The report said USAGM failed to justify Ms. Sieg’s rehiring with serious

allegations of impropriety unresolved.

“The committee’s investigation of Sieg’s reinstatement has revealed absent and poor leadership at the highest levels of USAGM, evident from the agency’s poorly rationalized decision to reinstate Ms. Sieg, and by its unwillingness to reconsider that decision, and take serious disciplinary action, in light of new and damning evidence,” the report said.

Financial issues included Ms. Sieg’s role in allowing favored employees to collect excessive overtime pay in violation of VOA policy. She is also accused of authorizing an unequalled contract producer to spend tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars on travel that did little to benefit the mission of reporting news.

The allegations were first raised in a Jan. 5, 2021, report by then-VOA Deputy Director Elizabeth Robbins, who suspended Ms. Sieg and proposed removing her from VOA.

The report was “detailed, specific and contained formal findings that thoroughly justified Sieg’s removal from her senior position,” the House report said.

“It is troubling that, faced with clear evidence of corruption and mismanagement, USAGM management failed to follow through on Elizabeth Robbins’ decision to terminate Ms. Sieg, which has since been vindicated,” the report said.

For more than three years, USAGM failed to cooperate with the committee’s investigation and instead lobbied Congress to scuttle the probe.

“At worst, however, it reveals a deliberate effort to protect an insider who had personal relationships with, and was politically aligned with, the senior

officials who should have been impartially supervising her,” the report said.

The panel discovered that Ms. Sieg had not studied international relations as she claimed, nor had she received a degree from the Sorbonne. Her degree was from University Paris 7, a separate institution.

USAGM issued a letter of reprimand to Ms. Sieg in what the committee report said was “the most minor of slaps on the wrist.”

“Sieg has, therefore, escaped accountability, aided and abetted by a gullible bureaucracy which seemed at all times to buy her questionable explanations and even go out of its way to assist her,” the report said.

VOA sought to portray Ms. Sieg’s rehiring as a blow to the radio’s political independence instead of recognizing the problems, the report said.

The report quotes Mr. Zaid as saying his client was “targeted for political reasons,” a conclusion the committee report disputed.

The committee recommended improving the security for vetting employees at U.S. broadcasters, including those holding security clearances.

Committee majority staff members who briefed The Washington Times on the case said USAGM blocked the investigation that whistleblowers within VOA set into motion.

The staff members said the matter is a serious national security concern because of U.S. broadcasters’ many foreign national hires.

They said USAGM managers have acknowledged that Ms. Sieg’s continued employment is a problem, and a hearing on the case is planned.

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Nation



Messengers raise their ballots in support of a motion put up for vote during their Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis. Members narrowly rejected a proposal Wednesday to enshrine a ban on churches with women pastors.

RELIGION

Southern Baptists narrowly reject ban on churches with women pastors

By Peter Smith and Holly Meyer  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS | Southern Baptists narrowly rejected a proposal Wednesday to enshrine a ban on churches with women pastors in the denomination's constitution after opponents argued it was unnecessary because the denomination already has a way of ousting such churches.

The vote received support from 61% of the delegates, but it failed to get the required two-thirds supermajority. The action reversed a preliminary vote last year in favor of the official ban.

But it still leaves the Southern Baptist Convention with its official doctrinal statement saying the office of pastor is limited to men. Even the opponents of the ban said they favored that doctrinal statement but didn't think it was necessary to reinforce it in the constitution.

Opponents noted that the SBC already can oust churches that assert women can serve as pastors — as it did last year and again Tuesday night.

The proposed amendment, which received preliminary approval last year, would formally exclude churches that have women in any pastoral positions, from lead pastor to associates, or even affirms them in that role. Supporters say it is biblically necessary, estimating hundreds of Southern Baptist churches have women in those roles.

Since 2000, the SBC's nonbinding statement of faith has declared that only men are qualified for the role of pastor.

It's interpreted differently across the denomination, with some believing it doesn't apply to associate pastors so long as the senior pastor is a man.

During their two-day annual meeting in Indianapolis, Southern Baptists also elected a new convention president and approved a nonbinding resolution, cautioning couples about using in vitro fertilization.

In the resolution, messengers urged couples to "consider the ethical implications" of reproductive technologies like IVF. It has become a prominent issue in the wake of a controversy in Alabama, which shielded IVF providers from prosecution and civil lawsuits after a state Supreme Court ruling said frozen embryos are children.

The SBC resolution agrees that embryos are children, regardless of location in or outside the uterus. The resolution expressed alarm over the fact that IVF treatment commonly produces surplus embryos that are frozen, with "most unquestionably destined for eventual destruction."

While not outright opposing IVF, the resolution also denounces medical experimentation on frozen embryos as well as any use of "dehumanizing methods for determining suitability for life and genetic sorting."

It expresses sympathy with couples struggling with infertility but urges them to weigh the issues. It also encourages couples to adopt frozen embryos.

Some messengers gave impassioned defenses of the technology, saying it

helped couples bring children into the world, but others said the destruction of frozen embryos outweighs any benefits from IVF.

"Right now we're trying to open the conversation, remind Southern Baptists of our long-held beliefs of the sanctity of human life," said Kristen Ferguson, chair of the committee on resolutions. "So in the future, we fully anticipate that you may see much stronger language ... but we are not speaking to that at this time, because Southern Baptists aren't ready to speak to that yet."

Delegates also elected a North Carolina pastor and longtime denominational statesman to be the next president of their convention in a contest between six candidates that went into two runoff votes.

Clint Pressley, who is senior pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, will be the next Southern Baptist Convention president after winning 56% of votes in the final run-off race.

The SBC president — one of the most prominent faces of the conservative evangelical network of churches — presides over the annual meeting and appoints members to the denomination's committees.

Mr. Pressley earned a master of divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisiana, one of the SBC's official seminaries. He has led Hickory Grove since 2011 after pastoring churches in Alabama and Mississippi. Mr. Pressley was first vice president of the SBC in 2014-15 and served on numerous other denominational boards.

ECONOMY

Federal Reserve signals one rate cut this year as inflation levels cool off

Cites 'modest' progress toward target

By Christopher Rugaber  
Associated Press

Federal Reserve officials said Wednesday that inflation has fallen further toward their target level in recent months but signaled that they expect to cut their benchmark interest rate just once this year.

The policymakers' forecast for one rate cut was down from a previous forecast of three, because inflation, despite having cooled in the past two months, remains persistently elevated.

In a statement issued after its two-day meeting, the Fed said the economy is growing at a solid pace, while hiring has "remained strong." The officials also noted that in recent months there has been "modest" further progress toward their 2% inflation target. That is a more positive assessment than after the Fed's previous meeting May 1, when the officials had noted a lack of progress.



"We'll need to see more good data to bolster our confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%," said Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell.

Still, the central bank made clear Wednesday that further improvement is needed.

"We'll need to see more good data to bolster our confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%," Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said at a news conference after the Fed meeting ended.

The policymakers, as expected, kept their key rate unchanged at roughly 5.3%. The benchmark rate has remained at that level since July of last year, after the Fed raised it 11 times to try to slow borrowing and spending and cool inflation.

Fed rate cuts would, over time, lighten loan costs for consumers, who have faced punishingly high rates for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and other forms of borrowing.

The officials' rate-cut forecast reflects the individual estimates of 19 policymakers. The Fed said eight of the officials projected two rate cuts. Seven projected one cut. Four of the policymakers envisioned no cuts at all this year.

"What everyone agrees on," Mr. Powell said at his news conference, is that the Fed's timetable for rate cuts is "going to be data-dependent."

The Fed's latest projections are by no means fixed in time. The policymakers frequently revise their plans for rate cuts — or hikes — depending on how economic growth and inflation evolve over time.

On Wednesday morning, the government reported that inflation eased in May for a second straight month, a hopeful sign that an acceleration of prices that occurred early this year may have passed.

Consumer prices excluding volatile food and energy costs — the closely watched "core" index — rose just 0.2% from April, the smallest rise since October. Measured from a year earlier, core prices climbed 3.4%, the mildest pace in three years.

"We welcome today's reading and hope for more like that," Mr. Powell said.

Though inflation has tumbled from a peak of 9.1% two years ago, it remains too high for the Fed's liking. The policymakers now face the delicate task of keeping rates high enough to slow spending and defeat high inflation without derailing

the economy.

The central bank's rate policies over the next several months could also have consequences for the presidential race.

Though the unemployment rate is a low 4%, hiring is robust and consumers continue to spend, voters have taken a generally sour view of the economy under President Biden. In large part, that's because prices remain much higher than they were before the pandemic struck. High borrowing rates impose a further financial burden.

Inflation had cooled steadily in the second half of last year, raising hopes that the Fed could achieve a rare "soft landing," whereby it would manage to conquer inflation through rate hikes without causing a recession.

But inflation came in unexpectedly high in the first three months of this year, delaying hoped-for Fed rate cuts and potentially imperiling a soft landing.

Last month, Christopher Waller, an influential member of the Fed's Board of Governors, said he needed to see "several more months of good inflation data" before he would consider supporting rate cuts. Though Mr. Waller didn't spell out what would constitute good data, economists think it would have to be core inflation of 0.2% or less each month.

As part of the updated quarterly forecasts the Fed's policymakers issued Wednesday, they projected that the economy will grow 2.1% this year and 2% in 2025, the same as they had envisioned in March. They expect core inflation to be 2.8% by year's end, according to their preferred gauge, up from a previous forecast of 2.6%. And they project that unemployment will stay at its current 4% rate by the end of this year and edge up to 4.2% by the end of 2025.

The expectation that the unemployment rate will remain around those low levels indicates that the Fed thinks that while the job market will gradually slow, it will remain healthy.

"By so many measures," Mr. Powell said at his news conference, "the labor market was kind of overheated two years ago, and we've seen it move back into much better balance between supply and demand."

TECHNOLOGY

Using a faux woman's touch: Bad actors use stereotypes for digital schemes

By David Klepper  
Associated Press

When disinformation researcher Wen-Ping Liu looked into China's efforts to influence Taiwan's recent election using fake social media accounts, something unusual stood out about the most successful profiles.

They were female, or at least that's what they appeared to be. Fake profiles that claimed to be women got more engagement, more eyeballs and more influence than supposedly male accounts.

"Pretending to be a female is the easiest way to get credibility," said Mr. Liu, an investigator with Taiwan's Ministry of Justice.

Whether it's Chinese or Russian propaganda agencies, online scammers or AI chatbots, it pays to be female — proving that while technology may grow more and more sophisticated, the

human brain remains surprisingly easy to hack thanks in part to age-old gender stereotypes that have migrated from the real world to the virtual.

People have long assigned human characteristics like gender to inanimate objects — ships are one example — so it makes sense that human-like traits would make fake social media profiles or chatbots more appealing.

However, questions about how these technologies can reflect and reinforce gender stereotypes are getting attention as more voice assistants and AI-enabled chatbots enter the market, further blurring the lines between man (and woman) and machine.

"You want to inject some emotion and warmth and a very easy way to do that is to pick a woman's face and voice," said Sylvie Borau, a marketing professor and online researcher in Toulouse, France, whose work has found that

internet users prefer "female" bots and see them as more human than "male" versions.

People tend to see women as warmer, less threatening and more agreeable than men, Ms. Borau told The Associated Press. Men, meanwhile, are often perceived to be more competent, though also more likely to be threatening or hostile. Because of this many people may be, consciously or unconsciously, more willing to engage with a fake account that poses as female.

When OpenAI CEO Sam Altman was searching for a new voice for the ChatGPT AI program, he approached Scarlett Johansson, who said Mr. Altman told her that users would find her voice — which served as the eponymous voice assistant in the movie "Her" — "comforting." Ms. Johansson declined Mr. Altman's request and threatened to sue when the company went with what she called an

"eerily similar" voice. OpenAI put the new voice on hold.

Feminine profile pictures, particularly ones showing women with flawless skin, lush lips and wide eyes in revealing outfits, can be another online lure for many men.

Users also treat bots differently based on their perceived sex: Ms. Borau's research has found that "female" chatbots are far more likely to receive sexual harassment and threats than "male" bots.

Female social media profiles receive on average more than three times the views compared to those of males, according to an analysis of more than 40,000 profiles conducted for the AP by Cyabra, an Israeli tech firm that specializes in bot detection. Female profiles that claim to be younger get the most views, Cyabra found.

"Creating a fake account and presenting it as a woman will help the account

gain more reach compared to presenting it as a male," according to Cyabra's report.

A report from the U.N. suggested there's an even more obvious reason why so many fake accounts and chatbots are female: they were created by men. The report, titled "Are Robots Sexist?", looked at gender disparities in tech industries and concluded that greater diversity in programming and AI development could lead to fewer sexist stereotypes embedded in their products.

For programmers eager to make their chatbots as human as possible, this creates a dilemma, Ms. Borau said: if they select a female persona, are they encouraging sexist views about real-life women?

"It's a vicious cycle," Ms. Borau said. "Humanizing AI might dehumanize women."



NEW YORK

# County with large police force looks to deputize armed residents

By Philip Marcelo  
Associated Press

**MINEOLA, N.Y.** | A suburban New York county with one of the largest police forces in the nation is training dozens of armed residents who could be called up during natural disasters and other emergencies, sparking worry that the new volunteer unit amounts to an unsanctioned local militia.

Nassau County officials posted a notice in March seeking private citizens with gun licenses to serve as provisional special deputy sheriffs who could assist in the “protection of human life and property during an emergency.”

Twenty-five have completed training in recent weeks, but local residents who have been rallying against the scheme question the need for the unit and have raised concerns about the potential for overpolicing after departments across the country cracked down on protests against the latest Israel-Hamas war.

Democrats, who are the minority in



ASSOCIATION PRESS

Nassau County, New York, which has the nation's 12th-largest police force and is also served by state troopers, wants to deputize armed residents to assist in emergencies. Opponents say such a unit is not needed and amounts to an unsanctioned militia.

the county legislature, and some community advocates say they worry Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman — a Republican and staunch supporter of former President Donald Trump — could

call up the deputies to quell political dissent, a charge he strongly denies. Critics also argue that emergencies require a different type of volunteer.

“There is no need to give residents

broad and dangerously vague authority to respond, armed with deadly weapons, in the event of an emergency,” said Laura Burns, a Rockville Centre resident and member of the gun control group Moms Demand Action, after a recent rally.

In a phone interview, Mr. Blakeman said the armed deputies would be called on only when the county faces a major emergency akin to Superstorm Sandy, which caused catastrophic damage along the Long Island coast in 2012.

They would not be used for crowd control or breaking up protests because they won't be trained to patrol streets, he said. Instead, the deputies will protect critical infrastructure, government buildings, hospitals and houses of worship.

“We are putting together this program so I won't have to be in a scramble to try and find qualified people,” Mr. Blakeman said.

Nassau County, with about 1.4 million residents, has the 12th-largest local police force in the nation, some 2,600 sworn officers — bigger than Boston, San

Francisco, Baltimore and other major cities. State troopers also serve the county, which has dozens of village police forces.

Michael Moore, 65, is a retired Nassau County court officer and member of the local Community Emergency Response Team trained to support first responders in emergencies. He says armed residents weren't what was needed in 2012 — and aren't what is needed now.

“When Sandy hit, we needed people shoveling, pumping out basements, handing out water, directing traffic, all those kinds of things,” said Mr. Moore. “We didn't need people grabbing their reading glasses and picking up their firearms to challenge somebody to a duel on Main Street. It's freaking ridiculous.”

Local Democrats have questioned the legality of the program. But Mr. Blakeman shrugged off the criticism as politically motivated, pointing to state law that authorizes local sheriffs to deputize “orally or in writing” as many special deputies as needed to respond to an emergency.

**FLORIDA**

**Demolition of school building in Parkland shootings to begin**

**PARKLAND** | The three-story building where 17 people died in the 2018 mass shooting at Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School looms over campus behind a screened fence, a horrific and constant reminder to students, teachers, the victims' families and passersby.

But after serving as evidence at the killer's trial, the building's destruction starts Thursday as crews bring it down piece by piece — implosion would have damaged nearby structures.

The Broward County school board has not decided what the building's replacement will be.

“I want the building gone,” said Lori Alhadeff, whose 14-year-old daughter, Alyssa, died there.

Ms. Alhadeff was elected to the Broward County school board after the massacre and is now its chair.

But other parents, like Max Schachter and Tony Montalto, hoped the building would be preserved. Over the last year, they, Ms. Alhadeff and others have led Vice President Kamala

Harris, members of Congress, school officials, police officers and about 500 other invitees on tours. They mostly demonstrated how improved safety measures could have saved lives.

— Associated Press

**NEW YORK**

**Vandals deface homes of museum director, trustees**

**NEW YORK** | Palestinian protesters vandalized locations associated with the Brooklyn Museum and the United Nations in New York, throwing red paint across their entrances in opposition to the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Mayor Eric Adams posted Wednesday on X that police are investigating after the homes of museum Director Anne Pasternak and members of the museum's board of trustees were hit. He shared four images of a brick building splashed with red paint.

Red paint was also splashed across the front of buildings associated with the German Consulate and the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine, where flyers critical of the Palestinian Authority and its

**BRIEFLY**  
.....  
**THE NATION**

president, Mahmoud Abbas, were scattered outside the building.

— Associated Press

**OKLAHOMA**

**State high court refuses lawsuit over 1921 Tulsa racial massacre**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** | The Oklahoma Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit by survivors of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, dampening the hope of advocates for racial justice that the city would make financial amends for one of the worst single acts of violence against Black people in U.S. history that left as many as 300 people dead and a once-thriving district in smoldering ruins.

The nine-member court upheld the decision made by a district court judge in Tulsa last year, ruling that the plaintiffs' grievances about the destruction of the Greenwood district, although

legitimate, did not fall within the scope of the state's public nuisance statute.

“Plaintiffs do not point to any physical injury to property in Greenwood rendering it uninhabitable that could be resolved by way of injunction or other civil remedy,” the court wrote in its decision.

“Today we hold that relief is not possible under any set of facts that could be established consistent with plaintiff's allegations.”

The city said in a statement that it “respects the court's decision and affirms the significance of the work the City continues to do in the North Tulsa and Greenwood communities,” adding that it remains committed “to working with residents and providing resources to support” the communities.

— Associated Press

**ILLINOIS**

**3 deputies shot responding to domestic disturbance report**

**DIXON** | Three sheriff's deputies were shot Wednesday while responding to a northern Illinois home, and the suspect was also wounded, authorities

told reporters.

Ogle County Sheriff Brian VanVickle said the deputies were responding to a report that someone in the home was threatening to kill himself or others.

He said the suspect was also shot. He did not provide any information about the suspect, including name, age or where the person lives.

Ambulances and two medical helicopters went to the Lost Lake community near Dixon, where there was also was a massive police presence, according to a post on the Winnebago Boone & Ogle County Fire/Ems Incidents Facebook page.

Sheriff VanVickle said a family member called police shortly after 8:30 a.m. to report the threats from someone at the home. He said negotiators tried to reach the person by phone and decided to go in shortly before noon.

“Immediately upon entering the house, our deputies received fire from inside the house,” he said.

Sheriff VanVickle initially tried to leave after giving a statement without more detail but then told reporters that everyone “is in good condition.”

— Associated Press

**MURAL**  
.....  
From page **A1**

Portland, Oregon, journalist Andy Ngo posted on X. “And prosecutors are seeking to punish those who leave tire skid markings on the street.”

Other comments on social media included “utter nonsense” and “completely absurd.”

Christopher Rufo, a Manhattan Institute senior fellow, said, “Spokane has allowed the homeless to set up drug encampments on the sidewalks but prosecutes teens for skidding their scooters on an intersection.”

The conservative Legal Insurrection blog called the arrests an example of

“woke insanity” and said, “This story is particularly infuriating because these kids were riding scooters on a ‘Pride’ mural that is painted on a road.”

The incident drew comparisons to the protesters against Israel who defaced at least four statues over the weekend at Lafayette Park near the White House. None of the activists was arrested or cited by U.S. Park Police, who were badly outnumbered by the thousands of demonstrators.

“Meanwhile, actual historic statues were defaced near the White House in DC,” said Legal Insurrection. “This is OK, however, because shut up.”

Washington state legislators had the Riverfront Park Spokane mural in mind when they passed Senate Bill 5917, which

adds the defacement of public property to a hate crimes law. Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, signed the bill in March. It went into effect June 6.

Senate Majority Leader Andy Billig, a Democrat who represents Spokane, introduced the measure “in response to vandalism of Spokane LGBTQ+ landmarks in October.”

“The legislation closes a loophole in current law by redefining the state's hate crime statute to include destruction and vandalism targeting public property like Spokane Pride's crosswalk,” his office said in a March 13 statement.

Indeed, the crosswalk has become something of a magnet for vandalism. In October, the mural was covered with white paint. Last month, it was set on fire.

A few days after the teens on scooters were arrested, someone splashed the mural with orange paint.

“Our state has passed important laws to protect people targeted for what they look like, who they love, or how they pray,” Mr. Billig said. “This legislation strengthens our hate crime laws by adding our shared public spaces and symbols of inclusion while sending a strong message of unity against these heinous attacks.”

Separating the hardened hate crime offenders from the thoughtless youths may be a challenge. The day after the three teens were arrested, a camera crew for KHQ-TV in Spokane caught another group of scooter riders on camera scuffing up the mural and the nearby

sidewalk.

“A group of five to six kids just [started] doing donuts and creating skid marks on the Pride Mural. Right in front of me as we're reporting on three people getting arrested for doing the same thing last night,” KHQ-TV reporter Adam Schwager posted on X.

He said the scooter riders “also made skid marks up Howard right in front of Boo Radley's [toy store], so I'm not sure it was targeted at the mural, or just general vandalism.”

Lime, the company behind the motorized scooters, condemned “these vile acts in no uncertain terms” and said it would institute a “no-go zone” at the intersection, meaning the scooters will not work on the mural.

**PICKLEBALL**  
.....  
From page **A1**

Professionals counted 48.3 million pickleball players in 2023, a 35% increase from 2022.

“It's easy to jump in and play,” Allyce Jones, a professional player with the D.C. Pickleball Team, told The Times.

Jones said a welcoming community is what sets pickleball apart. Most courts use an open-play format where players of all skill levels take turns on courts, meet people and play with different partners.

“A key piece of it is the social connectivity for all ages getting out and being able to interact with people, whether they're your age or not,” Adam Behnke, the chief operating officer for D.C. Pickleball Team, told The Times. “Pickleball brings everybody together.”

It also comes without some of the social and physical barriers that keep people away from similar sports.

“It's an equalizer. A grandma can play it with her young grandson, and it can be competitive,” said Bob Bryan, a 16-time Grand Slam doubles champion in tennis.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, millions of Americans wanted to find a new social activity but needed to be outdoors and socially distant.

Enter pickleball.

Jones, a former high school health teacher, said she was one of many who picked up pickleball during the early years of the pandemic. She would virtually teach students in the morning before heading to her high school's gym with her family.

“I started getting addicted,” the 36-year-old mother of three said. “I



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pickleball's popularity has exploded since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when Americans wanted a new social activity but needed to be outdoors and socially distant. Pros say the welcoming community sets pickleball apart from other sports.

have a personality that has to give 120%.”

In the four years since the pandemic began, pickleball has grown massively.

As pickleball has expanded at the community level, the professional opportunities for top-end players have also blossomed. What began as a hobby for players like Jones quickly became a way to make money — astounding money for some players.

Ben Johns, 25, is the top-ranked pickleball player in the world. Six years ago, the Maryland native said, he earned \$50,000 annually playing the game. That jumped to \$250,000 in 2021. Last year, the 25-year-old reported \$2.5 million in pay from his playing salary and

endorsements.

“We haven't reached the top,” Johns told CNBC last month. “I think there's still an upward trend.”

Skepticism remains, however.

Some see the game as a low-impact sport for the retired crowd or as a second option for former tennis players. After all, AARP is the biggest sponsor for this weekend's event and several pickleball pros boast tennis backgrounds.

Those who live and breathe pickleball say they know how intense the competition can be.

“You should expect a lot of rowdiness from players and fans. It's not tennis, so people get really chirpy and

the crowd gets really into it,” Jones said about this weekend's event. “You'll be surprised by how many players get so fired up.”

Popko said he is regularly amazed by the prowess of pickleball professionals.

“These are folks that work very hard at training to be the best players in the world, but they still have a lot of fun doing it,” he said. “That comes across on and off the court.”

Major League Pickleball expects 2,500 to 3,000 fans to attend each day of this weekend's event. Fans will see most of the league's teams square off in a round-robin format, gaining points for the regular season standings.

D.C. Pickleball Team executives said they expect a rambunctious crowd to give them a home-court advantage when the team opens play on Friday.

“There's a super intimate feel, like courtside seats in basketball, where you're really right there,” Behnke said. “You can hear all the players. You can trash talk a little bit at the opposing team.”

Organizers said this weekend might not resemble a traditional sporting event. It will likely feel more like a block party than a country club.

“We don't even have to try to have that social aspect translate; it just presents itself. We just try to augment it and turn the volume up wherever we can,” Popko said. “It's almost as if you took a music festival and put sports against it.”

A successful event this weekend could create even more pickleball fans in the Washington area. Although the competition has sold thousands of tickets, organizers say they expect a healthy number of casual fans who might buy tickets on an event day.

“You either bring new fans into the equation, or you bring fans further into the paradigm,” Popko said. “Maybe they were a casual fan before, they become a more avid fan if they're able to experience the product live.”

Behnke is counting on those “more avid fans.” He noted that he sees the D.C. Pickleball Team becoming a community fixture as the city hosts more events.

“We hope to be one of those teams that brings a lot of joy and pride to people's lives representing D.C.,” he said. “This is just the beginning.”

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



World

DIPLOMACY

China adviser: U.S. not seeking regime change

By Bill Gertz  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Biden administration is not seeking to replace China's communist system as it pursues better relations with Beijing, Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said Wednesday.

Responding to an article by former Trump administration National Security Council official Matthew Pottinger and former Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher, until recently chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, Mr. Campbell said the U.S. has a limited ability to change China's increasingly troubling international behavior.

Instead, the U.S. should accept China's system as it is, despite what critics say are growing signs Beijing is seeking to replace the Western democratic system with its authoritarian model.

Mr. Campbell, until recently the administration's main point person on China policy, argued that President Biden's policy of countering Beijing through strengthened relations with Asian allies and partners is working, telling a forum hosted by the Stimson Center, a think tank, that trying to undermine China's domestic system would be "reckless" and counterproductive.

"I do think we need to accept China as

Biden administration pursuing better relations with Beijing amid tensions



Campbell

a major player, and doing constructive diplomacy with them is in America's strategic interest," he said, citing an uncertain global landscape with wars in Ukraine and Israel, Houthi rebel attacks against shipping in

the Red Sea, and famine fears rising in parts of Africa.

"If you add all of those things up, it is a major test for American foreign policy, and I do not believe it is in our interest in the current juncture to add to our list — 'Let's try to topple the other leading power on the global state' — despite our differences," Mr. Campbell said. Instead, the administration is focused on sending clear signals over "red lines" that should not be crossed by Beijing in an effort to "do what you can to coexist," he said.

China under President Xi Jinping has demanded that Washington formally accept its communist system as a pre-condition for improved bilateral

relations. Pressed whether coexistence with a communist-ruled China is possible, Mr. Campbell noted the U.S. in the past has dealt with adversarial systems such as the Soviet bloc during the Cold War.

Working with allies to sustain the current U.S. order and protecting supply chains from Chinese control are keys to the current policy, he said.

"I will say that U.S.-China relations are going to be challenging under the best of circumstances," Mr. Campbell said, noting that unlike relations with the Soviet Union in the Cold War, the U.S. and China are closely "interdependent." "Careful coexistence" with China is one of the most difficult challenges in the history of American foreign policy, he said.

Additionally, he argued, America's regional partners do not favor seeking to overthrow the Chinese communist system, and most U.S. allies and partners in the past did not support what Mr. Campbell called "policies of regime change."

The U.S. in recent decades has overestimated its ability to influence Chinese foreign policy, Mr. Campbell said: "I

think we have to have a high degree of modesty of what we think is possible with respect to fundamental changes in how China sees the world."

U.S. officials believe China under Mr. Xi seeks to replace what it calls the "unipolar" U.S.-led liberal international order with its brand of Chinese communism, an authoritarian system dubbed "socialism with Chinese characteristics."

Writing recently in the journal Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pottinger and Mr. Gallagher argued that the Biden administration produced multiple failures of deterrence in Afghanistan, Ukraine, and the Middle East. They criticized the current policy toward China as seeking a "short-term thaw with China's leaders at the expense of a long-term victory over their malevolent strategy."

"The United States shouldn't manage the competition with China; it should win it," Mr. Pottinger and Mr. Gallagher wrote. "Beijing is pursuing a raft of global initiatives designed to disintegrate the West and usher in an antidemocratic order."

Mr. Campbell argued instead that the administration's China strategy seeks to convince like-minded states to defend and preserve the U.S.-led "operating system" of Asia, one that has produced regional peace, stability and prosperity for the past 40 years.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A fleet of Russian warships entered the Caribbean on Wednesday. The ships were accompanied by small boats that guided them through the mouth of the Havana Bay. Some see the moves as a projection of strength as tensions grow over Ukraine.

CUBA

Warships, aircraft from Russia enter Caribbean  
Moscow conducting military exercises

By Regina Garcia Cano and Gisela Salomon  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**CARACAS, VENEZUELA** | A fleet of Russian warships on Wednesday began entering the Caribbean in what some see as a projection of strength as tensions with the Kremlin grow over Western support for Ukraine.

The first two ships slowly crossed the mouth of the Havana Bay under a downpour. The ships were accompanied by small boats that guided them through the narrow entrance channel.

The U.S. military expects the exercises will involve a handful of Russian ships and support vessels, which may also stop in Venezuela.

Russia is a longtime ally of Cuba and Venezuela, and its warships and aircraft have periodically made forays into the Caribbean. But this mission comes less than two weeks after President Biden authorized Ukraine to use U.S.-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to protect Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, prompting President Vladimir Putin to suggest his military could respond with "asymmetrical steps" elsewhere in the world.

"Most of all, the warships are a reminder to Washington that it is

unpleasant when an adversary meddles in your near abroad," said Benjamin Gedan, director of the Latin America Program at the Wilson Center, referring to the Western involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine. "It also reminds Russia's friends in the region, including U.S. antagonists Cuba and Venezuela, that Moscow is on their side."

Although the fleet includes a nuclear-powered submarine, a senior U.S. administration official said on background that the intelligence community has determined no vessel is carrying nuclear weapons. The official said Russia's deployments "pose no direct threat to the United States."

U.S. officials last week said the Russian ships were expected to remain in the region through the summer.

Russian ships have occasionally docked in Havana since 2008, when a group of Russian vessels entered Cuban waters in what state media described as the first such visit in almost two decades. In 2015, a reconnaissance and communications ship arrived unannounced in Havana a day before the start of discussions between U.S. and Cuban officials on the reopening of diplomatic relations.

A State Department spokesperson said that Russia's port calls in Cuba are

"routine naval visits," while acknowledging its military exercises "have ratcheted up because of U.S. support to Ukraine and exercise activity in support of our NATO allies."

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hosted his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez, for talks in Moscow. Speaking to reporters after the talks, Mr. Lavrov thanked the Cuban authorities for their supportive position on Ukraine.

"From the very beginning, Havana gave an assessment of what was happening outlining the absolutely correct, true reasons for what was unfolding [in Ukraine], and what was being prepared by the West for many years," Mr. Lavrov said.

Russian military and defense doctrine

holds Latin America and the Caribbean in an important position, with the sphere seen as under U.S. influence acting as a counterweight to Washington's activities in Europe, said Ryan Berg, director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"While this is likely little more than provocation from Moscow, it sends a message about Russia's ability to project power into the Western Hemisphere with the help of its allies, and it will certainly keep the U.S. military on high alert while they are in theater," Mr. Berg said.

The timing of this year's mission may serve Russia's purposes, but it is also raising questions of whether Venezuela's government may use it as an opportunity to shore up President Nicolas Maduro's bid for a third term in the July 28 election.

SECURITY

Biden, Zelenskyy to sign deal as G7 leaders confront Russia

By Darlene Superville, Colleen Long, Zeke Miller and Aamer Madhani  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BRINDISI, ITALY** | President Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will sign a bilateral security agreement on Thursday when they meet on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Italy, as negotiators for the group have reached an agreement on how to provide Ukraine with up to \$50 billion backed by frozen Russian assets, officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. and its biggest allies has been discussing ways of using the more than \$260 billion in Russian assets frozen outside the country after the Feb. 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine to help Kyiv.

European officials have resisted confiscating the assets, citing legal and financial stability concerns — most of the frozen assets are located in Europe — but the plan would use the interest earned on the assets to help Ukraine's war effort, two officials told reporters on background. An official with the French presidency confirmed the announcement Wednesday.

The agreement comes as Mr. Biden heads to the high-stakes summit pressing an expansive agenda, including turning

frozen Russian assets into billions of dollars to help Ukraine fight Russian President Vladimir Putin's war machine and seeking a common approach on China, global migration pressures and the fighting in the Middle East.

The security arrangement was aimed to send a signal to the Kremlin of American resolve in supporting Kyiv, the White House said. National security adviser Jake Sullivan said the security agreement would not commit U.S. troops directly to Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion — a red line for Mr. Biden, who's fearful of being pulled into direct conflict between the nuclear-armed powers.

This year's meeting comes three years after Mr. Biden declared at his first such gathering that America was "back" as a global leader following the disruptions to Western alliances that occurred when Donald Trump was president. Now, there's a chance this gathering could be the final G7 for Mr. Biden and other G7 leaders, depending on the results of elections this year.

Mr. Biden and his counterparts from Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan will use the summit to discuss challenges related to artificial intelligence, migration and China's economic might, among other topics. Pope Francis,

Mr. Zelenskyy and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan are joining the gathering at the Borgo Egnazia resort in the Puglia region of southern Italy.

The summit, opening Thursday, will play out after far-right parties across the continent racked up gains of surprising scale in just-concluded European Union elections. Those victories, coupled with upcoming elections in the United Kingdom, France and the United States, have rattled the global political establishment and added weightiness to this year's summit.

"You hear this a lot when you talk to U.S. and European officials: If we can't get this done now, whether it's on China, whether it's on the assets, we may not have another chance," said Josh Lipsky, senior director of the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, an international affairs think tank. "We don't know what the world will look like three months, six months, nine months from now."

Despite pressing global challenges, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said there's still a sense of relief among world leaders in 2024 that the U.S. was engaged again on the world stage.

"Biden's message then was that democracies need to step up and show they

can deliver for their people," Mr. Kirby said. "That's true now more than ever."

Mr. Kirby said the U.S. was prepared to work with democratically elected officials in the EU no matter who they are, though some of those being elevated have expressed far less support for Ukraine than current leaders.

"We have every confidence that regardless of who fills the seats in the European Parliament, we're going to continue to work closely with our EU partners on all the issues relative to our shared interests across the European continent," Mr. Kirby said. "That includes supporting Ukraine."

Mr. Biden, who's been adamant "we will not walk away" from Ukraine, last week publicly apologized to Mr. Zelenskyy during a meeting on the sidelines of the D-Day commemoration in France for a monthslong delay by Congress in authorizing additional American military assistance. The delay allowed Russia to make gains on the battlefield.

Mr. Sullivan called the security agreement a "bridge" to when Ukraine is invited to join the NATO alliance — a long-term priority of Mr. Zelenskyy's that the allies have said will first require an end to the Russia-Ukraine war and that Putin has steadfastly opposed.

BRIEFLY  
THE WORLD

LEBANON

Hezbollah vows revenge after Israeli strike kills senior leader

**BEIRUT** | Hezbollah vowed Wednesday to intensify its attacks along the Lebanon-Israel border to avenge the killing of its most senior military commander by Israel since the latest round of violence began eight months ago.

"Our response after the martyrdom of Abu Taleb will be to intensify our operations in severity, strength, quantity and quality," senior Hezbollah official Hachem Saffieddine said during a funeral ceremony for Taleb Sami Abdullah.

Earlier Wednesday, Hezbollah fired a massive barrage of rockets into northern Israel, further escalating tensions as the fate of an internationally backed plan for a cease-fire in Gaza hung in the balance.

Hezbollah, an Iran-backed ally of the Palestinian Hamas group, has traded fire with Israel nearly every day since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7, and says it will only stop if there is a truce in Gaza. That has raised fears of a regional conflagration.

Abdullah, 55, was killed in an airstrike late Tuesday. The Israeli military said the attack was part of a strike on a Hezbollah command and control center used to direct attacks against Israel in recent months.

— Associated Press

ARMENIA

Yerevan pulls out of security group dominated by Russia

**YEREVAN** | The leader of Armenia on Wednesday declared his intention to pull out of a Russia-dominated security alliance of several ex-Soviet nations as tensions rise between the two allies. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said his government will decide later when to leave the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which also includes Russia and the Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Armenia's ties with Russia, its longtime sponsor and ally, have grown increasingly strained after Azerbaijan waged a lightning military campaign in September to take the Karabakh region, ending three decades of ethnic Armenian separatist rule there.

Armenian authorities accused Russian peacekeepers who were deployed to Nagorno-Karabakh of failing to stop Azerbaijan's onslaught. Moscow, which has a military base in Armenia, rejected the accusations, arguing that its troops didn't have a mandate to intervene.

Russia has engaged in a delicate balancing act, trying to preserve relations with Armenia while also maintaining warm ties with Azerbaijan and its main ally Turkey, a key economic partner for Moscow amid Western sanctions.

— Associated Press

CANADA

Wreck of Shackleton's last ship found under ice

**ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND** | The wreck of the last ship belonging to Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famed Irish-born British explorer of Antarctica, has been found off the coast of Labrador in Canada, 62 years after it went missing. The wreck was found by an international team led by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.

The Quest was found on Sunday evening, sitting on its keel under 1,280 feet of churning, frigid water, the society said. Its towering mast was lying broken beside it, likely cracked off as the vessel was sucked into the depths after it struck ice on May 5, 1962.

Shackleton's death aboard the ship in 1922 marked the end of what historians consider the "heroic age" of Antarctic exploration. The explorer led three British expeditions to the Antarctic, and he was in the early stages of a fourth when he died of a heart attack. He was 47.

The Norwegian-built Quest was a schooner-rigged steamship, and Shackleton bought it specifically to travel to Canada's High Arctic, officials said. But the Canadian government at the time axed those plans, and Shackleton decided to set sail once again for the Antarctic.

After the explorer's death, the Quest was eventually returned to its original intended use as a sealing vessel. It sank in 1962, after it was damaged by ice in the Labrador Sea while on a whaling trip.

— Associated Press





U.S. ON 'HELSCAPE' IN TAIWAN STRAIT

The new commander of the Hawaii-based Indo-Pacific Command is warning China's military to expect a "hellscape" response to any potential military assault on Taiwan. Adm. Samuel Paparo said one scenario designed to dissuade the Chinese from invading is the creation of a network of U.S. and allied drones to swarm the Taiwan Strait that would prevent a rapid takeover of the self-ruled island China claims as its territory.

"They want to offer the world a short, sharp war so that it is a fait accompli before the world can get their act together," Adm. Paparo told Washington Post columnist Josh Rogin. "My job is to ensure that between now and 2027 and beyond, the U.S. military and the allies are capable of prevailing."

The four-star admiral said Chinese President Xi Jinping wants his military to be able to overwhelm Taiwan with a surprise attack across the Taiwan Strait and avoid a protracted conflict similar to the long-running war between Ukraine and Russia.

Adm. Paparo says the 'hellscape' deterrence strategy involves deploying drone swarms as soon as a Chinese invasion force is detected moving across the 100-mile-wide waterway. The swarms would include unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned submarines and unmanned surface vessels that would buy time for U.S. and allied forces to intervene on behalf of Taiwan.

"I want to turn the Taiwan Strait into an unmanned hellscape using a number of classified capabilities," Adm. Paparo said. "So that I can make their lives utterly miserable for a month, which buys me the time for the rest of everything." He declined to provide details, but said the strategy is "real and it's deliverable."

The concept appears to be part of what the Pentagon is calling its "Replicator" program, a \$1 billion effort to deploy large numbers of armed unmanned weapons to defeat a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

"The region has got two choices" given the China challenge, Adm. Paparo said. "The first is that they can submit, and, as an end result, give up some of their freedoms. ... Or they can arm to the teeth. Both cases have direct implications to the security, the freedom and the well-being of the citizens of the United States of America."

CHINA WEIGHS USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SPACE

Chinese military researchers are examining the use of nuclear blasts in space against large numbers of targets such as Starlink satellite swarms, according to a new report by an Air Force think tank. China's development of an orbiting nuclear strike weapon is also designed to target all 50 U.S. states, the June 3 report by the China Aerospace Studies Institute reveals.

The 13-page report provides new details of Chinese space warfare capabilities, including the orbiting hypersonic missile, roving "proximity" satellites that can crush satellites, and advanced cyberattacks on satellite control networks.

"The People's Republic of China (PRC) has rapidly advanced in the space domain on several fronts simultaneously," the report states, quoting a warning from Gen. Stephen Whiting, U.S. Space Command commander, that Beijing's space weapons buildup is moving "breathhtakingly fast."

The Chinese military has already deployed a space plane similar to the Air Force's X-37B spacecraft that has put into orbit several smaller satellites during recent missions.

The report notes recent reports indicating Russia also plans to deploy a nuclear weapon in space, just as China is considering nuclear blasts to counter large groups of small satellites. Both nuclear space weapons would violate the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which bans weapons of mass destruction in space.

Chinese military researchers are seeking

to disable systems such as the over 6,000 orbiting Starlink satellites — deployed by a subsidiary of entrepreneur Elon Musk's company SpaceX — in a future conflict, the report said. Starlink satellites provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the internet from remote locations through ground terminals and is being used today by the Ukrainian military after Russian forces destroyed much of Kyiv's military conventional communications networks.

The report said China's military views the use of traditional missiles or other weapons against large numbers of small satellites as a "losing proposition." Instead, the Chinese plans call for using a combination of "hard kill" and "soft kill" arms to incapacitate large groups of small satellites.

One Chinese military research paper from 2022 stated that a nuclear detonation in space could be used to disrupt satellite communication groups: "PRC researchers identified ways of modulating the shape and size of a nuclear radiological cloud in [low-Earth orbit] by adjusting detonation altitude and yield," the report said. "PRC researchers and strategists are hard at work reconsidering the strategic environment of space considering new proliferated architectures and approaching the problem from a multi-dimensional and combined arms perspective."

Other methods for disrupting satellite communications include cyberattacks against defense contractors and "technical infiltration" of ground stations.

The think tank report also reveals that China's 2021 test of a fractional orbital bombardment system, or FOBS, used a hypersonic missile that launched a secondary missile, a possible indication the weapon can target moving ground or sea targets or may be armed with multiple, maneuverable warheads.

"The use of an orbital bombardment system could increase PLA power projection capabilities against bases and territories globally, including targets in the 50 states," the report quotes a Chinese military paper as stating.

The report said the strange operational behavior observed in the 2021 FOBS test surprised U.S. analysts after the main hypersonic vehicle fired a "secondary munition." The secondary weapon was possibly a defensive countermeasure, an air-to-air missile or something else traveling at hypersonic speed — faster than five times the speed of sound.

"This would be a capability no other nation has demonstrated or has claimed to be pursuing," according to the report.

Chinese military researchers also are studying ways to use cyberattacks and electronic warfare to disrupt satellites. Military writings indicate that China is preparing to conduct disruptive cyberattacks against satellites by targeting onboard processors and memory units and exploiting vulnerabilities in VxWorks, a common operating system used by satellite operators. Five Chinese cyberwarfare units are dedicated to attacking space systems, the report said.

HAVANA SYNDROME PANEL PROPOSED

House lawmakers are proposing to create a commission to investigate debilitating brain-related injuries caused during incidents against U.S. government personnel posted abroad, known formally as anomalous health incidents. A section of the current House intelligence authorization bill now being debated would set up a National Security Commission on Anomalous Health Incidents.

The malady is suspected of being caused by some type of directed energy first detected against U.S. diplomats in Havana and thus became known as "Havana syndrome." U.S. intelligence agencies have insisted that the incidents were not the result of hostile action, a claim that has angered victims who are convinced they have

been targets of sonic weapons or other directed energy.

The American spy services concluded there is no indication that a hostile power is behind the incidents and blamed the brain injuries on unspecified environmental or personal mental problems.

The authorization language proposes that a new nine-member commission would be formed to comprehensively address the risks posed by the incidents and the U.S. government's responses. The panel would also seek to determine the origin of the incidents, whether research indicates they were caused by "an external actor," and the potential for "novel mechanisms" hostile states might use for such weapons against the United States.

• Contact Bill Gertz on X @BillGertz.



While the Israel-Hamas war rages in the Gaza Strip, another type of conflict is spreading propaganda on social media. Some foreign efforts are not designed to change public opinion but to amplify divisive sentiments and issues to drive anger.

FAKE  
From page A1

depending on the audience's perspective.

A deepfake video showed Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis dropping out of the presidential race before he officially ended his campaign for the Republican Party nomination. The video contained a watermark of a meme maker who backs former President Donald Trump and concluded with a talking cartoon meatball that made clear the manipulated video was coming from an anti-DeSantis producer.

Mr. Cavalli said only a few of the thousands of AI-generated audio, images and videos about the election his team has observed ought to be considered genuine threats. Still, the less-informed may not understand the satirical hallmarks of manipulated content, he said, and other misleading content is more sophisticated.

Sensity AI is selling its ability to detect deepfakes. According to Amazon Web Services' marketplace, 12 months of Sensity AI's audio, image and video detection tools cost \$90,000.

**Election fears**

Some lawmakers on Capitol Hill say they fear their political opponents will use emerging generative AI tools to challenge

them in November.

Last month, the Senate Rules Committee advanced three bills focused on AI and elections, including legislation restricting deepfakes about political candidates, mandatory labeling of AI in political ads, and a push to develop voluntary guidelines for election offices.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Minnesota Democrat, is leading the charge to pass restrictions about AI use in elections into law, but the likelihood of anything gaining momentum grows less likely as the elections approach.

"We are going to see this resurgence of fakery and scams going on in our elections," Ms. Klobuchar said at a committee meeting last month. "And whether you're a Democrat or Republican, whether you're conservative or liberal, we cannot have our democracy undermined by ads and by videos and by robocalls when you literally don't know if it's the candidate you love or the candidate you dislike. We cannot have that happen to our democracy."

Politicians telling lies on the campaign trail is not new, but measuring whether deepfakes directly affect anyone's vote is difficult.

Some foreign propaganda efforts are not designed to change public opinion but to amplify divisive sentiments and issues

to drive up anger.

The Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence published guidance in April urging election officials across the country to be alert to the use of AI to manipulate voters.

"Train staff on standard procedures for responding to suspected AI-generated media and understand the mechanisms for notifying members of your organization about this activity," the agencies' guidance said.

Other guidance encouraged voters to verify sources of information and directed audiences to government websites for accurate information.

"Foreign malign influence agents engage real people with the goal of having them echo [their] messaging, essentially co-opting their already established online megaphone, while hiding the foreign origin of the influence message," the agencies said. "Many of these tactics are not new, but generative AI tools have made it much easier and cheaper to generate and spread convincing foreign malign influence content."

The agencies encouraged those responsible for administering elections to consider using "safe words" for authentication to ensure they are not duped by AI-powered impersonators.



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# Region

DISTRICT

## Two congressional staffers mugged in Navy Yard robberies

### Congressman seeks hard look at District’s home rule

By **MATT DELANEY**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A Republican congressional aide on Wednesday discussed being held up at gunpoint in the District as one of two staffers who were robbed over the weekend in separate muggings in the Navy Yard neighborhood.

Octavian Miller, who works for Rep. Mike Collins of Georgia, told “Fox & Friends” that he was walking with a friend early

Sunday when two masked gunmen hopped out of a car and aimed at his and his friend’s stomachs.

“You never think you’d be the one in the next story headline, right?” Mr. Miller said. “I thank God that nothing else bad happened to us, but you hear about these stories, and it’s quite unfortunate we live in a city where it feels like you have to fend for yourself.”

He said he handed over his

watch in the robbery and his friend was punched in the face before the attackers ran off.

Mr. Collins said the attack is another indictment on the state of public safety in the nation’s capital.

“It is very much out of control, and we [call it] a warzone,” Mr. Collins told the network. “They have polled — constantly — the citizens that live here in D.C., and no one feels safe.”

Metropolitan Police said two robberies took place early Sunday

in Southeast.

The first occurred just before 2 a.m., when three robbers stopped their black sedan in the 1000 block of Half Street Southeast and approached four victims, police said.

One of the victims handed over a watch and another who began arguing with the thieves was told “Don’t be stupid. We’ll shoot you,” police said.

Authorities said a second robbery happened at about 3:15 a.m. in the 800 block of New Jersey Avenue SE after a pair of gunmen jumped out of a black sedan and held up four people on the

sidewalk.

Investigators said they believe the two robberies were carried out by the same crew.

Rep. Dan Bishop, North Carolina Republican, told local Fox affiliate WTTG that one of his staffers was with a group of friends when they were “attacked by a gang of armed criminals on a robbery spree.”

Mr. Bishop’s statement pointed to the District’s “leftist pro-crime policies” that he said “embolden criminals and everyone who lives, works and visits here in danger.”

Mr. Collins told Fox News that

last year’s spike in D.C. crime — which included a record number of killings and carjackings, as well as frequent street robberies — should prompt a hard look at the District’s home rule.

Last month, a bipartisan coalition of House lawmakers passed a bill that seeks to limit the federal city’s ability to govern itself on public safety matters. The proposal faces steep odds to pass the Senate.

Violent crime in the District has dropped 26% through the first five months of the year, according to Metropolitan Police data.

MARYLAND

## Buttigieg, Moore, lawmakers celebrate reopening of port

### Deadly collapse clogged channel

By **MATT DELANEY**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It was all smiles Wednesday from the Maryland leaders and federal officials who celebrated reopening the main shipping channel to the Port of Baltimore — less than three months after the Francis Scott Key Bridge’s collapse claimed six lives and put the city in economic limbo.

Gov. Wes Moore joined salvage-team officials, local politicians and President Biden’s Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to rejoice in greenlighting the federal channel for large freighters full of cars, sugar and lumber once again.

It was one of those massive cargo ships, the Sri Lanka-bound Dali, that caused the March 26 bridge collapse after it lost power and rammed into a support beam.

A construction crew of eight was filling potholes on the bridge when it went down. Rescue teams managed to pull two survivors from the frigid waters shortly after the crash, but the other six died in the wreckage.

Once officials found the final victim’s remains early last month, attention shifted toward clearing the main channel by the end of June. The shipping lane was up and running by Monday.

“Many said it would take multiple months for us to get to this point. Some said even up to a year,” Mr. Moore said as ships blared their horns in the distance. “Well, Maryland, this team did the unimaginable by many. And instead of 11 months, we got this thing done in 11 weeks.”

The governor said the Port of Baltimore is a major hub for automobiles and farming equipment, as well as coal, cement and other commodities.

It also supports thousands of jobs — including 15,000 people who work on site and 140,000 more whose jobs rely on port activities.

The Key Bridge collapse effectively shut down all activity into Baltimore’s port when the structure’s metal remains clogged the 50-foot-deep, 700-foot-wide federal shipping channel.

Ports America Chesapeake reported that daily truck transactions at the Seagirt Marine Terminal were close to 3,000 just before the crash. That number sank to as low as 350 per day in late April.

Last month, union representatives with the International Longshoremen’s Association said around 125 workers had to go on unemployment due to the sudden work stoppage.

The Dali was hauled back to port late last month and crews cleared a deep, temporary channel for large ships to use.

Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise Line resumed departures from Baltimore by Memorial Day weekend.

Meanwhile, union reps for longshoremen said the schedule for incoming ships started filling up again. The representative said they expected everything to be back to normal by the end of this month.

Officials said a total of 56 federal, state and local agencies participated in the salvage operations, including about 500 specialists from around the world who operated a fleet of 18 barges, 22 tugboats, 13 floating cranes, 10 excavators and four survey boats.

“This ‘whole of government’ team was successful in working together to reopen this vital supply chain,” said Maj. Gen. Butch Graham of the Army Corps of Engineers. “It’s great to hear everything backing up out there. It was eerie when this port was as quiet as it was. That cacophony is a delight to see.”

The FBI launched a criminal investigation into what led up to the Dali’s catastrophic collision with the bridge.

• *This article was based in part on wire service reports.*



Many of the cherry trees are experiencing their last peak bloom before being removed for a Tidal Basin restoration project.

DISTRICT

## Tidal Basin turns into construction site

### Visitors to expect seawall restoration, removal of cherry trees

By **LIZZY DONKER**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The District’s Tidal Basin is renowned for its cherry trees, but visitors these days will glimpse only stumps, barricades and construction in some areas.

It’s all part of the National Park Service’s \$113 million restoration of the sea walls around the Tidal Basin and the Potomac River, which includes the removal of some of the heralded cherry trees, said Mike Litterst, spokesperson for the National Mall.

“There are a few reasons for the need of this project,” Mr. Litterst said, one being the result of climate change. Sea levels have risen over the last few decades, and the water level in the Tidal Basin has risen 13 inches.

What’s more, the seawalls, which were not properly anchored, have sunk as much as 5 feet since their initial construction, allowing water to flow over them during high tides, according to the park service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

These issues have caused the seawalls to no longer be structurally sound and now pose a threat to the historical significance of the basin and visitors’ experience, Mr. Litterst said.

The restoration will rehabilitate about 6,800 linear feet of seawall between the Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorials and extend its life expectancy by approximately 100 years, according to the service.

Preparing the site and removing some 140 cherry trees,

which began in late May, were expected to take about six weeks to complete. “I think they’re probably just about finished at this point,” Mr. Litterst said.

The beloved “Stumpy” — a stubby cherry tree that had clung to life in the Tidal Basin’s increasingly brackish water — was removed last month, much to the disappointment of its admirers.

The project includes more than just cherry trees: It is part of nearly \$500 million of infrastructure improvements being done to the National Mall in time for the nation’s 250th birthday. It includes upgrades to the National Mall, from a new museum at the Jefferson Memorial to renovations of the Constitution Gardens.

Mr. Litterst thinks the attraction that will be of most

interest is a new museum near the Lincoln Memorial, which will be “15,000 square feet of exhibit space that should open in 2026.”

All of the improvements are expected to be done by 2026, just in time to celebrate 250 years of American independence.

And those disappointed by the removal of the cherry trees should take heart. “Of course, when it’s over, we’re replacing far more cherry trees than we’re taking down,” Mr. Litterst said.

The District’s cherry trees have been a top attraction every spring for decades. The first cherry trees were a gift from Tokyo and planted on March 27, 1912, according to the park service. When the trees bloomed four years later, they served as an annual reminder of the friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

NORTH CAROLINA

## Bill advances to force ‘forever chemicals’ makers to pay for water systems fixes

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**RALEIGH, N.C.** | North Carolina’s top environmental regulator could order manufacturers of “forever chemicals” to help pay for water system cleanup upgrades whenever they are found responsible for discharges that contaminate drinking water beyond acceptable levels, under legislation advanced by a state House committee.

The measure was sought by Republican lawmakers from the Wilmington area, where upstream discharges into the Cape Fear River of a kind of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances — also called PFAS — have contributed to public utilities serving hundreds

of thousands of people to spend large amounts to filter them out. Accumulating scientific evidence suggests such chemicals, which resist breaking down, can cause harm to humans.

One bill sponsor said it’s appropriate for companies that produced such chemicals and released them into the environment to cover the costs for cleaning up the water.

“It is not fair for the ratepayers to have to pay this bill while the people who are actually responsible for making this stuff from scratch that got into those utilities aren’t having to foot the bill,” state Rep. Ted Davis of New Hanover County told the House Environment Committee. The

panel approved the measure with bipartisan support.

The bill, if ultimately enacted, certainly would threaten more costs for The Chemours Co., which a state investigation found had discharged for decades a type of PFAS from its Fayetteville Works plant in Bladen County, reaching the air, the river and groundwater. The discharges weren’t made widely public until 2017.

The bill would authorize the state Department of Environmental Quality secretary to order a “responsible party” for PFAS contamination that exceed set maximum levels in drinking water to pay public water systems the “actual and necessary costs” they

incurred to remove or correct the contamination. Only a PFAS manufacturer can be a “responsible party.”

The legislation also would make clear that a public water system that receives reimbursements must lower customer water rates if they were raised to pay for abatement efforts.

PFAS chemicals have been produced for a number of purposes — they helped eggs slide across nonstick frying pans, ensured that firefighting foam suffocates flames and helped clothes withstand the rain and keep people dry. GenX — produced at the Bladen plant — is associated with nonstick coatings.

Mr. Davis pushed unsuccessfully in 2022 for a similar bill,

which at the time also ordered state regulators to set maximum acceptable levels of “forever chemicals.” The latest measure leaves that out, and sets the standards for action based on new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “maximum contaminant levels” for six PFAS types in drinking water, including GenX.

A Chemours lobbyist told the committee that the company was being targeted by the bill, even as the company has taken actions to address the PFAS release.

Chemours has invested at the plant to keep the chemical from entering the groundwater through an underwater wall and the air through a thermal oxidizer, lobbyist Jeff Fritz said, and it’s

worked closely with state environmental regulators to address past contamination.

“Given those actions, we respectfully ask that this bill not proceed,” Mr. Fritz said. The company has been required to provide water filtration systems for homes with contaminated wells, for example.

The North Carolina Manufacturers Alliance opposes the bill, while the American Chemistry Council expressed concerns about details, their representatives said. They pointed to how the measure would apply retroactively to expenses incurred since early 2017, based on contamination standards that were just established in April.





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## Tide is turning against ranked choice voting

*Scheme leads to diminished public confidence*

By Jason Snead and Trent England

Election tampering isn't always obvious. Sometimes, it's hiding in plain sight. Such is the case with ranked choice voting, an innocuous-sounding scheme that left-wing billionaires have been installing around the country to enhance democracy. In truth, ranked choice voting, or RCV, replaces our cherished "one person, one vote" system with a distorted voting method that gives an edge to extremist candidates who would not otherwise prevail in an honest, straightforward election.

We can be thankful for the leadership of Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, who just last week signed a bill prohibiting RCV in any local, state or federal elections in his state. Mr. Landry is part of a principled vanguard of state officials working to face down RCV and roll it back. Louisiana joins nine other states that have acted to defend its residents' right to fair elections in which every vote counts. Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Oklahoma have banned RCV this year alone.

The tide is turning against RCV. The reason is simple: Everywhere RCV is tried, it leaves a trail of discarded ballots, extensive voting errors, delayed election results, interminably slow polling place lines, and diminished voter confidence.

The basic mechanics of RCV are daunting. For each election, voters must rank candidates in order of their preference. In federal elections, wading through the numerous races and candidates can be a lengthy, if not overwhelming, task. It can be worse in some local elections with dozens of little-known candidates.

Suppose no candidate emerges with a majority at first. In that case, tabulation machines eliminate the candidate with the fewest first-place votes and redistribute his or her ballots to each voter's next-highest choice. The process is repeated until a candidate garners the majority of the remaining votes.

Ranked choice voting is cumbersome, explaining why many voters skip the ranking part and just vote once for their preferred candidate. But if that candidate is eliminated, their ballot gets tossed out, effectively disenfranchising those voters. It's as if they never went through the trouble of turning out to vote.

Studies confirm that the number of ballots routinely thrown out is substantial. Even the George Soros-funded RCV advocacy group FairVote



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

concedes that, on average, nearly 1 in 3 voters do not rank multiple candidates in RCV elections.

The fact that a candidate who initially polled the second- or third-most ballots can win a majority of the final votes is a key feature explaining the far left's enthusiasm for ranked choice voting. It gives their candidates a fighting chance to circumvent the true majority of voters' will, pushing American politics to the left.

For example, in a 2022 special election for a U.S. House seat in Alaska, Republican candidates initially garnered 60% of the vote. Yet after earning just 40.2% of first-place votes cast, Democrat Mary Peltola was ultimately declared the winner. After the first-round tabulation, 11,222 ballots that didn't indicate their second-most preferred candidate were tossed out. Of those who voted for third-place candidate Nick Begic, 21% didn't list a second-place pick, effectively placing their ballots in the trash before the final round of tabulation.

With those ballots eliminated, Ms. Peltola claimed a majority of 51.5% even though she was preferred by only a minority of voters. The process was so confusing that state officials concealed the election results for 15 days while trying to gather and tabulate votes.

Alaska's experience is not an aberration. In Maine, the only other state conducting federal elections under RCV, a Democratic candidate won a congressional race in 2018 despite the Republican receiving more votes in the first round of voting.

Fortunately, disenfranchised Alaskans will get a shot at righting a wrong. A citizen-led initiative has placed the repeal of ranked choice voting on this fall's ballot. If it succeeds, Alaska will junk the scheme responsible for trashing so many citizens' votes. And Missouri voters will consider a constitutional amendment proposal that would shield them from RCV ballot tampering.

If they succeed, they will follow Aspen, Colorado, and other municipalities that have had miserable experiences with RCV and ultimately walked away from it. In Utah, half of the cities that participated in an RCV pilot program have already tossed it on the proverbial ash heap of history.

The tide is starting to turn against ranked choice voting. However, given the mass of dark money behind it, more states should follow the lead of Louisiana and the other nine states that have banned RCV to protect ballot integrity from this latest threat.

Jason Snead and Trent England are chairmen of the Stop Ranked Choice Voting Coalition and authors of "The Case Against Ranked-Choice Voting."



## Is Biden's reelection bid just elder abuse?

*President is too old and out of it to serve a second term*

Let's get real, people, as President Biden likes to say.

Do you want real? We've got real. Here's real: Having Mr. Biden run for president in 2024 is just plain elder abuse.

Who needs proof anymore? Mr. Biden is pretty far gone. But hang on. We're all going there. We all get old. And getting old is weird. One man is just fine at 97; another is losing it at 74.

Mr. Biden is 81. Sad to say, he's losing it. I saw this whole descent with my father: fine at 79, failing at 84, lost at 87. At 79, my dad was ... my dad,



vivacious, loquacious, full of life. At 84, he slowed way down and wasn't himself. At 87, his gait was strained, he didn't speak much, he was all but gone. Mr. Biden seems nearly there, sadly. He really does. It's sad that he's running for president, but it's far more sad that the people around him aren't stopping him from doing so.

Take what happened on Monday. Mr. Biden held a White House event to

» see **CURL** | B4

By Allan C. Stam

American research universities, long celebrated as bastions of free inquiry and intellectual exploration, are facing an accelerating crisis: the decline of intellectual diversity, particularly among faculty.

While the leftward lurch of academia has been well documented in recent decades, the consequences of this ideological homogeneity extend far beyond mere political representation. This shift has profoundly influenced the core of the university's mission — the pursuit of truth, the free exchange of ideas, and the rigorous examination of diverse perspectives — ultimately undermining its ability to generate new knowledge, foster critical thinking, and prepare students for the real world.

Furthermore, this ideological conformity within academia, mirroring Thomas Kuhn's concept of "normal science," has created an environment where certain questions are deemed "settled," effectively shutting down debate and stifling innovation.

The concept of "settled questions" is seductive in its simplicity.

It suggests that certain issues, having been thoroughly investigated and definitively answered, no longer require further scrutiny. In theory, this allows researchers to focus on exploring new frontiers and solving unsolved puzzles, maximizing efficiency and accelerating progress.

This approach, however, ignores a fundamental truth about the nature of knowledge: It is always provisional, subject to revision, and dependent on the frameworks and assumptions that shape our inquiries. As Karl Popper argued, scientific knowledge is built not on certainty but on conjecture and refutation, a continuous testing and revision process that requires a willingness to challenge ideas and embrace uncertainty.

The problem arises when the designation of a question as "settled" is driven not by a genuine consensus based on overwhelming evidence but by ideological conformity and a reluctance to challenge prevailing orthodoxies. In the context of the current ideological monoculture of academia, certain viewpoints, particularly

## The concept of 'settled questions'

How ideological conformity stifles intellectual inquiry



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

those aligned with progressive ideology, are often treated as self-evident truths.

At the same time, alternative perspectives are dismissed as outdated, misguided or dangerous. This creates a climate where certain questions are deemed taboo, not because they have been definitively answered, but because they challenge the prevailing consensus and threaten the intellectual and moral authority of the dominant group.

This silencing of dissent operates through two primary mechanisms: the designation of certain questions as "settled," implying that further inquiry is futile, and the labeling of other questions as "taboo," suggesting that they are dangerous or inappropriate to ask. Both

approaches stifle intellectual exploration and limit the scope of inquiry, but they do so in different ways.

"Settled questions" create a sense of futility, discouraging researchers from investing time and resources in investigating something that is perceived as already answered. This aligns with Kuhn's observation that scientists working within a paradigm often resist exploring anomalies or alternative explanations that might challenge the dominant framework.

"Taboo questions," on the other hand, create a sense of fear, discouraging inquiry by suggesting that asking these questions could lead to social ostracism, professional repercussions, or even legal action.

Ideology plays a decisive role in shaping the designation of certain questions as "settled."

In academia, the dominant ideology, progressive or left-wing, emphasizes the importance of social justice, equity and inclusion. While commendable in its aims, this ideology also leads to a narrow and dogmatic approach to certain questions, particularly those related to social and political issues.

The prevailing view within academia, heavily influenced by the ideology of equalitarianism, for example, is that any observed disparities in outcomes, such as academic achievement, income, or incarceration rates, are solely the result of social and environmental factors, such as discrimination, prejudice and unequal environments. While aiming to address historical injustices and promote social equality, this perspective commonly leads to dismissing alternative explanations, such as those considering the potential role of genetic or cultural factors or cumulative individual choices in shaping group differences.

With its set of unquestioned assumptions and values, this dominant ideology functions as a "paradigm" in its own right, shaping the research agenda, defining acceptable methods, and determining the criteria for evaluating scholarship. The belief that systemic racism is the sole explanation for racial disparities in outcomes, for example, is often treated as a settled question in academia despite the lack of conclusive evidence and the existence of alternative explanations.

Similarly, the assertion that gender is a social construct with no biological basis or the belief that capitalism is inherently exploitative and unsustainable are often treated as axiomatic truths within academic circles, stifling debate and discouraging research that would challenge these assumptions.

Until our universities address the lack of viewpoint diversity, the societal value of the research they produce will continue to be called into question. Since much of academic research is funded by taxpayers, we should all be concerned.

Allan C. Stam is a distinguished university professor of politics and public policy.



COMMENT & ANALYSIS

The FBI cleanup operation

Biden White House is giving the boot to G-men who vote Republican

House Republicans earlier this year decided to fully fund operations at the FBI. They may come to regret that decision, as new whistleblower documents suggest the bureau has been purging its ranks of agents who fail to toe the Democratic Party line.

Empower Oversight, a nonprofit advocacy group that focuses on assisting government whistleblowers, sent a complaint this week to Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz regarding a 12-year FBI veteran who was pushed out of the agency.

“The FBI forced our client to forego years of additional retirement credits, health benefits, and employment opportunities for expressing views that are supposed to be protected by the First Amendment,” Empower’s president, Tristan Leavitt, wrote to Mr. Horowitz.

The agent, who requested anonymity, had his security clearance revoked by FBI officials upset by his right-of-center political views. This is confirmed in records from the FBI Security Division’s inquisition of the former fed.

All of his co-workers were interviewed using preprinted forms designed to reveal forbidden political views. The first question asks if the agent did at any time “Vocalize support for President Trump?” Handwritten notes from the interviewer state: “Def[inite] Trump supporter. Strong Republican values.”

Another question asks whether the agent voiced objections to the COVID-19 vaccination. The notes answer: “Definitely. ... Complied with requirements. Vocalized disapproval but complied with FBI requirements in office and reporting/testing.”

The agent under scrutiny probably didn’t exercise the best judgment in going near the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, but he did not participate in the riot and he did not enter the building. Questions ask about this, and the agent voluntarily reported

his participation right after the situation got out of hand.

The interrogation form also asks about attendance at the Virginia Citizens Defense League’s lobby day in Richmond. This annual event brings Virginia residents to the state Capitol to talk with lawmakers and demonstrate their support for the Second Amendment.

It’s a celebration of the American right to peacefully petition the government, but the FBI appears to believe such petitioning is code for disobedient thoughts. Handwritten notes on the interview form state: “Gun nut. Went to all 2nd Amendment gatherings. ... No promotion of violence.”

For this wrongthink, the unnamed agent was suspended indefinitely without pay. As reported by The Washington Times’ own Kerry Picket this week, another FBI whistleblower, Marcus Allen, succeeded in having his security clearance restored after he was found to have done nothing wrong.

Rather than do something about this pattern of misconduct among FBI leaders, House Republicans recently chipped in another \$200 million into the pile of cash the law enforcement agency is amassing to escape the hideous J. Edgar Hoover Building here in Washington in favor of a palatial compound to be built on 61 acres in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The FBI settled on the sprawling location after noting it met the specific criteria of “Promoting Sustainable Siting” and “Advancing Equity.” Fiscal responsibility wasn’t considered, as the expected final cost of this temple of justice is now \$4.5 billion with a completion date beyond 2036.

That gives the House time to realize its mistake and claw back the \$845 million already allocated to the project. Unless the power of the purse is used to coerce FBI leaders to respect traditional boundaries, it will continue down this dark road of partisanship.



Let me offer an obvious thought: The convictions of Hunter Biden and Donald Trump are not happy events for the United States. Whatever one thinks about the circumstances involved, the fact that a former president and the son of a sitting president were convicted of multiple felonies within the span of a few days is not a positive indicator of the health of the American experiment.

It doesn’t look any better if one considers our general societal discourse. Too much energy is spent online grinding personal axes and seeking to “own” the other person. Too little time is spent trying to understand what thoughts, values and sentiments motivate those with whom you might disagree. No time at all is spent considering one’s own flaws and shortcomings.

As that sort of societal attitude flows downstream, it infects and draws strength from politics. Think about our current presidential campaign for a moment. Has either candidate spent much time discussing a positive agenda for the nation? The current president has centered his campaign on “defending democracy” and creating a public policy structure conducive to abortion. Hardly a stirring call to national unity.

The challenger’s campaign has been more detailed, although the candidate himself routinely returns to the economy, immigration and the shortcomings of federal law enforcement. This is better than the incumbent’s, but it is still not really the kind of rhetoric around which citizens can rally.

I mention all this because one of my sisters recently challenged me to find reasons to be optimistic that did not involve “all that God stuff.”

She has a point. Political life in this country has been much better in living memory. The good news is that this nation is much more than its politics.

With respect to prosperity and opportunity, the United States, despite our government’s best efforts, is still the best. Our economy is the largest in the world by a considerable distance. The United States’ gross domestic product is about \$30 trillion, while China’s is less than \$20 trillion. The European Union? About \$20 trillion as well, even though, as recently as 1995, the EU and American economies were about the same size. Eight of the 10 largest companies in the world are American.

How about innovation? The Chinese landed a probe on the moon in 2013, meaning they are only about 45 years behind us. The race for artificial intelligence — the next century’s commanding economic heights — is pretty much an America-only game at this point.

Be optimistic about the United States

Whether we advance together or fail together is entirely up to us

Same with medical advances. Same with robotics.

Education? About 300,000 bright young students from China are in college or graduate school in the United States. Fewer than 10,000 Americans are in graduate school in China. About half of the top 50 universities on the planet are in the United States. A handful are in Europe. Four are in China.

How about population? Americans spend much time worrying about our lack of a southern border, as they should. But the fact that millions want to get here is pretty compelling evidence of our superiority. Entire nations in Europe are dying, and immigration there is a huge national security problem. Each year, the regime in Beijing experiences net out-migration of more than half a million people. Not a problem here — people worldwide are voting with their feet for the United States.

Understandably, some of us are a bit

cranky and less than optimistic; it occasionally seems like things will never return to “normal.” That is probably right. Social media platforms have altered our world forever, and almost certainly not for the better.

The reality, however, is that whether we advance together or fail together is entirely up to us. We can choose to be great, as our ancestors who built this spectacular nation were great, or we can choose to fail. What makes America special is that kings, autocrats or ephemeral elites don’t set the tone and don’t really make the difference.

Just as they always have, ordinary citizens across the nation decide daily whether the nation will be great or not when they make decisions about work, raising families, supporting communities and churches, etc. The national government has nothing to do with it except occasional and unwelcome attempts to get in the way.

If the idea that our fate rests in our own hands — in your own hands — doesn’t make you optimistic, I’m not sure anything can.

Michael McKenna is a contributing editor at The Washington Times and co-host of the podcast “The Unregulated.” He is very optimistic about the United States.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

First lady should foot her own flight bill

Just what is going on with “Boomerang” Jill Biden (“Hunter Biden’s family weathers a public and expansive airing in federal court of his drug addiction,” web, June 9)?

Her costly trans-Atlantic flights to attend her stepson’s trial at the taxpayers’ sizable expense were not only outrageous, but a never-before-witnessed, egregious example of leftist elitist contempt for the American people. (Unless one considers those useless global trips by former first lady Michelle

Obama.)

Is U.S. government property to be used for Jill Biden’s convenient taxi purposes? According to this Biden outfit, ostensibly it is.

Of course, The New York Times opined that it was wholly necessary for jet-setting Jill, as “fierce protector” of a 54-year-old with the intellectual capacity of a fifth grader, to be by his side during his trial. What a joke.

Usually the media endears itself to Jill Biden by calling her “Dr. Jill,”

but are we, the American people, now to treat and bow down to her as Queen Jill?

Of course, these are the Bidens we’re talking about. What can you expect from a family of corrupt grifters but flagrantly unethical, offensive and nonsensical conduct? To them, sticking taxpayers with the bill for Jill’s trans-Atlantic trips is just par for the course.

EARL BEAL  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Nuclear Iran could mean major war

The International Atomic Energy Association, which carries out routine inspections of Iran’s declared atomic facilities, recently reported that the country has enough uranium for several nuclear weapons, which could be produced in a matter of a few weeks. Iran purchased 300 tons of refined uranium from Niger.

Iran has enriched its uranium stockpile to 60%, and it can continue

the enrichment process to the weapons-grade level of 90%.

The IAEA believes Iran might have secret facilities producing enriched uranium for nuclear devices at undeclared locations where uranium particles have been detected.

If Iran produces nuclear weapons, Middle East countries — including Saudi Arabia and other Sunni countries — will probably rush to

produce their own. Israel, which Iran calls the Little Satan (the U.S. is called the Great Satan), will not allow Iran to have nuclear weapons, and it will surely try to destroy them. The potential for a major war could be triggered by Iran’s production of nuclear weapons.

DONALD MOSKOWITZ  
Londonderry, New Hampshire

Hamas started this war

Israel deserves praise for its daring rescue last Saturday of four of its hostages who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists during the Oct. 7 massacre (“Israel rescues 4 hostages kidnapped in Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack,” web, June 8).

Hamas kidnapped the Israelis and chose to hide them among civilians in Gaza who either collaborated with the terrorists (such as the family of the Palestine Chronicle “journalist” who was holding three of the hostages in his home) or were deliberately used by Hamas as human shields to deter Israeli rescue efforts. Hamas caused the deaths of the Palestinian civilians it imperiled, as well as Israeli commando Arnon

Zamora, who was killed during the rescue.

One of the four rescued Israelis was 26-year-old Noa Argamani. On Oct. 7, she was torn from her boyfriend at the Nova music festival by her Palestinian kidnappers, put on the back of a motorcycle and sent off to Gaza while screaming “Don’t kill me!” Hamas refused to release her during a November 2023 cease-fire in which all civilian women and children hostages were supposed to be freed. Time was of the essence, as her mother has terminal brain cancer and hoped to see her daughter again before dying.

Even more critically, Hamas, which has dragged its feet on a new cease-fire/hostage release deal, is known to be

raping female hostages in captivity, according to both former Israeli hostages and the United Nations, and dozens of hostages have been killed in captivity. What was Israel to do — reward Hamas’ callousness toward its own people by abandoning a kidnapped Israeli daughter to an unimaginably horrific fate?

And lest one forget, if Hamas — whose genocidal charter calls for obliterating Israel and killing Jews everywhere — hadn’t invaded Israel and massacred and kidnapped Israelis to start the war, the death toll on both sides would be zero.

STEPHEN A. SILVER  
San Francisco

The Washington Times

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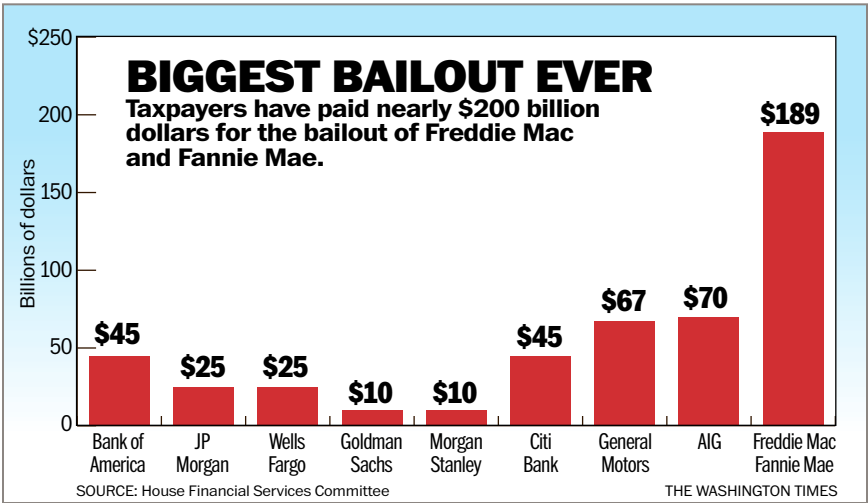
# Biden housing scheme could ignite another mortgage collapse

Home equity loans are often risky

By Stephen Moore

Politicians in Washington have very short memories, so they make the same mistakes repeatedly. Only 17 years ago, the “subprime” mortgage crisis torpedoed the economy and sent the financial markets into the biggest tailspin since the Great Depression. Millions of Americans lost their jobs. One of the matches that lit that bonfire was Freddie Mac with its cousin Fannie Mae, which offered generous taxpayer-guaranteed mortgage insurance to risky borrowers on loans that featured a low down payment. It all blew up in the faces of the taxpayers even though the Washington experts said that the chances of these mortgages going bust and taxpayers taking a loss was less than one in a thousand. The biggest taxpayer bailouts didn’t go to the Wall Street banks and investment companies, but to Fannie and Freddie.

Here we go again. The latest scheme by the Biden administration is to encourage families to borrow more money by using the equity in their homes as collateral. Home equity loans are often risky. If prices fall, home equity can become negative. There is nearly \$18 trillion in home equity, and it’s one of the largest sources of savings and ownership for American families. Now, the Biden administration wants to encourage Americans to borrow even more at a time when credit card and car loan debt are at an all-time high. If the home falls in value, the family could slip underwater and default — just like during the subprime crisis. As The Wall Street Journal points out, the other likely losers from this scam would be taxpayers. The evidence is indisputable from 2008 that the mortgages that ended in default were low-down payment and low-equity loans. Why in the world would President Biden want to go down this dangerous road again? The obvious answer is that Mr.



Biden wants to “stimulate” spending by putting more cash into the hands of consumers so they can rush to spend it before the election. They think this could be a plan that would provide extra cash to homeowners at a time when Americans need to be saving money and paying off debt, not spending. Bank of America believes this scam could result in \$1.8 trillion in government-insured home equity

loans, which is the homeowner equivalent of the student loan debt forgiveness program. There’s another problem here. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were created to promote homeownership, not to juice government spending. A home equity loan achieves the opposite by depleting a family’s ownership stake in a home. In other words, we now have the Biden administration encouraging Americans to have

less homeownership. Talk about mission creep. The obvious question is: How in the world is this in the interests of taxpayers or the country? It isn’t. Almost comically, the Biden administration pledges that this won’t cost taxpayers a penny — uh-huh — just like Fannie and Freddie would never need a bailout. But oops. Then suddenly, they needed some \$200 billion in 2008. This is also happening at a time when Fannie and Freddie are now insuring multimillion-dollar homes. How many first-time homebuyers start with a \$1 million house? This is simply more debt overhang for taxpayers and a giveaway to the housing industry. Washington is awash in debt right now, and Mr. Biden thinks America needs more of it. There must be a cheaper way to buy an election. Stephen Moore is a visiting senior fellow at The Heritage Foundation and a co-founder of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

## Warn workers before unions persuade them to board a sinking ship

Congress should pass the MAFIA Act

By F. Vincent Vernuccio

Would you board the Titanic — while it was sinking? Dozens of labor unions are asking workers to do just that, but instead of a ship, they’re trying to fund their underwater pension funds. Remarkably, they don’t have to disclose their dire financial straits to the nonunion workers they’re trying to organize, letting them pretend the Titanic hasn’t hit the iceberg even as it takes on water.



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

Workers deserve to know if they’re going to go down with the ship. Last month, Sen. Bill Cassidy introduced federal legislation to provide the necessary transparency. The Making All Fund Information Available Act — the MAFIA Act, for short — would force labor unions to tell nonunion workers if their pension plans are headed toward the ocean floor. This information is critical to ensuring that workers make informed decisions about unionization and protect their financial futures. Pension funds representing hundreds of thousands of unionized workers are in sorry shape. The federal government deems 25 plans as “critical and declining,” 29 as “critical” and 13 as “endangered.” There are many reasons so many plans are failing, not the least of which is declining union membership. There simply aren’t enough current workers to cover the costs of retired union members. Nor does it help that unions like the Teamsters use their pensions to support things like ESG (economic, social and governance) investing. They’re putting political

objectives above the financial interests of pension participants and retirees. That further threatens investor returns, putting added pressure on pension fund stability. And when some pension plans fail, the government guarantees many unionized workers only up to \$12,870 a year. That’s a far cry from what unions promise workers who agree to unionize — and even their nonunionized counterparts. Unions know their pension plans are in serious trouble. The Teamsters have already begged the Biden administration for a \$36 billion bailout. At least \$127 million of that

money went to about 3,500 dead recipients, which was returned only after Sen. Cassidy, Louisiana Republican, investigated the “wrongfully obtained funds.” Yet other union pension plans are still on the road to failure, and no amount of taxpayer money can paper over the underlying challenges they face. Unionizing more workers will help pension plans survive longer. Yet unions have an unfair advantage when they target new groups of workers. They can paint a rosy picture of a utopian retirement without ever acknowledging that their pension plan may be headed toward a nightmare scenario. It’s the definition of deception, letting unions mislead workers instead of giving them the truth. Workers deserve to know a union’s true motivations. If its finances are in jeopardy, a union shouldn’t be allowed to neglect to mention it while claiming to look out for workers’ interests. The MAFIA Act would make the facts clear. When a union organizer sits across the table from a nonunion worker, they would have to disclose the state of their pension plan. If it’s a disaster, that will open the worker’s eyes, instead of letting the union blind them with promises that will never pay off. Federal law already recognizes the importance of transparency. Unions are legally obligated to tell their members when their pensions are at risk. So why shouldn’t they be forced to tell the workers they want to unionize? If the people whose financial future is already in jeopardy get to know, then the people who are being asked to sign up for the same fate should know, too. The MAFIA Act would help workers know yet another risk of joining a union. More and more union pensions, like the Titanic, are sinking. The last thing workers need is for unions to trick them into climbing aboard. F. Vincent Vernuccio is president of the Institute for the American Worker.

By Cal Thomas

The 1970s are remembered for many things: the end of the Vietnam War, Richard Nixon’s resignation from the presidency, American hostages held for 444 days by Iran, disco music (ugh). In 1978, Pope John Paul II became the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1979, Jimmy Carter accused Americans of suffering from a “malaise.” Margaret Thatcher was elected as Britain’s first female prime minister. With two conservatives in power, the political trifecta was completed with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. Those events make me hopeful that a second conservative coming may be about to happen. Once again, large parts of Europe are leading the way.

Using the preferred language of the left, Politico reported on the European Parliament elections, “Far Right Wins Big.” There were other news stories suggesting fascism may be about to return to the Continent. Here’s how Politico styled the results: “As polls predicted, far-right forces made major gains across the bloc. In France, the National Rally raked in nearly a third of the votes, consolidating itself as the leading ultra-nationalist group in the next Parliament. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni’s Brothers of Italy similarly soared, with more than a quarter of voters backing the group.” Notice the word choices, including “ultra,” which Politico never defines. Shouldn’t Europeans be concerned in the same way as many Americans about open borders, high taxes, jobs taken by migrants, lawlessness, crime, inflation, centralized government in Brussels, Russia’s hunger for expansion, and a general despair about where their individual countries and continent are headed? The European (and American) media continue to frame all things liberal as good — even when their policies fail — and conservative policies bad, even when their policies work. While the center-left remains in control of the 705 members of the European Parliament (“due to rise to 720 after the June 2024 European elections”), conservatives won a major psychological and political victory. French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved Parliament and called for new elections. What amazes in Europe and the U.S. is that so many voters seem double-minded when it comes to policies that work and policies that don’t. I think it has something to do with voters who cast ballots based on feelings rather than on an understanding of economics, the importance of borders, a strong (but not fanatical) sense of nationalism, a strong military to guard against

**A debate and an election based strictly on issues and what has worked and what hasn’t is the way to build and sustain strong nations that contribute to their societies rather than a “take mentality” based on what you think you are entitled to. House Speaker Mike Johnson is planning a major legislative agenda should former President Donald Trump win the election and Republicans take control of the Senate majority, or expand it. Predictions of a “red wave” didn’t materialize in the 2022 midterms, so Republicans should be humble while working harder this time.**

## The second coming of the late ’70s?

Events in Europe may foreshadow what’s ahead for U.S.

terrorism and totalitarian adventurism, a shared moral value system that has proved itself over centuries, a love for their country instilled in primary school, and a herd mentality, including the vacuous “I’ve always voted this way.” A debate and an election based strictly on issues and what has worked and what hasn’t is the way to build and sustain strong nations that contribute to their societies rather than a “take mentality” based on what you think you are entitled to. House Speaker Mike Johnson is planning a major legislative agenda should former President Donald Trump win the election and Republicans take control of the Senate and keep their House majority, or expand it. Predictions of a “red wave” didn’t materialize in the 2022 midterms, so Republicans should be humble while working harder this time. The one unknown is Mr. Trump. He is the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, but unlike Reagan in 1980, he has a considerable amount of baggage. So far, he has promised to finish and continue the job he began in his four years in office, including finishing the border wall and deporting migrants who broke our laws to get here, keeping taxes low (he promised hotel workers in Nevada he would end taxes on tips), building up the military (as Reagan did), and other things our system of checks and balances may or may not allow him to do. Four decades ago, events in Europe were a foretaste of what was to come in the U.S. Many of the circumstances were the same then. We are about to find out if conservatism, with its workable, commonsense policies, will return in November. Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas’ latest book, “A Watchman in the Night: What I’ve Seen Over 50 Years Reporting on America” (HumanixBooks).



# American submarines being driven by Australians

Why the AUKUS deal was inevitable

By David Jonas and Patrick Rhoads

Winston Churchill once quipped that the United States and the United Kingdom are two great nations separated by a common language. How would he characterize the Australia-United Kingdom-United States alliance, known as AUKUS, today? Perhaps he would expand on the original quote and note that they are three great countries united by a common defense but separated by uncommon spelling.

On Sept. 15, 2021, Australia surprised the world by announcing that it would acquire nuclear submarines from the U.S. and the U.K. after canceling a significant contract with France. Australia has a fleet of six diesel-electric submarines that it had intended to replace with newer conventionally powered French submarines. Less than three weeks before the AUKUS announcement, the Australian government publicly renewed its support for the procurement of the French submarines.

The submarine community — the silent service — is arguably our military’s silver bullet. Nuclear propulsion technology remains one of our best-kept secrets, and few would have predicted that the U.S. would extend its submarine technology beyond the U.K., our greatest ally.

The American submarine program is characterized by a history of innovation. Less than two decades after the splitting of the atom, the USS Nautilus broadcast “Underway on Nuclear Power” on Jan. 17, 1955. Few would have predicted that the cantankerous Hyman Rickover, who would later rise to the rank of four-star admiral, would overcome blatant antisemitism at the Naval Academy to deliver one of the greatest contributions to American naval supremacy.

Australia’s purchase of American submarines was surprising for a number of reasons. Australia has not expressed interest in a nuclear economy despite being one of the leading suppliers of uranium to the global market. As a military matter, the purchase of the submarines represents an extraordinary investment since a nuclear submarine program requires a large industrial and technological footprint. As a security matter, having nuclear submarines does not allow Australia to escape China’s fury, which includes nuclear weapons.

But in retrospect, the purchase makes sense. The day after the announcement, then-Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that this “is not a change of mind, it’s a change of need.” Two salient events caused the Aussies to confront the reality of a bellicose China. In 2020 and 2021, Australians had the temerity to ask where the COVID-19 virus originated and to demand that Australia’s internal communications capabilities exclude any Huawei components.

In obvious retaliation, China launched a campaign of economic coercion and employed its famed “wolf warrior” tactics against Australia. Australia’s civilizational partners are literally an ocean away. Still, China is within what the Australians consider the bookends of their neighborhood, with China to the north and India to the west. In retrospect, the only answer for the Aussies was the acquisition of nuclear submarines, which enabled long-duration deployments with the necessary stealth to counter the Chinese navy. Some Australian Ministry of Defence members have lobbied for nuclear submarines since the 1990s.

For the United States, too, what had been a surprise now looks like an inevitability. Americans might consider Ukraine and Taiwan — with both being targeted by authoritarian regimes bent on revanchist claims, both of which are of strategic interest to the West.

The geographic differences, however, demonstrate how radically different the two cases are and why the AUKUS deal was inevitable. In Europe, we have forces that are already forward deployed and can defend allied territory at any time. By contrast, our ability to defend Taiwan, the gateway to containing a Chinese blue water navy, requires air and naval forces to project power over the vast expanse of the terribly misnamed Pacific Ocean. Such power projection may require days or weeks to surmount the tyranny of distance.

Put simply, we require more capability forward deployed in the western Pacific to meet the security threat. Royal Australian Navy nuclear submarines bring significant military capabilities into the theater. Indeed, Australian sailors have already been trained in U.S. nuclear submarine schools. To them and their future mates, we welcome our newest nuclear submariners with the naval blessing “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

David S. Jonas is a partner at Fluet in Tysons, Virginia. He is an adjunct professor at Georgetown and George Washington University law schools. Patrick Rhoads leads the nuclear research efforts at the National Strategic Research Institute. These are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of any organization which they have been or are now affiliated.

By Andrew P. Napolitano

Can the president fight any war he wishes? Can Congress fund any war it chooses? Are there constitutional and legal requirements that must first be met before war is waged? Can the United States legally attack an ally?

These questions should be front and center in a debate over U.S. involvement in Ukraine. Sadly, there has been no great national debate. The media are mouthing what the CIA is telling them, and only a few websites and podcasts — my own, “Judging Freedom” on YouTube, among them — are challenging the government’s reckless, immoral, illegal and unconstitutional war.

All power in the federal government comes from the Constitution and no other source. Congress, however, has managed to extend its reach beyond the confines of the Constitution domestically and in foreign affairs by spending money in areas it cannot regulate and purchasing compliance from the states and foreign countries by bribery.

Examples of this domestically are the numerical minimum blood alcohol content to trigger DWI arrests and maximum speed limits. In both instances, Congress offered money to the states to pave highways provided they lowered both numbers, and the cash-strapped states accepted the money along with congressional strings. These are bribes, of which the criminal consequences Congress has exempted itself.

The same takes place in foreign policy. Congress cannot legally declare war on Russia since there is no militarily grounded reason for doing so. Russia poses no threat to American national security, people or property. Moreover, the U.S. has no treaty with Ukraine that triggers an American military defense. But Congress spends money on war nevertheless.

Under the Constitution, only Congress can declare war on a nation or group. The last time it did so was to initiate American involvement in World War II. But Congress has given presidents limited authority and permitted them to fight undeclared wars. Examples of this are President George W. Bush’s disastrous and criminal invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and the War Powers Resolution of 1973.

Congress has not only not declared war on Russia; it has not authorized the use of American military forces against it. Yet it has given President

Biden \$175 billion and authorized him to spend it on military equipment for Ukraine however he sees fit.

He has promised to continue giving Ukraine whatever it needs for “as long as it takes.” As long as it takes to do what? He cannot answer that question because he has no clear military objective. Eliminating Russian troops from Ukraine and Crimea or Russian President Vladimir Putin from office are not realistically attainable military goals.

Congress has authorized only weapons and cash to be sent to Ukraine, but Mr. Biden has also sent

to Congress of the use of American military force, is unconstitutional because it involves Congress giving away one of its core functions: declaring war. The Supreme Court has characterized delegating away core functions as violative of the separation of powers: Only Congress declares war; only the president wages war.

Nevertheless, Mr. Biden has not informed Congress of his intentions to use American troops violently. Yet he has used the Navy and the CIA to attack Germany — a war crime and a violation of the NATO treaty — and he has soldiers out of uniform in Ukraine so as to perpetuate the deception that boots are not on the ground.

Don’t be surprised if Mr. Biden secretly gives War Powers Act notice to the Gang of Eight. What’s that? The Gang of Eight is the Congress within the Congress. It consists of the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate intelligence committees and the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate with whom the president legally shares secrets.

Just as Congress cannot delegate its war-making powers to the president, it cannot delegate them to the Gang of Eight. The Gang of Eight concept is antithetical to democratic values. Informing them of whatever violence the president is up to is done under an oath of secrecy. What kind of democracy operates and kills in secret?

The various treaties to which the U.S. is a party limit its war-making to that of defensive, proportional and reasonable. So if a foreign

power is about to strike — like on 9/11, while the government slept — the president can strike first to protect the U.S. Beyond an imminent attack, the basis for war must be real, the adversary’s anti-U.S. military behavior must be grave, the objective of war must be clear and attainable, and the means must be proportionate to the threat.

Has Russia threatened the U.S.? No. What grave acts has the Russian military committed against the U.S.? None. What is Mr. Biden’s objective? He won’t say.

Does Congress uphold the Constitution? Does the president? The answers are obvious. We have reposed the Constitution for safekeeping into the hands of those who ignore it. The consequences are death, debt and the loss of personal liberty.

To learn more about Judge Andrew Napolitano, visit <https://JudgeNap.com>.



troops. U.S. involvement in Vietnam began the same way: no declaration of war, no authorization for the use of military force. A gradual buildup of American troops as advisers and instructors ensued, and then a congressionally supported war that saw half a million American troops deployed, 10% of whom came home in body bags.

We don’t know how many American troops are in Ukraine, as they are out of uniform and their whereabouts a secret. We do know that they are involved in hostilities, since much of the hardware that Mr. Biden has sent requires American know-how and security clearances to operate and maintain. And some of the weapons have American troops actually targeting Russian forces and pulling the trigger.

Are American soldiers killing Russian soldiers? Yes. None of it has been authorized by Congress, but Congress has paid for it with borrowed money.

Now, back to the Constitution. The War Powers Resolution, which requires presidential notification

## Curl

From page B1

celebrate the Juneteenth holiday.

“The 81-year-old president’s gaze was fixed on the stage as gospel singer Kirk Franklin performed his song ‘Love Theory’ in front of the commander in chief, Vice President Kamala Harris, second gentleman Doug Emhoff and other dignitaries on the South Lawn — all of whom danced along as Biden stood still,” the New York Post reported.

But not the president. He stood completely still for nearly a minute. He barely looked around, just stared straight ahead, a dim smile on his face. He didn’t appear to know exactly what was going on.

And again, that’s not that unusual. We’ll all go at different paces, some fast, some slow, some just as Mr. Biden is going. He’s lived a long life. He’s been in public service since 1973 — 51 years! He took a seat in the Senate at just 30 years old.

But Mr. Biden is going, and when it starts, it often goes fast. Monday’s event was just the latest example of how the president is fading mentally.

The Wall Street Journal last week published a piece full of anecdotes from those who know Mr. Biden well. In one passage, the paper said that in a meeting with congressional leaders over a Ukraine funding deal, the president spoke very softly, referred repeatedly to notes and “sometimes closed his eyes for so long that some in the room wondered whether he had tuned out.”

The reports have been coming for years. In his report on Mr. Biden holding classified documents, special counsel Robert Hur was almost sad when he wrote that the president is simply an “elderly man with a poor memory.”

But Election Day is less than five months away. And this 81-year-old man is running for

reelection (don’t get me wrong — his opponent, who will be 78 on Friday, isn’t much better).

Leave it to Joe Rogan to lay out the situation in plain language.

“There’s nothing there,” Mr. Rogan said of Mr. Biden in a recent podcast. “I don’t think there’s a question about this.”

“I think it’s elder abuse. I really do,” Mr. Rogan said. “If it was any other job, it would be elder abuse. If there was a guy running the corner grocery store and his family was making him run it, and he was that old and they had money, you’d be like, ‘Why are you making your dad work? Your dad’s out of it.’”

And there you have it. Being president is NOT like running the corner grocery store, but here we are.

Like my father, Mr. Biden has flashes of lucidity. Sometimes, he appears just fine. But other times, he seems lost, like when he moved to sit down at a D-Day ceremony last week in France only to have his wife stop him — leaving him mid-squat, hovering over his chair for several seconds.

It’s not lost on the American people. Recent polls show just 4 in 10 are confident that Mr. Biden is mentally competent to be re-elected, with only 1 in 3 believing he can fully comprehend national security briefings.

Still, there might be another tactic afoot. Maybe in August, when the Democratic National Committee holds its nominating convention, the party will shock the world and pick someone else, with Mr. Biden’s blessing, of course.

But that’s not likely, as first lady Jill Biden seems to be calling the shots.

And that’s why, at this point, it all seems like elder abuse.

Joseph Curl covered the White House and politics for a decade for The Washington Times. He can be reached at [josephcurl@gmail.com](mailto:josephcurl@gmail.com) and on X @josephcurl.





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**IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS FAIRFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

**IN RE: Estate of Sharon Marie Combs, FI-2023-0001728**

**HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code § 64.2-550, notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts has appointed **July 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** at her office at 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 450, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, as the time and place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate of **Sharon Marie Combs**, at the request of Paul Michael Combs Jr., Executor for said estate.

Given under my hand as Commissioner of Accounts on June 5, 2024.

*/s/ Anne M. Heishman*  
Commissioner of Accounts  
19th Judicial Circuit

\*Please be advised that this hearing is being held remotely over Zoom. If you wish to participate in this hearing, please send your email address to [mail@coaffx.com](mailto:mail@coaffx.com) to ensure you will receive the remote hearing information. You should expect to receive an email with the remote hearing invitation approximately one week before the hearing.

Run Date: June 13, 2024 AD#84628

**Legal Notices**

Please take notice that upon expiration of 30 days after publication of this notice, the undersigned institution will transfer over to **Steven W. Tom Affiant** of the Estate of **Jiro Tanabe** who died **May 21, 2023** and who was at the time of death domiciled in **Honolulu, HI** certain funds which are held by the undersigned for **Jiro Tanabe**

May 23,30, 2024  
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**Auctions: Maryland**

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Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction at the location indicated: **19500 Frederick Road Germantown, MD 20876 June 18, 2024 at 10:30am**  
Units: 1040, 2266, 3023, 3139, 3349. The auction will be listed and advertised on [www.storage treasures.com](http://www.storage treasures.com). Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

June 13, 2024 AD#84598

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*/s/ Anne M. Heishman*  
Anne M. Heishman  
Commissioner of Accounts  
19th Judicial Circuit

June 13, 2024  
AD#84633

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**IN RE: Estate of Akiko Susie McLaren, Deceased Fiduciary No. FI-2023-0002277 HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code § 64.2-550, notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts has appointed **July 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** at her office at 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 450, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, as the time and place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate of **Akiko Susie McLaren**, at the request of Jonathan D. Cox, Administrator c.t.a. for said estate. Given under my hand as Commissioner of Accounts on June 5, 2024.

*/s/ Anne M. Heishman*  
Anne M. Heishman  
Commissioner of Accounts  
19th Judicial Circuit

June 13, 2024  
AD#84631

**IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**IN RE: Estate of Eric White Wilder, Deceased Fiduciary No. FI-2020-0001058 HEARING NOTICE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code § 64.2-550, notice is hereby given that the undersigned Commissioner of Accounts has appointed **July 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.** at her office at 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 450, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, as the time and place for receiving proof of debts and demands against the estate of **Eric White Wilder**, at the request of Jonathan Bronley, Administrator, d.b.n. for said estate. Given under my hand as Commissioner of Accounts on June 5, 2024.

*/s/ Anne M. Heishman*  
Anne M. Heishman  
Commissioner of Accounts  
19th Judicial Circuit

June 13, 2024  
AD#84629

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**Legal Notices**

**NOTICE OF COMPLAINT BY PUBLICATION**

A Complaint for Forfeiture has been filed in **Case No. D-06-CV-24-015765**, Montgomery County, Maryland vs U.S. Currency in the amount of \$3,952.00, Paul V. King on the 23rd day of May 2024, in the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County. The \$3,952.00 was seized on or about March 16, 2023, at or near 105 North Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The object of the Complaint is to obtain an Order from the Court forfeiting all of the right, title, and interest of the said currency, both legal and equitable, in and to the said currency. The said currency is subject to forfeiture in that it was used in close proximity to contraband controlled dangerous substance controlled paraphernalia, and was otherwise used or intended for use in connection with illegal manufacture, distribution, dispensing, or possession of controlled dangerous substance, in violation of Criminal Procedure Article, Section 12-101 et seq., of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The above property will be forfeited if an Answer is not timely filed. An Answer may be filed with the Clerk of the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County within 60 days of June 13, 2024, the last publication date of this notice. Additional information may be obtained from Haley M. Roberts, Associate County Attorney, 101 Monroe Street, Third Floor, Rockville, MD 20850, phone number 240-777-6700.

If the currency is not needed for evidentiary purposes in a judicial proceeding, the owner of the seized currency may obtain possession of the currency pending forfeiture by posting a bond in the manner provided in Subsection 12-208 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

May 30, 2024  
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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Zendable Cards, LLC with a business address of 413 West 14th Street, Spaces Suite 208, New York, NY 10014, has made application to engage in the business of loaning money for the license year ending December 31, 2024, as provided by the Act of Congress, approved February 14, 1913. Anyone desiring to protest against the issuance of this license should do so in writing to the Commissioner of the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, 1050 First Street, NE, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20002, in the manner prescribed by said Act: See DC Code Title 26, Chapter 9 and 16 DCMR 2.

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**Legal Notices**

**SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIVIL DIVISION**

**Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC**  
Plaintiff  
versus  
**Case No. 2023-CAB-005822**

**Estate of Arthur W. Stanley c/o Tiffany Pointer, Personal Representative**  
Defendant

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-005822 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Estate of Arthur W. Stanley c/o Tiffany Porter as Personal Representative, located at **12 Halley Place SE Apt 102, Washington, D.C. 20032**. A copy of the action is available in the Clerk's office of the Court. A written answer, including any claims or defenses, must be filed with the District of Columbia Superior Court Civil Branch, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before the 2nd day of August 2024.

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84437

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**New Security System/High Resolution IP Video Surveillance System Takeover & Upgrade**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the removal and replacement of **New Security System/High Resolution IP Video Surveillance System Takeover & Upgrade**. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
(202) 248-7773


The deadline for submitting bids is June 17th, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15, 2024  
Ad#84406

Follow Us On Facebook @TheWashingtonTimes

**Legal Notices**



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, held at City Hall, 301 King Street, Council Chamber and on Zoom webinar on Saturday, June 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance authorizing the Introduction of a Five-Year License Agreement with Zayo Group LLC to permit Zayo Group LLC's existing conduits and fiber optic cables to remain in the City of Alexandria's public rights-of-way and to allow placement of additional conduits and fiber optic cable telecommunication services, not cable television services in the City of Alexandria.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a three (3) month extension of the existing lease agreement with Jeffrey L. Yates, TR to use a portion of public sidewalk right of way adjacent to 1050 N. Fayette Street for overflow activities from Yates Car Wash and Detailing located at 1018 N. Henry Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance Authorizing and Empowering the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of General Obligation Bonds to Finance City and Schools Capital Projects and to Refund Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance to Solicit and Eventually Grant a Non-exclusive Franchise(s) for use of the public rights-of-way by companies to design, install, provide, operate, maintain, repair, control, upgrade, construct and remove a fiber network for the purpose of providing Telecommunications Services within the City.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Appropriation Ordinance to make appropriations for the support of the government of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 11-207 (CIVIL VIOLATIONS) of Article XI (DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND PROCEDURES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2024-00004 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2024-00004 associated with the civil violations text amendment approved by City Council on May 18, 2024

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-7-57 (LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF DOGS AND CATS KEPT PER DWELLING UNIT) Chapter 7 (ANIMALS AND FOWL) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES), of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLIC HEARING of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 2-1-4 (Compensation of Members) of Article A (General Provisions) of Chapter 1 (The City Council) of Title 2 (General Government) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia 1981 as amended, to increase the compensation for the Mayor and City Council Members effective January 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL (LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE). IF THE MAYOR FINDS AND DECLARES THAT WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS ARE SUCH THAT IT IS HAZARDOUS FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE MEETING, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONTINUED TO THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Run Date: June 13th, 2024

AD#84561



**Legal Notices**

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS**  
**POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Two additional vacancies in the Office of the Magistrate Judges in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia are anticipated. The new Magistrate Judges will be appointed to serve four-year terms in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. One of the successful applicants will be assigned to the Family Court and the other to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court based on the anticipated needs of the court at the time the positions are filled. If an applicant is assigned to the Family Court, the duties of the position will include the following: conduct hearings, make findings and enter interim and final orders or judgments in uncontested or contested proceedings within the jurisdiction of the Family Court and the Domestic Violence Unit of the Superior Court, excluding jury trials and trials of felony cases. If an applicant is assigned to the Criminal Division of the Superior Court, the duties of the position will include the following: conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases (e.g., bond hearings, initial probation revocation hearings, and preliminary hearings) and presiding over certain civil non-jury trials. The current salary for this position is \$199,654 per annum.

To be qualified for appointment, an applicant must:

- (1) be a citizen of the United States;
- (2) be an active member in good standing of the unified District of Columbia Bar;
- (3) for five (5) years immediately preceding appointment, have been engaged in the active practice of law in the District of Columbia, or on the faculty of a law school in the District of Columbia, or employed as a lawyer by the District of Columbia or United States Government, or any combination of the foregoing, and for applicants to the Family Court, at least three (3) years of training or experience in the practice of family law as a lawyer or judicial officer;
- (4) be a bona fide resident of the District of Columbia and have maintained an actual place of abode in the District for at least ninety (90) days immediately prior to appointment and retain such residency during service as Magistrate Judge. D.C. Code § 11-1732 (c)(3).

**OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR FAMILY COURT APPLICANTS:**

be a bona fide resident of the areas consisting of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, Arlington and Fairfax Counties, and the City of Alexandria in Virginia, have maintained an actual place of abode in such area, or the District of Columbia for at least five (5) years prior to appointment, and certify that the individual will become a bona fide resident of the District of Columbia not later than ninety (90) days after appointment. D.C. Code § 11-1732A (b)(5)(A)(B);

- (5) be competent to perform the duties of the office and be of good moral character; and
- (6) make formal application to the court for the position.

An Advisory Merit Selection Panel ("Panel") composed of lawyers and other members of the community has been established by the Court to assist the Board of Judges in identifying and recommending persons who are best qualified to fill the position of Magistrate Judge. The Committee on the Selection and Tenure of Magistrate Judges ("Committee"), comprised of Associate Judges of the Superior Court, will also recommend persons who are best qualified to serve as a Magistrate Judge. The Chief Judge shall consider all persons recommended by the Panel and the Committee and may consider other qualified applicants. After the closing date for submitting applications and completion of background investigations, the Chief Judge shall nominate and, with the approval of a majority of the sitting judges of the Court, appoint a new Magistrate Judge.

**APPLICATION:** Application forms for the position may be obtained online on the D.C. Courts Human Resources Division website. The application must be accompanied by the applicant's resume, a signed and notarized "Authorization to Release Information," and a tax form 14767. The entire application package (the application form, the tax form 14767, the Resume, and the Authorization to Release Information) must be submitted electronically on or before the close of business on **July 5th, 2024**, to Judge Michael O'Keefe, Chair, Committee on the Selection and Tenure of Magistrate Judges @ [MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov](mailto:MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov). Each of the above forms should be scanned as separate documents. If an applicant has submitted an application within the past 12 months, there is no need to reapply. Please contact [MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov](mailto:MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov) and indicate in writing that you wish to be considered for these positions.

The Committee does not require letters of recommendation, letters of support, or endorsements, but will accept them. Such letters must be received by the Committee via email to [MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov](mailto:MagistrateJudgeCommittee@dcsc.gov) by **July 12, 2024**.

It is the policy and practice of the District of Columbia Courts to hire and promote employees based upon qualifications and merit only, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, disabilities, national origin, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, source of income, or place of residence or business.

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000658**

Estate of Brie'asha Weance Deceased

**NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Terrisa Hills c/o Selene Finane, LP, by Sandra Cuellar**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan  
Petitioner/Attorney  
BWV Law Group LLC  
6003 Executive Boulevard  
Suite 101  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-961-6555 Ext 3811  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84342

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000643**

Estate of Mary Judd Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Terrisa Hills c/o Selene Finane, LP, by Sandra Cuellar**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven  
Petitioner/Attorney  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-656-5775  
jdaveen@pskfirm.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84341

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Renovation to Staff Apartments**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Renovations to Staff Apartments. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84409

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2018 ADM 001161**

Estate of Lawrence L. Martin Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Antoinette C. Kirby / AVP c/o Fifth Third Bank, National Association**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: May 30, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven  
Petitioner/Attorney  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-656-5775  
jdaveen@pskfirm.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

May 30, 2024  
June 6,13, 2024  
Ad#84118

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000598**

Celestine L. Pope  
Name of Decedent

**Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs**

Rhonda Gore, whose address is 11437 James Joyce Ct, White Plains, MD 20695 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Celestine L. Pope who died on February 17, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 6, 2024, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Journal

/s/ Rhonda Gore  
Personal Representative

**TRUE TEST COPY**  
/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84351

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000598**

Celestine L. Pope  
Name of Decedent

**Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs**

Rhonda Gore, whose address is 11437 James Joyce Ct, White Plains, MD 20695 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Celestine L. Pope who died on February 17, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 6, 2024, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven  
Petitioner/Attorney  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-656-5775  
jdaveen@pskfirm.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84342

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84407

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000625**

Nannie Bell Thompson  
Name of Decedent

**Charles Tolliver**  
1717 K Street, NW #900  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Name and Address of Attorney

**Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs**

Darlene Brevard, whose address is 4035 Gault Pl. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20019 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Nannie Bell Thompson who died on May 24, 2004 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before December 6, 2024. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 6, 2024, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Reporter

**TRUE TEST COPY**  
/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84355

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000637**

Estate of Charlotte A. Brown Deceased

**NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Newerz LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as attorney in fact for US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as power trustee for JRMGA Asset Trust, by Joshua Stolorowicz**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: May 30, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan  
Petitioner/Attorney  
BWV Law Group LLC  
6003 Executive Boulevard  
Suite 101  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-961-6555 Ext 3811  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

May 30, 2024  
June 6,13, 2024  
Ad#84120

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000637**

Estate of Charlotte A. Brown Deceased

**NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Newerz LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing as attorney in fact for US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as power trustee for JRMGA Asset Trust, by Joshua Stolorowicz**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: May 30, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan  
Petitioner/Attorney  
BWV Law Group LLC  
6003 Executive Boulevard  
Suite 101  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-961-6555 Ext 3811  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney sarah.hannan@bww-law.com

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

May 30, 2024  
June 6,13, 2024  
Ad#84120

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84407

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000662**

Estate of Silva Meybayan Deceased

**NOTICE OF STANDARD PROBATE**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Fay Servicing, LLC, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.**

Date of first publication: June 13, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jason Murphy, Esq.  
Unified Bar#50014963  
Petitioner/Attorney  
Cohn, Goldberg, Deutsch, LLC  
526 King Street, #201  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000662**

Estate of Shirley Mae Pittman Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Terrisa Hills c/o Compu-Link Corporation d/b/a Celink as attorney in fact for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: May 30, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven  
Petitioner/Attorney  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-656-5775  
jdaveen@pskfirm.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

May 30, 2024  
June 6,13, 2024  
Ad#84119

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000662**

Estate of Shirley Mae Pittman Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Terrisa Hills c/o Compu-Link Corporation d/b/a Celink as attorney in fact for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC**, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.

Date of first publication: May 30, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven  
Petitioner/Attorney  
110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301-656-5775  
jdaveen@pskfirm.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

May 30, 2024  
June 6,13, 2024  
Ad#84119

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84407

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2019 ADM 000848**

Estate of Betty J. Ervin Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Fay Servicing, LLC, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.**

Date of first publication: June 13, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jason Murphy, Esq.  
Unified Bar#50014963  
Petitioner/Attorney  
Cohn, Goldberg, Deutsch, LLC  
526 King Street, #201  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000848**

Estate of Betty J. Ervin Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Fay Servicing, LLC, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.**

Date of first publication: June 13, 2024

Name of newspapers: **The Washington Times** Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jason Murphy, Esq.  
Unified Bar#50014963  
Petitioner/Attorney  
Cohn, Goldberg, Deutsch, LLC  
526 King Street, #201  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84407

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000848**

Estate of Betty J. Ervin Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed in this Court by **Fay Servicing, LLC, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives. Unless a responsive pleading in the form of a complaint or an objection in accordance with Superior Court Probate Division Rule 407 is filed in this Court within 30 days from the date of first publication of this notice, the Court may take the action hereinafter set forth. In the absence of a will or proof satisfactory to the Court of due execution, enter an order determining that the decedent died intestate, appoint a supervised personal representative.**

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Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

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571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

**Timmy Kimber**  
Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
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**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

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June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000848**

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Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

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Chief of Staff  
**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
[tkimber@dc.seedschool.org](mailto:tkimber@dc.seedschool.org)  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

**All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.**

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84407

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000848**

Estate of Betty J. Ervin Deceased

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Unified Bar#50014963  
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jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Superior Court of the District of Columbia**  
**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**PROBATE DIVISION**

**2024 ADM 000848**

Estate of Betty J. Ervin Deceased

**Notice of Standard Probate**  
(For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1995)

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Date of first publication: June 13, 2024

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Alexandria, VA 22314  
571-560-6424  
jmurphy@cgdl-law.com  
Phone Number of Petitioner/Attorney

/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills  
Clerk of the Probate Division

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84512

**Legal Notices**

**THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Asphalt Pavement**

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the Asphalt Pavement. Additional specifications outlined in the Request



Legal Notices

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Renovations of Academic Building

The SEED Public Charter School of Washington, D.C. is inviting firms to submit proposals for the **Renovations of Academic Building**. Additional specifications outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) may be obtained between the hours of 8:00am-4:00pm from:

Timmy Kimber  
Chief of Staff

THE SEED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON, D.C.  
4300 C Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20019  
tkimber@dc.seedschool.org.  
202-248-7773

The deadline for submitting bids is June 17, 2024 at 12:00pm

All bids not addressing all areas as outlined in the RFP will not be considered.

June 7th thru June 15th, 2024  
Ad#84410

Academy of Hope  
Adult Public Charter School

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Flex Office Design Ward 5 & 8

The Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School located in Washington, DC requests proposals for vendors for Flex Office Design at both of our campuses. Proposals are due June 18th, 2024. You can find the detailed request for proposal and submission information at <https://aohdc.org/get-involved/jobs/>.

June 3rd thru 14th, 2024  
Ad#84345

Academy of Hope  
Adult Public Charter School

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Developer for Student Information System (SIS)

The Academy of Hope Adult Public Charter School located in Washington, DC requests proposals for Developer for Student Information System (SIS). Proposals are due June 18th, 2024. You can find the detailed request for proposal and submission information at <https://aohdc.org/jobs/>.

June 3rd thru 14th, 2024  
Ad#84344

Trustee Sales: DC

COHN, GOLDBERG & DEUTSCH, LLC  
1099 WINTERTON ROAD, SUITE 301  
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 21090  
www.cgd-law.com

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY  
410 G STREET NE,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Decree in Case 2017-CA 006544 (RFP), Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for the Prime Star-H Fund I Trust v. Latawnya S. Brown, and Edward Simmons, the undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction at the auctioneer's gallery of Tidewater Auctioneer's LLC, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue NE Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015, on

July 12, 2024 At 11:00 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust from Latawnya S. Brown, and Edward Simmons, dated February 13, 2006 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2007045686 on April 3, 2007, with an original principal balance of \$400,000.00, and an original interest rate of 7.375 Adjustable, default having occurred under the terms thereof.

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of the lesser of \$39,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid sixty (60) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 7.375% adjustable from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest.

Richard E. Solomon, et al., Sub. Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
(410) 825-2900  
www.tidewaterauctions.com

Washington Times, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/4  
CGD File #: 449201 Ad#8449

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000591

Ambrose J. Linnen  
Name of Decedent

Andrew T. White  
7600 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Mark Linnen, whose address is 3101 Cleveland Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Ambrose J. Linnen who died on March 26, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's Will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before December 6, 2024. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 6, 2024, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of the first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication  
June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical:  
The Washington Times  
Daily Washington Law Reporter  
atwhite@ercheary.com  
/s/ Mark Linnen  
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY  
/s/ Nicole Stevens  
Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024  
Ad#84340

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000647

William Jeffrey Fentress  
Name of Decedent

Brooke Tansill  
c/o Frederick J. Tansill & Associates, LLC  
6723 Whittier Avenue  
Suite 104  
McLean, Virginia 22101  
Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Martha Fentress whose address is 502 Mowbray Arch, Norfolk, Virginia 23507 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of William Jeffrey Fentress who died on February 21, 2024 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., Building A, 515 5th Street, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001, on or before December 13, 2024. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 13, 2024, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of the first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication  
June 13, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical:  
The Washington Times  
Daily Washington Law Reporter  
marthafentress@netscape.net  
/s/ Martha Fentress  
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY  
/s/ Nicole Stevens  
REGISTER OF WILLS

June 13,20,27, 2024  
Ad#84515

Trustee Sales: DC

COHN, GOLDBERG & DEUTSCH, LLC  
1099 WINTERTON ROAD, SUITE 301  
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 21090  
www.cgd-law.com

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY  
1422 HALF STREET SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Decree in Case 2023-CAB-003079, U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for LSRMF MH Master Participation Trust II v. Latawnya M. Akers, the undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction at the auctioneer's gallery of Tidewater Auctions LLC, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015 on

June 28, 2024 At 11:00 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust from Latawnya M. Akers, dated April 13, 2007 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2007062690 on May 9, 2007, with an original principal balance of \$344,800.00, and an original interest rate of 6%, default having occurred under the terms thereof.

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of the lesser of \$40,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid sixty (60) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest.

Richard E. Solomon, et al., Sub. Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
(410) 825-2900  
www.tidewaterauctions.com

Washington Times, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20  
CGD File #: 459294

Trustee Sales: DC

Gallagher Law, LLC  
1906 Towne Center Blvd. Ste. 275  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(443) 783-1363

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

3901 Cathedral Avenue NW, Unit 26,  
Washington, DC 20016

In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Decree in Case 2023-CAB-000179, Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB v. Robert Tarasovich, the undersigned Trustee will sell at public auction at the auctioneer's gallery of Tidewater Auctions, LLC, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015, on

Friday, June 21 st, 2024  
at  
11:00AM

THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Credit Line Deed of Trust from Robert Tarasovich, dated October 14, 2004 and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2005182554, with an original principal balance of \$70,000.00, and an original interest rate of 4.75%, default having occurred under the terms thereof.

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE:  
A deposit of the lesser of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on credit and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (60) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 4.75% per annum from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/forbearance agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest.

PROSPECTIVE PURCHASERS ARE URGED TO PERFORM THEIR OWN DUE DILIGENCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPERTY PRIOR TO THE FORECLOSURE AUCTION. For additional information, please contact the Substitute Trustee.

Brian T. Gallagher, Substitute Trustee

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
(410)-825-2900  
www.tidewaterauctions.com

Washington Times, 5/23,5/30,6/6,6/13 Ad#83777

Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE SALE  
2862 Dover Ln Apt 102, Falls Church, VA 22042  
Fairfax County

In execution of a Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$181,200.00, dated March 13, 2015 recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the Fairfax County, Virginia, in Document No. 2015007511.001, in Book No. 24023, at Page 0161, at the request of the holder of the Note, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the entrance to the Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, on **July 9, 2024 at 11:30 AM** the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described as:

Unit Number 102, Fairfield Commons Condominium, together with an undivided interest in the common elements

Subject to any and all covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, cash or certified check will be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted, with settlement within fifteen (15) days from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the validity of the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, we advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

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

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
SAMUEL I. WHITE, P.C. (854646)  
448 Viking Drive, Suite 350  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452  
757-457-1460 - Call Between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit our website at [www.siwpnc.net](http://www.siwpnc.net)

June 6th, 2024  
June 13th, 2024

AD#84286

Trustee Sales: Arlington Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1111 19TH ST N, APT 1608, ARLINGTON, VA 22209.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated July 31, 2008, in the original principal amount of \$656,000.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Arlington County, Virginia, in Book 4207 at Page 1890 as Instrument No. 2008214143. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Arlington County, 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on July 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: ALL THAT CERTAIN PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING, LYING, SITUATE AND BEING IN ARLINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: UNIT 1608 LOCATED IN THAT CERTAIN CONDOMINIUM KNOWN AS WATERVIEW CONDOMINIUM, AS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION OF THE WATERVIEW CONDOMINIUM, RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA ON JANUARY 16, 2008 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2008016085 IN DEED BOOK 4161 AT PAGE 1432, AND AS AMENDED BY THE SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT TO CONDOMINIUM INSTRUMENTS TO THE WATERVIEW CONDOMINIUM RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA ON FEBRUARY 29, 2008 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2008060185 IN DEED BOOK 4171 AT PAGE 756, AND AS SHOWN ON THE PLATS AND PLANS ATTACHED THERETO, TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST IN THE COMMON ELEMENTS AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH IN THE DECLARATION, TOGETHER WITH THE BENEFIT OF THE EASEMENTS APPURTENANT TO PARCEL RH AS SET FORTH IN THE AMENDED AND RESTATED DECLARATION OF EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS AND AGREEMENTS DATED MAY 30, 2007 AND RECORDED ON MAY 31, 2007 IN DEED BOOK 4102 AT PAGE 1994, BY AND BETWEEN WATERVIEW OFFICE, LP AND WATERVIEW RESIDENTIAL, LLC, AND RECORDED PRIOR HERETO. UNIT 1608 IS ASSIGNED THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE PARKING SPACE NO. R3-64, AS A RESIDENTIAL LIMITED COMMON ELEMENT OF THE CONDOMINIUM. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 3rd Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWV Law Group, LLC, attorney for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: [www.bwvsales.com](http://www.bwvsales.com). VA-355765-1.

June 6th, 2024  
June 13th, 2024

AD#83542

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE  
7000 Courtyard Way, Haymarket, VA 20169  
(Tax Map #7298-95-3520)

In execution of certain liens for unpaid assessments as perfected by the recording of certain memoranda of liens for unpaid assessments in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia, ("Land Records") on June 21, 2022 as Instrument Number 20220621004698, and on June 26, 2023 as Instrument Number 202306260032243 (the "Liens"), the Westmarket Homeowners Association, Inc. ("Association"), by its appointed Trustee, as identified below, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on **June 21, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.**, at the main outside entrance to the Courthouse of the Circuit Court, of Prince William County at **9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110**, the real property and improvements with the street address of **7000 Courtyard Way, Haymarket, VA 20169 (Tax Map #7298-95-3520)** and briefly described as:

Lot 11, Landbay 2, Section 1, WESTMARKET, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded as Instrument No. 200109190097464 and platted in Instrument No. 200109190097465 among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia.

TERMS OF SALE: The Property will be sold in "AS IS" condition and without any warranty as to any respect, restriction, covenant, or condition of the Property and subject to any liens, violations, and or all other matters taking priority over the Association's Liens, including, but not limited to, any deeds of trust. The sale is further subject to all provisions, restrictions, easements, covenants, and conditions as contained in the Association's original Declaration, Bylaws and other governing instrument, and any amendments thereto.

A nonrefundable bidder's deposit of \$15,000 will be required to be paid by the successful bidder in cash, certified funds or by cashier's check. Settlement within 30 days of sale and title will transfer by trustee's deed with special warranty of title. Additional terms to be announced at sale. If Trustee is unable for any reason, in its sole discretion, to convey title to the Property, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy in law and equity shall be the return of its deposit, without interest. Trustee reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to (1) announce additional terms at the time of sale, (2) waive or modify the requirement with respect to the bidder's deposit, (3) accept or reject any or all bids, (4) extend the time to receive bids, (5) withdraw the Property from the sale at any time, and (6) postpone settlement following sale for a reasonable period of time as determined by Trustee. The information contained herein was obtained by sources deemed to be reliable but is offered for information purposes only. The Association cannot make any representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy of this information.

Direct any inquiries to counsel for the Association, Kristen L. Buck, Rees Broome, PC, 1900 Gallows Road, Suite 700, Vienna, Virginia 22182, (703) 790-1911.

M. Wilcox Law, PLLC, Trustee, Attn: Mona Wilcox, 2018 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22207, (412) 779-9927 (Telephone), [mona@mwilcoxlaw.com](mailto:mona@mwilcoxlaw.com)

June 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2024

AD#84536

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

Trustee's Sale  
14245 Town Commons Way,  
Gainesville, Virginia 20155  
(Parcel ID: 7397-59-9681)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated January 3, 2020, in the original principal amount of \$50,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia in Instrument No. 202001210004559, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on **July 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM** in front of the building housing the **Prince William County Circuit Court**, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as: Lot 23, Carterwood, section 2, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded as instrument number 20011130120672, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$5,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C., on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 234457-01, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: June 6, 2024  
June 13, 2024

AD#83659

Trustee's Sale  
2944 Buell Ct, Dumfries, VA 22026  
(Parcel ID: 8188-89-8662)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated September 21, 2022, in the original principal amount of \$294,566.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia on September 22, 2022, as Instrument Number 202209220068543, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on August 13, 2024 at 1:00 PM, in front of the building housing the County of Prince William Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 429, Section 2, WILLIAMSTOWN, as the same is duly dedicated, platted and recorded among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia in Deed Book 646 at Page 498. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$29,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. Ti the successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Partners, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 5310 Market Road, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23230, File No. 24-000480, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Run Date: June 13th, 2024

AD#84570

Trustee Sales: Virginia

Trustee's Sale  
21251 Park Grove Terrace,  
Ashburn, Virginia 20147  
(Parcel ID: 060472020000;  
Tax Map No.: 79/0/3//179/)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 5, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$124,056.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Loudoun, Virginia in Instrument No. 20121009-0079255, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on **August 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM** in front of the building housing the **Loudoun County Circuit Court**, the main entrance to the Loudoun County Circuit Court, 18 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20178, the property designated as Lot 179, Section 2, Stonegate, as the same is duly dedicated in Instrument Number 201108230051351, and as platted in Instrument Number 201108230051352, recorded among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia. This property is subject to that certain declaration of affordable dwelling unit covenants recorded as Instrument Number 201108230051353 among the aforesaid land records. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$12,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of [www.glasserlaw.com](http://www.glasserlaw.com), outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C., on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C., and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 227115-06, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: June 13th, 2024  
July 11th, 2024  
July 18th, 2024

AD#84453

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Richard E. Solomon, et al., Sub. Trustees

Tidewater Auctions, LLC  
(410) 825-2900  
www.tidewaterauctions.com

Washington Times, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20  
CGD File #: 459294

AD#83967

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT  
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE RD.  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

Case No.: 2024-06567  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
Anthony Andre Price  
Plaintiff  
v.  
Maria Antoinette Price  
Defendant

The object of this suit is to:  
Obtain A Divorce A VINCULO MATRIMONII

It is ORDERED that **Maria Antoinette Price** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 11, 2024, 2:00 PM**.  
DATE: May 15, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance  
Reply should be received by **July 11, 2024**

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK  
**Kaleigh Lawson** DEPUTY CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#84016

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT  
4110 CHAIN BRIDGE RD.  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

Case No.: 2024-6537  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
Sheena Evin Ramirez  
Plaintiff  
v.  
Ewar Avidan Ramirez-Rivas  
Defendant

The object of this suit is to:  
Obtain A Divorce A VINCULO MATRIMONII

It is ORDERED that **Ewar Avidan Ramirez-Rivas** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 11, 2024, 2:00 PM**.  
DATE: May 15, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance  
Reply should be received by **July 11, 2024**

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK  
**Kaleigh Lawson** DEPUTY CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83976

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J142707-02-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
RECINOS, CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER  
MORENO, KATHERINE v.  
RECINOS-LOPEZ, EDWIN  
KINNEY, SOPHIA

The object of this suit is to:  
CUSTODY FOR CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER RECINOS

It is ORDERED that the defendant **RECINOS-LOPEZ, EDWIN** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 22, 2024 9:10 AM 3G**.  
DATE: May 16, 2024

SR CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83975

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Pamela Hall Richards, COMPLAINANT**  
vs. **Cl. No.: 2024-06189**  
**Errol Michael Richards** DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is not being found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served OR OTHER: Unable to locate contact and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows:  
**Errol Michael Richards**  
8130 McCauley Way  
Aurmount 1413  
Lorton, VA 22049  
Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before **18th day of July, 2024** after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.  
ENTERED: May 16, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK  
By: **Kaleigh Lawson** DEPUTY CLERK  
Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance  
Reply should be received by **July 18, 2024**  
**Katherine Martell**  
Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant  
10521 Judicial Drive  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-385-0668

June 6,13,20 & 27, 2024  
AD#84386

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462557-01-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
CRUZ-TORRES, MIGUEL TORRES ORELLANA, FLORENTINA v.  
PAYEZ CRUZ, MIGUEL REINALDO

The object of this suit is to:  
DETERMINE CUSTODY OF MIGUEL CRUZ-TORRES

It is ORDERED that the defendant **PAYEZ CRUZ, MIGUEL REINALDO** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 22, 2024 2:40 PM 3E**.  
DATE: May 14, 2024

JO CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83987

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462533-03-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
AYALA RIVERA, WILBER ALVARO

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD AND TERMINATE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-283.

It is ORDERED that **DINA ESMERALDA RIVERA** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **December 9, 2024 1:30 PM**.  
DATE: June 3, 2024

**Sene Nigatu** CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462532-03-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
AYALA RIVERA, LEVI ANTONIO

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD AND TERMINATE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-283.

It is ORDERED that **DINA ESMERALDA RIVERA** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **December 9, 2024 1:30 PM**.  
DATE: June 3, 2024

**Sene Nigatu** CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84619

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1464347-01-00-02-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
RAYMONDO SANCHEZ, JUAN SANCHEZ CETO, TERESA v.  
RAYMONDO BRITO, JORGE JACINTO

The object of this suit is to:  
PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND ORDER FOR FACTUAL FINDING FOR JUANA E RAYMONDO SANCHEZ

It is ORDERED that the defendant **RAYMONDO BRITO, JORGE JACINTO** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 1, 2024 2:00 PM 3B**.  
DATE: May 15, 2024

JO CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83974

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

**PHYLLIS MAY STURGES, Plaintiff,**  
v. **Case No.2024-7542**  
**DAVID ALAN STURGES, Defendant.**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is not being found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served OR OTHER: Unable to locate contact and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows:  
**Errol Michael Richards**  
8130 McCauley Way  
Aurmount 1413  
Lorton, VA 22049  
Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before **18th day of July, 2024** after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.  
ENTERED: May 28, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK  
By: **Kaleigh Lawson** DEPUTY CLERK  
Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance  
Reply should be received by **July 18, 2024**  
**Katherine Martell**  
Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant  
10521 Judicial Drive  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-385-0668

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
AD#84386

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462539-05-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
GOMEZ RIVERA, NELCY ROSIO

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) IS/ARE ABUSED AND/OR NEGLECTED AND TO ENTER AN ORDER TERMINATING PARENTAL RIGHT PURSUANT TO 16.1-283 VA. CODE.

It is ORDERED that **UNKNOWN FATHER** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **October 11, 2024 9:00 AM**.  
DATE: June 4, 2024

**Sene Nigatu** CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84621

I ASK FOR THIS: VIRGINIA FAMILY LAW CENTER, P.C.  
By: **Faye K. Carroll** (VSB No. 40931)  
SHARIE REYES ALBERS (VSB No. 23009)  
STEPHEN D. KLEIN (VSB No. 32343)  
Counsel for Plaintiff  
4041 University Drive, Suite: 103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Telephone: (703) 865-5839  
Facsimile: (703) 865-5849  
fca@virginiafamilylawcenter.com

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84621

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1463113-01-00-02-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
BUSTILLO TABORA, JOSELINE v.  
BUSTILLO TABORA, ALBA DAMARIS

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD AND TERMINATE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-283.

It is ORDERED that the defendant **PEREZ ALCANARA, JULIA ANTONIO** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 18, 2024 10:20 AM 3A**.  
DATE: May 13, 2024

**JO CLERK**

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83880

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462532-03-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
AYALA RIVERA, LEVI ANTONIO

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD AND TERMINATE RESIDUAL PARENTAL RIGHTS PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-283.

It is ORDERED that **DINA ESMERALDA RIVERA** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **December 9, 2024 1:30 PM**.  
DATE: June 3, 2024

**Sene Nigatu** CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84619

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1464347-01-00-02-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
RAYMONDO SANCHEZ, JUAN SANCHEZ CETO, TERESA v.  
RAYMONDO BRITO, JORGE JACINTO

The object of this suit is to:  
PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND ORDER FOR FACTUAL FINDING FOR JUANA E RAYMONDO SANCHEZ

It is ORDERED that the defendant **RAYMONDO BRITO, JORGE JACINTO** appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before **July 1, 2024 2:00 PM 3B**.  
DATE: May 15, 2024

JO CLERK

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83974

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

**PHYLLIS MAY STURGES, Plaintiff,**  
v. **Case No.2024-7542**  
**DAVID ALAN STURGES, Defendant.**

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is not being found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served OR OTHER: Unable to locate contact and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows:  
**Errol Michael Richards**  
8130 McCauley Way  
Aurmount 1413  
Lorton, VA 22049  
Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before **18th day of July, 2024** after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.  
ENTERED: May 28, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK  
By: **Kaleigh Lawson** DEPUTY CLERK  
Written Answer may be filed in lieu of Court appearance  
Reply should be received by **July 18, 2024**  
**Katherine Martell**  
Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant  
10521 Judicial Drive  
Suite 300  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
703-385-0668

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
AD#84386

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1462539-05-00  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
GOMEZ RIVERA, NELCY ROSIO

The object of this suit is to:  
TO HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-282.1, DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF THE CHILD(REN) IS/ARE ABUSED AND/OR NEGLECTED AND TO ENTER AN ORDER TERMINATING PARENTAL RIGHT PURSUANT TO 16.1-283 VA. CODE.

It is ORDERED that **UNKNOWN FATHER** appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before **October 11, 2024 9:00 AM**.  
DATE: June 4, 2024

**Sene Nigatu** CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84621

I ASK FOR THIS: VIRGINIA FAMILY LAW CENTER, P.C.  
By: **Faye K. Carroll** (VSB No. 40931)  
SHARIE REYES ALBERS (VSB No. 23009)  
STEPHEN D. KLEIN (VSB No. 32343)  
Counsel for Plaintiff  
4041 University Drive, Suite: 103  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Telephone: (703) 865-5839  
Facsimile: (703) 865-5849  
fca@virginiafamilylawcenter.com

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84621

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT  
520 King Street,  
Room 307  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No. CL-2023-16168  
FROM: **Elizabeth Valentina Hercules Vasquez** (CURRENT LEGAL NAME OF CHILD)  
TO: **Elizabeth Valentina Vasquez** (NEW NAME REQUESTING)

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
The reason for this cause is to obtain a change for minor child. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Natural Parent in the above-entitled cause is not being found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and last known mailing address of Natural Father/Mother is as follows:  
**Elvin Hercules Carvajal**  
420 Veritas St,  
Nashville, TN 37211

Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Natural Parent shall appear here on or before **11th day of July, 2024** after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.  
ENTERED: May 16, 2024

**JO CLERK**

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83968

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
520 King Street,  
Room 307  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No. CL23002406  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**Michelle Teresa Clarke v. Prahlad Singh**

The object of this suit is to:  
Plaintiff prays that the court grant a divorce from the defendant on the basis of the grounds that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since January 1997.

It is ORDERED that **Prahlad Singh** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 15, 2024**.  
DATE: May 20, 2024

**Jackie Garcia** Clerk

June 6,13, 20 & 27, 2024  
AD#84238

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
520 King Street,  
Room 307  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No. CL24001615  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**Raquel Hualpa Cordova v. Amador Antonio Lopez Coton**

The object of this suit is to:  
Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the grounds that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since April, 2011.

It is ORDERED that **Amador Antonio Lopez Coton** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 8th, 2024**.  
DATE: May 14, 2024

**Jackie Garcia** Clerk

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83969

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

Circuit Court  
520 King Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001707  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**Ruth Noemy Melara Arias v. Erik Rigoberto Zamora Diaz**

The object of this suit is to:  
Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the grounds that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since January, 2010.

It is ORDERED that **Erik Rigoberto Zamora Diaz** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 29, 2024**.  
DATE: June 4, 2024

**Jackie Garcia** Clerk

June 13,20 & 27, 2024  
July 4, 2024  
AD#84585

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court  
520 King Street,  
Room 307  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001646  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**Raul Loza Coria v. Marleni Mamani Calle**

The object of this suit is to:  
Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the grounds that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since July, 2007.

It is ORDERED that **Marleni Mamani Calle** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 15th, 2024**.  
DATE: May 23, 2024

**Jackie Garcia** Clerk

June 6,13,20 & 27, 2024  
AD#84242

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317,20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court  
520 King Street,  
Room 307  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL22002396  
Commonwealth of Virginia, in re  
**Medhanie Ghebrekidan v. Senait Teklemariam**

The object of this suit is to:  
Plaintiff be granted a divorce from the defendant on the grounds that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation and without interruption for a period of one year since January 2013.

It is ORDERED that **Senait Teklemariam** appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before **July 8th, 2024**.  
DATE: May 14, 2024

**Jackie Garcia** Clerk

May 23 & 30, 2024  
June 6 & 13, 2024  
AD#83972

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Alexandria

ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316,  
-317



**TO OUR READERS:** The Washington Times printed the incorrect Fun & Games in Wednesday's editions. Fun & Games for June 12 is printed below. Today's Fun & Games is on B11.

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

**JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU**  
**Rating: Gold**  
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:**

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

MELBA OFFS ITRAS  
ATOLL KILT NOME  
CANAL BLUR TYPE  
HIGHWAYEXITRAMP  
OLE RYE POOL  
JOE CAPE PTS  
APRON NOTE BAIT  
PLAYGROUND SLIDE  
BOSS EURO LONER  
STP AUNT VET  
BBL S SEE ASP  
THELEANINGTOWER  
RARE BOCA INANE  
ERRS LEEK NORSE  
KEYS ELSE GREEN

**NEWSDAY CROSSWORD**  
By Mark McClain, Edited by Stanley Newman

**Out of Sight**  
**ACROSS**  
1 Male singing voice  
5 Payroll tax letters  
6 Catch with a  
93-Down  
14 Beetle Bailey dog  
15 Strong smell  
16 Started a poker pot  
17 Largest continent  
18 Infamous Roman emperor  
19 Bring together  
20 People sending unsigned valentines  
23 \_\_\_ for granted (presumed)  
24 Identical  
25 GOP opponent  
27 Word like "people" or "peanuts"  
32 Place with parking spaces  
35 Snack on  
39 San Juan, Puerto \_\_\_  
40 Unidentified benefactors  
44 Great joy  
45 Male singing voice  
46 Golfer's peg  
47 Methodical procedure  
50 Pro hoops league: Abbr.  
52 Small plateau  
59 New Delhi's nation  
59 Uninvolved business co-owners  
54 Farther down  
55 No higher than  
56 Sci-fi saucers, for short

**DOWN**  
1 Be a braggart  
2 On a cruise  
3 Butter in a box  
4 Flew high  
5 Typeface selection  
6 Concept  
7 Thick strings  
8 Pleasing smell  
9 Wreath of victory  
10 Vampire novelist Rice  
11 Mix with a spoon  
12 Studio's sound stages  
13 Tribute in verse  
21 Foe  
22 Little rascal  
26 Keeping quiet  
28 Big coffee dispenser  
29 Very funny person  
30 Land size measure  
31 Misplace  
32 Falls behind  
33 Merely  
34 Tips of boots  
36 "Ready or \_\_, here..."  
37 Signal to start  
38 QVC alternative  
41 After-tax  
42 Title for Quixote  
43 Moon's path  
48 Come out of hiding  
49 Fellows  
51 Once-a-year magazine  
53 Cram tightly  
54 Orchard fruit  
56 Robinson Crusoe creator  
57 Presses, as pants  
58 Worthwhile trait  
59 A few  
60 Triumphant cry  
61 Camera glass  
62 Keep \_\_\_ (persist)  
63 Rodeo accessory  
64 Young boy

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**JUMBLE**/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek  
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.  
NRILE  
MUPEL  
SOCOHY  
RSUDOH  
Ans. here: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Answers tomorrow)

**RUBES**/Leigh Rubin  
Amazon Primeval  
AWESOME! MY NEW FIRE STARTER KIT!

**IN THE BLEACHERS**/Steve Moore  
"I don't care if it's dark! Get in there!"

**B.C.**/Mastroianni & Hart

SQUAK!  
TAX  
SO... BIRDIE ON 4?  
VERY FUNNY.

**BOUND & GAGGED**/Dana Summers

I KNOW DOCTORS SAY TO EAT LOTS OF COLORS, BUT M&M'S DON'T COUNT.

**THE BUCKETS**/Greg Cravens

WE NEED A SPACESHIP CONSOLE RIGHT HERE.  
OH? WHAT WOULD IT DO?  
WORK THE THERMOSTAT, TV AND ALARM SYSTEM, KEEP OUR SCHEDULES, ANSWER THE PHONES, WORK THE LIGHTS...  
YOU DON'T WANT ONE?  
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THEY'RE NOT ALREADY STANDARD.

**DOGS OF C-KENNEL**/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

WOW, KENNY IS IN A RATHER HYPER MOOD TODAY.  
OH, TUCKER!  
ALTHOUGH THE PROTON PARTICLES OF LIGHT FROM THE SUN TAKE 8.3 MINUTES TO REACH EARTH, TO THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, IT FEELS INSTANTANEOUS.  
I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP.  
NICE WORK, TUCK.

**CARPE DIEM**/Niklas Eriksson

HAVE CAUGHT ODYSSEUS

**DICK TRACY**/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis

"...AND I GET BLACKMAIL, SAM."  
BUT NO HARD EVIDENCE, YET ON WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN DOING THE BLACKMAILING...

**STRANGE BREW**/John Deering

WELL YOU CAN JUST GO TO...UH-YOU CAN GO STRAIGHT TO...UM-AAH...  
THE DRAWBACKS OF ARGUING IN HELL

**BOTTOM LINERS**/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum

"I respect Biden's honesty...that's why I plan to vote for him 10 times."

**THE FLYING McCOYS**/Glenn & Gary McCoy

...AND FOR OUR REAL-GOOD STORY THIS EVENING...THE ALIEN INVADERS HAVE SHOWN A GENUINE LOVE FOR PUFFERS.

**PARDON MY PLANET**/Vic Lee

WE'VE BEEN MARRIED OVER FORTY YEARS, SO WE'RE LONG PAST THE NOSTALGIA OF KEEPING EVERYTHING WE EVER MADE WHOOPIE ON.

**BLISS**/Harry Bliss

EVER WONDER SOMETIMES IF HAVING NOSES IS WORTH IT?

**LOLA**/Todd Clark

OK, MAX! I'LL TOSS THE FRISBEE.  
THEN YOU RUN AND JUMP HIGH IN THE AIR AND CATCH IT!  
JUMPING IS ABSOLUTELY NOT NECESSARY. GRAVITY HAS GOT ME COVERED.

**ADAM @ HOME**/Rob Harrell

NICK'S TALK SHOW...  
SO, WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?  
I'M...HELPING DAD CLEAN THE GARAGE.  
OH, WOW. WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH ADAM NEWMAN?  
IT'S FINE. HE PLAYS A LOT OF BAD '80S MUSIC WHILE WE WORK.  
AMAZING! LET'S TAKE A QUICK DIAPER CHANGE BREAK.  
THIS RARELY HAPPENS ON KIMMEL.

**ROSE IS ROSE**/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

ARE YOU READY FOR A PROFESSIONAL, CORKY?  
YES, JIMBO! MAKE THE CALL!  
UH-HUH...SOME SPUTTERING...CLUNKS...  
AND LOTS OF THUDS.  
TORQUE WRENCH.  
IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.

**HERB & JAMAAL**/Stephen Bentley

I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY...  
"DEATH IS NOT THE END."  
YOU MEAN BECAUSE LIFE CONTINUES AFTER YOU REACH THE PEARLY GATES?  
NO...  
'CAUSE YOU STILL HAVE TO DISPOSE OF THE REMAINS AND HIDE THE EVIDENCE.

**BROOM-HILDA**/Russell Myers

I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ADVANCED SOCIETY!

**POOCH CAFE**/Paul Gilligan

UGH! WET DOG SMELL.  
UGH! KITTY LITTER SMELL.  
UGH! DOG BREATH.  
CAT FOOD BREATH.  
EVER WONDER SOMETIMES IF HAVING NOSES IS WORTH IT?



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

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:

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

BASS	FICA	LASSO
OTTO	ODOR	ANTED
ASIA	NERO	UNITE
SECRET	ADMIRERS	
TAKEN	SAME	
DEM	PLURAL	
LOT	MUNCH	RICO
ANONYMOUS	DONORS	
GLEE	TENOR	TEE
SYSTEM	NBA	
MESA	INDIA	
SILENT	PARTNERS	
LOWER	UPTO	UFOS
AMONG	FLIP	AONE
DENSE	FETE	LEST

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Not About You

ACROSS

- 1 Disney evil uncle  
5 Brooklynese pronoun  
8 Nissan rival  
13 Racing sled  
14 Oscar actor Jared  
15 Declares formally  
16 City near Santa Barbara  
17 As far as  
18 Tibetan clerics  
19 Remark of the speechless  
22 Conversation ender  
23 Pianist José  
24 "Is!" rebuttal  
25 Gaudy jewelry  
29 Depend (on)  
30 Low grade  
31 Cereal topper  
33 Evaporated  
35 With 36-Across, Whitman work  
36 See 35-Across  
40 Ornate tapestry  
43 Angler with a net  
44 Ancient marauder  
46 Authentic, from the German  
48 Guitar decoration  
49 Big lug  
50 Actress Stone  
52 Not a hard throw  
53 Rodgers & Hammerstein musical  
58 Pop star from London  
60 Not very many  
61 Any of 60-Across with the same birthday

- 62 Finnish tech giant  
63 Metals in the raw  
64 Superlative prefix  
65 Prescribed portions  
66 Tattletale  
67 Vino center

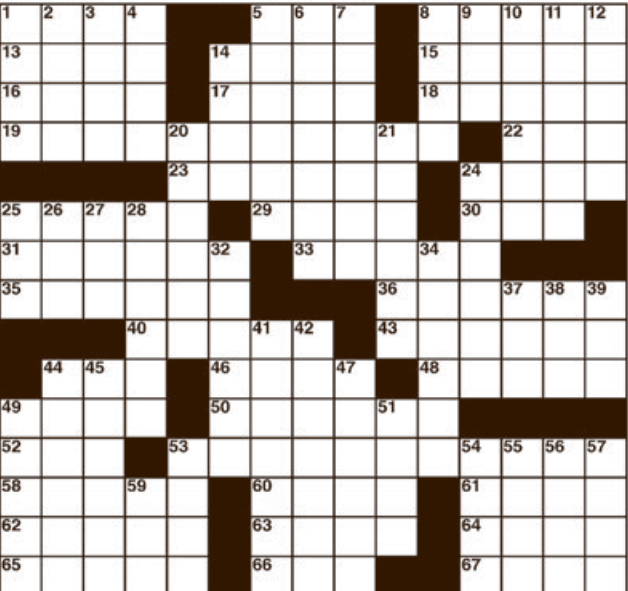
DOWN

- 1 Leisurely  
2 Fictional scary St. Bernard  
3 Food thickener  
4 Senate majority leader in 2010  
5 Chicago university  
6 Clad (in)  
7 Strip of Windows icons  
8 Buck or bull  
9 Director DuVernay  
10 Horror movie menace  
11 First name of "The Rock"  
12 Something good to have  
14 Singer Lorna  
20 Sicilian sir  
21 Insignificant amounts  
24 Introduces to the mix  
25 Propelled pellets  
26 South Asian language  
27 Country quarters  
28 Japanese Winter Olympics city  
32 All over again  
34 Looking closely at  
37 Blow up, for short

www.stanxwords.com

By Fred Piscop, Edited by Stanley Newman

- 38 What clover might cover  
39 Swelter  
41 Miss much  
42 Colombian singing star  
44 Jinx  
45 Kazakhs' neighbors  
47 Serving dish support  
49 Short on flavor  
51 What a teller might be asked for  
53 Blends in bags  
54 Shade close to turquoise  
55 Pencil remnants  
56 Reduce intake  
57 Crucifix letters  
59 Be situated



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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: [tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords](http://tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords)

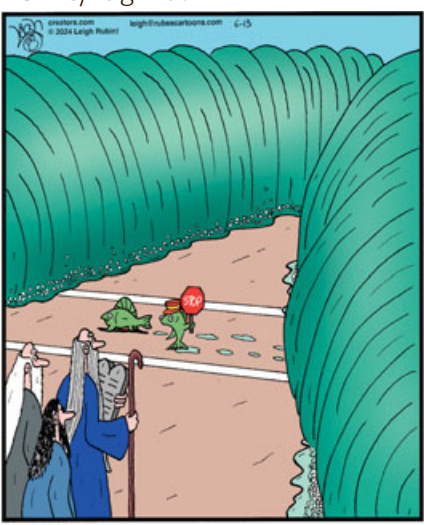
JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

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

FEAGF  
KOREB  
SURLAP  
FLITEU

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINER PLUME CHOOZY SHROUD  
Answer: The students were beginning to understand addition and subtraction — MORE OR LESS

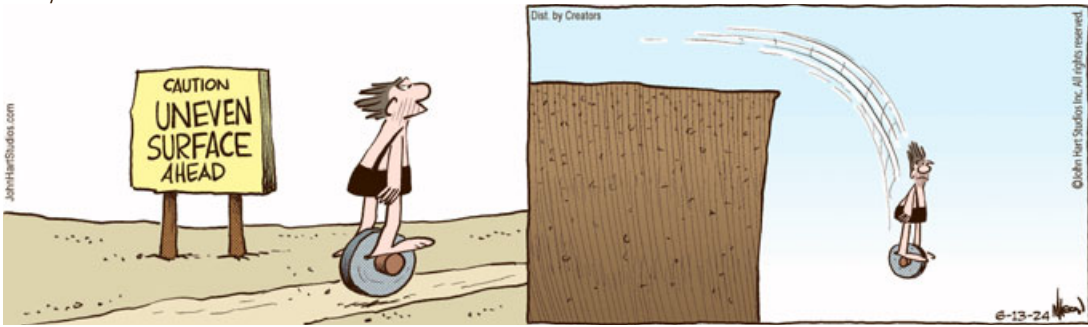
RUBES/Leigh Rubin



IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



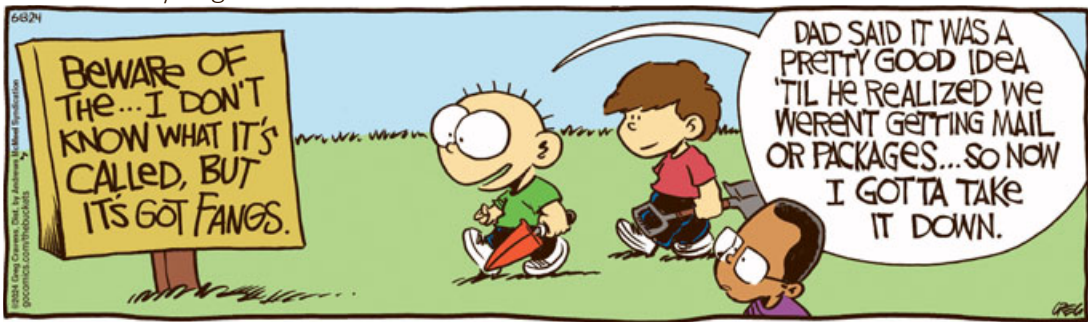
B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis



STRANGE BREW/John Deering



BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



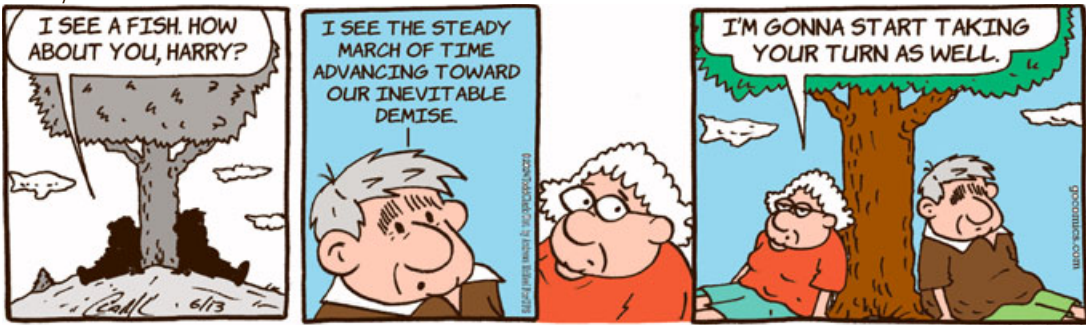
PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss



LOLA/Todd Clark



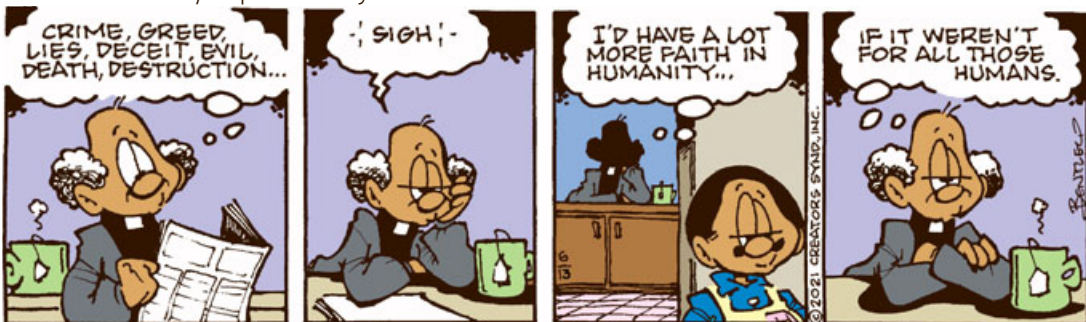
ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



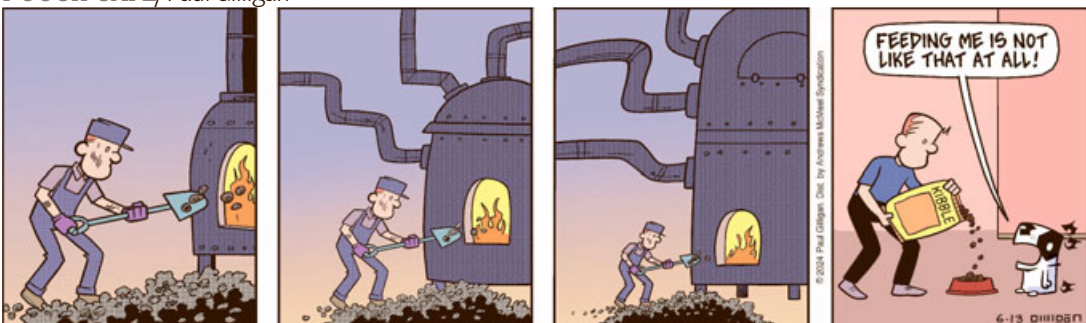
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POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan





Attractions

# Refurbishing a classic park attraction

## Remodeled ride for first Black Disney princess opens soon

By Mike Schneider  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, FLA. | A new attraction starring the first Black Disney princess is opening at the company's U.S. theme park resorts, and some Disney followers see it as a fitting replacement to a former ride based on a movie that contained racist tropes.

The new theme park attraction updates Tiana's storyline from the 2009 animated film "The Princess and the Frog" and is opening this year in the space previously occupied by Splash Mountain. The water ride had been themed to "Song of the South," a 1946 Disney movie filled with racist clichés about Black Americans and plantation life.

Tiana's Bayou Adventure keeps Splash Mountain's DNA as a log-flume ride, but it's infused with music, scenery and animatronic characters inspired by the film set in 1920s New Orleans. It opens to the public this month at Walt Disney World in Florida and at Disneyland in California later this year.

"For little Black girls, Tiana has meant a lot. When a little child can see somebody who looks like them, that matters," said Neal Lester, an English professor at Arizona State University, who has written about Tiana.

Disney's announcement that it would transform its longstanding Splash Mountain ride into Tiana's Bayou Adventure was made in June 2020 following the social justice protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody. At the time, Disney said the change had already been in the works. But it came as companies across the U.S. were reconsidering or renaming decades-old brands amid worldwide protests.

The "Song of the South" film is a mix of live action, cartoons and music featuring an older Black man who works at a plantation and tells fables about talking animals to a White city boy. The film has been criticized for its racist stereotypes, and hasn't been released in theaters in decades and isn't available on the company's



Princess Tiana (left) helps Walt Disney World President Jeff Vahle preview Tiana's Bayou Adventure at the Magic Kingdom on Monday. The ride — redeveloped from the original Splash Mountain — opens June 28.

streaming service Disney+.

Disney has been criticized for racist tropes in films made in earlier decades. The crow characters from the 1941 film "Dumbo" and the King Louie character from 1967's "The Jungle Book" were viewed as Black caricatures. The depiction of American Indians in the 1953 movie, "Peter Pan," and the Siamese cats — often deemed as Asian stereotypes — from the 1955 film "Lady and the Tramp" also have been derided.

Not everyone is sold on the belief that opening a ride based on Tiana's story solves Disney's past problematic racial depictions.

By refurbishing Splash Mountain into Tiana's Bayou Adventure instead of dismantling the attraction completely, Disney has linked "Song of the South" with "The Princess and the Frog." Both are fantasies that are silent, for the most part, on the racial realities of the segregated eras they depict, said Katie Kapurch, an English professor at Texas State University who has written widely about Disney.

"We might see the impulse to replace rather than dismantle

or build anew as a metaphor for structural racism, too," Ms. Kapurch said. "Again, this is unintentional on Disney's part, but the observation gets to the heart of how Disney reflects America back to itself."

Imagineers who design the Disney rides are always attempting to look at the attractions with fresh eyes and ways to tell new stories "so that everybody feels included," said Carmen Smith, a senior vice president for Disney Parks, Experiences and Products.

"We never want to perpetuate stereotypes or misconceptions," Ms. Smith said Monday. "Our intention is to tell great stories."

It's also important for the Imagineers to tell a variety of stories for its global audience, said Charita Carter, a senior creative producer at Walt Disney Imagineering.

"Society does change, and we develop different sensibilities," Ms. Carter said. "We focus our stories differently depending what our society needs."

The transformation from Splash Mountain to Tiana's Bayou Adventure is one of several

recalibrations at the entertainment giant's theme parks for rides whose storylines are considered antiquated or offensive.

In 2021, Disney announced it would remodel Jungle Cruise, one of the original Disney parks' rides, which had been been criticized in years past for being racially insensitive because of its depiction of animatronic Indigenous people as savages or headhunters. Three years before that, Disney eliminated a "Bride Auction" scene, deemed offensive since it depicted women lining up for auction, from its "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride.

It's a positive step for Disney to have a ride based on a character from a background not seen in previous versions of Disney princesses replacing an attraction from a film steeped in racist tropes since "representation matters," Mr. Lester said.

"Disney is first and foremost about money and getting people into the park, and you can make money, still have representation and be aware of social justice history and make everyone feel like they belong there," Mr. Lester said.

## News of pregnancy likely to make waves among group

**DEAR ABBY:**  
For a long time, I thought I was unable to have children. My doctors told me it would be a difficult process and my chances were low due to chronic illnesses I live with. I have accepted this fact, because having a family was the reason I divorced in my late 20s. My ex didn't want it, and I did, though I didn't yet know I was likely infertile. Learning this afterward was devastating, but I pivoted into recovery with grit and faith.

I'm in my 30s now, and my closest friends are women who have infertility issues as well, or who have chosen to be childless. I have built a happy life that includes travel, an MBA, an exciting career and the bandwidth to be a support system for others. I've made my health a priority and I have learned to love my body.

Well, to our great surprise, my boyfriend and I learned we were pregnant six weeks ago. So far, all the signs point to this being a healthy, viable pregnancy, and we couldn't be more thrilled. We are both ready for this next big adventure. But knowing how painful birth announcements can be for people with infertility, I'm reluctant to share my happy news.

As I near my second trimester and my life begins to change shape to welcome our miracle, I wonder how I can compassionately let my community know in a way that honors what we've been

through together. I'm worried about bitterness during a time of so much sweetness. — ELATED IN THE

**MIDWEST**  
**DEAR ELATED:** My warmest congratulations to you and your boyfriend. Because you realize that it may upset some of your friends, forgo a big bash announcement and confide in a few of your closest friends. Knowing human nature, I'm sure the news will spread quickly.

Those who love you will be happy for you. Those who can't bring themselves to feel that way will fade into the background, but please do not feel guilty for your happiness, because you are entitled to it.

**DEAR ABBY:** How do you handle an annoying neighbor who refuses to use his own trash and recycle bins and sneaks his discards into mine on pickup day? He lives alone, as do several women in the neighborhood, and he's not helpful to anyone but himself, in good weather or bad. The only time he speaks to me is when he has a complaint about overgrown shrubs or trees near his property. What should I say? — ANNOYED NEIGHBOR IN NEW MEXICO

**DEAR NEIGHBOR:** Say you do not want him to put anything in your garbage cans. If he continues to do it, you may have to buy cans you can lock. Of course, you will have to unlock them for pickup, but it may be worth the trouble to ensure your garbage is "pristine."

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 13).** You know just how you want to grow. This year expands your range professionally and personally. Your sense of community is strong and you'll be a part of truly remarkable groups who make a difference in the world. More highlights: a climb, a prize and a speech. You'll adopt new domestic routines and enhance your health and image in the process. Aquarius and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 42, 31, 11 and 12.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** There are many ways to ask for what you want. Because hints and implications only work for people on your wavelength, these kinds of subtle winks and nudges are a good way to find out who fits the category.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You'll encourage a loved one along their individual path, even when it doesn't nicely coincide with what you want for or from the person. Love is selfless like that, wanting what's best for the other person even if it doesn't benefit you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Transformations are always happening, though often too slowly to detect over the course of a day. Keep thinking about what you really want and who you want to be. In the words of Shakespeare, "We know what we are, but not what we may be."

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Because you're doing so well, it may seem greedy to want to be doing even better. But why shouldn't you try for the very best? Anyone who doesn't understand this is not completely on your side. Make sure that you are also on your own side.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** What seems personal to you is also part of a problem affecting much of society. For this reason, it's important to talk about what you're going through. You could be helping many others by simply

acknowledging the issues.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll notice the small things

that detract from the overall effect, but you are wise not to stay in the narrow focus because problems will be solved from a high-level perspective. The small stuff will resolve on its own.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** No one opposes you on purpose, but nonetheless, you will have opposition. Nothing is inevitable about this. You don't have to crash, scrape or stall in impasse. Stay alert. Grace is possible.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Beware of the person who makes no mistakes, as they might be covering them up. Everyone is flawed, but not everyone admits it. You'll benefit from time spent with people who openly discuss mistakes and invite assistance.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** There's no need to drum up excitement; it will come on its own accord. In the meantime, loved ones appreciate your solidity and consistence. You can be counted on. Your moods and attitudes are predictable in the best kind of way.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A decision must be made soon, but not today. Let the ideas affecting your decision mellow in your mind a bit. The conventional way won't be the best fit for you. Times are different, and you're different, too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You are open to a variety of outcomes as long as they favor the people you care about. Because it's people, not outcomes, that are your top priority. You care about how they feel and their well-being.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** To focus on things that don't really matter in the bigger scheme of life is the very definition of pettiness and a sign of immaturity, but it is also quite forgivable and you might even benefit from expecting this from the inexperienced.

CREATORS.COM

## 'Dune: Part Two' concludes sci-fi epic in 4K

Director Denis Villeneuve concluded his cinematic adaptation of Frank Herbert's influential science-fiction novel with the release of the continuation of his masterpiece in **Dune: Part Two (Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, rated PG-13, 166 minutes, 2.39:1 aspect ratio, \$39.98)**, now available in the ultra-high-definition format.

The second movie by Mr. Villeneuve sends viewers back to the dangerous desert planet of Arrakis, the home of the major source of the addictive spice drug melange.

Specifically, the story picks up after House Harkonnen's army — led by the grotesquely evil Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgard) and dunder-headed nephew Beast Rabban (Dave Bautista) — has successfully attacked and wiped out House Atreides, including killing its leader, Duke Leto Atreides (Oscar Isaac).

His son Paul (Timothée Chalamet) escapes with his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), a Bene Gesserit (part of a witchlike, highly religious, political faction), and they plot a course of revenge, including challenging the distant Emperor (Christopher Walken).

This can occur only if they are accepted and embrace the culture of the planet's indigenous residents, a secretive and stealthy group of tribes called the Fremen.

Paul, now referred to as Usul Muad'Dib, must also accept his leadership role as the



"Mahdi" ("the one who will lead us to paradise"), inspire the Fremen and make Arrakis free and green.

The cast shines throughout. Given plenty of room to define their characters, the actors include Josh Brolin as former Atreides military leader turned smuggler Gurney Halleck; Austin Butler as the baron's psychotic, bloodthirsty nephew Feyd-Rautha; Zendaya as Paul's Fremen love interest Chani; and Javier Bardem as Fremen tribe leader Stilgar.

Mr. Villeneuve's vision exceeds expectations in both scope, technical merit, costuming and extreme, riveting action.

The engorged plot of the pair of films (roughly five hours in total) manages to intelligently condense but simply explain the complex themes and characters of the original 896-page novel.

His two-part "Dune" epic may go down as one of the best science fiction films of all time.

**4K in action:** The crisp presentation culled from a 4K master format continues to bring to the screen a living undulating desert concocted by Mr. Villeneuve and cinematographer Greig Fraser with moments such as the eclipsed sun offering a glowing orange

tint to the environments, or a sandstorm enveloping the emperor's silvery ball-shaped landing craft hovering above the Harkonnen's stronghold on Arrakis.

Viewers also get a welcome expose of the massive terrain-shifting sandworms, including watching Paul finally getting a chance to ride one in a visually spectacular scene replete with waves of sand granules pelting the hero as his anchors grip the creature.

Other reference quality spotlights include the Harkonnen's army attacking a mountainside in fiery, exploding splendor; a gladiatorial arena filled with chalky, pale-skinned Harkonnens watching Feyd-Rautha slaughter opponents; and Fremen blasting the enemy's fluttering ornithopters (dragonfly-looking attack helicopters) out of the sky as they flame down into the sand.

**Best extras:** Warner Bros. offers a collection of eight short production featurettes for those accessing the 4K disc, but owners will find the real bounty when using the included digital code and watching via a favorite streaming service, including Fandango, Amazon Prime Video or iTunes, for a couple of hours of bonus content.

The online collection starts

with a 20-minute look at the cast and 11 key characters including Paul, all supplemented by interviews with the actors and director.

Viewers then get a quartet of encyclopedic, multimedia-style segments with narration called Filmbooks. They cover Dune mythology such as House Corrino, the Bene Gesserit reverend mother, the importance of water on Arrakis and the coming of the messiah to the desert planet.

A trio of inside-the-film segments (around five minutes each) follows, covering the fights between Gurney and Beast, Paul and Feyd-Rautha, and a focus on the effects and combat during the spice harvester attack sequence.

Featurettes that overlap the disc include another hour's worth of information on production design, shooting locations, costuming, music, sound effects, the cinematic magic behind riding a sandworm, bringing to life the Freeman language of Chakobsa, a look at Beast's flying hopter (a bumble bee-shaped troop transport), and Mr. Butler transforming into Feyd-Rautha.

All include interviews with key crew and cast such as Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Fraser, production designer Patrice Vermette, producers Mary Parent and Tanya LaPointe, special effects supervisor Gerd Nefer, prop master Doug Harlocker, dialect coach Fabien Enjalric, visual effects supervisor Paul Lambert, costume designer Jacqueline West and makeup effects artist Love Larson.



NFL

**Commanders QB Daniels says he is not a star yet**

**ASHBURN** | Jayden Daniels has received plenty of praise from teammates and coaches since the Washington Commanders took him second overall in the draft and offseason workouts began. That does not mean he thinks he has already arrived as an impact player in the NFL.

“I ain’t a star quarterback yet,” Daniels said at minicamp Wednesday. “I got a long way to go. I’m a rookie.” Daniels threw the football well enough at LSU to win the Heisman Trophy in his final college season and become a top pro prospect. He did catch some heat for throwing a slightly wayward first pitch before a Washington Nationals game over the weekend. He chalked it up to another chance to experience being a central figure in the sports scene in the area. Interactions with fans have also so far been positive. “Everybody is telling me good luck, praying for a good season,” Daniels said, “Obviously they’re excited, excited with the new regime out here.”

NHL

**Capitals reach deal to buy CapFriendly salary details site**

The Washington Capitals reached a deal to buy CapFriendly, a popular site that has long been a source of NHL salary information and will soon no longer be available to other teams or fans.

General manager Brian MacLellan confirmed the agreement in a statement Wednesday. The site will continue to operate independently through the draft in late June and start of free agency before the transaction is completed in the middle of the summer.

Assistant GM Don Fishman has been an expert in managing the salary cap for several years, helping Washington win the Stanley Cup in 2018 and reach the playoffs 15 times in the past 17 seasons. The Capitals believe this will give them an even bigger boost in navigating the finances of the game. “This strategic move will provide the Capitals organization with the ability to digest, present and analyze both our internal and league-supplied data,” MacLellan said. “We anticipate that this acquisition will significantly enhance and integrate the various branches of our hockey operations department, allowing us to strengthen our management, scouting, analytics and player development, in addition to augmenting our salary cap and contractual applications.”

SOCCER

**Messi says Inter Miami will be ‘my last club’**

Lionel Messi says Inter Miami will be “my last club.” The 36-year-old World Cup champion isn’t thinking about joining an Argentine club to write the last chapter of playing career. “I think Inter Miami is going to be my last club. Today I think it is going to be my last club,” the Argentina captain said in an interview with ESPN. Messi is preparing with his national team to compete in the Copa América in the United States. Argentina is the defending champion. The former Barcelona star led Argentina to the World Cup title in Qatar in 2022. He has won a record eight Ballon d’Or awards and left European football last year to join the MLS club. Messi’s contract with Inter Miami is set to expire at the end of the 2025 season.

NFL

**Saleh, Jets have ‘no issue’ with Rodgers’ minicamp absence**

**FLORHAM PARK, N.J.** | Aaron Rodgers’ absence is no big deal as far as Robert Saleh and the New York Jets are concerned.

The quarterback not being present for the team’s two-day minicamp made headlines when Saleh announced Tuesday neither Rodgers nor edge rusher Haason Reddick would attend and both were unexcused absences that were subject to fines.

Saleh said Rodgers was away for a previous commitment that “is very important to him” — and something he told the team about ahead of time. Meanwhile, Reddick’s absence appears to stem from a contract issue.

On Wednesday, Saleh was asked specifically whether Rodgers was aware the team would term his absence as “unexcused.”

“I talked about it yesterday, but Aaron and I are on the exact same page,” Saleh said. “There’s no issue between Aaron — or his teammates, for that matter.”

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

SWIMMING

**Court tosses Thomas’ challenge to transgender policy**

**By Valerie Richardson**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

There may be a transgender athlete at the 2024 Paris Olympics, but it won’t be Lia Thomas.

The former University of Pennsylvania swimmer’s dream of competing for a women’s Olympic medal was effectively dashed after an international panel dismissed Thomas’ case against the World Aquatics transgender-eligibility standards.

The Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport said Thomas lacks standing to challenge the 2022 policy update, which bars male-to-female transgender swimmers from competing in elite women’s events if they have undergone male puberty.

The group also created an “open” category for “swimmers of all sex and genders identities,” but no swimmers registered for the category at its October debut at the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup in Berlin.

Thomas, 25, who transitioned from male to female in college, called the court’s decision “deeply disappointing.”

“Blanket bans preventing trans women from competing are discriminatory and deprive us of valuable athletic opportunities that are central to our identities,” Thomas said in a statement to ESPN. “The CAS decision should be seen as a call to action to all trans women athletes to continue to fight for our dignity and human rights.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said Wednesday that its panel of three judges dismissed transgender swimmer Lia Thomas’ request for arbitration with the World Aquatics governing body, dashing hopes of competing in this summer’s Olympics.

World Aquatics cheered the court’s decision, calling it “a major step forward in our efforts to protect women’s sport.”

“We remain committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to uphold the principles of inclusivity in aquatic sports and remain confident that our gender inclusion policy represents a fair approach,” said the authority based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Thomas expressed interest in competing in women’s Olympic swimming after winning the 500-yard freestyle at the 2022 NCAA women’s swimming

championships, becoming the first male-born athlete to win an NCAA Division I women’s title.

The Ivy League athlete’s success fueled a global debate over fairness versus inclusion in women’s sports that led some global athletic governing bodies to tighten their transgender eligibility criteria, including World Aquatics and World Athletics, the track-and-field authority.

Because Thomas has not competed internationally and is not registered with World Aquatics, the court concluded that the swimmer “lacks standing to

NHL

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“There’s nobody in Vancouver cheering for the Oilers just because we all live in Canada,” said Ferraro, who’s broadcasting the final for ESPN. “Edmonton is Edmonton’s team. And it is a source of pride. We’d like to get, I’m sure, in this country a Stanley Cup champion again, but it is city by city.”

Kulak, who also played for Calgary and Montreal, nonetheless hopes the rest of Canada is pulling for the Oilers. Jason Demers, who played briefly for Edmonton last year before retiring, is a bit biased based on his personal connections but would like to see the run of 29 consecutive U.S.-based Cup winners come to an end.

“We haven’t had a Cup in 30 years,” said Demers, who is working the series for NHL Network. “Why wouldn’t we be cheering for them as a country? Because the U.S. has all but dominated it. Obviously, there’s Canadian players (who have won), but having a team, an organization and everything, I think it’s really good for us.”

The 1993 Montreal Canadiens remain the last team from Canada to hoist the Cup. That capped a 10-year run with eight Canadian champions, including the Oilers winning it five times from 1984-90.

As recently as 2004-07, one of the NHL’s seven Canadian teams made the final three straight times, but it’s been rare ever since. Vancouver lost to Boston in seven games in 2011, Montreal in five to Tampa Bay in 2021 — and that’s it.

Hall of Famer Mark Messier captained

the final title team of the Oilers dynasty after Wayne Gretzky was traded to Los Angeles, a move that set the stage for U.S. Sun Belt expansion and made it possible for teams such as the Florida Panthers to thrive in so-called nontraditional markets. The native of St. Albert, just outside Edmonton, marvels at how far hockey has reached beyond Canada but is still glad there are so many home-grown players in this final.

“The stories are rich with great Canadian players who’ve played the game,” said Messier, who is providing analysis for ESPN during the final. “Being a Canadian on a Canadian team in the finals (looking for the first championship) since 1993, it’s incredibly exciting. We as Canadians have always had a lot of pride at the international level.”

At the international level, Canada has

challenge the policy and the operational requirements in the framework of the present proceeding.”

The U.S. Olympic Team Trials are scheduled for June 15-23 in Indianapolis, but Thomas’ name is not on the “psych sheets” released Tuesday that list the competitors in each event.

Others applauding the court ruling included Riley Gaines, who tied for fifth with Thomas in the 200-yard freestyle at the 2022 championships.

“Great news! Lia Thomas won’t be able to compete in women’s category at the Olympics or any other elite competition,” she posted on X. “He has just lost his legal battle in Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling. This is a victory for women and girls everywhere

British developmental biologist Emma Hilton, a critic of male-born athletes in female sports, called the court’s ruling “procedural” but nonetheless “great news for women.”

“Thomas is a male swimmer wishing to compete in the female category,” she posted on X. “Thomas shot through the ranks—who would have predicted? — after switching to the female category in NCAA. World Aquatics’ policy-making process was exemplary: transparent, informed, constructive.”

British Olympic swimming medalist Sharron Davies said: “Good, no elite female athlete will have to lose out to this mediocre 6’4ft male swimmer.”

• *This article was based in part on wire service reports.*

CARDS

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among the major league leaders with 19 homers, said he likes Houston reliever Ryan Pressly using Johnny Cash’s “God’s Gonna Cut You Down” as his warmup music. Growing up in Tampa, Florida, he also remembers Tantric’s “Down and Out” as the walk-up song for former Rays

infielder Evan Longoria.

“That kind of always stuck with me,” Tucker said.

Soto, 25, has used Daddy Yankee’s “HOT” as his walk-up music in the past. He was traded from San Diego to New York in December, and he went with Jay-Z’s “Empire State of Mind” for his home debut with the Yankees.

“For me, it’s gotta be something that gets you hyped, it gets you really

thinking about what you’re gonna do,” Soto said. “Something that, you want the fans to get crazy but you want yourself to get crazy, too.”

Soto has been using “Estamos Arriba” by Bad Bunny and Towers, a song he said he got from Milwaukee Brewers shortstop Willy Adames.

Asked for one of his favorite combinations involving another player, Soto pointed to Charlie Blackmon with the

Colorado Rockies. Blackmon uses “Your Love” by The Outfield.

“I don’t know the name of the song, but I know it’s just like, I just know it says that, ‘I just wanna (use) your love tonight,’ and whenever they say love they just turn it off and the whole crowd goes, ‘To-night!’” Soto said. “It was so good. I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is great.’ I think that’s the only guy who can have that walk-up song.”

GOLF

From page **B14**

think having a shorter club in is very important. But then into the greens, you’ve got to play very, very conservatively. I think just hitting the greens itself is of high value.”

There have been plenty of illustrations of that.

Jordan Spieth was practicing to the right of the par-3 ninth green on Wednesday afternoon, aiming toward a coaster the size of a golf hole on the left side. He pitched it hard, well past the hole to the top of a small ridge so that it would roll back toward his target. And it did just that, but it was a foot too far to the left and before long had run all the way off the green.

“This is one you putt,” Spieth told Sam Burns. Instead of walking over to his bag for a putter, Spieth used the

left-handed putter of alternate Josh Radcliff and gave it a whack.

It can be hard to keep track of golf balls, especially when a practice group has four players, with balls rolling all over the place, some of them winding up off the green.

Such is the nature of Pinehurst No. 2. And while the course is more than a decade removed from its restoration project that returned sandy areas with native plants instead of thick rough, it’s the greens that give the course its character.

And then it’s up to the USGA to make conditions so demanding that only the most highly skilled players can handle them. Such is the essence of the U.S. Open.

John Bodenhamer, the chief championships officer at the USGA who is in charge of setting up the course, said 2014 data showed 70% of the players hit the fairway, but only 56% of them

hit the green.

“It is all about these magnificent upside-down cereal bowl putting greens,” Bodenhamer said. “They are difficult to hit, and we need to get the right firm and fast conditions around them.”

And when players miss the greens — from the fairways, sometimes from putts that roll off the crowned edges — there are options.

“I was joking with my caddie, ‘We should probably get our putter checked.’ I’ve never swung so hard on my putter for nine holes, just trying to get up and down the mounds,” PGA champion Xander Schauffele said. “There’s certain spots where you feel like you have to hit it really hard. You hit it too hard, you putt it off the other side of the green.”

“Leaving yourself in a really good position is A-1,” he said. “But even when you do leave yourself in a good position, the hole is not over yet. It’s sort of half the battle.”

Clark won last year at Los Angeles

Country Club with a score of 10-under 270. That week also started with Schauffele and Rickie Fowler setting a U.S. Open record of 62 in the opening round some 10 minutes apart.

No one expects that kind of scoring this week. Bryson DeChambeau, who studied physics at SMU, cited Boo Weekley, who barely studied at all during his brief time at Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College.

“Pinehurst is no joke. This is a ball-striker’s paradise,” DeChambeau said. “You have to hit it in the middle of the greens. And this is a Boo Weekley move, but the center of the green never moves. So I’ll try to focus on that this week.”

There is more trouble than just the greens. The sandy areas - “sandscapes” is what they are called in these parts - have wiregrass bushes the size of basketballs speckled across the terrain. Hit in there and hope - it could be a clean lie, it could be trouble.

WEST

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that award was given out, and still the only time it went to a player on the losing team — and was selected as part of the NBA’s 75th anniversary team.

“He was absolutely my basketball sage: wise, loyal and so much fun,” Clippers owner Steve Ballmer said. “If you were in his presence, you felt his competitiveness and his drive. He cared about everything and everyone.”

West was general manager of championship teams with the Lakers, helping build the “Showtime” dynasty. He also worked in the front offices of the Memphis Grizzlies, the Golden State Warriors and the Clippers. Among his many highlights as an executive with the Lakers: he drafted Magic Johnson and James Worthy, then brought in

Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O’Neal to win more titles.

His basketball life bridged generations: West played with Elgin Baylor, whom he called “the most supportive and the greatest player of that era,” and Wilt Chamberlain. Even in the final years of his life, West was considered basketball royalty. He routinely sat courtside at Summer League games in Las Vegas, often watching many games in a day while greeting long lines of players — LeBron James among them — who would approach to shake his hand.

James, on social media, offered his condolences: “Will truly miss our convos my dear friend! My thoughts and prayers goes out to your wonderful family! Forever love Jerry! Rest in Paradise my guy!”

West is 25th on the NBA’s all-time scoring list. The league has never confirmed that West was in fact the model for its logo — a player dribbling a ball,

set against a red-and-blue background — but has never said otherwise, either.

“While it’s never been officially declared that the logo is Jerry West,” Silver said in 2021, “it sure looks a lot like him.”

West is still the NBA Finals’ all-time leader in total points. He played in the title series nine times with the Lakers; his teams went 1-2 against the New York Knicks, and 0-6 against the Celtics. “Those damn Celtics,” he often said. West also hit one of the most famed shots in finals history, a 60-footer at the buzzer of Game 3 of the 1970 series between the Knicks and Lakers to force overtime.

Michael Jordan said he considered West “a friend and mentor — like an older brother to me.”

“I valued his friendship and knowledge,” Jordan said. “I always wished I could have played against him as a

competitor, but the more I came to know him, I wish I had been his teammate. I admired his basketball insights and he and I shared many similarities to how we approached the game.”

A native of Chelyan, West Virginia, West was known as a tenacious player who was rarely satisfied with his performance. He grew up shooting at a makeshift outdoor basket, often out there until his fingers bled. He became the first high school player in state history to score more than 900 points in a season, averaging 32.2 points in leading East Bank High to a state title.

Basketball, he would later reveal, was his therapy.

In his 2011 memoir, “West by West: My Charmed, Tormented Life,” West chronicled a lifelong battle with depression. He wrote that his childhood was devoid of love and filled with anger as a result of an abusive father.



NHL

Canadian-rich Oilers eager to snap nation’s 31-year Stanley Cup drought

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDMONTON, ALBERTA | Connor McDavid on the ice is an electrifying, must-watch sensation fit for the big screen. Off the ice, he does not think there is much “Hollywood” to him.

“Just a Canadian kid,” McDavid said. A Canadian kid who has led the Edmonton Oilers to the Stanley Cup Final, four wins away from bringing hockey’s hallowed trophy back to the birthplace of the sport for the first time since 1993 - four years before he was born. While fans in Winnipeg, Calgary

and Vancouver might not be rooting for a hated rival to win it all, the Oilers have as good a case as anyone in recent NHL history to get this close to ending the drought and truly call themselves Canada’s team.

The Edmonton roster has the highest makeup of Canadians of any Cup finalist over the past two decades. The lineup that takes the ice Thursday night for Game 3 in front of a raucous crowd starved for a championship could include as many as 16 of the 20 natives on the team.

“It gives you extra motivation, extra passion to do it for your country,” said

defenseman Brett Kulak, who along with goaltender Stuart Skinner is from Edmonton itself. “Very few guys on the team who aren’t Canadian. We all kind of can get behind that.”

Longtime NHL forward Ray Ferraro, a native of Trail, British Columbia, who now lives in Vancouver, argued before the series that Canada as a country is not getting behind the Oilers. He likened it to the New York Yankees reaching the World Series and not counting on much support from American League fans elsewhere.

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CANADIAN PRESS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

“I’m just a Canadian kid,” Oilers star Connor McDavid said in leading Edmonton to the Stanley Cup Final and four wins away from bringing hockey’s hallowed trophy back to the birthplace of the sport for the first time since 1993, four years before he was born.

GOLF

A cut above the rest



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rory McIlroy hits from the native area on the third hole during a practice round for the U.S. Open on Wednesday in Pinehurst, North Carolina. The U.S. Open begins Thursday.

By DOUG FERGUSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PINEHURST, N.C. | Pebble Beach has the Pacific Ocean. Oakmont is the brute with its church pew bunkers. Pinehurst No. 2 has the cereal bowls turned upside down.

The greens at Pinehurst No. 2 are the signature of this Donald Ross course that hosts the 124th U.S. Open starting on Thursday. They go by any variety of names — upside-down cereal bowls, inverted saucers, turtlebacks or domes. Whatever they’re called, they are

Pinehurst course stands apart as a U.S. Open test due to signature greens

universally regarded as daunting, particularly for a U.S. Open already known as the toughest test in golf.

“You hit it on the green, the hole is not done,” defending champion Wyndham Clark said.

He played when he arrived on Monday and was amazed and how firm and fast they already were, calling them

“borderline” in terms of fairness. And this was still three days out from the opening tee shot on Thursday.

Perhaps that’s why in three previous U.S. Opens at Pinehurst No. 2, a total of four players finished the championship under par. One was Payne Stewart, thanks to that famous 15-foot par putt on the final hole to beat Phil Mickelson in

1999 at 1-under par.

Martin Kaymer took advantage of the rain-softened conditions and brilliant golf to win in 2014 at 9 under, with Rickie Fowler and Erik Compton eight shots behind and the only other players in red numbers for the week.

“I’d say in general, I think the best players play aggressively off the tee and conservatively into the greens. I think this course is basically that strategy — just on steroids,” Viktor Hovland said. “I

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NBA

Hall of Fame player, exec Jerry West dies at 86

Served as NBA logo inspiration

By TIM REYNOLDS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerry West, who was selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times in a storied career as a player and executive, and whose silhouette is considered to be the basis of the NBA logo, died Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles Clippers announced.

He was 86. West, nicknamed “Mr. Clutch” for his late-game exploits as a player, was an NBA champion who went into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1980 and again as a member of the gold medal-winning 1960 U.S. Olympic Team in 2010. He will be enshrined for a third time later this year as a contributor, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver called West “one of the greatest executives in sports history.”

“He helped build eight championship teams during his tenure in the NBA - a legacy of achievement that mirrors his on-court excellence,” Silver said.

West was “the personification of basketball excellence and a friend to all who knew him,” said the Clippers, who employed him as a consultant for the last seven years. West’s wife, Karen, was by his side when he died, the Clippers said.

West was an All-Star in all 14 of his NBA seasons, a 12-time All-NBA selection, part of the 1972 Los Angeles Lakers team that won a championship, an NBA Finals MVP when the Lakers lost to the Boston Celtics in 1969 — the first year



West

» see WEST | B13

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

‘Signature Tunes’ card sheds light on Soto’s walkup music

By JAY COHEN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Juan Soto has been on baseball cards with Ken Griffey Jr., Mike Trout, Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and Xander Bogaerts.

But this one, well, this one was a little different for Soto. This one had the New York Yankees slugger and Puerto Rican musician Daddy Yankee.

“It surprised me. It really struck me when they told me. ... It came over to my house, and I saw myself with Daddy Yankee,” Soto said. “It was just great. I mean, the Big Boss! It’s just great.”

The Soto-Daddy Yankee collaboration is one of two “Signature Tunes” cards that are part of the latest edition

of Topps Series 2 as the famed card company shines a light on players and the artists behind their walk-up music.

Houston Astros slugger Kyle Tucker and rap superstar Travis Scott are on the other “Signature Tunes” card. Scott is from Houston, and he gave the Astros pairs of his Air Jordan 1 Low Olive shoes last year.

There are 25 autographed versions of each duo in Series 2, which was released on Wednesday.

“You don’t see too many of those, you see them typically with another player or something like that,” Tucker said. “But to be on a card or baseball card with someone that kind of has a further reach outside of baseball is, I think, pretty cool.”

Daddy Yankee and Myke Towers — another Puerto Rican musician — also are included in the set’s “First Pitch” insert cards, highlighting the ubiquitous pregame ritual.

Clay Luraschi, the head of product development for Topps, said music, particularly walk-up, and for pitchers, warmup music, has become an important part of the game.

“What we really do is, we think about, OK, the core of it for Series 2 or Series 1, our flagship, it’s baseball,” he said, “but what are the other things that are like surrounding the game that fans are also interested in? And that’s where we come up with these other ideas that we feel like, you know, fit into the world of the game.”

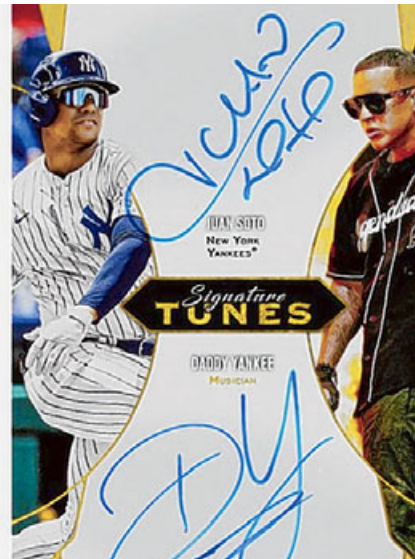
Tucker was placed on the 10-day injured list on Friday with a bruised right shin. But he has been using Rich Homie Quan’s “Walk Thru” as his walk-up song before his plate appearances. He has used Scott’s “Escape Plan” in the past.

“Walk Thru” had been Michael Brantley’s walk-up tune before he retired in January after finishing his career with the Astros.

“It was kind of somewhat of a tribute to Mike’s career and stuff. And I just kind of kept it going,” Tucker said. “Really the first game I got a couple of hits when I used it, so I just kept rolling with it and it’s done pretty well for me.”

The 27-year-old Tucker, who is

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TOPPS VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yankees slugger Juan Soto is paired up with musician Daddy Yankee for the Topps Series 2 “Signature Tunes” card, shedding a light on his walkup music.