



LONELY AT THE TOP: President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have lost the confidence of many Democrats. Chatter has been rising about Mr. Biden's electability and replacing Ms. Harris with Hillary Clinton on the presidential ticket.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Amid talk to ditch Biden, DNC forges ahead to seal nominations

Early virtual vote to fend off dramatic switch at convention

By **SUSAN FERRECHIO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Forget replacing President Biden or Vice President Kamala Harris on the ballot.

The Democratic National Committee could formally nominate both candidates in a virtual vote ahead of the Aug. 19-22 convention in Chicago, which would lock in the ticket amid intraparty panic.

The chatter about replacing Mr. Biden has grown with sinking poll

numbers that show him losing every battleground state, combined with near-daily instances of the 81-year-old president appearing mentally confused and physically feeble.

Some are suggesting that Democrats strengthen the ticket by booting Ms. Harris and replacing her with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The party's 2016 presidential nominee remains far more popular among Democrats than the vice president.

"Inarguably, a significant obstacle

to a Biden win is Kamala Harris, whose low popularity has not been improved by her lackluster performance as vice president," Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker wrote.

The DNC is planning a nominating process that will ensure that any chance of a Biden or Harris switcheroo will be all but impossible by the time delegates arrive in Chicago.

Early this month, the DNC advanced

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JUDICIARY

Judges bear recusal calls with politics in courts

Pressure comes from right, left

By **ALEX SWOYER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Calls for federal judges to recuse themselves from high-profile lawsuits have increased from the left and the right, and legal experts point to politics as the catalyst.

With Republican accusations of bias in former President Donald Trump's trials and Democratic allegations of ethics violations by Supreme Court justices, the judicial system has become rife with calls for recusal, court watchers say.

"The courts, in many ways, have become a battleground for politics that produces the kind of 'anything goes' sort of argument," said Elliot Minberg, senior fellow at the liberal People For the American Way.

"If you just listen to the public debate, there is a lot more discussion of this judge or that judge should recuse," said Curt Levey, president of the conservative Committee for Justice.

Pro-Trump conservatives and Republicans have called for the recusal of New York Supreme Court Judge Juan Merchan from Mr. Trump's hush money trial and of U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan from his federal election interference case.

Mr. Trump's attorneys twice tried to persuade Judge Merchan to recuse himself before the trial in Manhattan. They argued that his daughter works for a Democratic-aligned marketing firm that profits from targeting and criticizing the former president.

His attorneys said the daughter's firm

» see **JUDGES** | A5

BRUSHING UP ON HISTORY



Mae Green (left) of the District helped Kim Boddie of Bowie, Maryland, look for the name of a friend's relative inscribed on the African American Civil War Memorial on Wednesday during Juneteenth, a sacred holiday in many Black communities.

SECURITY

Houthis prove resilience in Red Sea battle against world's strongest military

By **MIKE GLENN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It hardly seems a fair fight: a ragtag rebel movement in one of the world's poorest countries, already locked in a draining civil war, taking on the world's strongest military power and its allies that are determined to protect a waterway critical to global commerce.

Months into the clash, however, Yemen's Houthis show no signs of going away.

The Iran-backed movement has launched almost 200 attacks against

military and commercial ships passing through the Red Sea since November. The U.S. and Britain have responded with multiple retaliatory airstrikes deep into Yemen and have spent more than six months downing swarms of Houthi drones and rockets heading toward merchant vessels.

Despite the massive U.S. and international naval coalition arrayed against them, the Houthis, formally known as Ansar Allah, are continuing their barrage and creating a vast disruption in international shipping patterns. The U.S. and its allies have launched some 450

strikes against Houthi positions along the Yemeni coastline, including some of the most intensive sorties in the past few weeks. Some compare the campaign to the arcade game Whac-A-Mole.

"The Houthis have suffered some losses, but they retain the ability to obstruct maritime shipping in the Red Sea," Thomas Juneau, an associate professor who focuses on the Middle East at the University of Ottawa Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, recently told the website Responsible Statecraft.

» see **HOUTHIS** | A5

COLORADO

Boebert has big primary lead in her new district

Republican voters dismiss scandals

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

HIGHLANDS RANCH, COLO. | Rep. Lauren Boebert's lead-up to her reelection campaign was nothing short of disastrous, yet the pistol-packing, theater-vaping, district-hopping Republican is still the candidate to beat.

A poll released this month by Florida-based Kaplan Strategies shows that 40% of voters surveyed plan to support Ms. Boebert in the primary election Tuesday to represent Colorado's 4th Congressional District. None of her five Republican rivals drew more than 5%.

Dick Wadhams, a former Colorado Republican Party chairman and Republican political consultant, said the congresswoman's actual support may be slightly below 40%, but she is still the clear front-runner.

"I don't know if it's 40, but I do believe she's at least in the 30s, and in that large field — there are six candidates total — it really does work to her favor with her name-ID advantage," Mr. Wadhams said. "And she's got a pretty big financial advantage, too. I think those two things really benefit her."

Given that the district is the most conservative in the state, the winner of the Republican primary becomes the instant favorite for the general election

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Boebert

ENTERTAINMENT

'STAR WARS' FANS SURRENDER

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Disney CEO Bob Iger apparently wasn't referring to the "Star Wars" franchise when he said he wanted to focus on entertainment instead of messaging.

"Star Wars: The Acolyte," the eight-part series streaming on Disney+, is being pilloried as a "new low" for Disney, "a queer Marxist vandalization of the myth of Star Wars" and an "embarrassment to the entire franchise."

Even its defenders acknowledge its woke tilt. Drew Taylor, film critic for TheWrap, called it "arguably the gayest 'Star Wars' yet by a considerable margin.

'Lesbian space witches' break franchise loyalty

It's pretty gay. Let's be honest."

At the center of the drama is Episode 3, which aired last week. The segment featured what the LGBTQ publication Them described as a "coven of lesbian space witches" who appear to use the Force to conceive the twins Mae and Osha without any male involvement.

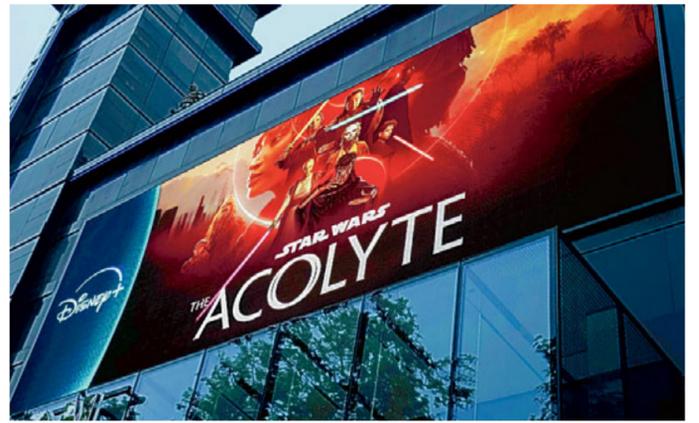
The episode also turns the whole good-versus-evil foundation of "Star

Wars" on its head with lines such as: "This isn't about good or bad. This is about power and who has the right to use it."

"The Acolyte" intensified the battle between hard-core "Star Wars" fans who accused Disney of destroying the canon to score diversity points and feminists who cheered the series as a much-needed rejuvenation of a moribund franchise.

So far, the "Star Wars" fandom is carrying the day. The series registered an 84% critics' rating but an abysmal 14% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes

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FAR, FAR AWAY: "The Acolyte," a series airing on Disney+, has registered a 14% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes based on more than 10,000 reviews, even lower than the 21% notched by the 1978 "Star Wars" TV holiday special.

POLITICS

Democrats struggle to counter Trump-led criticism of Biden. A3

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Putin, Kim sign pact pledging mutual aid against aggression. A8

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LOVING THAT CONSPIRACY

The nation appears to be quite taken with whispered tales, political possibilities and provocative legends. Yes, there is a poll about this, and here it is.

“With political fervor in the United States reaching unprecedented heights ahead of the 2024 elections, it’s set to be one heck of a roller coaster. Amidst the chaos and debates, one phenomenon stands out — Americans’ love for conspiracy theories. These aren’t just whispers in the shadows; they’re bold assertions and speculative tales woven into the fabric of American political discourse,” according to Oddsmedia.com — an online site brimming with sports odds, data, information, expert picks and assorted insights.

And what do people actually believe? Here are some results from the survey, verbatim from the source.

“Four in five Americans acknowledge belief in conspiracy theories. Republicans (35%) are more prone to embrace conspiracy theories than Democrats (14%) and independents (20%),” the site said in its analysis of the findings.

“The top five states voted most likely to be the homes of conspiracy theorists are Florida, California, Texas, Alabama and New York,” it said.

Interestingly enough, this research found that a sizable 83% of Americans believe conspiracy theories affect public opinion about politics. It revealed that 90% of respondents agreed the theories “sway voters’ perceptions of candidates,” 83% say they “influence public opinion” and 57% agreed that conspiracy theories are “orchestrated by foreign entities.”

The survey also found that the top three conspiracy subjects in the political realm are “government involvement,” “health and medical manipulation” and “secret societies with global influence.”

In fourth place was “historical revisions and



ASSOCIATED PRESS

According to Oddsmedia.com, 4 in 5 Americans acknowledge that they believe in conspiracy theories, including those that involve politics.

hidden truths,” followed by “extraterrestrial and cosmic conspiracies” — the last being a favorite here at Inside the Beltway.

Do conspiracy beliefs influence choices made in the poll booth? The survey reveals that 90% of respondents feel that conspiracy theories can “sway voters’ perceptions” of candidates.

“Social media platforms wield significant influence in amplifying conspiracy narratives, one in five Americans report encountering election-related conspiracy theories very frequently or frequently across their social media platforms. Facebook and Twitter emerge as the primary channels for spreading such narratives,” the site analysis said.

Find this source at oddsmedia.com/us

NIGHTSTAND READING

Here’s a newly published book with a well-informed source.

Author Tom Sloan served for more than 25 years as a special agent with the Secret Service and remains an active member of the Secret Service’s NY/NJ Electronic Crimes Task Force. Mr. Sloan has already written two books with compelling names — “Bratva’s Rose Tattoo” and “Guardians of Democracy.”

Mr. Sloan’s new book, “Bratva’s Revenge,” arrived on Tuesday boasting a plot filled with mob

discord, revenge and the proverbial clear and present danger.

“Revenge is sweet, but for whom?” the author asks.

The 370-page book was published by Archway Publishing, a division of Simon & Schuster, and is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

BIDEN’S FOODFLATION FACTOR

Yes, there is much sticker shock in grocery stores at the moment. There is also a political dynamic at work, however — and one analysis is blaming the White House.

“Bidenflation’s hunger games: Soaring food prices leave Americans struggling. Foodflation matters,” said an editorial from the Tippinsights editorial board — which is associated with the Tipp Poll.

“President Biden seems to be evading any discussion about the ‘foodflation’ crisis that has emerged under his watch. When confronted with such questions, he often deflects, attributing it to his predecessor, corporate greed, or shrinkflation. His responses are, at best, dismissive and, at worst, misleading. Even the media, seemingly biased in favor of Biden, appears reluctant to ask food-related questions and hold the president accountable,” the editorial said.

Former President Donald Trump did a better job, it said.

“Prices of cereals and bakery products climbed by 4.6% during Trump’s term, whereas they surged by 25.6% under Biden’s administration. The previous administration saw a 9.7% increase in meat, poultry, fish, and eggs prices. However, these prices have skyrocketed under President Biden, jumping by a significant 21.3%,” the editorial said.

“Dairy and related products experienced a 4.5% increase during Trump’s presidency, while the increase is already 15.8% under Biden. The cost of nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials increased by 6.3% under Trump versus a 21.7% rise during Biden’s term,” it said.

And the price of dining out became 12.7% more expensive during Mr. Trump’s time in office, compared with a 22.1% increase under Mr. Biden.

See more food panic numbers in the Poll du Jour at the column’s end.

FOXIFIED

In the week of June 10-16, Fox News once again bested cable news rivals in prime time and through the day — and also aired 87 of the top 100 weekly news telecasts. In prime time, Fox News drew 2.1 million viewers, and the daytime audience numbered 1.3 million, according to Nielsen.

“The Five” led the competition with an average of 3.1 million viewers that week, followed by “Jesse Watters Primetime” (2.8 million viewers), “Hannity” (2.4 million), “The Ingraham Angle” (2.2 million) and “Special Report With Bret Baier” (2.1 million).

Late-night kingpin Greg Gutfeld averaged 2.4 million viewers, besting CBS’ “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert” (an audience of 1.9 million), ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live” (1.8 million), NBC’s “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” (1.2 million) and Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” (512,000).

With audiences ranging from 1.5 million to 1.8 million, Fox News daytime favorites — “Outnumbered,” “The Faulkner Focus,” “America’s Newsroom,” “America Reports” and “The Story” — all drew larger audiences than ABC’s “GMA3” (1.3 million), NBC’s “Today With Hoda and Jenna” (1.3 million) and CBS’ “The Talk” (1.2 million).

POLL DU JOUR

- 62% of U.S. adults are dining out less; 52% are buying store brands more often.
- 46% are cutting down on high-ticket items like meat.
- 41% are shopping at bargain stores.
- 33% are eating smaller portions; 23% are skipping meals.
- 21% have applied for federal or state assistance such as SNAP or WIC.
- 21% go to food banks; 14% grow their own vegetables.
- 9% say there has been no change in their food-related activities.
- 2% are not sure about the issue.

SOURCE: A TIPP POLL OF 1,910 U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED ONLINE MAY 29-31.

• Contact Jennifer Harper at jjharper@washingtontimes.com.

CAMPAIGN 2024

Old men chase clout: Biden, Trump teams create memes to reach preoccupied voters

By MEG KINNARD AND MICHELLE L. PRICE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whether it’s a grinning President Biden as “Dark Brandon” or Donald Trump’s face superimposed onto a scene from HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” both presidential campaigns this year have embraced digital memes, the lingua franca of social media.

The campaigns of the Democratic president and Republican former president enthusiastically create and share content trying to shape the narratives around both men. Mr. Biden’s campaign even recently posted a job seeking a manager of meme pages.

With tens of millions of people using social media as a primary information source, the battle of memes could affect who wins in November. Many Americans say they’re not excited about a Biden-Trump rematch and growing digital habits make it harder to reach people through traditional spaces for political advertising like print publications or television.

Memes can be an edgier, faster way to get a political point across than a block of text or a lengthy video. But online misfires have hurt candidates and created major controversies.

Mr. Biden’s campaign has created its own stockpile of photos and videos for distribution on official Biden-related accounts, but the campaign is also

looking to partner with third-party creators.

By developing relationships with outside creators, campaign officials hope that some undecided or as-yet unpersuaded voters will glom onto Biden’s message if they receive it from another account they’re already following.

“We’re trying really hard to run a digital program that is authentic to our candidate, who is probably not spending all his time on Twitter — actually, he definitely is not,” said Clarke Humphrey, senior adviser for digital persuasion for the Biden campaign.

Mr. Trump, a prolific user of social media even before he ran for president, has long embraced memes and shared them, as have his very-online

political aides and some of his adult children. His oldest son, Donald Trump Jr., shares them frequently and refers to himself on Instagram as a “Meme Wars General.”

Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung issued a statement calling out Biden’s videotaped flubs of speeches and moments of apparent confusion: “Joe Biden is a walking, talking meme every time he shuffles into public view.”

Mr. Biden’s team, meanwhile, has embraced “Dark Brandon” — reappropriating a right-wing conspiracy meme that depicted the president as a menacing force and used a nickname, “Brandon,” that become an in-joke among conservatives for insulting him.



HOUSE RACES

Bowman roasted over Jewish photo ask

Rep. Jamaal Bowman is facing criticism in his Westchester, New York, district after a text exchange showed him asking a rabbi to send photos of them together so he could show he has Jewish friendships.

Jewish Insider reports the New York Democrat asked an unidentified rabbi during Mr. Bowman’s 2022 reelection campaign, “Do you have pics of us? So I can show the world I’m friends with Jewish People.”

“I was uncomfortable,” the rabbi said of the request, adding that he “kind of joked around with him about it.”

“I don’t want to be his court Jew,” he told Jewish Insider. “That wasn’t what I signed up for.”

The Washington Times reached out to Mr. Bowman’s campaign for comment.

Recent polls show the congressman trailing his primary opponent, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, by 17 points.

— Kerry Pickett

of Fox Corp., and his son CEO Lachlan Murdoch to “get that dog off” the board, referring to Mr. Ryan.

Mr. Ryan bashed Mr. Trump last week in an interview with Fox News’ Neil Cavuto, saying, “I do think character is a really important issue. If you put yourself above the Constitution, as he has done, I think that makes you unfit for office.”

— Mallory Wilson

HOUSE RACES

Democrat vows to unseat GOP’s Greene

Shawn Harris says he’ll “fight like hell” in his race against Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

The Georgia Democrat, fresh off a runoff election victory, vowed Tuesday to defeat Ms. Greene.

“I’m Shawn Harris. I defended our nation and its democracy for 40 years and retired as a brigadier general,” the candidate posted late Tuesday.

“I’m taking on that mission again: I’m now the official Democratic candidate facing MTG. I’m going to fight like hell to end the toxic career of Marjorie Taylor Greene,” he added.

It will be a tough race for Mr. Harris in a district that runs strongly Republican. Ms. Greene has held the seat since 2021.

— Mallory Wilson

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Biden, Trump campaign for Black votes

The Biden campaign hit former President Donald Trump on the Juneteenth federal holiday Wednesday for “hosting fraudulent Black voter outreach events” and launched a new ad aimed at Black voters.

The 60-second ad, titled “Our Spirit,” highlights the accomplishments of Black Americans.

The Trump campaign said in its Juneteenth statement that Mr. Trump wants “to advance the American dream for all people.”

“Today, we reflect on how far we have come as a nation,” said Janiyah Thomas, the Team Trump Black media director.

— Mallory Wilson



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Louisiana is now the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in public school classrooms. Opponents question the law’s constitutionality and warn lawsuits are likely.

LOUISIANA

Law requires Ten Commandments be posted in state public schools

Louisiana is now the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom.

The GOP-drafted legislation mandates that by 2025, a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in “large, easily readable font” be required in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities. Although the bill did not receive final approval from Republican Gov. Jeff Landry, the time for gubernatorial action — to sign or veto the bill — has lapsed.

Opponents question the law’s constitutionality, warning that lawsuits are likely to follow. Proponents say the purpose of

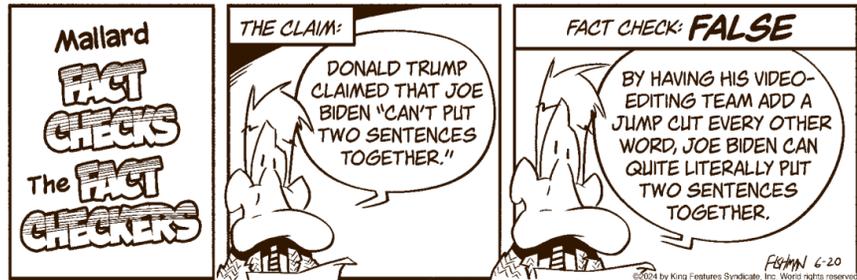
the measure is not solely religious, but that it has historical significance. In the law’s language, the Ten Commandments are described as “foundational documents of our state and national government.”

The law also “authorizes” — but does not require — displays of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence and the Northwest Ordinance in schools.

Not long after the governor signed the bill into law, civil rights groups and organizations that want to keep religion out of government promised to file a lawsuit challenging it.

— Associated Press

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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Politics

IMMIGRATION

Democrats struggle to counter Trump-led criticism of Biden

Shift border chaos focus from president to GOP contrast

By SETH McLAUGHLIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Democrats are still looking for a political defense against the border chaos unleashed under President Biden.

The latest strategy involves Democrats praising Mr. Biden for his recent executive actions and contrasting them with Republicans in Congress who scuttled legislation the Democrats claim could have improved the situation in a significant way.

On Wednesday, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, a top Biden ally, looked to shift the public's attention away from the president and onto the longstanding failure and "lack of courage" of congressional Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on a solution.

"This inaction that we continue to see to get any form of sensible immigration policy done is impacting all of us, because all of us in local jurisdictions deal with the consequences of this," Mr. Moore said Wednesday on "Fox & Friends." "I don't put blame on a singular political party."

The boiling concerns over border security once again landed on Mr. Moore's doorstep after police in Harford County announced over the weekend they had charged a 23-year-old illegal immigrant who entered the country on Mr. Biden's watch with the rape and killing of Rachel Morin, a mother of five who was killed on a hiking trail in August.

The high-profile killings of Americans by illegal immigrants

who entered the country after Mr. Biden took office are creating political problems for the president's reelection campaign — as well as Democrats across the country — including in states far away from the U.S.-Mexico border.

In recent interviews, Mr. Moore has tried to diffuse the political bomb by pinning the blame on Mr. Trump's opposition to bipartisan immigration legislation that Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma negotiated over months, only to see most GOP lawmakers line up against it because it would allow as many as 5,000 migrants to flood across the border daily.

Mr. Moore, however, turned elusive Wednesday after host Brian Kilmeade pointed out the legislation would not have



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore looked to shift the public's attention on the border problems away from President Biden and onto GOP opposition to a bipartisan deal.

prevented the illegal immigrant accused of killing Ms. Morin from entering the country in 2023.

In response, the governor

derided both parties in Congress, saying their stalemate over immigration is "allowing people in my state to become victims."

Mr. Trump and Republicans have been more direct, saying Mr. Biden's reckless policies have opened the door for illegal immigrants to rape, kidnap and kill Americans.

At a campaign rally in Wisconsin on Tuesday, Mr. Trump lamented the deaths of Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student who was allegedly killed by an illegal immigrant while jogging at the University of Georgia, and Ms. Morin.

"This monster should have never been allowed into our country, and if I was president he would never have been able to come in," Mr. Trump said of Ms. Morin's accused killer, sparking chants of "USA! USA!" "When I am elected we will begin removing these criminals

— these horrible people — from our midst and we are going to do it immediately."

Mr. Trump said the contrast is clear: "Joe Biden wants to be the president for illegal aliens, but I will be the president for law-abiding Americans."

Looking to dig himself out of a political hole, Mr. Biden recently released a proclamation seeking to curtail the number of asylum claims made at the U.S. border.

According to a YouGov/Economist survey released after Mr. Biden announced the move, the effort is not turning the tide: 64% disapprove of his handling of immigration and 29% approve.

Looking to stem the bleeding with his base, Mr. Biden this week announced a program that would make it easier for half a million illegal immigrants to receive green cards if they've lived in the U.S. for years and are married to citizens.

SENATE

'He'll have a lot of good choices'

Republicans hesitant to declare picks to be Trump's running mate

By LINDSEY McPHERSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

With four Senate Republicans on the shortlist to become former President Donald Trump's running mate, most of their colleagues are hesitant to declare a preferred vice presidential candidate.

Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Barrasso of Wyoming said Mr. Trump has a lot of good options to choose from, including Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Marco Rubio of Florida, Tim Scott of South Carolina and J.D. Vance of Ohio.

"I know the four of them who have won that short list very well, and I think each and every one of them would be a terrific vice president," Mr. Barrasso told The Washington Times.

Only two of the 10 Senate Republicans with whom The Washington Times spoke for this story named a preference among Mr. Trump's vice presidential contenders.

"Obviously I like Tim Scott, he's from my home state," South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham told The Times. "But he'll have a lot of good choices. I'll leave it up to him."

Sen. Mike Rounds, South Dakota Republican, also named Mr. Scott as his top recommendation, along with several others he would be happy to see picked.

"I think Tim Scott would be excellent," he said. "I think Marco Rubio would be very, very good. I think Tom Cotton would bring huge legitimacy to this in terms of his national defense policies and so forth. But any one of those three, I'd be very happy with."

Asked about leaving his colleague Mr. Vance off that list, Mr. Rounds said he doesn't know him that well.

Mr. Rounds talked up Mr. Scott the most, saying he considers him a friend and "a good person," and that the South Carolina Republican would bring "a new and a fresh perspective" to the ticket with "a unique personal story as well."

"He comes from a life of poverty. And they fought their way through because his mom wanted him to do better and demanded it of him," he said. "This is a really good personal story. And I think Tim tells it well. And it's clearly reflected in his values."

If Mr. Scott were picked and the GOP ticket won, Mr. Rounds would benefit from him leaving the Senate because



Considered to be on the shortlist to be the vice presidential running mate for former President Donald Trump are (clockwise from top left) Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Tom Cotton, Sen. J.D. Vance and Sen. Tim Scott. Many GOP senators are hesitant to declare a preferred candidate.

he would likely replace Mr. Scott as top Republican on the Banking Committee.

Mr. Rounds also complimented Mr. Rubio, with whom he serves on the Intelligence Committee.

"He's quick. He understands stuff. And he's got a great sense of humor," he said. "He lends credibility with regard to foreign policy. And on Intel, he sees the inside picture. That's very, very important for a vice president as well to have that background."

Several other GOP senators declined to weigh in with a preference but offered general thoughts about what Mr. Trump may want or need in a running mate.

Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said Mr. Trump's VP shortlist is full of "great names," all qualified for the position, so he should choose "whoever he likes and gets along with well."

"He's got to choose somebody who he can work with," the Missouri Republican said. "I think that's the main thing."

Sen. Mike Braun, Indiana Republican, expects Mr. Trump will pick someone largely aligned with his views, despite previous presidential nominees picking someone to share the ticket with who can appeal to a different part of the electorate.

"I think he's going to pick

someone who is going to be a good first lieutenant and they're on the same wavelength policy-wise and politically," Mr. Braun said. "I don't know that balancing the ticket out anymore is something that makes sense like it used to."

Likewise, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas speculated, as he phrased it, that Mr. Trump's standards for a running mate may be different than your typical presidential nominee.

"Traditionally — and I realize there's nothing traditional about where we are now — but traditionally the president would look at somebody who could broaden his appeal to other parts of the electorate," Mr. Cornyn said. "My sense of President Trump is his relationship may be the most important thing with the individual."

The idea of Mr. Trump picking a Republican senator for vice president appeals to Mr. Cornyn, who is running to succeed Mitch McConnell as Senate GOP leader.

"They would know how to work with us and get stuff done," he said.

Senators overall seemed to be rooting for their colleagues who are on the VP shortlist, but some questioned whether Mr. Trump's choice would make a significant difference in his race against President Biden.

"I'm happy for all my colleagues who want to serve in that capacity, but I don't think it matters a lot in the election who the vice presidential nominee is," said Sen. Jerry Moran, Kansas Republican.

However, Mr. Moran added that people may be interested in the vice presidential selection because of the age of the presidential candidates.

Mr. Trump, at 78, is only slightly younger than 81-year-old Mr. Biden, although more has been made of the Democrat's age than the Republican's. Vice President Kamala Harris is 59.

Most of the vice presidential contenders Mr. Trump is considering are at least a few decades younger than him. Mr. Vance is the youngest of the senators under consideration at 39, but he'll turn 40 before the November election. Mr. Cotton is 47, Mr. Rubio is 53 and Mr. Scott is 58.

The main consensus among GOP senators is that it's not worth trying to predict what Mr. Trump will do.

"I wouldn't sell my wedding ring and bet on anybody right now," said Sen. John Kennedy, Louisiana Republican. "This is President Trump. And he is a marketer of great experience and talent. And I have no idea who he's going to pick."

CAMPAIGN 2024

Biden ramps up his attacks on Trump as a 'convicted felon'

Signals shift toward tougher rhetoric

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden is deriding former President Donald Trump as a convicted felon who is attacking the legal system and wants to "exact revenge" in a second term.

Mr. Biden unloaded on Mr. Trump during a fundraiser this week in McLean, Virginia, one day after his campaign launched ads highlighting Mr. Trump's 34 felony counts, as part of a \$50 million buy — signaling a shift toward tougher rhetoric as the campaign heads into its final months.

"For the first time in American history, a former president is a convicted felon and is now seeking the office of the presidency," President Biden said.

half, 48%, of Americans approve of Mr. Trump's felony conviction, while only about three in 10 disapprove and about 20% have no opinion.

However, views of Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden as political candidates remained relatively unchanged, according to the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey.

Mr. Biden saw a minor shift his way in another survey this month. Voters who previously backed Mr. Trump by 3 points in New York Times/Siena College surveys only backed him by 1 point following his conviction.

"The use of the word 'felon' is aimed directly at the fence-sitters in the electorate," said Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University. "It doesn't help the Democrats very much with younger voters, an object of great concern to them, but older voters may see Trump [as] tainted by the term."

Mr. Biden saw a minor shift his way in another survey this month. Voters who previously backed Mr. Trump by 3 points in New York Times/Siena College surveys only backed him by 1 point following his conviction.

"Trump has made it clear he's running to exact revenge. And now after his criminal conviction, he's clear he's worried about preserving his freedom," Mr. Biden said at the Virginia fundraiser late Tuesday. Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attended the event.

Mr. Biden is holding a string of fundraisers as Mr. Trump reports a hefty haul following his conviction.

The Democratic incumbent appeared with former President Barack Obama in Los Angeles as part of a five-day fundraising blitz that raised around \$40 million.

Swing state polls show Mr. Trump leading Mr. Biden or tied with the president heading into the summer party conventions.

It is unclear whether Mr. Trump's legal woes will move enough voters to sway the election.

A recent poll found that nearly



"For the first time in American history, a former president is a convicted felon and is now seeking the office of the presidency," President Biden said.

ALASKA

GOP fight to regain House seat, scrap ranked choice voting

Trump backs Dahlstrom in 12-person primary race

By **KERRY PICKET**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Republicans are fighting two election battles in Alaska as they try to win back the state's lone House seat that they lost in 2022.

The GOP is preparing to do battle in the 12-person, all-party primary on Aug. 20, in which four Republicans are facing off against two Democrats, three nonpartisans, one Alaska Independence Party candidate, one from No Labels and one candidate who is undeclared.

At the same time, Republicans are fighting the state's new ranked choice voting system that took effect in 2022. A measure is on the ballot from activists who want to see it repealed in the next election cycle.

The House Republicans' national campaign arm also has slammed the system.

"If you can't win fair and square, change the rules — that's Democrats' playbook," said National Republican Congressional Committee press secretary Will Reinert. "Extreme Democrats want to blow up the Electoral College, abolish the filibuster and pack the courts — who knows what creative schemes they'll think up next."

In the House race, former President Donald Trump has

thrown his support behind Alaska GOP Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom.

Mr. Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, lauded Ms. Dahlstrom in a post on his Truth Social site, praising her as a "winner" and a "proven fighter" who "will not let you down."

Ms. Dahlstrom, who previously served as a state lawmaker and Commissioner of Corrections, is facing two other high-profile candidates: first-term Democratic incumbent Rep. Mary Peltola and fellow Republican Nick Begich III.

Ms. Dahlstrom also has won the support of House GOP leaders — Speaker Mike Johnson, Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Conference Chairwoman Elise Stefanik and Whip Tom Emmer all are backing her. These endorsements are on top of support from Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

On Mr. Begich's side are former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and Reps. Byron Donalds of Florida and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, both of the Freedom Caucus.

Former GOP Gov. Sarah Palin in 2022 ran two failed bids, in special and general elections, for the state's House seat, which was occupied for decades by the late Republican Rep. Don Young.

Despite Republicans'

preparation for the election this cycle, frustration abounds about the ranked choice voting system.

Republicans in Alaska, according to reporting by the Anchorage Daily News, say they will not favor a candidate among the Republicans running for the House. So GOP leaders at the state convention in April urged voters to "rank the red."

"You can support Nick Begich 100%. You can support Nancy Dahlstrom 100%. Just make sure that if both of them make it onto the general ballot ... you vote for the other one second," said outgoing Party Chairwoman Ann Brown.

Mr. Trump has slammed the system and called it "ranked choice crap voting" during a July 2022 rally for Ms. Palin in Anchorage.

"You never know who won in ranked choice. You could be in third place and they announce that you won the election," Mr. Trump said. "It's a total rigged deal. Just like a lot of other things in this country."

Alaska now has a top-four primary system, which means all candidates regardless of party affiliation are on one ballot. The four candidates who win the most votes advance to the general election in November.

During the general election,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alaska Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom is one of 12 candidates for the state's lone House seat. Ms. Dahlstrom has the support of several top Republican leaders including former President Donald Trump.

voters use the ranked choice voting system, where they rank candidates in order of preference as opposed to selecting one candidate. The race is called if a candidate garners more than 50% of the first-place votes cast.

However, if no candidate gets more than 50%, the candidate with the fewest votes is removed from the race. When a voter's first choice is eliminated, the voter's second choice becomes the new first-preferred candidate.

The voting rounds continue

until one candidate receives more than 50% of the votes. The voting system is popular among moderate and third-party candidates, as it gives them a better chance of winning elections.

Mr. Trump, in his endorsement of Ms. Dahlstrom, blamed Mr. Begich for not leaving the race two years ago, allowing Ms. Peltola to win while the GOP vote was divided between Ms. Palin and Mr. Begich.

Mr. Trump said Mr. Begich has "Democrat tendencies," a

likely reference to the candidate's Democrat uncle who served as a U.S. senator, despite Mr. Begich's Republican registration and endorsements from the House Freedom Caucus Fund.

Mr. Begich has pledged to drop out of the race to avoid splitting the GOP vote in the general election if Ms. Dahlstrom defeats him in the primary.

The Washington Times reached out to the Trump campaign for comment but did not hear back.

Biden's job-growth disappearing act reflects economic realities

Last year, countless polls showed widespread disapproval of the state of the economy, especially regarding inflation. In response, the Biden administration hung its hat on supposedly blockbuster monthly job gains. But new data show those numbers overestimated job growth by almost 800,000 in 2023.

Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports how many nonfarm payrolls have been added across the country. These figures come from a survey of 666,000 businesses and offer timely updates on important economic data.

Unfortunately, these monthly reports are subject to a variety of statistical problems that can sometimes produce significant errors. One example seen

in 2023 was with preliminary data consistently being revised down in subsequent reports.

Of course, many news stories don't report on the downward revisions to previous months' data, just the current month's surprisingly fast growth. The result was that in almost every month of 2023, thousands of jobs being added to the economy were ones presumed to have already existed.

But even after downward revisions effectively wiped away hundreds of thousands of jobs from the cumulative total for the year, these monthly reports still overstated annual job growth.

The BLS also publishes a quarterly census of employment and wages. Unlike the monthly job reports, which rely on a relatively small survey, this census reaches



about 18 times as many businesses, covering 95% of jobs in the United States, with figures available down to the county level.

One downside to the quarterly census is that the information is not nearly as timely as the monthly job reports, typically taking five months to be published. Nevertheless, the data is finally in for 2023, and it shows the previous estimates were off spectacularly, even after the huge downward revisions.

Adding up the cumulative change in those monthly reports for 2023 shows annual job growth of 2%.

The wider-reaching census data, however, shows annual growth of just 1.5%.

At first blush, one-half of 1% seems like a mere rounding error. But in an economy exceeding 150 million jobs, that's a significant difference.

Job growth was overestimated by more than 770,000 last year. Put differently, about 1 in 4 jobs that were supposedly added last year never existed. That's like eliminating all of the jobs gained in three whole months of 2023.

Overly optimistic employment estimates help explain why polling of people's

perceptions of the economy has been so terrible yet the official data from the Biden administration has looked so robust, at least in terms of the number of jobs. Much of the other data has been downright rotten.

With prices rising faster than earnings, the average worker's weekly paycheck buys 4.4% less today than when President Biden took office. Homeownership affordability has plummeted because the monthly mortgage payment on a median-price home has more than doubled. Three-quarters of Americans now view fast food as a luxury they can't afford. Gasoline prices are up 46%.

And now, even the job numbers have lost their luster, especially when you consider that millions of those added jobs are from

double counting. Whenever someone who is already employed has to get a second — or even a third — job just to help make ends meet, that increases the number of payrolls, without increasing the number of people employed.

The fruit of the tree of "Bidenomics" has ripened, and Americans don't enjoy its bitter taste. No matter how much the fruit salesman tries to convince customers otherwise, the taste of his product matters much more than his advertising.

Rhetoric is no substitute for results, and proclaiming Bidenomics as a success has not persuaded suffering Americans.

• 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.

NOMINATE

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a plan to approve the nomination of the Biden-Harris ticket virtually ahead of the convention. Party leaders initiated the move when it appeared that Ohio wouldn't change its Aug. 7 filing deadline for presidential candidates to appear on the ballot, which would have made the nomination at the Chicago convention too late for Mr. Biden.

Ohio has since moved the filing deadline to Sept. 1, but Democrats say they don't trust the Republican-led state legislature and governor and are pushing forward with a virtual nomination.

The DNC has not disclosed a date for the virtual roll call.

Josh Putnam, party rules expert and founder of FHQ Strategies LLC, a nonpartisan political consulting venture, said a virtual vote would have to wait until after July 13, when Indiana Democrats select convention delegates. Mr. Putnam said the virtual vote may be more of a contingency plan at this point.

"The party was simultaneously creating some insurance but also buying themselves some time to figure out the particulars of any would-be virtual vote, including the timing," Mr. Putnam said.

A virtual vote would lock in the Biden-Harris ticket and thwart a convention floor fight over increasing concerns about the incumbents' chances of winning reelection.

Democrats are planning the virtual nod for Mr. Biden amid reports about behind-the-scenes panic among top Democrats and schemes to substitute a younger, more viable candidate who stands a better chance of defeating former President Donald Trump.

Nate Silver, who aggregates and



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will stick together as a team through the election campaign under a Democratic National Committee process to ensure changes will be all but impossible by the time delegates arrive in Chicago.

analyzes election polls, noted that Mr. Biden's approval rating this month declined to 37.4%, an all-time low for the president.

"Dropping out would be a big risk," Mr. Silver posted on X. "But there's some

threshold below which continuing to run is a bigger risk. Are we there yet? I don't know. But it's more than fair to ask."

Now that Democrats have cleared the way for nominating online, they could move to replace the ticket

virtually — perhaps, some suggest, if Mr. Biden performs poorly at the June 27 presidential debate, where he will face off against Mr. Trump for the first time since 2020.

Party officials, however, haven't even

hinted at nominating anyone other than Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris, either virtually or in person.

Some party officials warned that the virtual nomination could alienate Democrats who expect Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris to be nominated in person in Chicago.

Democrats and Republicans held elaborately staged virtual nominations in 2020, when the in-person conventions were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both party conventions will be in person this year, making a virtual nomination of the Biden-Harris ticket tough to explain to voters.

Elaine Kamarck, a member of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee, asked convention leaders this month to hold a duplicative, in-person roll call vote in Chicago if the ticket is nominated virtually ahead of time.

"Nobody in the public is going to understand what we did here for these reasons," she said during a virtual DNC meeting. "And it seems to me we wouldn't want to skip the drama of a roll call vote, particularly if the DNC is planning anything cool like they did four years ago."

Democratic National Convention Chair Minyon Moore called for the party to nominate Mr. Biden virtually before Aug. 7 to remove any uncertainty about his access to the Ohio ballot.

James Roosevelt, co-chairman of the DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee, said a virtual vote would serve as an insurance policy, not an effort to thwart those who want to replace Mr. Biden on the ticket.

"This is the best way to ensure that bad-faith, mega-extremist lawmakers in Ohio or in any other state cannot subvert the will of the voters," he said.

The Republican National Convention will be held July 15-18 in Milwaukee.

JUDGES

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“actively marketed its services using connections to President Biden and Vice President [Kamala] Harris, as well as graphics and other content that derided President Trump.” They suggested that a member of Judge Merchan’s family would profit from the prosecution of Mr. Trump.

Judge Merchan said the New York State Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics insisted that his impartiality was not in question.

“The court will not address this matter further,” Judge Merchan said before convening the trial.

The Manhattan jury found Mr. Trump guilty of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records over \$130,000 his former attorney Michael Cohen had paid adult film actress Stormy Daniels to keep quiet about a sexual encounter with Mr. Trump. The former president, who has denied Ms. Daniels’ claim, is to be sentenced next month.

Mr. Trump’s attorneys also have tried to remove Judge Chutkan from the election interference case in the District of Columbia. They argued that she was critical of Mr. Trump while presiding over the trials of defendants accused of rioting at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

“Judge Chutkan has, in connection with other cases, suggested that President Trump should be prosecuted and imprisoned,” they wrote in the 2023 filing.

The attorneys pointed to what the judge said in one Jan. 6 trial: “This was nothing less than an attempt to violently overthrow the government, the legally, lawfully, peacefully elected government by individuals who were mad that their guy lost. I see the videotapes. I see the footage of the flags and the signs that people were carrying and the hats they were wearing and the garb. And the people who mobbed that Capitol were there in fealty, in loyalty, to one man — not to the Constitution, of which most of the people who come before me seem woefully ignorant; not to the ideals of this country; and not to the principles of democracy.”

Mr. Trump’s attorneys also noted that Judge Chutkan told one Jan. 6 defendant that he made a good point saying the “people who exhorted you and encouraged you and rallied you to go and take action and to fight have not been charged.”

“I have my opinions, but they are not relevant,” Judge Chutkan said at the time.

The Obama appointee denied Mr. Trump’s request to recuse, reasoning that recusal is warranted only in rare circumstances.

“Justice also demands that judges not

recuse without cause,” Judge Chutkan wrote. “Motions for recusal could also be wrongfully deployed as a form of ‘judge shopping.’”

The election interference case is on hold while the Supreme Court decides whether the former president is immune from criminal charges for actions he committed in office. A ruling is expected by the end of the month.

Mr. Minberg dismissed any argument that Judge Chutkan should not oversee Mr. Trump’s D.C. trial.

“The notion that there is a credible reason to recuse Judge Chutkan is almost laughable,” he said. “His supporters will do anything.”

Mr. Levey said the increasing calls to remove judges overseeing Mr. Trump’s numerous prosecutions stem from Democrats’ attempts to usurp the justice system for electoral gains.

“I think all these cases against Trump — and then all the criminal cases and the Letitia James civil case — they have made the word ‘lawfare’ a household word,” he said.

Meanwhile, Democrats and liberal activists have repeatedly called for the recusal of U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who is overseeing the former president’s classified documents case in Florida.

Newsweek reported in May that at least six petitions are circulating online to remove Judge Cannon.

Critics accuse Judge Cannon of intentionally slow-walking Mr. Trump’s case ahead of the November election and delaying a trial date.

Democratic lawmakers have also repeatedly called for Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. to recuse themselves from election-related cases stemming from the Jan. 6 riot.

They note that Justice Thomas’ wife, Virginia Thomas, attended Mr. Trump’s “Stop the Steal” rally on Jan. 6, 2021. She has said she left the rally before it turned into a riot at the Capitol.

Justice Thomas has also been targeted in a series of articles about his undocumented luxury trips financed by Republican megadonor Harlan Crow.

Justice Thomas and Mr. Crow have defended their friendship and said they have done nothing wrong.

Democrats have targeted Justice Alito over an upside-down American flag flying at his house in Virginia and an “Appeal to Heaven” flag at his New Jersey vacation home.

They say both symbols support the “Stop the Steal” movement and that he should not weigh in on cases involving Mr. Trump’s immunity from criminal prosecution in his D.C. election fraud case or charges against Jan. 6 defendants. One pending case deals with a federal obstruction charge against roughly 300 Jan. 6 rioters.

“I think there’s a crisis on the court,” said Sen. Christopher Murphy, Connecticut Democrat. “In particular with respect to Justice Alito and Justice Thomas. What Justice Thomas is engaged in is just a grift. He’s got a major political player on the outside who absolutely has political and business interests at the court paying off a justice.”

“Justice Alito is openly displaying affiliation with political causes in public,” Mr. Murphy said Sunday during an appearance on CNN.

Mr. Minberg said Mr. Trump’s and his supporters’ calls for the recusal of judges pale in comparison with the reasons supporting the recusals of Justices Thomas and Alito and Judge Cannon.

“I personally don’t think they are really comparable,” he said of the two sides. “The arguments made by Trump for recusal of Merchan, for example, or the other arguments made by the right seem a lot more flimsy than the arguments made for Alito, Thomas and Cannon.”

Mr. Levey said many of the calls are “theatrics” and Democrats’ repeated attacks on the high court have led to an “erosion in the confidence of the rule of law.”

“I think cynicism about the judiciary is way up, and I think that leads both to an increase in people calling for recusal ... and I think it also sort of makes those calls resound more,” Mr. Levey said.

HOUTHIS

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“And perhaps more importantly, beyond the material damage they have suffered, their intent to continue obstructing shipping in the Red Sea has not wavered.”

Houthi rebels say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinian militants battling Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip. As recently as last week, they launched strikes against two commercial ships: the M/V Tutor and the M/V Verbena.

On June 12, they attacked the Liberian-flagged and Greek-owned Tutor with an uncrewed surface vessel that resulted in the ship sinking. One of the civilian mariners aboard has been missing since the strike. The crew members abandoned the ship and were rescued by the USS Philippine Sea and other vessels, U.S. officials said.

The next day, the Houthis launched two missiles at the Verbena, which sails under the flag of Palau and is owned by Ukrainians. One of the crew members had to be medically evacuated, officials said.

After two days of trying to bring the fires under control, the Verbena crew was forced to abandon the ship. U.S. officials said the Iranian naval frigate Jamaran was only 8 nautical miles away but refused to respond to the crew’s distress call.

The ship is now drifting in the Gulf of Aden.

The frustration in Washington and the region is palpable and growing.

“The continued malign and reckless behavior by the Iranian-backed Houthis threatens regional stability and endangers the lives of mariners across the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden,” U.S. Central Command officials said in a statement. “The Houthis claim to be acting on behalf of the Palestinians in Gaza and yet they are targeting and threatening the lives of third-country nationals who have nothing to do with



Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels have launched almost 200 attacks against military and commercial ships passing through the Red Sea since November and show no signs of letting up after multiple U.S. and British retaliatory airstrikes.

the conflict in Gaza.”

In early December, the Houthis threatened to attack any ship they thought was heading to Israeli ports, but most of the strikes before and since have been against civilian ships with Israeli affiliations that were tenuous at best. The Yemeni group quickly expanded its target list to any ship affiliated with the U.S. or its allies, the Defense Intelligence Agency said.

The Houthis’ use of a drone uncrewed surface vessel against the M/V Tutor is a sign that the nature of their attacks on Red Sea merchant shipping might be evolving, said Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank in Washington.

“We should expect to see more unmanned surface vessel attacks. [They] are being used by Ukraine in the Black Sea to counter Russian aggression, and

they are being used by Iran-backed terror organizations in the Red Sea to threaten commercial vessels,” Mr. Bowman said Tuesday. “The U.S. has continued to destroy Houthi offensive capabilities in Yemen, but the terror group continues to have sufficient means to threaten shipping.”

The fact that the Houthis can continue launching effective strikes against ship traffic in the Red Sea suggests they receive a steady supply of armaments from their allies in Tehran, Mr. Bowman said.

“An effort to destroy capabilities in Yemen that does not devote sufficient attention and resources to interdicting weapons shipments from Iran to Yemen is not unlike the homeowner cleaning up puddles but ignoring the hole in the roof,” he said.

Shipping shifts

Container shipping through the Red

Sea typically accounts for 10% to 15% of international maritime trade, but it has declined by about 90% since December. The Defense Intelligence Agency said alternate shipping routes around Africa add about 11,000 nautical miles, up to two weeks of extra transit time and about \$1 million in fuel costs for each voyage.

At least 20 major energy and shipping companies have altered their routes to avoid Houthi attacks. Taking the long route around Africa can be less expensive because shippers don’t have to factor in the combined costs of crew bonuses, risk insurance running 1,000% more than before the attacks and the \$400,000 to \$700,000 fees to transit the Suez Canal, DIA officials said.

Deputy Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said the U.S. Navy’s role in the region is to maintain freedom of navigation and uphold international law. She said American forces have been “pretty successful.”

“We certainly understand the global impact and the effect on global commerce if shipping routes have to be rerouted,” Ms. Singh said Monday. “It’s up to the shipping companies to decide if they want to continue transiting through the Red Sea. That’s a decision that each company has to make.”

Officials with the International Maritime Organization, a specialized United Nations agency for regulating marine transportation, said they were appalled by the latest Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and called for increased international assistance for seafarers.

“I strongly condemn any type of attack against international shipping, regardless of its motivation or cause,” IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said in a Tuesday statement. “This situation cannot go on. Everybody is going to feel the negative effect if international shipping is not able to trade as normal. But our commitment is, above all, safeguarding the safety of all seafarers.”

DISNEY

From page A1

based on more than 10,000 reviews, an all-time low for a “Star Wars” spinoff.

The fan rating was even lower than the 21% notched by the 1978 “Star Wars” TV holiday special, the standard by which all “Star Wars” bombs are judged.

Alan Ng, editor-in-chief of Film Threat, led those sounding the death knell for the franchise. He recalled in his June 5 review that “I became a massive Star Wars fan in 1977” at the age of 10. “I bought this galaxy far, far away, and today, I don’t recognize the place anymore. [Creator] Leslye Headland’s The Acolyte managed to put the final nail in the coffin for this fully grown adult. Yes, I accept it. Disney Star Wars is not for me.”

Cosmic Book News reviewer Matt McGloin called “The Acolyte” series “boring, drawn out nonsensical garbage.”

“George Lucas should have never sold Star Wars,” Mr. McGloin wrote. “Bob Iger should have never appointed Kathleen Kennedy as the head of Lucasfilm. Star Wars is a complete joke. Disney is a complete joke. #RIPSTARWARS.”

The movie website Worth It or Woke? said Ms. Headland’s “casual disdain for the Jedi and Star Wars canon is eclipsed by her shlocky storytelling, ridiculous dialogue and laughable lesbian chat-group fantasy fan-fiction.”

Ms. Kennedy swung back by telling The New York Times, “I think Leslye has struggled a little bit with it. I think a lot of women who step into this because of the fan base being so male-dominated they sometimes get attacked. My belief is that storytelling needs to be representative of all people. That’s an easy decision for me.”

Hollywood in Toto critic Christian Toto agreed that “there’s a part of the ‘Star Wars’ fandom that remains highly suspicious of any new product,” but they “often have a point, given recent films and TV shows in the saga.”

He called the first two “Acolyte” episodes “generic sci-fare, neither inspired nor terrible, but hardly worthy of the ‘Star Wars’ legacy.” Then came Episode 3.

“The third episode is flat-out awful, clashing with franchise canon, bluntly pushing culture-war talking points and featuring plot mechanics sure to make your eyes roll,” said Mr. Toto, who hosts the “Hollywood in Toto” podcast.

Certainly, “The Acolyte” isn’t what the faithful expected after Mr. Iger returned to the helm of the struggling company in 2022, declaring that its content creators had “lost sight of what their No. 1 objective needed to be.”

“We have to entertain first. It’s not about messages,” Mr. Iger said in November.

What happened?

“I suspect he’s being disingenuous, but it’s also possible it’s too early to see the results of that promise,” Mr. Toto told The Washington Times. “Movies and TV shows were well into production when he said that.”

Disney provided a real-time contrast between entertainment and messaging with the past weekend’s theater opening of “Inside Out 2,” a Pixar production. The film grossed \$155 million and won rave reviews from critics and fans alike.

“On the plus side, the company’s ‘Inside Out 2’ is woke-free and mostly old-fashioned in its storytelling,” said Mr. Toto, “and it had a monster weekend at the box office.”

BOEBERT

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in November. In the 2020 presidential race, 58% of the district voted for Republican Donald Trump and 39% supported Democrat Joseph R. Biden.

Ms. Boebert leads the field just months after moving to the district and after a year of calamitous headlines centered on her personal life. That speaks to the power of name recognition and fundraising in a crowded field and to voters’ willingness to forgive and forget.

Ms. Boebert announced in December that she would switch from the 3rd to the 4th Congressional District after eking out a meager 546-vote win in 2022 against Democrat Adam Frisch, who has raised a whopping \$13 million in his bid to capture the Western Colorado seat in November.

She moved 230 miles from Rifle to Windsor to run for the seat vacated by Republican Ken Buck, who retired in March.

Observers were skeptical that Ms. Boebert’s cowgirl-in-heels image would resonate with the 4th District, which encompasses the rural Eastern Plains, the prosperous suburbs of Douglas County and sections of suburban Weld and Larimer counties.

The Kaplan poll also found that 40% of Republican and unaffiliated voters are undecided, meaning her opponents have a path to the nomination if they can distinguish themselves as her chief rival, which none of them has been able to do.



Rep. Lauren Boebert’s \$4 million in funding helps shield her from barbs from five Republican opponents in Colorado’s 4th Congressional District.

Logan County Commissioner Jerry Sonnenberg, former state House Minority Leader Mike Lynch, state Rep. Richard Holtorf, former talk show host Deborah Flora, and conservative activist Peter Yu are also seeking the Republican nod.

Mr. Sonnenberg, who has served in the state legislature, won the coveted endorsements of former U.S. Sens. Cory Gardner, Wayne Allard and Hank Brown, but Ms. Boebert snared the

biggest endorsement of all: Mr. Trump’s.

In recent televised debates, her opponents have attacked her effectiveness in Congress, her switch of districts and incidents in her personal life.

Ms. Flora, a former conservative talk show host on KNUS-AM and founder of Parents United America, said at the May 29 debate on CBS4, “We’ve seen how Lauren Boebert would represent us: abandoning her neighbors in CD3, missing key votes while chasing cameras, and being in the center of D.C. drama instead of delivering real solutions for the people.”

In September, Ms. Boebert was caught on camera vaping and being groped by her date during a performance at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. She denied vaping at first and then apologized after video footage showed she did. She said she didn’t recall vaping.

After Mr. Lynch made reference at the May 30 debate on 9News to the “theater incident,” the moderator asked Ms. Boebert whether she wanted to “talk about the theater thing.”

“I certainly have owned up to my night out in Denver. I’ve gone on that public apology tour, and I’m grateful for the mercy and grace that has been shown, but I’m not going to continue to live life in shame and be beat up on this,” Ms. Boebert said.

Not helping is her ongoing family drama.

Ex-husband Jayson Boebert accepted a plea deal last week to assault stemming from two domestic altercations in January.

Her eldest son, Tyler Boebert, now 19, was arrested in February on a felony theft charge over a “string of vehicle trespass and property thefts in Rifle,” according to Rifle police.

Mr. Wadhams said, “All those things in terms of liabilities are going to be problems for her in those suburban areas.”

“They don’t like the DCPA fiasco,” he said. “They don’t like the standing up at the State of the Union and yelling at the president. All that stuff. She’s going to win, but I wouldn’t be surprised if she doesn’t win by nearly the margin she should.”

Ms. Boebert has sought to rehabilitate her image through strong fundraising. According to the latest Federal Election Commission filings, her campaign has raised about \$4 million. No other Republican has collected more than \$500,000.

That cash advantage has allowed Ms. Boebert to air TV ads aimed at suburban women, including a spot in which her youngest son, Roman Boebert, offers tips on what to include in her next campaign commercial.

“That’s easy, Mom. Why don’t you just tell them about how you carry your gun and always fight for freedom?” the boy asks.

Ms. Boebert responds with a smile: “Well, I think they already know that.”

Ballots were sent on June 3 in the Colorado all-mail election. A special election to fill the remainder of Mr. Buck’s term on Tuesday will pit Democrat Trisha Calvarese against Republican Greg Lopez.

Nation



Smoke from the South Fork Fire reflects a pink hue during sunrise on Tuesday. Officers turned drivers away because of wildfires burning near Ruidoso, New Mexico. The fire has consumed nearly 14,000 acres. A change in weather could help rein in the fire.

WEATHER

Cooler weather could help corral fires that killed two, forced exodus

By Morgan Lee and Andres Leighton
Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. | Cooler weather — and the chance of rain — could bring some relief but also the risk of danger this week to firefighters battling blazes in southern New Mexico that killed two people, damaged hundreds of structures and forced thousands to evacuate.

Strong wind pushed the larger of two wildfires into the mountain village of Ruidoso, forcing residents to flee immediately with little notice Monday. Weather patterns were shifting Wednesday with moisture from a tropical wave in the Gulf of Mexico, Bladen Breitreiter of the National Weather Service office in Albuquerque said Wednesday.

“It will be a challenging situation going into the late afternoon and evening,” said Mr. Breitreiter, who has been an incident meteorologist at past wildfires. “The potential for scattered to isolated thunderstorms could help, but it depends on where they hit. If the rain misses the fires, downward winds could cause problems for firefighters on the ground.”

He said rain could also lead to dangerous flash flooding in newly burned areas in the mountainous region.

Ruidoso and much of the Southwest has been exceedingly dry and hot this spring. Those conditions, along with strong wind, whipped flames out of control Monday and Tuesday, rapidly advancing the South Fork Fire into the village. Along with homes and businesses, a

regional medical center and the Ruidoso Downs horse track were evacuated.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham’s office confirmed one fatality as a result of the fire but said it had no further details. State police confirmed a second fatality in a wildfire near Ruidoso.

About 1,400 structures have been destroyed or damaged, but it’s unclear how many were homes. A flyover to provide more accurate mapping and a better assessment of damage is being organized, Ms. Lujan Grisham said.

Ardis Holder left Ruidoso with her two young daughters, her gas tank nearly on empty as she prayed that they’d make it out safe. She was sure the house she rented in the village she grew up in is gone, based on the maps she’s seen so far.

“We were already seeing where all the fire hit, it’s everywhere,” Ms. Holder said late Tuesday from a shelter in nearby Roswell. “If there’s something standing, that’s awesome. But, if not, we were prepared for the worst.”

Ms. Lujan Grisham declared a countywide state of emergency that extended to the neighboring Mescalero Apache Reservation where both fires started and deployed National Guard troops. The declaration unlocks additional funding and resources to manage the crisis.

Nationwide, wildfires have scorched more than 3,280 square miles this year — a figure higher than the 10-year averages, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

About 20 wildfires currently burning

are considered large and uncontained, including blazes in California and Washington state.

Ms. Lujan Grisham said the two southern New Mexico wildfires together have consumed more than 31 square miles. The exact causes of the blazes haven’t been determined, but the Southwest Coordination Center listed them as human-caused.

“We are deploying every available resource to control these fires,” the governor said.

While many older residents call Ruidoso home year-round, the population of around 7,000 people expands to about 25,000 during the warmer months, when New Mexicans and Texans from hotter climates seek the cool of the leafy aspen trees, hiking trails and a chance to go fishing.

Nestled within the Lincoln National Forest, Ruidoso boasts nearby amenities including a casino, golf course and ski resort operated by the Mescalero Apache Tribe. Horse races at the Ruidoso Downs also draw crowds as home to one of the sport’s richest quarter-horse competitions.

Ruidoso residents fled Monday through traffic-clogged downtown streets.

The evacuation order came so quickly that Christy Hood and her husband, Richard, only had time to grab their two children and two dogs.

Heavy traffic on the way out turned what should have been a 15-minute drive into a harrowing two-hour ordeal.

TENNESSEE

Rebound of Nashville crayfish population is both good and bad news

Biologists say protections still needed

By Travis Loller and Kristin M. Hall
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, TENN. | Dale McGinnity has been turning over rocks in Mill Creek to study the endangered Nashville crayfish for a decade.

He hopes to learn whether this little crustacean that makes its home mainly in the urbanized area around its namesake city is being harmed by all the development surrounding it. The results are encouraging.

“Things are looking good so far,” said Mr. McGinnity, who works at the Nashville Zoo as curator of ectotherms, or cold-blooded creatures. “It’s been a really nice, maybe steady or slightly increasing population over those 10 years.”

However, that good news is also potentially bad news. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing the Nashville crayfish from the endangered species list in 2019, and that proposal is still being considered. A healthy and robust population could add to the pressure to remove it.

But some biologists argue the Nashville crayfish still needs protection because species with small ranges are more vulnerable to extinction, for a variety of reasons.

Mr. McGinnity credits the current healthy population to recent changes to stormwater regulations. Runoff from parking lots, building and other hard surfaces now drains to bioretention areas, where it is slowly reabsorbed into the ground.

“The old guidelines, it was just all a whole bunch of impervious surfaces that ran to the storm drains that went right to the creek. So that means there’s huge flooding. There’s huge amounts of oil and other toxins that get into the water.”

On Tuesday, Mr. McGinnity and a crew from the zoo were at Mill Creek for their annual population survey. Sycamores and maple trees shaded the shallow, rippling water filled with the flat limestone rocks that crayfish love to hide under. It did not take long before the group began spotting them.

One of the things that makes the Nashville crayfish unique, Mr. McGinnity said, is that they will linger in open areas in broad daylight in the summer.

Most crayfish — also called crawfish or crawdads, depending on the region — are primarily active at night.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A healthy and robust Nashville crayfish population is fueling calls for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove it from the endangered species list.

The behavior seems as though it would make them vulnerable to predators, and why they do it is one of many mysteries scientists have yet to study, Mr. McGinnity said.

The Nashville crayfish are also unusually sociable, he said, noting that he has found upward of 60 together under a single rock.

“There’s still a lot to be learned about Nashville crayfish, and actually all crayfish,” Mr. McGinnity said.

There’s no better place to study them than Tennessee, or possibly Alabama. The two states vie for title of the most crayfish diversity in the world. Each state has more than 100 species, with new ones still being discovered and described, he said.

Parker Hildreth, a biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, has recently been using genetic testing to help map that diversity. Mr. Hildreth said he grew up playing with crayfish in a Tennessee creek and recently discovered that those same crayfish he played with may be an undescribed species.

Asked why the public should care about crayfish, Mr. Hildreth offered two thoughts.

“Aquatic organisms are the canary in the coal mine for water quality. So if you’re seeing impacts to our native species, then the same things that are affecting aquatic life can easily affect human life,” he said. The second reason is cultural and goes back to his childhood.

“I think that’s intrinsic to most Tennesseans, that we grew up playing in a creek,” Mr. Hildreth added. “And I wouldn’t like to live in a world where I wasn’t able to do that.”

TEXAS

Pastor accused of child sex abuse in 1980s steps down

100,000 attend church each weekend

By Jamie Stengle
Associated Press

DALLAS | The pastor of a Texas megachurch has resigned after a woman said he had sexually abused her on multiple occasions in the 1980s, beginning when she was 12.

Gateway Church’s board of elders said Tuesday in a statement that they had accepted the resignation of Robert Morris, the church’s senior pastor and founder. The board said it had hired a law firm to conduct an independent review to make sure they “have a complete understanding of the events” from 1982 to 1987.

The allegations came to light Friday on the religious watchdog blog The Wartburg Watch. Cindy Clemishire, the woman who came forward, told The Dallas Morning News in an interview Saturday that she met Mr. Morris in 1981, when he was a traveling preacher and began preaching at her family’s church in Oklahoma.

She said Mr. Morris and his wife and young son became close to her family. She said he was staying at her house in 1982 when he asked her to come to his room. He told her to lay on his bed and then touched her inappropriately, said Ms. Clemishire, now 54.

She said the abuse continued for about 4½ years. The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as

Ms. Clemishire has done.

When asked about the allegations by The Christian Post, Mr. Morris, 62, said in a statement to the publication that when he was in his early 20s he was “involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with a young lady in a home where I was staying.”

“It was kissing and petting and not intercourse, but it was wrong,” he said in the statement. “This behavior happened on several occasions over the next few years.”

The board said that before Friday, they “did not have all of the facts of the inappropriate relationship between Mr. Morris and the victim, including her age at the time and the length of the abuse.” They said that their understanding of the “extramarital relationship” that Mr. Morris had discussed many times throughout his ministry was not that it was “abuse of a 12-year-old child.”

The church, based in the Dallas suburb of Southlake, was founded by Mr. Morris in 2000 and has multiple locations in the area and says over 100,000 people attend each weekend.

Mr. Morris, the founding pastor, has been politically active. He was among those on former President Donald Trump’s evangelical advisory board. The church hosted Mr. Trump on its Dallas campus in 2020 for a discussion of race relations and the economy.

Mr. Morris did not immediately respond Tuesday to a request for comment sent to his email address at the church.

MISSISSIPPI

Frequent flooding worsens fortunes for shrinking towns near Mississippi River

By Michael Phillis, Jim Salter and Camille Fassett
Associated Press

WEST ALTON, MO. | Devastating flooding, driven in part by climate change, is taking an especially damaging toll on communities that once thrived along the banks of America’s most storied river.

Flooding has pushed people out of their homes near the Mississippi River at a roughly 30% higher rate than the U.S. as a whole, according to data provided exclusively to The Associated Press by the risk analysis firm First Street.

In regions growing slower than many other parts of the country, where towns are struggling with job loss and fewer resources, flooding is accelerating the exodus.

Consider West Alton, Missouri, on a bend of the Mississippi near its meeting with the Missouri River. It had 3,900 people in 1970, Mayor Willie Richter said. That number nosedived to about 570 after big floods in 1973 and 1993. Now, after the 2019 flood, about 360 people remain. All three churches closed. Many of the remaining homes have been raised to keep safe from floodwaters.

The toll weighs on people. When officials this year arrived at a blaze consuming a small home abandoned after the 2019 flood, the suspect said he

“burned the house down because he got tired of looking at it,” according to a police report.

Vacant properties invite arson, said Mr. Richter, who said four or five abandoned homes have burned since that last big flood.

“People just walk away from them,” Mr. Richter said. “The houses are condemned, they either got to be torn down or elevated. This much time has passed, there’s a lot of damage.”

The data from First Street show that while West Alton is an extreme example of flooding’s effect, it’s emblematic of challenges faced by smaller communities in the Midwest and South. Many struggle to keep young people and jobs from leaving. Industries and economic forces that once spread wealth along the river have consolidated and shifted away.

In a peer-reviewed paper published in December, First Street found that flooding drove millions of people in the U.S. from their homes, using modeling that relied on analysis of block-level census data, flood risk information and other factors.

For this report, First Street provided additional data on communities within roughly 100 miles of the Mississippi River from 2000 to 2020. The AP analyzed the data and mapped it to find and report on hard-hit communities.

First Street’s work showed people tend to move to a safer place nearby. But some people leave communities entirely. Older residents are most likely to stay behind. Even in some growing communities, high flood risk constrained that growth.

Many Mississippi River towns formed in the 19th century. Pulp and paper mills, chemical plants, coal operations and the metals industry grew up along the massive river that provided a cheap and easy way to move heavy things, said Colin Wellenkamp, executive director of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative.

But technology, automation and consolidation changed those industries. Coal consumption dropped. Fewer pulp and paper sites were needed. The national highway system made it easier to bypass towns.

Flooding worsens the fortunes of places already struggling, and some towns thriving a century ago now “are barely standing,” said Patrick Nunnally, a retired lecturer at the University of Minnesota and a Mississippi River expert.

“It sort of chips away at the river culture as people pick up and leave,” said Dean Klinkenberg, who travels the Mississippi River writing guidebooks and histories of the communities.

AGRICULTURE

Dairy farmers look to poultry industry for lessons on bird flu

By Scott McFetridge
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, IOWA | As the U.S. dairy industry confronts a bird flu outbreak, with cases reported at dozens of farms and the disease spreading to people, the egg industry could serve as an example of how to slow the disease but also shows how difficult it can be to eradicate the virus.

There have been earlier bird flu outbreaks in the U.S., but the current one started in February 2022 and has forced the slaughter of nearly 100 million chickens and turkeys. Hot spots still occur, but their frequency has dropped in part because of biosecurity efforts at farms and a coordinated approach between companies and agricultural officials, experts say.

Dairy farmers could try to implement similar safeguards, but the vast differences between the animals and the industries limit what lessons can be learned and applied.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

While there have been fewer bird flu outbreaks in the U.S., the current one that began in 2022 has forced the slaughter of nearly 100 million chickens and turkeys. Bird flu is typically fatal to chickens and turkeys within days of an infection.

How can a 1,500-pound cow and a 5-pound chicken have the same illness? It's commonly called bird flu because the disease is largely spread by wild

birds that can survive infections. Many mammals have caught the illness too, including sea lions and skunks. Animals can be infected by eating

an infected bird or by being exposed to environments where the virus is present. That said, there are big differences in how cows and chickens have fared after getting infected.

Bird flu is typically fatal to chickens and turkeys within days of an infection, leading to immediate mass killings of birds. That's not true for cows.

Dairies in several states have reported having to kill infected animals because symptoms continued to linger and their milk production didn't recover, but that's not the norm, said Russ Daly, an extension veterinarian at South Dakota State University.

He said it appears that bird flu isn't usually fatal to cows but that an infected animal can be more vulnerable to other ailments typically found in dairies, such as bacterial pneumonia and udder infections.

What has the egg industry done to protect chickens?

Egg operators have become clean freaks.

To prevent disease from spreading, egg producers require workers to shower and change into clean clothes before they enter a barn and shower again when they leave. They also frequently wash trucks and spray tires with solutions to kill off virus remnants.

Many egg operations even use lasers and install special fencing to discourage wild birds from stopping by for a visit.

"Gone is the day of the scarecrow," said Emily Metz, president of the American Egg Board.

Without these efforts, the current outbreak would be much worse, said Jada Thompson, a University of Arkansas agriculture business professor. Still, maintaining such vigilance is difficult, even if the cost of allowing disease into an operation is so high, she said.

Chickens raised for meat, known as broilers, also have been infected with bird flu but such cases are less common. In part, that's because broiler chickens are killed when they're only 6 to 8 weeks old, so they have less time to get infected.

CALIFORNIA

Labor board fines Amazon \$5.9 million for violations

California's labor commission slapped Amazon with a \$5.9 million fine Tuesday after discovering thousands of violations at two of its facilities in the state.

The California Labor Commissioner's Office announced it found more than 59,000 violations of the state's Warehouse Quota law at Amazon's Moreno Valley and Redlands warehouses. The regulator said Amazon repeatedly failed to disclose its quotas to the commission and created unsustainable goals for its workers.

Under the 2022 law, employers must disclose any productivity quotas to regulators and are barred from forcing employees to meet unsafe quotas that could harm them or cause them to miss mandated breaks or meals.

— Vaughn Cockayne

formed Wednesday in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, the first named storm of the hurricane season.

Alberto was located 185 miles east of Tampico, Mexico, and 295 miles south-southeast of Brownsville, Texas. It had top sustained winds of 40 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. A tropical storm is defined by sustained winds of between 39 and 73 mph, and above that the system becomes a hurricane.

The storm was moving west at 9 mph.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts the hurricane season that began June 1 and runs through Nov. 30 is likely to be well above average, with between 17 and 25 named storms.

— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles bans kids from using cellphones at school

Los Angeles' school board — the second-largest in the country — has banned students from using cellphones during school hours.

The Los Angeles Unified School

BRIEFLY THE NATION

District voted 5-2 Tuesday in favor of the ban, which will be finalized within 120 days and take effect in January. Social media use will also be prohibited during the school day.

An existing policy on cellphones had not been updated since 2011. The social media policy had not been updated since 2018.

— Brad Matthews

NEW YORK

Brooklyn preacher gets nine years for fraud

NEW YORK | A flashy Brooklyn preacher who has played up connections to New York City's mayor was sentenced Monday to nine years in prison for multiple frauds.

Lamor Miller-Whitehead, 45, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by Judge Lorna G. Schofield, who said she didn't see meaningful remorse

from the Rolls-Royce-driving bishop convicted of fleecing one parishioner out of \$90,000 in retirement savings, among other scams.

In March, a jury convicted Miller-Whitehead of all charges, including wire fraud, attempted extortion and making false statements.

Miller-Whitehead developed a friendship with Mayor Eric Adams while Mr. Adams served as Brooklyn's borough president before his mayoral election.

Prosecutors contended that Miller-Whitehead used Mr. Adams' name to commit fraud and attempted extortion. Mr. Adams was not accused of any wrongdoing.

Miller-Whitehead also was ordered to pay \$85,000 in restitution and to forfeit \$95,000.

— Associated Press

ALASKA

Rescuers save baby moose trapped in lake

ANCHORAGE | A man and two police officers rescued a baby moose from what police described as "a sure demise" after it fell into a lake and got

stuck in a narrow space between a floatplane and a dock.

Spencer Warren, who works for the outdoor tourism company Destination Alaska Adventure Co., had arrived at work about 6:30 a.m. Friday to prepare a floatplane for the day's trip when he heard what he thought was an odd-sounding bird.

He quickly spotted the moose calf stuck between the floats of the plane and the dock at Beluga Lake in Homer, a Kenai Peninsula community about 220 miles south of Anchorage. The floats replace the wheels on a plane, allowing it to take off and land on water.

The baby moose tried to get out of the lake, but couldn't get its footing on the top of the metal float with its hooves. Its wary mother was keeping Mr. Warren, the would-be rescuer, from getting too close as it struggled.

Mr. Warren checked in with his boss, who called Homer police.

One officer positioned his police cruiser between the mama moose and the floatplane to allow another officer and Mr. Warren to rescue the calf.

— Associated Press



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World

RUSSIA

Putin, Kim sign pact against West 'aggression'

Deal may be strongest since Cold War

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed an agreement Wednesday that pledges mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," a strategic pact that comes as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

Details of the deal were not immediately clear, but it could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Both leaders described it as a major upgrade of their relations, covering security, trade, investment, cultural and humanitarian ties.

The summit came as Mr. Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years and the U.S. and its allies expressed growing concerns over a possible arms arrangement in which Pyongyang provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine, in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Mr. Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Mr. Kim said the two countries had a "fiery friendship" and the deal is their "strongest ever treaty," putting the relationship at the level of an alliance. He vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin called it a "breakthrough document" reflecting shared desires to move relations to a higher level.

North Korea and the former Soviet

Union signed a treaty in 1961 that experts say necessitated Moscow's military intervention if the North came under attack. The deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced by one in 2000 that offered weaker security assurances. It wasn't immediately clear if the new deal provides a similar level of protection as the 1961 treaty.

Mr. Kim met Mr. Putin at the airport, where the two shook hands, hugged twice and rode together in a limousine. The huge motorcade rolled through the capital's brightly lit streets, where buildings were decorated with giant Russian flags and portraits of Mr. Putin.

After spending the night at a state guest house, Mr. Putin was welcomed Wednesday morning in a ceremony at the city's main square, filled with what appeared to be tens of thousands of spectators, including children with balloons and people in coordinated T-shirts of the red, white and blue national colors of both countries. Crowds lining the streets chanted "Welcome Putin," and waved flowers and flags.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Kim saluted an honor guard and walked across a red carpet. Mr. Kim introduced key members of his leadership, including Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui; top aide and ruling party secretary Jo Yong Won; and the leader's powerful sister, Kim Yo-jong.

At their talks, Mr. Putin thanked Mr. Kim for North Korea's support in Ukraine, part of what he said was a "fight against the imperialist hegemonistic



Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un shake hands Wednesday after signing a deal that includes a vow of mutual aid if either nation is attacked, during a summit that came as both face escalating standoffs with the West.

policies of the U.S. and its satellites against the Russian Federation."

Mr. Putin praised ties that he traced to the Soviet army fighting the Japanese military on the Korean Peninsula at the end of World War II, and Moscow's support for Pyongyang during the Korean War.

What kind of support was pledged in the agreement was not spelled out. Explanations of the agreement by Mr. Putin and Mr. Kim did not specify what the "mutual assistance" would be in the event of aggression against either country — troops, materiel or some other kind of support.

Mr. Kim has used similar language before, consistently saying North Korea supports what he describes as a just action to protect Russia's interests and blaming the crisis on the West's "hegemonic policy."

North Korea is under heavy U.N. Security Council sanctions over its weapons program, while Russia also faces

sanctions by the U.S. and its Western partners over its invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. and South Korean officials accuse the North of providing Russia with artillery, missiles and other military equipment for use in Ukraine, possibly in return for key military technologies and aid. On Tuesday, a State Department spokesman said that in recent months, Washington has seen North Korea "unlawfully transfer dozens of ballistic missiles and over 11,000 containers of munitions to aid Russia's war effort."

Both Pyongyang and Moscow deny accusations of weapons transfers, which would violate multiple U.N. Security Council sanctions that Russia previously endorsed.

Along with China, Russia has provided political cover for Mr. Kim's efforts to advance his nuclear arsenal, repeatedly blocking U.S.-led efforts to impose fresh U.N. sanctions on the North over its weapons tests.

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

MEXICO

Avocado inspections halted after assault on U.S. employees

MEXICO CITY | Two employees of the U.S. Agriculture Department were assaulted and temporarily held by assailants in the Mexican state of Michoacan, prompting the U.S. government to suspend inspections of avocado and mango shipments, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico said Tuesday.

Ambassador Ken Salazar said the assault occurred while the employees were inspecting avocados in Michoacan. He said they were no longer being held.

U.S. officials had confirmed the pause in inspections Monday, citing security concerns.

The employees work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Because the United States also grows avocados, U.S. inspectors work in Mexico to ensure exported avocados don't carry diseases that could hurt U.S. crops.

— Associated Press

NIGERIA

Jihadis from Sahel cross into northern Nigeria

ABUJA | Jihadis who have long operated in Africa's volatile Sahel region have settled in northwestern Nigeria after crossing from neighboring Benin, a report said Wednesday, the latest trend in the militants' movements to wealthier West African coastal nations.

The extremists believed to be linked to al-Qaida have in the last year crossed over from Benin's hard-hit northern region and settled in Kainji Lake National Park, one of Nigeria's largest, where other armed groups have also gained access, according to the report by the Clingendael Institute think tank, which has done extensive research in the Sahel.

Residents close to the park told The Associated Press that the facility, which holds one of West Africa's fast-declining lion populations, has been closed for more than a year because of security threats from armed groups attacking neighboring villages and roads.

— Associated Press

FRANCE

Two boys accused of raping Jewish girl, 12

PARIS | Two adolescent boys in a Paris suburb have been given preliminary charges of raping a 12-year-old girl and religion-motivated violence, French authorities said Wednesday. A Jewish leader said the girl is Jewish.

The attack elicited widespread shock and concern, notably after a surge in antisemitic acts in France since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

The girl reported a rape in the town of Courbevoie on Saturday, and three boys, aged 12 and 13, were detained, according to the regional prosecutor's office.

It said two of the boys were given multiple preliminary charges on Tuesday, including aggravated gang rape on a minor younger than 15, violence and public insult motivated by religion, death threats, attempted extortion and unlawfully recording or broadcasting sexual images.

The prosecutor's office did not specify the girl's religion or release her identity, according to policies for the protection of victims, as is standard practice in France.

— Associated Press

BRITAIN

Protesters arrested over spray-painting Stonehenge

LONDON | Two climate protesters who sprayed orange paint on the ancient Stonehenge monument in southern England were arrested Wednesday after two bystanders appeared to intervene and stop them.

The latest act by Just Stop Oil was quickly condemned by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as a "disgraceful act of vandalism." Labor leader Keir Starmer, his main opponent in next month's election, called the group "pathetic" and said the damage was "outrageous."

The incident came just a day before thousands are expected to gather at the 4,500-year-old stone circle to celebrate the summer solstice — the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

— Associated Press

SAUDI ARABIA

Hundreds of Muslim pilgrims die in desert heat

By **SAMY MAGDY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA | Hundreds of people died during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies.

Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died.

However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in Al-Muaiseb neighborhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members.

One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Hajj. A medic who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss information not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility.

Deaths aren't uncommon at the hajj, which has drawn at times more than 2 million people to Saudi Arabia. There

Family members line up in Mecca to seek information on bodies after Hajj

have been stampedes and epidemics through the pilgrimage's history.

Each year, the Hajj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Hajj health care," said an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health. Communicable illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom saved their entire lives for their trips and can be elderly with preexisting health conditions, the paper added.

However, the number of dead this year suggests something caused the number of deaths to swell. Already, several countries have said some of their pilgrims died because of the heat that swept across the holy sites at Mecca, including Jordan and Tunisia.

Temperatures on Tuesday reached 117 degrees Fahrenheit in Mecca and the sacred sites in and around the city, according to the Saudi National Center for Meteorology. Onlookers saw some people faint while trying to perform the symbolic stoning of the devil.

At the Grand Mosque in Mecca, temperatures reached 125 F on Monday

though pilgrims had already left for Mina, authorities said.

Others, including many Egyptians, lost track of their loved ones in the heat and the crowds. More than 1.83 million Muslims performed the Hajj in 2024, including more than 1.6 million pilgrims from 22 countries, and around 222,000 Saudi citizens and residents, according to the Saudi Hajj authorities.

On Wednesday at the medical complex in Mecca, an Egyptian man collapsed to the ground when he heard the name of mother among the dead. He cried for some time before grabbing his cellphone and calling a travel agent, shouting: "He left her to die!" The crowd tried to calm the man.

Security appeared tight at the complex, with an official reading out names of the dead and the nationalities, which included people from Algeria, Egypt and India. Those who said they were kin of the dead were allowed inside to identify the deceased.

The AP could not independently confirm the causes of death for those bodies held at the complex. Saudi officials did not respond to questions seeking more



Muslim pilgrims use umbrellas to shield themselves from the sun as they arrive to cast stones at pillars in the symbolic stoning of the devil on Tuesday.

information.

The kingdom's ruling Al Saud family maintains a major influence in the Muslim world through its oil wealth and management of Islam's holiest sites. Like Saudi monarchs before him, King Salman has taken the title of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, referring to the Grand Mosque in Mecca home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray toward five times a day, and the Prophet's Mosque in the nearby city of Medina.

SOUTH AFRICA

Ramaphosa sworn in for second term with coalition's help

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG | Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second term as South Africa's president on Wednesday in a ceremony in the administrative capital, Pretoria, after his reelection with the help from a coalition of parties, a first in the country's 30-year rule.

Mr. Ramaphosa is now set to appoint a Cabinet in a new coalition government after his African National Congress party lost its parliamentary majority in an election last month. He was reelected president by lawmakers on Friday after the main opposition party and a smaller third party joined the ANC in an agreement to co-govern Africa's most industrialized economy.

He will have to guide the first coalition government in which no party has a majority. At least three parties will make up what the ANC is calling a government of national unity, with more

invited to join.

Mr. Ramaphosa was administered the oath of office in a public ceremony at the Union Buildings, the seat of government, by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

King Mswati III of Eswatini, Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, Zimbabwe President Emerson Mnangagwa and former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga were among many dignitaries who attended the inauguration ceremony as Mr. Ramaphosa begins what promises to be a tough final term in office.

The ceremony included a 21-gun salute by the presidential guard and a flyover by the South Africa air force over the Union Buildings. South African musicians and cultural dancers entertained thousands of citizens who attended the swearing-in.

Addressing the nation, Mr. Ramaphosa said that the people had spoken and their will would be adhered to.

"The voters of South Africa did not give any single party the full mandate

to govern our country alone. They have directed us to work together to address their plight and realize their aspirations," he said.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the people of South Africa "have also been unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in some of the areas in which we have failed them." He also recognized the society "remains deeply unequal and highly polarized," which could "easily turn into instability."

"The lines drawn by our history, between Black and White, between man and woman, between suburbs and townships, between urban and rural, between the wealthy and the poor, remain etched in our landscape," he said.

He also promised that the new government would create new work opportunities to face the crippling unemployment as well as work on providing people with basic services like housing, healthcare and clean water.



'PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH'

Former White House national security adviser Robert O'Brien stated in a journal article published Tuesday that the United States needs to return to the "peace through strength" foreign policy championed by former President Donald Trump.

Mr. O'Brien, writing in Foreign Affairs, said that critics of the former president are wrong in claiming that Mr. Trump was "purely transaction" or an isolationist hostile to alliances.

"Trump thinks highly of his predecessor Andrew Jackson and Jackson's approach to foreign policy: Be focused and forceful when compelled to action but wary of overreach," said Mr. O'Brien, who served in the Trump administration.

"A second Trump term would see the return of realism with a Jacksonian flavor. Washington's friends would be more secure and more self-reliant, and its foes would once again fear American power. The United States would be strong, and there would be peace."

China, in particular, has grown more hostile and dangerous since the 1990s and routinely threatens Taiwan and is engaged in low-intensity conflict with the Philippines that threatens to set off a wider war in the South China Sea, Mr. O'Brien said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has become "China's most dangerous leader since the murderous Mao Zedong, and China has yet to be held to account for the COVID-19 pandemic, which originated in Wuhan," he said.

The open border and influx of Chinese fentanyl from Mexico also pose major national security threats to the U.S., he added.

"This morass of American weakness and failure cries out for a Trumpian restoration of peace through strength," Mr. O'Brien said.

"Nowhere is that need more urgent than in the contest with China."

President Biden, he said, has sent mixed messages on the threat from China by seeking closer ties with Beijing through meetings and summits that have produced few achievements.

Instead of continued economic integration, the United States must decouple from China and strengthen tariffs until China is ready for normal trade ties, he said.

Mr. Trump disinvited China's military from the Pacific military exercises known as Rim of the Pacific in 2018 and Mr. Biden has refused to invite Taiwan to the drills, he said, adding that the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan was a disaster that weakened U.S. statecraft and led to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

He argued that the U.S. military has

CHINA RAMPS UP AGGRESSION AGAINST PHILIPPINES

China's coast guard this week took the most aggressive action to date against Philippine supply boats attempting to provide goods to a grounded navy vessel at Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea.

In the latest incident Monday, Chinese coast guard vessels forced a Philippine supply boat near the shoal to yield. Its crew had their guns confiscated by the Chinese.

The Biden administration's policy of not offering warship protection or helicopters to its ally for use in the supply missions remained unchanged after the latest maritime aggression.

Instead, the administration's response has been limited to verbal assurances that so far have failed to deter the Chinese aggression near the shoal.

The Chinese used double-hulled cutters, larger motorboats and special operations rigid-hull inflatable boats to block supply vessels. At least one Philippine sailor was seriously injured.

Chinese warships were also nearby. They included a 45,000-ton Type 075 amphibious assault carrier, a 25,000-ton Type 071 amphibious landing dock ship and three Type 055 cruisers, each equipped with 112 launchers for surface-to-air and supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles.

Military analysts say the Indo-Pacific Command should immediately begin conducting vertical replenishment operations, called VERTREP, using helicopters that would bring needed goods to the Philippine navy ship Sierra Madre.

The grounded ship is being used as a military outpost on Second Thomas Shoal.

Retired Navy Capt. Jim Fanell, former

director of intelligence for the Pacific Fleet, said Monday's incident was the most aggressive action seen by the Chinese in trying to block supplies to the grounded ship.

"The concern at this stage of the development is that Beijing is now confident enough to increase the amount of force required to physically displace the Philippines from holdings such as Second Thomas Shoal or Sabina Reef," he said.

"That trend line makes it clear that Beijing is ready, willing and able to use force against the Philippines, up to and including deadly force."

Mr. Fanell said to avoid loss of life and show support for a treaty ally, the U.S. should use helicopters from the Navy's 7th Fleet to conduct vertical replenishment operations.

The operations would safely and securely deliver supplies and bypass increasing threats posed by the Chinese military to a treaty ally, he said.

The State Department on Monday said the U.S. "condemns the escalatory and irresponsible actions" by the Chinese.

It was at least the ninth time that an official statement of condemnation was issued over China's actions in the shoal.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said the latest incident followed earlier aggressive encounters.

According to the State Department statement, Chinese vessels have used water cannons and dangerous maneuvers over the past year in violation of international law.

China's claims to sovereignty over Second Thomas Shoal were denied in 2016 by a ruling

of an international tribunal, Mr. Miller said.

The statement repeated earlier invocations of Article IV of the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

The article extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels or aircraft — including those of its coast guard — anywhere in the South China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told reporters in Beijing on Wednesday that the Philippine supply vessels ignored "dissuasion" near the shoal, which China still claims as its territory, despite the 2016 ruling.

"The law enforcement action taken by the China coast guard on the scene was professional and restrained and aimed at stopping the illegal resupply mission," Mr. Lin said.

An Indo-Pacific command legal report from March states that China is increasing its aggressive actions near the shoal.

China "continues to exhibit coercive, dangerous, and unlawful behavior toward Philippine vessels and personnel" conducting rotational resupply of the Sierra Madre, a navy transport ship that is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

A spokeswoman for the Indo-Pacific Command quoted Adm. Sam Paparo, the commander, as having said in the past that the U.S. military is "ready to come to the Philippines' assistance, in their exercise of their sovereign rights."

"The Philippines has so far not requested support but we stand ready," Adm. Paparo said. "The U.S. has provided intelligence to the Philippine side to assist in the resupply efforts for the Sierra Madre."

deteriorated under Mr. Biden, with recruiting shortfalls reflecting a lack of confidence among young Americans in an increasingly politicized military.

On alliances, the Biden administration has failed to support allied democracies against rival autocracies by questioning the democratic bona fides of allies such as Brazil, Hungary, Israel and Poland.

The Biden administration appears uninterested in fostering good relations with real-world democratic allies and instead seeks to defend fictional abstractions such as the rules-based international order.

"Such rhetoric reflects a globalist, liberal elitism that masquerades as support for democratic ideals," Mr. O'Brien said.

CHINA LINKED TO SINALOA CARTEL

The Justice Department on Wednesday released a federal indictment outlining the ties

between Chinese organized crime groups and Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel.

The 10-count indictment identifies Sinaloa drug operatives in Los Angeles linked to money laundering with Chinese crime groups.

As part of a conspiracy, the Mexicans and Chinese moved more than \$50 million in drug proceeds in underground fund exchanges, the department said in a statement.

The multiyear probe, "Operation Fortune Runner," resulted in drug and money-laundering charges against 24 people.

The main player in the indictment was identified as Edgar Joel Martinez-Reyes, 45, of East Los Angeles. Twenty of those named in the indictment are expected to be arraigned in federal court in Los Angeles in the coming weeks.

"Dangerous drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine are destroying people's lives but drug traffickers only care about their profits," said Martin Estrada, U.S. attorney for the Central District of California.

"To protect our community, therefore, it is essential that we go after the sophisticated, international criminal syndicates that launder the drug money."

Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Anne Milgram said: "This DEA investigation uncovered a partnership between Sinaloa Cartel associates and a Chinese criminal syndicate operating in Los Angeles and China to launder drug money."

Law enforcement officials seized approximately \$5 million in drug proceeds, 302 pounds of cocaine, 92 pounds of methamphetamine, 3,000 ecstasy pills, 44 pounds of psilocybin or "magic mushrooms," numerous ounces of ketamine, three semiautomatic rifles with high-capacity magazines and eight semiautomatic handguns.

The money laundering involved "many wealthy Chinese" who sought to transfer assets to the United States that are barred under Chinese law. Beijing limits cash transfers to \$50,000 a year.

• Contact Bill Gertz on X @BillGertz.

50 STATES

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VIRGINIA

Good expresses confidence in tight race against McGuire

Primary too close to call for Virginia's 5th District

By ALEX MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Freedom Caucus Chairman Bob Good still hopes to beat state Sen. John McGuire in Virginia's 5th Congressional District GOP primary that was too close to call as late as Wednesday.

No decisive victor emerged from the contest between Mr. Good and Mr. McGuire, but the state legislator did lead by over 300 votes. Their race spilled into the day after polls closed in Virginia and could go on for the next few weeks as the results are certified by election officials.

Mr. Good said on X that it has become a waiting game as officials evaluate the accuracy of the vote totals and count provisional and mail-in ballots.

"We are asking for full

transparency from the officials involved and patience from the people of the 5th District over the coming weeks as the certification of results is completed," he said. "We believe we can still prevail."

Virginia law doesn't provide for an automatic recount, but a candidate can ask for one if the Election Day margin is less than 1%. No major media outlets have officially called the race.

Mr. McGuire's lead is less than half a percentage point, according to Decision Desk HQ, but he claimed victory Tuesday night.

"There are still a few votes left to count, but it's clear that all paths end with a victory," he said in a statement. "Folks in the 5th District can rest assured that should they elect me in November, they will have an effective fighter in Congress who will get

the job done for them."

Indeed, the victor will likely easily cruise to Washington after the Nov. 5 general election in the historically deep-red district.

Though a two-term incumbent, Mr. Good has faced an uphill struggle against Mr. McGuire, who received a coveted endorsement from former President Donald Trump. Mr. Trump spurned Mr. Good because of his previous support of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in the Republican presidential primaries, claiming the lawmaker would "stab Virginia in the back" if reelected.

Despite all the venom from Mr. Trump on the campaign trail, he has not pointed to specific policy issues he has with Mr. Good, nor does he appear to have any personal problems with the lawmaker. But the former president



"We believe we can still prevail," Rep. Bob Good (left) said on X about his primary race against state Sen. John McGuire.

Mr. McCarthy's best shot at getting a sliver of vengeance against Mr. Good and his co-conspirators after failing to topple Rep. Nancy Mace, South Carolina Republican, in her primary and facing a hard-to-beat Rep. Matt Gaetz, Florida Republican, in his primary in August.

Even though the Virginia race isn't over, congressional supporters of Mr. McGuire sounded the victory bell for him Wednesday.

Rep. Ryan Zinke, Montana Republican, said on X that Virginia agreed "that we can do better than Good." Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia Republican, said Mr. McGuire's victory showed "just how toxic" Mr. Good has been to the GOP.

"John McGuire WINS," Ms. Greene said on X. "I was the first member of Congress to endorse [Mr. McGuire] because of his conservative record, his loyalty to President Trump and his service to our country."

did note how other House Republicans don't like Mr. Good's disruptive activity in Congress.

Mr. McGuire also has the financial backing of former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who

has spent his retirement from Congress plotting revenge against the eight lawmakers who ousted him — a clique that Mr. Good belonged to.

If Mr. McGuire wins, it will be

NORTH CAROLINA

Unloaded guns don't violate state's safe storage law, appeals court rules

By GARY D. ROBERTSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. | An appeals court threw out convictions Tuesday against a North Carolina woman who was charged after a teenager fatally shot himself in her home, saying she was absolved because the weapon had initially been unloaded.

State law makes it a crime for a gun owner to improperly store a weapon at home so as to allow a child to show it off, commit a crime or hurt someone. But the

law can be applied only if the weapon is loaded, according to a unanimous ruling of a three-judge panel of the intermediate-level state Court of Appeals.

A trial judge had found Kimberly Cable guilty of involuntary manslaughter and two misdemeanor safe firearm storage counts in 2022. She was sentenced to three years of probation.

On July 2018, Ms. Cable's son had another boy — both of them 16 years old — over at his house for the night, according to case documents. At 2 a.m., her

son went in the bedroom of Ms. Cable and her husband as they were sleeping and retrieved an unloaded .44-caliber Magnum revolver that authorities say Ms. Cable possessed and a box of ammunition, both lying on top of an open gun safe.

The son showed his friend the revolver and placed it and the ammo on the top of a gun safe in his bedroom. The friend then asked the son if he wanted to play Russian roulette. The friend quickly put a bullet in the revolver, pointed it at himself

and fired, dying instantly, the documents said.

Police found 57 other guns in the home, according to the opinion. Shortly thereafter, Ms. Cable and her husband — a gunsmith — were charged in connection with the shooting.

While Ms. Cable's appellate lawyer also questioned the constitutionality of the safe storage for minors law, Tuesday's ruling focused on arguments that prosecutors failed to prove that Ms. Cable stored the gun involved in the shooting "in a condition that

the firearm can be discharged," as the criminal count requires.

Court of Appeals Judge Jefferson Griffin, who wrote the panel's opinion, said the appeals court had never interpreted the phrase before and it was ambiguous.

He said past and present criminal law, combined with a legal rule that favors defendants for ambiguous laws, leads to the conclusion that the phrase means the firearm must be loaded.

That means Ms. Cable's revolver was not stored in violation of the law, he wrote. The second

similar firearm storage conviction against her was also reversed because there was no evidence to suggest a minor gained access to other weapons, and the involuntary manslaughter conviction was vacated because the safe-firearm conviction involving the revolver was reversed, Judge Griffin said.

Court of Appeals Judges Hunter Murphy and Michael Stading agreed with the opinion written by Judge Griffin, who is running for state Supreme Court in the fall.

NEW JERSEY

Turmoil rocks state's Democratic bosses

Liberals see cleanup in Norcross indictment, Menendez charges

By MIKE CATALINI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. | Being a political boss in New Jersey ain't what it used to be.

Monday's indictment on racketeering charges of Democratic power broker George E. Norcross III by state Attorney General Matt Platkin caps a series of blows to influential figures in the state's dominant political party and adds to a sense of turbulence in the blue-state stronghold.

There's the ongoing federal bribery case against Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, who's pleaded not guilty in a New York trial that has consistently delivered glimpses of the tawdry underbelly of Garden State politics. There's the fall this year of a century-old, unique-to-New Jersey primary ballot system that allowed party bosses to give preferred placement to endorsed candidates.

And now there's the indictment of Mr. Norcross, who Mr. Platkin said stepped across legal lines in orchestrating tax benefits for entities he controlled. Mr. Norcross angrily denied doing anything wrong.

It all comes months before the November general election, as Democrats look to hold on to a U.S. Senate seat they didn't expect to have to fight for in a year when their thin majority is already in jeopardy. Republicans, meanwhile, have found new reasons to be optimistic about their chances to win a seat they haven't held in more than five decades.

Some New Jersey progressives see the unfolding chaos as part of an overdue cleanup in the messy politics of a state they have long dominated. Other observers draw a parallel



Power broker George Norcross III sits in the front row before racketeering charges against him were announced Monday. The indictment caps a series of blows to the state's Democratic Party.

to what has happened nationally in the Republican Party, where the power of establishment Republicans has given way to a more chaotic brand of populism espoused by former President Donald Trump and others like him.

They see it as a dissipation of centralized control all across the political spectrum — perhaps even a restoration of power to the people.

"What we're really seeing is pushback against things that people would have gotten away with some time ago," said Daniel Cassino, executive director of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll. "This is basically saying, I think that these parties are out of touch with what voters want, and the energy of the party and both Republican and Democratic Party is very much on the side of the people who are against the institutional party."

Mr. Platkin, a Democrat, argued that it's time for the state to leave behind its reputation for ugly politics, a legacy that has been helped along at times in caricature, whether in fictional scenes from "The Sopranos" or in the minds of those who embrace it as a badge of honor.

"It's often said that in New Jersey politics is a blood sport," he said Monday. "What's meant by that is that if you don't go along with the demands of those in political power, you'll get hurt. ... There is nothing inherent in our state's culture that requires us to accept politics and government that functions in this way."

Mr. Norcross cast Mr. Platkin's prosecution of him as politically motivated. He called Mr. Platkin a coward and demanded the trial start in two weeks.

He's charged with operating

a criminal enterprise over more than a decade, starting in 2012, in which he threatened property owners whose land he sought to acquire, used Camden city government to acquire land and tailored legislation for tax incentives that benefited companies he controlled. Those allegations have been the subject of investigations for years, with Mr. Norcross denying any wrongdoing and praising the good his investments did for the economically hard-up city of Camden, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia.

A longtime kingmaker in southern New Jersey, Mr. Norcross often wielded influence through back channels. An old friend of the former Senate president and current gubernatorial candidate Steve Sweeney, Mr. Norcross played a key role in getting economic tax incentive legislation passed in 2013.

MARYLAND

Baltimore seeks to keep Dali crew in U.S. in wake of bridge tragedy

By LEA SKENE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE | Attorneys are asking a federal judge to prevent crew members on the cargo ship Dali from returning to their home countries amid ongoing investigations into the circumstances leading up to the deadly collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in March.

Eight of the Dali's crew members were scheduled to disembark the ship and return home as early as Thursday, according to emails included in court filings Tuesday. The roughly two dozen total seafarers hail from India and Sri Lanka.

That would mark the first time any of them can leave the ship since it lost power and crashed into one of the bridge's supporting columns shortly after leaving Baltimore on March 26.

In the court filings, attorneys representing the City of Baltimore said the men should remain in the U.S. so they can be deposed in ongoing civil litigation over who should be held responsible for covering costs and damages resulting from the bridge collapse, which killed six construction workers and temporarily halted most maritime traffic through Baltimore's busy port.

"The crew consists entirely of foreign nationals who, of course, have critical knowledge and information about the events giving rise to this litigation," the attorneys wrote. "If they are permitted to leave the United States, claimants may never have the opportunity to question or depose them."

The petition requested an emergency hearing on the matter. No ruling has been issued in response.

Darrell Wilson, a spokesperson for the ship's owner, said Tuesday evening that some crew members are scheduled to leave.

"A portion of the crew are going home and a portion are remaining here to assist with the investigation," he said in a text message.

Mr. Wilson said he was unable to provide additional details about how many crew members were leaving and when. He also said he wasn't sure when the ship itself would leave Baltimore for Norfolk, Virginia, where it will receive more extensive repairs.

The hulking container ship remained pinned amid the wreckage of the fallen bridge for almost two months while workers removed thousands and thousands of tons of mangled steel and concrete from the bottom of the Patapsco River at the entrance to Baltimore's harbor.

The ship's crew remained on-board even when explosives were detonated to break apart fallen bridge trusses and free the vessel from a massive steel span that landed across its bow.

The ongoing civil litigation began with a petition from the ship's owner and manager, two Singapore-based companies, seeking to limit their legal liability for the deadly disaster.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigation found the ship experienced two power outages in the hours before it left the Port of Baltimore. In the moments before the bridge collapse, it lost power again and veered off course. The agency's investigation is still ongoing to determine what exactly caused the electrical issues.

The FBI also launched a criminal investigation.

According to the emails included in Tuesday's court filings, the eight crew members scheduled to return home have already been interviewed by Department of Justice investigators and that the department doesn't object to their departure.



The Staple Jr. Singers siblings (from left) R.C. Brown, Annie Brown Caldwell, and Edward Brown released their first new music in nearly 50 years.

MUSIC

'Like it's brand new again'

By MICHAEL CASEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sibling gospel group releases first new music in nearly 50 years

BOSTON | She made a single gospel soul record in the 1970s with her brothers, when they were all teenagers. Then Annie Brown Caldwell moved on with her life.

Decades later, she was running a clothing store in a tiny Mississippi town and singing on weekends with her husband and children when she got a call from a label founded by David Byrne. They wanted to add a single from her first band, the Staples Jr. Singers, to a compilation record.

That 2019 call led to more — the Luaka Bop label reissued the band's 1975 record "When Do We Get Paid," drawing rave reviews in 2022 for its raw sound and mix of blues, funk and soul. And soon the Brown siblings, now in their 60s, found themselves on a course that would make any rising pop star jealous.

In the past four years, they flew for the first time, toured Europe four times and played hipster clubs like Brooklyn's Baby's All Right. And, finally last year, they saw a performance by Mavis Staples, whose group The Staple Singers inspired their own early sound with genre-busting, socially conscious Stax Records hits. Also a band of siblings, they had covered several of

their songs.

"It's been a dream come true," said Ms. Brown Caldwell, who was 11 when she and R.C. and Edward, who were 12 and 13, co-founded The Staples Jr. Singers in 1967. They started playing in the church where their mother was a preacher and father a deacon, and toured by van around the South.

Last Friday, the Browns released "Searching," their first batch of new songs in nearly 50 years, and gearing up for a tour in July to the Roskilde festival in Denmark as well as the Netherlands, Slovakia, and Germany.

"It's a blessing," Ms. Brown Caldwell said. "It feels good. We are getting older and it seems the Lord just now is blessing our youth like it's brand new again."

Their resurgence began with a record collector who stumbled on their first single in a Midwest thrift store and bought it for \$1.

Greg Belson, whose gospel collection fills three rooms in Los Angeles, was intrigued that the band's name was so similar to The Staple Singers. He put "We Got a Race to Run" on a portable turntable he often brings with him, and was struck by their sound: "It sat

completely in the wheelhouse of what I look for, which is specifically gospel with a soulful tinge, rather than what I would say more classical church-based gospel," Mr. Belson said.

Yale Evelev, the president of Luaka Bop, heard Mr. Belson's radio show and pulled from his collection for a compilation of 1970s gospel soul songs called "The Time For Peace Is Now." He wanted to include the Staples Jr. Singers single, but first he had to find the band. He figured out that Annie Brown was now Annie Caldwell, and called all seven listed in Mississippi.

Like Mr. Belson, Mr. Evelev was attracted to a gospel sound that isn't heard much on the radio these days. "These are soul records really," he said. "Soul records with a message. That message imbues the performance with a certain underlying intensity and honesty."

He reached Ms. Brown Caldwell on the last call.

"I never believed that this record would come up again," Ms. Brown Caldwell said. "For real though. Is this for real?"

She agreed to put the single out but her brothers were initially

resistant, and they balked at reissuing "When Do We Get Paid." Only a few hundred original copies of the record exist, one of which Mr. Belson bought off a Milwaukee collector for \$600.

"There was a lot of family drama that was happening that had existed for a long time," Mr. Evelev said. "We kind of ended up in the middle of it, and it was a lot of back and forth and a lot of yelling at each other."

They worked it out, and agreed to perform four shows in New York in 2022. Mr. Evelev heard some songs that weren't on their 1975 record and asked if they had any unreleased music. It turned out they recorded about a dozen songs in Muscle Shoals in the 1980s.

Mr. Evelev brought in Ahmed Gallab, who performs as the artist Sinkane, as a producer, and he recorded them over two nights in a Mississippi church where they sat in a semi-circle or in the pews as they played. Mr. Gallab then went to Nashville to mix it and do some overdubs, aiming to have the songs "ring as true as possible" to when he first heard them play.

Like their first album, "Searching" weaves its gospel message with blues guitar and influences ranging from boogaloo to swamp music to rhythm and blues to soul.

Cruel words add pain to loss of companion

DEAR ABBY: My cat recently passed away, and it has devastated me. He was my emotional support during some of the hardest times of my life — relationships ending, moving to different states, deaths in my family, lonely nights battling depression. My cat was my one constant source of peace and companionship. I miss him dearly.

When I mentioned to some friends that I'm looking forward to reuniting with him one day in the "hereafter," a religious friend scoffed and laughed. She then proceeded to tell me cats do not have souls and I shouldn't get my hopes up of ever seeing him again. I managed a small shrug and changed the subject, but on the drive home I was depressed, thinking about what she'd said.

Upon further research, I found that, according to Catholicism, she was correct, and animals do not have souls, which has made me heartbroken all over again. Should I consult a religious adviser or continue believing I'll see my cat again?

I have to think that people who have no friends or family but do have beloved pets will be reunited with them. Lots of times, our pets are the only family we have. — MISSING MY CAT IN GEORGIA

DEAR MISSING: Your friend was insensitive to deny you the comfort of believing your soul would be reunited with that of your beloved kitty. There are many religions, and not

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

all of them subscribe to the same philosophies. If you need reassurance, discuss

this with your own religious adviser who, I am sure, has had a similar conversation with many members of his flock.

P.S. My personal philosophy is that my soul will be reunited with any soul I wish once I have shed this earthly shell.

DEAR ABBY: I was asked to be the maid of honor in a friend's wedding. I did not consider us to be close friends, but she has no sisters and few girlfriends. She seemed desperate and told me I was the only one who could fit this role, so I obliged.

Now it's my turn to be the bride. I have other girlfriends I am closer to that I would like to ask to be my bridesmaids. I feel guilty for not returning the favor. She's invited to the wedding, but I don't want her to be in my wedding party. I also feel awkward having to tell her she isn't as close to me as the other girlfriends I want. How do I let her down gently without hurting her feelings? — NOT CLOSE IN THE WEST

DEAR NOT CLOSE: Why are you feeling guilty? Having served as this woman's maid of honor does not obligate you to have her be part of your own wedding. A way to "let her down gently" would be not to mention the subject at all. If she brings it up, explain that you invited her because you want her there to share in your happiness. Period.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 20). This year goes down in the books as you'll

make yourself and others extremely proud. Tenacity is the buzzword as you build a lasting legacy brick by brick, moment by moment. More highlights: Renovations and beauty. You'll be surrounded by people who remind you how loveable you are. You'll change up your financial strategy to excellent effect. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 15, 28, 14 and 36.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). One of the many lessons of social media is that loving yourself is different from loving how others love you. Self-support means paying attention to your own enjoyment, rhythms, attractions and annoyances instead of preening yourself for the gaze of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Think of your entire situation and take on responsibilities that fit comfortably into the rest of the schedule. When you really reason this out, you will notice there is far less room for new commitments than you thought.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You could say more, and saying less will do it for you — especially when you deploy your superstar smile. Emotional warmth is something people want to be near even when it's hot outside.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When the plan goes right, you have a result. When the plan goes wrong, you have a story. Today the plan will swerve in and out of effectiveness, so you'll have both an adventure and a result. Life is sweet!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The fisher finds peace in the rhythm of a well-cast line and the pull of a strong catch. So does the salesperson, the seducer and the entertainer. You will find yourself in this club today, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you want to be, you're a rockstar on the

HOLIDAY MATHS
HOROSCOPE

job, in a relationship or working a room. When you don't want to be,

you can blend into the wallpaper, no problem. You'll be strategic with your shine and your cloak of invisibility.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When an advertiser can press on your pain point, they might win a sale. But what about creating points of pain that weren't even there? It's diabolical but commonplace. Look out for those who profit from seeding self-doubt in others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The scene from your past seems perfectly intact in your mind, like an ancient insect caught in amber. But memories are more malleable and easily romanticized, which is something to consider making decisions going forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When deals get complicated, it's a sign that something on the foundational level is off. Go back to square one and everything gets simple again. An adjustment in timing and/or location is the simple fix.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love is inextricably connected to vulnerability. Love is offering up the softer parts of the heart and agreeing, to some extent, to trust them to another. The one who doesn't risk anything of value is not invested enough to properly call it love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Let people help you. Don't resist their offerings even for a minute. They may not give you exactly what you need or want, but it will still turn out to be useful, and, in retrospect, you just might be amazed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're sending out vibes and lobbing subconscious messages out like corked bottles into the cosmic ocean. You won't have to say what you want to get because your entire being is sending the word out and the universe has heard you.

CREATORS.COM

Poor HD quality hurts 'Lair of the White Worm'

Director Ken Russell's 1988 bizarre horror comedy returns to the high-definition format now entombed in metal in **The Lair of the White Worm: SteelBook Edition (Lionsgate Home Entertainment, rated R, 93 minutes, 1.85:1 aspect ratio, \$19.96).**

Very loosely adapted from Bram Stoker's final novel of the same name and the English folklore surrounding the Lambton Worm, this cult classic creature feature has Scottish archaeology student Angus Flint (of future "Doctor Who" fame, Peter Capaldi) finding a large snake skull at a pagan dig site near an ancient church while the Trent sisters Eve (Catherine Oxenberg) and Mary (Sammi Davis) distress over their missing father.

The skull intrigues our villainess, an immortal priestess of the snake god Dionin, Lady Sylvia Marsh (Amanda Donohoe), often wearing incredibly tight and sensual costumes.

Her goal is the sacrifice of humans to bring the slithering deity back to life and she wields an extended and sharp pair of fangs when necessary to kill and control her victims.

The sisters, archaeologist and Eve's boyfriend Lord James D'Ampton (a very young Hugh Grant) eventually work together to find out what happened to daddy Trent and stop



Lady Sylvia.

Of course Russell, known for his flamboyant directing style (reference his masterpiece "Tommy") cannot simply make a monster movie.

The visually twisted director presents an abundance of exploitive imagery tied to snakes and worms to reinforce the villain's intentions, and even a battle between Christianity and paganism plays out.

His addition of nightmarish hallucination sequences tied to Lady Sylvia's venom delivers moments of disturbing sensuality and ridiculous phallic symbolism and even occasional blasphemy that will cause the occasional face-palm from viewers.

The screen-filling, high-definition presentation, originally released by Vestron in 2017, really disappoints with too many specks and dirt, and the fantasy scene effects look well worn, all leaving a very B-movie, near grind-house quality throughout.

Best extras: The deconstructive dive starts with a priceless and previously released (from a special edition

back in 1999) optional commentary track with the venerable director offering a very theatrical explanation of his masterpiece.

Russell speaks nonstop, often acting like an amusing omniscient narrator to the movie. He focuses on the Stoker source material, D'Ampton Worm folklore and the cast, but he doesn't give much explanation for his more outrageous expressionistic scenes.

He mentions fodder such as shooting in a residence owned by a famous video-game creator, the lack of lighting in scenes, his handling of the camera, some favorite snake stories and discussing an actor who refused to take his clothes off.

A second optional commentary features Lisi Russell (Russell's fourth wife) who joins film historian Matthew Melia in offering a much more standard discussion of the production with tales from the set, casting credits, story and shot selection. The predominance of the information comes from Mr.

Melia with Ms. Russell agreeing with his observations.

Moving on to featurettes culled from the 2017 release, the disc delivers a 27-minute look at the truly disturbing practical visual effects as delightfully explained by artisans Neill Gorton, Paul Jones and Geoffrey Portass.

They touch on such moments creating the large worm head puppet, impaling a character on his eyeball, moving a foam worm in the awkward crucifixion scene and cutting a body in half.

Viewers also get 16 minutes with an enthusiastic Ms. Davis reminiscing about the film and 10 minutes with the film's editor, Peter Davies.

The Walmart exclusive SteelBook packaging has an eye-catching cover with a tight headshot of blue-skinned Lady Sylvia in full vampiric-serpent mode with fangs flashing.

A swirling, Easter-egg-colored portal — with purple, yellow and teal hues dominating — is behind her leading to the back cover highlighting the end of the film and meeting the snake god ready to chomp on victims.

The interior presents the original movie poster to the left with Lady Sylvia slithering in black leather and a key scene on the right of the villain hissing at a crucifix, images all bathed in dark blue.



The Google AI Opportunity Fund is helping ensure more Americans can access AI training

As the demand for AI-related professional skills rises, Google.org has launched a \$75 million AI Opportunity Fund to help ensure AI's benefits are widely shared.

Through this fund, Google.org will support small businesses, education, and other sectors to train Americans of all backgrounds and provide them with AI skills at no cost.

It's a core part of our commitment to [training today's workforce for tomorrow's AI-supported economy.](#)

Life lessons from my battle with cancer

The most important things in your life aren't actually things — they're people

By Larry Hogan

I had the privilege of spending Father's Day weekend with my children and grandchildren. We played with the dogs, barbecued, caught up and laughed. Times like these are the ones you look forward to your whole life.

For the last nine years, Father's Day has come with a particular reminder that this precious time is a blessing that isn't promised to anyone.

Nine years ago this month, it was the Friday of Father's Day weekend. I had recently been elected governor, and I heard my doctor say 13 words that changed my life.

"Governor, I'm afraid we have some very difficult news to share with you." With those 13 words, I was diagnosed with an advanced and aggressive cancer that had already spread rapidly throughout my body.

Returning to the governor's mansion, I could think only about how I would tell my family. And then, even if I got through that, what would I tell my staff, who had given up their lives to help me? And what would I tell the 6 million Marylanders who had just elected me?

I never thought I'd have to ask these questions — no one does — but the answers they yielded were even more surprising.

When I shared my news, everything became easier amid the many tears that followed. The people around me became my support system, and the people of Maryland became my prayer circle — sending cards and letters, making bracelets and wearing shirts that said "Hogan Strong."

All of this gave me something more important than any title or recognition; it gave me perspective on what truly matters in life.

That is the first lesson: No matter where life takes you, unexpected blessings and challenges will be put in your path. Lean on your family, your mentors, your friends, your team and your community. I can tell you that the most important things in your life aren't actually things

— they're people.

After I announced my diagnosis the following week, my doctors wanted me to begin treatment as soon as possible. But there were no plans for what to do when a governor has an aggressive cancer. So again, with the help of my team, we did what had to be done: I governed the state from a hospital bed in Baltimore while enduring months of 24-hour-a-day chemotherapy.

I held meetings and made important decisions in the hospital between laps, walking around the hall, dragging my chemo pole along with me, and talking to the medical staff, my fellow patients and their families.

The second lesson is that there will be times in your life when things hit you out of the blue. So you should not just expect the unexpected but accept it and embrace the challenges in life.

Don't get thrown off course when obstacles appear. Take the initiative, set the course yourself and never give up. Trust your instincts and believe in your ability to bounce back.

By Thanksgiving of that year, I was able to report to the state that incredibly, I was cancer-free and in complete remission. Nine years later, I'm grateful to say I still am.

I returned to the Statehouse with less hair — well, really no hair after that. I served out my first term as governor and became only the second Republican to be reelected governor in Maryland's 240-year history — proof that anything is possible.

But more importantly, on the day I found out I was cancer-free, I pledged that as long as I was governor and long after that, I would stand with all those patients and families I met along the way and do everything I could to help raise awareness, support the research, and build the labs and hospitals that will one day lead to a cure for this terrible disease.

I'm proud to be fighting that fight alongside my fellow survivors. In my last year in office, we launched a new initiative to boldly expand the state's commitment to fighting cancer, including

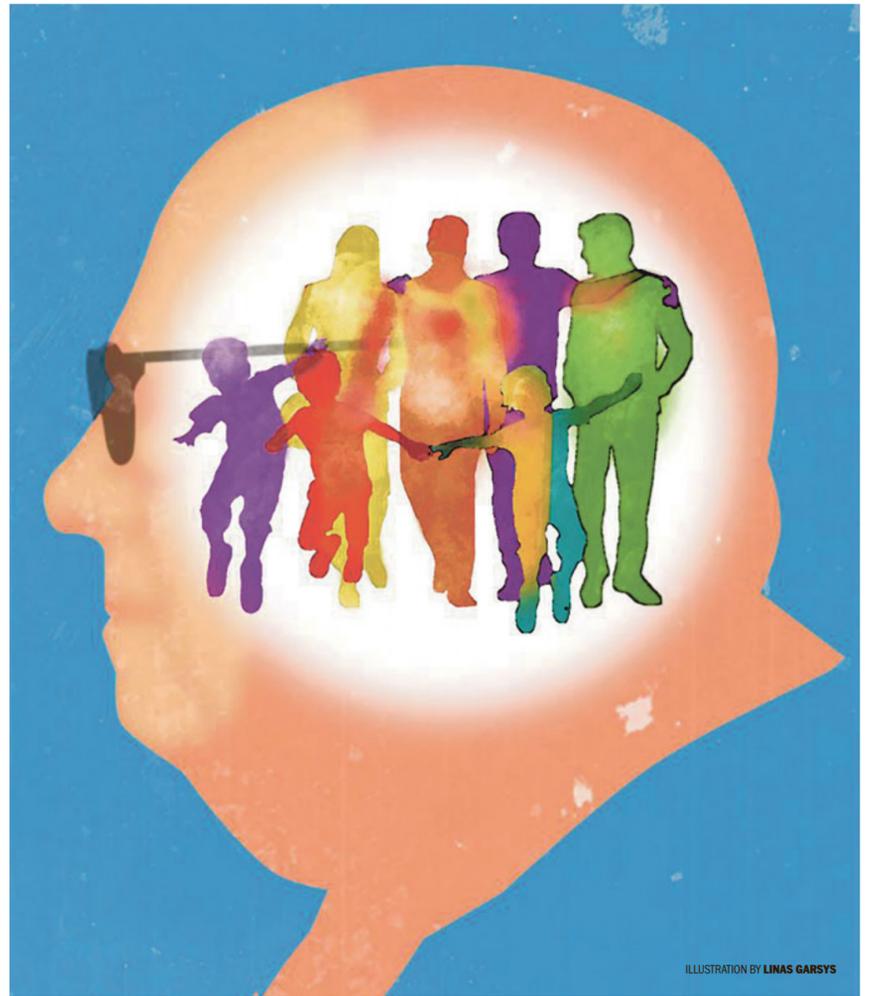


ILLUSTRATION BY LIMAS GARSYS

Don't get thrown off course when obstacles appear. Take the initiative, set the course yourself and never give up. Trust your instincts and believe in your ability to bounce back. By Thanksgiving of that year, I was able to report to the state that incredibly, I was cancer-free and in complete remission. Nine years later, I'm grateful to say I still am.

By Bobby Reznitz

In one of his seminal books envisioning the future Jewish state, the founder of modern political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, wrote: "I am not ashamed to say, though I may expose myself to ridicule for saying so, that once I have witnessed the redemption of the Jews, my people, I wish also to assist in the redemption of the Africans."

Thus, Black liberation was interwoven tightly with the Jewish liberation movement.

It was not just words either.

In the early years after the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in its indigenous and ancestral homeland, Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir frequently traveled around Africa to assist the new countries in nation-building and practical matters to improve Africans' lives.

"Like them," Meir said before one such trip, "we had shaken off foreign rule; like them, we had to learn for ourselves how to reclaim the land, how to increase the yields of our crops, how to irrigate, how to raise poultry, how to live together and how to defend ourselves."

This Zionist spirit of assistance and standing shoulder to shoulder with the oppressed is a deeply Jewish value because Jews know what it is to be enslaved, oppressed, discriminated against, lynched and massacred.

This value has remained with Jews wherever they lived.

Statistically, Jews were one of the most actively involved non-Black groups in the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. During the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer project, around half the White volunteers from Northern states were Jewish, as were the civil rights attorneys active in the South in the 1960s, which was crucial to the movement.

It is well known that many Jews and Jewish leaders heeded the call and worked closely with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., marching alongside and being arrested with their Black counterparts.

King understood the roots of these communal relations and was an ardent Zionist.

"Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all of our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity," King said in 1964. "I see Israel, and never mind saying it, as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land almost can be transformed into an

NAACP should have Israel's back

Black community ought to stand with the Jewish community

oasis of brotherhood and democracy."

It is against this long history of fraternity that the Jewish community is extremely disappointed when, a few days ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called for a complete halt of weapons to Israel, which is fighting for its very survival on several fronts against genocidal regimes and groups.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

It is also discriminatory that the first nation the NAACP has called to halt weapons to also happens to be the only Jewish state, and this is from an organization whose first two presidents, Joel and Arthur Spingarn, were Jewish.

We are not asking for support based on our shared history of oppression and fraternity.

We are not asking for support because Israel is fighting for a better future against those still engaged in slavery and anti-Black racism.

We are not asking for support because Israel is the only nation in history that has delivered the people of

Africa from slavery to freedom, where Africans came not as slaves or to be exploited but as free and equals.

We are asking for education, understanding and tolerance.

We are asking for equality in the family of nations. We are asking for support for the one Jewish state, which, like the African people, is living on the same land it has for thousands of years, speaking the same language and following the same customs and traditions.

Like African nations, Israel suffered conquest, imperialism, and subsequent colonialism and occupation.

Zionism is one of the last century's most successful national liberation and indigenous rights movements.

Unfortunately, much of this is not known by the leaders of the NAACP and its constituents, who have been hoodwinked by sophisticated and well-funded foreign propaganda into supporting one of the most successful imperialistic and colonialist movements in history.

The Black community should stand with the Jewish community and its indigenous homeland, fighting for its very existence because it is the progressive, anti-imperialistic and rightful thing to do.

The recent NAACP statement is regressive and singles out the one Jewish state for opprobrium. It has never said a word about the human rights in Syria, where hundreds of thousands were butchered, the brutal ongoing occupations of Cyprus and Syria by states like Turkey, or the slave markets in Libya.

As a result, we can see the statement against Israel only as bigoted, inequitable and highly politicized. The NAACP was built to fight for equality and against discrimination. However, by specifically targeting the community that historically stood by their side in the U.S. and around the world, the NAACP is derogating its leading role in the Black community.

If it truly wants to return to its role of standing with the oppressed and discriminated, it would have Israel's back.

Bobby Reznitz is a Los-Angeles based philanthropist and real estate developer who serves as chairman of the Abraham Accords Roundtable and the Golda Meir Commemorative Coin Committee in Washington.

hell to do something about it — I still am every single day. What makes America the greatest nation on Earth and a shining city on a hill is that we can always be part of making it better.

Larry Hogan served as the 62nd governor of Maryland from 2015 to 2023 and is running for the U.S. Senate.

Trump or Biden?

Record number of Americans hate both candidates

What happens when you run an 81-year-old career politician with flagging health against a 78-year-old man-child who last month was found guilty of 34 felony charges?

Yup, you guessed it. Americans say none of the above.

According to a new poll, a significant portion of the American electorate holds unfavorable views of both President Biden and former President



Donald Trump. The group, known as "double haters," has reached its highest percentage at this stage in the past 10 presidential election campaigns.

The latest findings from Pew Research show that the number of "double haters" has almost doubled since 2020 — to 25%. The growing sentiment contributes to the anxiety surrounding the anticipated rematch between Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump, making the 2024 election one of the most contentious in recent memory.

Political analysts believe the election's outcome will largely depend on a small but crucial segment of voters in key swing states, estimated to be around 6%. These voters are expected to reluctantly choose between two unfavorable candidates when November arrives.

Adding complexity to the race, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s third-party run could be a factor in several pivotal states. Both the Biden and Trump campaigns are keenly aware of his potential impact and strategize to counteract his

» see CURL | B4

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Ending California's crime wave

Voters have a chance to repeal liberals' smash-and-grab policy

Californians are fed up with the crime spree they themselves unleashed. The state's elections chief last week announced an initiative to repeal Proposition 47 will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot, offering voters a chance to correct the mistake they made a decade ago in granting kleptomaniacs a license to pilfer up to \$950 worth of merchandise on each trip to the supermarket or shopping mall.

This experiment in coddling crooks proved as much a disaster as critics at the time had warned. Repeal proponents had little difficulty racking up nearly 1 million signatures on the petition to qualify for the ballot as evidence for its need mounts.

Macy's, Nordstrom, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Whole Foods and 7-Eleven are among the big-name operations that have abandoned locations across the Golden State. Although each cites the impact of organized shoplifting gangs, lefty politicians like San Francisco Mayor London Breed can't bring themselves to admit defeat.

She called Walgreens executives liars and insisted that crime is actually down in the City by the Bay. Ms. Breed is right that city statistics indicate that crime has dropped. When larceny isn't prosecuted, there's no point in calling the cops — assuming they even pick up the phone. Crimes that go unreported aren't included in government figures.

Anyone shopping in California — or any other state with soft-on-crime prosecutors — knows something is wrong when the toothpaste at CVS is locked up as securely as gold at Fort Knox.

Violence is also on the rise because troublemakers are on the streets instead of in prison. In Oakland, several

In-N-Out and Taco Bell locations shut down indoor dining because, as one fast-food employee told a television news reporter, "some people sometimes make trouble."

Proposition 47 contained another, lesser-known provision, allowing anyone to forge "a check, bond, bank bill, note, cashier's check, traveler's check, or money order" as long as the amount of the fraudulent financial instrument doesn't exceed \$950. Because fencing stolen goods falls under the same exemption, building a criminal empire has never been easier.

Realizing Democrats are losing ground on the issue of crime, California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a cynical legislative package that "bolsters existing law to ensure police can arrest suspects of retail theft" — except his bill includes a poison-pill provision that would nullify those changes if voters decide to repeal Proposition 47.

The sole purpose of that provision is to be able to falsely portray the repeal vote as soft on crime in the all-important pamphlet explaining the ballot measure that's distributed to every voter.

State Assembly Republican leader James Gallagher and Senate Minority Leader Brian Jones fumed at the dishonest tactic. "Unfortunately, Democrat politicians are too prideful to admit their mistake with Prop 47, and therefore, they continue to deny the desperate need for reform," they wrote in a joint statement.

A Berkeley IGS poll two years ago found voters favored repeal of Proposition 47 by a 2-1 margin, and the margins have likely grown wider since then. When one of the most liberal states in the nation admits progressive policies don't work, the rest of the country ought to pay attention.



Tax reform is just part of a larger puzzle

Will Republicans meet the moment?

As I stated in my last column, no matter which party wins this year's presidential and congressional elections, most of Washington will be dedicated to tax legislation, federal spending and how to deal with the debt ceiling.

As such, the Republican Party should consider this time a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the tax code.

In general, tax reform and the tax code are parts of a larger mosaic of government policy. Unfortunately, when they have power, Republicans tend to prioritize ephemeral things such as lower taxes, economic growth or increased military spending.

In comparison, Democrats prefer to make structural changes, expand

or larger exemptions for whatever are not institutional or structural reform, and neither is economic growth.

With everything on the table next year, Republicans have an opportunity to make changes that will endure beyond the next round of changes to the tax code. To do so, however, they may need to temporarily shelve some of their tax preferences.

For example, they could offer to leave the tax credits for electric vehicles in place in exchange for repealing CAFE and requiring Congress' direct instruction before regulating carbon emissions. Or for that matter, they could leave many of the tax credits embedded in the Inflation Reduction Act unmolested in exchange for durable and meaningful regulatory reform.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Offer a 10% across-the-board pay raise for federal workers in exchange for making hiring, firing and transferring senior federal officials easier and relocating agencies easier. Resolve the immigration status of those who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children in exchange for making the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent. Statutorily relieve student loans in exchange for zero net growth in federal spending over the next 10 years.

Trade national school choice for the increased deduction for state and local taxes that the coastal Democrats want very much. Agree to the child tax credit in exchange for E-Verify and legitimate border security legislation. Get rid of election spending limits in exchange for creating transparency in who funds what and getting serious about running guys like George Soros out of American politics.

You get the idea. Republicans need to experience a change of heart about what might be possible next year. Restricting tax reform and a debt ceiling increase next year to the same old, same old conversations about tax rates and increasingly obscure tax provisions that are relevant to only a handful of rich dudes and companies is a recipe for failure.

Republicans must meet the moment with creativity, resolve and a commitment to work for all Americans.

Michael McKenna is an award-winning columnist, a contributing editor to The Washington Times, and a co-host of the podcast "The Unregulated."

industrial policy or create new cohorts of dependencies — think the Affordable Care Act, the corporate average fleet efficiency standards, known as CAFE, the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 or the "investments" in the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Republican Party is still, at some fundamental level, dominated by those who are more interested in the tax code or tax guidance emanating from the IRS than they are in inducing structural changes in the federal government and its policies.

The hard truth is that lower tax rates

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Riots, violence belong to political left

The chaos and violence that took place during former President Donald Trump's term wasn't caused by MAGA supporters. Blaming Mr. Trump for that is like saying the abused wife upset her husband or the rape victim wore provocative clothes. The deranged violence and riots all came from those who supported Hillary Clinton. We can expect more of the same if and when Mr. Trump wins another term, so be prepared.

We must first never forget that appeasing those driven by

media-generated Trump hatred is what is destroying our republic. It's a slippery slope with leftist activists throwing a violent tantrum every time things don't go their deranged way, followed by incremental changes that eat away at the lawful and moral foundations of our country.

Unfortunately, those behind these riots and demonstrations have placed us all in a no-win situation. The only way to change the direction we're traveling is to stop the violence as soon as it starts — but

doing so will feed into the left's narrative of Mr. Trump being a fascist dictator.

That's why Mr. Trump will need our full and vocal support when the time comes to arrest and prosecute violent protesters and those who threaten violence. Remaining steadfast in our support is our only hope for successfully reversing the disastrous course set by our current leaders.

KATHY DeMAY
Knightdale, North Carolina

Mutilation of minors is nothing to cheer

The president has declared that we celebrate LGBTQ during the month of June. Count me out.

I am not going to denigrate the institution of marriage between a man and woman, which has endured for thousands of years. I reject and am appalled by the grotesque mutilation of children's genitalia. I find disgusting the presentation of drag queens to children.

It is particularly vexatious that my Christian faith is ridiculed by ugly presentations of preening and cavorting nuns and live theater mocking Jesus on the cross. I am disturbed that we are witnessing a horrific phenomenon in our society that seeks to abolish the distinction

of man and woman and to transcend the limitations by God and nature. This demonic movement reveals a striking moral sickness that threatens the values most Americans hold dear.

In particular, I am keenly aware that the word "evil" is an emotion-laden term that requires judicious use. However, I can't think of a better descriptor for the surgical procedures now practiced in several hospitals in the United States upon the most vulnerable — something we euphemistically label restorative justice, gender-affirming care or harm reduction.

No, the month of June is not the time for celebration. Instead, it is

a time for mourning. The LGBTQ rainbow colors of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet hide the blackness of the political left's goals and agenda. Our country is suffering from the grips of evil, and the faster we realize this, the better.

In our society, where truth is being intentionally veiled by deceitful political smoke, we must take a bold stand in the name of faith against this false narrative. It is past time for America to wake up and expose the satanic, poisonous lies bombarding us. The truth shall set you free.

RON PHIPPS
Annapolis, Maryland

Restore protections for dialysis patients

My father's battle with end-stage renal disease changed our family's life. I cared for him as he endured dialysis for two years, showing immense courage. He received two transplants, including one of my kidneys, but sadly, he passed away.

In his memory, I now advocate for kidney patients and am pursuing a master's degree in physiology at Georgetown University. Dialysis patients like my father often face

financial hardships. As a business owner, he paid up to \$1,400 monthly for private insurance to receive better treatment options than state insurance could provide.

Previously, end-stage renal disease patients could keep their private insurance for 30 months before transitioning to Medicare. However, a recent Supreme Court decision opened the door for private insurers to push new dialysis patients off their

plans, leading to fewer options and more uncovered expenses.

D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton should support the Restore Protections for Dialysis Patients Act to ensure 30 months of private coverage for new dialysis patients. It's the least we can do for such a vulnerable community.

KATE ROAM
Washington

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Supreme Court should disbar senator from Rhode Island

Lawmaker repeatedly tries to bully justices to meet his demands

By Mike Davis

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island Democrat, has accomplished little in his Senate career so far beyond publicly complaining about conservative Supreme Court justices and patronizing a Whites-only beach club. But in the last few years, his conduct has gone from merely embarrassing to genuinely sinister, as he has threatened justices on pending cases, hoping they rule in a way that aligns with his worldview.

The Supreme Court shouldn't tolerate Mr. Whitehouse's nonsense and should firmly rebuke him for his unethical behavior by removing him from the Supreme Court Bar.

In the coming days, the court will decide two cases of great importance: (1) the Fischer case, which concerns the "obstruction of an official proceeding" criminal statute, and (2) former President Donald Trump's presidential immunity claim. Both are crucial cases to rein in the Biden administration's lawless prosecution of Mr. Trump and his supporters.

Unsurprisingly, Mr. Whitehouse, along with Sen. Dick Durbin, Illinois Democrat, frivolously demanded Justice Samuel Alito's recusal in both cases, on an insane basis that Mr. Alito's wife flew "controversial" flags at their residences. In their May 23 letter to Chief Justice John Roberts outlining their recusal demands, they also requested an illegal ex parte meeting with the chief justice "as soon as possible."

The letter threatened that the two senators would "continue our efforts to enact legislation to resolve this crisis" — with this crisis nothing more than the Supreme Court serving as the one governmental body that doesn't operate at the whims of the radical left.



Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse

ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

This is not Mr. Whitehouse's first attempt to bully the Supreme Court to meet his demands. On Aug. 12, 2019, he filed a "friend of the court" brief for himself and four other senators. The case, New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. City of New York, concerned a gun ordinance in the Big Apple.

Mr. Whitehouse's brief was a rant over how the court is supposedly too influenced by politics. He cited a poll in which a majority supported a proposal that the court be "restructured" and

concluded his brief with a threat: "The Supreme Court is not well. And the People know it. Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be 'restructured in order to reduce the influence of politics.'"

This brief did not come from a friend of the Supreme Court, but an enemy.

Mr. Whitehouse's brief in the New York case was flagrantly unethical, but his latest letter on May 24 is even more troubling. This letter was sent to a justice presiding over a pending

case. Friend of the court briefs are posted on the public docket, meaning the parties receive notice of the filings. This communication, which was an illegal ex parte letter, is a fancy way of describing a note from either a party or an outside person to a judge without informing the other party's attorney.

Mr. Whitehouse did not notify Mr. Trump's or Joseph Fischer's counsel about his letter. The letter explicitly demanded Justice Alito's recusal in Mr. Trump's case, and it implicitly demanded recusal in Mr. Fischer's since that case concerns Jan. 6. Parties in a case have the authority to seek a justice's recusal, but nonparties such as Mr. Whitehouse have none. If someone sends a letter to a justice about a pending case, the lawyers for the parties have a right to know about it.

Supreme Court Rule 8.2 states that "the Court may take any appropriate disciplinary action against any attorney who is admitted to practice before it for conduct unbecoming a member of the Bar." Mr. Whitehouse is a legal thug with a Senate seat who, emboldened by the lack of sanctions from his 2019 enemy of the court brief, is now threatening justices about pending criminal cases that dramatically affect the constitutional rights of pending criminal defendants.

Contrary to Mr. Whitehouse's 2019 threat, the Supreme Court does not need "restructuring" to "heal."

Instead, the Supreme Court should disbar Mr. Whitehouse. His unethical conduct is an embarrassment to the legal profession, he is a grave danger to the rights of criminal defendants, and he is unfit to practice before our nation's highest court. If Mr. Whitehouse wishes to rant to the court in another frivolous letter, he should have to hire a lawyer.

Mike Davis is the founder and president of the Article III Project.

A decent Gaza is possible

But first, the Palestinians must lose

By Daniel Pipes

American friends of Israel tend to admire the policies of the Jewish state as heroic and blame foreign governments, especially their own, when Jerusalem makes errors vis-a-vis the Palestinians, notably 1993's Oslo Accords, 2005's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the catastrophe on Oct. 7 and the Israeli military's eight-month failure to defeat Hamas.

I beg to differ. Without defending Washington's actions, Israelis make their share of mistakes. In particular, their government and security establishment tend to be overly reliant on technology, prone to short-term fixes, and too conciliatory.

On that last point, although Israel enjoys a huge economic and military edge over its Palestinian enemies, Israel's leaders have, with few exceptions, sought to conciliate it rather than defeat it. The Jewish state tactically deploys violence but strategically seeks to end the conflict through a curious combination of enriching and placating Palestinians. This approach accounts for its current predicament.

Although I am not Israeli, a 55-year witness to the heartbreaking mistakes of America's only genuine Middle Eastern ally prompted me to develop an alternate paradigm for it, one that replaces the postmodern goal of conciliation with the traditional one of defeat.

As a historian, I understand that conflicts usually end when one side gives up: Think the U.S. Civil War, World War II, the Vietnam War. Applying this universal insight to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict opens up an exciting possibility to resolve the past century's most intractable and emotive clash: The Palestinians lose, the fighting ends.

To which comes the inevitable retort: "Given the many internal and external restraints on Israel, how could it possibly impose a sense of defeat on West Bankers and Gazans?"

My reply, as explained in detail in a just-published book, "Israel Victory: How Zionists Win Acceptance and Palestinians Get Liberated" (Wicked Son), focuses on the Palestinian center of gravity, meaning (as defined by war theorist Carl von Clausewitz), "the essential source of ideological and moral strength, which, if broken, makes it impossible to continue the war."

In this case, that center of gravity lies not in the leadership, the militia, the economy, the land or religious sanctities, but in hope: the hope to destroy Israel and replace it with Palestine. Accordingly, Israel's goal must be to extinguish that hope and replace it with hopelessness.

Achieving this requires two elements: one destructive and one constructive.

Destructive: Israelis and Palestinians jointly revile the ruling Palestinian institutions, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, but before Oct. 7, neither challenged them. Israel preferred the devils it knew, but the Palestinian public lacked the strength to defy them.

Oct. 7 changed the calculus. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and many other of the country's political, military and intellectual leaders have insistently called for the destruction of Hamas, and that should be the military's precise goal, unconstrained by the hostages held by Hamas. The Palestinian Authority, which confirmed its moral bankruptcy by endorsing Oct. 7, can be collapsed by Jerusalem simply starving it of funds.

Constructive: Ridded of the foul Hamas and Palestinian Authority, Israel can then rebuild by working with the growing body of Palestinians ready to come to terms with Israel's existence and seeking to benefit from it. This means first, constructing administrations in Gaza and the West Bank by working directly with moderate Palestinians, something Jerusalem has seldom tried. Together, these longtime enemies can build a decent polity comparable to what is found in Egypt or Jordan.

Second, it means supporting the voices of moderates and amplifying in Arabic the message of Palestinians calling for an end to a century of futile anti-Zionist negativity. Appreciating Israel's elections, rule of law, freedom of speech and religion, minority rights, orderly political structure, and other benefits, they want to end futile rejectionism in favor of building something positive.

Experiencing the bitter crucible of defeat, ironically, will benefit Palestinians even more than Israelis, allowing them finally to emerge from a long miasma of nihilism. Finally they can develop the polity, economy, society and culture worthy of a skilled, dignified and ambitious people. Think of them as a miniature version of the Germans and Japanese in 1945.

But this will happen only if Israel breaks with its tradition of conciliation and instead seeks victory. Americans should urge this shift, but Israelis must ultimately take the fateful step that breaks with over a century of Zionist history.

Daniel Pipes (DanielPipes.org, @DanielPipes) is president of the Middle East Forum and author of "Israel Victory."

Who's a 'threat to democracy'?

Democrats' efforts to thwart a second Trump term

By Cal Thomas

People of a certain age will recall a time when, after an election, the losing side would usually accept the results and initially give support to a new president during what was then called the "honeymoon" stage.

Richard Nixon conceded to John F. Kennedy in 1960, although he believed the election was "stolen" by Kennedy operatives in Cook County, Illinois. Al Gore conceded to George W. Bush in the razor-close 2000 election. Hillary Clinton conceded in 2016, despite strong evidence of election interference by Russia, while Donald Trump is still in denial that he lost in 2020 by more than 7 million votes.

The days of concession "for the good of the country" are gone. Not only is there no honeymoon, the "divorce" occurs first.

While claiming that Mr. Trump would be a "threat to democracy" should he win in November, Democrats and the left are plotting how to oppose his every policy, including his plan to deport millions of migrants. To Democrats, apparently, it doesn't matter if President Biden's margin of victory is small or large; they believe they have a standing and perpetual right to govern, even if a majority vote is different. Damn the voters.

In the not-too-distant past, the losing side in an election would lick their wounds, study what went wrong, and live to fight another day. Those days are over.

One might arguably conclude that such behavior makes them the real threat to democracy.

A New York Times story reveals their strategy, including lawsuits to prevent deportations and Democratic governors who are stockpiling the abortion pill. What is it about Democrats and abortion?

Let me see if I have this right. If Mr. Trump wins, he will threaten our Constitution, the law, the environment and just about everything else. We are a constitutional republic, not a pure democracy, but since Democrats keep using the word, let's look at its definition: "Government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system."

Are Democrats saying that if a majority of Americans vote for Mr. Trump, a majority of electoral votes go to the former president, or both, that is not democracy, but if Mr. Biden wins, that is democracy? Those are contradictions, aren't they?

This is the arrogance of the left, which believes it has a divine right (if they believed in the divine) to rule perpetually regardless of the outcome of an election. Yes, we witnessed some of the same attitude demonstrated by Trump supporters in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Still, those people,



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

many of whom were arrested and sentenced to prison, do not seem to be plotting lawsuits and other strategies to thwart a second Biden term.

In the not-too-distant past, the losing side in an election would lick their wounds, study what went wrong, and live to fight another day. Those days are over. It's now year-round warfare. It is not good for the country, and it emboldens our adversaries.

From the Times article: "Steven Cheung, a Trump campaign spokesman, denounced these efforts as a way to pre-empt Mr. Trump from being able to implement a legitimate policy agenda. It's not surprising Biden and his cronies are working overtime to stymie the will

of the American people after they vote to elect President Trump and his America First agenda," Mr. Cheung said. "Their devious actions are a direct threat to democracy."

Whether one is pro- or anti-Trump, Mr. Cheung has a point. Elections can't be legitimate only if your side wins and illegitimate if the other side is victorious. That attitude is the fastest way to undermine the United States into divided states and a perpetually divided people.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' latest book, "A Watchman in the Night: What I've Seen Over 50 Years Reporting on America" (HumanixBooks).

By Ariel Cohen and James L. Bacchus

Firming up the future of U.S. trade with Central Asia

Kazakhstan is geopolitically vital, a source of minerals for aircraft, machinery

Central Asia's abundant ore deposits offer essential benefits to the U.S. and its partners in an age of escalating competition for natural resources, including rare-earth and other critical minerals. The green transition requires a massive supply of rare-earth minerals. Lithium and cadmium are indispensable to battery power-storage technology, while other elements are crucial to information technology and aerospace.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai visited Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan from June 11 through June 14. This was the first-ever visit to Central Asia by a U.S. trade representative. Kazakh-U.S. trade is comparatively limited in volume — roughly \$3.4 billion in 2023 — but it has grown rapidly, up 32.7% from 2022. Kazakhstan is also a major source of oil, uranium, gold and critical minerals for the global market and a market for American aircraft and machinery. It is also geopolitically vital.

There is also a serious policy and legislative dimension to Ms. Tai's visit to Kazakhstan. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, part of the 1974 Trade Act, was initially designed to prevent the U.S. from having normal trade relations with the Soviet Union and other nonmarket economies that restricted emigration, particularly by Soviet Jews.

Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union three decades ago, the amendment continues to be applied to Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan. Congress seems to be in no hurry to bury this legislative fossil, although legislation to fix the situation, the Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations Act, has been introduced.

The application of U.S. sanctions must be transparent and consistent. Since the U.S. recognized Kazakhstan as a market economy in 2002 and there is free emigration from the former Soviet Union, penalties should have been lifted from complying countries years ago. Repealing Jackson-Vanik would be low-hanging fruit, and it could trigger billions of dollars in trade and investment.

Kazakhstan's emphasis on creating a favorable environment for foreign investors and local entrepreneurs has paid dividends. It is wealthier than its neighbors and is tied with Italy (a G7 country) in economic freedom scores.

Central Asia's location in the heart of Eurasia, bordering Russia and China and with Iran and Afghanistan farther south of the relatively secular region, makes it one of the world's most sensitive markets, where Russian, Chinese, European, Indian, Middle Eastern and American capital and goods swirl in competition.

This could easily be a disastrous situation for the host country. Kazakhstan, however, has turned it into a benefit, balancing it

with Europe, the U.S., Russia and China. This multi-vector policy was designed by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev when he served as foreign minister in the 1990s.

Kazakhstan's emphasis on creating a favorable environment for foreign investors and local entrepreneurs has paid dividends. It is wealthier than its neighbors and is tied with Italy (a G7 country)

in economic freedom scores. Mr. Tokayev's initiatives to establish a national privatization office, an anti-monopoly and competition protection agency, and a national credit rating agency are only a few recent examples. Concurrently, following the idea that "a computer will never ask for a bribe," Kazakhstan emulates Estonia's digitalization model by leaning heavily into e-government initiatives.

As Central Asia's largest oil and natural gas producer, Kazakhstan helps diversify energy supplies for both the U.S. and Europe. Kazakh uranium could even provide a reliable alternative amid disruptions in the global uranium market.

China has also recognized Kazakhstan's growing importance and economic movement westward. It is no coincidence that China launched its Belt and Road Initiative in Kazakhstan in 2013, and it was relaunched there last year.

Chinese investment in Kazakhstan has long targeted sectors of the Kazakh economy, such as nuclear energy, which American corporations would love to invest in but need more U.S. government guarantees and credit. Chinese investment has flooded the country, and in doing so, China has introduced its own regulatory and trade principles, including restrictive trade covenants.

Ms. Tai's visit came at a time when America's protectionist turn risks exporting bad industrial policies and undermining its ability to compete economically with China in the Global South. Through continuous engagement in Central Asia, the U.S. is defending its national interests in the cradle of the Belt and Road Initiative.

In doing so, the United States has been wooing Kazakhstan. At the U.S.-Central Asia Trade Investment Framework Agreement meeting in March 2023, the U.S. and the five Central Asian states worked out a system for refining the Generalized System of Preferences for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The preferences system grants favorable trade concessions to geopolitically vital smuggling partners to facilitate American interests.

This past March, Murat Nurtleu, Kazakhstan's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, visited the U.S. and met with Ms. Tai. They prioritized trade relations and food security over more intractable issues such as U.S. sanctions on Russia.

Mr. Nurtleu also discussed critical minerals, energy and the global methane pledge with Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The visit also included interaction with Wabtec, a U.S. corporation that acquired a General Electric subsidiary manufacturing locomotives and subsequently announced a \$1 billion investment in the Kazakh transportation and logistics industry in 2023.

Ms. Tai's recent visit was an important step in American presence, competitiveness and investment in Central Asia. Congress would do well to support this commendable outreach and American vital business interests by finally repealing Jackson-Vanik.

Ariel Cohen is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and managing director of the Energy, Growth and Security Program at the International Tax and Investment Center. He is the author of "Russian Imperialism: Development and Crisis." James L. Bacchus is an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute and a professor of global affairs at the University of Central Florida. He is also a founder and former chairman of the World Trade Organization Appellate Body and a former Democratic member of Congress.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

What if it's dangerous to be right when the government is wrong?

It's up to Americans to take action

By Andrew P. Napolitano

What if the government is a myth? What if it doesn't produce what we pay it for? What if it fails to safeguard our lives, liberties and property from its own agents? What if nothing changes after these failures and after elections? What if we're stuck with it?

What if the National Security Agency — the federal government's 60,000-person domestic spying apparatus — has convinced Congress that it needs to cut constitutional corners in order to spy on every person in America?

What if Congress has bought that argument and enacted a statute that puts a secret court between the NSA and its appetite for all electronically transmitted data? What if that secret court — the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court — is supposed to protect personal liberty but instead has become a wall behind which the NSA can hide and a tool for its insatiable spying appetite?

What if the courts have ruled that electronic surveillance constitutes a search and seizure within the meaning of the Constitution? What if the Constitution requires warrants for searches and seizures and permits only warrants that are based on probable cause of crime? What if the Constitution requires that all warrants for searches and seizures specifically describe the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized?

What if the FISA court issues warrants based on a lesser standard than probable cause of crime? What if that standard is probable cause of speaking with or knowing someone who has spoken with a foreign person? What if this is such an absurd and loose standard that it violates the Constitution, permits spying on anyone and ends up protecting no one except the spies who pretend to employ it?

What if the NSA has convinced every president since George W. Bush that it needs to spy on everyone in America to keep us safe, no matter what the Constitution says? What if those presidents have bought that devil's bargain?

What if NSA spying is really done without any warrants? What if this spying captures in real time every keystroke on every computer and handheld device — as well as the content of every email, text message, telephone call and fiber-optic cable transmission — in the United States 24/7?

What if NSA computers have direct and unimpeded access to all mainframe computers of all telecommunications and computer service providers in the U.S.? What if the acquisition of all this data is known in the intelligence community as bulk surveillance?

What if the Constitution is the supreme law of the land? What if the Constitution, requiring warrants based on probable cause of crime and specifically identifying targets, expressly prohibits bulk surveillance? What if bulk surveillance is unconstitutional and useless because it produces information overload — too much data to sift through in a timely manner?

What if the FISA court is a facade? What if one FISA court judge signed an order authorizing the NSA to spy on all Verizon customers — at the time, all 115 million of them? What if that included the White House, Congress, the federal courts and the issuing judge himself?

What if Mr. Bush and his successors have unleashed the NSA to acquire all communications data about everyone in America even though it's obvious that the NSA cannot possibly sift through it all in a timely enough manner to keep us safe?

What if Mr. Bush's government was asleep at the switch on 9/11? What if 3,000 civilians died while the government slept? What if the government's invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq were perpetrated to divert our attention from its sleeping on 9/11? What if these invasions targeted civilians and constituted war crimes?

What if Franklin D. Roosevelt's government knew of the attack on Pearl Harbor before it came? What if it looked the other way, knowing that Americans would react furiously, and thus, America could enter World War II, which Roosevelt desperately wanted? What if 3,000 sleeping sailors died because the government looked the other way? What if looking the other way in the face of a certain attack constituted murder?

What if liberty is a personal birthright? What if it cannot morally or legally be taken away by the government without a guilty verdict by a jury?

What if the genius of the Constitution — if followed — is not only its protection of privacy but also its requirement that the government confine its searches and seizures to persons whom it has reason to suspect are engaged in criminal activity and about whom judges have ratified the government's evidence to support those suspicions? What if the Constitution requires the government to leave the rest of us alone?

What if the government is a failure at preserving liberty but a champion at stealing it?

What if bulk surveillance is about power and control and not about safety? What if the NSA has selectively leaked what it knows about some folks for political purposes? What if former President Donald Trump himself and Michael Flynn, his former national security adviser, have been victims of those leaks? What if the government's bulk acquisition of private data makes us less free?

What if using intelligence data for political purposes is a profound danger to democracy? What if the government can't keep us safe? What if we falsely think that it does keep us safe? What if that delusion makes us less safe?

What if exposing the government generates its wrath? What if the government hates being caught spying and lying? What if it humiliates and frustrates and falsely charges and seizes the passports of those it dislikes and fears? What if the government dislikes and fears our freedoms? What if the government works not for us but for itself? What do we do about it?

To learn more about Judge Andrew Napolitano, visit <https://JudgeNap.com>.

Curl

From page B1

influence.

Either candidate must win over the "double haters" to secure victory in the Electoral College, especially given the expected narrow margins. Both candidates are scrambling to do just that.

Earlier this month, Mr. Trump tried to mend relationships within the Republican Party. His visit to Capitol Hill, where he was seen shaking hands with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a longtime foe, aimed to demonstrate GOP unity after the divisive primaries.

Moreover, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, who has a substantial following among voters skeptical of both candidates, endorsed Mr. Trump last month, solidifying his support base.

But a recent ABC News/Ipsos poll indicates that 67% of "double haters" believe Mr. Trump should end his campaign due to his felony convictions, adding another layer of unpredictability to the race.

The two candidates will face off in an unusually early presidential debate in a week. Mr. Trump will no doubt unleash his vitriol on his opponent, who will most likely look feeble and confused. Both sides will declare victory afterward, and no minds will be changed.

Here's how polarized we are right now: In a new NPR/PBS News/Marist poll, Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump are tied at 49%. Just 2% of registered voters say they are undecided.

According to the poll — which, let's admit, may be way off — 98% of Americans are already done with this race. They've made their decision.

Sure, all kinds of things might happen in the 130-plus days until Election Day, but it doesn't seem to matter. Mr. Biden froze for nearly a full minute at a White House event and later wandered off at a G7 meeting in

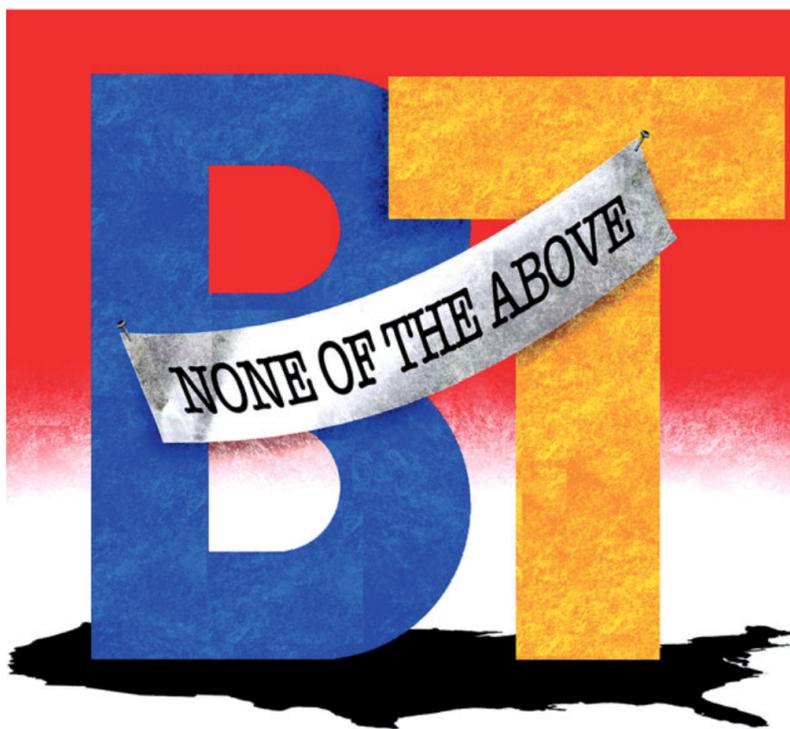


ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Paris (the White House called the videos "deepfakes" — they weren't).

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump faces more trials on a slew of charges and will be sentenced on July 11 on the nearly three dozen felonies he was convicted of committing. But who's counting? His poll numbers barely changed after the jury found him guilty, so no one seems to care.

Turnout in 2020 was a record: 158.9 million, up 15.7% from 2016. Maybe it'll rise yet again.

But look for turnout to plunge: A quarter of Americans hate both candidates. Millions

could well vote against both candidates or not even bother to cast a ballot at all.

This race is embarrassing. America has nearly 330 million residents. Are an 81-year-old career politician and a 78-year-old man-child found guilty of 34 felony charges the best candidates we can find?

No wonder the number of "double haters" is rising.

Joseph Curl covered the White House and politics for a decade for The Washington Times. He can be reached at josephcurl@gmail.com and on X @josephcurl.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Network Remediation Implementation Support

The Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School is looking for proposals to replace no later than September 1, 2024 the existing network infrastructure switches and wireless access points (WAP) with new switches and wireless access points (WAP) across our two campuses. The scope of work should include removing old equipment and the configuration, testing, and successful installation of the new equipment. Should you have any questions or wish to submit a proposal, please email Angela Medina at amedina@carlosrosario.org. All proposals must be submitted by 5pm on June 28, 2024, via email to Angela Medina at amedina@carlosrosario.org, with copy sent to Kim Coreas at kcareas@carlosrosario.org.

June 18,20, 2024
Ad#84692

NOTICE

Montgomery County, MD (the "County") and the Seneca Center II, LLC ("Landlord") entered into a Lease Agreement for the County to lease an additional 8,350 sf of space ("Expansion Premises") and to extend the Lease for the 54,190 sf that the County's Board of Elections ("BOE") currently occupies which is located at 18753 N. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD (the "Building"). The Lease Term will be extended for both Leases and will expire June 30, 2034 (the "2nd Extended Term"). The 2nd Extended Term's Base Rent shall be equal to the Base Rent payable during the immediately preceding Lease Year and shall be increased two percent (2%) annually. The Base Rent for the Expansion Premises shall be abated for the first five (5) months of the 2nd Extended Term. The Landlord will perform the Tenant Improvements for the Expansion Premises as set forth in a mutually agreed to Space Plan. The preliminary cost estimate for the build out is \$422,160. The County and Landlord agree to split the costs of the Tenant Improvements. For additional information or to comment, please contact Montgomery County, Department of General Services, Office of Real Estate, 101 Monroe Street 9th floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Attention: Brian Donohue (240) 777-6083. Comments must be received no later than July 11, 2024.

June 20,27, 2024
July 4, 2024
Ad#84748

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIVIL DIVISION

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Plaintiff

versus

Case No. 2023-CAB-007149

SHAWN L. WILLIS, ET AL. Defendant

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-007149 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Maria L. Willis, located at 3966 Ames St., NE, Washington, D.C. 20019. A copy of the act 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 6th day of September 2024.

June 20,27, 2024
July 4, 2024
Ad#84796

NOTICE

Montgomery County, Maryland ("County") and EB Clarksburg, LLC ("Landlord") intend on renewing a lease ("Lease") by which the County leases approximately 9,823 rentable square feet of space in Suite 300 ("Premises") located at Building 2, 22610 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, Maryland. The Lease Term extension shall be for a period of one (1) year and shall expire on May 31, 2025. The Annual Base Rent for the Premises shall be \$19.42 psf, triple net. The County shall accept the Premises in its "asis" condition. The County shall utilize the Premises for a fire station. For additional information or to comment, please contact Montgomery County, Department of General Services, Office of Real Estate, 101 Monroe Street 9th floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Attention: Brian Donohue (240) 777-6083. Comments must be received no later than July 11, 2024.

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.

June 5,6,12,13,19,20, 2024
Ad#84777

There is now pending before the District of Columbia Superior Court a civil action, case number 2023-CAB-003641 seeking to affect title to the property now or formerly owned by the Defendant Marie Chantal Messier, located at 112 14th St., SE, Washington, DC 20003. 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 11th day of July 2024.

Run Dates: June 6th, 2024
June 13th, 2024
June 20th, 2024

AD#84435

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 other Divisions 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:

- (5) 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);
- (6) be competent to perform the duties of the office and be of good moral character; and

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. 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 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 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.

June 13,20, 2024
Ad#84479

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 Pointer 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

Legal Notices

DC & Maryland Virginia
202-636-4953 703-425-0903

The Washington Times

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE 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 is filed 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#90014963
Petitioner/Attorney
Cohn, Goldberg, Deutsch, LLC
526 King Street, #201
Alexandria, VA 22314
571-560-6424
jmurphy@cgdlaw.com
Photocopy Number: 2024-00000000000000000000
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 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 legatees of the decedent 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, 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 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
jrunner@rkhplawfirm.com
/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 PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000599

Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Nora McCue Connaughton, whose address is 233C Marblehead Lane, Monroe, Middlesex, NJ 08831 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue who died on December 28, 2023 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and legatees of the decedent 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, 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 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@charly.com
/s/ Mark Linnen
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024
Ad#84344

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000599

Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Nora McCue Connaughton, whose address is 233C Marblehead Lane, Monroe, Middlesex, NJ 08831 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue who died on December 28, 2023 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and legatees of the decedent 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, 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 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@charly.com
/s/ Mark Linnen
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024
Ad#84344

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000599

Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Nora McCue Connaughton, whose address is 233C Marblehead Lane, Monroe, Middlesex, NJ 08831 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue who died on December 28, 2023 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and legatees of the decedent 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, 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 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@charly.com
/s/ Mark Linnen
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024
Ad#84344

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION

2024 ADM 000599

Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Nora McCue Connaughton, whose address is 233C Marblehead Lane, Monroe, Middlesex, NJ 08831 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Mary M. McCue AKA Mary Madeline McCue who died on December 28, 2023 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and legatees of the decedent 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, 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 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@charly.com
/s/ Mark Linnen
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills

June 6,13,20, 2024
Ad#84344

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Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE 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 4025 Gault P.L. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20019 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Nannie Bell Thompson who died on May 24, 2024 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision.

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#94355

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE 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 Compulink Corporation d/b/a Celinas attorney in fact for Finance of America Reverse, LLC, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Jacob W. Deaven Petitioner/Attorney 110 N. Washington Street, Suite 500 Rockville, MD 20850 301-656-5775

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6, 13, 20, 2024 Ad#94341

Please take notice that upon expiration of 30 days after publication of this notice, the undersigned institution will transfer over to Thomas Downey Administrator of the Estate of Ernest Downey who died March 21, 2024 and who was at the time of death domiciled in North Conway, NH certain funds which are held by the undersigned for Ernest Downey

June 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94470

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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.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS

June 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94515

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 000658

Estate of Bri'asha Nwanze 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 Selene Finance, LP, by Sandra Cuellar, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94513

Please take notice that upon expiration of 30 days after publication of this notice, the undersigned institution will transfer over to Michael A. Brown Personal Representative of the Estate of Lawrence J. Brown who died February 16, 2024 and who was at the time of death domiciled in Portland, OR certain funds which are held by the undersigned for Lawrence J. Brown

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94353

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Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 000662

Estate of Silva Meybatyan 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 Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., as attorney in fact for Towd Point Mortgage Trust 2018-3, U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee, by Justin Jones, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 6, 13, 20, 2024 Ad#94343

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 665

Larry Scott Savoy AKA Lawrence Savoy Name of Decedent

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Robyn Miles, whose address is 4361 Clarkwood Pkwy #525, Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Larry Scott Savoy AKA Lawrence Savoy who died on April 22, 2023 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision.

Date of first publication: June 20, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Robyn Miles Personal Representative 4361 Clarkwood Pkwy #525 Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 20, 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 Ad#94472

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 000705

Estate of Arnold A. Smith 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 U.S. Bank National Association, by Shannon M. Bevins, for standard probate, including the appointment of one or more personal representatives.

Date of first publication: June 20, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 20, 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 Ad#94710

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 000668

Tyrone Terrell Allen, Jr. Name of Decedent

Mary E. Finke, #90017457 1140 19th St., NW, 4th Fl., Washington, DC 20036 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Eva Jennell Williams, whose address is 4632 Livingston Rd., SE, Apt. 204, Washington, DC 20032 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Tyrone Terrell Allen, Jr., who died on May 5, 2024 without a Will and will serve without Court supervision.

Date of first publication: June 13, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Eva Williams Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS

June 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94513

Legal Notices

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 ADM 000719

Maria T. Morgan Name of Decedent

Kathleen Chamberlin 2191 Defense Highway Suite 220 Crofton, Maryland 21114 Name and Address of Attorney

Notice of Appointment, Notice to Creditors and Notice to Unknown Heirs

Sonia Price, whose address is 2105 Chillum Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Maria T. Morgan who died on April 8, 2024 with a Will and will serve without Court supervision.

Date of first publication: June 20, 2024

Name of newspaper: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Sarah Hannan Petitioner/Attorney BWW Law Group LLC 6003 Executive Boulevard Suite 101 Rockville, MD 20852 301-961-6555 Ext 3811

/s/ Nicole Stevens Register of Wills Clerk of the Probate Division

June 20, 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 Ad#94710

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROBATE DIVISION 2024 FEP 000054

March 29, 2021 Date of Death

William C. Cartinhour, Jr. a/k/a William Carl Cartinhour, Jr. Name of Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Frederick E. Edwards whose address is 7842 Jacobs Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770 was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of William C. Cartinhour, Jr., deceased, by the Orphan's Court for Montgomery County, State of Maryland, on April 14, 2022.

Date of first publication: June 6, 2024

Name of newspaper and/or periodical: The Washington Times Daily Washington Law Reporter

/s/ Frederick E. Edwards Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY /s/ Nicole Stevens REGISTER OF WILLS

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94358

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY IN RE: SURPLUS FUNDS DERIVED FROM THE FORECLOSURE SALE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1933 WILSON LANE, UNIT 202, MCLEAN, VA 22102

CATRINA K. FOSTER STATE BANK OF TEXAS CONDOMINIUM UNIT OWNERS ASSOCIATION Respondents.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to pay proceeds of trust to Clerk of Court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the CATRINA FOSTER appear in the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia to protect her interest in this matter on or before July 19, 2024.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

Salaman Cheema Signature of Plaintiff or Creditor

June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94387

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF ARLENE WHITLEY, DECEASED

ORDER OF PUBLICATION THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon the Petition for Authority to Cremate Remains that has been filed by the City of Alexandria.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for three successive weeks in the WASHINGTON TIMES, and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF ARLENE WHITLEY, DECEASED

IT APPEARING to the Court that the provisions of § 54.1-2818.1 and § 54.1-309.2 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, have been complied with; and that the attached Notice is appropriate, it is hereby ORDERED that the attached Notice is hereby incorporated by reference into this Order of Publication; and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

SEEN AND AGREED Aimée T. H. Kessler, VSB #44850 Segan, Mason & Mason, P.C., 7010 Little River Turnpike, Suite 270, Annandale, VA 22003

Jennifer J. West VSB #47523 Spotts Pain, PC 411 East Franklin Street, Suite 600 Richmond, VA 23218

SEEN AND AGREED

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF TAN ANH NGUYEN Petitioner

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to pay proceeds of trust to Clerk of Court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 8th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

June 20, 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 Ad#94806

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF TAN ANH NGUYEN Petitioner

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to pay proceeds of trust to Clerk of Court.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 8th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

June 20, 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 Ad#94802

Members Trust Company FSB as Successor Trustee of Nancy L Fisher Trust PLAINTIFF

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to pay proceeds of trust to Clerk of Court.

IT IS HEREBY 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.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

June 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94367

Legal Notices

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY IN RE: ESTATE OF Chong H. Tudahl CL-2024-04428

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to pay proceeds of trust to Clerk of Court.

IT IS HEREBY 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.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

June 13, 20, 27, 2024 Ad#94367

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GERARDO ZAMORA, DECEASED

ORDER OF PUBLICATION THIS CAUSE came before the Court upon the Petition for Authority to Cremate Remains that has been filed by the City of Alexandria.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for three successive weeks in the WASHINGTON TIMES, and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GERARDO ZAMORA, DECEASED

IT APPEARING to the Court that the provisions of § 54.1-2818.1 and § 54.1-309.2 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, have been complied with; and that the attached Notice is appropriate, it is hereby ORDERED that the attached Notice is hereby incorporated by reference into this Order of Publication; and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GERARDO ZAMORA, DECEASED

IT APPEARING to the Court that the provisions of § 54.1-2818.1 and § 54.1-309.2 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, have been complied with; and that the attached Notice is appropriate, it is hereby ORDERED that the attached Notice is hereby incorporated by reference into this Order of Publication; and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GERARDO ZAMORA, DECEASED

IT APPEARING to the Court that the provisions of § 54.1-2818.1 and § 54.1-309.2 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, have been complied with; and that the attached Notice is appropriate, it is hereby ORDERED that the attached Notice is hereby incorporated by reference into this Order of Publication; and it is further ORDERED that a copy of this Order of Publication, including the Petition, be posted at the front door of the Alexandria Courthouse.

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GERARDO ZAMORA, DECEASED

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Legal Notices

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

IN RE: CREMATION OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF GER

Trustee Sales: DC

COHN, GOLDBERG & DEUTSCH, LLC
1099 WINTERBURN ROAD, SUITE 301
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 21090
www.cgd-law.com

COURT APPOINTED TRUSTEE FORECLOSURE SALE OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY

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 as Trustee of LSRMF MH Master Participation Trust II v. Latoria 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 Latoria M. Akers, dated April 13, 2007 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 2007052690 on May 6, 2007 with 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.

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 by 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 by the Trustee 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 other costs incident to the sale. The purchaser has 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 papers 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 purchase price is paid to the Trustee 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 any and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year of 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 the 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 and bankruptcy entered into a loan 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

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.: J1462525-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re CHAVEZ ABILA, KATHERINE AND CHAVEZ ABILA, RIGOLBERTO

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY OF KATHERINE CHAVEZ ABILA AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE FINDINGS FOR RIGOLBERTO CHAVEZ ABILA AND KATHERINE ABILA.

It is ORDERED that the defendant HERNANDEZ, RIGOLBERTO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 2, 2024 1:50 P.M. 3D.

JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84625

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461195-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GONZALES ABZUN, CHRISLEY

The object of this suit is to: TO REVIEW A CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER ENTERED PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-253 AND 16.1-278.2, AND TO EITHER ENTER A NEW CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER OR TO DISSOLVE THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER AND END THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION OF THE CHILD.

It is ORDERED that JOSE MELLINO BELIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before October 15, 2024 1:30 P.M. 3B.

JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 AD#84253

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.: J1461194-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ABZUN, EMERSON

The object of this suit is to: TO REVIEW A CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER ENTERED PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-253 AND 16.1-278.2, AND TO EITHER ENTER A NEW CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER OR TO DISSOLVE THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER AND END THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION OF THE CHILD.

It is ORDERED that MARIO QUINTANA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before October 15, 2024 1:30 P.M. 3B.

JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 AD#84625

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: J1461195-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GONZALES ABZUN, CHRISLEY

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It is ORDERED that JOSE MELLINO BELIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before October 15, 2024 1:30 P.M. 3B.

JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 2024 AD#84252

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 4909 HOLLY DRIVE, PARTLOW, VIRGINIA 22534 COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA

In execution of a certain deed of trust dated 11/24/21, in the original principal amount of 312,952.00 recorded in the County of Spotsylvania, Virginia, as Instrument No. 210035081, as amended by an instrument appointing the undersigned as Substitute Trustee, default having occurred in the payment of the Note thereby secured and at the request of the holder, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the building housing the Circuit Court of the COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA, VA located at 9107 Judicial Center Lane, Spotsylvania, Virginia, 22553 on July 19, 2024, at 10:00 am, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address, with improvements thereon and more particularly described as follows: IN BERKELEY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, CONTAINING 5.120 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON PLAT OF SURVEY OF R. WAYNE FARMER, C.L.S., AS LOT 28 (GREEN BRANCH FARMS), SAID PLAT BEING DATED JANUARY 19, 1974 AND RECORDED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA IN DEED BOOK 339 AT PAGE 532. LESS AND EXCEPT, THAT PORTION CONTAINING 6,044.25 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS, CONVEYED TO SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA BY DEED RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NO. 140018947 AMONG THE AFORESAID LAND RECORDS. TERMS OF SALE: Neither the Substitute Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust will deliver possession of the property to the successful bidder. The purchaser at the sale will be required to pay all closing costs. Real estate taxes, water/sewer fees and other public charges will be prorated as of the date of sale. The risk of loss or damage to the property passes to the purchaser immediately upon the conclusion of the Substitute Trustee's sale. Terms: A cash deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent price (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 sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within 20 days at the office of the Substitute Trustee. The Substitute Trustee reserves the right to suspend bidding prior to completion of the sale. Time is of the essence as to the closing date and the payment of the purchase price. If payment of the balance does not occur within twenty days of the sale date, the deposit will be forfeited. Seller shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by the purchaser in connection with their purchase or settlement, including, without limitation, state and local recording fees, title insurance or research, or any other costs of purchaser's acquisition. Trustee shall have no duty to obtain possession for purchaser. All risks of casualty pass to successful bidder at conclusion of bidding. The property and the improvements thereon will be sold "AS IS" and without representation or warranties of any kind. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, conditions, easements and restrictions, if any, superior to the mentioned deed of trust and lawful affecting the property. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower(s) 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 the Purchaser's deposit without interest. Additional terms to be announced at the sale. For more information contact: Michael T. Cantrell, Esq., member of Surety Trustees, at 301-490-3361 or www.mwc-law.com.

June 13th, 2024
June 20th, 2024
AD#83730

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.: J1463721-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ AMAYA, RODRIGO A. AMAYA PANIAGUA, CLAUDIA V. CARLOS ARANA, ROBERTO

The object of this suit is to: TO REVIEW A CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER ENTERED PURSUANT TO VA. CODE 16.1-253 AND 16.1-278.2, AND TO EITHER ENTER A NEW CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER OR TO DISSOLVE THE CHILD PROTECTIVE ORDER AND END THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION OF THE CHILD.

It is ORDERED that MARIO QUINTANA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 2, 2024 1:30 P.M. 3B.

JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84528

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.: J1463721-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ AMAYA, RODRIGO A. AMAYA PANIAGUA, CLAUDIA V. CARLOS ARANA, ROBERTO

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JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84528

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

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JO CLERK June 13, 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84528

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

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.: J1463928-01-00-02 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ANTUNIA SODAS, MAXIMO S. BORGUS III, ARGHIE V. ANTUNEZ VARGAS, MAXIMO ARGUETA HERNANDEZ, BETULIA

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY FOR SUSAN KEISLYN SAOD

It is ORDERED that the defendant CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 15, 2024 11:40 AM 3A.

SR CLERK June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84772

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.: J1463928-01-00-02 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ANTUNIA SODAS, MAXIMO S. BORGUS III, ARGHIE V. ANTUNEZ VARGAS, MAXIMO ARGUETA HERNANDEZ, BETULIA

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY FOR SUSAN KEISLYN SAOD

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SR CLERK June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84772

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.: J1463928-01-00-02 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ANTUNIA SODAS, MAXIMO S. BORGUS III, ARGHIE V. ANTUNEZ VARGAS, MAXIMO ARGUETA HERNANDEZ, BETULIA

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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

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

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.: J1463883-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BULLIO, KEISLYN SAOD, ARGENTINA BUSTILLO, FRANCIS V. CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY FOR SUSAN KEISLYN SAOD

It is ORDERED that the defendant CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 15, 2024 11:40 AM 3A.

SR CLERK June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84772

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.: J1463883-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BULLIO, KEISLYN SAOD, ARGENTINA BUSTILLO, FRANCIS V. CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO

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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.: J1463883-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BULLIO, KEISLYN SAOD, ARGENTINA BUSTILLO, FRANCIS V. CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY FOR SUSAN KEISLYN SAOD

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FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

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FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

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FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

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The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY FOR SUSAN KEISLYN SAOD

It is ORDERED that the defendant CARTEGANA CARBAJAL, MARIO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 15, 2024 11:40 AM 3A.

SR CLERK June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84772

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

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.: J1463262-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re OLIVA FLORES, KELLYN S. FLORES LAZO, VICKI L V. OLIVA MEJIA, RABANELLY A



Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Pamela Hall Richards, COMPLAINT 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 to be 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 McChesley Way Apartment 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 at 9:30 AM for proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

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.: JH462195-05-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GOMEZ RIVERA, NELCY ROSIO

The object of this suit is to HOLD A PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARING PURSUANT TO VA. CODE § 16.1-228 VA. CODE: AND TO ENTER AN ORDER TERMINATING PARENTAL RIGHTS 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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84621

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH462333-03-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AYALA RIVERA, WILBER ALEXIS

The object of this suit is 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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH462333-03-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AYALA RIVERA, LEVI ANTONIO

The object of this suit is 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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: 2024-08268 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Sherill Tameca Williams Plaintiff vs. Jevon Dennis Williams Defendant

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

IT IS ORDERED THAT Jevon Dennis Williams appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 8, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 21 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84776

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

GUY CECIL ROBINSON, JR., PLAINTIFF vs. CL-2024-08059 VICI DERRICK DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THIS CAUSE CAME TO BE HEARD ON Plaintiff, GUY CECIL ROBINSON, JR.'s Affidavit for Service by Publication; IT IS ORDERED THAT THE COURT that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause has been deceased since December 18, 2014; and it further APPEARING TO THE COURT that the Defendant was a nonresident of the Commonwealth of Virginia throughout the litigation; and it further APPEARING TO THE COURT that the Plaintiff has conducted due diligence to ascertain the location of the party to be served or other representatives to be served to no avail; and it further APPEARING TO THE COURT that Defendant's last known mailing address is 27576 Heavenly Place, Kingstons, Washington 98346.

IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that the above named Defendant is a nonresident and have no contact with the Plaintiff residing in this Commonwealth; and it is further ORDERED AND DECREED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 8th day of August, 2024 at 10:00 AM for proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84745

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, DIEGO MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH ZEPEDA, JOSE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant ZEPEDA, JOSE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84745

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, GENESIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH V. GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR GENEIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84746

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH46360-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ALVAREZ ROMERO, SELVINE SUELI VARGAS, YOHANNA V. UNKNOWN

The object of this suit is 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 October 11, 2024 9:00 AM.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84727

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: 2024-08268 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Sherill Tameca Williams Plaintiff vs. Jevon Dennis Williams Defendant

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

IT IS ORDERED THAT Jevon Dennis Williams appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 8, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 21 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84776

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Event Tenjoff PLAINTIFF vs. Case #: CL-2024-01317 VS. Plaintiff Frankie Nforbou Mbunu DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The reason for this cause is divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is not to be 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: 6067 Williams Ct. Apt 304 Alexandria, VA 22315

UPON CONSIDERATION, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 8th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84781

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, GENESIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH V. GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR GENEIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84745

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, GENESIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH V. GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR GENEIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84745

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH463361-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MEJIA ROMERO, KARY ANGELA VARGAS, YOHANA V. MEJIA, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

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.

Sené Nigatu CLERK

June 13,20 & 27, 2024 July 4, 11, 2024 AD#84617

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Event Tenjoff PLAINTIFF vs. Case #: CL-2024-01317 VS. Plaintiff Frankie Nforbou Mbunu DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The reason for this cause is divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is not to be 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: 6067 Williams Ct. Apt 304 Alexandria, VA 22315

UPON CONSIDERATION, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 8th day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause.

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84781

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, GENESIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH V. GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR GENEIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK vs. Katherine Martell Signature for Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 10523 Judicial Drive Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 703-385-6866

June 20 & 27, 2024 July 4 & 11, 2024 AD#84745

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JH464625-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MARADIAGA SERRANO, GENESIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO, RUTH V. GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE

The object of this suit is to DETERMINE THE CUSTODY OF AND MAKE SPECIAL FINDINGS OF FACT FOR GENEIS A MARADIAGA SERRANO

IT IS ORDERED that the defendant GOMEZ, EDUARDO JOSUE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 1, 2024 11:00 AM 3H.

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

CHRIST

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

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

A	C	H	O	O	S	K	I	C	O	D	E	R
S	H	E	A	R	I	N	N	A	T	O	N	E
P	O	I	S	E	L	O	T	N	O	L	T	E
W	R	I	G	H	T	B	R	O	T	H	E	R
S	A	O	S	O	D	A	D	Y	E			
A	A	S	N	O	S	E	T	A				
R	I	T	E	O	F	P	A	S	S	A	G	E
T	R	I	X	A	L	I	I	D	O	L		
R	I	G	H	T	T	R	I	A	N	G	L	E
T	R	I	E	S	C	Y	E	T				
T	O	P	E	Y	E	A	R	C				
W	R	I	T	E	A	F	E	W	O	R	D	S
I	T	S	O	N	I	C	E	B	E	E	P	S
S	H	A	M	E	L	O	A	A	D	M	I	T
T	O	N	E	R	R	T	O	O	T	S		

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Paint Shop

ACROSS

- 1 Metallic joint
- 5 Brunch fare
- 9 Cry from a cradle
- 13 Affirms positively
- 15 Harp of the heavens
- 16 Trojan War hero
- 17 Where something happens
- 18 Big Apple mayor
- 19 Loaf around
- 20 Set with a sauceman
- 23 Spot with warm water
- 24 High school math
- 25 Type of big hair
- 28 Requirements
- 31 Koran's language
- 35 Muhammad's boxer daughter
- 37 Travis seen with Taylor Swift
- 38 HMO personnel
- 39 Genetic code carrier
- 40 Organic insect repellent
- 43 What might hold gold
- 44 Arrive by air
- 45 Maughan heroine
- 46 Felt topper
- 48 Nativity beast
- 50 Futurologist
- 51 Large inlets
- 53 Is grasping
- 55 What gold rings aren't
- 62 Cuisine with curry

- 63 Chilling out
- 64 Type of daisy
- 65 Had been
- 66 Treat with heat
- 67 Sheets, for instance
- 68 50-Across' observation
- 69 Armor on wheels
- 70 Get rid of

DOWN

- 1 Sight from a shore
- 2 All knotted up
- 3 Filmmaker Dunham
- 4 Jam session feature given away
- 5 TVA product
- 6 Lamb sandwich
- 7 Roots historian
- 8 Picnic activity
- 9 Dessert wine
- 10 Open some
- 11 Creation with corn
- 12 Hacker's equipment
- 14 Slow flow
- 21 Little guy
- 22 Cable TV employees
- 25 Not interested
- 26 "Ren" event
- 27 All worked up
- 29 "...doke!"
- 30 Tintype tint
- 32 One traditionally given away
- 33 Waist-high concavity
- 34 Indulge, with "to"
- 36 Noisy quarrel
- 38 HMO personnel
- 41 Spotify collection
- 42 Large leaving
- 47 Former late night TV host
- 49 "... Is a Diamond" (song about Evita)
- 52 Half of a record
- 54 Reveille no-show
- 55 "Beg pardon..."
- 56 Have empathy
- 57 Reunion group
- 58 Sudden pull
- 59 Former late night TV host
- 60 Potential toast
- 61 Strong wishes
- 62 Neighbor of @

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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

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

SOHEW
BHTIA
CILDAP
FIUTOT

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: KIOSK ELOPE RATHER GAZEBG Answer: After the invention of the telescope, people were curious and wanted to -- TAKE A LOOK-SEE

RUBES/Leigh Rubin

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore

LOLA/Todd Clark

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart

BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers

ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell

ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens

DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

DOG OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson

POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan

DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis

STRANGE BREW/John Deering

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE!

YOUR FRISBEE WILL BE MINE!

HEY, IS THAT A BLIMP?

BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum

THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy

PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee

BLISS/Harry Bliss

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The Washington Times

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NHL

Capitals deal goalie Kuemper to Kings for center Dubois

The Washington Capitals traded goalie Darcy Kuemper to the Los Angeles Kings for center Pierre-Luc Dubois, the teams announced Wednesday.

No draft picks or salary considerations were included in the deal. "We are thrilled to announce the addition of Pierre-Luc to the Caps organization," Washington general manager Brian MacLellan said. "This acquisition brings in a talented 25-year-old with immense potential to become a top-tier center in the NHL."

Dubois, the third overall pick in the 2016 NHL draft, has had an inconsistent start to his career. The Quebec native showed promise with the Columbus Blue Jackets and the Winnipeg Jets before landing with the Kings in 2023 while signing a deal for \$68 million over eight years.

He failed to meet expectations during his only season in Los Angeles, notching 16 goals and 24 assists across 82 games as the Kings went 44-27-11.

Kuemper, who allowed 3.3 goals per game in 33 appearances last season, lost the starting goaltending job to Charlie Lindgren after a rocky start to the 2023-24 campaign as the Caps went 40-31-11.

NFL

Commanders to pay \$1.3 million to settle ticket lawsuit

The Washington Commanders agreed to a \$1.3 million settlement after failing to return season ticket deposits to fans under their previous owners, Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares said Tuesday.

"It was simply greed," he told WTOP-FM.

Miyares' office opened an investigation into the NFL franchise in April 2022 after fans reported that the Commanders unlawfully kept season ticket deposits that were supposed to be refundable.

The Commanders agreed to pay \$600,000 to 475 fans affected by this practice. The franchise will also pay \$700,000 in penalties, the attorney general said.

"Our investigation found that the Commanders' prior ownership unlawfully retained security deposits for years after they should have been returned to consumers," Miyares said in a statement. "I thank the team's current ownership for cooperating with this investigation and for working toward rectifying the consumer harm we identified."

The attorney general noted that the franchise's current ownership group, led by Josh Harris, only inherited these issues from previous owner Dan Snyder.

"We are pleased that this settlement has been reached resolving issues that occurred under prior ownership," a Commander spokesperson said in a statement.

GOLF

PGA awards Woods lifetime achievement exemption

The PGA Tour is recognizing Tiger Woods' star power, with victories in 82 tournaments and 15 majors, by letting him automatically qualify for eight signature events.

The Sponsor Exemption for Lifetime Achievement goes to golfers with 80 wins. Woods is the only active player above the threshold.

Tour officials cited Woods' ability to draw viewers as a major factor for the exemption.

The exemption for Woods will go into effect in 2025.

Woods' son, Charlie, qualifies for first USGA event

CORAL SPRINGS, FLA. | Charlie Woods earned his way into his first USGA championship on Wednesday when the 15-year-old son of Tiger Woods had the leading score among qualifiers for the U.S. Junior Amateur next month at Oakland Hills.

Charlie Woods recovered from a bogey-double bogey start at Eagle Trace Golf Club to finish with a 1-under 71 to be medalist from his qualifier, one of four players to qualify from the site.

Tiger Woods was 14 when he qualified for his first U.S. Junior, reaching the semifinals. Woods won his first U.S. Junior Amateur a year later at Bay Hill in 19 holes. Woods is the only player to win the U.S. Junior three straight times.

Players have to be under 19 before the championship ends. The U.S. Junior Amateur is July 22-28 at Oakland Hills in the suburbs of Detroit. Woods will be among 264 players to determine which 64 advance to match play.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

NATIONALS

Winker's go-ahead home run fuels Nationals to win

By Patrick Stevens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jesse Winker hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the sixth inning and the Washington Nationals defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks 3-1 on Wednesday.

Ildemaro Vargas added an RBI single for Washington, which has won nine of 11 overall and seven of its last eight at home. It was the Nationals' 21st comeback victory, the most in the majors.

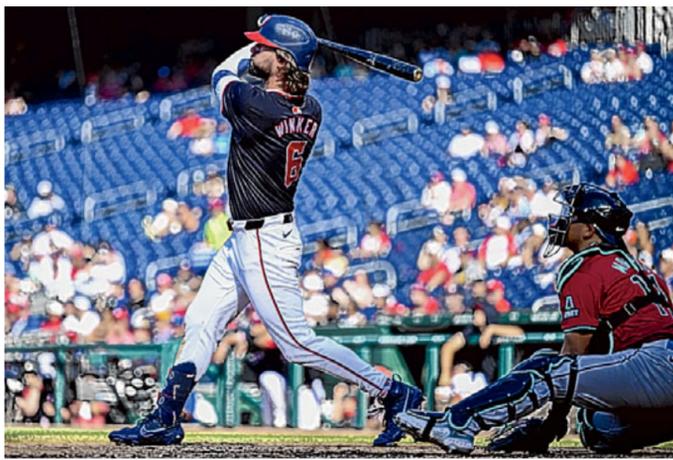
Arizona (36-38) was denied getting back to .500 for the first time since April 16, when it was 9-9. The Diamondbacks were hitless in five at-bats with runners in scoring position.

"This was a day about our offense for me," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "Our offense had a lot of opportunities and we just couldn't cash in that run or get that big hit at the right time."

Arizona starter Brandon Pfaadt cruised through five scoreless innings in just 50 pitches, allowing just one runner to reach scoring position.

But with two outs in the sixth and Washington trailing 1-0, Lane Thomas worked a walk. Winker then ripped a four-seam fastball to center for his seventh home run this season. The left fielder is hitting .452 (19 for 42) over his last 14 games.

"He's staying down on the baseball better," Washington manager Dave



Nations outfielder Jesse Winker watches his go-ahead two-run home run to center field in the sixth inning of a 3-1 victory over the Diamondbacks on Wednesday.

Martinez said. "He's being more selective and swinging at pitches in the zone. He's always been a good hitter. He had a stretch of injuries, but I love the way he swings the bat."

Pfaadt (3-6) departed with two runners on and one out in the seventh. Vargas pinch hit and greeted reliever Kevin Ginkel by poking a single to right to score Keibert Ruiz.

Pfaadt allowed three runs in 6 2/3 innings. He gave up five hits and four walks and had no strikeouts.

Derek Law (4-2) pitched two scoreless innings. Hunter Harvey worked the eighth and Kyle Finnegan tossed a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 23 opportunities. The Diamondbacks managed just one hit --- Corbin Carroll's one-out double in the eighth — in four innings

MAYS

From page B12

While Joe DiMaggio famously insisted on being introduced as the "Greatest Living Ballplayer" until he died in 1999, that title had really been held by Mays for more than a half-century.

The numbers are staggering: 660 homers, 3,293 hits, 6,080 total bases, 2,068 runs scored, two MVPs, and 24 All-Star games despite missing nearly two full seasons serving in the Korean War. There were also 12 Gold Gloves even though the award wasn't even handed out his first five seasons in the majors.

But it was his joy that truly was infectious and inspiring, whether it was on the streets of Harlem where he famously played stick ball games with local kids

before heading to the nearby Polo Grounds for his real job with the Giants or at the ballparks around the National League.

"You wanted to play like Willie and make those catches that he did," Yankees slugger Aaron Judge said. "The numbers he put up on the field and what he did are impressive but him as a person and him as a human being is even bigger. He was bigger than baseball. He was something special and the baseball world is definitely going to be missing a great one."

His greatness is best described by the reverence his contemporaries had for him.

"He played the game as if he was the only one out there," Hall of Famer Ernie Banks once said. "His eyes would light up. His energy would kick in and he'd be ready to go. I had the privilege of watching and playing against a great talent.

"He played so hard, it inspired me to get out there every game. I couldn't wait to play the Giants and watch him."

Mays' ability to inspire went far beyond the baseball field. He was born in 1931 in segregated Alabama, began his professional career in the Negro Leagues and became one of the early Black stars in baseball and the first Black player in the majors to be captain of his team.

But he also endured racism from his time in the minors in the previously all-white Interstate League and in San Francisco when he and his wife were initially rejected when they tried to buy a house in an exclusive neighborhood.

But later in life, he became almost universally loved.

"It's because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for president," President Barack

Obama said when he gave Mays the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

Mays played his career when baseball truly was the American pastime and baseball's best players were the biggest stars in all of American sports.

He was honored in song from Terry Cashman's "Talkin' Baseball (Willie, Mickey & The Duke)" that remembered the great New York center fielders of the 1950s with Mays, Mickey Mantle and Duke Snider to the 1955 classic by The Treniers: "Say Hey (The Willie Mays Song) that perfectly encapsulated his style.

"He runs the bases like a choo-choo train Swings around second like an aeroplane His cap flies off when he passes third And he heads home like an eagle bird."

His cap flies off when he passes third And he heads home like an eagle bird."

LOVERRO

From page B12

Mays player — 660 career home runs and led the National League in home runs four times.

He drove in 1,909 runs, 3,293 hits, a career .302 batting average, 339 stolen bases (he led the National League in stolen bases four times) and won the Gold Glove 12 times for his legendary center field play, forever etched in Americana lore by his over-the-shoulder catch at the cavernous Polo Grounds in New York in the 1954 World Series.

New York was where Mays became a larger-than-life figure, more than a ballplayer, breaking in with the Giants in 1951 when the Big Apple and its three major league teams were the center of the baseball universe.

Mays shared the center field spotlight with two other Hall of Fame centerfielders — Mickey Mantle with the Yankees and Duke Snider with the Dodgers.

The arguments about who was the best center fielder would later inspire

the popular song "Talkin' Baseball" (also known as "Willie, Mickey and the Duke," by Terry Cashman, in 1981).

That's 24 years after the Giants and Dodgers left New York for the West Coast.

Mays was also more beloved in New York, where he won one of his two Most Valuable Player awards in 1954 while leading the Giants to a World Series championship. After the series catch, the most celebrated photo of Mays is of him playing stickball with kids on the streets of the Bronx. He was more celebrated in San Francisco after he stopped playing. Fans there embraced Hall of Famer Willie McCovey, who broke in with the Giants in San Francisco in 1959 and was considered their hometown superstar.

But he, too, was not Willie Mays. Maybe no one else has been.

Is Mays the greatest player in the history of the game? Many would argue it's a debate between him and Babe Ruth.

But now that title is much more complicated today than it was weeks ago, when baseball introduced Negro



The Phillies' Bryce Harper and his teammates stand in silence as the memory of Willie Mays is observed before their game against the Padres on Wednesday.

League statistics into the official record books. Or do we really want to say Mays was a greater player than Josh Gibson?

What did Frank Robinson believe about Willie Mays? "He's as good as

you want him to be," he said. "You can't exaggerate how great he was."

The greatest? How about the king of the royal court of baseball?

• You can hear Thom Loverro on The Kevin Sheehan Show podcast.

NHL

From page B12

twice. It has sent the series back to Alberta and will have a chance in front of its own rowdy, delirious, Cup-starved fans to try to force the ultimate - a Game 7 - in Florida

that would be played Monday night. The Panthers are tipping their caps, yet they still believe they can make the change they need to finish this thing off.

"I think we were gripping the sticks a little tight," Panthers forward Sam Bennett acknowledged after Game 5. "We wanted it a little too bad tonight. ...

We've just got to win one game. It's as simple as that."

There are most certainly things for the Panthers to clean up. Nobody was pleased with how, on the heels of losing 8-1, they got into a 3-0 hole to start things in Game 5. They have been outscored on their own power plays 2-1, which is

inexcusable on several levels.

There's also things to like. That's what Maurice is preaching now, with only one or two games left in the season.

"Our 5-on-5 game was as good last night as it's been all series," Maurice said. "That gets you out of bed and gets you ready for Game 6."

HARTING

From page B12

month, qualified for his second Olympics, he made a rocking motion toward his wife in the stands.

For Harting, having a job outside of swimming has provided some much-needed balance in his life.

"It's something different to think about," he said. "Through 2022, I was all swimming all the time. I was getting a little burned out on that because I had nothing to do on the outside."

He works out of the company's office when he's home in Louisville, which provides a welcome respite from all that time he still spends at the pool.

"When 3 o'clock rolls around, I'm not in the pool practicing," Harting said, joking that "3 o'clock is snack o'clock in the workforce."

Harting, who graduated from Louisville with a master's degree in engineering management, already has worked on jobs ranging from hotels to gas stations to restaurants.

"I get the construction plans, the blueprints basically," he said. "Then I'm calling a bunch of different contractors, getting the pricing, then checking and seeing that what they have priced matches what the plans say it needs to be priced. That whole process takes about three weeks, sometimes a month or so."

While training at Georgia Tech after the Tokyo Olympics, Fink earned a master's in electrical and computer engineering.

He finds it amusing when people say he has a 9-to-5 job.

"It's actually kind of anything but that," Fink said. "I have three separate work sessions throughout a day."

He wakes up early, usually by 6:30

a.m., and tries to get in an hour or two of work before heading to practice. After finishing at the pool, he returns to his engineering job for several hours. On days when he's doing double training sessions, it's back to the pool in the afternoon, then more engineering in the evening. He also has to work around weightlifting sessions and dry-land workouts.

"It's pretty streamlined in that I eat at my desk and everything," Fink said. "Flexibility-wise, it's been great because they kind of expect me to get stuff done, but not at a certain time."

Even at the trials, he's still checking in on his other job.

"I try to get 30 to 40 hours in," Fink said. "A little less coming into this week but, you know, still trying to do as much as I can because they are doing me a solid."

He is so appreciative to have an employer that understands how much

work is needed to pursue his Olympic dreams.

"I can't thank them enough for giving me that opportunity and something to balance me out," Fink said. "When it comes to the flexibility they have given me, it's been better than I could have hoped for and I owe a lot to that."

Harting is excited to get a head start on his life away from the pool. He hasn't decided if he'll keep swimming after this Olympic cycle, but he's already got a glimpse of what's in store when that phase of his life closes.

"Now that I'm getting older, I can kind of see what there is outside of swimming," Harting said. "When you retire, it can be a black hole if you don't have anything lined up or haven't given that any thought. So to have my career semi started, to get the foundation of that ... it's not a black hole.

"I know what else is out there for me."

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Farewell, 'Say Hey Kid'

Mays inspired generations with his talent and exuberance

By **JOSH DUBOW**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO | Long after "The Catch" and his 660 home runs, and the daring sprints around the bases with his hat falling off, Willie Mays could still command a room like no other.

Mays was a frequent visitor to the downtown ballpark in San Francisco at 24 Willie Mays Plaza with his statue outside the stadium. He would often hold court with his contemporaries and the younger generation of players who hung on every word said by a player they were too young to have ever watched play.

His commanding voice and high-pitched laugh were recognizable anywhere. He was simply the "Say Hey Kid" from his days patrolling center field at the Polo Grounds in the 1950s, when baseball ruled New York City, to his death at age 93 on Tuesday afternoon.

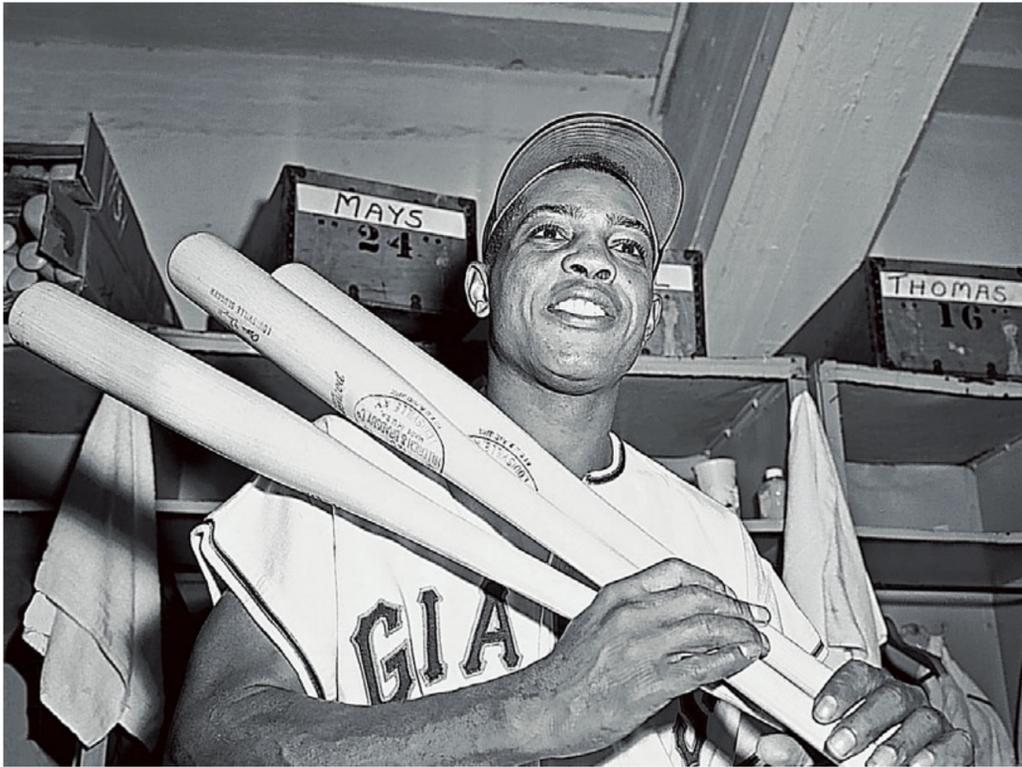
As Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. said: "He'll always be the godfather of all center fielders."

There may be players who hit more home runs, won more Gold Gloves, had more hits and captured more World Series titles than Mays. But there never was - and probably never will be - a player as dazzling and entertaining as he was for more than two decades on both coasts.

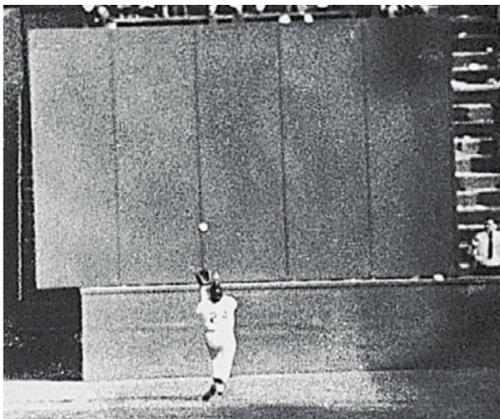
With a hat too small so it flew off his head as he raced around the field and his signature basket catches, Mays was a showman who could do it all as the consummate "five-tool player." Perhaps no one combined the ability to hit for both average and power, to run the bases, field and throw like Mays did during his career spent mostly with the Giants in New York and San Francisco.

"Willie could do everything from the day he joined the Giants," Hall of Fame manager Leo Durocher said. "Mays could do all the things you look for in a player better than anybody I ever saw."

» see **MAYS** | B11



New York Giants centerfielder Willie Mays flashes his smile in the clubhouse at the Polo Grounds in New York on Sept. 8, 1957. Mays, the "Say Hey Kid" whose talent, drive and exuberance made him one of baseball's greatest players, died Tuesday at 93.



Running at top speed, Mays gets under a 450-foot blast off the bat of Indians first baseman Vic Wertz for an over-the-shoulder catch in Game 1 of the 1954 World Series at the Polo Grounds.



"Mays could do all the things that you look for in a player better than anybody I ever saw," the late Hall of Fame New York Giants manager Leo Durocher (left) said of Mays.

NHL

Panthers cognizant of mistakes in Cup final

Lead Oilers despite two straight losses

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. | Florida coach Paul Maurice sat behind a microphone again on Wednesday, giving his daily news conference even though basically nothing new had happened in the 13 hours between then and the last time he spoke to reporters.

He took a bunch of questions. He also had one to ask.

"How can I be the only person in a decent mood here today?" Maurice asked, sort of rhetorically, sort of seriously.

Yes, the Panthers have lost their last two games and gotten embarrassed in one of them. Yes, they've wasted two chances to win the Stanley Cup. Yes, a 3-0 lead in the title series against the Edmonton Oilers is down to 3-2, after the Panthers lost Game 5 on home ice 5-3 on Tuesday night. Yes, Game 6 is in Edmonton on Friday night and, yes, Oilers star Connor McDavid just had back-to-back games the likes of which have never been seen in the Cup final before.



Maurice

No, that doesn't mean the Panthers are worried about wilting under pressure.

"You're going to think I'm lying to you," Maurice said. "I'm more comfortable. I understand the feeling of 3-2 because most series are like that; 3-0 is more of an aberration, isn't it? Pressure. I think we think about these things possibly differently and I'm not sure I would agree with the assessment that the pressure has shifted so heavily to us."

Forget the on-ice matters for a moment. Just about every historical stat that Maurice can show his team before it boards another flight to Edmonton on Thursday says the trends over time show that Florida should be liking its chances:

- The Panthers won Game 1. Game 1 winners win the Cup 76% of the time.
- They led the series 2-0. Teams in that situation win the Cup at a 91% rate.
- They led the series 3-0. The Cup rate there: 96%.
- They led 3-1. Cup rate in that situation: 97%.
- They lead 3-2. Cup rate in that situation: 81%. After getting outscored 13-1 from late in Game 3 to basically midway through Game 5, after losing 8-1 in their last trip to Edmonton and falling at home on Tuesday night, the Panthers still lead the series. Nobody, if offered the chance to be in this spot on the first day of camp back in the fall, would have declined.
- "It's still 3-2," Maurice said.
- Sure, Edmonton has done what it must do. It has fended off elimination

» see **NHL** | B11

The last of a generation that towered above baseball

Willie Mays was the last of the finest, and perhaps the greatest, of the quartet of players who made up the royal court of baseball for more than 50 years.

Roberto Clemente left us early, courageously, when he died in a plane crash off the coast of his native Puerto Rico on New Year's Eve 1972 on a mercy mission to deliver supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

We were lucky to have the remaining trio — Mays, Hank Aaron and Frank Robinson — for decades to hear their stories and admire their regal presence.

Robinson passed in 2021. Aaron two years later. Each of them — Aaron,

Robinson, Clemente and Mays — had been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On Monday, the last of the four, Mays, died at the age of 93 — and a nation mourned.

The grief is not just about the death of a baseball superstar — a legend who transcended his sport.

America grieves the passing of an era when you could believe in the greatness you witnessed. Trust in the truthfulness of the tales you were told. There was nothing fraudulent about these men, on or off the field.

Now that court of baseball royalty gets more complicated. Less affirming. Less affectionate.

Who takes the crown now as the greatest living baseball player? That would appear to be Ken Griffey Jr., who was as close to Mays in talent and production as any ballplayer alive.

"I'm just grateful and thankful that I was able to spend the time I had with him because he is a true giant," Griffey said.

After that, though, things get messy.

Barry Bonds — Mays' godson — forfeited his place among baseball

royalty when he opted to take "the cream and the clear" that he testified to under oath in grand jury testimony.

Alex Rodriguez? It would be blasphemous to even consider the place of this steroid cheat among these great players. Who's next? Mike Schmidt? Johnny Bench?

None of them are Willie Mays. He was a 24-time All-Star, named ceremoniously near the end of his career because it seemed foolish to have an All-Star Game and not have Mays there.

He may have been the ultimate five-tool player, so much so they should simply change the term to a Willie

» see **LOVERRO** | B11



THOM LOVERRO

OLYMPICS

Two U.S. swimmers hold full-time jobs while chasing Olympic dreams

By **PAUL NEWBERRY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS | Zach Harting had a practical reason for getting a job away from the pool.

He was approaching his 26th birthday. He needed health insurance.

"I'm not on my parents' (plan) anymore," Harting said.

An Olympian at the Tokyo Games, Harting is attempting to make the team for Paris at this week's U.S. swimming trials.

No matter what happens, he's already lined up a pretty solid side hustle as a project engineer for Buffalo Construction in Louisville, Kentucky.

"So 9 to 5, I'm not thinking about swimming," said Harting, who is attempting to make the Olympics in the butterfly.

He isn't alone at these trials when it comes to balancing two full-time jobs.

Nic Fink, who joined Harting on the 2021 Olympic team and already qualified for the Paris Games in the 100-meter breaststroke, works for Quanta Utility Engineering Services, clocking in remotely from his home in Dallas.

Some major multitasking skills are required, but Fink and those around him — from his coaches at SMU to his engineering colleagues — make it work.

"It's kind of a group effort in the pool," said Fink, the reigning world

champion in the 100 breast. "And then obviously in work, they know that I'll get my stuff done, and my hours may be a little different than other people's. I've definitely answered texts like, 'Hey, can I get this back to you in like an hour or so?' And they are like, 'No rush, you do you.' They let me know when things need to get done by and I work around that schedule."

Fink's life will soon be getting even more hectic. His wife, former Olympic swimmer Melanie Margalis Fink, is expecting the couple's first child in September.

After Nic Fink, who turns 31 next

» see **HARTING** | B11



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zach Harting swims during a men's 200 butterfly semifinals heat Tuesday at the U.S. Swimming Olympic Trials in Indianapolis. Harting is attempting to make the Olympic team for Paris while balancing his full-time engineering job.