



REGULATION

Congress pressed to write laws more clearly

Administrative state upended

By **STEPHEN DINAN AND ALEX SWOYER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Supreme Court has now put Congress on notice that it needs to do a better job of writing laws and can no longer expect federal agencies to clean up their poorly written messes.

The justices, in a 6-3 ruling, overturned a 40-year-old precedent in the Chevron case and said courts should no longer defer to agencies' interpretations of federal law in cases where what Congress wrote is ambiguous.

The result, legal analysts said, is a groundbreaking rewrite of modern U.S. government that will constrain the ability of bureaucrats to meddle in policy and will heap pressure on Capitol Hill to be more clear in writing laws.

Congressional Republicans said they're up for the challenge, and called the ruling the starting gun igniting a sprint to tame the expansive administrative state.

"Congress has sidestepped our legal duties for far too long and today's ruling puts us back in the driver's seat," said Rep. Bruce Westerman, Arkansas Republican and chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. "We're no longer going to let federal agencies fill in the details when it comes to the policies we enact; instead, this will hopefully usher in a new era of congressional specificity and thoughtful legislative work."

The Republican Study Committee, a group of conservatives in the House, had anticipated the ruling with a report ahead of the decision detailing future legislative steps if the Chevron standard was overturned.

One target bill would require federal courts to conduct de novo reviews of any agency actions, meaning judges would not be allowed to rely on Chevron or any other previous court decisions in

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CAMPAIGN 2024

Democrats weigh options with Biden



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THE PATH AHEAD: President Biden, the future of the party and the country are on the minds of many Democrats. The months ahead of the general election have many asking if Mr. Biden should lead the November ticket.

Nothing to see here, campaign says

Reelection team accuses nervous colleagues of chickening out

By **JEFF MORDOCK AND MALLORY WILSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The panic inside the Democratic Party is growing.

Democratic National Committee members lashed out at the campaign for gaslighting them about President Biden's health, while the campaign team accused nervous Democrats of "bedwetting" over the debate catastrophe even as another major newspaper called for President Biden to quit his reelection bid.

Biden allies rushed over the weekend to ease concerns about the 81-year-old

president's faltering campaign by showing unwavering public support, even as many grumbled that the campaign wasn't taking seriously enough the fallout from his abysmal debate performance.

Mr. Biden stayed out of sight at Camp David as his surrogates flocked to the Sunday talk shows.

The Associated Press reported Sunday evening that his family used the Sunday gathering at Camp David to advise that he continue to campaign. Some of those family members said his staff had not prepared him well for Thursday's debate. The wire service cited "four people

familiar with the discussions."

An earlier report that Mr. Biden and his family spent the day discussing the future of his campaign had been immediately dismissed by White House officials as "not accurate."

The first major post-debate poll released late Sunday spelled trouble for Mr. Biden and Democrats.

A CBS News/YouGov poll revealed that 72% of voters — including 41% of Democrats — say Mr. Biden doesn't have the mental and cognitive abilities

» see **CAMPAIGN** | A5

Faith in president wavering after lackluster debate performance

By **SUSAN FERRECHIO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden could be pushed aside, or he could voluntarily give up the nomination and endorse a replacement, panicked party insiders and vocal Democrats are saying in the aftermath of Mr. Biden's catastrophic debate performance.

The post-debate choices for Mr. Biden and his party are difficult, however, now that the Democratic presidential primary is over and nearly every delegate is pledged to the president.

Dumping him from the ticket would upend the election and the path to finding a new nominee would be difficult and loaded with political land mines.

Mr. Biden could easily remain on the ballot and ride out the rocky aftermath of the debate, in which he appeared old, frail and at times confused.

That move, say analysts, is the most likely outcome but it could guarantee a defeat for Democrats in November.

"The problem for Biden is twofold," said pollster and strategist Ron Faucheux. "His debate performance only confirmed the concerns many voters already had about his physical and mental fitness for office. It will be hard to change that now. Second, he no longer appears to be able to sell a message, and it's really hard to be a presidential candidate if you can't do that."

Here are the options for Mr. Biden and his Democratic Party:

Biden steps aside

Under this scenario, Mr. Biden would voluntarily remove himself as the Democratic presidential nominee. The delegates Mr. Biden won in the primary and who are now pledged to him would be freed up to vote for a new candidate.

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► Some Democrats leave door open on replacing Biden. **A3**

SUPREME COURT

Jan. 6 ruling threatens Smith case against Trump

By **STEPHEN DINAN AND ALEX SWOYER**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Donald Trump wasn't part of last week's Supreme Court ruling on criminal charges for Jan. 6 Capitol rioters, but legal experts say the decision could still help him unravel one of the federal prosecutions he's facing.

The justices, in a 6-3 ruling, said a law passed in the wake of the Enron scandal that criminalizes obstruction an official proceeding can't be stretched to snare the mob who disrupted the Electoral College count.

Special counsel Jack Smith has

brought the same obstruction charge against Mr. Trump as part of one of his two cases against the former president. That case alleges that Mr. Trump illegally tried to subvert the 2020 election results, and two of the four charges in the indictment stem from the obstruction law.

Legal analysts said if the law doesn't apply to those who stormed the Capitol, it likely won't apply to Mr. Trump either. That would upend Mr. Smith's indictment.

"There is a very real possibility that

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UNRAVEL: The Supreme Court justices in a 6-3 ruling said that an Enron-era law can't be stretched to include those who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6.

POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN FRANCE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

French voters propelled the far-right National Rally, led by Marine Le Pen, to a strong lead in first-round legislative elections on Sunday and plunged the country into political uncertainty, according to polling projections. Story, A8.

IRAN

Moderate, hard-liner set to face off in snap Iranian presidential election

By **BEN WOLFGANG**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Cardiologist Masoud Pezeshkian, considered the lone moderate in Iran's snap presidential elections, finished in first place over the weekend, but he'll need plenty of help to overcome a well-known Iranian hard-liner in a candidate runoff set for July 5.

Critics of the Iranian regime,

including the thousands of Iranian dissidents who gathered for a rally in Berlin over the weekend, seized on the low electoral turnout as proof of Iranians' deep dissatisfaction with their electoral choices and, increasingly, with the government.

Mr. Pezeshkian, allied with forces inside Iran who helped the negotiate the market-opening 2015 nuclear deal that is now in shreds, received 42.5% of

the vote, according to figures released by the Iranian government, while hard-liner Saeed Jalili was second with 38.6%. The rest of the roughly 24.5 million votes cast were split between two other hard-line candidates.

Theoretically, the hard-line, anti-U.S. forces can coalesce to easily elect Mr. Jalili later this week, but more than 60% of eligible voters did not participate. Critics say the regime's official statistics

are likely inflated, meaning the true turnout may have been even lower than that.

The snap elections in Iran came on the heels of a May helicopter crash that killed then-President Ebrahim Raisi. He was seen as a possible successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Regime opponents say the 85-year-old ayatollah wanted to use elections to solidify Iran's governing structure. But the outcome seems to prove that

approach failed.

"The outcome is that Khamenei aimed to resolve the issue of succession and ensure the regime's survival after his death through this election. However, he failed in this endeavor, bringing the regime one significant step closer to its downfall," said Maryam Rajavi, president-elect of the National Council

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POLITICS

Probe finds 'blatant political' effort to kill Biden laptop story. A3

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IMMIGRATION

DHS grants new deportation amnesty to 300,000 Haitians

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has announced a new deportation amnesty for Haitians, covering more than 300,000 people including many who have arrived illegally during the Biden administration.

The designation, known as Temporary Protected Status, gives the Haitians 18 months of legal presence, along with work permits and some taxpayer benefits.

Many of the Haitians likely already enjoy those benefits thanks to Mr. Mayorkas' generous use of "parole," but others who came without parole will now get some legal protections.

Mr. Mayorkas also granted an 18-month extension to Haitians already here under a previous TPS dating back to 2010, when a devastating earthquake struck the island nation. That status has been renewed and updated over the years, to cover roughly 200,000 people now living in the U.S.

But Mr. Mayorkas' expansion Friday will more than double that, with the government estimating 309,000 Haitians could qualify as first-time applicants.

That's a rough indication of just how many Haitians have arrived illegally since November 2022, which is the last time Mr. Mayorkas granted TPS to Haiti.

He said Haiti is a classic candidate for TPS given ongoing political violence and the nation's always-present tendency to "flooding and landslides" and its vulnerability to storms and earthquakes.

"We are providing this humanitarian relief to



Migrants prepare to depart the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Marathon Border Patrol Station in Florida, last week. A new deportation amnesty for Haitians covers more than 300,000 people.

MIAMI HERALD VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Haitians already present in the United States given the conditions that existed in their home country as of June 3, 2024," Mr. Mayorkas said. "In doing so, we are realizing the core objective of the TPS law and our obligation to fulfill it."

Immigration activists celebrated the move but pointed out that Mr. Mayorkas' department just

recently conducted deportation flights to Haiti. The activists demanded those flights be halted too, questioning how the nation could be deemed dangerous enough to deserve TPS but not too dangerous to take back some people.

The Haitian Bridge Alliance also called on the administration to "immediately release" any Haitians

in immigration detention and to close out their deportation cases.

"We are providing this humanitarian relief to Haitians already present in the United States given the conditions that existed in their home country as of June 3, 2024," he said. "In doing so, we are realizing the core objective of the TPS law and our obligation to fulfill it."

TPS is designed to be a temporary relief for countries suffering from a natural disaster, pandemic, war, political upheaval or other massive unrest that makes it dangerous for people to be repatriated. It's also supposed to give the troubled nation time to recover without having to worry about an influx of expatriates.

It's a power past presidents have flexed, but none as dramatically as President Biden.

As of May, roughly 860,000 people were protected by TPS. The Haitian designation could send that figure well over the million mark.

By contrast, at the end of the Trump administration, the total TPS population was about 320,000.

Before Friday's announcement Venezuelans were the largest population with about 340,000, followed by Haiti and El Salvador.

The 180,000 Salvadorans are a particularly stark example. Each of them has been in the U.S. under TPS for more than two decades, dating back to a series of earthquakes in January and February 2001.

Critics of TPS argue that El Salvador long ago recovered from that earthquake and the need for TPS expired. The Trump administration tried to end that and other TPS designations but was blocked by courts.

REPUBLICANS

Vance: Presidents need immunity in order to do their job

By **MALLORY WILSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sen. J.D. Vance said presidents should have presidential immunity in order to do their job, and called for the end of "prosecuting of people based on their politics."

"We know that the president has to have immunity to do his job," the Ohio Republican said Sunday on the CBS News program "Face the Nation."

"Should Barack Obama be prosecuted for droning American citizens in Yemen? There are so many examples of presidents — Democrats and Republicans — who would not be able to discharge their duties, if the Supreme Court does

not recognize some broad element of presidential discretion," he said.

Host Margaret Brennan asked Mr. Vance about presidential immunity because the Supreme Court is expected to rule Monday on former President Donald Trump's claim that he cannot be prosecuted in cases relating to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

"I'm very confident that the fundamental principle here is the president's got to be able to do his job in the same way that police officers, judges, prosecutors enjoy some immunity. That principle has to apply to the president too," he said.

Mr. Vance, who is the subject of much vice-presidential speculation, was asked by Ms. Brennan whether a hypothetical Trump-Vance

administration would have the Justice Department prosecute President Biden.

"First of all, that would be the responsibility of the attorney general, Margaret. But Donald Trump did not say that he's trying to throw his political opponent in jail," he said.

When pushed on the question, Mr. Vance said he wants "people who commit crimes to face the appropriate response in law," and criticized Mr. Biden for having the DOJ go after Mr. Trump.

Mr. Trump currently faces four criminal cases, one of which just resulted in convictions in New York. Two others — in Georgia and Washington, D.C. — relate to his efforts to contest the 2020 election. Another in Florida accuses him of mishandling classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. J.D. Vance called for the end of "prosecuting of people based on their politics" and that presidents should have presidential immunity to do their job.

"The problem that I have, Margaret, is not with 'which Democrats should prosecute which Republican' and vice versa, it's let's get out of the prosecuting of people based on their politics," he said.



2024 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Trump unhappy at focus on Biden woes

Former President Donald Trump isn't happy with the attention that President Biden has received for his poor debate performance.

The fallout from Thursday's debate has largely focused on the president's ability to serve another term after a performance marred by a low voice that often lost his train of thought.

Mr. Trump contended on Saturday that the spotlight should've been on him after the spectacle.

"As I walked off the stage on Thursday night, at the end of the highly anticipated 'Debate,' anchors, political reporters and all screamed that I had had the greatest debate performance in the long and storied history of Presidential Debates," Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social. "They all said, effectively, 'Trump was fantastic!'"

He continued, "This theme was universal, even at CNN & MSDNC, but by Friday evening it was all about the poor performance of Crooked Joe, and not so much about how well I did. Oh well, that's the way it is but, importantly, the result is the same!!!"

— Alex Miller

25TH AMENDMENT

Roy resolution to ask for Biden removal

Rep. Chip Roy said he plans to introduce a resolution calling on Vice President Kamala Harris and the Cabinet to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove President Biden from office.

The move, which Mr. Roy announced on X, comes after Mr. Biden struggled during the presidential debate to articulate his thoughts, with several long pauses and lost trails of thought.

"I intend to put forth a resolution calling upon the @VP to immediately use her powers under section 4 of the 25th Amendment to convene & mobilize the principal officers of the Cabinet to declare the @POTUS is unable to successfully



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CNN's Dana Bash and Jake Tapper were lauded by Republicans for their evenhandedness and blasted by some Democrats for not pushing back enough during Thursday's presidential debate.

2024 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES

Democrats blast moderators for not going after 'Donald Trump's lies'

While other Democrats wrestled with President Biden's debate performance and his future as the party's nominee, some House members took aim at the debate moderators for not offering more pushback against former President Donald Trump.

Mr. Biden's performance overshadowed many of Mr. Trump's responses and misleading statements or outright lies, those Democrats said.

Republicans, including Mr. Trump, lauded CNN moderators Dana Bash and Jake Tapper for their evenhandedness, which is exactly why Rep. Dan Goldman, New York Democrat, blasted the pair.

"Let's have another debate where, actually, the moderators will push back on Donald Trump's lies," Mr. Goldman told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "He intimidated your network, unfortunately."

Rep. Robert Garcia, who is a member of the Biden campaign's national advisory board, said that the moderators should have fact-checked Mr. Trump in real time.

"I think it's crazy to have a debate where the largest serial liar in American politics goes unchecked by moderators, the moderators should be the first pushing back," the California Democrat said.

— Alex Miller

discharge the duties and powers of his office," Mr. Roy, Texas Republican, wrote Friday on X.

It was not immediately clear whether Republicans, who control the House, would force a vote

on the resolution. Doing so could put Democrats in an uncomfortable spot of having to go on record about Mr. Biden's fitness to serve.

— Lindsey McPherson

VICE PRESIDENCY

Burgum mum on his talks with Trump

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum was secretive Sunday about any conversations he may have had with former President Donald Trump about being his running mate.

"Everything about the process of the vice president thing, that's between the campaign and those that might be being considered," Mr. Burgum said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"But I would just say that President Trump after his strong debate performance on Thursday [has] got so many good choices that he could pick for this job," he said.

Mr. Burgum is said to be one of the top contenders on Mr. Trump's shortlist for the vice-presidential nomination.

— Mallory Wilson

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Campaign arm: Biden a down-ticket drag

The chairman of the House Republicans' campaign arm said President Biden was always the ticket to expanding the GOP's House majority.

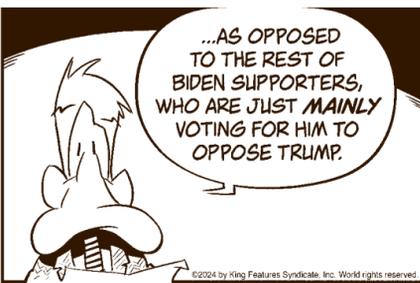
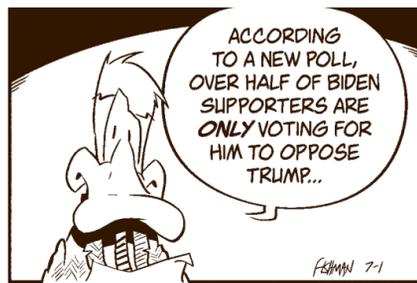
Rep. Richard Hudson, of North Carolina, when asked whether Mr. Biden's widely panned debate performance would help GOP House candidates this election cycle, said the president is "unfit to be president."

"I've been saying all along, this is the most unpopular president running for reelection in American history. He's a drag on House Democrats," the chairman of the NRCC told reporters.

"The American people saw last night [he's unfit for office] ... so I would be asking House Democrats, are you going to admit today that your president's not fit for office?"

— Kerry Pickett

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



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Politics

HOUSE

Some Democrats leave door open on replacing Biden

Lawmakers make noncommittal remarks or stay quiet on subject

By **KERRY PICKET**
AND **LINDSEY MCPHERSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Democrats are not rushing to join those in their party calling on President Biden to step down as the party's presidential nominee, but some lawmakers have left the door open with their silence or noncommittal comments.

Mr. Biden stunned voters, media and members of his party when he struggled during the Thursday night debate to provide coherent responses as he faced off against former President Donald Trump.

Top House Democrats, like former Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, current Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York and Rep. James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, said that Mr. Biden can remain the Democratic presidential nominee — even as they critiqued his showing.

"He had a poor performance," Mr. Clyburn said. But he said he is confident Mr. Biden can serve another four years, urging the president to "stay the course" and Democrats suggesting replacing him as the nominee to "chill out."

Mr. Jeffries called the president an "extraordinary leader" but notably offered a tepid endorsement when asked if Mr. Biden is the most effective person to communicate the party's vision.

"I'm going to reserve comment about anything relative to where we are at this moment,

other than to say, I stand behind the ticket. I stand behind the Senate Democratic majority," he said. "And of course, we're going to do everything that we need to do as House Democrats to win."

Mr. Jeffries' cautiousness may reflect concerns he heard from other House Democrats, many of whom were not yet ready to enthusiastically support Mr. Biden as the party's standard-bearer.

"I got to figure out where my district is. I want to talk to a lot of people," said Rep. Julia Brownley, California Democrat. "I think he's been a very good president. I think he can still be a good president. But we've got to win the next election."

"I don't think it's a good night. So we'll see," said Rep. Ami Bera, California Democrat. "Let's just see how the next couple of weeks unfold."

Several other usually talkative Democrats notably declined to answer reporters' questions about whether Mr. Biden is still fit to serve as the party's nominee, including Reps. Adam B. Schiff and Sara Jacobs of California, Dan Goldman of New York and Susan Wild of Pennsylvania.

While many House Democrats said they supported keeping Mr. Biden as the party's nominee, some did so with notable critiques about his performance and an urgency for him to take steps to rebound from it.

"Was I pleased with the performance? No. I'm not going to lie. But I do think that all of a sudden we're going to all jump



"He had a poor performance," Rep. James E. Clyburn, said of President Biden's appearance at the debate last week. Mr. Clyburn, however, expressed confidence about Mr. Biden serving another four years.

ship?" said Rep. Gregory Meeks, New York Democrat. "No, that's not it. I think that what we've got to do and what he has to do is talk directly to the American people."

Mr. Meeks said Mr. Biden should hold town hall meetings or other forums in which he can engage with voters in a way that will show who he is and that the missteps he had during the debate are not part of that.

"I know Joe Biden. I've sat across the room from Joe Biden in some very important meetings," said Mr. Meeks, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee. "And I know that he's all there and he has the ability to do that. He did not do that last night. But I do know that he has that ability."

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver,

Missouri Democrat, said that while Mr. Biden was not as aggressive as he wanted him to be, he "told the truth" at the debate.

"The die is not cast based on a debate and recovery is always possible," Mr. Cleaver said when asked if Mr. Biden would be a drag on the bottom of the Democratic ticket.

Others were more nonchalant with their critiques.

"He had a bad night. I don't think we need to overreact to it," said Rep. Matt Cartwright, a Pennsylvania Democrat who Republicans are targeting this cycle.

A fellow Pennsylvania Democrat, Rep. Madeleine Dean, also dismissed the debate as "one lousy night." While "it didn't show well for President Biden," she said she would not talk about

replacing him atop the ticket.

Mr. Cartwright said Mr. Biden needs to deliver more performances like his recent State of the Union addresses, which were "full of vigor and come combative," to recover from the debate.

"I had a terrible debate in 2022. My opponent wiped the floor with me. And I rebounded from it," said Mr. Cartwright, who ultimately beat Republican Jim Bognet by just over 2 points.

The Biden campaign has already pledged that Mr. Biden will return to the debate stage in September and tamped down talk about an alternative nominee.

"No," a campaign spokesperson told The Washington Times in response to questions about whether Mr. Biden will be replaced on the Democratic ticket.

Rep. Joyce Beatty, who is standing by the president following the first critical debate, told reporters she would advise him not to do it if the second debate is set up without an audience like the first.

"I think it's very difficult. It's like I'm sitting here talking to you and looking at you — if I was looking at that wall, it brings a different energy," the Ohio Democrat said.

"I thought it was an odd process cutting people's mics off and you're watching them still trying to lip-sync what they're saying," Ms. Beatty added.

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, who dismissed Mr. Biden's poor performance as "just one event," agreed Mr. Biden shouldn't debate Mr. Trump again with the same set of ground rules but said that's ultimately the president's decision.

The Mississippi Democrat said the presidents' advisers probably should have spent less time drilling "content" details into Mr. Biden and prepared him more to deliver the "style" and "substance" the American people are looking for.

"It was not a good debate, but it's not the end," Mr. Thompson said. "And I think that once we get to look at the total person and his policies, it's just a one-off."

Some Democrats didn't hesitate to reiterate their support for Mr. Biden on Friday.

"Absolutely," Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro said when asked if Mr. Biden is still fit to serve as the nominee. "Joe Biden is the candidate. He's going to win."

• Alex Miller contributed to this story.

HOUSE

Probe finds 'blatant political' job to discredit laptop story

Article poised to upend 2020 presidential election

By **SUSAN FERRECHIO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The 2020 letter signed by 51 former intelligence officials discrediting the Hunter Biden laptop story was fueled by a phone call from then-Biden campaign adviser Antony Blinken to former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morrell, according to a House investigation.

Mr. Morrell told investigators that the letter was quickly drafted as "a talking point" for Joseph R. Biden's upcoming debate with President Trump.

The House Weaponization of the Government and Intelligence Committees released transcripts of interviews with Mr. Morrell and other top intelligence officials that reveal a coordinated effort to label the laptop story "Russian disinformation."

The report also found that high-ranking CIA officials, including then-Director Gina Haspel, were alerted to the letter discrediting the laptop ahead of the letter's release by pro-Biden operatives, who filtered it to the public through several handpicked media outlets.

The laptop story, published by the New York Post on Oct. 14, 2020, was poised to upend the 2020 election. Its tawdry contents revealed not only the drug-addled exploits of Mr. Biden's troubled son Hunter, but also messages and documents connecting his business dealings with his powerful father.

Mr. Morrell helped quash the laptop story five days after the bombshell story, releasing a letter signed by 51 former intelligence officials claiming it had "all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation."

Mr. Morrell's emails at the time show he conjured up the letter to help Mr. Biden win in 2020 and prevail in an upcoming debate with Mr. Trump.

"We think Trump will attack Biden on the issue at this week's debate [and] we want to give the [vice president] a talking point to use in response," Mr. Morrell wrote in an Oct. 18, 2020, email to former Senior Intelligence Service Officer Marc Polymeropoulos, enlisting his help with the letter.

Mr. Biden indeed used the letter to bat down Mr. Trump during the debate held four days later.

Mr. Trump on the debate stage attacked Mr. Biden about Hunter Biden's laptop emails that connected him to his son's lucrative deals.

"If this is true, then he's a corrupt politician," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Biden swung back with the letter orchestrated by Mr. Morrell.

"There are 50 former national intelligence folks who said that what he's accusing me of is a Russian plan. They have said that this has all the characteristics — four- five former heads of the CIA, both parties, say what he's saying is a bunch of garbage. Nobody believes it except him and his good friend Rudy Giuliani."

In his 2023 House deposition, Mr. Morrell said he had no idea if the laptop was Russian disinformation but he suspected Russians could be involved, based on his knowledge of their tactics.

The laptop has since been verified and is considered key government evidence in a pending tax fraud case against Hunter Biden.

Mr. Morrell defended the letter in his deposition, noting it included "caveats" that none of the signers had direct knowledge of Russian involvement.

He also admitted that, at the time, he emphasized to journalists that the signers of the letter did not know if the laptop was disinformation, or if the emails were real or not.

But his warning about the speculative nature of the letter was hidden from the public because he

provided those statements "off the record" to certain media outlets, including The Associated Press, Politico and The Washington Post.

The signers of the letter included Democrats and Republicans, including many GOP critics of Mr. Trump.

Two of the signers, including Mr. Morrell, were on the CIA payroll at the time, serving in contractor roles.

Mr. Morrell detailed the day he decided to initiate the letter.

It started with Mr. Blinken contacting him either by email or phone call about the New York Post's laptop story on Oct. 17, 2020.

Mr. Blinken then forwarded a USA Today article about revealing the FBI was probing the origins of the laptop.

The email with the USA Today article originated with Andrew Bates, then director of the Biden campaign's rapid response team and current White House deputy press secretary.

Mr. Morrell said he did not know whether Mr. Biden's campaign team planted the story with the USA Today reporters to stir up suspicion about the laptop.

But the call from Mr. Blinken, Mr. Morrell said, "triggered" his plan to create the letter raising suspicion about the story and to reinforce it with a long list of former top intelligence officials from both parties to help quash it quickly ahead of the looming election.

The New York Post article was subsequently blocked from social media for weeks and largely ignored by mainstream news media.

Mr. Morrell would not take credit for the story, now entirely verified, going dark ahead of the election.

"There were two intents," Mr. Morrell said. "One intent was to share our concern with the American people that the Russians were playing on this issue; and, two, it was to help Vice President Biden."



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HOUSE

Slow Fashion Caucus aims to curb industry's waste, pollution

Democrats concerned about environmental impact

By ALEX MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

House Democrats have launched a new caucus to shape policy that curbs the environmental impact of the fashion industry from "fast fashion."

Members of the newly formed Slow Fashion Caucus say they are concerned with the fashion industry's willingness to continue to produce low-quality clothing made from fossil fuels that contribute to climate change, wear out quickly and more often than not end up in landfills.

Fast fashion is when clothing manufacturers rapidly reproduce outfits from runways and fashion shows at low costs with typically cheaper materials, often plastics, to capture the peak of an outfit's popularity.

To counter it, a "slow movement" has emerged to promote fashion that respects people, the environment and animals.

Members of the fledgling caucus, which consists of 11 Democratic lawmakers, say laws need to be crafted that curb the fast-paced production of cheap clothing and accessories.

The Slow Fashion Caucus' core goals are to encourage the fashion industry to reuse, repair and recycle textiles, press for the usage of more sustainable materials in textiles like wool, hemp and cotton, and to push policies that would reduce the fashion industry's consumption of natural resources, among others.

Rep. Chellie Pingree, co-founder and chair of the caucus, created the caucus after learning of the gargantuan landfill in

Chile's Atacama Desert filled with clothing from brands like H&M, Nike, Levi's others — a garbage pile that can be seen from "outer space," she said.

She charged the fashion industry with becoming a main driver of pollution and noted that the industry now accounts for more carbon emissions than maritime shipping and international flights combined.

"We've developed these dual habits in our country of keeping up with every single fashion trend and purchasing cheap poorly made clothing, and they have become drivers of yet one more issue in our climate change crisis," said Ms. Pingree, Maine Democrat.

The United Nations Environment Programme found in a 2019 report that the fashion



Rep. Chellie Pingree, Maine Democrat, is a leader of the Slow Fashion Caucus. She launched it after learning of Chile's Atacama Desert.

industry had become the second-biggest consumer of water, and accounted for up to 10% of global carbon emissions.

After learning of the mountain of clothes baking in the Chilean desert, Ms. Pingree and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut

Democrat, requested a report from the Government Accountability Office on how the fashion industry and federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, could better manage discarded clothing and textile waste.

But, she did not want to wait on the findings of the reports, and charged ahead with the Slow Fashion Caucus to "expand our initiatives across federal agencies to encourage textile sustainability."

Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, Washington Democrat, said the ripple effects of fast fashion not only increase carbon emissions and grow landfills but also is a "useful tool for extracting wealth" from consumers who routinely buy new clothing because of how quickly newer items wear out.

She said that the usage of cheap materials, and the marketing of materials such as flame retardant clothing for children, was hurting agricultural producers who could provide more sustainable and reusable options.

"Ask yourself, 'Who's paid to produce this: a farmer or a crude oil baron,'" she said.

CONGRESS

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deciding of whether the regulation is valid. Another would put large regulations on hold once they are challenged in the courts until the judicial review is completed.

Lawmakers on the left also saw a call to arms in the court's ruling, albeit on a different battleground.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, the ranking Democrat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, called on Congress to pass the Stop Corporate Capture Act to enshrine Chevron deference in the law, effectively overturning Friday's decision. The legislation would also require agencies to disclose more about the studies they are using to reach their decisions.

Ms. DeLauro said it would tamp down on the power of wealthy individuals and corporations to skew the data agencies rely on when they issue major public interest regulations.

Bureaucrats vs. fishers

The cases before the justices this year were brought by fishers challenging a 2020 federal rule that had them footing the bill for federal agencies to monitor their catch.

The fishers said the original law as written didn't envision any such payment requirement, and the agency was acting illegally in passing the compliance costs on to the privately owned boats. Lower courts had sided with the agency, citing the Chevron principle that bureaucrats' actions be given deference when the underlying law is unclear and an agency's interpretation is considered reasonable.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, said Chevron got it wrong, muting Congress and pushing judges to defer rather than judge. He said it's time to restore the judging.

"Courts must exercise their independent judgment in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority, as the [Administrative Procedure Act] requires," the chief justice wrote, joined by the court's other five

GOP-appointed members. "Careful attention to the judgment of the Executive Branch may help inform that inquiry. And when a particular statute delegates authority to an agency consistent with constitutional limits, courts must respect the delegation, while ensuring that the agency acts within it. But courts need not and under the APA may not defer to an agency interpretation of the law simply because a statute is ambiguous."

But Justice Elena Kagan, writing for the court's three Democratic appointees, said Chevron has become the bedrock of modern U.S. government, allowing experts at federal agencies to control key decisions.

"Agencies have expertise in those areas; courts do not," Justice Kagan wrote.

She said Congress has willingly turned these sorts of complex decisions over to the agencies, and the courts should not upend that.

"Or to put the point more affirmatively, Congress has kept Chevron as is for 40 years," she said. "Congress has not agreed with the view of some Justices

that they and other judges should have more power."

Chief Justice Roberts, though, said Chevron had proved "unworkable," with judges struggling to figure out how and when to apply it.

The ruling answered big questions about who decides major policies.

Democrats, at least right now, have argued the deciders should be bureaucrats at agencies who have expertise in their areas. They viewed those bureaucrats as an independent bulwark against well-financed industries lobbying for more favorable treatment, and they worried Friday's decision erases that check.

"The Supreme Court has handed special interests a giveaway by dramatically reducing the ability of federal agencies to address climate change, ensure the stability of financial markets, reduce gun violence, and many other critical issues," said Sen. Cory A. Booker, New Jersey Democrat.

Forty years ago, though, when *Chevron v. NRDC*, was decided, it was left-leaning groups who were attacking the

Reagan administration's decision-making. The NRDC in that case was the Natural Resources Defense Council, a liberal environmental lobby group.

The Supreme Court had largely tossed Chevron on the ash heap before Friday's ruling. Legal analysts said it had been nearly a decade since the court last upheld an agency action by citing Chevron.

But it remained precedent, and therefore binding on lower courts, who did cite it frequently.

Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, who has long advocated for the doctrine to be overturned, said he and his colleagues have now freed those lower courts, too.

"Today, the Court places a tombstone on Chevron no one can miss," Justice Gorsuch wrote in a concurring opinion.

Chief Justice Roberts did limit Friday's ruling, saying it doesn't taint past court decisions — at least 70 at the Supreme Court and thousands in lower courts — that relied on Chevron deference. Those will continue to be good law, he said.

CAPITOL

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if it is not dismissed, it would have to be replead or reindicted," said Theodore Cooperstein, an appellate attorney representing some Jan. 6 defendants.

Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University law professor, said the ruling is devastating to Mr. Smith's case.

"For Trump, this rips the wings off the plane that Jack Smith has been trying to take off in D.C.," Mr. Turley posted on social media. "Smith may try to go forward on the remaining counts. However, it is hard to see how the indictment holds together."

But William Banks, founding director of the Institute for Security Policy and Law and Syracuse University, suggested the other charges against the former president will stand.

"The decision will not have tremendous significance in the Jan. 6 cases, including that of former President Trump, because in almost all cases there are other charges that have a felony status alongside the obstruction charge," Mr. Banks said.

Friday's ruling erased a conviction of Joseph Fischer, a former police officer who attended the "Stop the Steal" rally on the Ellipse near the White House on Jan. 6, 2021. He and a companion then left town. After learning of the crowd at the Capitol, they returned, though not until after the Electoral College counting was suspended.

Mr. Fischer entered the Capitol, made it about 20 feet into the building and was pushed by the crowd into a line of officers using pepper spray. He then left the building. He was inside for four minutes.

Federal authorities charged Mr. Fischer with seven counts related to the Jan. 6 protest, but the one before the justices was Title 18, Section 1512(c), which reads: "Whoever corruptly — (1) alters, destroys, mutilates, or conceals a record, document, or other object, or attempts to do so, with the intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding; or (2) otherwise obstructs, influences, or impedes any official proceeding, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both."

The government argued that law was broad, encompassing any obstructive act and anything that qualifies as a proceeding.

A U.S. District Court judge in the District of Columbia sided with Mr. Fischer and dismissed the charge, ruling that the law didn't apply to the events of Jan. 6.



One legal expert called the Supreme Court's ruling on Friday regarding Jan. 6, devastating for special counsel Jack Smith's case against former President Donald Trump.

The circuit court reversed that decision. Judges debated whether the word "otherwise" means the second part of the statute, modifies the first or whether it's independent.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, said the law must be read narrowly.

"If Congress had wanted to authorize such penalties for any conduct that delays or influences a proceeding in any way, it would have said so," he wrote

in a ruling joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

The law was passed after the Enron scandal, when members of Congress were dismayed to realize that there was nothing illegal about ordering someone else to shred documents to hinder a criminal investigation.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, writing the dissent with Justices Sonia

Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, said the "otherwise" was indeed intended to sweep up broad conduct. She called it a "catchall" law.

"There is no getting around it: Section 1512(c)(2) is an expansive statute. Yet Congress, not this Court, weighs the 'pros and cons of whether a statute should sweep broadly or narrowly,'" Justice Barrett wrote.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said he was "disappointed" in the ruling

but vowed those who took part in the Jan. 6 attack will still face justice.

The Justice Department has brought charges against 1,427 people. There are 249 cases where someone was either already convicted or is still charged with violating the obstruction of an official proceeding.

In 52 of those cases the obstruction charge is the only felony for which they were convicted. Of those, 27 are still in prison.

BIDEN

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Mr. Biden could endorse a replacement but his recommendation does not guarantee who the delegates would choose as his successor on the ticket. Vice President Kamala Harris polls poorly, but dumping her in favor of California Gov. Gavin Newsom or another candidate who appears more viable would risk angering the base.

Mr. Biden could go a step beyond that and resign from office, making Ms. Harris the new president.

“That sort of move would also carry some weight with the delegates,” said Josh Putnam, a party rules expert and founder of FHQ Strategies LLC, a non-partisan political consulting venture. “Harris’ nomination would be anything but assured in those scenarios, but I think a Harris nomination in those circumstances would be the path of least resistance for the party and the delegates.”

Why it’s unlikely: While calls for Mr. Biden to voluntarily step aside surfaced after the debate, both the president and his campaign team squelched the idea. “No,” a campaign spokesperson told The Washington Times when asked whether Mr. Biden would drop out.

Delegates force Biden off the ticket

It would be difficult, but not impossible for Democratic Convention delegates to replace Mr. Biden on the ticket against the president’s wishes. Nearly all of the roughly 4,000 delegates are pledged to Mr. Biden, but they are not legally required to vote for him. It leaves open the possibility that, even without



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Vice President Kamala Harris may poll poorly, but dumping her in favor of someone more viable on paper would risk alienating a big part of the base.

the nod from Mr. Biden, the delegates could move to toss him off the ticket and vote for a new nominee.

Why it’s unlikely: The convention is just weeks away and the primaries are over. Replacing Mr. Biden would subvert the will of thousands of votes and require an enormous about-face from the president’s handpicked delegates at the convention.

“The hour has grown too late for any sort of delegate movement against Biden,” Mr. Putnam said.

Though the Democratic delegates are not bound to vote for Biden, they were selected by the Biden team based on their loyalty to the president. That makes it less likely they will abandon him even in the wake of his disastrous debate performance, Mr. Putnam said.

Mr. Biden also has the backing, for now, of House Democrats who will serve as convention superdelegates.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, who will hold considerable sway over fellow party lawmakers, said Friday that he “stands behind the ticket.”

And there’s another safety net for Mr. Biden. In June, Democratic National Convention officials changed the party rules to allow them to virtually nominate the Biden-Harris ticket in the coming weeks. The move would lock in Mr. Biden as the nominee before the convention is scheduled to begin on Aug. 11.

A DNC spokeswoman did not provide details about when, or if the DNC will nominate Mr. Biden online.

Stay the course

Panicky Democrats aside, Mr. Biden remaining in the race and riding out the devastating aftermath of his debate performance is not only possible, it’s likely, say Democratic insiders.

The election is more than four months away, leaving plenty of time for Mr. Biden to rehabilitate his image.

“I think people understand he’s the best choice to take on and to beat Donald Trump because he’s on the ballot — decided by the people in the primary,” said Democratic strategist Antjuan Seawright.

He dismissed out of hand any talk of replacing Mr. Biden with Mr. Newsom.

“The good news is elections are not won or lost on the debate stage, and it’s certainly not one on any debate stage in June,” he said.

• *Kerry Pickett contributed to this report.*

POSSIBLE CONTENDERS TO REPLACE BIDEN

President Biden’s halting debate performance has led some in his own Democratic party to begin questioning whether he should be replaced on the ballot before November.



Vice President Kamala Harris, 59
Most obvious choice for party to install as replacement, but poor polling ratings raise concerns that she could lose against Trump

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, 56
President’s most effective and telegenic surrogate, has long appeared to be running shadow campaign as Biden’s backup

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, 59
Member of family which owns hotel chain Hyatt, is estimated to be worth \$3.6 billion, making him richest politician in U.S.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, 52
Shortlisted for vice president pick for Biden in 2020, she is seen as one of leaders of moderate wing of Democratic Party in post-Biden era

Others include Transportation Secretary **Pete Buttigieg (1)**, Maryland Gov. **Wes Moore (2)**, Pennsylvania Gov. **Josh Shapiro (3)**, Colorado Gov. **Jared Polis (4)**, Kentucky Gov. **Andy Beshear (5)**, and Ohio Sen. **Sherrrod Brown (6)**

SOURCES: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg, Forbes Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS THE WASHINGTON TIMES

CAMPAIGN

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to serve as president. That’s up from 65% of registered voters and 29% of Democrats who voiced concerns about the president’s mental acuity in the same poll two weeks ago.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Jaime Harrison and Biden campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez held a Saturday afternoon call to reassure some of the party’s most influential members that Mr. Biden was here to stay and up to the task of running for a second term.

Some on the call were frustrated that the pair did not take questions and offered a rosy assessment of Mr. Biden’s chances in November against former President Donald Trump, leaving them feeling like they were being “gaslit.”

“There were a number of things that could have been said in addressing the situation. But we didn’t get that. We were being gaslit,” Colorado DNC member Joe Salazar told The Associated Press.

Other members on the call also described the call as “feeling gaslit.” The term refers to being manipulated or misled into not believing what one plainly sees or feels.

The Biden campaign also pushed back Sunday, sending a fundraising email accusing some in the party of “bedwetting.”

Deputy campaign manager Rob Flaherty insisted in the note that Mr. Biden will be the Democrats’ nominee and urged the party to support him.

“The bedwetting brigade is calling for Joe Biden to ‘drop out.’ That is the best possible way for Donald Trump to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden’s campaign pushed back against some Democrats’ calls for him to step down on the 2024 ticket and used some unflattering language. “The bedwetting brigade is calling for Joe Biden to ‘drop out,’” an email said.

win and us to lose,” Mr. Flaherty wrote in the email.

“Joe Biden is going to be the Democratic nominee, period. End of story,” the email said. “And if he were to drop out, it would lead to weeks of chaos, internal food fighting and a bunch of candidates limp into a brutal floor fight at the convention,” Mr. Flaherty wrote.

Mr. Flaherty cited a post-debate poll of hypothetical matchups against Mr. Trump showing that Mr. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris still poll better than Democratic alternatives.

The poll from Data for Progress, a left-wing advocacy group, showed that Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris each would get a 45% share of the vote against Mr. Trump, who got 48% in each matchup.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Sen. Cory A. Booker of New Jersey, California Gov. Gavin Newsom and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer all would get 44%, while Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro polled at 43% against Mr. Trump.

All the surveyed Democrats lost to Mr. Trump by 2 or 3 percentage points, essentially a statistical wash.

“And at the end of the day, we’d switch to candidates who would, according to the polls, be less likely to win than Joe Biden — the only person ever to defeat Donald Trump,” Mr. Flaherty wrote.

However, election statistician Nate Silver immediately pushed back on Mr.

Flaherty’s email in a post on X, noting that such a small edge over less-known people is actually a bad sign.

“Literally all of the Democrats in this poll are actually doing [as well as] Biden despite being much less well-known, which generally tends to depress your polling,” Mr. Silver posted. “That this is the best talking point they can come up with indicates how poor their argument is.”

In a separate campaign email sent to donors on Sunday, officials boasted that Mr. Biden has raised more than \$33 million since the debate, including \$26 million from grassroots donors.

Campaign officials try to reassure donors and supporters that Mr. Biden had “just a bad night” and should be judged on his record in office, not the 90-minute debate.

Mr. Biden himself spent Saturday trying to smooth over his meandering, slack-jawed debate performance with wealthy donors at a posh New Jersey fundraiser, insisting his abysmal performance won over independent voters.

“Research during the debate shows us converting more undecided voters than Trump did, in large part because of his conduct on Jan. 6,” he told the crowd.

The event was held at the private home of New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, and raised \$3.7 million, according to the Biden campaign.

The president admitted he had a bad showing at the debate, but remained undeterred.

“I didn’t have a great night, but I’m going to fight harder,” Mr. Biden told the crowd.

Still, calls for Mr. Biden to drop out are growing louder.

Former Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, a

Democrat and Biden supporter, so far offered the harshest criticism of the president from within his own party. Over the weekend, he told an Iowa newspaper that the debate was “a disaster from which Biden cannot recover.”

Mr. Harkin, himself 84 years old, said all incumbent Democratic senators should write to Mr. Biden and ask him to release his delegates and step aside so the party can choose a new candidate.

On Sunday, a second major newspaper called on Mr. Biden to bow out of the race and allow a younger, more vigorous candidate to step up.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s editorial board, called Mr. Biden’s debate performance “excruciating.” The board said, “Retirement is now necessary.”

“The unfortunate truth is that Biden should withdraw from the race, for the good of the nation he has served so admirably for half a century,” the board wrote.

The left-leaning editorial board also said Mr. Biden failed to convey any vision for a second term and was unable to detail accomplishments from his nearly four years in office.

On Friday, The New York Times became the first major newspaper urging Mr. Biden to step down as his party’s nominee.

The Bidens were spending Sunday at Camp David to assess the future of his campaign, NBC News reported, citing Democratic sources.

However, a White House official pushed back on the story, telling reporters it “is not accurate.”

The official who spoke with reporters traveling with Mr. Biden said the trip already had been planned to take family photographs for the Democratic National Convention in August.

IRAN

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of Resistance of Iran, the world’s largest exiled Iranian dissident movement.

The organization, and its associate group, the exiled People’s Mujahedin of Iran (MEK), organized Saturday’s rally in Berlin.

“This election was intended to address Khamenei’s succession problem and secure the regime’s continuity, but it has left the regime without a clear successor,” Ms. Rajavi said in a speech at the Berlin event. “Darker days lie ahead for the clerical regime. The countdown to overthrow has begun.”

NCRI and other regime critics have said that the election results in Iran matter little, as the supreme leader still sets broad policy, dictates the actions of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its proxy groups across the Middle East, and makes virtually all other key, big-picture decisions. Indeed, most analysts agree that the eventual election winner will have severely limited power. Even a supposed reformer such as Mr. Pezeshkian will have his hands tied.

That reality seems to have contributed to the low voter turnout.

“Herein lies the crux of voter apathy: An elected president in the Islamic Republic is at a huge disadvantage against the unelected supreme leader, whose powers are basically infinite as long as the streets do not erupt,” Alex Vatanka, director of the Iran Program at the Middle East Institute, wrote in a recent analysis. “Pezeshkian and his supporters



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Supporters of reformist candidate for Iran’s presidential election Masoud Pezeshkian attend his campaign meeting in Tehran, Iran, on June 23. Mr. Pezeshkian, a moderate, will face off against hard-liner Saeed Jalili on July 5 in a runoff race.

have spent most of their time and energy trying to disprove this point, but it is unlikely they have changed many minds.”

Still, the outcome could have at least a marginal impact on diplomatic policy and its relationships. Many figures associated with the reformist camp inside

Iran, including former President Mohammed Khatami and former Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif, have endorsed the front-runner, and an unknown number of disillusioned voters may be encouraged to get to the polls for the second round of voting Friday.

Mr. Jalili, Iran’s former lead negotiator during nuclear negotiations with the West, could take an even more aggressive posture toward the U.S. and Europe if elected, some specialists believe. Mr. Pezeshkian, on the other hand, could crack open the door to a more

diplomatically accessible Tehran.

The Biden administration could view that as an opportunity to revive the Obama-era deal that put limits on Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for relief from economic sanctions. President Trump in 2018 pulled the U.S. out of that deal.

The Biden administration tried to resurrect the agreement and spent the better part of two years engaged in behind-the-scenes diplomacy with Tehran.

The effort broke down in 2022 amid aggressive posturing by Iranian officials and Western anger over Iran’s support for Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Critics say the Biden administration, in its desire to resurrect the JCPOA, spent years essentially appeasing a regime that supports terror groups around the world, including the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which launched an attack on Israel on Oct. 7.

The IRGC also backs Yemen’s Houthi rebels, Lebanon-based Hezbollah, Shiite militias that target U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria, and other groups across the Middle East, according to analysts and U.S. government officials.

At the Berlin rally, Ms. Rajavi called on the U.S. and Europe to seize what she argued is a crucial moment and take a tougher stance against the Iranian regime.

“The moribund regime finds itself encircled by Iranian society, yet the policies of Western governments persistently hinge on appeasement. This is why it is crucial to decisively end this policy once and for all,” she said.

Nation



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A man suffering from homelessness sleeps on the bare sidewalk in the early morning at MacArthur Park in Los Angeles. California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a state budget that includes another \$250 million in grants to clear homeless encampments.

CULTURE

Some cities facing homelessness crisis applaud high court's decision

By HALLIE GOLDEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE | A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court allowing cities to enforce bans on sleeping outside in public spaces will allow San Francisco to begin clearing homeless encampments that have plagued the city, the mayor said Friday as she applauded the ruling.

The case is the most significant on the issue to come before the high court in decades and comes as cities across the country have wrestled with the politically complicated issue of how to deal with a rising number of people without a permanent place to live and public frustration over related health and safety issues.

"We will continue to lead with services, but we also can't continue to allow people to do what they want on the streets of San Francisco, especially when we have a place for them to go," San Francisco Mayor London N. Breed, a Democrat, said in the wake of the 6-3 ruling.

Ms. Breed said she will review the ruling with the City Attorney's Office before implementing any new policies, and the city will provide training to those clearing camps.

But the ruling was not welcomed everywhere and some cities, such as Seattle, said their approach to encampments will not change. A spokesperson for the Portland, Oregon, mayor's office said it was prevented by a state law from making major changes based on the court decision.

Cody Bowman, a spokesperson for Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, a

Democrat who has seen his two terms buffeted by discontent over the city's homeless crisis, said they hoped the decision would push the state Legislature to take up the issue and "see this opportunity to consider the tools cities truly need to manage public camping, provide sufficient shelter, and keep our streets safe and clean."

The mayor of Boise, Idaho, likewise said the city would not change its approach to those sleeping in public spaces, which includes case management and supportive housing.

"In Boise, we take care of people. Criminalizing homelessness has never, and will never, solve the problems associated with homelessness," said Mayor Lauren McLean, a Democrat. "We must address the root causes with proven strategies, like permanent supportive housing, that empower our residents to stay housed and thrive in their community."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, signed a state budget Saturday that includes another \$250 million in grants for local governments to clear homeless encampments, said the ruling gives state and local officials "the definitive authority" to enforce policies that clear unwanted encampments.

"This decision removes the legal ambiguities that have tied the hands of local officials for years and limited their ability to deliver on common-sense measures to protect the safety and well-being of our communities," Mr. Newsom said in a statement after the ruling, which came the same day Los Angeles released an annual count of the homeless population.

Sara Rankin, a professor of law at

Seattle University who directs its Homeless Rights Advocacy Project, said the decision will likely result in a type of free-for-all for cities banning people from sleeping on the streets. But she said state constitutional provisions and other federal constitutional provisions could then be invoked.

"I think a number of cities are going to misread this as a green light for open season on unhoused folks," Ms. Rankin said. "But when they do that they'll do it at their peril because I think that lawyers are going to come back at them under other theories that are still available to them, that are left untouched by today's decision."

The case came from the rural Oregon town of Grants Pass, which appealed a ruling striking down local ordinances that fined people \$295 for sleeping outside after tents began crowding public parks. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has jurisdiction over the nine Western states, has held since 2018 that such bans violate the Eighth Amendment in areas where there aren't enough shelter beds.

Jesse Rabinowitz, the communications and campaign director at the National Homelessness Law Center, said he worries this decision will empower cities to focus even more on arresting people sleeping outside, rather than focusing on proven solutions.

"There are encampments in California and D.C. and New York, not because there aren't laws to punish people, but because there's not enough housing that meets everybody's needs," Mr. Rabinowitz said. "And this case will make it harder to focus on the true solutions."

IMMIGRATION

Illegal immigrants linked to sex crimes expose poor vetting at the U.S. border

Experts: Rush to process provides cover

By MATT DELANEY
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A teen girl raped in broad daylight at a New York City park.

A preteen girl sexually assaulted and strangled to death in Houston.

A Maryland mother of five raped and fatally beaten while jogging on a wooded trail.

A series of brazen sex crimes have been tied to illegal immigrants, and national security experts say the rush to process droves of new arrivals at the U.S. southern border is providing cover for those with violent pasts.

It's become a familiar pattern across the states: a woman or girl is victimized in a heinous crime, police apprehend a suspect, and the public learns the alleged perpetrator crossed into the U.S. illegally, sometimes as recently as a month earlier.

Border-entry policies are the first line of defense against such grim acts, but the Biden administration's lenient protocols for migrants are resulting in hasty background checks that rarely uncover a person's criminal history.

The dynamic allows criminals to come to the U.S. with a clean slate, and Americans are left to learn first-hand about their dangerous new neighbors.

"I don't think that people who rape later in life, that it's their first time," Todd Bensman, the senior national security fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies, told The Washington Times. "They probably did it where they're coming from — maybe they served time in the country they're coming from. It's really a public safety vetting matter."

Poor vetting is how the man accused of slaying 37-year-old Rachel Morin was able to get into the country.

Police in Harford County, Maryland, said Victor Antonio Martinez Hernandez was wanted on murder charges in his native El Salvador and was affiliated with international gang MS-13. But those facts weren't detected when he entered the U.S. illegally in February 2023.

In August, authorities said the 23-year-old snatched Morin off a running trail, severely beat the woman, and then raped and killed her. The mother of five's mutilated body was found in a drainage ditch the next day.

The Harford County Sheriff and Morin's family both condemned the Biden administration's de facto open-border policy for introducing criminals into the country.

"It's like they're pretending these immigration problems don't exist and people aren't being harmed and killed by their policies," Patty Morin, Rachel's mother, said in an appearance on Fox News.

The two illegal immigrants charged with killing 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray further catapulted the border policies onto the national stage.

Police said Jocelyn sneaked out of her Houston home on June 16 and was later lured under a bridge by two men.

That's where, authorities said, the two assailants tied her up, pulled off her pants and choked her to death. Her body was found in a bayou the morning after.

Police accused two Venezuelan nationals — Johan Jose Martinez-Rangel, 21, and Franklin Jose Pena Ramos, 26 — of killing the preteen.

The two men in the case both crossed into the U.S. in the last three months, with Mr. Martinez-Rangel having been in the country only since late May.

The turnstile at the border is creating a big target on President Biden that former President Donald Trump has been eager to hit.

"These monsters should never have been in our country, and if I were president, they would not have been in our country. We had a strong border. We had protection," Mr. Trump said recently.

Crimes against women and girls are enraging everyday Americans as well.

A group of angry New Yorkers tackled a man wanted in the rape of a 13-year-old girl after the residents spotted him on the street.

Police have charged Christian Geovanny Inga-Landi, a 25-year-old illegal immigrant from Ecuador, with the broad-daylight rape in Queens.

Authorities said the suspect held the girl and a 13-year-old boy who was with her at knifepoint before leading them into a secluded area of a park. The aggressor then tied both their hands and sexually assaulted the girl.

Mr. Bensman said the easiest way to prevent immigrants with criminal histories from coming into the U.S. is upping detention at the border so federal agents can do proper background checks. Or as he put it, "do what normal countries do."

Still, some academics argue that focusing on crimes from immigrants is misleading and that they generally break the law at a lower rate than Americans do.

The most prominent research comes from a 2023 Stanford University study that showed first-generation immigrants are 60% less likely to be imprisoned than native-born Americans.

But Mr. Bensman called the research an "intellectually fraudulent, apples-to-oranges comparison."

"We're stuck with American citizens," Mr. Bensman told The Times. "But 100% of every [crime] ... that illegals commit, were all unnecessary and preventable through vetting, detention and deportation."

Robert Morris scandal could expose dire danger in Christian church

Churches should be the purest, safest, most sacrosanct spaces for adults and children alike, with the pastors of these institutions the most trusted, revered and upstanding of citizens.

After all, these individuals and houses of God carry with them the righteous responsibility of morally teaching, guiding and helping strengthen the theological tissues connecting human beings with the Almighty.

These duties are paramount, both requiring and breeding a deep amount of trust. This is why any claims of mistreatment, scandal and horror unfolding at the hands of preachers and inside the bowels of certain churches have such a visceral and emotional response.

Such infractions have an unparalleled spiritual element that cuts unimaginably deep, holding the power to shake people's faith, repel new adherents and turn parishioners away from a relationship with the church — or even God.

Meanwhile, the direct victims are sometimes left with a lifetime of hurt, confusion and emotional turmoil.

The latest scandal involving Robert Morris, founder of Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, has rocked both secular and Christian media. Mr. Morris, who is accused of molesting a

12-year-old girl decades ago when he was in his 20s, has resigned from his pastoral position.

Hear the story on "Higher Ground":

In any context, such circumstances and the associated fallout would create chaos, but in the case of Gateway, the impact is even more immense due to the church's size and scope.

The popular house of worship is one of America's largest, boasting an estimated 100,000 parishioners across its numerous campuses. Plus, Mr. Morris is a well-known author and commentator, further complicating the matter.

Gateway parishioners were left with deep bewilderment and searing questions after Mr. Morris' departure: How in the world do they make sense of the unthinkable? How can a man whom they trusted be accused of something so horrific — and why were the details apparently concealed for so many years?

These concerns were encapsulated by one longtime parishioner who recently told the Fort Worth Report, "I'm all for redemption, but you can't have someone that's a child pedophile be a leader in the church, period. That's just uncalled for. It's a complete nightmare."

A nightmare indeed — one with a violent current of shockwaves that won't let up.



BY BILLY HALLOWELL

Pastor Joakim Lundqvist, the guest preacher at Gateway on June 23 — the first week after Mr. Morris resigned — addressed these very issues, speaking to the beleaguered audience about how to move forward amid incomprehensible circumstances. It was a fitting message for such a time as this.

"When the unthinkable happens, stay close to Jesus," Mr. Lundqvist told those gathered. "Some people run away from Him when the unthinkable happens. Run to Him."

"Coming to Jesus might not give you all the answers for all the questions that you have, but you know what? Answers will rarely heal our hearts. But the presence of Jesus will."

Mr. Lundqvist's message about "staying close to Jesus" also encouraged parishioners to cling to family, church and community. But it's the first point about God that is truly central to the chaos surrounding Mr. Morris — or any other religious scandal for that matter.

Tragic and dreadful allegations like

these tend to expose a dire danger unfolding in the hearts of too many Christians today: the human penchant for elevating people into the place of God.

Too often, pastors are given a unique status that leads us to subconsciously promote them to a level that, when left unchecked, can lead to faith in them rather than God himself. At the very least, pastors' words can become gospel, as the actual Gospel becomes secondary.

Don't get me wrong. Pastors are tasked with teaching the Bible and leading the flock, but this must be done in truth, goodness, morality and transparency. Church dynamics can quickly become problematic when theologies get muddled or when alleged abuse enters the picture.

Some institutions have historically opted for concealment and protection of leaders and past sins or crimes over truth — and that toxic dynamic can be a spiritual liquidator. In the case of Gateway, it's not clear what unfolded, if these dynamics were at play, and who, if anyone, knew the allegations, but these questions only seem to be multiplying.

Meanwhile, it's understandable why those watching might be disenchanted, angry and turned off, pondering how a supposed man of God could be potentially guilty of such

things. Beyond that, the claim that some knew of molestation claims and allowed a person to remain in church leadership can reasonably erode trust in leaders.

But we must also remember that humans will sin, fail and fall short. Thus, they cannot be the focus of our adherence and reverence. Sadly, situations like the Morris saga will rock our faith, especially if it's not truly rooted in the eternal.

Moments like these are opportunities to assess where we're putting our hope and trust so we can cement a vertical faith dependent on transcendent truth and not human whims. Are we clinging to God or man? That's the question Christians must consistently ask and answer.

Beyond the spiritual dynamics, these situations also expose a need within churches and institutions to have safety measures in place to not only prevent but to promptly expose and deal with such scenarios.

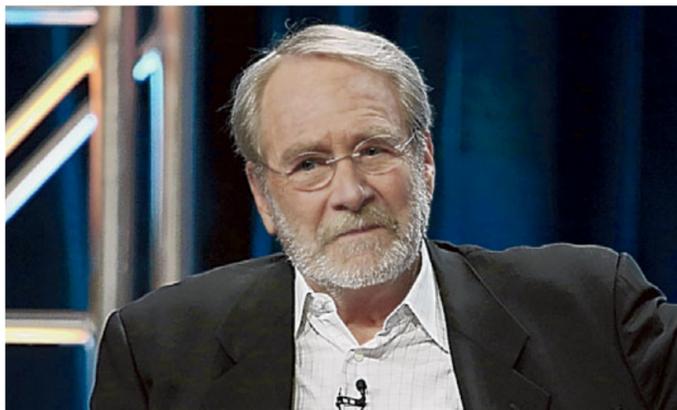
The church should be the safest of spaces, and we must take steps to ensure victims are heard, abuse is prevented, and truth triumphs over all else.

• Billy Hallowell is a digital TV host and interviewer for Faithwire and CBN News and the co-host of CBN's "Quick Start Podcast." Mr. Hallowell is the author of four books.

ENTERTAINMENT

Comedian Martin Mull of 'Roseanne' and 'Clue' fame, dies at 80

By Andrew Dalton
ASSOCIATED PRESS



Martin Mull, whose droll, esoteric comedy and acting made him a hip sensation in the 1970s and later a beloved guest star on sitcoms including "Roseanne" and "Arrested Development," died at age 80.

LOS ANGELES | Martin Mull, whose droll, esoteric comedy and acting made him a hip sensation in the 1970s and later a beloved guest star on sitcoms including "Roseanne" and "Arrested Development," has died, his daughter said Friday. He was 80.

Mr. Mull's daughter, TV writer and comic artist Maggie Mull, said her father died at home on Thursday after "a valiant fight against a long illness."

Mr. Mull, who was also a guitarist and painter, came to national fame with a recurring role on the Norman Lear-created satirical soap opera "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," and the starring role in its spinoff, "Fernwood Tonight."

"He was known for excelling at every creative discipline imaginable and also for doing Red Roof Inn commercials," Maggie Mull posted on Instagram. "He would find that joke funny. He was never not funny. My dad will be deeply missed by his wife and daughter, by his friends and coworkers, by fellow artists and

comedians and musicians, and the sign of a truly exceptional person by many, many dogs."

Known for his blonde hair and

well-trimmed mustache, Mr. Mull was born in Chicago, raised in Ohio and Connecticut and studied art in Rhode Island and Rome.

His first foray into show business was as a songwriter, penning the 1970 semi-hit "A Girl Named Johnny Cash" for singer Jane Morgan.

He would combine music and comedy in an act that he brought to hip Hollywood clubs in the 1970s.

"In 1976 I was a guitar player and sit-down comic appearing at the Roxy on the Sunset Strip when Norman Lear walked in and heard me," Mr. Mull told The Associated Press in 1980. "He cast me as the wife beater on 'Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman.' Four months later I was spun off on my own show."

His time on the Strip was memorialized in the 1973 country rock classic "Lonesome L.A. Cowboy" where the Riders of the Purple Sage give him a shoutout along with music luminaries Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge.

"I know Kris and Rita and Marty Mull are hangin' at the Troubadour," the song says.

On "Fernwood Tonight" (sometimes styled as "Fernwood 2 Night"), he played Barth Gimble, the host of a local talk show in a Midwestern town and twin

to his "Mary Hartman" character. Fred Willard, a frequent collaborator with very similar comic sensibilities, played his sidekick. It was later revamped as "America 2 Night" and set in Southern California.

He would get to be a real talk show host as a substitute for Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show."

Mr. Mull often played slightly sleazy, somewhat slimy and often smarmy characters, as he did as Teri Garr's boss and Michael Keaton's foe in 1983's "Mr. Mom." He played Colonel Mustard in the 1985 movie adaptation of the board game "Clue," which, like many things Mr. Mull appeared in, has become a cult classic.

The 1980s also brought what many thought was his best work, "A History of White People in America," a mockumentary that first aired on Cinemax. Mr. Mull co-created the show and starred as a "60 Minutes" style investigative reporter investigating all things milquetoast and mundane. Willard was again a co-star.

He wrote and starred in 1988's "Rented Lips" alongside Robert Downey Jr., whose father, Robert Sr., directed.

IOWA

Suspect killed in shootout that wounded two officers

WATERLOO | Two police officers were wounded and a suspect was killed in a shooting on Sunday morning near a park in Waterloo, Iowa.

It's unclear how the violence unfolded. State Division of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Mike Krapfl said the circumstances are under investigation.

Police responded to a report of a male with a gun in a neighborhood. The shooting took place along a major street adjoining Sullivan Park in Waterloo, Special Agent Krapfl said.

The two wounded officers were taken to a local hospital. Special Agent Krapfl said he didn't know their conditions.

The suspect was killed, he said.

Investigators are still figuring out details and had not yet spoken with the officers, he said.

The Iowa DCI is investigating the shooting.

— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA

Newsom signs budget to close \$46.8 billion deficit

SACRAMENTO | Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday signed California's budget to close an estimated \$46.8 billion deficit through \$16 billion in spending cuts and temporarily raising taxes on some businesses.

Lawmakers passed the budget Wednesday following an agreement between the Mr. Newsom and legislative leaders in which both sides made concessions and also had wins as they were forced, for the second year in a row, to pare back or delay some progressive policies that had been fueled by record-breaking surpluses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The deficit was about \$32 billion in 2023 before growing even bigger this year, with more deficits projected for the nation's most populous state.

Saturday's signing came just two years after Mr. Newsom and Democratic lawmakers were boasting about surpluses that totaled more than \$100 billion, the product of hundreds of

BRIEFLY THE NATION

billions of dollars of federal COVID-19 aid and a progressive tax code that produced a windfall of revenue from the state's wealthiest residents.

But those revenue spikes did not last as inflation slowed the economy.

— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Video of fatal shooting shows teen suspect point replica gun

Video released late Saturday shows an officer in upstate New York fatally shooting a 13-year-old boy who had been tackled to the ground after he ran from police and pointed a replica handgun at them.

The teen was killed a little after 10 p.m. Friday in Utica after officers in the city about 240 miles northwest of Manhattan stopped two youths in

connection with an armed robbery investigation, police said.

The youths, both 13, matched the descriptions of the robbery suspects and were in the same area at around the same time the day after, police said. One was also walking in the road, a violation of state traffic law.

The body camera video released by police captures an officer saying he needs to pat them down to ensure they don't have any weapons in their possession. One of the two, identified by police as Nyah Mway, then ran away.

Authorities froze frames of the video where a running Nyah Mway appears to point the gun at the pursuing officers. Police also edited the video to insert a red circle around the weapon to show it to viewers.

The officers believed it was a handgun, police said, but it was later determined to be a replica of a Glock 17 Gen 5 handgun with a detachable magazine.

"During a ground struggle" with the teen, one of the officers fired a single shot that struck the boy in the chest, Utica Police Chief Mark Williams said.

The teen was given "immediate" first aid by the officers and taken to Wynn Hospital, where he died.

— Associated Press

ARIZONA

Evacuation orders lifted in wildfire near Scottsdale

SCOTTSDALE | Evacuation orders in Arizona have been lifted for some residents of northeast Scottsdale, days after they were forced from their homes by a wildfire, authorities said Sunday.

The Boulder View Fire was 19% contained Sunday after charring nearly 6 square miles on the cusp of the Boulder Heights subdivision since Thursday.

About 60 homes were evacuated Friday. No injuries have been reported and no structures have been damaged.

Authorities said the cause of the fire remains under investigation. It began about 5 miles outside northern Scottsdale on the edge of the Tonto National Forest.

— Associated Press

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World

FRANCE

Conservative party nets historic first in vote

Macron's group finishes third in gamble

By DAVID R. SANDS
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

France's anti-immigration, far-right National Rally party, once considered a fringe group, scored its biggest electoral triumph to date, taking a clear first place in snap parliamentary elections Sunday called by President Emmanuel Macron in a gamble to try to limit the party's influence.

But while battered by the result, the centrist Mr. Macron may have dodged the knockout blow many feared, as the National Rally appeared to capture around a third of the vote, while a coalition of leftist parties and Mr. Macron's own Together party getting a combined 50% of the vote.

The focus in Paris quickly shifted to next Sunday's second round of runoff voting, where the parties can combine and coordinate in districts where no single candidate obtained a clear majority.

Pollsters from Ipsos-France on Sunday estimated that, at most, just 85 of the 577 seats up for grabs in the lower house of parliament were decided outright, with the rest heading to two- or three-candidate run-offs.

Leaders of France's coalition of leftist parties, who also outpolled Mr. Macron on Sunday, say they will drop out of races where their candidate finished third, in hopes of combining the anti-conservative vote.

Although the numbers were highly fluid, the first projections gave the National Rally between 230 and 280 seats

in the 577-seat assembly, the left-wing alliance 125 to 165 seats and Mr. Macron's coalition 100 at the most.

That may dampen preelection hopes expressed by National Rally leader Marine Le Pen that her party could seize an outright majority in the 577-seat lower house parliament, name party rising star Jordan Bardella as prime minister, and force Mr. Macron into a "cohabitation" government that could hamstring the remaining three years of his term.

Mr. Macron's hopes of avoiding a humiliating reverse may rest on the huge turnout numbers French Interior Ministry officials were reporting throughout the day.

An estimated 69% of voters went to the polls, up a startling 30 percentage points from the last parliamentary election just two years ago, seen as a reflection by many voters that they were facing a watershed election.

Both of the leading French polling agencies projected shortly after the voting concluded that the National Rally was in clear first with about 34% of the vote, the leftist alliance of parties known as the New Popular Front second with about 29% of the vote, and Mr. Macron's centrist party third with just 22%.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, an ally of Mr. Macron, signaled the non-conservative parties will try to limit the National Rally's final totals, telling supporters late Sunday, "The stakes are clear: to prevent the National Rally from having an absolute majority."

Despite the uncertainties, Ms. Le Pen



Far-right National Rally party president Jordan Bardella delivered his speech Sunday after France's legislative elections propelled it to a strong but not decisive lead in the first-round vote, dealing another slap to centrist President Emmanuel Macron.

— who won her own race for a seat in the district of Pas-de-Calais — celebrated with supporters Sunday while cautioning there was more work to be done.

"The French people have shown that they want to draw a line under seven years of [Mr. Macron's] disdainful rule," she said at a party event in the town of Henin-Beaumont in eastern France. "We haven't won yet."

Whatever the final numbers, the result was a remarkable achievement for Ms. Le Pen, who has worked for years to raise the far-right party to respectability and shed its historical ties to fascist and antisemitic forces.

As with other right-wing parties on both sides of the Atlantic, she has also effectively used the issues of immigration, public security and an embrace of traditional social values to steadily cut into the popularity of establishment parties on the left and right.

How the outcome will affect French foreign policy and relations with the United States is also unsettled.

Mr. Macron has been a leading hawk in support of Ukraine in both NATO and the European Union in its war with Russia. Ms. Le Pen has firmly ruled out Mr.

Macron's trial balloon of sending French troops to aid in the fight and Mr. Bardella said during the campaign he would oppose sending long-range artillery to Kyiv.

Two years ago, the National Rally won just 18% of the vote in the first round and 17% in the second, although it was able to expand the number of seats it had from seven to nearly 90. Mr. Macron called the early vote Sunday in reaction to major gains the far-right forces had made in European Union parliamentary elections in early June.

While hot-button social issues have sometimes dominated the debate, widespread dissatisfaction with Mr. Macron's handling of the economy, inflation and basic public services have also fueled the National Rally's support.

But immigration and what supporters see as a threat to French national identity and sovereignty have also played a major role in the party's rise.

Mr. Bardella recently told the Financial Times that one of his priorities if elected prime minister would be a bill to combat "Islamist ideologies" and speed up the process to close mosques and deport imams who support "radicalized" agendas.

BRIEFLY THE WORLD

CARIBBEAN

Region hunkers down as hurricane gathers force

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | Hurricane Beryl strengthened into what experts called an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm as it approaches the southeast Caribbean, which began shutting down Sunday amid urgent pleas from government officials for people to take shelter.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Beryl's center is expected to pass about 70 miles south of Barbados on Monday morning, said Sabu Best, director of Barbados' meteorological service.

"This is a very serious situation developing for the Windward Islands," warned the National Hurricane Center in Miami, which said that Beryl was "forecast to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge."

Beryl was located about 250 miles east-southeast of Barbados. It had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph and was considered a compact storm, with hurricane-force winds extending 15 miles from its center.

After passing south of Barbados, Beryl is expected to head into the Caribbean Sea as a major hurricane on a path toward Jamaica. It is expected to weaken by midweek, but still remain a hurricane as it heads toward Mexico.

— Associated Press

NIGERIA

Suicide bombings raise fears of new wave of terror attacks

MAIDUGURI | At least 18 people were killed and 30 injured, including 19 seriously, in coordinated attacks by suspected female suicide bombers in the northeastern Nigerian town of Gwoza on Saturday, local authorities said.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Gwoza is in Borno state, which has been heavily affected by an insurgency launched in 2009 by Boko Haram, an Islamic extremist group.

The violence, which has spilled across borders around Lake Chad, has killed over 35,000 people, displaced over 2.6 million and created a massive humanitarian crisis.

Boko Haram, which has one branch allied to the Islamic State group, wants to install an Islamic state in Nigeria, West Africa's oil giant of 170 million people divided almost equally between a mainly Christian south and a predominantly Muslim north.

In the past, Boko Haram has used women and girls in suicide bombings, prompting suspicions that some from the many thousands that they have kidnapped over the years.

The resurgence of suicide bombings in Borno raises significant concerns about the security situation in the region.

— Associated Press

BOLIVIA

Coup questions abound as general is imprisoned

LA PAZ | The Bolivian general accused of leading a failed coup was sent over the weekend to a maximum-security prison as he faces charges of terrorism and starting an armed uprising.

"At some point the truth will be known," a handcuffed Gen. Juan Jose Zuniga told journalists as he was escorted by two guards to the vehicle that will take him to the Chonchocoro maximum-security prison on the outskirts of La Paz. Two other former military chiefs, including former navy Vice Adm. Juan Arnez Salvador, were also taken to the same prison.

Gen. Zuniga, who was arrested Wednesday after the rebellion, said before being taken into custody, without providing evidence, that President Luis Arce ordered him to carry out the rebellion — something that the Bolivian leader and his government have vigorously denied.

Mr. Arce said Friday that the commander planned to "take over" the government and become president, and he denied once again that Wednesday's attack on the government palace was a "self-coup" designed to garner him political points.

Authorities have arrested 21 people, in relation to the uprising that shook the capital. All of them face charges of armed uprising and terrorism.

— Associated Press

STATE DEPARTMENT

Blinken: AI tools to 'combat disinformation' tested

By RYAN LOVELACE
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday his department's artificial intelligence overhaul includes testing new technology to combat foreign disinformation as part of an ambitious media monitoring and analysis project that spans the globe.

The State Department's previous work in the field has come under congressional scrutiny following complaints that the federal government played a role in stifling speech.

With the future of the State Department's disinformation-fighting efforts in jeopardy amid concerns about government censorship, new AI tools may give the department another means to pursue the same goals.

Mr. Blinken told a session with State Department workers in Foggy Bottom on Friday morning that AI tools can help automate routine tasks, summarize and translate research, and make it possible to monitor much more media.

"We can use this technology to actually improve our analysis, to unearth new insights," Mr. Blinken said. "We've seen already, as we've been testing things out, using AI as a tool for helping negotiations in multilateral organizations, we'll talk about that; using it as a way to combat disinformation, one of the poisons in the international system today."

The scale and scope of the State Department's new AI-powered media monitoring capability is vast. Mr. Blinken

State Department's media monitoring and analysis project part of overhaul

detailed a program for scanning and understanding foreign information sites and sources that he said could be otherwise impossible for the department's employees to accomplish.

"We have one program that we're using that is able to basically ingest a million articles every day from around the world — to be able to do that in a couple hundred countries in over a hundred languages — and then immediately translate, synthesize and give you a clear picture of what's happening in the information space immediately," he said.

The State Department is also using AI to scour social media to benefit its public diplomacy workforce abroad, according to Mr. Blinken and Matthew Graviss, the department's data and AI chief.

Mr. Blinken cited "the ability to take social media platforms and sites and immediately take all of that in, translate it as necessary into English and give our [public diplomacy] officers an incredible resource for understanding what's actually happening in the information space in a given place, on a given issue, at a given time."

"Super innovative, it's called Northstar, and was launched a couple of months ago," Mr. Graviss interjected onstage at the State Department. "And so [I] would encourage everybody to check that out."

While the workforce experiments with new AI tools to thwart disinformation, the department's leading anti-disinformation agency, the Global Engagement Center, is under congressional scrutiny. The center was conceived as a clearing house to identify and stop foreign adversaries from spreading false information designed to dupe people.

House Foreign Affairs Committee lawmakers, led by Chairman Michael McCaul, wrote to Mr. Blinken last year with concerns that the center strayed from its mission. The lawmakers cited concerns that the State Department unit had "subsidized censorship of free speech and disfavored opinions — particularly by established conservative media and individuals — through grants, partnerships and awards to entities."

Separately, the House Committee on Small Business said this year it is also investigating the center's role in potential censorship and the "revenue interference of American small businesses by proxy."

Mr. Blinken, however, defended the disinformation center at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing in May.

"Our Global Engagement Center is critical," Mr. Blinken said at a committee hearing. "It's a critical tool for countering the threat of information manipulation by China, by Russia, and others, and



Secretary of State Antony Blinken said AI tools can help automate routine tasks, summarize and translate research, and make it possible to monitor more media.

we urge you to extend its sunset clause before it goes into effect in the coming months."

Lawmakers' evaluation of the federal government's work on countering false information, however, comes amid troubling news that the U.S. government may have engaged in proactive manipulation in Asia.

According to Reuters, the U.S. military launched a secret campaign to sow doubt about vaccines from China during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reuters said in June it identified hundreds of accounts on the social media platform X that matched an anti-vaccine operation aiming at the Philippines.

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang likely hit its own territory in ballistic-missile test

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | One of North Korea's two ballistic-missile tests Monday likely hit the reclusive Communist state's own territory.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeastern direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea.

It said the first missile flew 370 miles and the second missile 75 miles, but didn't say where they landed.

North Korea typically test-fires missiles toward its eastern waters, but the second missile's flight distance was too short to reach those waters.

South Korean media said an

unidentified South Korean military source reported that it was highly likely the second missile crashed in an inland area of the North.

Possible damages on the North's territory weren't immediately reported.

The South Korean reports said the first missile landed in the waters off the North's eastern city of Chongjin.

The firings came a day after the North vowed "offensive and overwhelming" responses to a new U.S. military drill with South Korea and Japan, which had ended a day earlier.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, which did not comment on the media reports, said South Korea maintains a firm readiness to repel any provocations by North Korea in conjunctions with the military alliance with the United States.

In recent years, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan have been expanding their trilateral security partnership to better cope with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats and China's increasing assertiveness in the region.

The "Freedom Edge" drill was meant to increase the sophistication of previous exercises with simultaneous air and naval drills geared toward improving joint ballistic-missile defense, anti-submarine warfare, surveillance and other skills and capabilities. The three-day drill involved a U.S. aircraft carrier as well as destroyers, fighter jets and helicopters from the three countries.

On Sunday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a lengthy statement strongly denouncing the "Freedom Edge" drill, calling the partnership an

Asian version of NATO. It said the drill destroyed security on the Korean Peninsula and contained a U.S. intention to besiege China and pressure Russia.

The statement said North Korea will "firmly defend the sovereignty, security and interests of the state and peace in the region through offensive and overwhelming countermeasures."

Monday's launch was the North's first weapons firing in five days. On Wednesday, North Korea launched what it called a multiwarhead missile in the first known launch of a developmental, advanced weapon meant to defeat U.S. and South Korean missile defenses.

North Korea said the launch was successful, but South Korea dismissed the North's claim as deception to cover up a failed launch.

MOVIES

Latest foray into fearlessness

Lanthimos challenges Stone again in 'Kindness'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our world should one day cease to exist, and some improved civilization from another galaxy stumbles upon our popular culture and seeks to understand all the fuss about Emma Stone — well, we now have the film clip they should see.

She's not even speaking, so translating Earth language won't be an issue. She's simply dancing. It's toward the end of her latest collab with Yorgos Lanthimos, the challenging, intriguing, perplexing-if-not-downright-infructuously-opaque "Kinds of Kindness." Ms. Stone is doing an improvised victory dance, and it's glorious.

What's clear is that the Stone-Lanthimos pairing, in their third feature together, is continuing to nurture an aspect of Ms. Stone's talents that increasingly sets her apart: Her fearlessness and the obvious joy she derives from it.

Then again, it's possible we especially love this scene because by now we're parched — thirst is actually a theme of the film, but let's forget that for a second — for a wee bit of joy. There's barely an ounce of it in "Kinds of Kindness," nor is there much beauty (unlike the gorgeous period romps many know Mr. Lanthimos best for, "The Favourite" and last year's sumptuous "Poor Things.") Nor is there any recognizable kindness to speak of — "recognizable" being the operative word here. Which might be the point of the title. Or not.

So what IS "Kinds of Kindness"? OK, here goes. Mr. Lanthimos, working for a fifth time with screenwriter Efthymis Filippou ("The Lobster"), has created a triptych — three mini-films with the same cast. A solidifying troupe of Lanthimos regulars appears, with Willem Dafoe, one of the most distinctive actors in the universe, rejoining Ms. Stone's Bella from



Emma Stone stars as a scientist who has vanished during a sea voyage and is the beloved wife of suburban cop Jesse Plemons in "Kinds of Kindness."

"Poor Things," joined now by a terrific Jesse Plemons, who won the best actor prize at Cannes, as well as Hong Chau, Margaret Qualley, Mamoudou Athie and Joe Alwyn.

These three segments, which together run close to three hours, are separate stories with different characters, and an overarching theme that can best be explained by parsing the lyrics of a Eurythmics song.

"Sweet dreams are made of this," goes the iconic song, with which Mr. Lanthimos begins his movie. Then, more importantly: "Some of them want to use you. Some of them want to get used by you. Some of them want to abuse you. Some of them want to be abused." Yup, all these things happen in "Kinds of Kindness," a meditation on our free will and the ways we willingly forfeit it to others — in the workplace, at home, and in religion. For all these characters, something about being subjugated by someone else provides a perverse sense of comfort.

In the first segment — easily the tightest, most entertaining and impactful — our protagonist, Robert (Mr. Plemons), works for some sort of shady business run by Raymond (Mr. Dafoe), who controls everything Robert does.

And we do mean everything. What he eats, drinks, wears, where he lives with his wife — also hand-chosen for him — even what time they have sex, and whether they procreate.

Raymond decides it all, and that's fine with Robert — it even gets him cool gifts, like a smashed John McEnroe racket — until he's asked to basically commit manslaughter.

He underperforms and is fired. Then, he becomes obsessed with getting back into his boss' good graces, whatever it takes.

Ms. Stone appears 40 minutes into the movie, a cog in the same wheel. But she takes center stage in the next installment, as Liz, beloved wife of Daniel, a suburban cop (Mr. Plemons, with shorter and lighter hair). Liz, a scientist, has vanished during a sea voyage — she's "traveled the world and the seven seas," to continue with the Eurythmics lyrics.

Finally she's rescued, and returns home to her loving husband. Loving, that is, until Daniel starts suspecting she's not really Liz (she may also be a cannibal). She sure looks like Liz, but her shoes don't fit. Also, she likes chocolate now and can't remember Daniel's favorite song. So, he starts testing her, asking her to do awful things. And for some reason, she does.

We won't spoil any of the mini-endings, though you may find they're not really endings anyway. (If the lack of clarity in this review is annoying you, well, welcome to this movie? Should that have been an exclamation point? We're suddenly feeling insecure even about punctuation.) But the "whoa, what?" feeling you may have

at the end of the second part can't fester, because soon we're in a cult, where the only liquid members can drink is sanctified by the tears of creepy leader Omi (Mr. Dafoe, who else?) and wife Aka (Ms. Chau.)

Ms. Stone and Mr. Plemons reunite here as cult members tasked with finding a woman, out there somewhere, who's able to raise the dead. For this holy search for a spiritual leader, Emily (is this a nod to Ms. Stone's real name?) has left a husband (Mr. Alwyn) and young daughter behind. She drives a purple sports car with increasing abandon (speaking of fearless, Ms. Stone has said she did much of her stunt driving). But she, too, messes up, and is left begging to be allowed back in.

Will she find what she is looking for?

Well, that depends on whether she knows what it is. Characters here actually seem to find what they THINK they seek — but it leads them, of course, down dark paths. But hey, everybody's lookin' for something, the song tells us. Not to be trite, but who are we to disagree?

In any case, seeking a neat conceptual bow to wrap this all up — as in Bella's satisfying empowerment in "Poor Things" — will lead nowhere. So maybe the best lyric we can take from the Eurythmics is the simplest one of all:

"Keep your head up. Movin' on."

MOVIES

Novelty is gone in 'A Quiet Place' prequel

By LINDSEY BAHR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not all successful movies need to be franchises. Most really shouldn't be.

That's not how Hollywood works, of course, but it's worth repeating. Because in the case of "A Quiet Place," now on its third movie with a prequel about a few new characters in New York on the first day of the invasion, the thrill of that fresh idea has waned. And when that happens, what are we left with?

There were certainly many questions about the how and the why of the killing monsters with hypersensitive hearing. The internet is full of logic questions and holes if you're curious.

But the beauty of "A Quiet Place" was the silly mystery. We were just dropped into this apocalyptic world with a very simple but challenging rule: If you make a noise, you die. Got it. Scarcity of information worked in its favor as we got to know this family just trying to survive (and deliver a baby quietly!). Its sequel worked mostly because it smartly chose to continue that same journey, picking up exactly where we had left off.

"A Quiet Place: Day One," directed and co-written by Michael Sarnoski (sharing a credit with John Krasinski), shifts focus from the Abbott family to a new character, Sam (Lupita Nyong'o), who is dying of cancer. She is bitter, sarcastic and mean. And taking the "save the



"A Quiet Place: Day One" shifts the franchise focus from the Abbott family to a new character, Sam (Lupita Nyong'o, center), who is dying of cancer. Joining her is Djimon Hounsou (left) and Alex Wolff.

'Day One' left with unanswered questions in silly mystery

cat" idea to its literal extreme, Sam does have one friend: A cat named Frodo.

This seems unnecessary, simply because if anyone is going to make a hostile character a compelling hero, it's Ms. Nyong'o. Both she and Joseph Quinn, playing a British law student named Eric, have deeply expressive, saucer-sized eyes that make dialogue almost unnecessary. But without a newborn in the mix, the cat adds an extra element of chaos by surviving for more than 3 minutes.

Mr. Sarnoski, who was behind the Nicolas Cage thriller "Pig," makes the bold decision to not dwell on answering questions about the monsters.

In fact, he barely addresses how everyone figures out that they need to be quiet. One moment, people are being devoured in the streets of New York, and several later there's a band of survivors pushing their fingers to their lips.

Perhaps this was smart: There's only so much an audience will tolerate watching characters bewildered about something they already know. But it might have been a little interesting to watch someone figure it out, or, like try to persuade a toddler to buy into it.

Besides a distracting attempt to connect this film to "Part II" through Djimon Hounsou, the story itself is quite contained to Sam and Eric, a stranger who

kind of attaches himself to her and Frodo. She has one goal: To survive long enough to get to her favorite pizza place in Harlem.

There is something compelling about the idea of what a terminal person might do on the first day of the apocalypse, and Ms. Nyong'o is powerful and heartbreaking on this quest for the perfect slice. There's a beauty in the simplicity and ridiculousness of it. What Eric is doing there, however, is anyone's guess. He's a little too underwritten to make much sense of.

Also, there are competing forces at play, with "Day One" wanting to be both a meditative character study and a thrilling horror movie that gives us more monsters, more carnage, more jump scares and unsettling memories of 9/11. They never quite mesh, and several choices make it seem like the filmmakers were just trying to shoehorn in excitement without much justification.

One of the most exciting sequences that captures the terror of Mr. Krasinski's films is when Eric goes to a pharmacy to try to get meds for Sam. It's simple, efficient and full of dread and tension because it's a necessary risk, unlike many of the bigger set pieces that feel more strained.

Ultimately "Day One" could have been set around any old apocalypse. Tethering it to the rules of "A Quiet Place," a smart premise whose novelty is impossible to recreate let alone build a world upon, just holds it back.

Widower struggles to find a way forward

DEAR ABBY: I was married to a wonderful woman for 27 happy years until she passed last year. We did everything together. Now I feel lonely and depressed. We had a sweet furry guy named Maxx who was our whole world. I lost Maxx a few months ago, and I am devastated.

I'm a very hardworking man. After losing my family, I feel lifeless — like the life has been sucked out of my body. My co-workers tell me I need to start dating and move on. It's not that easy. Is this normal?

I have been attending grief therapy, but it doesn't seem to be working. I tried joining a dating site but it's a disaster out there. Most of the women are gold diggers or interested only in hookups. I like only curvy ladies. I don't think I'm ever going to find someone intelligent or reasonable. What do you suggest? — **OUT OF SORTS IN OREGON**

DEAR OUT OF SORTS:

Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your dear wife. I'm sure she is irreplaceable. Losing Maxx, your emotional support furry friend, has only added to your loss. Because the grief counseling you have been getting hasn't helped, it may be time to find another therapist. Do not begin dating until you are stronger emotionally.

If you are contacting only "curvy ladies" for their looks, it may be why you are finding "gold diggers or women interested only in hookups." You will meet women who are intelligent and reasonable once you start looking specifically for ladies who have those qualities. Once you do, you may be surprised to find some

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 1). It's as though this year was given an assignment to make sure

you have fun regularly and often, and then aces the mission. It helps that you'll keep excellent company, keen to keep you adventuring, laughing and creating. More highlights: You'll enjoy an advancement that comes with multiple perks, a shift in style and heartfelt connections that give your home life richness. Pisces and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 4, 44 and 28.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The absence of malice isn't love. Those who don't oppose ideas aren't automatically supporters of the opposite position. Make sure to find out where people are in terms of motivation so you can place your bets accordingly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If only your intention was enough to move the world. It's almost enough. But ultimately, adding a few key phrases and two or three actions will do the trick. You'll have an instinct today. You'll put this puzzle together right.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). These funny thoughts you are having about a new venture are fresh and half-formed. In the weeks to come they will assimilate like weather, culminating into something more. For now, be patient.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Repetition has been a theme for about three weeks, and now you're ready to do something completely different. There will be an interruption of the pattern, probably in the form of a messenger.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Curiosity is your guiding impulse of the day. You will be drawn to an interest, learn about it, and then learn more. One aspect of a topic is never enough — and the narrower you get, the bigger the blossom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
DEAR ABBY

of them are curvy. But, please, make "curvy" the third item on your list.

DEAR ABBY: I have an acquaintance I became friendly with 20 years ago through a mutual friend. The acquaintance now lives in another state. She is a taker and a talker, and I have nothing in common with her. She has made antisemitic comments that left me speechless and unable to respond. I regret not being able to speak up at that time.

This woman stayed with me at my house a few years ago, which was awkward and uncomfortable. I respond to her texts out of politeness. I do not contact her. She has just contacted me to say she's visiting my state in two months. I do not want to get together with her, but I responded by telling her we could check in closer to the date.

I do not want her to stay at my house. I would be OK with lunch, although she is cheap and would try to find a way to get me to pay for it. I like how you find appropriate words to use when responding to difficult situations. What is your advice, please? — **TIMID IN COLORADO**

DEAR TIMID: Grow a backbone. You should not have told this woman you would decide about hosting her "closer to the date of her arrival." Notify her NOW that you won't be available when she is in your state, or you may wind up hosting her. If she presses, tell her that you have grown apart and in different directions. Then wish her well, make your exit and do not respond to any more of her attempts to contact you.

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HOLIDAY MATHS
HOROSCOPE

22. Keep on toward the shiny object — it's not a bad thing. You're headed for a goal that has obvious external rewards right now, but over time, the internal motivation will become stronger than any outside motivation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It may feel a little chaotic today. The nuances press into you, these barbed emotions — and yet, they don't really matter as much as it seems. Your life is falling into the perfect alignment to conquer all obstacles in the path.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You must figure out what's in the way to go around, over or above it. Once you identify the thing in your path, you will change any systems, habits and relationships that might hinder your movement beyond it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your habits will dictate your mood, and it all happens because of small things. For instance, getting into a made bed with clean sheets is wonderful, producing the best sleep that sets you put for a beautiful tomorrow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). With your basics covered, you'll come from a grounded place. It doesn't take an expert to know something's wrong, but an expert can tell you exactly what the problem is and how to fix it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can crack codes, dispel myths and find the puzzle piece. Even so, you respect the unknowable. Most of life's big questions will never be answered in a lifetime. The best things are to be enjoyed, not solved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If it can be fixed with money, throw it down and be done with it. If it can't be fixed with money, it's a problem that will grow you in all directions — something to be grateful for, though it might not seem like it until later.

CREATORS.COM

Region

WEST VIRGINIA

Miners union boss calls rock dust rule blockage 'an attack' on workers

By Leah Willingham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.VA. | The head of the national mine workers' union on Friday condemned what he characterized as an effort by House Republicans to block enforcement of a long-awaited federal rule directed at curbing workers' exposure to poisonous, deadly rock dust, calling it "a direct attack on the health and safety of coal miners."

United Mine Workers of America International President Cecil E. Roberts said a budget provision — approved by a U.S. House subcommittee Thursday — prohibiting the Department of Labor from using funding to enforce a silica dust rule operators must be in compliance with next year is "morally reprehensible" and that the action "undermines the principles of fairness and justice that our country stands for."

"It is difficult for me to understand how certain members of Congress could possibly be

supportive of more miners dying a suffocating death as a result of being forced to breathe this dust," Mr. Roberts said in a statement.

Silicosis, commonly referred to as black lung, is an occupational pneumoconiosis caused by the inhalation of crystalline silica dust present in minerals like sandstone. Finalized in April by Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, or MSHA, rule cuts by half the permissible exposure limit for crystalline silica for an eight-hour shift.

The regulation is in line with exposure levels imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on construction and other non-mining industries. And it's the standard the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was recommending as far back as 1974.

The Department of Labor began studying silica and its impact on workers' health in the 1930s, but the focus on stopping exposure in the workplace largely

bypassed coal miners.

Ms. Su said in April that it is "unconscionable" that America's miners have been forced to work without the protections for so long: "We're making it clear that no job should be a death sentence."

The black lung problem has only grown in recent years as miners dig through more layers of rock to get to less accessible coal, generating deadly silica dust in the process. Silica dust is 20 times more toxic than coal dust and causes severe forms of black lung disease even after a few years of exposure.

The increased drilling has meant that severe forms of the disease are being identified even among younger Appalachian miners, some in their 30s and 40s. An estimated one in five tenured miners in Central Appalachia has black lung disease; one in 20 has the most disabling form of black lung.

On Thursday, the House subcommittee did not debate the bill



United Mine Workers of America President Cecil E. Roberts condemned an effort by Republicans to block enforcement of a rule directed at curbing workers' exposure to deadly and poisonous rock dust.

containing the silica dust rule enforcement block before advancing it.

A spokesperson for Rep. Robert Aderholt, Alabama Republican and chairman of the labor, health and human services and education subcommittee, did not return an email request for comment Friday.

National Mining Association spokesperson Conor Bernstein said Friday in an email that officials at the organization, which represents operators, haven't been "involved in this legislation and, therefore, are not in a position to comment."

Mine safety advocates are

scrambling to meet with lawmakers before the bill is scheduled to go before the full House Appropriations Committee on July 10. It would have to be greenlit by that committee before going to the full chamber.

Quenton King, federal legislative specialist for Appalachian Voices, a nonprofit that advocated for the silica dust rule, said the protection is essential to protecting not only coal miners in central Appalachia but metal and non-metal miners across the country. He said that if allowed to be enforced, it will help save thousands of lives.

NEW JERSEY

Murphy avoids shutdown deadline

Hikes corporate taxes in budget

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. | New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed a \$56.6 billion budget moments before midnight Friday, hiking taxes on high-earning corporations to help the state's transit agency while spending billions on education and other programs.

The Democrat-led Legislature, which passed the budget hours before Mr. Murphy signed, and the governor were two days ahead of their constitutionally set deadline to enact a balanced budget, avoiding a government shutdown.

"With this budget, we are going to make life more affordable for more families. We are going to create new economic opportunities for our workers and local businesses. And we are going to invest in the potential of every one of our neighbors," Mr. Murphy said in a statement.

For taxpayers, the spending plans includes billions for K-12 education, property tax relief, public pensions and a host of other programs. For businesses making over \$10 million a year, the budget carries a tax increase, hiking the top corporate rate to 11.5% for those firms, up from 9%.

Mr. Murphy, also a Democrat, proposed what he called the corporate transit fee to help the beleaguered New Jersey Transit, which could face a budget crunch in the coming year. The agency, which operates buses and trains in the state, has taken capital funds to finance its operational budget for years.

Mr. Murphy had promised to find a way to dedicate funding to the agency. It's unclear to what extent the tax increase completely accomplishes that goal. That's in part because the Legislature would have to dedicate the funding in subsequent budget years, the kind of commitment that could prove difficult to achieve if tax collections fall, for example.

The spending plan is up about 4% from the budget Mr. Murphy signed last year, a modest increase compared to past years.

The budget also calls for increasing state K-12 funding to fully implement an aid formula ratified by the state Supreme Court, raising such aid to more than \$11 billion, up nearly \$1 billion.

The budget also has about \$2.5 billion for direct property tax relief, continuing programs introduced in 2022 and 2023 to help residents, renters and older residents. The average property tax amount in 2022, which is the most recently available information, is about \$9,500, according to the state.

The budget pays for all aspects of state government, from the executive departments to public universities. The Legislature this year passed a 67% pay raise for lawmakers, their first since 2002, which goes into effect in 2026.

DELAWARE

Ruling invalidating early voting, permanent absentee status reversed

By Randall Chase
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOVER, DEL. | Delaware's Supreme Court on Friday reversed a judge's ruling that state laws allowing early voting and permanent absentee status are unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court did not address the merits of the case, but it instead found only that the plaintiffs, a state elections inspector and a Republican lawmaker, did not have legal standing to challenge the laws.

Justice Gary Traynor said elections inspector Michael Mennella and Senate Minority Leader Gerald Hocker had not met their burden of establishing "imminent or particularized harm." To achieve standing, he said, a plaintiff must demonstrate an injury that is "more than a generalized grievance" shared by the population at large.

"Because we have concluded that the plaintiffs do not have standing, we do not reach the merits of their state constitutional claims," Justice Traynor wrote in an opinion for the court.

The justices said Mr. Hocker did not establish standing as a purported candidate because he will not stand for reelection until 2026. "That election, in our view, is not imminent," Justice Traynor wrote.

The court also rejected Mr. Mennella's argument that he has standing as an inspector of elections and would have the authority to turn away voters based on his belief that the laws are unconstitutional.

The justices also said Mr. Hocker and Mr. Mennella did not have standing to assert their

constitutional claims by virtue of their status as registered voters whose votes would be diluted by illegally cast votes.

In a concurring opinion, Justice Karen Valihura agreed that Mr. Hocker did not establish standing as a candidate, and Mr. Mennella's status as an election inspector also was not sufficient. But she said her colleagues went too far in focusing on lawsuits over the 2020 presidential election while addressing the thorny issue of registered voter standing.

"I believe that the highly expedited nature of this proceeding counsels for a narrower holding that identifies and reserves for another day a more careful delineation of the boundaries of registered voter standing," Justice Valihura wrote.

The court issued its ruling just three weeks after hearing oral arguments, and less than three months before the Sept. 10 primary elections.

The ruling comes after Superior Court Judge Mark Conner declared in February that Mr. Mennella and Mr. Hocker had shown by "clear and convincing evidence" that the laws were "inconsistent with our constitution."

Judge Conner's ruling came after the Supreme Court declared in 2022 that laws allowing universal voting by mail and Election Day registration in general elections were unconstitutional. The justices said the vote-by-mail statute impermissibly expanded absentee voting eligibility, while same-day registration conflicted with registration periods spelled out in the constitution.



A measure to block state aid from going to any university that boycotts or divests from Israel following pro-Palestinian protests on campus has gone to the Pennsylvania House for a vote.

PENNSYLVANIA

Ban on universities, pension funds divesting from Israel passes Senate

By Marc Levy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, PA. | Pennsylvania's state Senate approved legislation Thursday that would block state aid from going to any university that boycotts or divests from Israel, following pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses across the country that included demands for divestment.

The measure, which passed by a vote of 41 to 7, also would bar the state treasurer and public pension systems from boycotting or divesting from Israel's government or commercial financial activity in that country.

The bill won support from all but one Republican and most Democrats. It now goes to the House.

Supporters of the legislation

said it was motivated by a desire to support an ally nation in its war with Hamas, to fight a rising tide of antisemitism in the United States and to alert state-subsidized universities that they must protect Jewish students from threats and bullying by anti-Israel protesters.

The bill was opposed by some of the Senate's more liberal members, including Democratic state Sen. Art Haywood, who said he was concerned that it would restrict free speech.

Fellow Democratic state Sen. Steve Santarsiero, who was a sponsor, disputed that the bill infringes on freedom of speech and said students and faculty will still be able to protest peacefully.

The bill does not punish universities that make investment decisions to fulfill their fiduciary responsibility to

maximize returns, and it has no impact on personal college investment accounts or student loans, Mr. Santarsiero said.

Another supporter, Democratic state Sen. Judy Schwank, said she hopes it sends a message to college administrators and boards of trustees that are responsible for campus safety.

"Bodily harm, death threats, go beyond just hurt feelings and they certainly stretch the limits of free speech," Ms. Schwank said.

Pennsylvania sends more than \$2 billion annually to institutions of higher education through direct appropriations and student grants. Much of it goes to the system of 10 state-owned universities, along with Penn State, Temple University, Lincoln University, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pennsylvania.

NORTH CAROLINA

Trial judges dismiss lawsuit challenging redistricting over right to 'fair elections'

By Gary D. Robertson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. | North Carolina trial judges have dismissed a lawsuit challenging redrawn legislative and congressional district lines on the argument that they run afoul of an indirect constitutional right to "fair elections."

The judges said a recent affirmation still applies — that redistricting policy decisions are left to the General Assembly, not the courts.

In an order released Friday, the panel of three Superior Court judges threw out the complaint filed in January by several voters who attempt to block enforcement of redistricting that they said creates outsized preferences that favor one side — in this case benefitting Republicans.

In a 2023 ruling by the state Supreme Court, the Republican majority said the judiciary lacked authority to declare redistricting maps as illegal partisan gerrymanders. They also said that redistricting was a political matter

the judicial branch must stay out of, save for challenges on specific limitations.

A voters' lawyer argued in a court hearing last month that the 2023 decision didn't apply to his lawsuit, which described an implicit though unspecified right within the state constitution to fair elections. The lawsuit cites specific language in the constitution that "elections shall be often held" and that "all elections shall be free."

But the order signed by Superior Court Judges Jeffery Foster,

Angela Puckett and Ashley Gore says that the 2023 opinion by the Supreme Court still controls the outcome in this case. That's the argument also made by Republican legislative leaders who were among the lawsuit defendants.

"The issues raised by Plaintiffs are clearly of a political nature," the order dated Thursday said. "There is not a judicially discoverable or manageable standard by which to decide them, and resolution by the Panel would require us to make policy determinations that are better

suited for the policymaking branch of government, namely, the General Assembly."

Attorneys for the plaintiffs said Saturday they anticipate filing an appeal. In a written statement, the lawyers added the ruling that "the legislative manipulation of voters to create essentially preordained election results" is beyond the authority of courts to address in part creates a result that "if correct, is a devastating blow to the democratic process of elections in North Carolina."

Spokespeople for state House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger did not respond Friday to a request for comment.

The lawsuit is among four filed in North Carolina to challenge congressional and legislative boundaries drawn by the GOP-dominated General Assembly last fall for use in elections through 2030 that favor Republicans electorally. The other three, still pending, were filed in federal court and focus on claims of illegal racial gerrymandering.

The case for Pompeo

He should be Trump's next vice president

By Tom Basile

If Democrats had any sense, they'd figure out how to replace President Biden with Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear or someone younger and virtually unknown that they can manufacture into their next savior. Do that, and Vice President Kamala Harris could be replaced by a toaster. On the Republican side, however, the choice for vice president is exceptionally more complex and important as Donald Trump attempts to become only the second president to win nonconsecutive terms, the first since the passage of the 22nd Amendment.

The next Republican vice presidential nominee will send a strong message about the kind of second administration Mr. Trump will have and take up the party's mantle, in some fashion, in just four short years.

Unlike today's Democrats, who grapple with an ideological war with the far left that places many of their prospective national candidates on the outskirts of American political thought, Republicans are flush with viable up-and-comers. There's a deep bench for Mr. Trump from which to choose a running mate.

Doug Burgum, the businessman turned North Dakota governor, has proved loyal, smart and stable. He's an adult. He's noncontroversial, and he won't overshadow Mr. Trump.

Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Tim Scott of South Carolina, each well-spoken, with powerful personal narratives, youthful passion and energy, could help boost a GOP that is finally interested in courting minorities. Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who has proved he can win in an increasingly blue state, brings an extensive business background and a strong record as a chief executive. There are others, of course.

One person, however, stands out as having the broad experience, stable demeanor and necessary intellect to be president on day one. Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo may not be the most exciting choice, but he's certainly the most credible.

Mr. Pompeo is keenly aware that today's Democratic Party is the chosen vessel for a bold strain of Western Marxism that has been rising since former President Barack Obama's time. He knows what's at stake in this election if the far left continues to march through our institutions, media and corporations.

Graduating first in his class at West Point, Mr. Pompeo has lived the U.S. Military Academy motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." He is appalled by the "woke" military. From the sobering intelligence he's seen, he understands the importance of restoring America's military

capabilities and projecting them smartly to suppress the unchecked influence of China, Russia and Iran.

As a veteran, Mr. Pompeo understands the risks of engagement and is an advocate of an effective deterrence philosophy, leveraging all the power the United States can muster against our adversaries — military, diplomatic and economic. He knows that power can be used to avoid kinetic wars and that we need to adjust our strategy to better guard against today's asymmetric warfare tactics.

As a former business executive, Mr. Pompeo can speak from experience about how best to expand the economy. He has run a business, taken risks and met a

Americans openly question for its effectiveness and loyalty to constitutional freedoms.

As Mr. Trump's secretary of state, he faced an absolute mess left by his predecessor and perhaps the most hostile environment in the government for any of the Trump appointees. He capably handled a range of challenges on the world stage for the president, administering a foreign policy that renewed Ronald Reagan's "peace through strength" approach.

Our adversaries will take him seriously, and our friends will welcome his voice at the table. Nobody could accuse him of being hired in the name of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mr. Pompeo is a strong Christian who teaches Sunday school and serves as a deacon in his church. His faith is central to his understanding of America's promise and purpose.

Mr. Pompeo is likable. He gets along with MAGA members of Congress as well as establishment Republicans and moderates. He has helped raise millions for conservative candidates across the country, which adds to his political resume. The remaining traditional liberals know he's principled, but his demeanor harks back to a time in Washington when people actually talked to each other rather than at each other.

Mr. Pompeo is good on television. As a Fox News contributor, he has strong relationships with the most-watched cable news network, which has at times had a love-hate relationship with Mr. Trump.

Here's a nice bonus: The liberal cognoscenti can't stand him. A former editor of the Harvard Law Review who understands that the far left is driving American decline, Mr. Pompeo is largely unassailable.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly to Mr. Trump, Mr. Pompeo has demonstrated respect for and deference to his former boss during and after his service in the administration. Mr. Pompeo's 2023 book "Never Give an Inch" credits the former president with the foreign policy successes of those four years. He knows who the boss is, but he's no "yes man." People like that in Washington are a true commodity.

Mr. Pompeo is warm and amiable, stable and smart. He won't compete with a presidential candidate that has all the personality people can handle and often more.

At a time when so many Americans are tired of the backbiting and sharp talk, they are looking for what Mr. Pompeo calls "pipehitters." Mr. Trump needs reliable people who will work tirelessly to get the job done. That's Mike Pompeo.

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

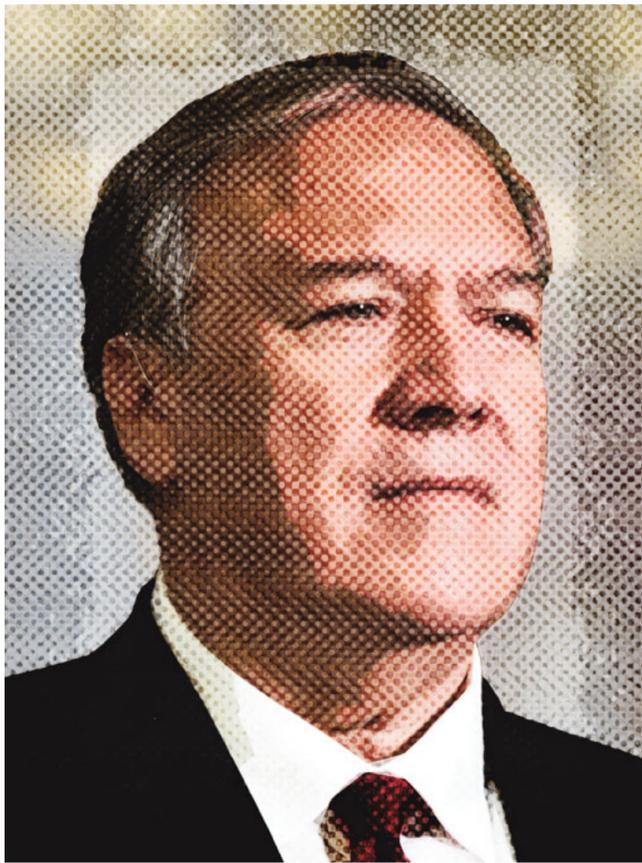


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

payroll. For a nation facing inflation, mounting debt and a statist if not openly socialist political left, Mr. Pompeo can articulate a new Trump business plan to reinvigorate and sustain economic growth.

As a three-term member of Congress, he had a 96% rating from the American Conservative Union. He has had the courage to call Randy Weingarten and the teachers unions a "true threat to our nation."

As a former CIA director, he saw firsthand the challenges of an intelligence bureaucracy that many

A supremely missed opportunity to uphold freedom of speech

*High court ducks on *Murthy v. Missouri**

By Robert Knight

The Supreme Court works in strange and mysterious ways.

It can enrage the progressive left with a solidly constitutional ruling like *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and sent the issue of abortion to the states.

But it can also amaze and frustrate conservatives, as when it refused before and after the 2020 election to reinvest Pennsylvania officials' unconstitutional changes to election procedures.

"We failed to settle this dispute before the election and thus provide clear rules. Now we again fail to provide clear rules for future elections," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in his dissent. "The decision to leave election law hidden beneath a shroud of doubt is baffling."

The high court also threw out a complaint by Texas and other states that several other states had illegally altered election procedures in the 2020 election. The plaintiffs had no standing, the court said.

» see KNIGHT | B3



By Everett Piper

Progressives frequently point fingers at those who disagree with them, calling them deplorable, Bible-thumping rubes and science deniers. Yet without fail, our accusers rarely provide any evidence to support their claims. The leftists' call to "respect the science," i.e., look at the obvious empirical evidence, almost always works against them rather than for them and their utopian schemes.

This is true across the spectrum of the current political debate. Be it inflation, foreign policy, immigration, racism, the efficacy of masks, climate change or gender identity, when we look at the empirical data relevant to any of these topics, the science screams that progressives are wrong and conservatives have been right all along.

For example, it is obvious to everyone who has even an elementary school understanding of genetics and physiology that gender is an obvious and biological fact. Frankly, there is little more that is observably real than the fact that a newborn baby is either a boy or a girl. Likewise, it is indisputably clear to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear that Lia Thomas is a man who has no business swimming against women, nor should he be permitted in their restrooms and locker rooms.

It is likewise an empirical fact that inflation in former President Donald Trump's first 41 months in office was 5.4%, whereas it was approximately 20% under President Biden over the same period, according to the consumer price index. Electricity, gasoline, groceries and rent all cost more under the current administration. The numbers don't lie. The science is clear. You are not better off today than you were four years ago.

It is an obvious empirical fact that climate alarmists' apocalyptic predictions

Children do best when they have a mother and father bound to each other in marriage

have been wrong for the past 50 years. The science is in. The polar ice caps are still there. Sea levels haven't appreciably changed. Hurricane frequency hasn't increased. And no, this isn't the hottest summer we've had in recent history.

It is obvious that racist policies under the guise of "anti-racism" do not diminish racial animus but rather fuel it. The antisemitism at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Black Lives Matter riots in Baltimore were not racially neutral.

It is obvious that masks did little to nothing to stop the spread of COVID-19.

It is obvious that natural immunity was and is superior to mRNA injections.

It is obvious that 10 million foreign nationals flooding across our borders illegally is not good for our national security.

It is obvious that elementary-age children do not benefit from sexually explicit indoctrination.

It is obvious that amputating healthy, functioning organs from adolescents is not good health care.

Likewise, it is empirically obvious that certain behaviors plainly compromise the design and purpose of the human body and that any sexual act other than one between a monogamous man and a monogamous woman predictably causes disease and dysfunction and should be avoided. This is simple science.

It is obvious that for at least 2,000 years, Western civilization has affirmed (to its obvious advantage) the ontologically obvious definition of marriage. It is, likewise, obvious that children do best when they have both a mother and a father bound to each other in such a marriage. It is obvious that a mother fares

Following the science



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

better when she is married to the father of her children. It is also obvious that our efforts at social engineering have resulted in untold poverty and dysfunction for these same women and their children. Again, the science is in on all of this. The numbers are clear. The evidence can't be denied.

So many things are clear, observable and therefore, empirically obvious. For example, socialism works only until you run out of other people's money. Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. It is an empirical fact that liberty is always lost when licentiousness abounds, and it is obvious that women suffer most when men are without morals.

All of this is observable and scientifically confirmed. But there's more.

It is also scientifically obvious that some absolutes cannot be tested in a tube, yet they must be affirmed. For example, surely even the most scientific among us must admit that rape is wrong and the Holocaust was evil. What thinking person would deny such empirical facts?

Even if such truths cannot be derived from a laboratory or a petri dish, we know what is true. And how about those who believe nature's design has no designer? Are they not operating on "faith" much more than those who clearly see a painter behind the painting and a watchmaker behind the watch?

We live in a culture where we are constantly told to trust "the science." So be it. When we do, the facts shout that the right was right all along and that progressives have a pathological habit of projecting their sins on others to the point where they are really little more than a pot calling the kettle black.

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

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

The Supreme Court's mixed bag

Establishment justices ally with liberals against free speech

For a court that's supposedly "far right," the Supreme Court continues producing decisions that frustrate anyone trying to advance the partisanship narrative. A pivotal case released Wednesday proves the liberal wing of the bench isn't just there for show.

Justices Ketanji Brown-Jackson, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor formed a majority with the establishment wing — Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Brett Kavanaugh — to protect the Biden administration's sweeping social media censorship initiative.

These six judges said the administration did nothing wrong in bullying Twitter, YouTube and Facebook into silencing users for spreading what it called "misinformation" about COVID-19. In hindsight, we know the government-appointed guardians of the truth were actually the ones deceiving Americans about things like natural immunity and the possibility that COVID leaked out of a Chinese lab.

But officials at the highest levels of the White House, the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI were desperate to suppress those truths. Beginning in early 2021, these senior government employees held regular meetings with Big Tech firms, supplying lists of political opponents to be secretly condemned to digital oblivion. Since these tech companies are staffed by obedient leftists, they didn't push back.

The misguided majority draws the wrong conclusion from compliance. It's true the tech giants were not doing something they were wholly unwilling to do. The problem is they were being directed by federal agents to accomplish what the government is prohibited from doing under the First Amendment.

When a sophisticated gentleman walks into a bodega with a baseball bat saying, "It would be a shame if something happened to your nice little store," the cashier is going to hand over the recommended amount of

protection money. In places like New York, where shoplifters are no longer prosecuted, the merchant might even appreciate the mob's protection.

That doesn't make the transaction voluntary. Nonetheless, the court went out of its way to reject the complaint of censorship targets because they failed to produce sufficient evidence establishing "a substantial risk of future injury" from the government's conduct.

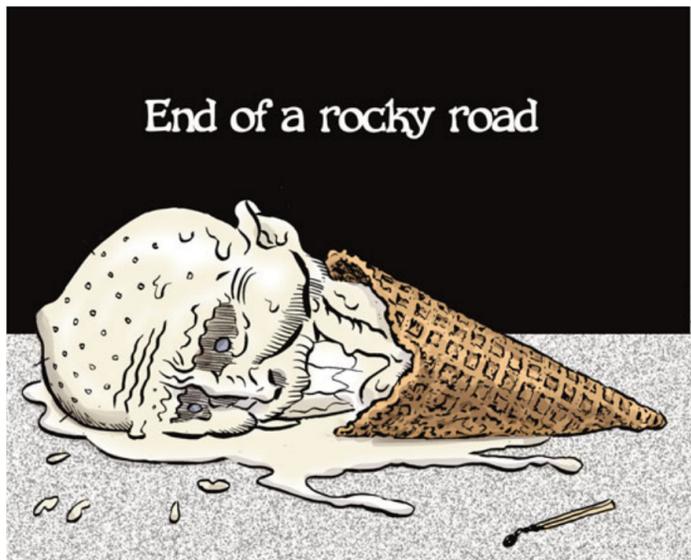
Requiring such evidence upfront raises an insurmountable barrier to challenging federal overreach. These events took place behind closed doors. We had only a taste of what happened because Elon Musk decided on a whim to blow \$44 billion buying what is now X. Mr. Musk released files documenting the government's censorship drive at Twitter, but even that wasn't enough for the establishment justices.

Reliably conservative Justices Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito recognized their colleagues dropped the ball on "one of the most important free speech cases to reach this Court in years."

In their dissent, they stated that the federal conduct here "was blatantly unconstitutional, and the country may come to regret the Court's failure to say so. Officials who read today's decision... will get the message. If a coercive campaign is carried out with enough sophistication, it may get by. That is not a message this Court should send."

Chief Justice Roberts should know better, but as an institutionalist, he is averse to the sort of bad publicity that would rain down on the court if he crossed this administration.

After Mr. Biden's disastrous debate performance Thursday, the odds Donald Trump might have the privilege of appointing another justice in the four years ahead have increased. He ought to think twice about heeding recommendations from the groups that saddled us with establishment justices unwilling to defend free speech.



Replacing Biden would be complicated, almost certainly not worth it

Last open convention was in 1952

In the wake of President Biden's — let's be charitable — somewhat uneven, disjointed and lethargic performance in Thursday's debate, there has been a cascade of calls to replace him as the Democratic nominee for president.

At first blush, that doesn't seem like a bad idea.

But the Democrats might want to think for a minute or two before they pull that particular fire alarm (with apologies to Rep. Jamaal Bowman). There are a few reasons to keep Uncle Joe in place.

First, and most importantly, no matter who the Democratic nominee is, he or she will, by necessity, be running on the record established by the Biden administration. That record includes incredibly corrosive inflation, which has caused households' real incomes to shrink, multiple foreign policy failures in the Middle East, surging federal debt, and a general sense that things are not going well.

I have no clue who could make that record sound good. I don't think anyone else does, either.

Second, replacing Mr. Biden with anyone other than Vice President Kamala Harris would create an immediate fissure in the Democratic coalition that would take at least a generation to repair. Skipping over the first female vice president and a woman of color to nominate yet another average White dude with a hairdo — such as California Gov. Gavin Newsom — would be literally inexplicable to about one-third of the party's most reliable voters. In many respects, it would be better for Democrats to simply accept defeat this year and rebuild for the next cycle.

Third, as difficult as it is to imagine at the moment, Mr. Biden — with his vestigial association with and attachments to the moderate heritage of centrist Democrats — may, in fact, be the only person capable of defeating former President Donald Trump. The next Democratic nominee, whenever they might appear, is much more likely to adhere openly to the progressive creed of today's Democratic Party.

That is not to say Mr. Biden does not. But his commitment to the exterior signs of normalcy — his nostalgia

for labor unions, football, Catholicism, automobiles, etc. — are obvious attempts to signal that he is a faithful adherent to the old-time Democratic religion. The next nominee will not even bother to attempt to issue that signal.

Finally, the logistics of changing horses in midstream are daunting. It is not clear that all the money given to the Biden campaign effort is fungible, nor is it clear how an open convention might work. The last open convention

was in 1952. Adlai Stevenson was the Democratic nominee, and he lost, no doubt in part because an open convention resulted in a fractured party.

An open convention now would be no different. It is unlikely that the delegates will be of one mind about the right path forward in the event that Mr. Biden withdraws. The chances of ugly conflict and recriminations would be substantial. What if Mr. Biden really is the only thing holding together the shaky

Democratic coalition?

Apart from all that, television time has already been purchased, and commercials have already been produced. All of that would have to be reworked. It is likely that donors are already making plans — and spending their limited resources — to build a firewall in the Senate, having concluded that Mr. Biden is a lost cause.

The elected officials, the donors and the worker bee operatives who run the Democratic Party know all of this, which is why few of them have been willing to go on the record in any of the scores of stories outlining increasingly fantastical scenarios under which a deus ex machina appears to save the day, resolve the play and send the audience home happy.

As for those in the Trump campaign, under the steady guidance of Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita, they know that the best thing they can do is — to borrow from Rocky Balboa — keep moving forward, no matter who their opponent might be. They understand that a new and unexpected opponent would pose different and perhaps greater challenges than Mr. Biden.

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



It is unlikely that the delegates will be of one mind about the right path forward in the event that President Biden withdraws. The chances of ugly conflict and recriminations would be substantial. What if Mr. Biden really is the only thing holding together the shaky Democratic coalition?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

That's a long cold, Mr. President

So the Democrats' excuse for President Biden's miserable performance in last Thursday's presidential debate was that he had a cold ("Post-debate poll shows voters lost confidence in Biden; Democrats' confidence in him plummets," web, June 28). I for one didn't know someone could have a cold for 3½ years.

Mr. Biden started the debate as though he'd been mainlining caffeine, speaking so fast his mouth seemed unable to keep up with his brain as he stumbled in his responses. But what really stood out to me was his face, staring down one minute and then looking off into the distance the next, when

former President Donald Trump talked about his many poor decisions since taking office. It appeared to be the first time Mr. Biden had heard any of it.

To cover his confused state of mind, Mr. Biden lied throughout the debate, saying Mr. Trump was the liar. Mr. Trump talked about our wide-open borders, which are letting in all kinds of unsavory characters and drugs. Mr. Biden had the gall to deny this.

When Mr. Trump said Russian President Vladimir Putin would never have attacked Ukraine had he been in office, Mr. Biden's response was, "We have an Article

5 [NATO] agreement. You attack one, you attack all." First of all, Mr. Biden watched the buildup of Russian forces before they invaded Ukraine, and he did nothing. And when asked for help by Ukraine, he barely gave any, not wanting to tick off Mr. Putin.

One of the most mind-boggling points came after the debate, when Jill Biden told her husband he did very well and said it was Mr. Trump who had lied.

In the end, it was "smoking" Joe Biden who got smoked.

GREGORY J. TOPLIFF
Aiken, South Carolina

Word is out about Biden's weakness

In what is widely being panned as the greatest presidential debate mismatch of all time, with former President Donald Trump exuding pure strength and President Biden exuding pure weakness, the unvarnished truth has been presented for the whole world to see: We have an ineffective, incompetent president ("Biden stumbles, Trump pounces in first presidential debate," web, June 27).

This accurate perception is very

dangerous to our country because our "Death to America" enemies now know this for certain. If terrorists who have infiltrated our open border were planning a massive terrorist attack because Mr. Biden has rolled out the red carpet for them, would they do it before or after the next presidential inauguration on Jan. 20, 2025? Given that the time to strike an enemy is when it is weakest, the answer is surely before.

Like Mr. Trump or not, terrorists

and dictators fear and respect him — but they have nothing but contempt for Mr. Biden.

As if the migrant crime wave, fentanyl epidemic and historic inflation weren't enough to put us in survival mode, we now have an elevated risk of a terrorist attack on our backs for the next 200 days (until Mr. Trump gets inaugurated).

EUGENE R. DUNN
Medford, New York

Neither a good man nor a good president

Last Thursday's presidential debate between senile President Biden and former President Donald Trump demonstrates two major realities the Democrats still refuse to face ("Resolution in the works to call on Kamala Harris to use 25th Amendment to remove Biden," web, June 28).

Thomas Friedman of The New York Times acknowledged that Mr. Biden should step aside, but prefaced it with "Biden is a good man and a good president." Unfortunately, neither of these is true.

A good man does not spread lies about his opponent, shake down

foreign leaders through his son for financial gain, or refuse to acknowledge a granddaughter. A good man does not disparage half the population of the country. Finally, a good man does not facilitate the sex and drug trafficking now pouring across our borders.

A good president does not bankrupt half the country in the name of climate change, financially support our enemies while undercutting our allies, or accept huge donations and then reward donors with billions of dollars in government contracts. A good president doesn't open the

borders to millions of people and then support the illegals with taxpayer money. A good president doesn't censor opposition thought or rule by executive fiat.

Mr. Biden is representative of the Democratic Party elite's disdain for the fundamental values that have made America the greatest country in the world. It is ironic that the Democrats say Mr. Trump is a liar. They are the most accomplished liars of all.

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Declaration of Independence is a call for rebellion against tyranny

Founding document is unapologetically insurrectionist

By Don Feder

Every year, for as long as I can recall, my family has had a Fourth of July party. The highlight is always a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, with each guest reading a portion of America's founding document.

I wonder if the day will come when this will be seen as subversive and a threat to public order.

The declaration is unapologetically insurrectionist. The 56 men who signed it were committing high treason against the British crown. If they'd lost the War of Independence, they would have been hanged, drawn and quartered, which is pretty much what the left wants to do to the Jan. 6 defendants.

The declaration lists the colonists' grievances against King George III, including his numerous violations of their rights as Englishmen.

The document affirmed that human rights — including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — are God-given. It also established a right to rebellion when these rights are consistently violated.

In 2020, then-candidate Joe Biden got so flustered while trying to quote the declaration's preamble that Jefferson's immortal words came out as: "We hold these truths to be self-evident ... that all men and women are created by the, you know, you know, the thing."

I don't think it was just another Biden moment. The president feels threatened by the words that put us on the path to independence — especially invoking the Almighty.

Given what the party has become, it's hard to recall that the declaration was largely written by the first Democratic president.

The upcoming election will turn on fidelity to the vision of the Founding Fathers or an older and far darker way of ordering society.

One side is committed to defending innocent human life. The other believes people are expendable when their existence is inconvenient.

Not since the Democrats' support for slavery in the Civil War era has a party been more committed to the suppression of civil liberties, ironically, now in the name of saving democracy.

Attorney General Merrick Garland wanted the FBI to investigate parents who protested too loudly at school board meetings.

Records of the Department of Homeland Security show that after the Jan. 6 riot, those targeted for scrutiny as potential domestic terrorists included ex-military, individuals with strong religious ties and supporters of former President Donald Trump.

This was just after a summer of rioting by Black Lives Matter and Antifa — including arson and murder — and before the pro-Hamas chaos of the past nine months.

No one in the administration is suggesting investigating members of these savage gangs as a

threat to homeland security.

Under Mr. Biden, equal justice is an illusion. A 75-year-old grandmother was sentenced to two years in prison for obstructing access to an abortion clinic.

But Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg refuses to prosecute pro-Hamas demonstrators who committed acts of violence while occupying a Columbia University building. When an antisemitic mob attacked a Los Angeles synagogue on June 23, Mr. Biden offered sympathy while the Department of Justice looked the other way.

So much for life and justice. But what about liberty? As if confiscatory taxation weren't



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

enough, we are now being told what kind of car we can drive and household appliances we can use. We are even instructed in the proper use of pronouns so as not to offend the gender confused.

The Biden administration has repeatedly violated freedom of speech and religion under the First Amendment, security in our homes under the Second Amendment, the rights of parents to educate their children and the bodily autonomy of those resisting forced vaccination.

The left prattles about saving democracy while destroying liberty.

The Declaration of Independence has influenced the course of modern history more than any other manifesto of its kind.

The Constitution established a system of government. The Declaration of Independence set forth a rationale for a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It remains what it was 249 years ago: a profoundly revolutionary document. George Washington had the declaration read to his troops assembled in New York City on July 9, 1776.

Now, as then, the declaration has its enemies. Then it was the Tories. Now, it's bureaucrats, career politicians and elitists who think the common man is incapable of self-government.

This year could be as crucial to the future of our republic as 1776.

Don Feder is a columnist with The Washington Times.

By Bilal Bilici

After surviving his most recent legal saga with strong polling intact, it is dawning on many foreign policy observers that former President Donald Trump is more than likely to return to the White House. With some notable exceptions, the reactions among the expert class have ranged from panic to pearl-clutching, particularly with regard to a potential Trump administration's handling of America's most critical alliances.

As leaders of the 32 member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization gather July 9-11 in Washington for a summit marking the 75th anniversary of the alliance, anxiety is likely to be high behind the scenes.

Many experts have portrayed Mr. Trump's regard of NATO in extreme terms, warning of impending disaster. Robert Kagan, the respected senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, argued that Mr. Trump wants to "end America's broader commitment to European peace and security." Mr. Kagan concludes: "America's commitment to NATO, Trump believes, should be conditional, at best."

From the left, there is similar panic. David Rothkopf, a former Clinton administration Cabinet member and Henry Kissinger acolyte, writes: "Trump's feigned concern about NATO contributions has little to do with the most shocking elements of his stance: his contempt for our allies and his support for our enemies."

If these projections were accurate, it raises this question: Why NATO didn't collapse during Mr. Trump's presidency? It should also lead more observers to ask why NATO is stronger today, arguably because of Mr. Trump's no-nonsense messaging, encouraging members to take on larger roles.

Mr. Trump alarmed the foreign policy establishment with some norm-breaking comments in February earlier this year, saying that he would "encourage" attacks against "free rider" NATO allies.

For the international community, there is no sugar-coating the fact that these kinds of statements weaken trust in the United States as an ally. But it is surprising how little discussion there is of the impact Mr. Trump's rhetoric — whether you agree with it or not — may have on motivating positive action among member nations.

Mr. Trump views diplomacy from the business world. When you are trying to buy a major property, you negotiate a deal in your interest, and you don't give away your hand. Look at what happens and what is done. Focus less on what is said.

If we are just looking at outcomes, there is a case to be made that the former president is raising expectations of NATO members to shoulder more significant roles in the alliance.

But he's not alone in seeing problems in NATO. Before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, NATO was suffering from an identity crisis. Collective defense was challenged conceptually with U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. The drift of scope in the alliance began to provoke tensions, as did the enlargement of Eastern European members, at least according to the Moscow narrative.

European leaders said as much themselves. "What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO," said French President Emmanuel Macron in 2019, warning European countries that if they didn't start thinking in terms of geopolitical strategy, they would "no longer be in control of our destiny."

Long before Mr. Trump, U.S. officials were irked by Europe's declining defense spending. In a 2011 speech, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates said, "I am the latest in a string of U.S. defense secretaries who have urged allies privately and publicly, often with exasperation, to meet agreed-upon NATO benchmarks for defense spending."

At the time, just five of 28 allies had met the agreed defense spending threshold of 2% of gross domestic product.

In 2019, then-President Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, sharpened the rhetoric: "The Europeans simply don't spend enough money on defense. They want to rely on the United States for their defense, and that is simply unacceptable."

Trump is no threat to NATO, but he could be its savior

At least 11 member countries are now meeting their threshold

If you are a club member, you must fulfill the requirements and obligations. This is necessary because America cannot do everything by itself; it needs allies and friends to share the burden.

In this case, Europeans cannot be free-riders. European Union member nations need to realize that unexpected events, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, can happen at any time. They need to comply, contribute, and make up for the losses during times of their under-delivery.

Even if EU nations could summon the unified political will, they would still be unable to establish a collective defense pact by themselves. Nor do they have the military capacity to deter Russia on their own.

It was once assumed that economic interdependence was a guarantor of peace between nations. Now, Europe's energy reliance and other significant commerce and trade relationships with Russia are more of a weakness than a benefit to regional security.

But this is turning around, thanks to Mr. Trump. Many NATO members have responded positively to the challenge — now, at least 11 member countries, including Poland, Lithuania, Romania and Hungary, are meeting the threshold, representing a major increase from 10 years ago.

NATO is critical to U.S. interests. It functions to preserve the world order established after World War II. The alliance helps defend an international rule-based system that has benefited the United States enormously and has also helped many other countries prosper and grow.

A wiser strategy would be to reform NATO according to the geopolitical realities of the 21st century. We need to work together on fair terms to address



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

the threats not only in Eastern Europe but also in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific, which include not only military threats but also hybrid warfare, such as economic disruption and disinformation.

To stay competitive, defense spending should be increased, especially in research and development. All sides must deliver, no matter who wins the presidential election in November. Mr. Trump's comments on NATO are difficult for many to hear, but the tough negotiator approach does bear fruit.

By not focusing solely on values but also on economic ties and self-sufficiency, the West can be better prepared to stand ready against the tyrants of the world who fear our freedoms.

Bilal Bilici, a member of the Turkish Parliament, serves on its Foreign Affairs Committee.

Knight

From page B1

This past week, the court again declined to take up a clear case of government malfeasance by denying standing in *Murthy v. Missouri*.

Louisiana and Missouri sued the federal government for bullying social media into censoring views and information that the Biden administration didn't like.

The case revolved around blocking nonofficial COVID-19 information and election integrity discussions.

Biden administration officials had urged Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media platforms to block messaging that conflicts with the federal health establishment's dictates regarding vaccines, masking, lockdowns and even theories that the COVID-19 virus originated in a Chinese lab.

Two of the plaintiffs are public health researchers Jay Bhattacharya and Martin Kullendorff, who spearheaded the Great Barrington Declaration. Signed by thousands of medical authorities and scientists, that document criticized the mass lockdowns and promoted instead time-tested targeting of vulnerable populations — not everyone — as the pandemic took hold.

Since then, many of the government's "truths" have been debunked, such as the claim that the vaccinations prevent infection or transmission or that everyone is equally threatened by the virus. Health authorities also lied about harmless therapeutics like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, which they said were



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

"dangerous."

The government has also coerced social media into blocking as "misinformation" many posts that question the fairness of the 2020 election and which call for tighter election security and more scrutiny of vote fraud claims.

Social media may be privately owned, but it is powerful and has arguably become a public conveyance like the

broadcasting spectrum, telephone lines and the internet itself.

Thus, when the government leans on social media to suppress dissent and carry its preferred messaging, the government engages in illegal censorship.

"After months of emails and phone calls in which White House officials accused platforms such as Facebook of 'killing people' and fomenting 'insurrection,'

the platforms caved and rewrote their content-moderation policies to suit the Biden administration's preferences," wrote Heritage Foundation senior legal fellow Hans von Spakovsky. "The lower courts were aghast."

Yet in a 6-3 ruling written by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a Trump appointee, the court threw out the case, ruling that the plaintiffs did not have standing.

"In just the past few terms, the court pulled similar maneuvers in cases involving student loan cancellation, border enforcement, and federal approval of abortifacients," Mr. von Spakovsky said.

Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his dissent that the court had no such qualms about standing when it came to claims of injury from climate change or the Trump administration's placing a question about citizenship on the census form.

We keep hearing that this Supreme Court is "right-wing" or "far right." But it is not. It gets some things right, such as smacking the Environmental Protection Agency in 2023 and again this past week for overreaching its authority, but it often bails on big questions.

In 2015, the court struck down all state laws and constitutional amendments defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman — the bedrock of any stable society.

Its Obergefell ruling imposing same-sex marriage took a wrecking ball to common sense, morality and democracy and unleashed a tyrannical legal framework to punish dissent.

Then, in its 2020 Bostock ruling, the court expanded civil rights categories to include "sexual orientation" and

"gender identity." The majority opinion, written by Trump appointee Justice Neil Gorsuch, opened Pandora's box, fueling the transgender movement's invasion of women's sports and girls' and women's locker rooms.

The ruling also opened the door to "gender-affirming care," which is a euphemism for the fiction that medicine and surgery can change someone's biological sex. This has put thousands of children at risk of gruesome experimentation.

The court recently agreed to hear a case that might undo some damage. The Biden administration is challenging a Tennessee law prohibiting the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and gender "transition" surgery on minors.

The court could end this barbaric form of child abuse by upholding the Tennessee law. The American Civil Liberties Union, not surprisingly, is siding with the Biden administration, saying the Tennessee law protecting children is "dangerous and discriminatory."

Yes, it does pose a danger — to the quacks making a fortune off these poor, confused kids with treatments that could damage them for life and increase their chance of killing themselves by up to 10 times.

Let's hope and pray that the Supreme Court, which will hear the case in October, gets this one right.

It has booted all too many opportunities to do the right thing.

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

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DIVORCE- Uncontested. \$475+\$86 court cost. WILLS-\$295.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. <https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com>.

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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF ARLINGTON CO., VA, on July 8, 2024, at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 307, Arlington, Virginia 22201 in a meeting at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as matters may be heard, will consider the following cases, after offering the public an opportunity to be heard in a public hearing. The public may attend the meeting in person or virtually. To sign-up to speak at the meeting, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Planning-Commission/Speaker> or call 703-228-0095, for further assistance. Speaker requests can be completed and submitted to the Clerk at least one week in advance of the original meeting. **To guarantee giving public testimony, registration must be completed at least 24 hours in advance of the original meeting date.** A video recording will be made available 24-48 hours after the meeting on YouTube and with closed-captions on Comcast 25 & 1085 and Verizon FIOS 39 & 40, 24-48 hours after the adjournment of the meeting.

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

Please contact Planning Division staff at 703-228-3525 with any questions about the operating hours of the Permit Arlington Center.

Planning Commission meeting materials are also available online at: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Planning-Commission>

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

THE FOLLOWING CASES TO BE HEARD BY PLANNING COMMISSION:

ZOA-2024-04 An ordinance to amend, reenact, and recodify ACZO Section 7.15.4.A to provide authority to approve density above 10.0 FAR for previously approved special exception site plan projects where the density was either:

- Included in the approved project's total gross floor area, but excluded from the site plan's final density calculations; or,
- Included in the approved project as gross parking area.

SPLA22-00054 Phased Development Site Plan Amendment located at 1200 South Fern Street and iden-tified as RPC#s 35-004-010, -011, -012, -013, -014, -015, -016, -017. Additional information about this project can be found by visiting the project's website at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/Site-Plan/Pentagon-Centre-2023>.

Adoption of the Pentagon City Sector Plan and its associated amendments to the General Land Use Plan, Master Transportation Plan, and the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. The Pentagon City Sector Plan (PCSP) includes an updated vision and planning principles for an area of Pentagon City which reflect current priorities identified by the community and builds upon earlier policy documents that have guided Pentagon City over the past decades. The Sector Plan defines conditions under which additional growth may be appropriate through an extensive development framework, design guide-lines, and an implementation matrix that addresses subsequent efforts needed to achieve the Plan's goals. Through the use of diagrams, exhibits, and narrative, the PCSP establishes expectations for ur-ban design, public spaces, and community benefits of new development in a balanced approach that considers certainty and flexibility. The Sector Plan also provides new emphasis on equity, biophilia, and strategic improvements to the public realm that would be delivered with near-term redevelopment opportunities. The associated amendments to the General Land Use Plan (GLUP), Master Transportation Plan (MTP), and Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO) help establish a regulatory framework for considering major site plan applications in this area that will implement the Sector Plan moving forward. The GLUP amendments include an expansion of the Note #4 boundary to incorpo-rate the RiverHouse site, several land use designation changes within this area that would increase permitted building height and density limits, and the addition of multiple open space symbols indicat-ing general location of future public spaces. The MTP amendments expand the areas planned for new streets to coincide with the boundaries of the Sector Plan and reclassify a segment of 12th Street South to align with its intended purpose more closely. The ACZO amendments establish site eligibility within the two zoning districts comprising the Sector Plan area and establish a new special planning area which would correlate between the updated GLUP Map and the Pentagon City Sector Plan.

Adoption of updates to the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Area Plan and Columbia Pike Initiative Re-vitalization Plan. Adoption of updates to the Columbia Pike Initiative Revitalization Plan (CPI) and the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Area Plan (NAP). The updates include changes to maps, images, and associated text to clarify updated policies and recommendations for the area generally pertaining to the Barcroft Apartments, and adjacent commercial properties. Plan updates will be available online at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Development/Barcroft-Apartments/Land-Use-Analysis>

Ordinance to Vacate a Perpetual Permanent Public Use and Public Access Easement for the Observa-tion Deck, areas related to the Observation Deck, the Mezzanine Level of the Observation Deck, the Outdoor Viewing Area of the Observation Deck and related access, including but not limited to eleva-tors, stairs and ramps, on Properties owned by CoStar Central Place HQ, LLC, located at 1201 Wilson Blvd. and 1730 N. Lynn St., Arlington, Virginia (RPC#s 16-038-001, -002, and -003) and by Rosslyn Metro Center LLC, North Lynn Street (RPC# 16-38-004), with conditions.

Mason Kushnir,
Acting Clerk to the County Board

Publication dates June 24th, 2024
and July 1st, 2024

AD#84893

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Math Coaching and Leadership Development Support

RFP for Math Coaching and Leadership Development Support: DCI International School (DCI) invites written proposals for all interested and qualified vendors to submit proposals for Math Coaching and Leadership Development Support from August 18th, 2024 through June 22nd, 2025.

DCI serves grades 6th - 12th with approximately 1,600 students and 280 full-time staff. The school is located at 1400 Main Drive NW and operates from 8am - 4:30pm, with afterschool programming until 6pm.

DCI is founded on four core pillars: International Baccalaureate for All, Language at the Core, Student Agency, and Socially Just Community. The school is also intentionally diverse for both students and staff.

If interested, please email RFP@dcinternationalschool.org for a full scope of responsibilities. Proposals must be received no later than the close of business **Tuesday, July 16, 2024**. Please specify "RFP for Math Coaching and Leadership Development Support" in the subject line. No phone calls or late responses please.

July 1, 2024

Ad#85102



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NOTICE

Mariah Rivera, the Plaintiff, has filed a complaint entitled, Complaint for Custody, in which she is seeking A. sole legal and physical custody of the minor child of the parties, B. reasonable rights of visitation for Marquise Harvey-Thorne, C. reasonable child support, D. attorney's fees and costs of litigation, and E. further relief as the Court, in its discretion, deems proper in **case number C-02-FM-24-000622**.

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Maryland that the relief sought in the aforementioned **Complaint for Custody** may be granted unless cause can be shown to the contrary.

Marquise Harvey-Thorne is to file a response to the Complaint for custody within **60 days from the first date of publication**.

Failure to file the response within **60 days from the first date of publication** may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought.

July 1,8,15, 2024

Ad#85065

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VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

HEIRS AND LIVING CHILDREN OF CLIFFORD WILSON THORNTON, SR.; to-wit: : (a.k.a. Clifford W. Thornton) BESSIE L. RUSSELL, et al,
Plaintiffs,

v.

CL23-2291

UNKNOWN/UNLOCATED BLE HEIRS OF MARGARET GASKINS CRADLE

AND

HEIRS UNLOCATABLE CHILDREN OF EDGAR THORNTON; to-wit:

LUCILLE THOMAS LAWRENCE THOMAS BILLY THOMAS

AND

UNKNOWN/UNLOCATED BLE HEIRS OF EDGAR THORNTON

AND

HEIRS AND LIVING CHILDREN OF AMANDA THORNTON, to-wit:

RICHARD MOORE VIRGINIA MOORE TIBBS GEORGE THOMAS GEORGIA MOORE CHRISTIAN
Defendants.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THIS DAY came Donald E. Coulter, Counsel for Plaintiffs, Heirs and Living Children of Clifford Wilson Thornton, Sr., (a.k.a. Clifford W. Thornton), pursuant to Virginia Code Section 8.01-316(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, and requested that an Order of Publication be authorized; it further appearing

That the object of this proceeding is to effectuate the Partition of property located in Prince William County, Virginia known as 7501 Carver Road, Gainesville, Virginia Tax Map Number 7297-02-2121, by your Plaintiffs, Heirs and Living Children of Clifford Wilson Thornton, Sr., (a.k.a. Clifford W. Thornton), through their counsel, against your Defendants, Lucille Thomas, Lawrence Thomas, Billy Thomas, Heirs Unlocatable Children of Edgar Thornton, the Unknown/Unlocatable Heirs of Margaret Gaskins Cradle and the Unlocatable Heirs of Amanda Thornton, and,

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that an Affidavit for Order of Publication having been made and filed and that due diligence has been used by and on behalf of Counsel for Plaintiffs, Heirs and Living Children of Amanda Thornton, herein to ascertain the names and/or the whereabouts of the Defendants, Richard Moore, Virginia Moore Tibbs, George Thomas, Georgia Moore Christian or their heirs and the heirs of Edgar Thornton being Lucille Thomas, Lawrence Thomas, Billy Thomas or their heirs; it is therefore:

ADJUDGED, ORDERED AND DECREED that Defendants, Richard Moore, Virginia Moore Tibbs, George Thomas, Georgia Moore Christian, Lucille Thomas, Lawrence Thomas and Billy Thomas or their heirs, appear on or before the **15th day of August, 2024**, in the Clerk's Office of this court; to-wit: Prince William County Circuit Court, Virginia, 3311 Lee Ave., 3rd Floor, Manassas, Virginia 20110 and do what is necessary to protect their interest(s) in 3.03 acres of property located in Prince William County, Virginia known as 7010 Old Carolina Road, Gainesville, Virginia Tax Map Number 7297-76-4852; it is further ENTERED this 26th day of June, 2024.

Jacqueline C. Smith: Esq.
CLERK, PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT, VIRGINIA
BY: **Ana L. Seger**
Senior Deputy Clerk
Circuit Court-Civil Division

July 1,8,15 & 22, 2024
AD#85060



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Legal Notices

CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD PEDESTRIAN AND BUS STOP IMPROVEMENTS (TABA COVE TO WARWICK AVE) CITY OF FAIRFAX PUBLIC HEARING July 9, 2024, 7:00 PM

**Council Chambers - Room 100
City Hall Annex
10455 Armstrong Street
Fairfax, VA 22030**

**View the Website for Project Information:
<https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/chain-bridge-road-sidewalk-improvements>**

Find out about the proposed pedestrian and bus stop improvements along Chain Bridge Road (Route 123), from Taba Cove to Warwick Avenue in the City of Fairfax. The project will provide 1,850 linear feet of complete and continuous pedestrian facilities and upgraded bus stop accommodations along the west side of Chain Bridge Road between two local Activity Centers (Old Town Fairfax to Northfax). Currently, there is no sidewalk along most of the west side of this busy corridor nor are there accessible or inviting bus stop amenities. The bus stops will be improved according to the City's Bus Stop Design Guidelines.

Pursuant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion was prepared to evaluate potential environmental impacts. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included with the NEPA documentation.

Project information, including project plans, information about property impacts, right of way policies, the tentative construction schedule and NEPA documents will be available at the hearing, on the project website listed above, or at the City's Transportation Department located at 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 200, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by July 21, 2024 to Sunny Sarna, Transportation Capital Projects Manager - City of Fairfax: 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 200, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, sunny.sarna@fairfaxva.gov, or 703-273-3067.

The City of Fairfax ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance, all City government offices can be contacted by dialing 711 for TTY service.

**VDOT State Project: U000-151-237, C501
UPC: 119089**

Run Dates: June 10th, 17th, 2024
July 1st, 2024

AD#84516/84916

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of Fairfax at its meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall Annex, Room 100, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030, will hold a public hearing to consider the following:

Proposed amendments to the Code of the City of Fairfax, Chapter 110 (Zoning) to amend portions of articles and sections contained therein, including, but not limited to: Introductory Provisions, Site Development Standards, Decision-Making Bodies and Officials, Development Review and Definitions pertaining to Erosion and Sediment Control, Storm Drainage Facilities, and Chesapeake Bay Preservation.

Final recommendation to the City Council on the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan report. The small area plan provides detailed guidance for private development and public investment within the Fairfax Circle Activity Center, as designated in the City of Fairfax 2035 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, and additional properties, as identified in the plan, that are in close proximity.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and express their views. Staff reports will be available five (5) days prior to the meeting date in the Office of Community Development & Planning, Annex Room 207, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street, and on the City of Fairfax webpage at www.fairfaxva.gov. The City will make reasonable accommodations for the disabled upon request received at least five days prior to the meeting; please call 703-385-7930, (TTY 711) for assistance.

Tina Gillian,
Clerk

Run Dates: June 24th, 2024
July 1st, 2024

AD#84909

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Legal Notices

Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Fairfax County Personnel Regulations

A public hearing on proposed changes to Chapters 1-17 of the Fairfax County Personnel Regulations is scheduled for August 1, 2024. The public hearing will be held at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 in the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. Interested parties may provide public comment by fax, email or mail in advance of the meeting. Please submit written testimony to the Civil Service Commission at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 258, Fairfax, VA 22035, or email to nicole.rawlings@fairfaxcounty.gov or fax to 703-653-9431 no later than 9:00 am on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. Interested parties may also provide testimony in-person during the meeting. To preregister to provide in-person testimony, please contact the Civil Service Commission at 703-324-2930, TTY 711 or email nicole.rawlings@fairfaxcounty.gov. To view the proposed changes please see <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr/public-hearing-advertisement> or contact the Civil Service Commission to request an emailed or mailed copy. Please direct questions on proposed changes to the Employee Relations Division at 703-324-3311, TTY 711. For reasonable ADA accommodations, contact HR Central at 703-324-3311, TTY 711.

Run Dates: June 26th, 2024
July 1st, 2024

AD#84990



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, at City Hall (301 King Street) and virtually on Zoom webinar on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

CONSIDERATION of a lease agreement between the City and Alexandria Renew Enterprises ("AlexRenew") for the Office Space in the Environmental Center at AlexRenew Headquarters located at 1800 Limerick Street.

AN ORDINANCE to establish the process to solicit and grant a Franchise to use certain public property to design, install, own, operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, and remove electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) for the use and benefit of the public, including incidental design, construction, and modifications to City infrastructure to further and accommodate such use.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ITEM WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THIS ITEM OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Run Dates: June 27th, 2024
July 1st, 2024

AD#84970

VA ABC
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AUTHORITY
7450 Freight Way, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
PO Box 3250, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
804-213-4400
www.abc.virginia.gov/licenses

PUBLISHING NOTICE

Full name(s) of owner(s):
Tinkok LLC

Trading as:
**Kile Mart
1611 Washington Plz
Reston (city/town)
Fairfax (county), Virginia 20190-4305**

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a Retail Off Premise Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Akiliu Shewanizaw
Member

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Run Dates: July 1st, 2024
July 8th, 2024

AD#85124



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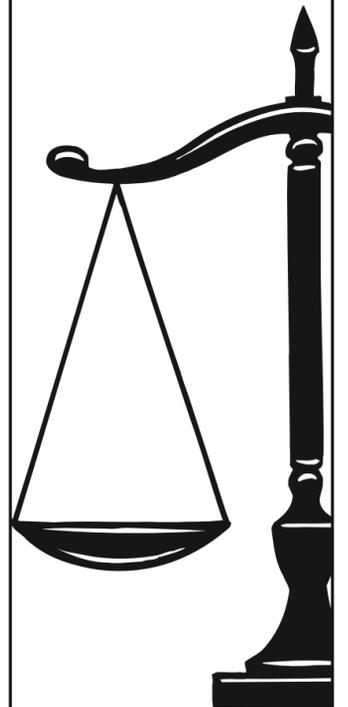


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ARLINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

In advance of Arlington County Board meetings on July 22 & 23, 2024, the following items will be heard by the

Planning Commission on MONDAY & THURSDAY, JULY 8 & 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

This is a hybrid public meeting to be held at the Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, County Board Room 307.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE HEARD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024, 7 PM

- 1. Consideration of the following actions associated with the Barcroft Apartments Land Use Analysis planning process: Adoption of the 2024 Updates to the Columbia Pike Initiative - A Revitalization Plan and the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Area Plan. Request to advertise public hearings by the Planning Commission and the County Board for their respective January 2025 meeting dates to consider proposed amendments to the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) Map and Booklet and proposed amendments to the Master Transportation Plan (MTP). (The County Board will also consider the following action associated with the Barcroft Apartments Land Use Analysis Process: Approve Jair Lynch's Master Financing and Development Plan (MFD). This item is included on the Planning Commission agenda for informational purposes only.) 2. PC Business and Organizational Matters Approval of the June 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes Adoption of Electronics Meeting Policy for FY25 Current Matters, DCPHD

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE HEARD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024, 7 PM

- 3. ZOA-2024-04 An ordinance to amend, reenact, and recodify Section 7.15 of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO) to provide authority for the County Board to approve additional density above 10.0 FAR in the C-O Rosslyn zoning district in instances where the density was either excluded from an approved site plan's final density calculation or included as gross parking area associated with the development project. 4. Ordinance to Vacate a Perpetual Permanent Public Use and Public Access Easement for the Observation Deck, areas related to the Observation Deck, the Mezzanine Level of the Observation Deck, the Outdoor Viewing Area of the Observation Deck and related access, including but not limited to elevators, stairs and ramps, on Properties owned by CoStar Central Place HQ, LLC, located at 1201 Wilson Blvd. and 1730 N. Lynn St., Arlington, Virginia (RPC#s 16-038-001, -002, and -003) and by Rosslyn Metro Center LLC, North Lynn Street (RPC# 16-038-004), with conditions. 5. SPLA22-00054 PHASED DEVELOPMENT SITE PLAN AMENDMENT (SP #297) for the Pentagon Centre PDSP to revise phasing, site layout and building placement, adjust land use mix, increase density allocation and building heights, and revise the Pentagon Centre Urban Design Guidelines; located at 1200 S. Fern Street (RPC#s 35-004-010, -011, -012, -013, -014, -015, -016, -017). 6. Adoption of the following elements associated with the Pentagon City Planning Study: A. Pentagon City Sector Plan; B. GP-353-22-1 Amendments to the General Land Use Plan (GLUP) Map and Booklet; C. Amendments to the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Map; and D. ZOA-2022-01 Amendments to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance §6.5, RA6-15 Multi-family Dwelling District, §7.12, C-O-2.5 Mixed Use District, and §9, Special Planning Area Regulations.

HOW TO VIEW AND PARTICIPATE

The Planning Commission Hearings are hybrid meetings where staff, applicants, and members of the public may attend in-person or via electronic teleconference/videoconference communications using Microsoft Teams.

Commission members, staff, and applicants will conduct the hearings in a hybrid environment at the Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Room 307, County Board Room.

- The hearings are now available in real time on YouTube. However, other options will be provided to view the meeting in real time through a Microsoft Teams link (provided upon registration for public testimony and/or for public viewing only). A broadcast of the hearings will continue to be available with closed captioning on Comcast Xfinity channels 25 and 1085; Verizon FiOS channels 39 and 40, 24-48 hours after the meeting has taken place.

To request to give public testimony, an online registration MUST be completed one week or at a minimum of 24-hours in advance of the hearing for a guaranteed opportunity to speak on the requested date and time. This applies to the original night of the meeting date and not the recess date.

The public is welcomed to participate giving public testimony in person, virtually, or with written comments in advance. Visit https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission to:

- Sign-up online to speak during the meeting. Registered speakers will receive a confirmation email with further instructions upon completion of the speaker request form and after submission to the Clerk. Registered participants choosing to speak virtually will join the meeting via Microsoft Teams (accessible through a web browser or the free app). The meeting link will be provided in the confirmation email. Submitting written comments online is also an option. Written comments need to be received by 12 noon on the day of the hearing to provided to the Commission in opportunity to review your comments before the hearing.

To request translation services, reasonable accommodations, or other questions regarding the meeting notification, contact the Planning Commission Clerk, Gizele C. Johnson, gjohnson@arlingtonva.us or call (703) 217-6676.

Commissioner BERKEY to represent the Planning Commission at the JULY 22, 2024, County Board Meeting.

Run Date: July 1st, 2024

AD#85117

Trustee Sales: Prince George's Co.

Protas, Spivok & Collins, LLC 4330 East West Highway - Suite 900 Bethesda, MD 20814

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' AUCTION UPPER MARLBORO

TWO STORY COLONIAL HOME Const. 1998 - 4,628 Gross Sq. Ft. 0.58 +/- Acre

Known As 1401 WHISTLING DUCK DRIVE Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, MD 20774

Sale to Be Held At Duval Entrance CIRCUIT COURT FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Indemnity Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents and Leases, and Security Agreement ("Deed of Trust"), dated November 3, 2016, and recorded among the Land Records for Prince George's County, Maryland at Book 38859, Page 128, from Cynthia Y. Stevens-Morrison to the Trustees therein, the holder of the indebtedness secured thereby having appointed the undersigned to act as Substitute Trustees, in place and stead of the aforementioned Trustees, by instrument duly executed, acknowledged and recorded among the Land Records aforesaid, default having occurred under the terms thereof and at the request of the party secured thereby (in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Case No. C-16-CV-23-000721), the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at Public Auction, at the Courthouse, the following:

All that fee simple lot of ground and the improvements thereon, situate and lying in Prince George's County, State of Maryland and being more fully described in the above-referenced Deed of Trust, lot size 25,357 square feet or 0.582 acre, more or less.

The property is believed to be improved by a two story colonial home with attached two car garage constructed in 1998, and containing 3,180 square feet of living area above grade and 1,448 square feet of basement space, according to public tax records. The home is located in the Perrywood Subdivision. According to a previous listing, the home is arranged for 4 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half-baths. Features are stated to be wood floors, natural gas fired forced-air heat, CAC, public water and public sewer.

The property is being sold subject to a prior Deed of Trust with an approximate balance of \$350,000, plus interest, costs and fees thereon through settlement.

NOTE: The information contained herein has been obtained from sources deemed reliable and is believed to be accurate. However, no express or implied warranty is made or may be inferred from any such representation. Dimensions, square footage and acreage contained herein are more or less. Prospective purchasers are encouraged to perform their own due diligence, in advance of the auction, regarding the permitted uses of the property.

TERMS OF SALE: A \$20,000 deposit, payable by cashier's check, will be required of the purchaser at time and place of sale. If necessitated by price, the deposit shall be increased to 10% of the purchase price by 11:00 A.M., on Friday, July 19, 2024, at the Auctioneer's office. The holder of the indebtedness, if a bidder at the sale, shall not be required to post a deposit. Balance to be paid in cash at settlement, which shall take place within ten (10) business days following final ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County at a location designated by the Substitute Trustees. If payment of the balance does not take place within the specified time, the deposit shall be forfeited or the property may be resold at the risk and expense of the purchaser. Interest to be charged on the unpaid purchase money, at the rate stated in the Note executed in connection with the foreclosed Deed of Trust, from date of contract to date of settlement. If settlement is delayed for any reason, there will be no abatement of interest. All adjustments as of date of contract. Taxes and all other public charges and assessments payable on a monthly or annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if any, to be adjusted for the current year to date of contract and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. The property will be sold in "AS IS" condition, without express or implied warranty as to the nature and description of the improvements as contained herein; and subject to easements, agreements, restrictions or covenants of record affecting same, if any. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property and assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of contract forward. The purchaser waives and releases the Substitute Trustees, the holder of the indebtedness, the Auctioneers, and their respective agents, successors and assigns from any and all claims the purchaser and/or its successors and assigns may now have or may have in the future relating to the condition of the property, including but not limited to the environmental condition thereof. If the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey good and marketable title, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the deposit. Upon refund of the deposit this sale shall be null and void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees, the holder of the indebtedness or Auctioneers. Recordation costs, transfer taxes and all other costs incident to settlement to be paid by the purchaser. Time shall be of the essence for the purchaser.

Authority to cancel this sale rests solely with the Substitute Trustees and/or the Auctioneer. Prospective buyers should disregard all other statements and comments made by any other person or entity regarding minimum bids, pricing and cancellations of the sale. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. The Substitute Trustees reserve: (1) the right to accept or reject any or all bids; (2) the right to modify or waive the requirements for bidders' deposits and terms of sale and/or settlement; (3) the right to withdraw the Property from the sale before acceptance of the final bid; and (4) the right to cancel or postpone the sale.

Jordan M. Spivok, Philip J. Collins, Substitute Trustees

No Buyer's Premium



REAL ESTATE • AUCTIONEERS 6500 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209 410-296-8440 • www.ajbillig.com

Run Dates: July 1, 8, and 15, 2024

Auctions: Maryland

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage cubes contents will be sold for cash, credit and debit by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as agent for the Owner of CubeSmart to satisfy a lien for rental on July 9th, 2024 at approximately 3pm at www.storage-treasures.com. The contents of approximately 18 units will be sold.

Locations: Store 571-8001 Snouffer School Rd. Gaithersburg, MD 20879 Store 584-300 Old Game Preserve Rd., Gaithersburg, MD20879

July 1, 2024

Ad#85112

Auctions: Virginia

AUCTION NOTICE

The following repossessed vehicles will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 pm on Friday, July 5, 2024

2004 VOLVO XC90 YV1CM59HX41049109

Vehicles are stored and may be inspected at place of sale, 8916 Reb Yank Drive, Manassas, VA 20110. Cash or Cashier's check required. Subject to sale. Seller reserves the right to bid.

NORTHSIDE AUTO SALES (703)368-5666 www.northsideauto.com/ www.northsideauto.biz7

July 1, 2024 Ad#85007



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The Washington Times



Trustee Sales: Fairfax Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 2973 Palmer St Oakton, VA 22124

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated April 14, 2004 and recorded on April 20, 2004 in Book 15930 at Page 1409 in Instrument # 2004015372.007 of Fairfax County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the Fairfax County Circuit Court (Fairfax County Judicial Center, 4110 Chain Bridge Road), at Fairfax, Virginia on August 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

Lot 18-B, as shown on resubdivision of Lot 18, Oakton, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 12027 at Page 1526, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Tax No.: 0472 07 0018B

Property address: 2973 Palmer St, Oakton, VA 22124

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be announced at the sale.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$36,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(22-03466)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC (Attorney for TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC) 484 Viking Drive, Suite 203 Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 213-2959

July 1st, 2024 July 8th, 2024

AD#84444

Trustee Sales: Arlington Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 3600 S GLEBE RD ARLINGTON, VA 22202

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$319,113.00, dated July 20, 2017, and recorded as Instrument Number 20170100014742 in Arlington County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in front of the entrance doors to the Circuit Court, Arlington County Justice Center, 1425 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201 on July 31, 2024 at 4:45 PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

UNIT 508W, AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENT PARKING SPACE RP2-505, PHASE 1, THE ECLIPSE ON CENTER PARK CONDOMINIUM, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT ATTACHED TO THE DECLARATION RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 4033 AT PAGE 290, AND ANY AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

TOGETHER WITH AN UNDIVIDED PERCENTAGE INTEREST APPURTENANT TO THE UNIT IN ALL COMMON ELEMENTS OF SAID PROJECT, AS DESCRIBED IN SAID DECLARATION AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS.

TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF INGRESS AND EGRESS FROM SAID PROPERTY AND RIGHT TO USE, FOR ALL PROPER PURPOSES IN COMMON WITH DECLARANT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, AND ALL OTHER OCCUPANTS FROM TIME TO TIME, ANY AND ALL PORTIONS OF THE CONDOMINIUM DESIGNATED BY STATUTE AND THE DECLARATION AS GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS.

SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATIONS, RESTRICTIONS ON USE AND ALL COVENANTS AND OBLIGATIONS SET FORTH IN SAID DECLARATION RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 4033 AT PAGE 290, AMONG THE SAID LAND RECORDS, AND SET FORTH IN THE BY-LAWS OF THE UNIT OWNERS ASSOCIATION ATTACHED THERETO, AS IT MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; ALL OF WHICH RESTRICTIONS, CONDITIONS, ASSESSMENTS AND ALL OTHER COVENANTS ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, AND WHICH SHALL BE BINDING ON SAID GRANTEE(S) AND THEIR SUCCESSORS, HEIRS, AND ASSIGNS.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

June 24th, 2024 July 1st, 2024

AD#84198

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

Trustee's Sale 4425 Torrence Pl, Woodbridge, VA 22193 (Parcel ID: 8191-34-7415)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated June 16, 2004, in the original principal amount of \$232,000.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Prince William, Virginia on June 22, 2004, as Instrument Number 200406220104708, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on August 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM, in front of the building housing the County of Prince William Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, VA 20110, the property designated as Lot 41, Section 4, Wexford, as the same is duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 2560 at page 1250, also in map drawer 191 at pages 113-117, among the land records of Prince William County, Virginia. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$23,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review upon request before the sale, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector. Tromberg, Morris & Partners, PLLC on behalf of Southeast Equity Trustees, LLC and/or NFPDS-VA LLC, Substitute Trustee(s), 5310 Markel Road, Suite 201, Richmond, VA 23230, File No. 24-000241, Tel: 804-525-1570.

Run Dates: July 1st, 2024 July 8th, 2024

AD#84532

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 12333 WADSWORTH WAY WOODBRIDGE, VA 22192

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$213,840.00, dated September 22, 2006, and recorded as Instrument Number 200609280140390 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on August 07, 2024 at 4:45 pm, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

CONDOMINIUM UNIT 55, PHASE III, HAMPTON HOUSE CONDOMINIUM, PURSUANT TO A DECLARATION DATED JANUARY 24, 1986, AND RECORDED MARCH 27, 1986, IN DEED BOOK 1371, AT PAGE 623, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND BY ANY AND ALL SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS THERETO RECORDED.

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

July 1st, 2024 July 8th, 2024

AD#84467

Trustee Sales: Prince William Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE 13307 KURTZ RD WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193

In execution of the Deed of Trust in the original principal amount of \$183,600.00, dated August 22, 2008, and recorded as Instrument Number 200808270082692 in Prince William County land records, the appointed Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in front of the building housing the Prince William County Circuit Court, 9311 Lee Avenue, Manassas, Virginia 20110 on August 07, 2024 at 4:30PM, the property described in said deed of trust, located at the above address and more particularly described as follows:

LOT SIX (6), SECTION NINE-B (9B), DALE CITY, AS THE SAME IS DULY DEDICATED, PLATTED AND RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 669, PAGE 259, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY.

THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON KNOWN AS: 13307 KURTZ ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, VIRGINIA 22193

The property and improvements will be sold in "as is" physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of 10% of the sale price or 10% of the original principal amount of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 15 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed, a forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into or the loan was reinstated or paid off; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. This communication is from a debt collector and is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: RAS Trustee Services, LLC, 4012 Raintree Road, Suite 100A, Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

RAS Trustee Services, LLC, Substitute Trustee c/o Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 11350 McCormick Road, Executive Plaza I, Suite 302 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031 (844) 442-2150 (470) 321-7112

July 1st, 2024 July 8th, 2024

AD#84506

Trustee Sales: Virginia

TRUSTEE'S SALE 10209 Gayle Court Spotsylvania, VA 22553

In execution of the Deed of Trust dated April 26, 2022 and recorded on April 28, 2022 in Instrument # 220009186 of Spotsylvania County land records, Trustee Services of Virginia, LLC, the appointed Substitute Trustee, will offer for sale at public auction at the front of the building housing the Spotsylvania County Circuit Court, Judicial Center, Circuit Court Entrance, 9107 Judicial Center Lane, Spotsylvania, Virginia on July 31, 2024 at 01:00 PM the property more particularly described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust, located at the property address listed below and briefly identified as follows:

All that certain lot or parcel of land, with rights and privileges thereto appurtenant, situate, lying and being in Courtland Magisterial District, Spotsylvania County, Virginia, shown and designated as Lot 138, Section Four, Plantation Forest, dated July 3, 1986, revised November 11, 1986, and April 6, 1987, and duly recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in Plat File 1, pages 124-126.

Tax No.: 34B-7-138

Property address: 10209 Gayle Court, Spotsylvania, VA 22553

The property will be sold "AS IS," WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY OF ANY KIND AND SUBJECT TO conditions, covenants, restrictions, reservations, easements, rights of way, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, as might be listed in this notice or may be announced at the sale.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$37,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is less, by cashier's or certified check required at time of sale, except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss is on the purchaser from date and time of auction. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cashier's check within 14 days from sale date. Except for Virginia Grantor tax, all settlement costs and expenses are purchaser's responsibility. Taxes are pro-rated to the date of sale. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. If purchaser defaults, deposit may be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses, and attorney's fees of both sales. If Trustee does not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a forbearance, repayment, or other agreement was entered into, the loan was reinstated or paid off, or whether the property became subject to an automatic stay under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale; in any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. Pursuant to the Federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, this law firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

(24-07604)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC (Attorney for TRUSTEE SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, LLC) 484 Viking Drive, Suite 203 Virginia Beach, VA 23452 (757) 213-2959

June 24th, 2024 July 1st, 2024

AD#84339

Trustee Sales: Virginia

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Under and by virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned Successor Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust from SIRA CANAREJO PEREZ-VISONA dated October 30, 2008, and recorded as Instrument No. 20201102-0104802, among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia, and by virtue of a certain Deed of Appointment of Successor Trustee dated April 24, 2024, and recorded on April 26, 2024, as Instrument No. 20240426-0016595 among the said County land records, appointing ADVANTAGEOUS EQUITIES, L.L.C., as Successor Trustee thereunder, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and having been directed by the holder of the secured indebtedness so to do, the undersigned, on

Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.

at the front door of the Loudoun County Courthouse building located at 18 E. Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20176, will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder the property mentioned in the aforesaid Deed of Trust, situate and being in Loudoun County, Virginia, and being more particularly described as follows:

Lot 2, Section 16, ASHBURN VILLAGE, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1023 at Page 382, among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia.

Street address: 44053 Aberdeen Terrace, Ashburn, VA 20147

Parcel ID: 085-49-0747-000

TERMS OF SALE: CASH. As a condition of participating in the auction, each prospective bidder, with the exception of the holder of the note or credit line agreement secured by the above described Deed of Trust, if it is a bidder, must have first registered with the under-signed Successor Trustee and must have first delivered a cashier's or certified check in the amount of \$20,000.00 payable to the undersigned Successor Trustee prior to or at the time of the scheduled foreclosure sale. The undersigned Successor Trustee will retain the check from the successful bidder as the bidder's deposit; the undersigned Successor Trustee will return any checks received from non successful bidders immediately following the sale. The balance of the purchase money, with interest thereon at 6% per annum from date of sale to date of settlement, shall be due at settlement, which shall be held in the offices of the undersigned Successor Trustee on or before July 12, 2024.

Additional terms of sale will be announced at the time of sale, and may be obtained in advance of the sale by contacting the undersigned Successor Trustee.

ADVANTAGEOUS EQUITIES, L.L.C., Successor Trustee

For information contact:

ADVANTAGEOUS EQUITIES, L.L.C., TRUSTEE c/o NEIL L. TITLE, Counsel KARPOFF & TITLE P. O. Box 990 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 205 Arlington, Virginia 22216-0990 703-841-9600 phone ntitle@karppofftitle.com email

Publication Dates: June 24th, 2024 July 1st, 2024

AD#84217

Order Of Pub - Domestic

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA

GILDA JASMINE MARTINEZ (now known of record as Gilda Jasmine Castro) Plaintiff, v. Case No. CL23-4539

JOSE RAMON MARTINEZ-HERNANDEZ, JR. Defendant.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of the above-styled suit is a divorce action in which Gilda Jasmine Martinez, now known of record as Gilda Jasmine Castro, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"). Since the parties separation the above named Defendant has frequently moved and will not tell the Plaintiff where he is living. The Plaintiff attempted service on the Defendant at the Complaint for Divorce at an address that he told her he was living with his sister in Pennsylvania; that was neither his nor his sister's address; see attached.

Notice is required to be issued and attempted as to the rights of the Defendant. Based upon the above information, your Plaintiff requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order of Publication providing notice of this hearing date to the Defendant, it is therefore ORDERED that said Jose Ramon Martinez-Hernandez, Jr. appear on or before the 5th day of August 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Clerk's Office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect his interests. And, it is further ORDERED that this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Washington Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Spotsylvania; that a copy of this order be posted at the front door of the Courthouse wherein this court is held; and that a copy of this order be mailed to the named necessary party at the address identified in the aforesaid affidavit.

AND THIS CAUSE IS CONTINUED ENTERED this 17th day of June, 2024.

Order Of Pub - Domestic

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

NISHTIMAN ZAMWA A MCNEW, Plaintiff, v. Case No. CL23003412-00

JASON DONALD MCNEW, Defendant.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

THE OBJECT of the above-styled cause is a divorce. IT APPEARING TO THE COURT from an Affidavit filed herein that the Defendant, JASON DONALD MCNEW, is a nonresident individual of the Commonwealth of Virginia, other than a non-resident individual fiduciary who has appointed a statutory agent and therefore

FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT, that the last known post office address of the Defendant is 250 Orchard Lane, Aspers, Pennsylvania 17304; and therefore THIS ORDER OF PUBLICATION is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant be published once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the Washington Times; and that a copy of this order be mailed to the named Defendant at 250 Orchard Lane, Aspers, PA 17304; and it is further

ORDERED to send the Certificate of Publication and the invoice for same to Ryan M. Mattson, Law Office of Ryan M. Mattson, PC, 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

AND THIS CAUSE IS CONTINUED ENTERED this 17th day of June, 2024.

James E. Plowman Judge

I ASK FOR THIS

Ryan Michael Mattson Esq. VSB No. 45614 LAW OFFICE OF RYAN M. MATTSON, PC 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120 Herndon, Virginia 20170 Telephone: (571) 554-1440 Facsimile: (571) 415-5499 Email: ryan@mattsonlegal.com Counsel for Plaintiff

June 24, 2024 July 1, 8 & 15, 2024 AD#84336

Yvette J. Nageotte

Esquire VSB No. 39493 NAGEOTTE, NAGEOTTE & NAGEOTTE, P.C. 385 Garrisonville Village Suite 202 Stafford, Virginia 22554 (540) 659-5050 Facsimile: (540) 288-0960 yvette.nageotte@nageottelawfirm.com Counsel for Plaintiff

June 17 & 24, 2024 July 1 & 8, 2024 AD#84452

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July 1st, 2024 July 8th, 2024 AD#84400

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

JANRIC CLASSIC SUDOKU

Rating: Bronze

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Use logic and the process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

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ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLES:

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

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Math 101

ACROSS

- 1 Urge to scratch
- 5 Performing group in a play
- 9 Japanese raw fish
- 14 Sandal or sneaker
- 15 A Great Lake
- 16 Small bay
- 17 HELLO MY ___ IS (tag phrase)
- 18 Misplace
- 19 Wedding cake layers
- 20 10, using subtraction
- 23 Historical period
- 24 ___ sauce (Chinese condiment)
- 25 Desert such as Danish
- 29 Small songbird
- 31 Fuel economy stat: Abbr.
- 34 Has muscle soreness
- 35 "Guided" excursion
- 36 Clairvoyant person
- 37 9, using multiplication
- 40 Weed-removing tools
- 41 Gave approval for
- 42 Military trumpet
- 43 Grass bought with soil attached
- 44 Potato covering
- 45 "Really, no fooling!"
- 46 Chimp or gorilla
- 47 Skillet
- 48 15, using addition
- 56 Leaf of a flower
- 57 Hard door knocks
- 58 Chimney passageway
- 59 Note sent online

- 60 Wicked
- 61 Top gas gauge reading
- 62 Aspirin tablets
- 63 Not bright, as colors
- 64 Holler

DOWN

- 1 Does not exist
- 2 Begin to melt
- 3 Attend a party
- 4 Achilles ___ (weak spot)
- 5 Crunchy stalk vegetable
- 6 Sweet smell
- 7 Repetitive Spanish assent
- 8 Adolescent

- 9 Occupies, as a chair
- 10 Oneness of opinion
- 11 Whole lot (of)
- 12 Military medal recipient
- 13 "For what ___ worth..."
- 21 Section of a poem
- 22 Software buyers
- 25 Hiking trails
- 26 Sound of a sneeze
- 27 Destroy, as secret papers
- 28 Golfer's pegs
- 29 Grownup girls
- 30 Regretted
- 31 Combine companies
- 32 Bananas' coverings
- 33 Say "Hi!" to
- 35 Hawaiian figurine informally
- 36 Avoid deliberately
- 38 ___ of appreciation (small gift)
- 39 "Letter" type of steak
- 44 Competes in a bee
- 45 Major inconvenience
- 46 To no ___ (in vain)
- 47 Classroom student
- 48 "Half" prefix for final
- 49 Anders: Abbr.
- 50 Get ready, for short
- 51 Volcanic flow
- 52 Far from certain
- 53 Scrapbooker's adhesive
- 54 Frame of a ship
- 55 Spill a secret
- 56 Lively energy, informally

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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.

PMETT
MSAEH
TIWNIH
ROFEFT



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

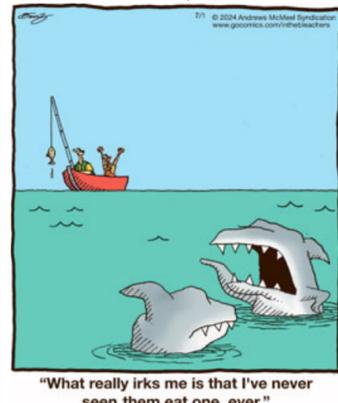
(Answers tomorrow)

Friday's Jumbles: NEEDY ERUPT DROOPY SQUISH Answer: Their new aluminum exterior was being installed on the home where — THEY RESIDED

RUBES/Leigh Rubin



IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore



B.C./Mastroianni & Hart



LOLA/Todd Clark



BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers



ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell



THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens



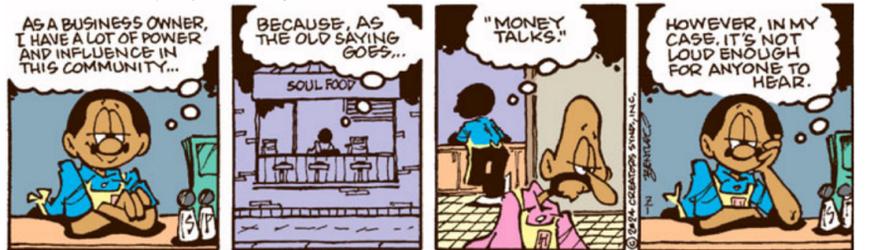
ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



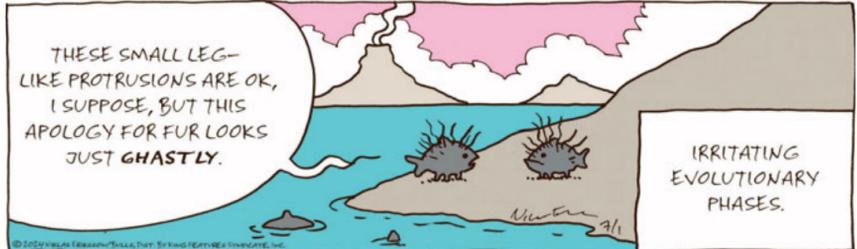
DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni



HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley



CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson



BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers



DICK TRACY/Shelley Plegler & Mike Curtis



POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan



STRANGE BREW/John Deering



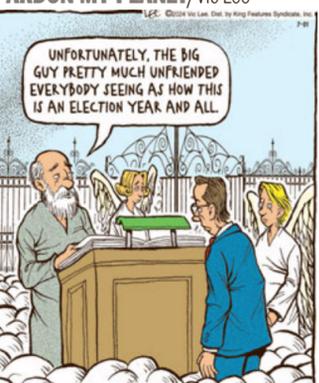
BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum



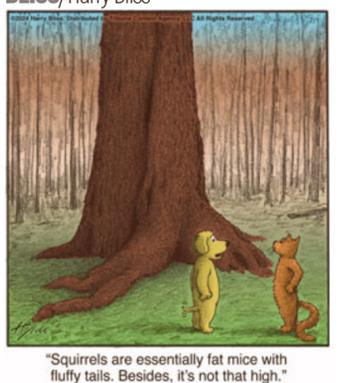
THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy



PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee



BLISS/Harry Bliss



GOLF

Davis wins Detroit event again after Bhatia 3-putts 18th hole

DETROIT | Cam Davis won the Rocket Mortgage Classic for the second time, closing with a 2-under 70 on Sunday that gave him a one-shot victory when Akshay Bhatia three-putted from 32 feet on the final hole. Davis, a 29-year-old Australian who won his first PGA Tour title three years ago at Detroit Golf Club, pulled into a tie with Bhatia with a birdie on the par-5 17th hole.

That proved to be enough when Bhatia's 4-foot par attempt on the 18th missed low and left for his first three-putt of the week.

Davis finished at 18-under 270 on a day of missed opportunities for the final pairing of Bhatia and Aaron Rai, each of whom shot an even-par 72. Davis Thompson (68) and Min Woo Lee (69) also finished one shot back.

Davis became the first two-time winner of the event since its debut on the PGA Tour schedule in 2019.

CYCLING

Pogacar takes yellow jersey in Tour de France's second stage

BOLOGNA, ITALY | Them two again. It took only two days into the Tour de France to show that Tadej Pogacar and Jonas Vingegaard are in a class of their own.

Pogacar attacked from the chasing peloton up the second ascent of the short but brutally steep San Luca climb in the second stage of the Tour on Sunday and only Vingegaard was able to follow him.

The move meant that Pogacar took the leader's yellow jersey from Stage 1 winner Romain Bardet.

Breakaway rider Kevin Vauquelin made it two French wins in two days by winning the hilly stage with an attack of his own up San Luca to follow up countryman Bardet's success.

Pogacar won the Tour in 2020 and 2021 then finished second behind Vingegaard the last two years.

Pogacar is aiming for the rare Giro d'Italia-Tour double after dominating the Italian Grand Tour last month. Vingegaard hadn't raced since a big crash in April left him with a broken collarbone and ribs, plus a collapsed lung.

SOCCER

Weah's suspension extended to two games for red card

NEW YORK | The suspension of American winger Tim Weah was extended to two games by South American soccer's governing body for punching Panama's Roderick Miller during their Copa American group stage match Thursday.

Weah received a red card in the 18th minute of the United States' 2-1 loss, resulting in an automatic one-game suspension. The Confederation of South American Football said Weah been suspended for a second game and fined \$3,000 by a judge of its disciplinary commission. The money is to be deducted from the U.S. Soccer Federation's payment from CONMEBOL for television, participation and/or prize money.

CONMEBOL said the discipline is not subject to appeal.

Weah will miss the United States' group stage finale Monday night against Uruguay at Kansas City, Missouri, and a Copa America quarterfinal should the Americans advance.

AUTO RACING

Russell wins F1's Austrian GP after Verstappen, Norris clash

SPIELBERG, AUSTRIA | George Russell clinched Mercedes' first win of the season at Formula 1's Austrian GP after taking advantage of a late clash between McLaren driver Lando Norris and championship leader Max Verstappen in a Red Bull on Sunday.

It was Russell's second F1 win. McLaren's Oscar Piastri was second, ahead of Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. Norris was trying to take the lead from Verstappen with just seven laps remaining when the pair came together. The incident left Norris' car unable to continue, and Verstappen was given a 10-second time penalty.

Verstappen and Norris had been caught up in a fight for top spot, with the British driver accusing his rival of "dangerous" driving.

On Lap 64, Norris crashed into Verstappen's Red Bull as he attempted a move for the lead with both cars suffering significant damage. After Norris had gone to the outside, Verstappen's maneuver saw the front right of the McLaren collide with the rear left of the Red Bull. Verstappen suffered a left-rear puncture and one of Norris' tires was also shredded.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

WNBA

Johnson, Wade, Brady join new wave of WNBA owners

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Magic Johnson's love of basketball motivated him to save the Los Angeles Sparks from folding and also put him on the leading edge of what is now a growing WNBA trend.

Ten years after becoming the majority owner the team's value has increased and other former professional athletes are buying into the league. The WNBA is positioning itself to be a good long-term investment with a looming TV deal and increased attention around a rookie class headlined by Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese.

"It wasn't before," said Johnson, who also owns a piece of the NFL's Washington Commanders. "It was, we love the game. We love women's basketball, we love the fact that we had a chance to buy the Sparks when it was the No. 1 brand. The brand everyone knows, but now it's a great investment. It's only going to get better."

Others have taken notice the last few years.

Dwyane Wade is a partial owner of the Chicago Sky, buying in last year. Tom Brady did the same with the Las Vegas Aces. Alex Rodriguez is a limited partner with the Minnesota Lynx.

Former WNBA players Sue Bird and Renee Montgomery have joined the ownership groups of the Seattle Storm and Atlanta Dream, respectively.

"They know the game is exploding, they know this is the right time," Johnson said.

Sportico valued four teams at over \$100 million. Ownership groups of the expansion teams in Golden State and Toronto that will begin play in 2025 and 2026 anted up over \$100 million that included record-breaking expansion fees, investment in the player experience, best-in-class facilities, and start-up business operations costs. The Dream were the last expansion team and that ownership group paid a \$10 million entry fee in 2008, which didn't include the operational costs.

OLYMPICS

From page **B10**

"I think that's what made me love water polo was just growing up in that environment."

Her mother, Cathy, is a major part of that Santa Barbara success. Cathy played and coached at UC Santa Barbara. Her husband, Peter, also played for the Gauchos, helping the men's team win the 1979 NCAA title.

As a youth coach, to go along with being a physical therapist, Cathy had a hand in the development of several of the



Former Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said his interest in women's sports and becoming a Las Vegas Aces owner goes back in part to his sisters.

Marc Ganis, the president and co-founder of the sports business consulting firm SportsCorp, said the WNBA looks to be on the right path to become a good long-term investment but is still being subsidized by the NBA. He said a new TV deal would go a long way in increasing team values.

Ganis is not surprised by growing numbers of pro athletes joining ownership groups.

"There are multiple purposes behind former athletes and current ones investing in smaller sports and particularly women's sports," he said. "For the most part they aren't investing a lot of money and they are getting a tremendous amount of social credit. They are getting value out of it even if the finances of the team itself don't work out."

Wade and Johnson both say they know there are other former players looking to invest in the WNBA. Tennis great Serena Williams said a month ago she was "super-interested" in getting involved with team ownership.

"I think it's a great sign and signal that it's a smart business investment,"

WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said. "You can't turn on a broadcast of a sporting event without some ad spot. It wasn't happening at all when I came into this league. Really thrilled about that. Everyone is talking about the WNBA, the good and the bad."

While Johnson got involved to save a franchise, Brady said his part of his interest in women's sports goes back in part to his sisters.

"My love for sports began when I was kid, tagging along to my older sisters' games," the seven-time Super Bowl champion wrote in an email. "I have always been a huge fan and supporter of women's sports. When I went to my first Aces game, I was so energized by their fans and inspired by the incredible talent of the players."

"The WNBA continues to expand and make a global impact, showing its commitment to empowering future generations of athletes. I am very proud to be a member of the Aces family and help grow the sport."

Wade had always been a fan of his hometown team the Chicago Sky. His

top Santa Barbara players. She coached each of her three daughters, a dynamic that admittedly was difficult for all of them at times.

"They'll tell you to this day, it was hard on them," Cathy Neushul said. "But I don't think they would trade it. Maybe, but I don't think so. ... I understand movement well, and I think they appreciate the foundation, along with everybody that has come through our club. And there was a lot of other coaches who helped along the way to shape them, who they are. It wasn't just me."

Ryann Neushul, 24, said the situation was "challenging" when she was younger

but praised her mother's ability to coach the fundamentals of the game.

"My mom was, I think is the best teacher in the world at those things," she said.

Ryann, just like Kiley and Jamie before her, plays college ball for Stanford. She won three NCAA titles before she redshirted this year to try out for Paris.

Ryann also took a redshirt year when she joined Kiley and Jamie with the national team before the Tokyo Olympics. But Kiley ended up retiring and Ryann did not make the final roster for the Games - something she expected given her age and experience level.

mother, JoLinda, got season tickets when the franchise first came into existence in 2006 and it was important to the Hall of Fame NBA player that his mom and sister also had ownership stakes in the team.

"I would love to do this, but only if my mom and my sister can be a part of this, you know, in a way that they really feel a part of it and not just to get to a game," Wade said of his discussions with the Sky ownership group. "And so they graciously said yes and to be a part of the ownership group. I love that my mom can walk around and say she's invested into the Chicago Sky."

Montgomery saw the potential value of the WNBA as a player in the league before she made the move to the ownership side with the Dream.

"Investing works well when you see the trend coming," she said. "Me being in women's sports I understand the game, understand the value of the women's game. People didn't see that value that I saw before the wave happened."

Being owners in the league has also provided the group of former pros a chance to have friendly rivalries with each other.

"I love beating my friends," Johnson said laughing. "Right now I can't say nothing about Tom since they are back-to-back champions."

Brady echoed Johnson's sentiment. "Who's not a fan of a little trash talk?! Magic knows it's all in good fun, and the Aces make it too easy!" Brady said in the email. "The players are phenomenal athletes with an amazing work ethic. They continue to prove they are the toughest team to compete against and I get to be in a front row seat watching and admiring."

Wade's Sky beat Johnson's Sparks in the team's first meeting last month. They won't play again until after the Olympic break next month.

"Of course. You want to be able to send that text message," Wade said smiling. "That's the cool thing, it's an unwritten, unspoken thing when your teams are playing each other there's an automatic (trash) talking."

This time around, it's her turn at the Olympics. And she is taking on a prominent role as a center defender on a U.S. squad that is young up the middle.

Neushul's new position puts her right in front of the U.S. goalie, in the most physical area of the pool. Neushul is listed as 5-foot-7 on the American roster, and center defenders typically have more size.

"She's not the biggest or tallest, which is usually a prerequisite to be a fairly good center defender," Krikorian said. "But she makes up for it with her tenacity and her quickness and her resiliency."

NHL

From page **B10**

Capitals forward Aliaksei Protas, was Washington's pick at No. 75. The left winger played with the United States Hockey League's Des Moines Buccaneers last season and led all rookies in assists.

The Capitals added more wing depth in the third round when they selected Eriks Mateiko. The 18-year-old already stands 6-foot-5 and used his frame to punish opponents last season in the Quebec Maritime Junior Hockey League.

After acquiring Thompson from the

Golden Knights, the Capitals added another goalie in fourth-round selection Nicholas Kempf. The Chicago native was the fourth-ranked American goaltender in this year's draft, according to NHL Central Scouting.

With their final picks in the sixth and seventh rounds, Washington selected centers Petr Sikora and Miroslav Satan Jr.

The 18-year-old Sikora earned limited playing time in the top Czech league last season, recording three points in 22 games.

Satan, the son of the Hall of Famer with the same name, was the tallest player in this year's draft class at 6-foot-7. He scored 30 points last season in the

top Slovakian junior league.

"We feel real good about what we accomplished," MacLellan said of the Capitals draft.

MacLellan noted that the hectic off-season isn't over — he plans to make more moves. After adding a goaltender and forwards in recent trades, the front office will look to free agency and the trade market to improve the defense, the general manager said.

"We're working on trying to make some changes there," MacLellan said Saturday. "We're going to shop around and see what we can find."

Washington's busy offseason will continue Monday when the NHL free agency period begins.



"We're working on trying to make some changes here," Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan said. "We're going to shop around and see what we can find."

TENNIS

From page **B10**

at No. 1 in the women's game, and is now 11-1 against Gauff, neither has been past the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, and there is a much more closely contested and intriguing rivalry developing between Alcaraz and Sinner (Alcaraz leads 5-4 after winning their semifinal at the French Open in five sets). Then there's this: For so long, people wondered when the men's game would evolve from the extended dominance of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, owners of a combined 66 majors, and that trio would cede space to others.

That time, it seems, is now — and Alcaraz and Sinner are beginning to separate themselves from the rest.

"These two guys will win many, many Grand Slams. How many? That's the question. Of course, they will be the best for 10 years, I imagine — Alcaraz and Sinner. I have no doubt about it," said Richard Gasquet, a three-time major semifinalist, including twice at Wimbledon. "They will be the future of the game. ... The new generation is coming."

Gasquet, a 38-year-old Frenchman who got to No. 7 in the rankings, knows all too well the difficulties of being a

professional tennis player during the era of the so-called Big Three of men's tennis. The opponents in his three losses in Grand Slam semifinals? Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, once each.

But Federer, now 42, played the last match of his 20-Slam-trophy career in 2021. Nadal, 38, lost in the first round at the French Open — where he claimed 14 of his 22 major championships — and then opted to miss Wimbledon so he could focus on preparing for the Paris Olympics that start in late July; he has dealt with a string of injuries that included a hip operation last year.

And Djokovic? The owner of a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles needed to pull out of the French Open before the quarterfinals after tearing the meniscus in his right knee and having surgery. But less than a month after the operation, he is preparing to play at the All England Club, where his streak of four consecutive trophies ended last year in a five-set loss to Alcaraz in the final.

Djokovic spent the week leading into Wimbledon practicing at the tournament site and said Saturday that his knee feels fine and he is "in a state to compete at the highest level."

Sinner was eliminated by Djokovic at Wimbledon each of the past two years, in the 2022 quarterfinals and



Novak Djokovic hits a backhand return during training Sunday. The 24-time Grand Slam winner said he is "in a state to compete at the highest level" after knee surgery.

2023 semifinals. But Sinner won their two most recent matchups, at last year's Davis Cup Finals and in this year's Australian Open semifinals.

Both Alcaraz and Sinner excel at court coverage and big hitting. Both bring excitement, too, whether it's Alcaraz's creative shot-making or Sinner's all-out dives along the way to his first career grass-court title at Halle, Germany, in June, a rare instance of a man winning his first tournament after making his debut at No. 1.

"No one has ever played like Alcaraz. No chance. And Sinner? The same thing," said Mats Wilander, a seven-time Slam champ in the 1980s. "They're like: 'Whoa! What and where did they come from?'"

Alcaraz and Sinner realize they are well-positioned to take over.

They're also aware that they've only just started down a path to possible greatness.

"We have to see what we do from now on," Sinner said, "(and) do it year after year after year after year."

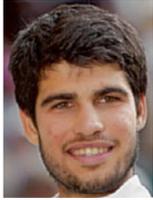
TENNIS

Alcaraz, Sinner, Swiatek, Gauff lead youth movement taking over tennis

By HOWARD FENDRICH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND | There is a real shift happening at the top of tennis, a youth movement that long seemed inevitable but never actually arrived until now.

As the sport's attention shifts to the grass of Wimbledon, where play begins Monday, Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner, Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff are the players whose names are on everyone's lips. Alcaraz is the defending men's



Alcaraz



Swiatek

triumph at the French Open. Sinner, 22, is the top-seeded man at Wimbledon and won the Australian Open in January. Swiatek, 23, is the top-seeded woman and just earned her fourth championship at Roland Garros and fifth major overall. Gauff, the youngest of the bunch at 20, is ranked a career-best No. 2, has reached at least the semifinals at the past three Slam tournaments and won her first such trophy at last year's U.S. Open.

While Swiatek has entrenched herself

champion and owner of three Grand Slam titles at the age of 21 after his

» see **TENNIS** | B9



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

A spectator camps in the overnight queue Sunday to see players like Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek ahead of Wimbledon, which starts Monday in London.

OLYMPICS

Following a legacy



ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. women's water polo team attacker Ryann Neushel makes her Olympic debut this summer following in the footsteps of her sisters Kiley and Jamie.

By JAY COHEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, CALIF. | On the way to the Paris Olympics, Ryann Neushul was taught a valuable lesson by her oldest sister, Kiley.

Water polo, Kiley said, is about more than just your own skills and fitness level. You have to be aligned with your teammates — when and where they want the ball, along with the ability to anticipate their next move.

"Hearing her and having her hold me to standards like that was difficult but really I think has made me the player I am today," Ryann Neushul said.

Another Neushel sister makes Olympics with U.S. women's water polo team

And she is quite the player today, a worthy addition to a legacy that extends beyond her family to the waters of Santa Barbara County in Southern California.

Following in the footsteps of Kiley, 31, who won gold in 2016 and was inducted into the USA Water Polo Hall of Fame on June 7, and Jamie Neushul, 29, another sister who won gold in 2021, Ryann Neushul makes her Olympic debut this summer.

"She is as resilient as they come. Just

incredibly tough-minded," U.S. coach Adam Krikorian said. "And then just has, like all the Neushuls, just has a great knack for the game. I mean just is making winning plays. Hard to describe sometimes, but she just knows where to be."

The Neushul sisters are among an impressive group of competitors with Santa Barbara ties who have played a role in a run of three consecutive gold medals for the U.S. women at the Olympics. The list also includes Kami Craig, Sami Hill

and Paige Hauschild. Amanda Longan is from Moorpark but played club ball for Santa Barbara 805.

Kodi Roberts and Abbi Hill, Sami's two younger sisters, both trained with the national team, and U.S. assistant coach Molly Cahill also grew up in the Santa Barbara area.

"Just that closeness, that tight-knit community there is really what makes the water polo so great," Ryann Neushul said. "and everyone is so passionate about it. They want to win. They want to challenge, you know, Southern California, these giant hubs of great water polo."

» see **OLYMPICS** | B9

NATIONALS

Nationals manage just three hits in shutout

Rays' Bradley ties high in strikeouts

By MARK DIDTLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. | Taj Bradley tied a career high with 11 strikeouts, Isaac Paredes homered and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Washington Nationals 5-0 on Sunday.

Bradley (3-4) allowed three hits and walked two over 5½ innings in his fifth consecutive strong start. The right-hander has allowed four earned runs in 29 innings over the stretch.

"I felt like every pitch was going for strikes," Bradley said.

Bradley has a sparkling 0.64 ERA (two earned runs in 28 innings) in his last five home starts.

"Threw some good splitters, and we chased some balls out of the zone," Washington manager Dave Martinez said.

Colin Poche, Jason Adam, Garrett Cleavinger and Phil Maton completed a three-hitter. The Rays finished with a season-high 16 strikeouts.

Paredes, who had two hits in 23 at-bats over his previous seven games, went 3 for 4 and scored two runs. He needed a single for the cycle when he flied out against Tanner Rainey in the eighth.

"I think I just put a little bit of pressure on myself at the end to get that hit," Paredes said through a translator.

Jose Caballero and Randy Arozarena also homered for the Rays (42-42), who returned to the .500 mark for the 17th time. Tampa Bay hasn't been over .500 since May 21. Washington (39-44) went 3-6 on a nine-game trip.

Nationals top prospect James Wood didn't play Saturday and Sunday for Triple-A Rochester amid reports he will make his major league debut on Monday night against the New York Mets.

"If he's there, get him in a lineup and have him play," Martinez said.

Nationals left-hander MacKenzie Gore (6-7, 3.60 ERA) and New York Mets left-hander David Peterson (3-0, 3.67 ERA) are Monday night's scheduled starters

CAPITALS

Capitals plan to 'shop around' after draft weekend moves

By LIAM GRIFFIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Capitals general manager Brian MacLellan promised to be aggressive heading into last week's NHL draft. He delivered.

Since MacLellan spoke with reporters on Thursday, the Capitals shipped forward Beck Malensytyn to the Sabres for a second-round pick, acquired forward Andrew Mangiapane from the Flames for a 2025 second-round pick, received goaltender Logan Thompson in a trade with the Golden Knights and added

seven prospects through the draft.

"I thought we did really well," MacLellan said Saturday after the draft. "I think everything worked out well. We got some good size on the wing, we got a couple of different defensive prospects, we got a goalie that can play with us and a couple projects, too."

The prize of Washington's draft was right winger Terik Parascak, the No. 17 overall pick. The 18-year-old Canadian will join the Capitals organization after recording 43 goals and 62 assists last season for the Western Hockey League's Prince George Cougars.

Parascak's game may look familiar to Capitals fans — the prospect told NHL.com that he models his play after Washington right winger T.J. Oshie.

"There are a lot of similarities," Capitals assistant general manager Ross Mahoney told NHL.com. "They're not 6-foot-3; they're more around that 5-foot-11. ... But the hands and the sense and the release on his shot and also not afraid to go to the dirty areas to score goals. ... I can only hope he ends up being as good as T.J. Oshie. That would be fantastic for us."

The Capitals then used the No. 43

pick, gained from the Malensytyn trade, to select 18-year-old defenseman Cole Hutson. The Boston University product averaged more than a point per game last season for the Terriers.

Another defenseman, 17-year-old Leon Muggli, joined Washington with the No. 52 selection. Muggli posted three goals and nine assists last season in the Swiss National League, setting a record for the most points by a defenseman age 17 or younger.

Ilya Protas, the younger brother of

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The Capitals acquired left wing Andrew Mangiapane from the Flames for a 2025 second-round pick in a series of trades made at last weekend's NHL draft.