



SECURITY

AI accelerates foreign meddling in American elections

FOREIGN POLICY

NATO puts Ukraine on firm path to membership

Communique blasts China ties to Russia

By Mike Glenn and David R. Sands
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters at NATO's 75th anniversary summit in Washington on Wednesday that Ukraine's acceptance into the world's most powerful military alliance is "not a question of if, but when."

The summit's official declaration, which the Biden administration and other top NATO powers were reluctant to make, could spark a fierce reaction in Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his 2022 invasion of Ukraine in part to block it from ever joining the Western alliance.

"As Ukraine continues its vital reforms, we will continue to support them on the irreversible path to NATO membership," Mr. Stoltenberg said after a day of meetings with President Biden and leaders of the other 31 NATO member countries. "The work we are doing together now will ensure that when the time is right, Ukraine can join without delay."

"In this dangerous world, friends and partners are more important than ever,"

» see NATO | A9



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

RUNNING IN CIRCLES: Although NATO leaders made moves to extend an invitation to Ukraine to join the alliance when it meets conditions, they fell short of what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had been seeking.



A LONG WAY: Ukrainian refugee Mariia Hlyten joined a demonstration outside the NATO summit in Washington.

Intel officials find misinformation, deepfake attempts

By Ryan Lovelace
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

U.S. officials are sounding the alarm about foreign adversaries' use of artificial intelligence to manipulate Americans and say the new technologies have been used as accelerants.

China, Iran and Russia are all looking to leverage social media to dupe Americans ahead of the November elections, according to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

"AI is a malign influence accelerant; it is being used to more quickly and convincingly tailor synthetic content, including audio and video," a DNI official said. "In the run-up to November's general election, we are monitoring foreign actors seeking to create deepfakes of politicians, flood the information space with false or misleading information to sow doubt about what is real, and to amplify narratives."

The official told reporters on Tuesday that examples of AI threats were evident during recent election campaigns in Taiwan and India.

The U.S. intelligence community says China is likely responsible for dozens of online videos showing AI-generated newscasters reading sections of a book outlining purported scandals about Taiwan's former president. U.S. officials said the book also may have been created by AI.

In India, millions of people clicked AI-generated ads depicting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other politicians talking about controversial issues.

To reach American voters, foreign adversaries are again turning to social media.

"Russian influence actors are planning to covertly use social media to

» see AI | A5

TECHNOLOGY

Digital play screens slow child social development

Addiction starts as early as toddlerhood

By Sean Salai
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Toddlers using touch-screen tablets for playlike activities are less likely than those who play with real toys to communicate or interact socially with their parents, a federally funded study has found.

The study, funded by grants from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Seattle Children's Research Institute, is among the first to provide hard evidence that digital screen addiction starts in toddlerhood and is more likely to develop with certain types of social media apps, said pediatrician Dimitri A. Christakis, lead author and the editor-in-chief of JAMA Pediatrics. "Young children need laps, not apps," said Dr. Christakis, an investigator and professor at the Seattle Children's Research Institute, affiliated with Seattle Children's Hospital and the public University of Washington.

He said the study also adds to a growing body of research linking early screen use to delayed development of language skills. "Human back-and-forth interaction is essential for children's cognitive and

» see TODDLERS | A5



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LOOKING AHEAD: Ukrainian soldiers are offered free treatments to freeze their sperm or embryos to help ensure their spouses or partners carry on their legacy.

UKRAINE

Soldiers won't let Russia's war spoil dreams of fatherhood

IVF doctor fights for rebirth of nation

By Guillaume Ptak
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

LVIV, UKRAINE | Ukrainian soldiers facing a grim and unending reality have embraced a modern way of preserving their legacy and helping build the future of their homeland by freezing their sperm so their partners and wives can bear their children if they are killed on the battlefield.

"I think the war made him realize that he wanted to be a father. He wanted

to leave something behind if he died," Halyna Khamylo, 30, said of her husband. Her explanations were occasionally interrupted by the enthusiastic babbling of her infant daughter, Polina. With bright blue eyes and thin, golden hair, Polina Khamylo was born on Aug. 27, 2023, after a successful in vitro fertilization treatment.

"We had tried for four years to have children, but the various treatments

» see UKRAINE | A10

CAMPAIGN 2024

Obama stays silent as 'bros' loudly call for Biden ouster

Clooney breaks down Hollywood firewall

By Susan Ferrechio
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Former President Barack Obama's White House aides and prominent pals have become the loudest voices calling for President Biden to withdraw from the 2024 race, even as their old boss publicly backs his vice president.

David Axelrod, John Favreau, Ben Rhodes and Tommy Vietor are among the former Obama aides gunning for Mr. Biden to exit. They took their message to social media and television talk shows this week as the president battles to prove his fitness while leading a critical NATO summit in Washington.

The "Obama bros," as some of Mr. Obama's old team has been labeled, attacked Mr. Biden on the airwaves and social media Wednesday as they promoted a New York Times opinion piece written by one of the former president's most famous friends, actor George Clooney, calling for Mr. Biden to withdraw from the race.

Mr. Clooney's devastating piece, which cites Mr. Biden's catastrophic debate performance on June 27, was published just weeks after the movie star and Mr. Obama helped the 81-year-old president raise \$30 million at a Hollywood gala.

A cascade of other Hollywood elites called for Mr. Biden to step aside.

"We are not going to win in November with this president. On top of that, we won't win the House, and we're going to lose the Senate," Mr. Clooney

» see BIDEN | A4

President's allies ignored clear signs of decline from the start

By Jeff Mordock
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Biden raised eyebrows at the Group of Seven summit in June 2021, just months into his term, with an embarrassing memory lapse that sparked laughter from fellow world leaders.

Representatives of the world's seven leading industrial nations had gathered in England. It was Mr. Biden's first major meeting as president with foreign dignitaries.

Mr. Biden, who was 78, publicly chided British Prime Minister Boris Johnson for not introducing the president of South Africa, even though Mr. Johnson had already introduced him by name.

Mr. Biden appeared confused. He looked around the room bewilderedly before mumbling, "Oh, he did?" His words trailed

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MYSTERY RUNNING MATE

Those who were hoping former President Donald Trump would reveal the identity of his 2024 running mate sooner rather than later must have a little patience. When will Mr. Trump make the announcement?

"I'll make it close to the convention," he told Fox News host Brian Kilmeade on Wednesday. "You know, it used to be picked during the convention. And it made the convention, frankly, more interesting. The pick used to be during the convention. That's what I'd like to do," Mr. Trump continued.

"But now, with modern technology — if you can believe it — it's like everything else. Voting used to be better with all paper ballots. I mean, with modern technologies, it makes it easier if you pick before the convention. But I'd love to be the old-fashioned way and do it during the convention," he continued.

"All right. Make the final pick there. You'll make that choice. Mr. President, thanks so much," Mr. Kilmeade replied.

Mr. Trump's campaign, incidentally, also addressed another possibility in a brief "alert" emailed to Inside the Beltway, exclamation points and all.

"Joe Biden is dropping out of the race! You know it. I know it. Everybody knows it. It can happen at any moment!" the statement declared.

PLAY TIME

Have you heard of N/A?

This is actually the title of a current Broadway play. The two letters, according to one source, stand for two well-known lawmakers: Reps. Nancy Pelosi of California and Alexandria



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President Donald Trump says he will name his running mate shortly before the Republican National Convention next week.

Ocasio-Cortez of New York.

"The world premiere of Mario Correa's new play 'N/A,' which officially opened Off-Broadway at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater June 23, has extended through September 1," said Playbill, a venerable publication covering the New York theater scene since 1884.

"Holland Taylor and Ana Villafane lead the cast as N and A, respectively, the first female speaker of the house and the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. The work is inspired by unspecified real people and events, though it feels safe to assume that these characters have more than a passing connection to Nancy Pelosi and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, based on character descriptions and the show's own poster," Playbill reported.

"N/A is a whip-smart battle of wits — and wits — between N, the first woman Speaker of the House, and A, the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. Inspired by real people and events, this riveting two-hander illuminates the person whom many consider the most powerful woman in American history ... and the once-in-a-generation political talent who defied her," notes a description of production from the play's official website — NAthePlay.com.

PAYING ATTENTION

The public continues to mull over the debate between President Biden and former President Donald Trump, carried live by CNN on June 27.

"Ever since a less-than-stellar debate night against Donald Trump at the end of June, there have been growing concerns about Joe Biden's age in running for a second term as President, with many very public calls for him to drop out of the race entirely. This theme has received a lot of interest from both the media and the public, with more than 24,000 articles written on the topic, and more than a million engagements with those articles," according to NewsWhip, a media monitoring platform that analyzes web and social media data in real time.

A TAXING SITUATION

So which lawmakers have taxpayers in mind? The National Taxpayers Union has the answer.

Each year, the nonpartisan group offers a yearly evaluation of which lawmakers and their approach to tax matters. The latest results have arrived.

"National Taxpayers Union (NTU) has released its annual report card for the first session of the 118th Congress of the United States. In 2023, just 3 senators and 38 members of the House of Representatives earned an 'A' grade from NTU for their voting records on fiscal issues, thereby earning these members the Taxpayers' Friend Award for their steadfast dedication to taxpayer interests," the organization said in a statement. "NTU's rating system is carefully crafted to assess the voting history of members on matters of sound fiscal policy. Legislators are evaluated annually on every roll call vote that impacts taxes, spending, trade, and regulatory policies. The NTU rating remains the sole system that includes every roll call vote affecting taxpayers (274 votes in both chambers last year), utilizing a sophisticated evaluation process. Scores can range between zero and 100," the group said.

"It is essential for Americans to be informed as to how their elected officials vote, not just

what they say. Average citizens and families need to make fiscally sound decisions and we expect nothing less from Congress," said Pete Sepp, president of the National Taxpayers Union, also in a statement.

"Average citizens and families need to make fiscally sound decisions and we expected nothing less from Congress. NTU's rating holds our lawmakers accountable, and we are grateful for those Taxpayers' Friend award winners who made an extra effort to remember taxpayers when voting on the floor," Mr. Sepp said.

So who are the most taxpayer-friendliest lawmakers of all?

Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky led with a score of 87%, Sen. Mike Lee of Utah was next (85%) followed by Sens. Mike Braun of Indiana (81%) and John Cornyn of Texas (79%). All four senators are Republicans.

The top lawmakers on the House side, also all Republicans, were Reps. Thomas Massie of Kentucky (96%), Tom McClintock of California (92%), and Bob Good of Virginia, Eli Crane of Arizona, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, Chip Roy of Texas, Jim Jordan of Ohio and Scott Perry of Pennsylvania.

Each one of the seven lawmakers earned a grade of 91%. Find the complete list at ntu.org/ratecongress.

POLL DU JOUR

- 37% of U.S. voters say the economy is the most important issue facing the U.S.
- 20% say "threats to democracy" is the most important issue.
- 18% cite immigration.
- 6% cite health care.
- 5% cite access to abortion.
- 4% cite crime.
- 3% cite education.
- 3% cite housing affordability.
- 4% cite "something else."

SOURCE: AN EMERSON COLLEGE POLLING NATIONAL SURVEY OF 1,370 REGISTERED U.S. VOTERS CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE AND ONLINE, JULY 7-8.

• Contact Jennifer Harper at jharper@washingtontimes.com.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

DOJ inspector general to testify about FBI retaliation against whistleblowers

By KERRY PICKET
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Justice Department Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz is expected to testify before Congress this later month about his report flagging the FBI for stripping whistleblower agents of security clearances and pay without a timely appeals process.

Mr. Horowitz will testify before the House Judiciary Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government on July 30, The Washington Times has learned.

Lawmakers want to learn more about the unfair treatment of employees at the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies, which were problems identified in Mr. Horowitz's May 14 report.

The inspector general reported that the suspension policy for employees whose security clearances have been suspended, revoked or denied could leave them destitute and unable to return to their jobs or find alternative employment.

"This lack of appeal process is especially problematic at DOJ components that indefinitely suspend employees without pay for the duration of the security investigation and review process, which can sometimes last years," Mr. Horowitz wrote in May.

The process, he said, can financially devastate the employee or force them to quit and find another job to earn a living.

"In many cases, it is financially unrealistic for an employee suspended without pay who claims retaliation to retain their government employment status

while [the security clearance review] is pending, given the length of time a security clearance inquiry often takes," Mr. Horowitz wrote. "As a practical matter, therefore, the ability of an employee who has been indefinitely suspended without pay to retain their employment status can be rendered meaningless when that suspension lasts for a substantial period of time."

He found similar concerns in the security clearance policy at the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The FBI has been under scrutiny for its treatment of whistleblowers over the past two years after Congress received a flood of confidential disclosures about retaliation. The whistleblowers claimed FBI

officials politicized investigations and targeted employees for their political views.

In his report, Mr. Horowitz said the Justice Department doesn't consider "any practicable alternatives to indefinite suspension without pay during a security investigation for employees."

The FBI indicated that 106 of its employees have had their clearances suspended for six months or longer in the past five years. Of those 106 employees, the average time between suspension and a decision to revoke or reinstate the clearance was 527 days.

In a series of exclusive reports, The Times described several cases in which FBI whistleblowers said agency officials retaliated against them or punished them for political views by revoking security clearances, resulting in their suspension without pay.



HOUSE

Garland contempt vote set for Thursday

Rep. Anna Paulina Luna succeeded Wednesday in her effort to force a vote on whether to hold Attorney General Merrick Garland in inherent contempt of Congress, though the lawmaker only wants to fine rather than arrest him.

Ms. Luna's original goal was to use the arcane procedure to arrest Mr. Garland for withholding tapes of special counsel Robert Hur's interview with President Biden.

However, the Florida Republican offered a version of her resolution that would instead fine him \$10,000 a day until he hands over the tapes.

The House is expected to vote on the resolution on Thursday.

The lawmaker's push stemmed from Mr. Garland's refusal to comply with a subpoena from the Judiciary Committee to get ahold of the tapes. Ms. Luna argued on the House floor that an average American served a subpoena would be expected to adhere to it.

— Alex Miller

person who stopped him.

Mr. Stephanopoulos said in a statement through a network spokesperson that "earlier today I responded to a passerby. I shouldn't have."

In a separate statement, ABC said, "George expressed his own point of view and not the position of ABC News."

— Mallory Wilson

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Spending deal sets up clash with House

The Senate will pursue a spending increase next year of about 3.4% for defense and 2.7% increase for nondefense programs under a deal reached by lawmakers of both parties on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The agreement sets up a certain showdown with the Republican-led House, which is pursuing less spending in both categories.

Under an agreement reached last year by President Biden and then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy, spending was set to increase 1% for defense and nondefense programs in fiscal year 2025, bringing the tallies to about \$780.4 billion for nondefense and \$895.2 billion for defense.

— Associated Press

JOURNALISM

CNN announces new round of layoffs

CNN outlined incoming layoffs Wednesday and a push into digital subscriptions and artificial intelligence.

CEO Mark Thompson announced the changes to CNN staff in a memo that spelled out his plans to drastically change the news corporation by year's end. He said CNN would cut around 100 jobs but didn't specify the affected departments.

Mr. Thompson said CNN's subscription service would start by the end of 2024, blending on-air content with text-based news stories to create a new experience for readers.

— Vaughn Cockayne



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden's campaign declined former President Donald Trump's challenge of an 18-hole golf match. "Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics," a spokesman said.

2024 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Biden campaign dismisses Trump golf challenge as 'weird antics'

The Biden campaign has declined former President Donald Trump's challenge to play President Biden in an 18-hole golf match.

"Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics — he's busy leading America and defending the free world," Biden campaign spokesperson James Singer responded to the invitation to a showdown on the golf course.

Mr. Singer instead offered a series of different challenges for Mr. Trump.

"We'd challenge Donald Trump to create jobs, but he lost 3 million. We'd challenge Donald Trump to stand up to Putin, but he bent the knee to him. We'd challenge

Donald Trump to follow the law, but he breaks it," he said.

Mr. Trump challenged the president to the golf match at a rally Tuesday, while also inviting him to debate again to have a "chance to redeem himself."

Mr. Singer did not respond to the debate challenge.

The golf talk sprouted from an odd back-and-forth the two presumptive presidential candidates had at the first debate in Georgia last month where Mr. Biden said he would do better than Mr. Trump on the golf course.

— Mallory Wilson

MALLARD FILLMORE / Bruce Tinsley



COMING UP...WE'LL MAKE A HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT TO RESTRAIN OUR GIDDY, CHILDISH ELATION WHILE REPORTING ON TRUMP'S SENTENCING.

FISHMAN 7-11
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Politics

ELECTIONS

House passes bill requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote

Biden opposes legislation that is likely to die in Senate

By ALEX MILLER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The House passed legislation Wednesday to make people provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote, a measure aimed at preventing illegal immigrants from voting.

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility or the SAVE Act would amend the National Voter Registration Act to require people to register in person with documents that prove they are citizens such as a Real ID, passport or other identification that shows place of birth. The NVRA currently does not require proof of citizenship but asks registrants to attest that they are citizens or face penalties.

Rep. Chip Roy, the sponsor of the measure, said his bill was meant to ensure only American citizens vote in U.S. elections. He also accused President Biden and Democrats of pushing for non-citizens to participate in federal elections.

"The fact of the matter is this administration and our

colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been damaging, breaking American sovereignty for the entirety of this administration," the Texas Republican said.

The measure would also require that election officials share information with the Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration to determine whether voters are eligible. If the agencies determine someone is ineligible to vote, election officials would have to remove the noncitizens from voter rolls.

The bill blends two issues at the forefront for the GOP: illegal immigration and election integrity.

It passed in a 221-198 vote that broke mostly along party lines. Five Democrats voted with Republicans in favor of the legislation.

President Biden strongly opposes the legislation, and it is likely to die in the Senate.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, heavily stumped for the measure, even teasing the bill during a meeting with former President Donald

Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate in April.

Mr. Johnson said on the House floor Wednesday that millions of illegal immigrants have flooded into the U.S. since Mr. Biden took office, and warned that if they participated in elections, they could drastically alter the results at every level.

His office released a report last month that provided "irrefutable evidence" of noncitizens illegally registering to vote and voting in federal elections. This year, election officials removed 70 noncitizens from voter rolls in Massachusetts and 137 from voter rolls in Ohio, according to the report.

Earlier this year, Virginia election officials removed nearly 1,500 people from voter rolls "with a reported reason for removal due to 'noncitizen status.'"

Though there is no evidence of illegal immigrants registering to vote on a large scale, Republicans said the stricter rules would be a preventative measure.

"We are merely suggesting that because so many illegal



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. Chip Roy said his bill requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote is meant to ensure only American citizens vote in U.S. elections.

aliens are in the country ... it worth adding a layer of protection to ensure those illegals cannot register to vote," Mr. Johnson said.

It is illegal for noncitizens to vote in federal elections, with penalties including deportation and imprisonment. It is also illegal for people to register to vote if they are not eligible. Some places such as in the District of Columbia, allow noncitizens to

vote in local elections, but it is not a widespread practice.

The GOP's messaging on the bill echoes Mr. Trump's unfounded claims that large numbers of illegal immigrants voted in the 2020 election. On Tuesday, the former president said Republicans should pass the bill or "go home and cry yourself to sleep."

Hundreds of civil rights organizations opposed the measure, arguing, among other things, that

the legislation was "wholly based on falsehoods" and would make it harder for minority communities and naturalized citizens to vote.

"These are already communities who are unfairly targeted by anti-immigrant policies at the federal, state, and local level," the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights wrote in a letter to lawmakers. "Congress should be doing everything possible to encourage and promote the political participation of these citizens, rather than seeking to diminish it through threats and fear tactics."

Democrats said the bill would do little or nothing at all to safeguard elections and would instead make it harder for citizens to register, more difficult for soldiers serving overseas to register, and increase the likelihood that eligible voters are removed from voter rolls.

"This extreme MAGA Republican voter suppression bill is not designed to solve any problem on behalf of the American people. It is designed to jam people up and prevent Americans from voting," said House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, New York Democrat.

CAMPAIGN 2024

'This is a serious matter'

Harris tells sorority sisters to brace for 'consequential' election

By TOM HOWELL JR.
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Vice President Kamala Harris said Wednesday that America is confronting its most "existential" and "consequential" election in November, delivering a forceful condemnation of former President Donald Trump as she auditions — even if reluctantly — for the top slot on the Democratic ticket.

President Biden's disastrous debate performance has sparked a near-mutiny from Democrats and widespread questions about his viability, making Ms. Harris a nominee-in-waiting even as she vehemently supports her boss.

Ms. Harris ducked the debate around Mr. Biden's fitness in a speech to a friendly crowd at the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority's Boule in Dallas, Texas, training her sights instead on Mr. Trump.

"This is the most existential, consequential and important election of our lifetimes," Ms. Harris said "This is a serious matter."

The vice president painted Mr. Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee who leads in most polls, as a threat to the rule of law.

"The Supreme Court basically told this individual, who has been convicted of fraud, that going forward he will be immune from activity we know he is prepared to engage in if he gets back into the White House," Ms. Harris said, referring to Mr. Trump's remark in December that he would not be a dictator — "except for day one."

Ms. Harris said abortion access would be under threat, and that Mr. Trump would be willing to sign a national abortion ban despite saying he thinks it's a matter for the states.

"We will not let him. We will not let that happen," she said after highlighting the three Supreme Court justices who were appointed by Mr. Trump and voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, opening the door to state-based limits on abortion.

Ms. Harris, 59, is under an intense spotlight as Democrats either call for Mr. Biden, 81, to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

"This is the most existential, consequential and important election of our lifetimes. This is a serious matter," Vice President Kamala Harris told Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters Wednesday.

remove himself from the ticket or prove he is up for another four years on the job, given his track record of verbal stumbles and cognitive flubs.

Mr. Trump thinks Mr. Biden will stay in the race but says Ms. Harris is the most likely replacement if he bows out. He criticized Ms. Harris at a Florida rally late Tuesday, dubbing her "Laffin' Kamala" and recounting her inability to tackle a lengthy to-do list from Mr. Biden.

"She was put in charge of the U.S. border security, and the border, and she never showed up," Mr. Trump said at his resort near Miami.

"If Joe had picked someone even halfway competent, they would have bounced him from office years ago," he said. "But they can't because she's got to be their second choice."

While Mr. Biden met with NATO leaders in Washington, Ms. Harris received a raucous welcome from sorority members dressed in hues of pink and green.

There are signs that Black support for the Biden-Harris ticket is softening.

Three-quarters of Black voters in Pennsylvania and Michigan backed the Biden-Harris ticket in 2020.

Yet support for Mr. Biden sat around 54%-56% in those states in late June, as would-be supporters drifted toward third-party candidates or expressed doubts about Mr. Biden's performance and fitness for office, according to a Suffolk University/USA Today Network Poll.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is a historically Black sorority that boasts hundreds of thousands of members. Ms. Harris is a member and said her aunt was initiated as a member in 1950 at Howard University.

Ms. Harris was born to an Indian mother and a Black father. She made history as the first woman, first Black American and the first South Asian American to be elected vice president.

Democrats have long described Black women as the backbone of the party.

"You helped elect Joe Biden president of the United States and me as the first woman elected vice president of the United States," Ms. Harris told the sorority.

Nine in 10 Black women supported Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris in the 2020 election, according to Higher Heights for America, a political action committee dedicated to electing

progressive Black women.

The PAC said roughly 16 million Black women are eligible to vote and that two-thirds are registered.

National polls show Mr. Trump with a slight lead over Mr. Biden, so the campaigns will be battling over every vote in swing states.

Ms. Harris will be a critical voice in retaining minority support as she campaigns alongside Mr. Biden.

This weekend, she will try to lock down support from Asian Americans with a keynote speech in Philadelphia, a critical Democratic stronghold in swing-state Pennsylvania. She is scheduled to speak at the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) Presidential Town Hall.

"Asian Americans have been a rapidly growing group of eligible voters in the U.S. over the past two decades, growing by 15% in the last four years alone and turning out in record numbers in every federal election since 2016," APIAVote said Wednesday. "In 2020, a surge in Asian American voters — especially those voting for the very first time — in battleground states was crucial to President Biden's victory."

SENATE

Republicans block bill backing federal right to abortion

Democrats seek to restore Roe

By LINDSEY MCPHERSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Senate Republicans on Wednesday blocked Democrats from advancing a bill to express support for codifying the federal right to abortion previously afforded under Roe v. Wade.

The test vote failed 49-44, with all but two Republicans voting in opposition. It needed 60 votes to survive.

Democrats are seeking to restore the federal right to abortion after the Supreme Court two years ago overturned Roe with a new decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that said the Constitution does not provide a right to abortion and left it up to the states to decide what abortion rights or restrictions to enact.

However, the bill they brought to the floor on Wednesday was a nonbinding measure that simply expressed the "sense of Congress" that the protections previously enshrined in Roe "should be restored and built upon, moving towards a future where there is reproductive freedom for all."

Republican Sens. Susan M. Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who have a history of supporting abortion rights, voted to advance the bill.

Most Republicans agree with the Dobbs decision that abortion law should be left to the states, although some still prefer to go further with a national abortion ban.

Former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has said he would not pursue a national ban and would leave it up to the states to decide.

Following Mr. Trump's lead, the Republican National Committee this week adopted a 2024 platform that omitted language from previous years endorsing a 20-week abortion ban and a human life amendment to the Constitution. The decision has prompted frustration from Republicans across the party, including former Vice President Mike Pence.

Democrats aren't buying the GOP's attempt to soften its anti-abortion stance and insist that Republicans will go further if

elected.

"We all know Donald Trump ended Roe v. Wade. We all know Republicans championed that for decades," said Sen. Patty Murray, Washington Democrat and lead sponsor of the bill. "And we know that Trump will absolutely ban abortion nationwide."

Republicans dismissed Wednesday's vote as just another "show vote" from Democrats looking to score election-year messaging points.

The bill expressing support for Roe, as well as a previous measure the Senate blocked this summer to codify access to contraception and reproductive health care treatments like in vitro fertilization, have "no possibility of ever becoming law," said Senate Republican Whip John Thune of South Dakota.

"These are simply opportunities for the Democrats to provide some political cover for some of their incumbents who are in political trouble this year," he said.

The debate over abortion rights has already featured heavily in the presidential contest and down-ballot races. President Biden has vowed to restore Roe if elected. His administration's statement of support for the Senate bill backing that objective cited the "devastating" consequences of Roe being overturned.

"Today, more than 20 states have dangerous and extreme abortion bans in effect, some without exceptions for rape or incest," the Biden administration said. "Women are being denied essential medical care, including during an emergency, or forced to travel thousands of miles out of state for care that would have been available if Roe were still the law of the land."

As Wednesday's vote showed, Mr. Biden will need more Democrats to be elected to the Senate to achieve his objective. Senate Democrats will play that up in their campaigns.

"Today's vote will not be the end of the struggle to secure reproductive freedoms, but it is an important step forward," Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer of New York said in floor remarks ahead of the vote. "Americans want to see where their senators stand."

CAMPAIGN 2024

Democrats suggest Biden could change mind on run

Calls to drop out of race growing louder from Capitol Hill lawmakers

BY LINDSEY MCPHERSON
AND KERRY PICKET
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Congressional Democrats on Wednesday continued a slow trickle of comments suggesting their uneasiness with President Biden remaining in the presidential race, with top party officials indicating that he still has time to drop out.

The subtle campaign to prod the 81-year-old Mr. Biden to rethink his decision kicked off early Wednesday with former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's curious response in an MSNBC interview when asked if she supports the president continuing to head the Democratic ticket.

"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run," the California Democrat said. "We're all encouraging him to make that decision. Because time is running short."

The pressure on Mr. Biden also increased with Sen. Peter Welch of Vermont on Wednesday becoming the first Democratic senator to call for the president to quit his reelection campaign.

Mr. Biden had sent a letter

to congressional Democrats on Monday saying he is "firmly committed" to remaining in the race and urged them to unite behind his campaign to beat former President Donald Trump.

"Any weakening of resolve or lack of clarity about the task ahead only helps Trump and hurts us," he wrote.

When pressed about Mr. Biden already making his decision and whether she wants him to remain in the race, Mrs. Pelosi did not show the resolve the president requested.

"I want him to do whatever he decides to do," she said. "And that's the way it is; whatever he decides we go with."

Democrats saw Mrs. Pelosi's comments as a signal that Mr. Biden's decision need not be final.

Some took a similar approach to Mrs. Pelosi by using choice words that suggest Mr. Biden still has time to change his mind.

"Joe Biden has always done the patriotic thing and made the right decision for the country, and he puts the country over himself," said Sen. Tim Kaine, Virginia Democrat. "And I have faith that that's what he's going to do."



"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run," said former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of President Biden on Wednesday.

Mr. Biden still has backers who want him to receive the nominee at the Democratic National Convention in August.

"Joe Biden received millions of votes, all 50 states and some territories," said Sen. Mark Kelly, Arizona Democrat. "He is the nominee. He was elected to be the nominee."

Mr. Biden's top campaign advisers — Jen O'Malley, Mike Donilon and Steve Ricchetti — will speak to Senate Democrats at a special caucus lunch Thursday at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee headquarters.

They're also likely to listen to

feedback from concerned senators and take that back to Mr. Biden.

More than a dozen Democratic senators have raised varying degrees of alarm about whether Mr. Biden can win. Sen. Michael Bennet, Colorado Democrat, has gone the furthest publicly in saying that he believes the president will lose to Mr. Trump, potentially in a "landslide" that impacts down-ballot races and gives Republicans full control of Washington.

Mr. Bennet and others have pointed out that Mr. Biden was already trailing Mr. Trump in the polls — both nationally and in most key swing states — ahead of

his disastrous debate performance two weeks ago. His disadvantage has only grown since then, with Mr. Trump now leading the national vote by 3 points, according to the Real Clear Politics average of recent polls.

Rep. Ritchie Torres put out a statement Wednesday saying that Democrats need "a serious reckoning with the down-ballot effect of whomever we nominate" based on "an unsentimental analysis of the cold hard numbers — which have no personal feelings or political loyalties."

"If we're going to choose a particular path, we should be clear-eyed about its consequences," the New York Democrat said on X. "Blindness is not bliss amid the terrifying threat of a Trump presidency."

Democrats suddenly listening to the polls and reason rather than emotion was both validating and disheartening to Rep. Dean Phillips, the Minnesota Democrat who mounted a failed primary challenge to Mr. Biden last year.

"It won't surprise anybody that the likelihood of my candidacy succeeding was secondary to the likelihood of it inspiring the conversation I was trying to inspire," Mr. Phillips told reporters. "I'm disappointed with those in power in my party for not heeding that call at a time where they all knew

the same thing I did — absolutely."

Mr. Phillips, who withdrew from the Democratic presidential primary in March, faced harsh criticism from his fellow Democrats for over a year. Now, Mr. Phillips said fellow Democratic lawmakers are privately lamenting to him they did not take his campaign more seriously.

"I'm deeply disappointed in a political system that has resulted in this dynamic that we now face," he said.

One Democrat acknowledged some regrets publicly. Rep. Marc Veasey, Texas Democrat, said, "Everyone wishes now that we had had primaries and that the president had been out there more, and that we had had an opportunity to see exactly what was there before this debate."

Neither Mr. Veasey nor Mr. Phillips joined the small group of House Democrats explicitly calling on Mr. Biden to drop out. That group grew to nine on Wednesday with Rep. Pat Ryan of New York, a Democrat the party considers vulnerable, and Rep. Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, who said Mr. Biden should step aside.

"Trump is an existential threat to American democracy; it is our duty to put forward the strongest candidate against him," Mr. Ryan said in an X post. "Joe Biden is a patriot but is no longer the best candidate to defeat Trump."

DECLINE

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off, and the other leaders broke into laughter.

Weeks earlier, Mr. Biden forgot the name of his secretary of defense. After a few seconds of struggling, the president called him "the guy who runs that outfit over there."

Few news outlets in the U.S. covered the president's mental misfires, and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle ignored them.

Still, those incidents provided the first glimpse of a spark that has erupted into a three-alarm fire engulfing the Democratic Party ahead of the November elections.

Since Mr. Biden's confused and sometimes incoherent June 27 debate with former President Donald Trump, panicked Democrats have called for Mr. Biden to bow out of the presidential race and to be replaced with a younger candidate.

Yet questions about Mr. Biden's fitness to serve were apparent years before the debate when he struggled to complete his thoughts and stared vacantly. Though The Washington Times chronicled Mr. Biden's deterioration and polls recorded voters' growing doubts about his fitness for office, mainstream media outlets rarely reported the story.

"It makes the media look partisan," said Richard Benedetto, a former White House correspondent who teaches journalism at American University. "I have no doubt that the White House press corps knew all along that Biden was slipping, but they thought he was a better choice than Donald Trump and looked the other way. We didn't see any of these stories before the debate."

David Paleologos, director of the Political Research Center at Suffolk University, dismissed the idea of a media conspiracy to cover up Mr. Biden's health concerns.

"Look at all the podcasters and people who have looked at it pretty fairly and knew three years ago that Biden was unpopular and



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted the first major diplomatic meeting for President Biden in 2021. Mr. Biden drew laughter from dignitaries of the world's leading industrial nations when he mistakenly said Mr. Johnson had not introduced the South African president.

knew three years ago that his health wasn't going to get better," he said.

Throughout Mr. Biden's presidency, aides have aggressively resisted the idea that he has become diminished and have tried to change the narrative to whether Mr. Trump tells the truth.

They shielded the president from news media as concerns about his age mounted.

A hallmark of Mr. Biden's presidency has been the lack of public visibility in situations that aren't scripted or tightly controlled. According to data from Martha Joynt Kumar, director of the White House Transition Project, Mr. Biden held 36 news conferences through June 30, fewer than any other president in the same time frame since President Reagan.

Mr. Biden has given 129 interviews, compared with Mr. Trump's 369 and President Obama's 497 during the same period. One of Mr. Biden's interviews, with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News,

was hastily scheduled after the debate debacle.

The American people noticed problems less than 10 months into Mr. Biden's presidency. A November 2021 Politico/Morning Consult poll revealed that 50% of voters said Mr. Biden was not in good health.

That represented a massive 29-percentage-point shift since October 2020, when voters overwhelmingly said he was in good health.

In the same poll, 48% of voters said Mr. Biden was not mentally fit to serve as president, compared with 46% who said he was. That negative 2-point margin starkly contrasted with the October 2020 poll, when voters said, by a 21-point margin, that he was mentally fit.

The poll was released just weeks after Mr. Biden appeared to fall asleep during opening remarks of the COP26 climate change summit.

Democratic pollster Celinda Lake told Politico that the findings

were the result of the "right-wing disinformation machine."

By August 2023, the share of voters saying Mr. Biden was too old to effectively serve a second term soared to 75% in an Associated Press/NORC poll, and 60% said he didn't have the mental capabilities to serve as president.

By February, 86% of Americans said Mr. Biden was too old to serve a second term.

Mr. Paleologos said Democrats didn't heed the polls' warnings because they were in denial about what the American public was seeing.

"The reason no one acted on [health concerns] is because there was a feeling the numbers would change and his numbers would flip back to where they were in January 2021 when Biden was highly popular," he said.

Democrats banked on the debate against Mr. Trump as the moment Mr. Biden's numbers would rebound, but panic ensued instead.

"The debate was supposed to be an inflection point for the campaign, but the opposite happened, and now time is ticking away, and the situation was made worse," Mr. Paleologos said.

David Dix, a Democratic Party strategist, said Democrats waited until it was too late to listen to voters' concerns about Mr. Biden's age. Mr. Dix said the real failure was a lack of succession planning. Democrats have not had a competitive primary since 2008, before President Obama's first term.

"The party told everyone it was going to be Hillary in 2016 and Biden in 2020," he said. "You can't make up for the exercise that both the candidate and party go through when you have a vigorous and earnest primary. The fact that Democrats haven't has atrophied their connection to the common, regular voters."

As voter concerns about Mr. Biden's age increased, so did his number of memory lapses. The

president made headlines in September 2022 when he asked for Jackie Walorski to stand up, even though the House lawmaker had died a month earlier. Immediately after her death, Mr. Biden issued a statement offering condolences and ordered flags lowered to half-staff.

A year later, Mr. Biden bizarrely wrapped up a gun safety speech by declaring, "God save the queen, man." The White House dismissed questions about his statement by saying he was talking to someone in the crowd.

A gush of memory lapses was revealed in February when special counsel Robert Hur issued a report outlining his decision not to prosecute Mr. Biden for mishandling sensitive government documents. Mr. Hur wrote in his report that Mr. Biden couldn't recall basic facts of his life, including when his son died or when he was vice president.

He said a jury would view Mr. Biden sympathetically as "a well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Instead of calling for Mr. Biden to step down, Democrats dismissed Mr. Hur as a partisan out to derail the president's reelection.

Mr. Biden compounded the damage with his performance in a rare 13-minute press conference on the evening the report was released. He confused Egypt's president with Mexico's when talking about the war in Gaza. He also created a political problem for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi by saying he had to be persuaded to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza.

A week before the Hur report, Mr. Biden twice recalled speaking with a European leader who had died years earlier. During a series of fundraisers in New York, Mr. Biden said he had discussed the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol with German Prime Minister Helmut Kohl, who died in 2017. Days earlier, Mr. Biden talked about meeting French President Francois Mitterrand in 2021. The French leader died in 1996.

BIDEN

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wrote. "This isn't only my opinion; this is the opinion of every senator and congress member and governor that I've spoken with in private. Every single one, irrespective of what he or she is saying publicly."

Mr. Clooney said he witnessed Mr. Biden's cognitive decline up close at the fundraiser. The president, he said, "was not the Joe 'big F-ing deal' Biden of 2010. He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

The June 16 Hollywood fundraiser concluded with Mr. Obama, who socializes and

vacations with Mr. Clooney, leading a frail-appearing Mr. Biden off the stage after the president inexplicably froze up.

Mr. Obama's old White House team doubled down on Mr. Clooney's assessment.

Mr. Axelrod, a former Obama adviser, and Mr. Favreau, Mr. Obama's former speechwriter, appeared together on CNN to affirm Mr. Clooney's claim that the president's mental fitness appeared to be in decline.

"Every single person I talked to at the fundraiser thought the same thing, except for the people working for Joe Biden, or at least they didn't say that," Mr. Favreau said.

Mr. Axelrod called Mr. Clooney's assessment "devastating" and said many Democrats had

reached the point where they believe the risk of leaving Mr. Biden on the ticket "eclipses" the risk of replacing him.

Mr. Obama has publicly remained silent about his former vice president. He issued a vague statement of support after Mr. Biden's debate fumble.

"Bad debate nights happen. Trust me, I know. But this election is still a choice between someone who has fought for ordinary folks his entire life and someone who only cares about himself," said Mr. Obama, adding that "so much is at stake in November."

While Mr. Obama held back any public criticism, his old White House team battered Mr. Biden on social media.

"You can't say that the future

of American democracy is at stake and then tell anyone concerned about the debate last night to stop bed wetting or grow a spine," former Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor posted on X. "It's ... insulting to people who care deeply about the country and know how much is on the line."

Ben Rhodes, Mr. Obama's former deputy national security adviser, posted on X, "Just think about what that debate looked like to people and leaders around the world."

The Obama world is pressuring Mr. Biden to withdraw from the ticket as some of the former president's strongest allies on Capitol Hill hold back on endorsing Mr. Biden during the NATO summit.

Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a longtime ally of Mr. Obama, said Mr. Biden should complete the NATO summit and then reconsider his plans to run for reelection.

"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run. We're all encouraging him to make that decision because time is running short," Mrs. Pelosi said on MSNBC. "Let's just hold off until we see how we go this week."

Mr. Biden has vigorously resisted efforts to remove him from the ticket. He wrote to congressional Democrats this week that he has no plans to withdraw.

He has largely executed his leadership of the NATO summit without major gaffes and has appeared energetic and coherent.

Mr. Biden read from a script

without any hiccups at the start of a workshop with NATO world leaders on Wednesday. He addressed national union leaders at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington without big slips.

A packed schedule Thursday will culminate in a critical press conference, his first since the debate.

Mr. Axelrod said Mrs. Pelosi and other Democratic leaders will try to push out Mr. Biden, partly because polls show his low approval ratings threaten to cause major losses for House and Senate Democrats on the ballot in November.

"What she is saying delicately and respectfully is that the discussion isn't over, and we need to have this discussion," Mr. Axelrod said.

HOUSE

Ocasio-Cortez files articles of impeachment against Thomas, Alito

Justices accused of failing to disclose, recuse

By ALEX SWOYER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez filed articles of impeachment Wednesday against Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

The New York Democrat said the Constitution demands a higher standard than what the two high court jurists have exhibited.

“The unchecked corruption crisis on the Supreme Court has now spiraled into a Constitutional crisis threatening American democracy writ large,” Ms. Ocasio-Cortez said in a press statement. “Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito’s pattern of refusal to recuse from consequential matters before the court in which they hold widely documented financial and personal entanglements constitutes a grave threat to American rule of law, the integrity of our democracy, and one of the

clearest cases for which the tool of impeachment was designed.”

The progressive lawmaker said the two justices have failed to disclose financial gifts and hospitality from billionaires and have not recused themselves from cases in which their spouses have had an interest.

The two charges detailed in the articles of impeachment for each justice include two alleged offenses: failure to recuse and failure to disclose.

“These failures alone would amount to a deep transgression worthy of standard removal in any lower court, and would disqualify any nominee to the highest court from confirmation in the first place,” she said. “Given the court’s demonstrated inability to preserve its own legitimate conduct, it is incumbent upon Congress to contain the threat this poses to our democracy and the hundreds of millions of Americans harmed by the crisis of corruption unfurling within

the court. Congress has a legal, moral, and democratic obligation to impeach.”

Co-sponsoring the legislation are Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee of California, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Bonnie Watson Coleman of New Jersey, Delia Ramirez of Illinois, Maxwell Frost of Florida, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Jamaal Bowman of New York and Jasmine Crockett of Texas. With Republicans holding a narrow majority in the House, the legislation is unlikely to advance.

The move comes as Democrats have criticized Justice Thomas’ friendship with GOP megadonor Harlan Crow.

Last year, ProPublica published a series of articles critical of the justices — mainly Justice Thomas — accepting hospitality without disclosures.

At the time, there was no requirement to disclose certain hospitality and gifts for the justices, but that changed in 2023



Samuel A. Alito Jr.



Clarence Thomas



Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York Democrat, has filed articles of impeachment against Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez cited corruption for the move.

after the Judicial Conference updated its rules, extending them to the high court.

Justice Thomas and Mr. Crow have defended their friendship, and Mr. Crow has

said he has not discussed Supreme Court business with Justice Thomas. Both have denied any wrongdoing.

Democratic lawmakers have called for the two GOP-appointed justices to recuse themselves from major disputes before the court this term involving Jan. 6 defendants and former President Donald Trump’s immunity.

They said Justice Thomas’ wife attended the pro-Trump Stop the Steal rally and had contact with Trump allies. Ginni Thomas said she left the rally before it got violent at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

The Democratic lawmakers have been displeased with Justice Alito over an expensive fishing trip he took with a billionaire but failed to disclose, and then for flying flags they say are sympathetic to Jan. 6 defendants outside his homes in New Jersey and in Virginia.

Justice Alito rejected the suggestion he should recuse and said his wife, Martha-Ann Alito, flew the flags.

Why an open border means more expensive housing

Many Americans rightly blame the current housing affordability crisis on government for overspending and manipulating interest rates, which drove up prices and made borrowing prohibitively expensive.

But few understand the role the radical left’s open-border policies have played in raising home prices.

As millions of aliens entered the United States illegally over the last 3½ years, they significantly increased housing demand. That was especially true in places where state and local governments gave handouts — in addition to federal funds — to illegal aliens for monthly housing payments.

This dynamic in the housing market has even been recognized by Neel

Kashkari, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. But you don’t need to be a Fed bank president to know that increasing the demand for housing will raise prices; it’s basic economics.

Yet many on the radical left insist that illegal aliens have magically decreased the price of housing in the United States. This fictitious belief relies on the equally dubious assumption that illegal aliens have flooded into residential construction jobs, thereby greatly increasing the supply of homes.

But no empirical evidence has been presented to support the idea that illegal aliens, as opposed to legal immigrants, have surged into residential construction work — it’s a claim with no basis in fact.

How much have 10



million illegal aliens under the Biden administration contributed to greater housing demand and a doubling of the median monthly mortgage payment? To get a sense of the problem’s scope, consider that the millions of illegal aliens (that we know of) entering the country over the last 3½ years exceed the population of at least 40 states, including New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the union.

If all these illegal aliens were placed in a state such as Georgia, Michigan or North Carolina, the state’s

population and housing demand would both roughly double. In a slightly larger state such as Pennsylvania, it would be about an 80% increase.

Anyone who thinks you can explode the demand for housing by 80% to 100% and not cause prices to go through the roof is delusional. For better or worse, every illegal alien has not been funneled into a single state, so the upward pressure on housing prices has been scattered across the country.

While that makes the effect less geographically

acute, the nationwide impact is unchanged: illegal aliens are making housing more expensive for Americans. To add insult to injury, the radical left is using tax dollars to facilitate this atrocity. That means Americans are being forced to pay for the very thing that is helping drive up their own housing costs.

This is just one effect of the radical left’s broader agenda that could best be described as “America Last.” Whether it’s the housing market, labor market or energy market, the liberal ruling class in this country continuously impose policies that impoverish Americans and benefit foreigners, including such enemies as Iran.

That’s not to say the U.S. economy should never benefit anyone not born here. Rather, American politicians should always

be implementing policies that put Americans first. Likewise, the respective politicians in every country around the world should focus on improving the lives of their own citizens, first and foremost.

If Americans want their housing market to stabilize, the flood of illegal aliens across the southern border must cease. Once the bleeding is stanching, authorities can begin removing those who flouted America’s sovereignty.

Such steps are necessary to alleviate excess housing demand, and also to restore the rule of law in our country.

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

AI
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amplify narratives, to sway U.S. public opinion in U.S. swing states, and diminish U.S. support for Ukraine,” a DNI official said. “We’ve also recently observed a Russian influence organization try to appeal to U.S. audiences through encrypted direct messaging channels.”

Although Russia is interested in the presidential contest, intelligence community analysts say China is not planning to influence the outcome because it sees little

gain in choosing between the two major U.S. political parties.

“The [People’s Republic of China] is seeking to expand its ability to collect and monitor data on U.S. social media platforms, probably to better understand and eventually manipulate public opinion,” a DNI official said. “In addition, we are watching for whether China might seek to influence select down-ballot races as it did in the 2022 midterm elections.”

The intelligence community views Iran, in particular, as a “chaos agent” determined to undermine the American public’s

confidence in elections. Iran has demonstrated a long-standing interest in exploiting U.S. political and social tension via social media and other means, DNI said.

Foreign adversaries are not the only ones looking to use AI-powered content to influence American voters’ decisions.

Democratic commentator Kaivan Shroff called for AI-enhanced depictions of President Biden to “clearly articulate his policies” amid mounting questions about the president’s cognitive capabilities after his disastrous June 27 debate with former President Donald Trump.

“These AI-enhanced videos could ensure that the public does not make decisions about the future of our democracy based on an inconveniently timed cough, stray stutter, or healthy but hobbled walk,” Mr. Shroff wrote in HuffPost.

Intelligence community officials said their focus is on foreign adversaries’ influence efforts, not domestic tricksters.

The officials said foreign election influence efforts intend to shape election outcomes or undermine democratic processes. Foreign election interference, meanwhile, involves adversaries

working to degrade or disrupt the nation’s ability to stage an election, accurately record the votes and declare a winner.

“We have not observed any country plan or undertake efforts to degrade or disrupt the U.S.’s ability to hold an election,” a DNI official told reporters.

Sen. Mark R. Warner, Virginia Democrat and chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, has said he is withholding evidence of “quasi-allies” looking to meddle in the November elections but praised U.S. officials for briefing the press on foreign threats.

“Social media, in particular, continues to be a popular vector for foreign covert influence attempts, and our adversaries remain focused on stoking social, racial and political tensions among Americans,” Mr. Warner said in a statement. “The best thing Americans can do to help safeguard our election is avoid succumbing to nefarious foreign efforts to create division and sow chaos.”

Mr. Warner said he was committed to “working with the intelligence community to declassify more information and further increase transparency.”

TODDLERS

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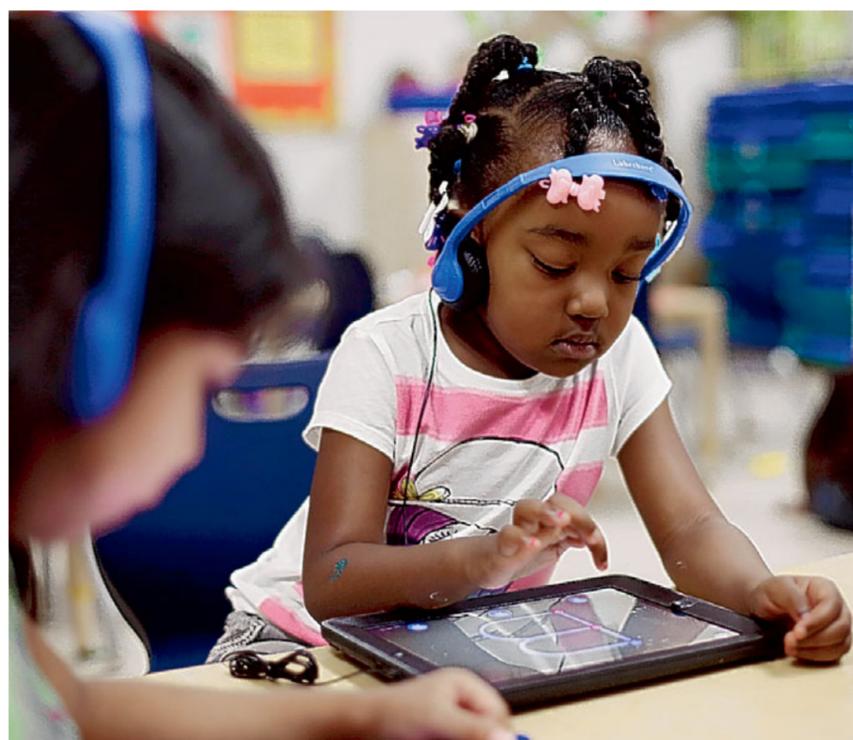
social development,” Dr. Christakis said.

From June 2021 to November 2022, seven researchers compared the behavioral responses of 63 children 18 to 32 months old as they viewed videos of toy play, played with a digital toy, played a digital game app and played with a real toy in a laboratory.

They found that toddlers playing the popular tablet game responded to fewer nonverbal cues for attention from parents. Boys took longer than girls to acknowledge adult behavioral requests. This lack of attention to face-to-face interaction increased with age and among those whose homes reported more social media use.

The researchers published their findings online Wednesday in JAMA Network Open.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children younger than 2 and no more than one hour per day of high-quality programming for children ages 2 to 5.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Touch screens are no substitute for toys for social development, according to a federally funded study. Toddlers playing a popular tablet game responded to fewer nonverbal cues for attention from parents.

No limit has been prescribed for school-age children, but the Mayo Clinic recommends that parents limit social media use and gaming as needed.

Policymakers across the political spectrum have scrambled to address a growing youth mental health crisis linked to increased screen time. Multiple reports have tracked upticks in anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts among young people since pandemic lockdowns shuttered K-12 schools in March 2020.

In an op-ed last month, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy asked Congress to add tobacco-style health warning labels to social media.

Despite the convenience of digital screens, Dr. Murthy pointed in a May 23 advisory to “ample indicators that social media can also pose a risk of harm to the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents.”

Reflecting similar concerns, Florida enacted a law last year to limit student cellphone use in public schools. Indiana and Ohio did the same this year, and many individual school districts have banned phones entirely.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, a Republican, issued an executive order Tuesday directing the commonwealth’s public school systems to restrict nonacademic cellphone use on school grounds by January. His order cited an “alarming mental health crisis.”

Pediatrician Tiffany Munzer, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics, said the study published Wednesday shows “it can be harder” for toddlers using tablet devices to build essential back-and-forth communication skills. She urged parents not to use phones or tablets to calm unruly toddlers because the practice can stunt emotional growth.

“So much of communication for toddlers remains nonverbal and embedded in body language,” said Dr. Munzer, who was not involved in the study.

She disagreed about absolute prohibitions on touch screens for toddlers.

“There can be many positive ways to use a digital device with toddlers,” Dr. Munzer said. “High-quality, educational media have been shown to promote toddler development.”

Nation



ASSOCIATED PRESS

People shield their eyes from the sun along the Las Vegas Strip on Sunday. Used to shrugging off the heat, Las Vegas residents are now eyeing the thermometer as the city set a record for the most consecutive days over 115 degrees amid a lingering hot spell.

WEATHER

Las Vegas hits fifth day in a row of 115 degrees; heat wave scorches U.S.

By **KEN RITTER AND TY O'NEIL**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS | Las Vegas baked Wednesday in its record fifth consecutive day of temperatures sizzling at 115 degrees or greater amid a lengthening hot spell that is expected to broil much of the U.S. into the weekend, the National Weather Service said.

The temperature climbed to 115 degrees shortly after 1 p.m. at Harry Reid International Airport, breaking the old mark of four consecutive days set in July 2005. On Sunday, the heat wave set Las Vegas' all-time temperature record of 120.

Even by desert standards, the prolonged baking that Nevada's largest city is experiencing is nearly unprecedented.

"This is the most extreme heat wave in the history of record-keeping in Las Vegas since 1937," said meteorologist John Adair at the National Weather Service office in southern Nevada.

Keith Bailey and Lee Doss met early Wednesday morning at Las Vegas park to beat the heat and exercise their dogs, Breakie, Ollie and Stanley.

"If I don't get out by 8:30 in the morning, then it's not going to happen that day," Mr. Bailey said, wearing a sun hat while the dogs played in the grass.

Allye Sobosan said this July has been the hottest in the 15 years she has lived in Las Vegas. She said she doesn't step outside during the day if she can help it, and she waits until 9 p.m. or later to walk her dogs.

"It's oppressively hot," she said. "It's like you can't really live your life."

It's also dangerously hot, health officials have emphasized.

There have been at least nine heat-related deaths this year in Clark County, which encompasses Las Vegas, according to the county coroner's office. Officials say the toll is likely higher.

"Even people of average age who are seemingly healthy can suffer heat illness when it's so hot it's hard for your body to cool down," said Alexis Brignola, an epidemiologist at the Southern Nevada Health District.

For homeless residents and others without access to safe environments, officials have set up emergency cooling centers at community centers across southern Nevada.

More than 142 million people around the U.S. were under heat alerts Wednesday, especially in Western states, where dozens of locations tied or broke heat records over the weekend and are expected to keep doing so all week.

Oregon has seen record daily high temperatures, with Portland reaching 103 degrees and Salem and Eugene hitting 105 on Tuesday. The high temperatures are suspected to have caused eight deaths, the state medical examiner's office said. One person was 33, but all the others were age 64 and older.

On the other side of the nation, the National Weather Service warned of major-to-extreme heat risk over portions of the East Coast.

An excessive heat warning remained in place Wednesday for the Philadelphia area, northern Delaware and nearly all of New Jersey. Temperatures were around 90 degrees for most of the region, and forecasters warned the heat index could soar as high as 108.

The heat was blamed for a motorcyclist's death over the weekend in Death Valley National Park. At Death Valley on Tuesday, tourists queued for photos in front of a giant thermometer that was reading 120 degrees.

Simon Pell and Lisa Gregory from London left their air-conditioned RV to experience a midday blast of heat that would be unthinkable back home.

"I wanted to experience what it would feel like," Mr. Pell said. "It's an incredible experience."

NEW MEXICO

Baldwin's defense argues actor 'committed no crime,' was acting on set

Prosecution: He skipped safety checks

By **MORGAN LEE AND ANDREW DALTON**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA FE, N.M. | A defense attorney told jurors Wednesday that the shooting death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was an "unspeakable tragedy" but that "Alec Baldwin committed no crime; he was an actor, acting."

Attorney Alex Spiro emphasized in his opening statement in a Santa Fe courtroom that Mr. Baldwin, who is on trial on an involuntary manslaughter charge, did exactly what actors always do when, on the set of the film "Rust," Hutchins was killed in October 2021.

"I don't have to tell you any more about this, because you've all seen gun-fights in movies," Mr. Spiro said.

Special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson said in her opening statement that before the shooting, Mr. Baldwin skipped safety checks and recklessly handled a revolver.

"The evidence will show that someone who played make-believe with a real gun and violated the cardinal rules of firearm safety is the defendant, Alexander Baldwin," she said.

But Mr. Spiro rebutted in his opening statement that "these cardinal rules, they're not cardinal rules on a movie set."

"On a movie set, safety has to occur before a gun is placed in an actor's hand," he told the jury.

The first witness to take the stand was the first law enforcement officer to arrive at Bonanza Creek Ranch after the shooting.

Video shown in the courtroom from the body camera of Nicholas LeFleur, then a Santa Fe county sheriff's deputy, captured the frantic efforts to save Hutchins, who looked unconscious as several people attended to her and gave her an oxygen mask. In the courtroom, Mr. Baldwin looked at the screen somberly as it played.

Later in the video, Officer LeFleur can be seen telling Mr. Baldwin not to speak



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actor Alec Baldwin faces a single charge of involuntary manslaughter in the 2021 death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the movie "Rust."

to the other potential witnesses, but the actor repeatedly does.

When special prosecutor Kari Morrissey asked whether the sheriff's deputy handled the situation ideally, he responded: "Probably not. But it's what happened."

Mr. Spiro pressed Officer LeFleur on why he left the word "accidental" out of his description of the shooting call during his questioning by the prosecution. Officer LeFleur said it was not intentional.

He also acknowledged that in a pre-trial interview he said the circumstances of the scene suggested that Mr. Baldwin's actions were unintentional.

Ms. Johnson in her opening walked the jurors through the events leading up to Hutchins' death.

She said that on that day, Mr. Baldwin declined multiple opportunities for standard safety checks with armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed before the rehearsal in the small church about 20 miles from the courthouse where Hutchins, "a vibrant 42-year-old rising star," was killed.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Biden administration sued for dropping antisemitism complaint against university

By **VALERIE RICHARDSON**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights was hit with a lawsuit for dropping an antisemitism complaint against the University of Pennsylvania, the latest sign of mounting frustration over what Jewish groups describe as the agency's lackluster response to anti-Jewish hostility on campus.

The Brandeis Center accused the OCR in its motion filed Tuesday of violating its own rules in its "arbitrary and capricious" dismissal on Jan. 2 of an antisemitism complaint lodged against the university in Philadelphia.

The lawsuit filed in federal court seeks to have the agency reinstate the complaint and resume its investigation into Penn, as well as reinstate "all other OCR investigations unlawfully dismissed under Section 110 since October 7, 2023."

"They are dumping some cases that should be pursued, like the University of Pennsylvania case and University of California, Berkeley case, and when they are issuing resolution agreements, they're neither as strong nor as specific as they could be," Kenneth Marcus, founder and chairman of the Brandeis Center, told The Washington Times.

Mr. Marcus, who headed the OCR under Presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump, said "it gives me no pleasure to sue the Biden OCR, given that we have so many cases before the agency."

Others are similarly frustrated. The Zionist Organization of America blasted the OCR's recent agreement resolving a complaint against the City University of New York, which included providing training to employees and campus officers investigating harassment; conducting a student "climate survey," and reviewing its antisemitism policies.

"The small steps called for in the

resolution agreement are not sufficient to fix the many antisemitism problems that the ZOA documented in detail going back to 2016," said the organization in a June 20 statement. "Jewish students were unsafe then and they are unsafe today."

Jonathan Tobin, editor-in-chief of the Jewish News Service, called the CUNY agreement "barely a slap on the wrist."

"The CUNY settlement is more evidence that those institutions that bend the knee to the antisemites are unlikely to face any repercussions from the federal government," he said in a June 24 op-ed headlined "Federal probes of campus antisemitism have flopped."

Certainly the department has its hands full. Since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack, more than 100 shared-ancestry complaints have been filed with the agency, the vast majority of which are believed to involve antisemitism.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona praised the office's work in announcing the June 17 resolution agreements with CUNY and the University of Michigan, saying they "mark a positive step forward."

"The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights continues to hold schools accountable for compliance with civil rights standards, including by investigating allegations of discrimination or harassment based on shared Jewish ancestry and shared Palestinian or Muslim ancestry," Mr. Cardona said.

Catherine Lhamon, DOE assistant secretary for civil rights, said the fully executed CUNY agreement will "ensure that its students may learn in the non-discriminatory environment federal law promises to them."

Mr. Marcus disagreed, saying that the assistant secretary has "done some very good outreach toward the Jewish community, but the action that OCR is taking on antisemitism complaints is less than it should be."

"Not only have some of their resolution agreements been weak, but they're not even addressing some of the cases that they are legally compelled to address," he said. "In the middle of an antisemitism crisis, OCR is dismissing some cases even where it does not permit it."

In its Jan. 2 notice dropping the Penn investigation, the office said its rules allow dismissing a complaint when a parallel class-action lawsuit has been filed in federal court.

No such filing has been made against Penn, but the notice said the requirement was fulfilled by an antisemitism lawsuit brought by two undergraduates that contained "the same allegations" and also sought "systemic relief."

"There was no class action lawsuit at the University of Penn or University of California at Berkeley," Mr. Marcus said. "OCR claims that the rationale for dismissal is that the allegations are systemic, but that's not what the rule says. The rule says 'class action.'"

The Washington Times has reached out to the department for comment on the lawsuit.

The motion filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia cited a host of anti-Jewish incidents at Penn before and after Oct. 7, including a rally sponsored by the student group Penn Against the Occupation to "cheer for Hamas."

At the Oct. 16 rally, a speaker told Jews to "go back to Moscow, Brooklyn ... f---ing Berlin where you came from" and a participant shoved a Jewish student to the ground. The campus has also seen graffiti such as "The Jews R Nazis," "F--- the IDF," and "Intifada."

A Hillel rabbi said some Penn staffers received "vile, disturbing, antisemitic" emails. Penn lecturer Dwayne Booth was accused of antisemitism for cartoons posted on his personal website, including a drawing of three individuals drinking blood out of a glass labeled "Gaza."

MONTANA

GOP urges state's top court to overturn climate ruling

Say judges can't solve global problem

By **MATTHEW BROWN**AND **AMY BETH HANSON**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, MONT. | Attorneys for Republican officials in Montana pressed the state Supreme Court on Wednesday to overturn a landmark ruling that said regulators were violating residents' constitutional right to a clean environment by allowing oil, gas and coal projects without regard for climate change.

Last year's ruling by a state district judge was considered a breakthrough in attempts by young environmentalists and their attorneys to use courts to leverage action on climate change. It must be upheld by the state's high court to set lasting legal precedent.

Attorneys for state officials, including Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte, told justices Wednesday that greenhouse gases from Montana are insignificant on a global scale.

They also argued that climate change is too broad a problem to solve through the courts and noted that state law prohibits the denial of fossil-fuel projects based on their carbon dioxide emissions.

"Global climate change is a complex issue that can't be solved by a judicial decision," state attorney Dale Schowengardt said.

Arguing on behalf of the plaintiffs, attorney Roger Sullivan recounted trial testimony from scientists that every ton of greenhouse gases emitted exacerbates climate change.

"The temperature goes up day by day," Mr. Sullivan said. "If nothing is done, it will be much hotter 50 years from now, when these young plaintiffs are my age, because of this climate emergency to which the state of Montana is a substantial contributing factor."

The seven justices took the case under advisement. A decision could take months.

If the ruling stands, it could nudge fossil fuel-friendly Montana to adopt policies more protective to the environment and potentially influence future climate litigation in other states such as Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, which like Montana have state constitutional protections for the environment.

"The bottom line is whatever the state Supreme Court decides, it's more likely to have an influence," said Syracuse University professor David Driesen, an expert on environmental law. "Other states that have those provisions will consider it. They don't have to follow it."

Officials in Hawaii who faced a similar lawsuit from young environmentalists recently agreed to a settlement that includes an ambitious requirement to decarbonize the state's transportation system over the next 21 years. And in April, Europe's highest human rights court ruled that countries must better protect their people from the consequences of climate change, siding with a group of older Swiss women against their government in a ruling with potential implications across the continent.

Those cases and the Montana lawsuit have resulted in a small number of rulings establishing a government "duty to protect" citizens from climate change. Mr. Driesen said the effects of the litigation on energy policies have been largely indirect, but as the rulings accumulate, it could increase political pressure on energy companies to invest in cleaner technologies.

The young plaintiffs in the case testified at trial that their lives have been profoundly affected by climate change: that worsening wildfires foul the air they breathe, while decreased snowpack and drought deplete rivers that sustain farming, fish, wildlife and recreation.

SPACE

Astronauts express confidence Boeing capsule will take them home

By Marcia Dunn
ASSOCIATED PRESS

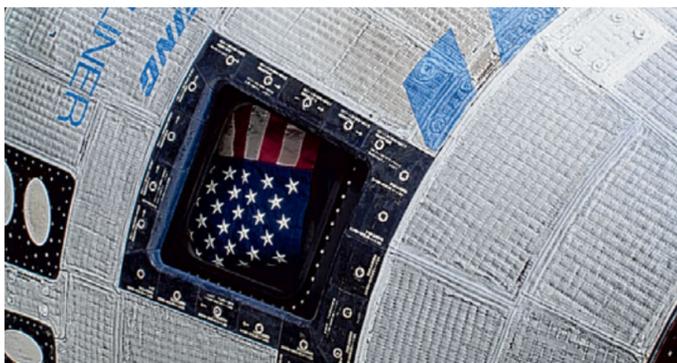
CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. | Two astronauts who should have been back on Earth weeks ago said Wednesday that they're confident that Boeing's space capsule can return them safely, despite a string of vexing breakdowns.

NASA test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams launched aboard Boeing's new Starliner capsule early last month, the first people to ride it.

Helium leaks and thruster failures almost derailed their arrival at the International Space Station, and have kept them there much longer than planned. Now the earliest they could return may be the end of July, officials said.

In their first news conference from orbit, the pair said they expect to return once thruster testing is complete on Earth. They said they're not complaining about getting extra time in orbit, and are enjoying helping the station crew.

Both have previously spent stints at the orbiting lab, which is also home to



Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams launched aboard Boeing's Starliner capsule early last month. However, failures delayed their arrival at the International Space Station and have kept them there much longer than planned.

seven others.
"I have a real good feeling in my heart that the spacecraft will bring us home, no problem," Ms. Williams told reporters.
The test flight should have lasted

eight days, ending on June 14.
NASA's commercial crew program director Steve Stich said the earliest the Starliner astronauts might return is the end of July. The goal is to get them back

before SpaceX delivers a fresh crew in mid-August, but that, too, could change, he noted.

This week, NASA and Boeing are trying to duplicate the Starliner's thruster problems on a brand new unit at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, one of the prime landing sites in the U.S. western desert. The trouble is in the propulsion system, used to maneuver the spacecraft.

Five thrusters failed as the capsule approached the space station on June 6, a day after liftoff. Four have since been reactivated.

Mr. Wilmore said there should be enough working thrusters to get him and Ms. Williams out of orbit. There are also bigger engines that could fill in, if necessary.

"That mantra you've heard, failure is not an option, that's why we are staying here now," he said. "We trust that the tests that we're doing are the ones we need to do to get the right answers, to give us the data that we need to come back."

Boeing and NASA consider the

ground tests essential to determine what might have gone wrong since that part of the capsule — the service module — is discarded before landing. The leaks also are located in this disposable section.

So far, testing has not replicated the hot temperatures reached during the flight, according to Mr. Stich.

Managers want to make sure the suspect thrusters are not damaged, before bringing Starliner back. They were fired more frequently than anticipated early in the flight, and the extra demand on them may have caused them to fail, Mr. Stich noted.

At the same time, ground tests are being conducted to understand better the helium leaks, which could stem from bad seals. Officials have previously said there is ample helium left for the trip home.

Boeing's Mark Nappi stressed that in an emergency, Starliner and its crew could return right now.

While the company does not believe the thrusters are damaged, "we want to fill in the blanks and run this test to assure ourselves of that," he said.

NEW YORK

MS-13 leader admits ordering murders in Long Island suburb

CENTRAL ISLIP | A leader of an MS-13 gang in New York pleaded guilty Wednesday to racketeering in a case involving eight murders, including the 2016 killings of two high school girls who were hacked and beaten as they strolled through their leafy, suburban neighborhood on Long Island.

Alexi Saenz, 29, said little as he entered the plea in federal court in Central Islip.

His lawyer read a statement in which Saenz admitted ordering or approving the killings of perceived rivals and people who had disrespected or feuded with members of his clique.

Those victims included Kayla Cuevas, 16, and Nisa Mickens, 15, lifelong friends and classmates at Brentwood High School who were killed with a machete and a baseball bat by a group of young men and teenage boys who had stalked them in a car.

The deaths of the high school students focused the nation's attention on MS-13 gang violence during President

Trump's administration.

Mr. Trump had called for the death penalty for Saenz and others in the killings and blamed the deaths and gang growth on lax immigration policies.

— Associated Press

TEXAS

Frustration at utility mounts as Houstonians still lack power

HOUSTON | Pressure mounted Wednesday on Houston's power utility as millions of residents still had no power nearly three days after Hurricane Beryl made landfall, stoking questions over how a city that is all too familiar with destructive weather did not better withstand a Category 1 storm.

With frustration growing as Houston residents spent another sweltering day in search for places to cool off.

Mayor John Whitmire bluntly called on the utility to do a better job. "That's the consensus of Houstonians. That's mine," he said.

Power outages peaked at 2.7 million customers after Beryl made landfall Monday, according to PowerOutage.us. As of late Wednesday afternoon there

BRIEFLY THE NATION

were 1.6 million customers without power in the Houston area, including 1.3 million CenterPoint customers.
— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Menendez lawyer uses closing to blast overreaching state

NEW YORK | Sen. Robert Menendez's lawyer cited patriotism as a reason to acquit his client Wednesday, telling a federal jury that it would be a "win for this country" if it rejects the government's bribery case.

"The United States wins when thin cases brought by overzealous prosecutors are rejected," attorney Adam Fee told the Manhattan federal court jury as it heard closing arguments.

When Mr. Fee finished his closing, Menendez shook his hand. As Mr. Menendez left the courthouse,

the senator told reporters: "We have stripped away the government's false narratives and exposed their lies."

The jury was expected to begin deliberations sometime Thursday after the judge instructs them on the law following closing arguments.
— Associated Press

NEW YORK

Judge likely to deprive Giuliani of bankruptcy protection

NEW YORK | A judge said Wednesday he was leaning toward throwing out Rudolph W. Giuliani's bankruptcy case after lawyers for the cash-strapped former New York mayor and his biggest creditors — two ex-Georgia election workers who won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him — agreed this was the best way forward.

The case has been roiled by creditors' allegations that Mr. Giuliani is flouting bankruptcy laws and potentially hiding assets.

A dismissal would end his pursuit of bankruptcy protection, and his creditors could pursue other legal remedies to recoup at least some of the money

they're owed, such as getting a court order to seize his homes and assets.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane said scheduled a hearing for 1 p.m. Friday and could make his ruling then.
— Associated Press

CALIFORNIA

Intuit announces layoffs, says AI shift will lead to hires

Tax preparation and financial software company Intuit announced an AI-focused reorganization plan Wednesday that includes laying off about 10% of its workforce.

The Mountain View, California-based company behind QuickBooks and TurboTax said it was laying off 1,800 employees, but that it expects to hire at least that many in fiscal 2025 as it accelerates its focus on incorporating artificial intelligence into its products and services.

In an email to employees, CEO Sasan Goodarzi said more than 1,000 of the layoffs were employees that were not meeting the company's elevated expectations.
— Associated Press

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World

ISRAEL

Israel tells Palestinians to leave Gaza City

Military launches offensive; dozens die

By WAFSA SHURAF AND SAMY MAGDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEIR AL-BALAH, GAZA STRIP | The Israeli military urged all Palestinians to leave Gaza City and head south Wednesday, pressing ahead with a fresh offensive across the north, south and center of the embattled territory that has killed dozens of people over the past 48 hours.

The stepped-up military activity came as U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators met with Israeli officials in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks seeking a long-elusive cease-fire deal with Gaza's Hamas militant group in exchange for the release of dozens of Israeli hostages it is holding.

Israel says it is pursuing Hamas fighters that are regrouping in various parts of Gaza nine months into the war. But heavy strikes in recent days along the length of the territory also could be aimed at putting more pressure on Hamas in the cease-fire talks.

In a visit Wednesday to central Gaza, Israel's military chief, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, said forces were operating in different ways, in multiple parts of the territory "to carry out a very important

mission: pressure. We will continue operating to bring home the hostages."

Israel informed people in Gaza of the evacuation order by dropping leaflets urging "all those in Gaza City" to take two "safe routes" south to the area around the central town of Deir al-Balah. Gaza City, it said, will "remain a dangerous combat zone."

Months ago, Israel ordered residents of northern Gaza, including Gaza City, to flee south, and much of the population left earlier in the war. Large parts of Gaza City and urban areas around it have been flattened or left a shattered landscape by previous Israeli assaults.

The United Nations says about 300,000 Palestinians have remained in the hard-hit north, with the bulk of those said to be in Gaza City.

Most of Gaza's 2.3 million people are crammed into squalid tent camps in central and southern Gaza.

Israeli troops have pushed into parts of Gaza City in recent days, triggering the flight of thousands of Palestinians trying to escape shelling and airstrikes. This past week, the military ordered Palestinians to evacuate from eastern and central parts of the city.



Israel says it's pursuing Hamas fighters and on Wednesday ordered all Palestinians to leave Gaza City. Israel's military has pressed ahead and killed dozens of people over the past 48 hours. There was no immediate mass exodus following the order.

There was no immediate mass exodus from the city following Wednesday's order. Many Palestinians have concluded that there is no refuge in war-stricken Gaza.

The military, meanwhile, said it wrapped up an operation launched late last month in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shijaiyah, where it killed dozens of militants and destroyed eight underground tunnels.

Wednesday's evacuation order came after a series of deadly strikes over the past two days in other parts of the territory. Israeli bombardment early Wednesday hit four houses in Deir al-Balah and the nearby Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 20 Palestinians.

Among the dead were six children and three women, according to officials at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the

casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter counted the bodies. The house hit in Deir al-Balah was inside the "humanitarian safe zone" where Israel has told Palestinians to flee for refuge.

In nine months of bombardment and offensives in Gaza, Israel has killed more than 38,200 people and wounded more than 88,000, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count. Nearly the entire population has been driven from their homes. Many have been displaced multiple times.

During the Oct. 7 raid, militants killed 1,200 people in southern Israel, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities. The militants took roughly 250 people hostage. About 120 are still in captivity, with about a third said to be dead.

BRIEFLY

THE WORLD

IRAQ

Wife of terrorist al-Baghdadi sentenced to death by court

BAGHDAD | An Iraqi court issued a death sentence against one of the wives of the late brutal Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, alleging that she was complicit in crimes committed against Yazidi women captured by the militant group, the country's judiciary announced Wednesday.

The ruling comes weeks before the 10-year mark since IS launched a series of attacks against the Yazidi religious minority in the northern Iraqi region of Sinjar in early August 2014, killing and capturing thousands — including women and girls who were subjected to human trafficking and sexual abuse. The United Nations said the campaign against the Yazidis amounted to genocide.

A statement by Iraq's judicial council said the Karkh Criminal Court sentenced the woman for "detaining Yazidi women in her home" and facilitating their kidnapping by "the terrorist (Islamic State group) gangs in Sinjar district." It also said the ruling was issued in accordance with Iraq's anti-terrorism law and its "Yazidi survivors law."

The statement did not name the defendant, but two court officials identified her as Asma Mohammed, who was arrested in 2018 in Turkey and later extradited. A senior Iraqi security official told The Associated Press that another wife of al-Baghdadi and his daughter, who were also extradited from Turkey to Iraq, had been sentenced to life in prison.

— Associated Press

EL SALVADOR

Hundreds of prisoners died in crackdown, says rights group

SAN SALVADOR | The human rights organization Cristosal said Wednesday that at least 261 people have died in prisons in El Salvador during President Nayib Bukele's 2½-year-old crackdown on street gangs.

Under a state of emergency declared in 2022 and still in effect, Mr. Bukele's government has rounded up 81,110 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live. The government has had to release about 7,000 people because of a lack of evidence.

The group said in a report that, as of April 15, 88 of the 261 deaths "may have been the result of a criminal act," though it did not specify what those acts may have been. The report said 87 of the deaths were due to illnesses, 14 were apparently "acts of violence" and no cause could be immediately identified for the other 72.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to the report.

While the government is accused of committing mass human rights abuses in the crackdown, Mr. Bukele himself remains highly popular in El Salvador because homicide rates sharply dipped after the detentions.

— Associated Press

BRITAIN

Suspect arrested in killings of popular BBC host's family

LONDON | British police said they found Wednesday the man suspected of killing the wife and two daughters of a well-known BBC radio commentator near London in a brutal crossbow attack.

In a statement, Hertfordshire Police said 26-year-old Kyle Clifford has been found in the Enfield area of north London, near his home, and that he is receiving medical treatment for his injuries. Police did not say how those injuries happened but said they had not fired any shots.

The BBC confirmed that the women killed were the family of John Hunt — his 61-year-old wife, Carol Hunt, and their daughters Louise and Hannah, aged 25 and 28, respectively.

Footage from Sky News showed the suspect being carried on a stretcher out of Lavender Hill Cemetery in Enfield, which is around 17 miles east of the site of the killings.

Armed police officers, forensic personnel and ambulance staff had massed around the cemetery through the day.

The public had been urged not to approach Mr. Clifford, who the BBC reported had been in the British Army for a brief period of service in 2022.

— Associated Press

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CEO refuses to answer on report of VOA corruption

By BILL GERTZ
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The chief executive in charge of overseeing official U.S. broadcast outlets declined to answer questions about corruption at the Voice of America that House Foreign Affairs Committee investigators say they uncovered during a probe of the agency.

Amanda Bennett, chief executive of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), rebuffed multiple questions from Republicans at a charged House subcommittee hearing that focused in part on the case of Setarah Sieg, a Persian language manager at the Voice of America. Ms. Sieg was fired near the end of the Trump administration and rehired weeks after President Biden took office.

An investigative report by the full committee made public last month reported that Ms. Sieg had falsified her resume and misused taxpayer funds while managers at federal broadcaster agencies sought to cover up the activities.

Full Committee Chairman Michael McCaul, Texas Republican, said Tuesday that "serious problems" remain at USAGM after the committee report exposed what it stated was "corruption" among USAGM and VOA managers. Insiders within the Voice of America, which is overseen by USAGM, initially contacted committee Democrats but were ignored, Mr. McCaul said.

"The whistleblowers alleged wide-ranging abuses, including that Ms. Sieg frequently berated staff, used taxpayer funds for personal travel, awarded government contracts to friends, falsified her education credentials, and engaged in a

USAGM's Bennett sidesteps critics on fired Persian service manager's rehiring

pattern of favoritism," Mr. McCaul said during the hearing of panel's subcommittee on oversight and accountability.

"Additionally, this committee worked closely with the French Embassy, which informed the committee back in 2021 that Ms. Sieg did not attend the prestigious Sorbonne — as she had claimed — and she does not hold a Ph.D. or an equivalent."

Ms. Sieg, through her lawyer, has denied the allegations.

Mr. McCaul said the problems were uncovered three years ago, but "USAGM still refuses to accept the facts."

Under questioning from subcommittee Republicans, Ms. Bennett repeatedly declined to explain why Ms. Sieg was rehired and denied allegations that an estimated \$1 million in taxpayer money was misused.

"That whole issue has been thoroughly overseen... over a period of three years," Ms. Bennett said when asked why Ms. Sieg was rehired. "It's really inappropriate to talk about personnel issues in an open forum like this."

"Ma'am, it's taxpayer money. It's very appropriate for us to talk about it," said Rep. Tim Burchett, Tennessee Republican. "The Privacy Act does not apply to Congress and these were taxpayer monies."

Mr. Burchett said Ms. Sieg mishandled \$1 million of VOA money and asked Ms. Bennett if that was not viewed as a firing offense.

Ms. Bennett replied that USAGM's own investigation found the charges to be "without merit."

A Jan. 5, 2021, letter to Ms. Sieg announcing her removal from VOA stated that she had "misused and wasted \$950,000 in agency funds."

The USAGM chief also refused to say whether Ms. Sieg falsely claimed to have graduated from France's prestigious Sorbonne University with a doctorate.

"Then let the record show that she did not have it and that ... she lied about it," said acting subcommittee Chairman Darrell Issa, California Republican.

Ms. Bennett also defended VOA from critics who uncovered an official email sent to broadcasters directing them not to identify Hamas as a terrorist organization after the Oct. 7 massacre in Israel.

"That was a personal opinion by someone that circulated around. It was not by any means the policy," Ms. Bennett said, adding that the memo was meant to signal broadcasters "to be careful" in using the word "terrorist."

But Mr. Issa, the acting subcommittee chair, introduced into the record an email from Carol Guensburg, VOA's associate editor for news standards and best practices, that contradicted Ms. Bennett. The email stated that all on-air and online coverage should "avoid calling Hamas and its members terrorists, except in quotes."

Mr. Issa said when his office exposed the policy, VOA inaccurately claimed it

had clarified the matter.

"We had an opportunity to faithfully and truthfully report the brutal attacks by terrorists, and we squandered that opportunity to reach millions of people who may have been receptive to that message," he said. "USAGM's leadership has allowed the agency, particularly VOA, to drift into becoming another mainstream media news organization, indistinguishable from NPR and others."

Ms. Bennett said the directive was later modified.

Rep. Scott Perry, Pennsylvania Republican said problems at government broadcasters were much broader, including what he said were decades-long security problems, partisan bias, improper hiring practices and abuse of visas.

"So, you'll forgive us if we remain skeptical of USAGM's competence and trustworthiness," he said.

The full committee report on USAGM said the agency sought to cover the mishandling of the Sieg case as an example of "corruption at USAGM" and efforts by the agency to sidestep congressional oversight.

Mr. McCaul said when the report was released earlier this month that Ms. Sieg should be removed from her VOA post immediately. Ms. Bennett said in response to the committee report that the agency rejects charges that its internal probe of Ms. Sieg was politicized, corrupt, or mismanaged.

The USAGM chief testified along with newly installed VOA Director Michael Abramowitz and Steve Capus, president of U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

INDIA

Modi's friendly visit to Moscow poses conundrum for U.S.

By ANDREW SALMON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

It is one of the biggest conundrums facing U.S. foreign policy strategists: The world's biggest democracy, while postured against China, embraces Russia.

While the leaders of Japan, South Korea and New Zealand huddled in Washington with their North American and European counterparts on the sidelines of the NATO summit, Indian President Narendra Modi wrapped up two days with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Mr. Modi traveled on to Vienna on Wednesday for meetings with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, leaving Mr. Putin with some grounds for satisfaction.

While the summit did not gain the

extraordinary global coverage of Mr. Putin's trip to North Korea last month, the optics were good: The two men hugged at one point and were filmed on an amicable visit to Mr. Putin's private stables.

Meanwhile, the deals done offered the Russian leader another breach in the wall of economic sanctions that a frustrated West has sought to erect around his economy as a response to the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The summit was "historic and game-changing," Russia's charge d'affaires Roman Babushkin told Indian media on Wednesday.

Indian has expanded its consumption of Russian oil and gas — at discounted prices — and deals were signed to increase sales.

Discussions were also held on the sale of Russian coal. The two countries agreed to settle international payments using their respective currencies, bypassing the U.S. dollar.

Another agreement was signed on space cooperation — India this year

soft-landed a probe on the moon, while a similar Russian effort failed.

India has historically acquired the bulk of its arms from Russia, and last week, a Moscow manufacturer revealed a joint project with India to manufacture ammunition for India's T72 and T90 tanks.

However, Moscow's armorers are now working all out to supply troops in Ukraine and despite the summit, the status of one major bilateral deal remains unclear. India has reportedly ordered six squadrons of Russian S-400 air defense missiles, though only four have been delivered so far.

While India under Mr. Modi has declined to criticize Russia's invasion of Ukraine or condemn it in United Nations votes, Mr. Putin did not escape the summit completely unscathed when the Indian leader made an oblique but pointed reference to the war.

"When innocent children are killed, the heart bleeds and that pain is very terrifying," Mr. Modi said — a pointed reference to a Russian missile strike on

Kyiv's Children's Hospital on Monday. "A solution is not possible on the battlefield. I assure you that India and the global community favors peace."

Mr. Putin maintained his customary poker face while listening, but smiled and nodded in response to Mr. Modi's comments.

India's energy partnership with Russia meant India could control the sharp global hikes in oil and diesel prices, Mr. Modi said, "and help the citizens of our country by providing them with stability for which I would like to express our gratitude."

Western officials — which have cultivate India as a counterweight to a rising China in Asia — have been careful not to criticize India's relationship with Russian in public.

"India is a strategic partner with whom we engage in a full and frank dialogue, and that includes on our concerns about the relationship with Russia," U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters this week when asked about Mr. Modi's visit to the Kremlin.



Modi

NATO

From page A1

he added.

Questions about Ukraine's future and NATO's support as Russian forces have made small but steady progress in recent months have dominated the three-day summit.

Mr. Biden hopes to use the summit's high-profile diplomacy to address mounting questions about his physical and mental stamina. He has scheduled a rare solo press conference for Thursday as the summit wraps up.

Although the term "irreversible" appears to ensure that Kyiv will become part of the alliance after it meets required democratic, economic and security reforms, the move falls short of an immediate NATO membership offer that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been seeking. The declaration also does not detail the specific steps that Ukraine must accomplish before it can become part of NATO.

"We reaffirm that we will be in a position to extend an invitation to Ukraine to join the alliance when allies agree, and conditions are met," the statement said. "The summit decisions by NATO and the NATO-Ukraine Council, combined with allies' ongoing work, constitute a bridge to Ukraine's membership in NATO."

Mr. Stoltenberg said the NATO leaders had agreed on a financial package for Ukraine and an organizational restructuring. It was seen partly as a way to preserve the alliance's institutional support for Ukraine even if Mr. Biden loses to Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November election. NATO's European command will oversee international security assistance to Kyiv, Mr. Stoltenberg said, under a command led by a three-star general and hundreds of dedicated personnel in Germany and across Eastern Europe.

The summit communique declared that "Ukraine's future is in NATO" and that alliance members "will continue to support it on its irreversible path to full Euro-Atlantic integration,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters that he expects the alliance to agree to a "substantial package" for Ukraine.

including NATO membership."

Giedrimas Jeglinskas, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and a former deputy defense minister in Lithuania, said NATO must provide Ukraine with a "credible" path to membership.

"Ukraine's long-term security is impossible without membership in the world's most powerful military alliance, while Europe's security cannot be guaranteed without Ukraine in NATO," he said. "Statements from leaders of NATO member states that they will do 'whatever it takes' to support Kyiv are no longer sufficient. Real steps to absorb Ukraine into the NATO family are needed."

The communique also took a surprisingly blunt tone by criticizing China. The U.S. government has accused China of helping support Russia's defense industry, though Beijing insists it is neutral in the war and has offered a vague peace plan.

The NATO leaders criticized China as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine and expressed concerns about China's rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal and its capabilities in space.

"We call on the [People's Republic of China], as a permanent

member of the United Nations Security Council with a particular responsibility to uphold the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, to cease all material and political support to Russia's war effort," the summit document read.

Building up NATO

Mr. Stoltenberg, who is stepping down after a decade in the top NATO job, said alliance members are providing forces to the command at a scale not seen in decades. More than 500,000 military personnel are in high readiness throughout Europe.

Mr. Stoltenberg noted that plans also include integrating new ballistic missile defense sites in Poland into NATO's missile control system.

"The most important thing is that we now see that allies are stepping up when it comes to defense investments," he said.

Only three NATO countries spent at least 2% of their gross domestic product on the military in 2014, when the allies agreed this should be the bare minimum. Mr. Stoltenberg said 23 member states will hit that mark this year.

"This makes a big difference and demonstrates that allies are

taking security extremely seriously," he said. "Those allies that are not yet there plan to be at 2% soon."

Wednesday was NATO leaders' first full working day in Washington, including the debut on the international stage of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The onetime human rights lawyer told fellow NATO leaders that his Labor government would continue the support for Ukraine that London provided under the Conservative government.

Mr. Starmer met with Mr. Biden and Mr. Zelenskyy, reaffirming his strong support for Ukraine against Russia. NATO is "clear-eyed about the threat of Russian aggression," Mr. Starmer told the Ukrainian leader while revealing his government has given Kyiv a long-sought green light to use British Storm Shadow missiles, with a range of 155 miles, on targets inside Russian territory.

British press reports said Mr. Starmer was presenting to Mr. Biden a jersey from his favorite Arsenal soccer team during their one-on-one meeting.

Shoring up production

NATO countries were moving

to shore up their weapons production capabilities as a hedge against the uncertain U.S. presidential election. They signed a nearly \$700 million contract for more Stinger missiles and pledged to boost their own defense production. Ukraine announced the opening of a small government defense office in Washington as it monitors the U.S. campaign debate over the war.

Mr. Stoltenberg told reporters he expects the alliance to agree to a "substantial package" for Ukraine. The package will include a new military command to provide security assistance and training. Kyiv will also receive immediate military support, including air defense systems.

Several NATO states are signing bilateral security agreements with Ukraine. Norway separately announced it was making six of the Nordic nation's F-16 fighter jets available to the Ukrainian military by the end of the year.

"These elements constitute a strong bridge for Ukraine to membership in the alliance," Mr. Stoltenberg said. "I'm confident that the allies will recommit themselves to Ukraine becoming a member of NATO."

As he has done in the past when asked about a NATO member's domestic political situation, Mr. Stoltenberg steered clear of comments from Mr. Trump that allies were delinquent before he pressured them to pay up when he was president. The NATO head said bipartisan support for the alliance is in Congress and among the American public. Washington will remain a "strong and staunch" NATO ally regardless of the outcome of this year's presidential election, he added.

"It is in the U.S. security interest to have a strong NATO. [It] is good for Europe, but it is also good for the United States," he said. "It makes the United States stronger and safer because in NATO it has what no other major power has: allies."

The vote of confidence in Ukraine and the promise of NATO membership was welcome news to Mariia Hlyten, who was participating in a pro-Ukrainian rally outside the hall where alliance leaders had gathered. Ukraine Rally D.C. has been on the streets since virtually the start of the war in February 2022, seeking U.S. and Western aid in the battle to turn back Russia's aggression.

Ms. Hlyten said she had come all the way from Ukraine to show her support and demand change after witnessing the war's destruction firsthand.

"I was there when the war broke out. I was in Kyiv during the bombing in my basement for about a week. And then me and my family went to the suburbs and got occupied, so we could not get access to food, water, medical supplies, anything," she said. She noted the summit was being held just as news was breaking that a Russian missile had hit a children's hospital in her hometown, killing at least 31 people, including some of the young patients at the facility.

Ms. Hlyten said her family sent her pictures of the missiles that flew above their heads just moments before the attack.

"I'm here to advocate for them and for all the fellow citizens of my country," she said.

• Lizzy Donker contributed to this report.

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INSIDE THE RING

BY BILL GERTZ

OFFICIAL WARNS OF ATTACK ON TAIWAN

An influential Chinese government official and academic is warning that the People's Liberation Army may soon launch a military assault on Taiwan as part of Beijing's drive to take over the self-ruled island.

Jin Canrong, a professor at Renmin University and an adviser to China's rubber-stamp national legislature, said in a recent article that peaceful options for uniting the mainland with Taiwan are fading.

"The reality is that [our] hope for peaceful reunification is dwindling. Thus, we need to prepare ourselves for reunification through non-peaceful means," he said. "This includes military and economic preparations as well as preparations with regards to our domestic politics and [gaining] international understanding. All of these require serious work."

Considered an ultranationalist and a harsh critic of the United States, Mr. Jin's comments reflect official Chinese Communist Party policy.

Mr. Jin, who also advises several government bodies in Beijing, serves up daily commentaries in Chinese media and online platforms that could not be circulated without the ruling Communist Party's support and approval, given the regime's high-technology censorship system.

Mr. Jin's latest missive, published June 22 in the hawkish party-affiliated outlet Guancha.cn, argues that China's economic problems and financial dependencies will render military action difficult. Those problems only add to the challenge for China's military of carrying out an amphibious assault across the 100-mile-wide Taiwan Strait.

China's military has increased pressure on Taiwan since the inauguration of Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te on May 20. Shortly after, Chinese forces released an online video that included an animation of simulated attacks on Taiwan.

Mr. Jin said military readiness is the key to assault preparations. The recent "Joint Sword 2024A" military exercises were notable in that the drills were unannounced, took place over a larger area around Taiwan, and used more troops than past exercises, he said.

"Realistically speaking, the means currently employed by the [Chinese military's] eastern theater command are already sufficient," he said.

He said the military is working to resolve the challenges of carrying out an operation across the forbidding strait.

"Of course, I also believe that our PLA has many undisclosed strategies and that they are

LAWMAKER WARNS PENTAGON ON CHINA'S MARITIME ACTIONS

Recent incidents of Chinese coast guard harassment toward the Philippines, Taiwan and other regional states require a stronger U.S. response, Rep. Michelle Steel said in a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

"I write to express my grave concerns about escalating tensions in the South and East China Seas; particularly the recent incidents involving the Chinese Communist Party's aggression towards the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia," the California Republican wrote in the July 10 letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Times. "These coordinated incursions demand immediate and comprehensive international attention."

China has deployed its coast guard to confront Philippines supply boats near a grounded ship used as a military base near Second Thomas Shoal. Beijing says the base is in its territory, but its actions undermine Manila's sovereignty and are destabilizing the region, Ms. Steel said.

A member of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, Ms. Steel said Chinese coast guard personnel used knives, sticks and axes to threaten and attack Philippine soldiers in one especially dangerous encounter.

Farther north, Chinese coast guard personnel used noise weapons against a Taiwanese fishing boat that was forced to dock at a mainland port.



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Rep. Michelle Steel, California Republican, has voiced her concern about China's aggression in the East and South China seas.

"These provocations are also coordinated with the express purpose of threatening military conflict in the region," she said. "In recent months, [China] has shifted from trespassing into Taiwanese waters to practicing a full-scale blockade of Taiwan's main island."

In another recent incident, Chinese vessels engaged in a standoff with the Japanese coast guard vessels surrounding the disputed Senkaku islands.

"This is unacceptable and must be stopped," said Ms. Steel, also a member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. "Our allies' coast guards have the

responsibility to protect sovereignty and deter clear security threats."

In the South China Sea, China also recently deployed the world's largest coast guard ship, dubbed "the Monster," to assert its maritime claims in the sea, including areas that are within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, rejecting efforts to resolve the disputes through diplomatic channels.

Beijing is also disrupting the commercial operations of Vietnam and Malaysia in the sea. Both states have clashed with China over efforts to mine oil and natural gas deposits near their coasts.

"This behavior also serves as a stark warning of the international commercial risks posed by the [Chinese Communist Party] to the region should this be allowed to continue," Ms. Steel said. "The United States must step up in the South China Sea and work with our allies to deter the CCP's evolving tactics."

"Failure to do so," she added, "will empower [China] to further escalate its aggression, risking loss of life and serious instability in the region," Ms. Steel said.

The lawmaker urged Mr. Austin to do more to build partnerships with regional allies Australia, South Korea, Japan and India. More joint freedom of navigation operations with allies are needed to counter Beijing's sweeping and "unlawful" maritime claims, she said.

working hard on these," Mr. Jin said. "But despite the modernization of our military making very good progress, we have not fought in an actual war for many years now, so we must prepare ourselves for this."

Economically, China needs to prepare for war, he said, noting the current "fragility" of the economy. "With insufficient domestic demand and a lack of [diversified] markets, I describe this as lacking economic strategic autonomy. This is a problem we need to address," Mr. Jin said.

Mr. Jin blamed the United States for increased tensions over Taiwan, saying Washington has encouraged pro-independence forces on the island.

Thomas des Garets Geddes, editor of the online newsletter Sinification, which published a translation of the article, said Mr. Jin in recent years has morphed from a scholar into one of China's most important opinion leaders, with a large social media following. Mr. Geddes said the message behind the article presents a mixture of threats of a future armed attack along with a note of caution that the current period is not the time for China to act.

"China still has much to prepare ahead of such a potential military campaign and the international

repercussions that would probably ensue," Mr. Geddes said of the article. "Militarily, China is not quite ready yet. Economically, it is still too dependent on the West and must be able to rely much more on its own domestic market."

Globally, Mr. Jin argues that China needs more diplomatic support. Domestically, the government needs to build popular support before military force is used, he said.

"There is truth to all of this," Mr. Geddes said on Substack.

As a side note, Mr. Jin was one of the people who met with Vice President Joe Biden on one of his visits to China during the Obama administration.

NEW U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR TAIWAN

Raymond F. Greene this week took over as director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the official U.S. government representative office on the democratic-ruled island that remains a major political target of China. Mr. Greene, a career diplomat and deputy institute director from 2018 to 2021, vowed to strengthen bilateral relations in the face of mounting pressure from China.

In a meeting with Taiwan President Lai Ching-te on Wednesday, Mr. Greene said he plans to work with the Taiwanese government to bolster relations "at this important time."

"First and foremost, the United States remains committed to supporting Taiwan's ability to defend itself," he said.

"We have a shared and abiding interest in peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. This is critical for the security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the world," said Mr. Greene, until recently deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

Taiwan is a critical trade and economic partner and Mr. Greene said he will work to bolster global supply chains.

The new director noted both Taiwan and the United States face growing complex challenges, and the long-standing partnership is "growing stronger by the day."

"I am confident that with the support of the international community of democracies, we can preserve Taiwan's democracy, promote prosperity in the United States and Taiwan, and take our relationship to new heights," he said.

• Contact Bill Gertz on X @BillGertz.

UKRAINE

From page A1

didn't work," Ms. Khmylo said. "But when the war began, we discussed the idea of an IVF procedure, and in late March, we decided to join the program."

The program is the brainchild of Dr. Stefan Khmil, one of the country's leading OB-GYN specialists and a professor of medicine at the University of Ternopil in western Ukraine.

For the past two years, Dr. Khmil and his team have offered Ukrainian soldiers and their spouses or partners treatments to freeze their sperm and embryos, as well as in vitro fertilization, all free of charge.

"As part of this project, we have already provided free in vitro fertilization programs to 370 people, which have so far resulted in 65 births," he said. "Currently, 83 additional women are pregnant."

On June 20, Ms. Khmylo and her daughter were at the doctor's clinic in Lviv, a modern and brightly lit facility with pastel-colored walls adorned with pictures of radiant mothers and happy babies.

Dr. Khmil, a short, energetic man, greeted a group of visitors with a smile, Polina cooing in his arms. The doctor was visibly proud to show off one of the children he helped deliver.

"This is pure joy, to bring a child into the world," he said in his office. "Despite the darkness, it makes me happy when I think that so many children now have appeared in the world thanks to our efforts."

Ms. Khmylo and her husband were among the first to sign up for the program. Polina's father is a veteran of the war in Donbas, where he fought Russian proxies and was injured multiple times. He took up arms again when Russian troops poured across the Ukrainian border in February 2022 and was wounded again at the front.

"I want her to have a father, who gets to see her grow up, who takes part in her education," Ms. Khmylo said softly, her daughter sleeping soundly in her arms.

Fighting genocide

Dr. Khmil said the war and the countless atrocities that followed spurred him to take concrete action to ensure the survival of the Ukrainian nation.

"I saw that this was the beginning of a total genocide of the Ukrainian people," he said, frowning his brows. "We needed to help the rebirth of the Ukrainian nation, and we needed to help our soldiers so that they had the opportunity to have children, a family."

Even before the war, Ukraine's successive governments had long been concerned about demographic trends. When Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, its population was about 52 million. By 2021, it had fallen to 41 million.

A United Nations report published at the time called Ukraine's population "one of the fastest shrinking in the world" and estimated it was likely to drop to 35 million by 2050. Mortality was high,

with one-third of Ukrainians dying before age 65, and birthrates fell from 1.5 children per woman in 2012 to 1.2 in 2020.

The U.N. report also blamed "high levels of out-migration" as economic stagnation and low living standards sent an estimated 3 million Ukrainian workers abroad.

The war has accelerated those trends. Ukrainian authorities said the country's population fell to 36.3 million as of August 2023. Only 187,000 babies were born last year, one-third fewer than before the invasion.

"A lot of the soldiers think, 'All right, we'll wait for the war to end, and then we'll plan to have children,'" Dr. Khmil said. "But you have to live right now to have a family. We don't know what will happen tomorrow."

Oksana Zholnovych, Ukrainian minister of social policy, warned in April that the country's population could drop by up to 10 million by 2050, reaching a devastating low of 25.2 million.

Keenly aware of those trends, and with 40 years of experience as an OB-GYN, Dr. Khmil is doing his part to reverse them. To reach as many soldiers as possible, he has given countless media interviews, shared the program's results on social media platforms and put up ads in military recruitment centers.

"We now have soldiers coming straight from the front line in Donetsk, Kharkiv or Zaporizhzhia, making use of their leaves to visit the clinic and freeze their sperm," he said.

The waiting rooms of Dr. Khmil's clinics in Lviv and Ternopil are always packed, and reserve generators ensure their equipment continues functioning during daily power outages.

Time is of the essence, the doctor said. Besides the loss of life at the front, the war has more insidious and less obvious effects on fertility.

"The quality of sperm deteriorates at the front," he said. "Stress, hypothermia and physical trauma can cause infertility, which is why we suggest that soldiers come and donate their sperm as soon as possible."

The possibility of injuries that prevent childbearing led Natalia Fabian, 38, and her husband, Dmytro, to sign up for the program.

"My husband is a sportsman. He's healthy. But he has already been wounded at the front," she said.

She said Dmytro, a sniper in the Ukrainian special forces, has lost part of his hearing and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"We know that the war and the trauma can deprive us of this opportunity sooner or later," she said.

With her husband back at the front, Ms. Fabian is now awaiting the transfer of embryos.

Asked whether she would want her first child to be a boy or a girl, she thought for a second before answering: "Eventually, I would like to have both, but that's not what matters the most. The most important thing is that my child is healthy and can grow up under a peaceful sky here in our Ukraine."



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Region

MARYLAND

Women accused of killing D.C. man, cutting off his thumb

By **BRAD MATTHEWS**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Two women have been arrested and accused of killing a D.C. man and then cutting off his right thumb to use it to take out money and pay for things, presumably by opening the victim's phone.

On July 1, Tiffany Taylor Gray, 22, of Bowie, Maryland, was arrested in Prince George's County on a D.C. warrant charging her with first-degree murder while armed. She is being extradited to the District.

Ms. Gray is accused of killing Fasil Teklemariam, 53, who was found dead in his apartment on the 1300 block of Peabody Street Northwest on April 5, the Metropolitan Police Department said in a release.

The autopsy of Teklemariam revealed

Suspect said to open phone to withdraw money, pay for items

he died from multiple blunt force fractures to the head, numerous lacerations and a single, long stab wound that punctured his stomach, small intestine and part of his aorta before striking his spine.

Teklemariam was missing his right thumb, according to an affidavit supporting the arrest warrant for the second suspect, Audrey Miller, 19. Ms. Miller has also been charged with first-degree murder while armed.

As of June 5, police had not found the thumb or any of Teklemariam's personal electronics.

One of the witnesses interviewed by detectives named only as "Witness 5" claimed that Teklemariam was the "sugar daddy" of Taylor Gray; the name

is an alias used by Ms. Gray, according to the affidavit. The witness said Ms. Gray works as a prostitute.

Witness 5 also told detectives that the suspects cut off Teklemariam's thumb, and they accused Ms. Gray of using the thumb to withdraw money and to pay for Uber, marijuana and alcohol. Neither the witness nor detectives specified how the thumb was purportedly used to achieve these ends.

Teklemariam had previously filed a theft report with MPD, accusing a female friend whom he identified as "Taylor" of taking his phone, changing his passwords, and attempting to wire \$2,125 via Cash App, \$1,800 of which was successfully transferred.

Ms. Miller, who was arrested on June 21, has no fixed address, according to MPD and court documents.

CCTV footage revealed that Teklemariam was last seen alive on the night of April 1, and the autopsy found that he died two to five days before his body was found.

Teklemariam was seen on CCTV letting someone identified by authorities as Ms. Miller into his building at around 7:18 p.m. on April 1, and he was last seen alive on footage from 7:47 p.m. that night, returning to the building with some cans of soda.

A witness identified in court documents as "Witness 3" later told police they had seen Ms. Miller with Teklemariam at least twice before the night

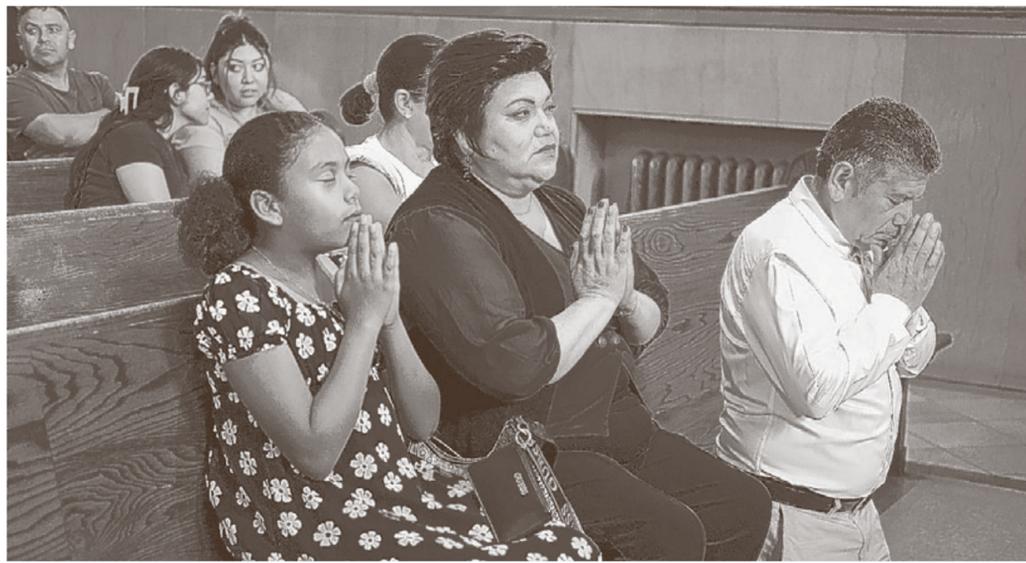
of his death.

At around 11:30 p.m., CCTV appeared to show Ms. Miller and Ms. Gray walking through the building's lobby carrying items that appeared to have come from Teklemariam's apartment.

Ms. Gray and two male suspects appeared again on CCTV footage from April 3, which shows them entering the building with Teklemariam's key fob and eventually leaving with several more items that appeared to have come from Teklemariam's apartment.

Witness 3 said one of the bags seen on CCTV had been in Teklemariam's apartment.

There are also at least two men alleged to have been involved in Teklemariam's death, according to court documents. MPD has not announced any further charges or arrests in the case.



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Parishioners pray at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Reading, Pennsylvania. Reading, where the Hispanic population is now the majority, is an old industrial city in one of the most pivotal swing states of this year's presidential election.

PENNSYLVANIA

Hispanic-majority city embraces chance to swing state in November

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

READING, PA. | Religion and politics frequently overlap in Reading, an old industrial city in one of the most pivotal swing states of this year's presidential election.

In Pennsylvania, there is early precedent for this kind of thing. The state began as a haven for Quakers and other European religious minorities fleeing persecution. That includes the parents of Daniel Boone, the national folk hero born just miles from Reading, a town where the Hispanic population is now the majority.

Today, the Catholic mayor is also a migrant — and the first Hispanic to hold the office in Reading's 276-year history. Mayor Eddie Moran is keenly aware of the pivotal role Pennsylvania could play in November, when a few thousand votes could decide the future of the United States.

"It's definitely an opportunity for the Latino vote to change the outcome of an election," Mr. Moran says. "It's not a secret anymore."

In Reading, the thriving Hispanic community believes in its political sway.

A Pew Research Center survey conducted in 2022 found that eight in 10 Hispanic registered voters say their vote can affect the country's direction at least "some."

On a recent Sunday, Luis Hernandez, 65, born in Puerto Rico, knelt to pray near the altar at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church. Later, walking out after Mass, Mr. Hernandez said he plans to vote for former President Donald Trump over President Biden.

"Biden is old," Mr. Hernandez says, and then reflects on how Mr. Trump is only a few years younger. "Yes, but you look at Trump and you see the difference... Biden's a good man. He's decent. But he's too old."

In the weeks after he spoke, many more Americans would join in calls for Mr. Biden to withdraw from the race after his debate debacle, which crystallized growing concerns that, at 81, he's too old.

It's not just about Mr. Biden's age or debate performance. It's also, Mr. Hernandez says, about the border crisis. He says too many immigrants are arriving in the United States, including some he considers criminals. And, he adds, so much has changed since his Dominican-born father

arrived in the 1960s — when, he says, it was easier to enter and stay in America.

For some, there are other issues as well.

"It's the economy, immigration and abortion," says German Vega, 41, a Dominican American who became a U.S. citizen in 2015. Mr. Vega, who describes himself as "pro-life," voted for Mr. Trump in 2020 and plans to do so again in November.

"Biden doesn't know what he's saying. He doesn't know what he's doing, and we have a country divided," Mr. Vega says. Trump is "a person of character. ... He looks confident. He never gives up; he's always fighting for what he believes."

Reading was once synonymous with iron and steel. Those industries cemented the creation of the Reading Railroad (an early stop on the Monopoly gameboard) that helped fuel the Industrial Revolution and became, in the late 19th century, one of the country's major corporations.

Today, the city of about 95,000 people, 65 miles northwest of Philadelphia, has a fast-increasing population. However, it is one of the state's poorest cities, with a median household income of about \$44,000, compared to about \$72,000 in Pennsylvania.

MARYLAND

Rising Democratic star Moore pitching budget cuts over higher taxes

Governor: Saved money to child, health care

By **MATT DELANEY**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Gov. Wes Moore, looking to head off a looming budget shortfall in Maryland, on Wednesday detailed nearly \$149 million in proposed midyear spending cuts in a spending plan that calls for no new tax increases.

Mr. Moore, a first-term governor who is increasingly seen as a potential

Democratic Party presidential contender in 2028 — or even sooner, under some circumstances — called the planned spending cuts "targeted and strategic" in a Wednesday op-ed for The Baltimore Sun and argued that the saved money will go toward funding child care and health care.

Cutting government programs in deep-blue Maryland probably won't earn the governor any points with state Democrats but could help position Mr. Moore as the kind of party moderate who can win a national election, said one political analyst who has followed the 45-year-old Army veteran's meteoric rise.

"If you're Wes Moore, and you're looking in the mirror — you think you see a future president looking back at you — you've got to think about these cuts in that perspective," said John Dedie, a Maryland political commentator and the coordinator for Community College of Baltimore County's political science program.

"How will people react, whether it's weeks down the road or in 2027, if you're looking to run for president?" Mr. Dedie continued.

Mr. Moore became the state's first Black governor in 2023 after winning his initial bid for elected office — but he has been involved in politics for years as a volunteer and a political appointee.

He was thrust onto the national stage in March when a freighter malfunctioned and crashed into Baltimore's Key Bridge,

toppling the span and killing six members of a construction crew. Mr. Moore oversaw a massive clean-up operation that concluded three months later with the full reopening of the Port of Baltimore, one of the nation's busiest.

The governor's proposed budget cuts cover everything from rental service programs to higher education grants, but Mr. Moore focused more on the economic benefits of the reductions in his op-ed.

He argued that boosting health-care funding, particularly for Medicaid, helps people find good jobs. And more money directed to child care lets both parents stay in the workforce while they raise young children.

The Baltimore Banner reported that the cuts were done to accommodate a jump in enrollment for Medicaid and the state's Child Care Scholarship Program, though the exact money needed to support the greater interest is unknown at this time.

"By increasing state investments in health care and childcare, we will ensure that we elevate our communities, help Marylanders participate in our economy and stimulate long-term growth," Mr. Moore wrote. "And on top of that, today's proposed changes to the state budget won't cut a penny for critical priorities, from transportation to K-12 education."

Mr. Moore's plan to trim the state's \$63 billion budget has to be approved by the three-member Board of Public Works — the governor, the comptroller and the state treasurer. But redirecting funds to Mr. Moore's desired programs will require legislative approval during next year's session. The board is set to meet July 17.

Maryland law requires the state to submit a balanced budget each year.

As the governor navigates the ins and outs of the budget process, Mr. Dedie, the political commentator, said Mr. Moore's political future is helped by Democrats wanting more youth from their presidential hopefuls.

"I definitely would be keeping an eye on him," Mr. Dedie said. "He has a lot of those Obama-esque qualities. He's not Obama 2.0, but he's at least 1.2."

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

New license plate design features iconic Liberty Bell

The red, white, and blue plate design announced this week refers to Pennsylvania's critical role in establishing the United States' independence from England and features the phrase "Let Freedom Ring," and already appears on eight signs that welcome motorists where highways cross various state lines.

"Let Freedom Ring" is a phrase in the early 19th-century song "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

The Liberty Bell, inscribed with a Bible verse exhorting people to "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto all the Inhabitants thereof," was in use in Philadelphia before the American Revolution. It became a rallying point for those fighting to abolish

slavery in the United States and for supporters of giving women the right to vote and of civil rights.

— Associated Press

NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH

Right-leaning political party added to November ballots

North Carolina's elections board certified unanimously on Tuesday a right-leaning political party to field candidates this fall in the state, but again deferred final action for two organizations that collected signatures to help get Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Cornel West on the presidential ballot.

The Constitution Party of North Carolina will join several other parties already officially recognized by the state. Board staff determined the party collected enough valid signatures

BRIEFLY THE REGION

from registered and qualified voters to exceed a threshold set in state law. The Constitution Party had been an official party in 2020, but it failed to perform well enough in that election to remain one.

— Associated Press

VIRGINIA

MANASSAS

Shooting suspects sought after parking lot altercation

Two people were injured in a shooting outside a northern Virginia shopping mall Tuesday but were expected to survive, authorities said.

Police in Prince William County said the shooting occurred in a parking lot at the Manassas Mall around 2 p.m.

Two groups had an altercation and shots were fired, police said in a statement. Bystanders ran inside and alerted shoppers, causing what was described as an "initial panic."

On Tuesday night, police said they were searching for additional suspects and released photos of the individuals they were seeking to identify.

— Associated Press

WEST VIRGINIA

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS

Chief steps down amid controversy over hiring

A West Virginia police chief responsible for the hiring of a former Cleveland officer who fatally shot 12-year-old Tamir Rice in 2014 has

stepped down.

White Sulphur Springs Police Chief D.S. Teubert returned to his former job as a patrolman, WVVA-TV reported. Mayor Kathy Glover said Chief Teubert had recommended the hiring of Timothy Loehmann as a probationary officer.

Mr. Loehmann resigned from the White Sulphur Springs police force last week. It marked the third time in six years that Mr. Loehmann had left a small police department amid backlash shortly after he had been hired.

Rice, who was Black, was playing with a pellet gun outside a recreation center in Cleveland on Nov. 22, 2014, when he was shot and killed by Mr. Loehmann seconds after the officer and his partner arrived on the scene. The officers, who are White, told investigators that then-Officer Loehmann had shouted three times at the child to raise his hands.

— Associated Press



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

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

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

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

A perfect storm for drug shortages in U.S.

Foreign government subsidies and FDA failures

By Nick Iacovella

The United States is facing an unprecedented drug shortage crisis, with a record 323 active shortages at the start of 2024 — the highest number since 2001.

While the COVID-19 pandemic increased public awareness of drug shortages, they predate the pandemic. Two major factors are now exacerbating them: foreign government subsidies and massive regulatory oversight failures by the Food and Drug Administration.

America has become dangerously reliant on foreign manufacturers — particularly in China and India — for the generic drugs that account for 91% of U.S. prescriptions dispensed. In 2000, China and India accounted for roughly 25% of the global share of active pharmaceutical ingredient filings. By 2021, India alone accounted for 62% of active filings, with China at 23%. Today, these two countries dominate the U.S. market, supplying most generic drugs.

This foreign dependence poses significant risks to national security and public health. The Indian government's massive system of subsidies for its generic pharmaceutical industry is a major factor. This has given incentive to the offshoring of U.S. drug production, creating a dangerous reliance on Indian manufacturers. Even more concerning, Indian manufacturers frequently violate FDA regulations, resulting in significant safety concerns.

The FDA's failure to adequately inspect and regulate foreign manufacturing plants has exacerbated the drug shortage crisis. Despite finding numerous violations at foreign facilities, FDA oversight has been inconsistent and insufficient. There is an alarming lack of regulatory oversight in India, which has caused serious complications in patients and even death. Generic cough syrups from India have killed dozens of children, and other drugs have been contaminated or caused blindness. FDA inspection data reveals a steep decline in foreign inspections. In 2019, the FDA inspected 37% of nearly 2,500 overseas manufacturers. By 2022, inspections plummeted to 6% of roughly 2,800 manufacturers — with only 3% of Indian manufacturers being inspected.

The FDA's inadequate oversight has created a regulatory loophole, allowing foreign manufacturers to produce substandard drugs with minimal consequences. This situation has forced the FDA into impossible choices, such as allowing drug imports from noncompliant foreign manufacturers or risking a complete lack of supply of critical medicines. Last



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

year, due to a national cancer drug shortage, the FDA permitted the Chinese drug manufacturer Qilu Pharmaceutical to ship an unapproved cancer drug to the U.S. It also allowed a banned Indian factory to ship the lung medication Atovaquone to the United States.

There is no silver bullet to solve the drug

shortage problem. Instead, a multifaceted approach is necessary. First, there is an urgent need to rebuild domestic production of essential medicines. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, New York Democrat, has proposed a four-point plan that includes incentives for domestic manufacturing and improving safety and quality. Helpfully, the PILLS

Act introduced by Rep. Claudia Tenney, New York Democrat, does that through production-based tax credits, investment tax credits and domestic content bonuses intended to encourage the reshoring of generic drug production.

But boosting domestic production alone is not enough. Congress must significantly reform the FDA to ensure it can effectively oversee foreign drug manufacturers. This includes increasing the frequency and rigor of inspections and closing regulatory loopholes that allow noncompliant manufacturers to operate with impunity. The FDA must also enhance its ability to obtain accurate pharmaceutical quality information from foreign manufacturers.

Congress must also address the economics of the generic drug industry. Valerie Jensen, associate director for drug shortages at the FDA, has pointed out that foreign manufacturers' race-to-the-bottom price strategy is driving shortages. Generic sterile injectables — which are crucial in hospitals — have become so cheap that it is no longer profitable for U.S. companies to continue production. FDA Commissioner Robert Califf has also warned about the lack of sufficient reserves of generic drugs in the U.S.

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, over 155 million Americans are enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Programs. The U.S. government should leverage this massive customer base to support domestic manufacturers. At a minimum, the federal government should give priority to domestic manufacturers when federal agencies are procuring drugs directly.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, the Strategic National Stockpile and the Department of Defense should prioritize signing long-term contracts with domestic manufacturers. CMS should also advance payment policies to support procuring higher-quality essential domestic medical supplies. That would align with President Biden's executive order, which was intended to create a sustainable public health supply chain.

Addressing the drug crisis requires a comprehensive approach that includes rebuilding domestic production, reforming the FDA, and addressing the economics of the generic drug industry. By taking these steps, the U.S. can secure its drug supply chains and ensure that patients have access to safe, high-quality medications.

Nick Iacovella is a senior vice president at the Coalition for a Prosperous America. Follow him @nickiacovella.

Climate alarmists target key battleground state with false heat claims

Scaring voters instead of reporting the facts

By James Taylor

Climate alarmists and their government-funded media allies are targeting the key battleground state of Wisconsin with false heat claims to scare voters.

A poorly written paper by a climate activist group claims there are more hot summer nights around the globe because of climate change. The Wisconsin media sensationalize the paper and predict a rapid increase in hot summer nights in Wisconsin, too. The undeniable truth, however — and proved by the federal government's own climate data — is there is a long-term and ongoing decline in the number of hot summer nights in Wisconsin.

The propaganda website Climate Central published a paper titled "Faster nighttime warming due to climate change is impacting sleep quality around the globe." The paper is flawed in many important respects, but those flaws are irrelevant for the purposes of this piece. The topic at hand is the Wisconsin media establishment citing the paper as "proof" supporting their sensational reports of a dramatic increase in the frequency of Wisconsin's warm summer nights.

Taxpayer-funded Wisconsin Public Radio, for example, published a July 8 article titled "Too hot to sleep? New report says climate change causing more hot nights in Wisconsin."

The WPR article states: "In Wisconsin, eight cities saw anywhere from 92 to 138 additional warmer nights in the last decade than they would have seen without human-induced climate change. On average, the cities ranged from between nine to 14 more hot nights per year."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published a similar article, "Nights in Wisconsin cities have become hotter. The cost is beyond just loss of sleep."

The Journal Sentinel says: "The stakes are high — prolonged sleeplessness can cause brain fog, worsen anxiety and depression, and even increase risk of heart attack and stroke. Experts say this is one more example of the effects of human-caused climate change, and that vulnerable populations will feel them disproportionately."

Assuming for the sake of argument that colder weather facilitates sound sleep and

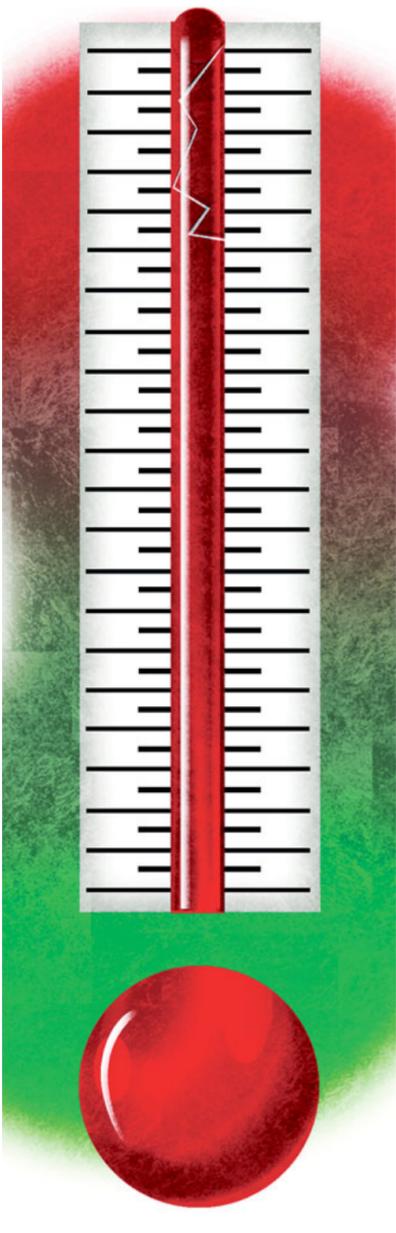


ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

warmer weather makes sleep more difficult, the actual temperature data shows no increase in Wisconsin's hot summer nights.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration publishes state-specific climate data. The NOAA online publication "State Climate Summaries — Wisconsin" defines exceptionally warm summer nights as those in which temperatures do not fall below 70 degrees. According to the NOAA data, the frequency of Wisconsin's exceptionally warm summer nights peaked in the early 1930s and has been consistently declining in the 90 years since. After averaging approximately seven such exceptionally warm nights per year in the 1930s and 1940s, Wisconsin is averaging less than five such exceptionally warm nights per year now.

Exceptionally hot summer days are also in decline in the Badger State. NOAA reports that the frequency of hot summer days with temperatures exceeding 95 degrees peaked in the early 1930s and has consistently declined since. Through the 1930s and 1940s, Wisconsin averaged more than five hot summer days with temperatures exceeding 95 degrees. During the past two decades, the number has been less than two sweltering summer days per year.

NOAA also reports Wisconsin summer precipitation and yearly precipitation have consistently increased in recent decades, making drought far less common than 50 or 100 years ago. As a result, Wisconsin corn production set a record in 2023. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Corn for grain production in 2023 was estimated at a record high 15.3 billion bushels, up 12% from the 2022 estimate."

Wisconsin maple syrup production set records in 2022, continuing a long-term trend of increasing production.

In 2023, Wisconsin also set a record for cranberry production.

The list could go on.

It is not surprising that climate activists are targeting key battleground states like Wisconsin to try to influence the outcome of the 2024 elections. To avoid embarrassment and a further loss of credibility, however, they should at least make claims that are plausibly supported by facts.

James Taylor (jtaylor@heartland.org) is president of The Heartland Institute.

Creating a global community to inspire children with disabilities

After I got rare disease, I started helping other kids around the world



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

By Vishnu Kagolanu

After Jonas Salk's invention of the polio vaccine, the chairman of the PolioPlus committee said, "Ending polio will be a triumph for humanity, a win for the children of future generations." He was right, as the vaccine saved more than 1.5 million lives. Unfortunately for me, Salk did not pull the trigger on polio's cousin, acute flaccid myelitis.

I am one of 751 people who have contracted acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, a rare but serious polio-like disease causing muscle weakness and in some cases permanent paralysis. But I refused to let my diagnosis define me and proved that my resolve was stronger than ever by creating an organization to help other children with similar neurological conditions find a sense of belonging.

My AFM journey started a decade ago when I was 7 years old. After playing outside, I collapsed on the floor of my house and lost the capacity to move. I was rushed to Stanford Children's Hospital, and after, the doctors struggled to figure out what I had. One week later, they decided to use a new label for my condition: "acute

» see KAGOLANU | B4

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Close the motor voter loophole

Democrats have scheme to register illegal immigrants to vote

The electorate is narrowly divided, and November's presidential contest is likely to come down to the wire once again. Those in power are naturally tempted to secure an advantage — by any means necessary.

That became clear Monday when the White House threatened to veto legislation intended to close a loophole allowing illegal aliens to register to vote. The loophole was created by what is known as the motor voter law, which forced states to allow mail-in voter registration in 1993.

All one has to do is check a box that says "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" on a federal form to be signed up. Though the form asks for more information, it's optional.

"If you do not have a driver's license or a state-issued identification or a Social Security number, please write 'NONE' on the form," Colorado's official instructions state. At the polling place, a utility bill or welfare check counts as acceptable identification.

House Republicans set up a vote Wednesday to close this loophole through the SAVE Act. Introduced by Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the proposal forces states to verify citizenship before adding someone to the voter rolls. It also enhances penalties against anyone intentionally registering noncitizens.

The White House blasted the effort. "It is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections — it is a Federal crime punishable by prison and fines. ... States already have effective safeguards in place to verify voters' eligibility and maintain the accuracy of voter rolls," the formal statement of administration policy explained.

While noncitizen voting is illegal, there's no way to know when it happens. The Supreme Court blocked states from enforcing their own

registration verification process in *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona*. Writing for the majority in 2013, Justice Antonin Scalia said requiring proof of citizenship prior to registration clashed with federal law.

And that's why Congress must exercise its authority to fix that broken law and restore trust in the system. Liberals will cry foul, but they're not sincere. They have no problem forcing everyone to flash IDs and passports to handsy Transportation Security Administration agents before boarding an airplane.

"Many of the Democrats want all of these illegals to participate in our federal elections," House Speaker Mike Johnson, Louisiana Republican, said at a news conference Tuesday. "They want them to vote. There's no other conclusion you can draw."

Mr. Johnson estimates the administration has allowed as many as 16 million illegal immigrants to enter the country, which is more than enough to swing a tight election.

Noncitizens aren't supposed to participate in elections, but it's also illegal for them to enter the country uninvited. Unlawful immigrants don't even need to cast votes themselves. The loophole adds names and addresses to the system that ballot harvesters can then use with mail-in voting schemes.

Unverified checkboxes go hand in hand with unverified ballot drop boxes.

House Republicans have the right idea in putting the spotlight on the potential for electoral shenanigans. They're buoyed by a Pew Research poll earlier this year showing 81% support for voter identification requirements.

Though this legislation won't become law while President Biden holds the veto pen, this vote could at least expose how he intends to keep it.



Sitting president

Project 2025

Challenging the size, power, cost and reach of the federal government

By Cal Thomas

One way to measure the power of conservative policy proposals is to monitor the reaction of the left.

The Heritage Foundation's ideas for the next conservative president to implement must be good because liberals are hysterical in their opposition. That's because they directly challenge the size, power, cost and reach of the federal government.

The word "fascist" has gained a certain cachet for the left, much like the smear "racist" once was. The New Republic magazine has illustrated the label by portraying Donald Trump as Hitler. It's designed to keep people from considering the results of policies that aren't working while ignoring or disparaging policies that have a track record of success.

The Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" policy guide (Heritage.org) is full of credible proposals. Rather than allow opponents to mischaracterize them, people should read the book and see whether they are radical or rational.

The document is the work of 400 leading conservative thinkers and organizations. Some proposals will be familiar, like eliminating the useless Department of Education, which, given students' underperformance in math, science and reading, has clearly flunked its test. Mr. Trump says he opposes some of their recommendations, though he admits he hasn't read them. If he wins the election, he likely can be counted on to embrace many of them.

The philosophical foundation is expressed in the introduction to the document: "The federal government is a behemoth, weaponized against American citizens and conservative values, with freedom and liberty under siege as never before. The task at hand to reverse this tide and restore our Republic to its original moorings is too great for any one conservative policy shop to spearhead. It requires the collective action of our movement. With the quickening approach of January 2025, we have two years and one chance to get it right."

Reminiscent of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America," Project 2025 makes four promises (specifics are under each one):

Promise 1: "Restore the family as

the centerpiece of American life and protect our children." This includes doing away with all but two genders, diversity, equity and inclusion ideology and other ideas imposed on the country by unelected bureaucrats, and national school choice.

Promise 2: "Dismantle the administrative state and return self-governance to the American people." The writers explain that "Conservatives desire a smaller government not for its own sake, but for the sake of human flourishing. But the Washington Establishment doesn't want a constitutionally limited government because it means they lose power and are held more accountable by the people who put them in power."

This recalls the philosophy of our 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, who said, "A government which requires of the people the contribution of the bulk of their substance and rewards cannot be classed as a free government, or long remain as such."

Promise 3: "Defend our nation's sovereignty, borders, and bounty against global threats." Is there anyone but liars and the self-deluded who doesn't believe we have a border problem?

Promise 4: "Secure our God-given individual right to enjoy 'the blessing of liberty,' by which they mean "Our Constitution

grants each of us the liberty to do not what we want, but what we ought." Restoring this requires the resurrection of a standard by which right and wrong, good and evil can be measured. This begins in our schools and universities, which have largely abandoned that standard with results we see in academic underperformance and the violation of laws, sometimes leading to campus violence as we witnessed this past spring.

These are not radical or fascist proposals but what previous generations considered common sense and self-evident truths.

Read the details for yourself, and unless you are a hard-core leftist, you are likely to agree and vote accordingly to restore what we once had but have lost to our national shame.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' latest book, "A Watchman in the Night: What I've Seen Over 50 Years Reporting on America" (HumanixBooks).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kamala's two paths to power

As I see it, Vice President Kamala Harris has two choices. The first, if she believes she can beat Donald Trump, is to invoke the 25th Amendment prior to the Democratic National Convention. The second is to take a chance that President Biden can be elected, and then invoke the 25th Amendment early into his second term. Either way, she needs to invoke the 25th Amendment.

After Mr. Biden's poor showing at the debate, many Democrats have

raised concern over his ability to be president and have called on him to end his campaign. Many Americans question whether he can last another four years. Ms. Harris is first in line to take over when mental fitness hits a point of no confidence, which is a subjective determination.

If Ms. Harris calls for the 25th Amendment to be invoked, Mr. Biden must prove mental fitness. He would have to get in front of reporters for an extended period,

without a teleprompter, and coherently answer questions. He may be able to do this, as some in his administration claim he has an abundance of energy and the debate was just an off night; however, if he could do this, he would have already done it.

Ms. Harris has an opportunity to seize power, and she will do it. The question is now just when.

CHARLES DIXON
Fairfax Station, Virginia

Spare us the lies

For four years the Democratic Party, voters and the media have ignored hard truths ("Hiding in plain sight: Biden's mental, physical decline on display from the start," web, July 9). Together they orchestrated the election of a man who, showing early signs of dementia, campaigned from his basement. As candidate and then president, he didn't take unscripted interviews for years.

As for a vice president, they elected someone who carried less than 3% of the ballots cast when she was running for president. She was

chosen as VP for what she is, not who she is. She was and remains incapable of effective verbal communication. The entire party, congressional members and the media portrayed this pair as cognizant and capable when they knew otherwise.

The once-respected New York Times, "60 Minutes" and virtually all TV networks and celebrities joined in to sell the viability of the Biden-Harris 2020 ticket — and they continued to do so until just a few weeks ago, when the first 2024 presidential debate was televised. No amount of

spin could continue to defend or disguise President Biden's cognitive failure during that event.

The Democratic Party is imploding as up-for-reelection congressional members, who just weeks ago were Biden faithfuls, race to dissociate themselves from this administration for fear of losing their jobs. All are claiming to be shocked. Show some integrity and spare us all the drama and the lies.

CHARLES EARY
Ocean City, Maryland

Biden's destructive legacy

Listening to President Biden at this week's NATO summit, you'd almost be led to believe it wasn't former President Donald Trump who strengthened the military alliance by forcing members to contribute 2% of gross domestic product to defense ("More determined' Biden eager to prove presidential fitness despite mounting concerns," web, July 9).

As for Ukraine, Mr. Biden has

left that country decimated by denying it the offensive weapons and fighter jets it needs to push back Russian columns and stop the Russian decimation of its cities and people. The ability of Ukrainian communists, Russia and China to drop the nickel on Biden family finances in Ukraine, Russia and China should not compromise our ability to arm Ukraine and oppose the genocide of

the Ukrainian people.

Ukrainian cities have been laid waste and the death toll among the Ukrainian people is staggering. Thanks go to another no-win, micromanaged American proxy war, waged halfheartedly by an American president as usual.

WILLIAM T. FIDURSKI
Clark, New Jersey

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Operation Replace Biden is underway

There's plenty of time to dump him, and Democrats will

By Joseph Curl

If you follow politics, you know that nothing happens by accident. So, let's review the last few days.

President Biden had an absurdly bad debate with his Republican counterpart, Donald Trump, two weeks ago. At one point, the president said, "We finally beat Medicare." Yeah, it was bad.

The disastrous debate led to this: First, Democrats defended the president's performance. Then, a few said maybe Mr. Biden should be replaced — anonymously, of course. Then, a few Democrats came right and said Mr. Biden should bail out. Then, everyone was talking about Vice President Kamala Harris stepping in.

But that didn't last long.

Over the past weekend, there was a new report that a neurologist and

On Monday, a fiery Mr. Biden called into a morning TV show to declare "I'm not going anywhere," and the White House said the president doesn't have Parkinson's. By Tuesday, there was talk of a "mini-primary" to pick Mr. Biden's replacement.



Back to the top: Nothing happens by accident. Washington has a no-fly zone over it, but that doesn't include trial balloons. Those are aloft every day inside the Beltway, and no one bats an eyelash when they get shot down.

Your guess is as good as mine about what's really going on, but here's my guess: The move to replace Mr. Biden is being masterfully orchestrated, and we're nearly at the endgame: replacing him as the Democratic presidential nominee.

Let's work through a couple of scenarios. First, it's a no-brainer to think that top White House advisers knew that Mr. Biden was going to screw the pooch in the debate. They see him every day, they know he's not, as he might say in his 1950s lingo, "with it." He's no longer a hep cat, and his staffers knew that when he walked onto the debate stage.

Then there's the timing of the debate: June 27?! That's the earliest by far in recent presidential campaigns. Why? My theory is this: They trot out a clearly confused president, everyone sees his diminished state of mind, the chattering class does what it does, the balloon of replacement gets launched, and off we go.

So what's up with what followed? Kamala's balloon was floated, then shot down, and despite a slew of prominent Democrats calling on Mr. Biden to disappear — no less than liberal firebrand film director Michael Moore called it "elder abuse" — the president vows to stay in the race!

I'm still predicting Mr. Biden is not the 2024 presidential nominee. He's 81, he's fading fast, and he's lost the faith of his brethren — and that includes donors, the real deciders of who is the nominee. A new report says few donors with deep pockets will even take his call.

My theory is that California Gov. Gavin Newsom is the anointed one, chosen by Mr. Biden to take over when he steps aside. Asked if he would run in an open convention, Mr. Newsom said: "That's a legit question, but it's exactly where the other party wants us to be is having this internal fight. And I think it's extraordinarily unhelpful."

That's not a no. Political guru James Carville on Tuesday laid out an intriguing path. He said that former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama could moderate four town halls with up to eight potential candidates to replace Mr. Biden and then delegates could select the party's nominee at the Democratic National Convention in mid-August.

All the polls say Mr. Biden is going to lose the election — maybe really, really badly. It's now or never. And it's all been mapped out: Bad debate performance, chatter to replace, maybe Parkinson's, Kamala bad, fiery Joe vowing to stay in the race — and then, replaced.

Nothing happens inside the Beltway by accident. Mr. Biden said he'd drop out only if God himself tells him to, but it's unclear if God is playing favorites in the 2024 presidential election in the United States. If he is, it doesn't appear he has chosen the pro-abortion Democrat.

Right now, whichever way you slice it, Mr. Biden is a loser in November. But there's plenty of time to dump him — and Democrats will do just that.

Joseph Curl covered the White House and politics for a decade for The Washington Times. He can be reached at josephcurl@gmail.com and on X @josephcurl.



ILLUSTRATION BY HUNTER

Parkinson's disease specialist had made at least eight visits to the White House, raising new questions about Mr. Biden's fitness for office. Another report said Mr. Biden has only a small time frame each day in which he can focus — and he can't work after 8 p.m.

Be careful what you wish for

What might go wrong in overturning the Chevron doctrine

Wendell Arthur Garrity Jr. is not a household name in the United States, although he was a federal judge for a good portion of his life. Appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was no better or worse than most federal judges, but he did do one thing that distinguished him from his colleagues on the bench: He imposed forced busing on the city of Boston in 1974.

For those with incomplete memories, forced busing — literally shipping schoolchildren across town — was the remedy of choice for racial segregation in schools.

At its height, it was enforced by federal judges in places such as Boston; Detroit; Richmond, Virginia; Louisville, Kentucky; Charlotte, North Carolina; Syracuse, New York, etc.

It was, without question, the most salient dividing line in American politics (especially Democratic politics) for much of the 1970s, and the cities in which it was imposed were subject to violence and social unrest.

No less a liberal icon than the youngest U.S. senator at the time — one Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. of the border state of Delaware — described forced busing as "a liberal train wreck."

I mention this because in all of the self-congratulatory chatter on the right about the Supreme Court's decision in Loper Bright to outright reject and renounce Chevron defer-



ence — the legal rule of thumb that administrative agencies should be deferred to with respect to the interpretation of the rules they enforce — there has been little contemplation of what might go wrong.

Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council, the 1984 case in which the Supreme Court adopted this approach, was, as much as anything, a response to the experience with forced busing, in which unelected and unaccountable federal judges managed to place the nation in a state of turmoil for no purpose. There was and is nothing to indicate that forced busing helped any students, but there were obvious and clear indications of community entropy as a result of the carelessness of the judiciary.

In short, the Chevron decision was as much a result of years of disenchantment with laws made by judges, most especially forced busing as a means of remedying disparate racial outcomes in education, as anything else. That decision ushered in 40 years of rule by unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats. It may be that soon we will regret returning the power and authority to interpret statutes to unelected and unaccountable judges.

The only certain guide to statutory construction — and minimal transfer of power from the people assembled in Congress to judges or bureaucrats — is for Congress to write clear laws, preferably addressing one topic at a time, and in enough detail to hem in the worst impulses of the other two branches.

At the moment, that seems fanciful. Congress has lost whatever capacity it once had to give simple, direct and explicit instructions and, for a variety of reasons, is unlikely to regain it in our lifetimes.

Absent legislative specificity, the next best guarantee of our liberty is to increase the responsiveness and reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy. Former President Donald Trump's attempt to expand the list of accountable members of the bureaucracy is an excellent start that needs to be matched with a steady, downward pressure on federal expenditures of all kinds. Federal judges, like members of Congress, should be subject to age and term limits.

Without these constraints, it is almost guaranteed that in a generation we will be right back in this moment, complaining about an out-of-control federal judiciary and worrying, like President Ronald Reagan, that we are in "danger of short-circuiting the electoral process and disenfranchising the people through judicial activism."

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

Making the economy great again

The RNC platform committee meeting

By Casey B. Mulligan

Remember when Barack Obama was president? His administration set low expectations with its "secular stagnation" theory. The U.S. economy could not be great again, they said. The Affordable Care Act and the mislabeled stimulus law created dozens of new ways to discourage work and the health and human capital that goes with work.

When the Trump economy got people back to work with good wages, critics called it a short-lived sugar high that would stoke inflation. But in fact, it would be less than 2%.

The U.S. economy was on a path to make the American dream affordable again for families, young people, everyone. The GOP platform promises to finish the job.

Deregulation and the Trump tax cuts were essential. Prescription drug prices fell for the first time in almost 50 years, thanks to more companies entering the market after then-President Donald Trump lowered barriers. Deregulation reduced internet access prices sharply in 2017. American innovation also made us the world's leading oil and natural gas producer.

New cars and pickups will cost almost \$6,000 more because of the actions of the Biden and Obama administrations. These actions impose Champagne tastes on beer budgets, not environmental protection. Workers can't come off the sidelines if they can't afford the car to get there.

Housing is especially unaffordable in Democratic-run areas such as Boston and San Francisco due to tremendous obstacles to building. It's no accident that the same regions have high rates of homelessness. Let me name some of the parts of a house that are more expensive because of President Biden's federal policies: microwave ovens, conventional ovens, refrigerators, freezers, washing



ILLUSTRATION BY LINAS GARSYS

machines, dishwashers, clothes dryers, water heaters, air conditioners, ceiling fans, furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, lamps and light bulbs.

For the sake of our older adults, we cannot and should not settle for a stagnant economy. An American economy growing at its potential could easily add \$1 trillion to the revenue earmarked for Social Security and Medicare.

Nursing homes will be more expensive now that the Biden-Harris administration has given their regulation to special interests. It has presided over record Medicare and Medicaid fraud and improper payments, exceeding the gross domestic product of many countries. It has redirected Medicare funds toward their unworkable climate projects.

Four years ago, regulations already

provided environmental and safety protections. Putting the radical left in charge, the Biden-Harris administration has added regulatory costs of more than \$40,000 per household, almost twice that of the first Obama-Biden term. The GOP platform promises the opposite.

Regulations don't much bother the high-paid people in Washington who made them. As a proportion, they cost low-income families seven times as much as they cost high earners.

Democrats treat employers as the enemy and then act surprised when there are too few jobs, particularly for younger and minority workers. The GOP platform promises to end attacks on job creators.

The franchise model, a quintessentially American business practice, allows product innovators and local market experts to concentrate on their strengths. Presidents Biden and Obama have sought to eliminate franchising with their pens and phones.

Mr. Trump gave small-business employees and their families more choices than "Obamacare." He'll continue to stand in the way of blue states that tried to impose costly mandates on employers.

Unlike secular stagnation, stagflation is a real thing. Inflation and low wages go together. Inflation is a hidden tax, particularly on the business investment that is essential for making workers more productive.

History has shown that the proven recipe for building the greatest economy in history requires ending inflation and getting Washington bureaucrats out of our business.

Casey B. Mulligan, a professor of economics at the University of Chicago and senior fellow with the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, served as chief economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers from 2018 to 2019.

The prejudices of French history

Dissonance had a great deal to do with outcome of recent elections

By Gerard Leval

Few people on Earth are more conscious of their history than the French. Unlike Americans, who often seemed strikingly ignorant of history, the French are nurtured on their past. They never cease to invoke the grandeur of their history. From Joan of Arc to Louis XIV to Napoleon to Charles de Gaulle, France's past informs every aspect of France's present. They relish the aesthetics of the monuments to that history and the ideologies that underpin it.

For France, this is both good and bad.

Without a profound knowledge of the past, it is difficult to know the foundation of the present or the pathways to the future. History can also serve, however, to entrench us in ideas that may have made sense in the past but may create impediments for the future or become false gods in whom we misplace our faith.

France's recent National Assembly elections are a case in point. The outcome strongly suggests the powerful pull of history on contemporary events. It was expected that the Rassemblement National, or the RN, the right-wing group that has evolved from Jean-Marie Le Pen's Front National to become a more moderate right-of-center party, would win a majority of the seats in the National Assembly. That did not happen.

Instead, although no party won a majority of the seats and the RN received the largest number of votes, the left-wing coalition, brilliantly named the Nouveau Front Populaire, or the NFP, obtained the greatest number of seats in the National Assembly.

This is a case where historical memory and the manipulation of names played a prominent and possibly deceitful role. With the RN poised to emerge victorious in the hastily called elections for the National Assembly, a group of left-wing parties quickly united as the NFP in the hope of stopping the momentum of the RN. The choice of the name Nouveau Front Populaire was particularly felicitous, just as the echoes of the Front National in the name Rassemblement National were particularly challenging.

Those who know French history know that the original Front Populaire was a socialist coalition headed by a Jewish journalist named Leon Blum. The Front Populaire headed a short-lived government in the 1930s. But that government instituted many of the social reforms that have become an integral and cherished part of French life, including paid vacations, substantial minimum wages, health care and retirement pensions. Blum himself was arrested by the collaborationist government of Vichy and barely survived incarceration in the concentration camp of Buchenwald.

As a consequence, the history of the Front Populaire and the memories of that brief period are heavily intertwined with notions of social benefits and resistance to Nazi occupation and collaboration. The opposite is true for the RN. Even though the RN has repeatedly, formally and seemingly sincerely renounced the ideology that spawned fascism and collaboration in the 1930s and 1940s, references to the RN inevitably conjure up images of some of the worst moments of recent French history.

This dissonance had a great deal to do with the outcome of the recent elections. Confronted with the possibility that the RN might become the governing power in France, the left brought out the ghosts of the past both overtly and covertly. During the very short political campaign, leaders of the NFP ceaselessly hammered on the RN's Front National predecessor and emphasized the Front National's reprehensible

history. The press, mostly made up of left-wing journalists, happily joined in the chorus.

The irony in all of this is that the echoes of the past are not necessarily reflections of the reality of the present. Indeed, the very opposite is true.

The most prominent leader of the NFP, Jean-Luc Melenchon, is in the mold of populist dictators of the past. He is mean-spirited and disdainful of those who disagree with him. He is infused with the moral certainty that he is right and everyone else is wrong — a sure formula for tyranny.

Mr. Melenchon is unabashedly anti-Israel, deploring anything having to do with Israel and often crossing over into blatantly antisemitic territory. While many on the left have sought to distance themselves from him, he has made certain that he would remain the most prominent leader of this new coalition. At the NFP victory rally last Sunday evening, where he was the standout figure, the Palestinian flag was waved prominently throughout the assembled crowd.



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG GROESCH

Jordan Bardella, the 28-year-old head of the RN, is quite different. So is Marine Le Pen, who, although the daughter of a Holocaust denier and stubborn representative of the old guard, has denounced that past (even ousting her father from her party) and has espoused a philosophy that is far more open-minded and generous of spirit, not to mention very pro-Israel.

Although the NFP resonates with the prejudice and intolerance of the past and the RN is infused with a more tolerant attitude, the dictates of history play a powerful role. Captives of the public relations of the past and unable to jettison long-established perspectives on that past, French voters seemingly could not bring themselves to make a judgment free of the prejudices of history.

As we are often reminded, a failure to know history is to potentially repeat it. We must not be blind adherents to historical events. We must learn from history, but we must also remain fully cognizant of the realities of the present. Many French voters apparently failed in this regard.

Gerard Leval is a partner in the Washington office of a national law firm. He is the author of "Lobbying for Equality: Jacques Godard and the Struggle for Jewish Civil Rights During the French Revolution," published by HUC Press.

By Andrew P. Napolitano

In his famous dissent in *Olmstead v. United States*, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis in 1928 called the right to be left alone the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men. He was referring to the right to be left alone by the government — a right that today we call the right to privacy.

Olmstead was involved in bootlegging, and the feds tapped his telephones without any search warrants. The Supreme Court, which had never recognized the right to privacy, permitted using the tapes of the overheard conversations as evidence in his criminal trial, and he was convicted.

Two generations later, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, a case involving the sale of contraceptives in violation of state law, Brandeis' dissent was embraced by the court's majority. How odd that it took 175 years for the court to recognize that the Fourth Amendment — which was written to keep all government out of our bodies, homes, papers and effects — protects the fundamental right to privacy.

Yet there is a difference between recognizing a right and preventing the government from violating it. The court's instrument of prevention is known as the exclusionary rule. Courts are required to exclude from use at trial all evidence obtained by the government in violation of a recognized right.

In the early days of this rule, prosecutors argued that the criminal should not go free merely because the constable had erred. The counterargument — which on paper prevailed — is that fundamental liberty is meaningless if the cost to the government of its violations does not exceed its gains.

This pro-liberty view prevailed "on paper" because the feds — whose appetite for surveillance is insatiable — have found ways around it. The government continues to cut holes in the Fourth Amendment and has gleefully jumped through them.

When the government gets caught spying without a warrant, it argues that the right to privacy exists only to protect criminal prosecutions from being infected by illegally obtained evidence. Thus, this argument goes, if the feds violate your right to privacy by capturing the contents of your mobile device without a warrant. If they don't use what they captured in a criminal prosecution against you, then there is no harm or foul.

Sadly, some courts have bought this totalitarian nonsense. The successful use of this argument has created a culture in law enforcement to surveil first and worry about the Fourth Amendment later.

Much of this stems from the Patriot Act of 2001, which unconstitutionally permits one federal agent to authorize another to obtain evidence from a custodian of records. The instrument of doing so is called a National Security Letter — not a search warrant issued by a judge and not a subpoena voted on by a grand jury, but permission from an FBI boss.

When President Biden discovered that the FBI was using Trump-era software called zero click to download the contents of mobile devices and desktops without search warrants, he put a stop to it — on paper. The *New York Times* reported that the feds have not stopped.

Zero click enables the user of this Israeli-developed software to enter a mobile device or desktop and use it as a tracking and listening device while downloading its contents without tricking the device's owner into clicking on a link.

Not to be deterred by Mr. Biden's order, the feds have acquired more

Holes in the Constitution

Government violations of the Fourth Amendment

Israeli-developed software that tracks the user's internet habits and develops a link tailor-made to attract the user, which, when clicked on, puts the feds inside the device and enables them to track, listen and download.

All this is done without the user's knowledge or a search warrant. Question: What does federal law call entering someone else's computer without consent or a search warrant? Answer: computer hacking, which is a felony.

Now, back to the exclusionary rule. It is an effective deterrent only if the government attempts to offer evidence at trial that it obtained illegally. The feds may be indifferent to the Constitution they have sworn to uphold, and the Constitution may be nearly useless as an instrument to protect personal liberty. Still, the feds will not reveal their sources and methods in a public courtroom.

Thus, their use of evidence obtained in violation of the right to privacy, in violation of the Fourth Amendment, is often masked. This masking occurs by constructing a fictitious path to the evidence by a team other than those who did the hacking.

Stated differently, the feds who do the computer hacking are not the same people who do the prosecutions. The former is a dirty team. The latter is a clean team. Together, they constitute a conspiracy to violate the civil liberties of those whom they have targeted with their software and then prosecuted.

When FBI Director Christopher Wray was asked about this in public testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, he stated that the FBI was just experimenting with this software to see how it worked. Who would believe that?

Mr. Wray is an example of the government's duplicity. The Biden administration not only stopped the feds from using zero click; it also prevented the Israeli manufacturer from selling any of its products to American purchasers. The administration claimed it was protecting journalists and dissidents from government spying. Yet it looked the other way when the FBI and other federal spies used other software that achieved the same purpose by the same unconstitutional means.

What about protecting all persons in America from government spying? The Fourth Amendment protects all persons — not just Americans, not just journalists and dissidents, not just good people — from all government, not just law enforcement.

Today, the government not only hacks into our computers; it lies about it and then lies about its lying. Hacking by the feds is more than just a crime. It is a direct assault on the liberties that we have hired the feds to protect.

Only the aggressive prosecution of government computer hackers will deter them.

Why do we hire people who violate their oaths to protect our rights? Why do we permit a culture that rewards constitutional violations? Who will protect us from the government?

To learn more about Judge Andrew Napolitano, visit <https://JudgeNap.com>.

Kagolanu

From page B1

flaccid myelitis," a virus that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had started tracking only a few months before.

The paralysis I was experiencing had the potential to be permanent, even deadly. Instead of dwelling on my weakness, however, I focused on physical therapy and my small wins over time. After two months, I sat up alone for the first time and took my first steps. I didn't care about the movement I had lost because I felt like a superhero every time I made new gains. Although I was never able to regain function in my right shoulder, I am proud to be one of the few AFM patients to recover most of their motion.

Sports were tricky for me because of my shoulder, especially since my throwing arm was affected. When my mom asked me to "give rowing a try," I immediately agreed, thinking that I could succeed at a sport that didn't involve throwing a ball. After learning that "rowing uses 86% of the body's muscles," though, I had serious reservations. When I got to practice, I was even more intimidated because I saw teenagers with bulging shoulders lifting concrete weights.

Once we got on the water, though, I realized that my shoulder was an advantage because I could feel the flow of the boat under me and use technique instead of power. My coach even put me at the front of the boat so the other rowers could follow me in almost all of our races. My rowing style helped us win medals in five different races, culminating in a gold medal at the Southwest regional rowing championships.

My success at rowing inspired me to help other children with neurological disabilities find a place where they feel a sense of belonging. To do this, I started Neurostronger, an online non-profit community for neurologically disabled children. Through a podcast, I started sharing success stories of people who live incredible lives despite their disabilities. My goal was to make sure that every child with a neurological disability can find something that they are good at and to feel "in the zone," as I do when I am rowing.



Vishnu Kagolanu, left, with a teammate

COURTESY VISHNU KAGOLANU

The next step was taking my efforts beyond the digital world. To do this, I joined three organizations: Ability Path, a California group offering educational, therapeutic and vocational services to people with disabilities, the Vijaya Mary School for the Blind in India, and Mustard Seed Communities, a group that houses abandoned disabled children from different countries.

After a summer of service with Mustard Seed in Jamaica, my fellow Neurostronger team members — also high school students — persuaded companies such as Apple and Google to donate \$22,000 to these three organizations.

Of the \$22,000 we raised, I returned to Jamaica this summer with \$10,000 to fund Mustard Seed Communities with a specific project: to build a permanent shelter for displaced and disabled children from Haiti who are now being cared for. Some of these children were abandoned — some of them literally left on the side of the road. Our collective work, however, will hopefully help give them hope and a home to rebuild their lives and treat disabilities such as cerebral palsy.

To memorialize this and capture the stories of neurologically disabled children, Neurostronger created a virtual anthology with more than 100 entries that capture the unique stories of some of those we helped abroad. We hope that by promoting these stories, we can share the authentic disabled experience, sharing the victories and struggles of neurologically disabled individuals across the globe.

Working with these organizations, I had an awakening and realized that without my disability, I would never have traveled the world, documented the stories of neurologically disabled children, and raised money to improve their quality of life.

This April, I gave a speech to 150 of my classmates about my experiences with AFM. I once thought that my disability would prevent me from doing anything meaningful in my life, but I could not have been more wrong. Instead of holding me down, my disability has empowered me to become a storyteller and community builder who has had the privilege of helping more than 3,000 neurologically disabled children.

My story — and theirs — is evidence that when we hold on to hope and continue to believe in ourselves, nothing is impossible.

Vishnu Kagolanu is a 17-year-old high school senior at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, California, and the founder and CEO of Neurostronger.com (www.neurostronger.com), an online platform designed to inspire, create community and raise money for children with disabilities.



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In execution of the Superior Court for District of Columbia's ("Court") Decree in Case 2023-CAB-00220, The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-13 v. Deborah M. Walston, and Curtis L. Walston, the undersigned Trustees will sell at public auction at the auctioneer's gallery or Tidewater Auctioneer's LLC, Chevy Chase Pavilion, 5335 Wisconsin Ave NW Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015 on

August 2, 2024 AT 11:00 AM

THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Washington, DC and more fully described in a Deed of Trust from Deborah M. Walston, and Curtis L. Walston, dated August 30, 2005 recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia at Instrument Number 200512980 on December 2, 2005, with an original principal balance of \$184,500.00, and an original interest rate of 6.375%, default having occurred under the terms thereof.

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in fee simple subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of the lesser of \$12,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the winning bid amount will be required at time of sale, in cash, certified check, or other form as Trustees may determine. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the amount owed on the Note plus all costs and expenses of sale on the purchase and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid sixty (60) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to rescind the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and may submit a written bid to the Trustee which shall be announced at sale. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within 60 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court. At the Trustees' discretion, the foreclosure purchaser, if a corporation or LLC, must produce evidence, prior to bidding, of the legal formation of such entity.

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Sale On The Premises
TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024
AT 11:00 A.M.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Erickenson to the Trustees herein, dated November 19, 2014, and recorded among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, in Liber 49541, Page 0013, 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 Montgomery County, Case No. C-15-CV-22-003603), the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at Public Auction, on the premises, the following:

All that fee simple lot of ground and the improvements thereon, situate and lying in Montgomery County, State of Maryland and being more fully described in the above-referenced Deed of Trust, comprising 0.166 acre, more or less.

According to public tax records, the property is improved by a one and one-half story frame bungalow, built in 1936, containing 1,228 square feet of living area. The property is believed to contain a living room, country kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bath, family room, electric heat and air conditioning; off-street parking.

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 Wednesday, July 31, 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 Montgomery County at the offices of 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 after acceptance of the final bid; and (4) the right to cancel or postpone the sale.

Jordan M. Spivok, Philip J. Collins, Substitute Trustees

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Trustee Sales: Arlington Co.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 1021 N GARFIELD STREET, APT 201, ARLINGTON, VA 22201. In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated August 4, 2005, in the original principal amount of \$309,120.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for Arlington County, Virginia, in Book 3883 at Page 1330 as Instrument No. 2005220222. The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Arlington County, 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on August 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM, the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows: CONDOMINIUM UNIT NO. 201, CLARENDOUN II, A CONDOMINIUM, AND THE LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS APPURTENANT THERETO, INCLUDING LIMITED COMMON ELEMENT GARAGE SPACE/PARKING SPACE B2-71, AND STORAGE SPACE S2-5, ESTABLISHED BY CONDOMINIUM INSTRUMENTS RECORDED ON JUNE 15, 2005, IN DEED BOOK 3854 AT PAGE 698, AND ANY SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS AND/OR AMENDMENTS RECORDED SUBSEQUENT THERETO, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA. TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a \$50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwvsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation. Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229. For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwvsales.com. VA-358615-3.

July 11, 2024 July 18, 2024 AD#84502

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Trustee Sales: Virginia

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(Parcel ID: 060472020000;
Tax Map No.: 79/0/3/1179/)

Default having been made in the terms of a certain Deed of Trust dated October 5, 2012, in the original principal amount of \$124,005.00 and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Loudoun, Virginia in Instrument No. 20121009-0079255, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will sell at public auction on August 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM in front of the building housing the Loudoun County Circuit Court, the main entrance to the Loudoun County Circuit Court, 18 East Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia 20178, the property designated as Lot 179, Section 2, Stonegate, as the same is duly identified in Instrument Number 201108230051351, and as platted in Instrument Number 201108230051352, recorded among the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia. This property is subject to that certain declaration of affordable dwelling unit covenants recorded as Instrument Number 201108230051353 among the aforesaid land records. Sale is subject to all prior liens, easements, restrictions, covenants, and conditions, if any, of record, or other matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the premises. TERMS: CASH. A deposit of \$12,500.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, will be required of the successful bidder at time of sale. Prior to the sale, interested bidders will be required to register with and must present a bid deposit which may be held during the sale by the trustee. The bid deposit must be certified funds and/or cash, but no more than \$9,900.00 of cash will be accepted. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained at the sale and applied to the sale price. If held by the trustee, all other bid deposits will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. Settlement is to be made within 15 calendar days. The successful bidder will be responsible for obtaining possession of the property, and for all costs and fees related to recording the Trustee's Deed, including the grantors tax. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Memorandum of Trustee's Sale, available for review on the Foreclosure Sales page of www.glasserlaw.com, outlining additional terms of sale and settlement. A Trustee's Deed will be prepared by Trustee's attorney at high bidder's expense. This is a communication from a debt collector, Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C. on behalf of Atlantic Trustee Services, L.L.C. and/or REO Solutions, LLC, and/or Auction.com-VA, LLC, Substitute Trustees, Crown Center Building, Suite 600, 580 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, File No. 227115-06, Tel: (757) 321-6465, between 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon only.

Run Dates: June 13th, 2024 July 11th, 2024 July 18th, 2024 AD#84543

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463822-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ENAMORADO ALVARADO, FERNANDO D ALVARADO MARTINEZ, MARIA V. CARIAS MATAMOROS, JULIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY BETWEEN THE PARTIES AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant CARLOS MATAMOROS, JULIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 12, 2024 9:00 AM 3B. DATE: June 21, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463671-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ AMAYA, JOSE MIGUEL AMAYA PANIAGUA, CLAUDIA B. DIAZ ORTEZ, RIGOBERTO The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant DIAZ ORTEZ, RIGOBERTO appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 21, 2024 11:00 AM 3B. DATE: June 12, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463672-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ AMAYA, RODRIGO AMAYA PANIAGUA, CLAUDIA V. CARLOS ARANA, ROBERTO The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant CARLOS ARANA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 2, 2024 11:10 AM 3B. DATE: June 12, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463673-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re PEREZ AMAYA, RODRIGO AMAYA PANIAGUA, CLAUDIA V. CARLOS ARANA, ROBERTO The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463928-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ANTUNEZ ARGUETA, MAXIMO S BORGUES III, ARCHIE V. ANTUNEZ ARGAS, MAXIMO ARGUETA HERNANDEZ, BETUL The object of this suit is to:

It is ORDERED that the defendant ANTUNEZ ARGAS, MAXIMO; ARGUETA HERNANDEZ, BETULIA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 15, 2024 11:40 AM 3A. DATE: June 12, 2024

VIRGINIA: FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT IN RE: ADOPTION OF MINOR Child Alina Bakulina, born July 13, 2020 AD-2024-00076

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain an adoption. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Natural Parent in the above-entitled cause is not to be found, and that diligence has been used without effect to ascertain the location of the party to be served; and the last known mailing address of the party is as follows:

Yann Parigot Unknown Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Natural Parent shall appear here on or before 2nd day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. ENTERED: June 21, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

Stephanie M. Sauer Signature of Petitioner or Counsel for Petitioner 4000 Legato Rd. Suite 500 Fairfax, VA 22182 703-582-9821

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1464046-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re WILSON J DEL CID BARAHONA, YADIRA V. ARGUETA, JOSE DENIS The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant ARGUETA, JOSE DENIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before July 24, 2024 11:30 AM 3A. DATE: June 11, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1464047-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re WILSON J DEL CID BARAHONA, YADIRA V. ARGUETA, JOSE DENIS The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant ARGUETA, JOSE DENIS appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 26, 2024 9:30 AM 3C. DATE: June 7, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463883-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BUSTILLO, KEISLYN LOURDE ARGENTINA HERRERA SOLEDAD, FARGAGENA CARBAJAL, MARIO The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SPECIAL FINDINGS

It is ORDERED that the defendant FARGAGENA CARBAJAL, MARIO appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 26, 2024 9:30 AM 3C. DATE: June 7, 2024

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No: J1463922-01-00

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GUARDADO ESCOBAR, AMIRAC CALDERON GONZALEZ, GRISELDA E. GUARDADO ESCOBAR, JUAN RENE The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

It is ORDERED that the defendant GUARDADO ESCOBAR, JUAN RENE appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 13, 2024 11:00 AM 3D. DATE: June 21, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF FAIRFAX VA. CODE § 8.01-316 JINDALLRAE CHOI, Plaintiff, v. Case No: 2024-08968 CURTIS GARY LEWIS, Defendant.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce a vinculo matrimonii on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without any cohabitation and without interruption for more than one (1) year next preceding the institution of this suit, intending the same to be permanent.

An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the whereabouts of the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is a non-resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia and that her name and last known post office address are as follows: to wit: CURTIS GARY LEWIS 6803 Boulevard East, Apt: #74 Guttenberg, New Jersey 07075

It is ORDERED that the Defendant appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 15, 2024 DATE: June 13, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 15, 2024

ASK FOR THIS: VIRGINIA FAMILY LAW CENTER, P.C. BY: BRUCE R. Eells (VSB No. 23098) FAYE K. CARROLL (VSB No. 40933) SHARREYES ALBERS (VSB No. 83583) BRUCE R. EELLS (VSB No. 23099) STEPHEN D. KLEIN (VSB No. 92343)

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 22, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Edith Zavala Deputy Clerk

SAUL ALCIDES LOPEZ ARGUETA vs. Case #: CL-2024-08876 LOURDE ARGENTINA HERRERA DEFENDANT

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The reason for this cause is to obtain a divorce. An affidavit having been made and filed showing that the Defendant in the above-entitled cause is a non-resident individual other than a non-resident individual fiduciary who has appointed a statutory agent, and the last known mailing address of the Defendant is as follows:

LOURDE ARGENTINA HERRERA 2910 Towerbridge Court Pearland, TX 77581 Upon consideration, this Order of Publication is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above named Defendant shall appear here on or before 22nd day of August, 2024 after proper publication of this Order, to protect his/her interest in this cause. ENTERED: June 26, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Edith Zavala Deputy Clerk

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 22, 2024

ARTURO H. HERNANDEZ Signature of Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 107 E Holly Avenue Suite 1 Sterling, VA 20164 (703) 421-5021

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

TESTE: CHRISTOPHER J. FALCON, CLERK BY: Kaleigh Lawson DEPUTY CLERK

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re ARIAS FLORES, JESSIE YAMILETH ARIAS MEJIA, JOSEFA V. UNKNOWN The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN A DIVORCE A VINCULO MATRIMONII

It is ORDERED that the defendant UNKNOWN appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 8, 2024 3:50 PM 3A. DATE: June 11, 2024

Written Answer may be filed in Lieu of Court appearance Reply should be received by August 8, 2024

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464248-01-00, JJ464249-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463895-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT 4110 CHAIN BRIDGE RD. FAIRFAX, VA 22030 Case No.: 2024-09038...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT Judith Marlene Nials COMPLAINANT VS Case #: CL-2024-08938...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464037-01-00,02-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ462199-05-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT Cynthia Lopez Roman COMPLAINANT VS Case #: CL-2024-06653...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464624-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY VICKIE THEODOROPoulos COMPLAINANT VS Case #: CL-2024-0582...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ458422-12-02...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464333-01-01...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX CIRCUIT COURT 4110 CHAIN BRIDGE RD. FAIRFAX, VA 22030 Case No.: 2024-08381...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-08381...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464038-01-00,02-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464038-01-00,02-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY GUY CECIL ROBINSON, JR. PLAINTIFF VS Case #: CL-2024-08059...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463361-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464625-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY VICKIE THEODOROPoulos COMPLAINANT VS Case #: CL-2024-582...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-08268...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-8382...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464350-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464029-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464039-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464039-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463361-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463361-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: CL-2023-14008...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464233-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464233-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464233-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464233-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463617-01-00,02-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ463617-01-00,02-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: JJ464041-01-00...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: CL-2024-0001960...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Fairfax Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316 FAIRFAX COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT Case No.: 2024-09037...

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Adam C. Eifenbein Signature of Complainant or Counsel for Complainant VSB 27222 210 Wilson Blvd. 8th Floor Arlington, VA 22201 (703)249-9223

Christoph J. Falcon, Clerk Deputy Clerk

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Liza Greenspun Yang Signature of Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 496207 3955 Chain Bridge Road 2nd Floor Fairfax, VA 22030 703-352-0100

M. Christian Ortloff Signature of Complainant or Counsel for Complainant 06594 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22044 (703)536-3800

Assia Samizay Signature of Plaintiff or Counsel for Plaintiff 14015 Edman Road Centreville, VA 20121 samizay@gmail.com 703-961-6436

Evert Tenjoh Signature of Plaintiff or Counsel for Plaintiff 27706 Cascade Springs D Katy, TX 77494 (346)435-7942

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Alexandria

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King Street, Room 307 Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001828 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Vicenta De Jesus Sagastume Guerra De Diaz v. Juan Carlos Diaz Garcia

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since May 2019.

It is ORDERED that Juan Carlos Diaz Garcia appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Dmlme SV Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85116

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001678 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Melissa Arely Velasquez-Ramirez v. Juan Jose Ramirez Hernandez

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff be awarded a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground of having lived separate and apart without a n y cohabitation and without interruption of a period one year since December , 2019.

It is ORDERED that Juan Jose Ramirez Hernandez, at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 12th, 2024

Jackie Garcia Clerk June 27, 2024 July 4, 11 & 18, 2024 AD#84978

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St, Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001788 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Marie Myriame Rene v. Jean Claudy Edouard

The object of this suit is to: Grant her Final Divorce a Vinculo Matrimonii from the defendant on the grounds of one year separation without cohabitation and without interruption since March, 2021.

It is ORDERED that Jean Claudy Edouard at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19th, 2024.

Jackie Garcia Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85121

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King Street, Room 307 Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001831 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Yazmin Rios Salas v. Marcos Christian Silva

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since May 2012.

It is ORDERED that Marcos Christian Silva appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Dmlme SV Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85118

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St, Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001801 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Carmen Rosa Gongora Zapata v. Luis Gonzalo Lara

The object of this suit is to: The plaintiff may be awarded a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the respondent of the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart for more than 6 months without cohabitation or interruption since October 2023

It is ORDERED that Carmen Rosa Gongora Zapata at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Darlene Sourivong Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85114

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Alexandria

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King Street, Room 307 Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001827 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Suany Meelissa Canales Vaquedano v. Hugo Rene Erazo Flores

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since December 2010.

It is ORDERED that Hugo Rene Erazo Flores appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Dmlme SV Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85119

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001678 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Melissa Arely Velasquez-Ramirez v. Juan Jose Ramirez Hernandez

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff be awarded a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground of having lived separate and apart without a n y cohabitation and without interruption of a period one year since December , 2019.

It is ORDERED that Juan Jose Ramirez Hernandez, at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 12th, 2024

Jackie Garcia Clerk June 27, 2024 July 4, 11 & 18, 2024 AD#84978

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St, Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001788 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Marie Myriame Rene v. Jean Claudy Edouard

The object of this suit is to: Grant her Final Divorce a Vinculo Matrimonii from the defendant on the grounds of one year separation without cohabitation and without interruption since March, 2021.

It is ORDERED that Jean Claudy Edouard at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19th, 2024.

Jackie Garcia Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85121

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King Street, Room 307 Alexandria, VA 22314

Case No.: CL24001831 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Yazmin Rios Salas v. Marcos Christian Silva

The object of this suit is to: Plaintiff prays that she be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the defendant on the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart without cohabitation or interruption for more than one year since May 2012.

It is ORDERED that Marcos Christian Silva appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Dmlme SV Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85118

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1,8.01-316, -317, 20-104

Alexandria Circuit Court 520 King St, Alexandria VA 22314

Case No. CL24001801 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re Carmen Rosa Gongora Zapata v. Luis Gonzalo Lara

The object of this suit is to: The plaintiff may be awarded a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the respondent of the ground that the parties have lived separate and apart for more than 6 months without cohabitation or interruption since October 2023

It is ORDERED that Carmen Rosa Gongora Zapata at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before August 19, 2024

Darlene Sourivong Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85114

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Arlington Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ045764-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re AVALES NARRO, ALEJANDRA J

The object of this suit is to: CUSTODY DETERMINATION

It is ORDERED that SAUL AVALES BARRIA AND ANDREN ZUCELY NAJARRO CONTRERAS appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 12, 2024 9:30 AM.

Ronikka Lartey Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85150

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ045752-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re YANEZ GALDO, CESAR NAHUN

The object of this suit is to: PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FINDING

It is ORDERED that CESAR APARICIO YANEZ MIRANDA appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 22, 2024 9:45 AM.

Ronikka Lartey Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85151

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ045752-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re YANEZ REGALDO, CESAR NAHUN

The object of this suit is to: PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FINDING

It is ORDERED that IRMA ETELEBINA REGALDO LARA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before August 22, 2024 9:45 AM.

Ronikka Lartey Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85152

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ046025-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re RICH, MAKAYLA CHEYANNE

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUDOTY

It is ORDERED that DONALD DEMAR HUMPHREY appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before July 26, 2024 9:40 AM.

Jennifer Castro Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85192

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ARLINGTON

RALUCA SCHLAEFER, DAVID ALLEN SCHLAEFER Petitioners

Case No. CA23-13 In re: Maria Sakai A minor, born June 15, 2007

ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE OBJECT OF THIS SUIT is for Petitioners RALUCA SCHLAEFER and DAVID ALLEN SCHLAEFER's Petition for Adoption to be heard.

IT APPEARING by Affidavit that the Petitioner has used due diligence to ascertain the whereabouts of the Father without any effect, therefore, it is HEREBY ORDERED that the Father appear before this Court on or before the 2nd day of August, 2024 at 10:00am and protect his interests herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above paragraphs be published once a week for four (4) weeks in the Washington Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Arlington, Virginia. The Washington Times is located at 3600 New York Avenue NE, Washington, DC. 20002. The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the courthouse.

The former order of publication will not return in time for the previously set date of July 26, 2024. ENTERED this 27th day of June, 2024.

Daniel S. Fiore, II Judge A Copy Teste: Paul Ferguson, Clerk By Angelica T Deputy Clerk

WE ASK FOR THIS: MELONE HATLEY,PC By: Elizabeth S. Vaughan VSB No. 65900 12110 Sunset Hills Road Ste. 600 Reston, VA 20190 Telephone: (703)965-9900 Facsimile: (703)963-6320 esvaughan@melonehatley.com Counsel for Petitioners July 4,11,18 & 25,2024 AD#85206



Order Of Pub - Domestic: Arlington Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ046017-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re JUAREZ SANCHEZ, JOSE B

The object of this suit is to: PETITION FOR CUSTODY AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR JOSE BRYAN JUAREZ SANCHEZ

It is ORDERED that JOSE MACARIO JUAREZ appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before July 29, 2024 9:45 AM.

Ronikka Lartey Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85194

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ045750-01-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re SOSA SERRANO, KEVIN

The object of this suit is to: TO DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS STATUS

It is ORDERED that the defendant FILIBERTO SOSA DUBON appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before July 24, 2024 9:40 AM.

Lydia Miles Deputy Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85154

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ04575-01-00/02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re GONZALEZ SERRANO, ISAAC EMANUEL

The object of this suit is to: TO DETERMINE CUSTODY AND SJS STATUS

It is ORDERED that the defendant OSCAR GONZALEZ GARCIA appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before July 24, 2024 9:30 AM.

Lydia Miles Deputy Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85153

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316

ARLINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

Case No.: JJ046019-01-00/02-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re BACHAN TOI, JEYDI F

The object of this suit is to: DETERMINE CUSTODY/SJS

It is ORDERED THE UNKNOWN FATHER appear at the above-named court and protect his or her interests on or before August 12, 024 9:45 AM.

Jennifer Castro Deputy Clerk July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85189

Order Of Pub - Domestic: Prince William Co.

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

ELIZABETH ANN HANCOCK, Plaintiff, v. CL No. CL24-3095 STEPHEN ANDREW HANCOCK, Defendant.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION The object of this action is for Plaintiff to obtain a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the Defendant on the grounds of having lived separate and apart for a period exceeding one year.

IT APPEARING by affidavit that the Defendant's present whereabouts are unknown, and diligence and good faith efforts have been exercised by the Plaintiff to ascertain the location of Defendant, without effect, therefore, it is ORDERED that the Defendant appear before this Court on or before the 2nd day of August, 2024, at 5PM to protect Defendant's interests herein.

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 Prince William. The Clerk of this Court shall post this Order at the front door of the courthouse and shall mail a copy of this Order to the Defendant at his last known address, if any, given in the affidavit of the plaintiff filed herein.

The former order of publication will not return in time for the previously set date of July 26, 2024. ENTERED this 27th day of June, 2024.

Jacqueline C. Smith, Esq Clerk of the Circuit Court Virginia State Bar #85065 Senior Deputy Clerk Circuit Court-Civil Division BRISTLE-SCHULZE, PLLC Anna Bristle Esq VSB #5065 Virginia State Bar #85065 9315 Center Street, Suite 103 Manassas, VA 20110 Telephone: (703) 454-0701 Facsimile: (703) 649-6368 Email:anna@bristlelaw.com Counsel for Plaintiff July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85204

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Order Of Pub - Domestic: Prince William Co.

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE §§ 8.01-316-317

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Case No.: CA24-1 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re NICHOLAS E. RODAK & HILLARY A. RODAK v. STEVAN WADE FLEEGLE, JR.

The object of this suit is to: OBTAIN AN ADOPTION

It is ORDERED that STEVAN WADE FLEEGLE, Jr. appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before Monday, August 12, 2024.

Jacqueline C. Smith, Esq CLERK June 27, 2024 July 4,11 & 18, 2024 AD#84924

Order Of Pub - Domestic

ORDER OF PUBLICATION Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code Ann. §§ 1-211.1; 8.01-316, -317, 20-104

STAFFORD CIRCUIT COURT 1300 COURTHOUSE ROAD, STAFFORD VA 22554

Case No. CL24002164-00 Commonwealth of Virginia, in re MYEASHA SHAWN TAE MEDLOCK v. WILLIAM C BROWN

The object of this suit is to: TO OBTAIN NAME CHANGE FROM FOR MINOR CHILD

IT IS ORDERED THAT WILLIAM C BROWN appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before AUGUST 19, 2024

Judith M. Tayman II CLERK July 4,11,18 & 25, 2024 AD#85160

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LOUDOUN COUNTY

MARLON ABIMAEI REYES MONTERROSSO, Plaintiff, v. Case No. CL24002687-00 GLENN JUDITH ROMERO ROMERO, 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, GLENN JUDITH ROMERO ROMERO, is a nonresident individual of the Commonwealth of Virginia, other than a non-resident individual fiduciary who has appointed a statutory agent; and

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT, that the last known post office address of the Defendant is 2215 Town Lake Circle, Austin, Texas 78741; and therefore

THIS ORDER OF PUBLICATION is granted, and it is ORDERED that the above-named Defendant, Javier Antonio Flores Avilla, shall appear here on or before August 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. before this Court; and that she do what is necessary to protect his interests in this suit; and that this Order be posted pursuant to Virginia Code Section 1-211.1, and 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 2215 Town Lake Circle, Austin, TX 78741; and it is

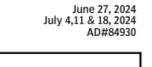
ORDERED to send the Certificate of Publication and the invoice for same to Ryan M. Mattson, Law Office of Ryan M Mattson, PC, 205 Van Buren Street, Suite 120, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

AND THIS CAUSE IS CONTINUED ENTERED this 21st day of June, 2024.

Matthew P. Snow 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 27, 2024 July 4,11 & 18, 2024 AD#84930

Legal Notices DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903 The Washington Times



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Legal Notices DC & Maryland 202-636-4953 Virginia 703-425-0903 The Washington Times

Show Cause Notice

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

IN RE: ESTATE OF JEROME SWOPE JOHNSON deceased

Case No. FD-2022-0002214 SHOW CAUSE AGAINST DISTRIBUTION ORDER

IT APPEARING that a report of the accounts of VICTOR JOHNSON, Administrator of the Estate of JEROME SWOPE JOHNSON, deceased, and of the debts and demands against his estate has been filed in the Clerk's Office, and that six months have elapsed since the qualification, on motion of VICTOR JOHNSON, Administrator; IT IS SO ORDERED that the creditors of, and all others interested in, the Estate do show cause, if they can, on 9th day of August, 2024, at 9 a.m., before the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, against payment and delivery of the Estate to the distributees without requiring refunding bonds.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the foregoing portion of this order be published once a week for two (2) successive weeks in The Washington Times, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, ENTERED this 2nd day of July, 2024

Brett A. Kassabian JUDGE

I ASK FOR THIS

3	8			2		
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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:

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

NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Applicant Interview

- ACROSS
- 1 Relief map, for short
 - 5 '60s chic
 - 8 Barista's servings
 - 14 Livestock holder
 - 15 Suffix for stock or block
 - 16 Spread out, as a carpet
 - 17 "Please tell me about your..."
 - 19 Very much
 - 20 Workout venue
 - 21 Really chafe
 - 23 "Please tell me about your..."
 - 29 End of a "cozy" comparison
 - 30 Senses somehow
 - 31 Dental design
 - 32 Generous bar buy
 - 35 Flanged fastener
 - 36 "Please tell me about your..."
 - 39 Region northeast of Egypt
 - 42 Where mariners go
 - 43 Female rabbit
 - 46 Retired professors
 - 49 Recipe instruction
 - 51 "Please tell me about your..."
 - 54 Scale-teaching song
 - 55 Hard wood
 - 56 Egg on
 - 59 "Please tell me about your..."
 - 63 Germ cell division
 - 64 Car's gas-saving mode
 - 65 Person for whom Sam "played it"
 - 66 A euro predecessor
- DOWN
- 1 Sched. placeholder
 - 2 Rebus puzzle
 - 3 Usher in early
 - 4 Roughly equal
 - 5 USAF officer
 - 6 Signs of spoilage
 - 7 First show
 - 8 Messy fundraiser
 - 9 Staged with no break
 - 10 What many West Pointers wear
 - 11 Brief trip
 - 12 Purely
 - 13 Apt to mislead
 - 15
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www.stanxwords.com

By Winston Emmons, Edited by Stanley Newman

18 Old enough to know better

22 Many Elvis-era tunes

23 "Scram!"

24 "Messenger" molecule

25 Elton John attainment of 2024

26 Article read by Merkel

27 VW predecessors

28 Retired flyer

33 Computer-operating period

34 It means "innovative"

36 Eden, for instance

37 Safari attire

38 Ranks

39 Rock in a ring

40 Exercise advocacy org.

41 Introspective sect

43 Wildcatter's non-strike

44 Wildcatter's strike

45 Compass reading

47 Outfielder's call

48 Patron saint of Spain

50 "Huge deal"

52 Lodge firmly

53 Wedding photo subject

56 Small scam

57 Never: Ger.

58 DJIA components

60 Farm-related noun or verb

61 ID with dashes

62 Jam session participant

JUMBLE/David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

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

AHRIC

PRUUS

SLNEOS

SIYETF

WHEN ASKED WHAT THE SQUARE ROOT OF 16 WAS, THE MATH STUDENT COULDN'T

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

(Answers tomorrow)

RUBES/Leigh Rubin

"...As I was sayin', being exposed out in the open and neglecting to apply sunscreen is the least of my concerns."

IN THE BLEACHERS/Steve Moore

"I might've trained her too well."

B.C./Mastroianni & Hart

SEE THAT? SEE THAT WORM CRAWLING ON ME?

EVEN NATURE'S SMALLEST CREATURES ARE CAPTURED BY MY EFFERVESCENCE.

HOW UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL I AM!

AND TASTY.

LOLA/Todd Clark

MONTY! MY MAIN KID. WHAT'S UP?

ANOTHER SUMMER ALONE.

I'LL NEVER GET A GIRLFRIEND. YOU NEED A GOOD OPENING LINE.

I'VE GOT ONE! LET'S HEAR IT.

"I'M MONTY, AND I'M NEARLY RASH-FREE." HARD TO BELIEVE THAT FAILS.

BOUND & GAGGED/Dana Summers

IT WAS A CHOCOLATE CAKE, BUT NOW IT'S AN UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE.

ADAM @ HOME/Rob Harrell

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

AAAAAAA!!

KATY! THAT ONE WAS EXTRA BLOOD-CURLING. AM I RIGHT?

TURN AROUND. I NEED NEW PANTS.

THE BUCKETS/Greg Cravens

THE FUTURE SCARES ME.

I UNDERSTAND YOU WORRY YOU WON'T DO WELL IN SCHOOL, OR THAT YOU MIGHT MAKE SKETCHY PERSONAL OR CAREER CHOICES, OR MAYBE YOU WON'T ACHIEVE YOUR BEST AMBITIONS?

NO. WHAT IT DOESN'T SCARE ME. I'M WORRIED WHAT EVERYONE ELSE WILL DO THAT'LL MESS UP MY FUTURE.

ROSE IS ROSE/Pat Brady & Don Wimmer

I DO MY SHARE TO HELP THEM...

WITH THEIR SUMMER STRETCHES.

DOGS OF C-KENNEL/Mick & Mason Mastroianni

CREATE PASSWORD

"KENNY"

PASSWORD NOT STRONG ENOUGH

"WILL"

VERY FUNNY

HERB & JAMAAL/Stephen Bentley

I SHOULD GIVE HERB MORE CREDIT...

'CAUSE HE SEEMS TO ALWAYS KEEP HIS HEAD ABOVE WATER...

AND I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY...

AFTER ALL, WOOD FLOATS.

CARPE DIEM/Niklas Eriksson

THE HOLY MASTER'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE. HE HAS FULLY ACCEPTED JOEY'S TENDENCY TO KEEP YANKING AT THE LEAD.

BROOM-HILDA/Russell Myers

HI!

CHIRP!

I SAID 'HI' TO A BIRD AND IT SAID 'HI' BACK. I CAN TALK TO BIRDS!

THEN DO ME A FAVOR!

WOULD YOU MIND MOVING? AUNTIE BROOM JUST WASHED HER CAR!

DICK TRACY/Shelley Pleger & Mike Curtis

MISS BUMM, MISS PHYM IN MY OFFICE AT ONCE, PLEASE.

THE POLICE HAVE JUST REACHED OUT TO ME. THEY WANT "ASSISTANCE" WITH THEIR "INQUIRIES."

I MUST EXPEDITE... CERTAIN MATTERS. AS FOR YOU TWO: I NEED YOU TO TAKE CONTINGENCY ACTIONS.

POOCH CAFE/Paul Gilligan

I WANT ACCESS TO THE REFRIGERATOR, AND TUMMY RUBS ON DEMAND!

ON STRIKE

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT MUCH BARGAINING LEVERAGE. IT'S PAST SUPPER TIME AND YOUR STOMACH IS GROWLING.

COME ON. THROW ME A FREAKIN' BONE, HERE!

THANKS.

S'ALL RIGHT.

CHEW CHEW

STRANGE BREW/John Deering

THANKS FOR INVITING JUSTIN. I'LL BE HERE EARLY TOMORROW SINCE HE HAS BRAND CAMP.

BOTTOM LINERS/Eric & Bill Teitelbaum

"I don't get it! They hired one AI fabricator... and they pink-slipped the entire advertising and marketing department."

THE FLYING McCOYS/Glenn & Gary McCoy

I THOUGHT THE CAT ISSUE WAS GOING TO BE... HON, SHOULD I SAY?... "TAKING CARE OF" AFTER OUR HANDSHAKE THIS AFTERNOON.

PARDON MY PLANET/Vic Lee

ALL NIGHT LONG I TAKE VIDEOS AND PICTURES OF THE NEW BABY. THEN I HAVE TO SPEND HOURS POSTING THEM TO ALL MY SOCIAL NETWORKS. NOBODY EVER TOLD ME MOTHERHOOD WOULD INVOLVE SO MUCH.

BLISS/Harry Bliss

"Isn't it about time for the dynamic duo to go for a walk?"



Singer Rachael Price (left) and keyboardist Akie Bermis of Lake Street Dive are taking an upbeat approach in "Good Together."

MUSIC

Lake Street Dive spreading the joy

By DAVID BAUDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK | Lake Street Dive chooses to spread some joy. You got a problem with that?

The veteran pop-soul band's upbeat approach permeates the new disc "Good Together," with the title track's sprightly synthesizers pushing along members' Rachael Price and Akie Bermis duet about of a couple in that stage of new relationship bliss.

On "Dance With a Stranger," Ms. Price encourages audience members to make eye contact with someone they don't know and take a chance. "Open up your heart and dance with a stranger," she sings, "until they're not a stranger anymore."

Lake Street Dive explains the perspective as "joyful rebellion," seemingly a convoluted way of explaining their nature.

"I do feel as performing artists you're asking people to connect with you," Mr. Bermis said in a recent interview. "That's part of the mission behind this record and the shows — to be connected to the audience. We wanted to call people to create joy."

The band, whose core members met while studying jazz at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, have methodically built an audience with their original music and a penchant

Pop-soul band says their perspective is 'joyful rebellion'

for well-selected cover songs. A long North American tour this summer and fall includes their first-ever headlining gig at New York's Madison Square Garden.

They won't be gazing at their shoes and singing about their troubles.

"We really came into our own as a band playing small bars, where people didn't know our songs at all," Ms. Price recalled. "We had to learn how to get people's attention. And the way we figured out to get people's attention is to play happy, joyful songs that had a catchy melody and a catchy phrase that you would sing along to before the song was over. This was an act of survival."

They're not Pollyannas. Bad things happen to joyful people, too. But even Lake Street Dive's breakup songs have a certain sweetness to them. One of their best-known cuts, "Good Kisser," is about a woman who tells her ex that when he's trashing her to his friends, don't ignore the good parts — including the talent referred to in the title.

The ballad "Twenty-Five," the new disc's best song, takes a poignant look back at a breakup.

"There was a time when I imagined we'd be forever," Ms. Price sings, in the song that was penned by bass player Bridget Kearney.

But the young couple in the story couldn't bridge their differences. "I'll be an old woman with somebody else by my side," Ms. Price sings. "But I will always be in love with you in my memories, when we were 25."

Ms. Price says she talked over the idea with Mr. Kearney, reflecting on a perspective gained with time's erasure of sour feelings. Ms. Price and her musician-husband, Taylor Ashton, are new parents.

"The idea that something has to last a long time or else it's a failure doesn't make sense in times of growing up and relationships and friendships," she said. "They can be beautiful, and they can be ephemeral."

At a recent concert, she sang "Twenty-Five" as part of a one-two punch following Mr. Bermis' cover of his own "Alone Again," a song about loneliness delivered with such humor that he's not likely to have that problem himself if he keeps singing it.

Good cheer can be looked upon with suspicion in music.

The headline of critic Jeremy Levine's review of "Good Together" in Pop Matters talks about Lake Street Dive creating "obligatory fun." Another critic, Matt Collar of AllMusic, said the disc "feels convivial and breezy, showcasing their warm group harmonies and a nice balance of stylistic influences."

It's the group's first disc without guitarist-trumpet player Mike "McDuck" Olson, who arguably was most influential in the band coalescing at school. He left during the pandemic, no longer wanting to travel. James Cornelison replaced him on guitar. Keyboard player Bermis joined the band in 2017, supplementing original members Ms. Price, Mr. Kearney and drummer Mike Calabrese.

"Akie's addition to the band was something that helped us create a lot more space in the music, which was something that we were looking for," Ms. Price said.

For their cover songs, Ms. Price says the band enjoys stripping other artists' songs down to their essence.

"You learn a lot by learning songs that you love," she said. "You realize what makes a song stand on its own, what makes a groove and what's pivotal to the performance. That's influenced our own songwriting, as well. It's an education and a gateway for fans."

Mystery of missing undies leaves hostess embarrassed

DEAR ABBY: We invited a couple for a short visit to our remote country cabin. Afterward, I discovered a pair of pink panties lying on the road in front of our mailbox. When I picked them up with a stick to carry to the trash, I realized they were a pair of clean pink panties I had misplaced. They must have stuck to the sheets I had placed on the bed immediately before our guests arrived.

Now I can't stop wondering what this couple must have been thinking when they tossed the panties. This may not seem like a serious issue, but it has become a source of embarrassment for me every time I meet these folks. Should I explain the panty situation or let it go? — RED-FACED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR RED-FACED: Don't get your panties in a twist. The next time you encounter the couple, ask if they have encountered a pair of pink panties that you misplaced around the time they came to visit.

DEAR ABBY: I was watching a police video on the internet, and I spotted the woman who lives in the apartment next door. I know it's her because of the prominent tattoo on her chest. She was being arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct.

She went ballistic on the cops. First, she screamed and fought back. Next, she sagged and started sobbing at the top of her lungs. Then she started laughing maniacally. I'm afraid to live next to her now. Should I show the video to the apartment

manager and ask that she be removed? — SCARED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR SCARED: Although the police video was understandably upsetting, I am not sure that showing it to the building manager would be enough to have the woman evicted. It might, however, be a valid reason for you to move out of the building. If you are truly fearful, consult an attorney who specializes in real estate law who can advise you on possibly breaking your lease.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are considering a move to another state to be close to our son and his family. Here's our dilemma: We have four lifelong friends who are respected and successful local real estate agents, each of whom would expect to be selected as the listing agent of our home.

Choosing one would, undoubtedly, leave the other three hurt and offended. (They all know each other.) We feel our only option is to choose an outside agent to sell our home and to explain our rationale to our friends before the property hits the market. What say you, please? — HARD CHOICE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HARD CHOICE: There is more than one way to handle this. The first would be to use the outside agent and possibly alienate all of your lifelong friends. Another would be to tell all of them you plan to move to another state to be closer to your children and see which one of the four offers you the best deal to represent you in the sale.

ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 11). You'll venture boldly, not knowing the way, and nor will your

mentors or team. But your moral compass, curiosity and work ethic will lead you all to innovate, invent and strike gold. More highlights: relationship developments that thrill and move you, a clutch investment will pay for seasons to come, and droves of new clients, supporters and fans. Sagittarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 2, 20, 14 and 8.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Becoming has its own intelligence. Even though you may feel clueless as to what your next move is, your intention to avoid trouble and steer yourself in a healthful and supportive direction will prevail.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you over-do it, the recovery can be so intense you wish you never made the effort in the first place. Go forward incrementally, so as to make the challenge a pleasure, not a punishment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are many ways to be truthful. Your truth is tested by worthy opponents. Priorities shift. New influences and interests come. Growth is exhilarating. Rest when needed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a day to choose your song and let it carry you through experiences, as a good soundtrack is keen to do. If you need another reason to sing: the verbalizations will resonate through the entire body with healing sound waves.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When volunteers are needed, you'll consider it and you'll join in the case where you truly believe you can do something good in the situation. If you do decide to raise your hand, it will be in the spirit of certainty. Later you'll look back and realize it was all because you raised your hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you make plans

HOLIDAY MATHS HOROSCOPE

involving others, suddenly dozens of other small goals fall into the mix. There's so much that has to

happen to make one meeting come together. This is what's on your mind and agenda.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Build good will and it will remain. It will be there when you need it to be there. It will be there when you want to tap it and it will be there if you never do. Good will, like gold, has a way of remaining untarnished and ready.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people want to be generous with you, you're first instinct is skeptical, which is only smart. If there's no reason to be skeptical, that will be revealed. First you'll wonder if accepting generosity will put you in debt. Then you'll find out what expectations are in play.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's something to add and something to drop. You can balance much, but not all. Once you let go of a matter, it will fall into circulation. Someone else will get it and be very happy for the acquisition.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've done things you're proud of. You're still in the thrust of it, actually. Don't wait for others to notice your accomplishments. Privately acknowledge and praise yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Contrary to the saying, honesty is not always the best policy. It is only best when the truth is both necessary and kind. There's a time for silent honesty. That's when you hold a space, quietly observing, until someone needs and wants to know what you see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be a key player in the events of the day, and there's a lot you're doing to get ready for the events of tomorrow, too. The muses favor you with excellent ideas that you'll sell with great persuasion.

CREATORS.COM

'Godzilla x Kong' in 4K a vivid monster mash

The fifth film in the MonsterVerse franchise celebrating Japan's multistory Kaiju mythology roars from theaters onto the ultra-high definition disc format with **Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire** (Warner Bros. Home Entertainment, rated PG-13, 115 minutes, 2.39:1 aspect ratio, \$39.98).

Director Adam Wingard returns to helm a story that takes place three years after the Titans' Godzilla and Kong defeated Mechagodzilla.

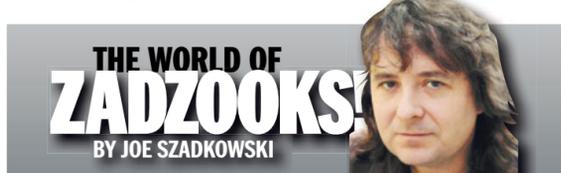
Specifically, after the battle and destruction of Skull Island, Kong now resides in Hollow Earth, a series of varied landscapes connected by portals far within the planet and home to other Titans.

Monarch, a secret government agency tasked with monitoring the beasts, continues to focus on Godzilla as he protects humanity from malicious creature threats arriving at the surface.

Kong eventually finds a tribe of his own species while also befriending a feisty young ape named Suko, but its leader, the vicious Skar King, has no love for the mighty ape and looks to restore his malevolent place on Earth's surface.

While viewers marvel at the Titans and their savage lives, they are also subjected to a very thin human side to the story.

Screenwriters inject a quartet of individuals seen in the last film **Godzilla vs.**



Kong — Kong researcher Dr. Ilene Andrews (Rebecca Hall), extreme veterinarian Trapper (Dan Stevens), a Titan expert blogger Bernie Hayes (Brian Tyree Henry) and the last remaining human survivor of Skull Island Jia (Kaylee Hottle) — who as a team explore a new part of Hollow Earth looking to find the origin of the latest threat to all of planet.

Of course, ultimately, our famed pair of Titans will eventually team up again, along with a special friend, to save the puny humans from the Skar King and his massive slave, an ice-breathing dragon-like behemoth, Shimo.

Amid some massive fights between the Titans, quieter moments sure to oddly entertain fans include Trapper extracting Kong's infected tooth as well as upgrading his powers via a heavy-duty, mechanical fist.

And, Godzilla defeating a crab-like beast in the middle of Rome, with zero concern for any collateral damage, then taking a nap in the Coliseum. It was a laugh-out-loud moment.

Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire offers a decent monster mash sure to please fans of the franchise, but the hardcore

devotee to the Kaiju traditions will rather seek the latest authentic effort from the patriarch of the Lizard King, Toho Co., **Godzilla Minus One**, now out on streaming services.

4K in action: Taking advantage of a 4K master format, the 2160p presentation is set ablaze with vivid colors in scenes such as a psychedelic kaleidoscope trip down a portal by the Monarch team that blasts the screen with purples, pinks, reds and blues.

Or, an opening sweep of giant green, neon-glowing crystal spirals coming up from Hollow Earth, and humans wandering around a glowing, massive multihued pyramid carved from a quartz-like material.

The details of the creature designs are impeccable, as usual, with areas to admire including Kong's textured fur and scarred chest, Godzilla's scaled skin and his glowing translucent blue-and-pink dorsal spikes, the frosted crystal back fins on Shimo and the delicate wing design of the brightly gold colored Mothra.

Let's also mention the Titan battles especially Kong Godzilla tearing apart a blue-and-yellow striped snake and Godzilla

exploding out of Arctic ice after pummeling a neon-pink glowing sea serpent.

Best extras: Fans get a welcomed dive into the production spearheaded by an optional commentary track with Mr. Wingard, production designer Tom Hammock, visual effects supervisor Alessandro Ongaro and editor Josh Schaeffer.

The team delivers an excellent collaborative effort giving viewers a detailed discussion on creative choices, visual effects, technical requirements, locations, the building of Hollow Earth and other scene specifics while also adding plenty of entertaining stories about shooting the film.

Next, take a look at 14 short featurettes (roughly an hour) touching on key aspects of the franchise and production such as Kong, Godzilla, the director's passion for the subject matter, key fight scenes, visual effects, Hollow Earth and overall design concepts.

The collection even references previous films with comments throughout from cast and crew, including actors Bryan Cranston, Millie Bobby Brown, Tom Hiddleston and Brie Larson; director Jordan Vogt-Roberts; and production designer Tom Hammock.

However, it would have been nice to have a "play all" option rather than spending too much time navigating through the menu and submenu to pick and start the many segments.

SOCCER

Berhalter fired as U.S. coach after early Copa America exit

NEW YORK | Gregg Berhalter was fired as U.S. men's soccer coach on Wednesday, nine days after his team's first-round exit from the Copa America flamed doubts he was the right person to remain in charge for the 2026 World Cup.

Berhalter's second term as coach was cut short 10 months after he returned to the bench with high hopes and proclaimed the team's goal was "to change soccer in America forever." The U.S. had seven wins, six losses and one draw in his second stint, leaving his overall record at 44 wins, 17 losses and 13 draws.

"The Copa America result is extremely disappointing and I take full responsibility for our performance," Berhalter said in a statement. "Our approach and process was always focused on the 2026 World Cup and I remain confident that this group will be one of the great stories in 2026."

The U.S. opened with a 2-0 win to Bolivia, then lost 2-1 to Panama and 1-0 to Uruguay.

Sporting director Matt Crocker rehired Berhalter and also will make the recommendation on his replacement. The team next plays in September friendlies against Canada and New Zealand.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Franco scheduled for trial in sexual abuse of teen girl

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Tampa Bay Rays shortstop Wander Franco is scheduled to go to trial Aug. 14 after being charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl in the Dominican Republic, authorities said Wednesday.

Prosecutors filed multiple charges against Franco six months after a judge ordered that he be investigated in connection with sexual and psychological abuse of the girl.

The indictment also includes the girl's mother. According to prosecutors, Franco paid the girl's mother thousands of dollars to consent to the abuse, which lasted four months. The girl's mother remains under house arrest and faces a money laundering charge.

The most serious charges that Franco faces are rape, for which he could receive sentences of between 10 and 15 years in prison, and human trafficking, which is punishable in the Dominican Republic by sentences of between 15 and 20 years.

NBA

NBA agree to record 11-year, \$76 billion media rights deal

The NBA has agreed to terms on its new media deal, a record 11-year agreement worth \$76 billion that assures player salaries will continue rising for the foreseeable future and one that will surely change how some viewers access the game for years to come.

The networks have the terms sheets, with the next step being for the league's board of governors to approve the contracts.

The deal, which set NBA records for both its length and total value, goes into effect for the 2025-26 season. Games will continue being aired on ESPN and ABC, and now some will be going to NBC and Amazon Prime. TNT Sports, which has been part of the league's broadcasting family since the 1980s, could be on its way out, but has five days to match one of the deals.

ESPN and ABC will continue to have the league's top package, which includes the NBA Finals and one of the conference finals series. ABC has aired the NBA Finals since 2003. ABC would continue to air games on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons when the NFL's regular season ends.

Porter pleads guilty in case tied to gambling scandal

NEW YORK | Former NBA player Jontay Porter admitted Wednesday that he schemed to take himself out of games for gambling's sake, pleading guilty to a federal conspiracy crime in the scandal that already got him banned from the league.

"I know what I did was wrong, unlawful, and I am deeply sorry," the former Toronto Raptors center said as he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Echoing findings in an NBA investigation and allegations in an ongoing prosecution of four other men, Porter acknowledged that he agreed to withdraw early from games so that co-conspirators could win bets on his performance. He did it, he said, "to get out from under large gambling debts."

Porter, 24, is free on \$250,000 bond while awaiting sentencing set for Dec. 18.

FROM WIRE DISPATCHES AND STAFF REPORTS.

CYCLING

Vingegaard beats rival Pogacar in sprint to win 11th stage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LE LIORAN, FRANCE | Just three months ago, Jonas Vingegaard was lying in a hospital bed with broken ribs and a collapsed lung. On Wednesday, he beat his rival Tadej Pogacar in a two-man sprint after a brutal day in the mountains.

Pogacar, the Tour leader, kept the yellow jersey but it was the two-time defending champion who earned a psychological victory at the end of an epic battle in the Massif Central.

The pair left all their rivals in their wake and Vingegaard, after closing a big gap to Pogacar in a brutal climb, outsprinted his rival to finish half a wheel ahead for the stage win.

"It is of course very emotional for me. Coming back from the crash," Vingegaard said, trying to hold back tears. "It means a lot. All the things I went through in the last three months, it makes you think of that."

Vingegaard was hospitalized for nearly two weeks in April following a high-speed crash in the Tour of the Basque Country.

He only resumed competitive racing at the Tour and there were many question marks about his form. His tremendous ride Wednesday showed he is more than ready to defend his title.

"I'm just happy to be here and it means so much to win a stage, especially to win it for my family. They were there supporting me the whole time,"



Jonas Vingegaard pumps his fist in celebration Wednesday after he crosses the finish line ahead of rival and Tour de France leader Tadej Pogacar to win the 11th stage.

Vingegaard said.

True to his habit of attacking every time he gets the chance, Pogacar tried to move away alone about 32 kilometers from the finish with a strong attack. After getting dropped, Vingegaard kept his head cool and proved to be the fastest in the next ascent to catch his rival.

Vingegaard said he thought he would not be able to bridge the gap opened by Pogacar, and was also surprised he could beat him in the sprint.

"I would never have thought this three months ago. I was only thinking about doing my own pace and then the sprint."

The pair then stayed together to gain time on Remco Evenepoel and Primoz Roglic, who crashed near the finish. Evenepoel reached the finish 25 seconds behind, with Roglic 55 seconds off the pace.

Evenepoel trails 1:06 behind Pogacar overall, with Vingegaard in third place,

1:14 back. Roglic is fourth, 2:45 behind the race leader.

The rollercoaster 211-kilometer (131-mile) Stage 11 featured four brutal ascents in its second half and included more than 4,000 meters of climbing.

The race started at a high pace and the peloton stayed together for some 40 kilometers before riders could break away in humid conditions. A group of 10 men rode at the front but split at the foot of the first major climb, the steep Col de Nerone.

Pogacar's Team Emirates set a fast tempo but they were caught one by one as they rode up to the Puy Mary, the hardest climb of the day.

Pogacar, a two-time Tour champion, attacked 600 meters from that summit to drop everyone else then went all in on the downhill, showcasing his great skills in the technical descent to increase his lead and start the next climb with a lead of 35 seconds. But Vingegaard still had the final word.

"He is in top shape," Pogacar said about his rival. "He beat me really good on the line, and I did a pretty good sprint after that kind of stage. He was really strong."

Thursday's Stage 12 from Aurillac to Villeneuve-sur-Lot is mainly flat. The battle between Pogacar and Vingegaard is expected to resume this weekend when the peloton will reach bigger mountains in the Pyrenees.

TENNIS

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Wimbledon."

This will be Djokovic's record-tying 13th semifinal at Wimbledon alone — equaling Roger Federer — and 49th Slam semifinal overall, extending a mark he already held. As Musetti pursues his first major championship, Djokovic seeks a 25th, including what would be an eighth at the All England Club.

Djokovic's smooth trip through this year's bracket was made even easier when the man he was supposed to play in the quarterfinals Wednesday, Alex de Minaur, pulled out with a hip injury hours before their match was scheduled to begin.

Musetti was forced to work for his spot in the final four: His 3½-hour victory over the 13th-seeded Fritz was the 37th five-setter at the All England Club this year, the most at any Grand Slam tournament.

Musetti acknowledged he didn't get off to an ideal start, in part because of nerves. But an early break in the second set helped alter the course of the evening.

"Immediately, I changed my mind. I changed my attitude," he said. "And that probably made the difference."

Musetti's son, Ludovico, was born in March, and he said Wednesday that



Novak Djokovic reached his record-tying 13th Wimbledon semifinal after his opponent, Alex de Minaur, pulled out with a hip injury hours before their match.

helped him rededicate himself to his sport and strive to no longer "throw away matches."

"Instead of me teaching him, he's teaching me. ... Having a child makes you reflect a lot," Musetti said. "I feel more mature on the court, more mature off the court, and more mature as a player, as a father, as a person."

Playing at a sun-washed No. 1 Court

against Fritz, an American who is one of the sport's biggest servers but fell to 0-4 in major quarterfinals, Musetti managed to accumulate 13 break points and convert six.

With Queen Camilla, the wife of King Charles III, in the stands and joining fans in doing the wave, Musetti did far more to vary his strokes — a drop shot here, a lob there, plenty of slices — than Fritz did.

"I just felt like it took a lot to finish the point," Fritz said.

Djokovic had knee surgery less than a month before the start of play at the All England Club. But despite limitations on his movement, the 37-year-old Djokovic has dropped only two sets so far — facing a qualifier in the first round, a wildcard entrant in the second and only one seeded player, No. 15 Holger Rune.

Instead of going up against No. 9 de Minaur on Wednesday, Djokovic will get three full days off before meeting Musetti. The other semifinal Friday is defending champion Carlos Alcaraz against Daniil Medvedev.

Djokovic and Musetti have played each other six times previously. Djokovic has won five of those, including a five-setter at this year's French Open that concluded after 3 a.m. It was in Djokovic's following match in Paris that he tore the meniscus in his right knee.

"We know each other pretty well.

They've always been a huge fight so I expect a big, big fight. It's going to be one of the toughest challenges on tour," Musetti said, "but I am an ambitious guy and I like to be challenged."

In the women's quarterfinals Wednesday, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina grabbed nine of the last 11 games to defeat No. 21 Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2, and No. 31 Barbora Krejickova eliminated No. 13 Jelena Ostapenko 6-4, 7-6 (4) in a matchup between two past champions at the French Open.

The other women's semifinal on Thursday is No. 7 Jasmine Paolini of Italy against unseeded Donna Vekic of Croatia.

Kazakhstan's Rybakina ended her win with her seventh ace and improved to 19-2 at Wimbledon in four appearances.

"Definitely, I have an aggressive style of game," Rybakina said. "I have a huge serve, so it's a big advantage."

Krejickova won her first Grand Slam title on the red clay at Roland Garros in 2021, but the 28-year-old from the Czech Republic never put together a five-match winning streak on grass until now.

De Minaur's exit is the latest due to injury in Week 2. His hip issue arose right at the end of his win against Arthur Fils on Monday.

De Minaur said he heard a crack and knew something was wrong.

TRACK

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in the Olympics' biggest sport are well aware that the money is great, but the gold medal brings an air of immortality that only an Olympic title can.

"The moment only comes once every four years," Holloway said. "If you're not training to be an Olympic gold medalist, then what the hell are you doing? That's my mentality."

Richardson's first Olympics

Richardson makes her Olympic debut after her much-discussed absence from the last Olympics due to a positive marijuana test.

Her current form, her status as the reigning world champion, along with the absence of two-time defending champion Elaine Thompson-Herah, all make Richardson the sprinter to beat in the women's 100. But it won't be a gimme.

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce is heading to her fifth (and final) Olympics and has won this race twice. Jackson is a 200 specialist (see below) but also one of the fastest in the world at this distance.

Lyles tries to win the sprint double

Lyles attributes a lot of his bad finish in 2021 to depression that kept him from focusing. That race is the only 200-meter sprint he's lost at a major championship.

By the time the 200 final comes around on Aug. 8, the 100 will be in the rearview mirror and we'll know if Lyles has a chance to complete a sprint double, a la Bolt, and Lewis before him. Lyles is the reigning world champ at 100, but he's less seasoned at that distance.

Just last month, another Jamaican, Kishane Thompson, ran 9.77 to head into his first Olympics with the world's best time. Also, Jamaica's Oblique Seville beat Lyles head-to-head at a meet in Kingston in June. But a tune-up in Kingston and the Olympics in Paris are two different animals.

Distance demons

In Tokyo, Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands pulled off one of the most amazing feats in Olympic history by winning medals in the 1,500 (bronze), 5,000 (gold) and 10,000 meters (gold).

She's coming back for more, and has even floated the idea that she might do those three, then add the marathon, which takes place on the last day of the Olympics, to her schedule.

"I will decide a week before," Hassan said in a recent interview. "Maybe I'm gonna have great training somehow, somewhere."

As always, Hassan, and her quest for medals, will face a stern challenge Faith Kipyegon of Kenya, who is the reigning world champion at 1,500 and 5,000 meters. Kipyegon broke her own world record at 1,500 in an Olympic tune-up this month, finishing in 3:49.04.

Holloway's bad race

Holloway is a three-time world champion in the 110 hurdles, and a favorite to win on Aug. 8. He was a favorite three years ago in Tokyo too, but weakened down the stretch, and fell to Hansle Parchment of Jamaica.

Holloway is 9-3 in head-to-head matchups with Parchment, and even 2-1 against him at the Olympics. But the two victories came in preliminary rounds and that loss came with the gold medal on the line.

Jackson's bad day

Jackson is the only woman other than the late Florence Griffith Joyner to run the 200 meters in 21.48 or faster. So, why hasn't most of the world heard of her?

At the last Olympics, she put on the

brakes too early in her opening heat, finished fourth and never even got to race in the final for the gold. It's a mistake she called the most devastating of her career, and one that has fueled her run to Paris.

Now, more trouble. She failed to finish a July 9 tune-up race in Hungary, and it was unclear if she is healthy going into the Olympics. If Jackson isn't in the lineup, American Gabby Thomas, who comes in with this year's fastest time (21.78) and a bronze medal from Tokyo, would be the clear favorite.

Jumping for Ukraine

Anyone who says sports and politics do not intersect might want to tune in Aug. 4, when Ukrainian high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh takes the field.

Mahuchikh is coming in just a few weeks after breaking a 37-year-old world record in her event, jumping 2.10 meters at an Olympic tune-up in Paris.

World Athletics has not allowed Russians in international meets since the war with Ukraine broke out. It means Maria Lasitskene will not be on hand to defend her Olympic title. Lasitskene also wasn't present last year when Mahuchikh won the title on an emotional closing day at the world championships.

FOOTBALL

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That was the case for Terry Carter. He spent 10 years in the Air Force before entering the civilian workforce last year.

"It was time to get into coaching," Carter said.

Soldiers to Sidelines helped the Georgia native land a job at Friendship Collegiate Academy in the District. He started as a running backs coach and is now an offensive coordinator.

"It's important to be able to give back, which is why I coach," he said. "It's something that I really take pride

in doing, to be able to show them that there's life after football."

On Thursday, Carter and nine other veterans will hone their skills as coaches at the workshop. Some, like Carter, already boast a wealth of experience. Others are just starting their coaching journey.

After refining their strategies, the "soldier coaches" will host a football skills clinic for players from the District's H.D. Woodson High School and Dunbar High School on Friday.

The Soldiers to Sidelines clinic focuses on more than just football X's and O's.

"Professional development isn't just football related," Carter, an Air Force veteran said. "You're getting to learn

how to be a better person, a better leader. You're learning how to build culture.

"These are things that aren't talked about at coaching clinics. It's a lot deeper than football and it puts that into perspective."

Commanders officials said they're going for two by supporting the Soldiers to Sidelines event. As Carter notes, the skills clinic offers a unique opportunity for young athletes. But giving back to the military community is also a focus for the Commanders.

"This is right in line with everything we want to do with our military and veteran community ... it reiterates the Commanders' commitment to the

community," said Chris Bailey, who handles military and veteran relations for the team. "It's a great opportunity for both the soldier coaches learning a new trade and the young athletes to take part in this event as well."

Bernstein said the veterans have each committed to using the skills they learned this week to host a free football clinic in their communities.

"Our soldier coaches get to practice all of the great lessons they learned through this workshop, so they can go and replicate it in their community," the former NFL strength coach said. "It's intended to have a ripple effect throughout our country."

TENNIS

Musetti reaches his first Slam semifinal

Win sets up match with Djokovic

By HOWARD FENDRICH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON | Lorenzo Musetti threw his head back and spread his arms wide to celebrate reaching his first Grand Slam semifinal at Wimbledon, then covered his face with both hands.

His 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory over Taylor Fritz on Wednesday was a big deal, to be sure. After all, the 25th-seeded Musetti, a 22-year-old from Italy, never had made it past the third round at the All England Club — or past the fourth round at any major tournament — until this fortnight.

Now, though, comes a far tougher test: taking on Novak Djokovic.

“He probably knows, better than me, the surface and the stadium, for sure,” Musetti said with a chuckle, aware he’ll be making his Centre Court debut on Friday. “Jokes apart, he’s a legend everywhere, but especially here in

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Lorenzo Musetti raises his arms to the crowd Wednesday after beating Taylor Fritz, 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon.

OLYMPICS

Their time to shine



U.S. track star Sha'Carri Richardson makes her Olympic debut after her much-discussed and debated absence from the last Olympics due to a positive marijuana test.



Jamaica's Usain Bolt became a larger-than-life icon with at least two gold medals at three different Olympics, shining brightest on the biggest stage.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

“Right now, I do not hold a gold medal in the Olympics,” U.S. track star Noah Lyles said. “The only one that’s missing from the list (of medals) is an Olympic gold. And I’m planning on leaving with a lot of those.”

By EDDIE PELLIS
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

There are big races, and then there are the Olympics.

When Sha'Carri Richardson, Noah Lyles and all the other fastest runners and best jumpers and throwers of 2024 line up for the Olympic track and field meet, little of what they've done on the road to Paris will mean much. How they respond to pressure will matter when the spotlight is on.

Will they end up shining as brightly

Track stars Richardson, Lyles seek gold under spotlight at Paris Olympics

as a Usain Bolt or Carl Lewis, whose knack for performing when Olympic gold medals were at stake turned them into larger-than-life icons?

Or will they be more like Jamaican sprinter Shericka Jackson and American hurdler Grant Holloway, among the best performers of their generation but still looking to parlay all that talent into a

spot at the top of the Olympic podium?

“Right now, I do not hold a gold medal in the Olympics,” said Lyles, who counts the bronze medal he won in the 200 meters at the Tokyo Games among his biggest disappointments. “I have multiple world championships, and national championships, as well. The only one that’s missing from the list is

an Olympic gold. And I’m planning on leaving with a lot of those.”

The dramas involving Richardson, Lyles and everyone else will play out in 48 events spread over 10 days, with most of the action taking place at the Stade de France, starting Aug. 2. As a bonus, there will be a bonus: a first-of-its-kind \$50,000 payout to all 48 gold medalists, courtesy of World Athletics, the organization that runs global track.

The nearly 2,200 athletes competing

» see TRACK | B11



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mystics forward Aaliyah Edwards goes for a loose ball between Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) and forward NaLyssa Smith in the second half Wednesday. The Mystics won, 89-84, despite 29 points, 13 assists, five rebounds and five steals from Clark.

WNBA

Atkins, Mystics spoil Clark's 29-point outing by holding off Fever late to win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS | Ariel Atkins scored 26 points, including a key basket in the final minute, and the Washington Mystics held off the Indiana Fever 89-84 on Wednesday to spoil Caitlin Clark's 29-point performance.

Washington led 76-55 after three quarters before Indiana rallied behind 15 fourth-quarter points from Clark.

Clark became the first WNBA player with 29 points, 13 assists, five rebounds, five 3-pointers, five steals and three blocks in a game.

After Clark capped a 14-0 run with a free throw to pull Indiana within 85-82 with 1:05 left, Atkins answered at the other end with an off-balance shot in the lane.

Clark made two more free throws and

a jump ball was called with 20.3 seconds left. Indiana forward Aliyah Boston tapped it back, but Atkins grabbed it and fell to the ground before a timeout was called with 16.9.

Julie Vanloo secured an inbounds pass and made two free throws with 16.2 left for a five-point lead to secure it.

Stefanie Dolson and Vanloo each scored 13 points for Washington (6-17). Aaliyah Edwards added 12 points and Myisha Hines-Allen had 10. The Mystics were without Shakira Austin, Brittney Sykes and Karlie Samuelson.

Kelsey Mitchell scored 15 points and NaLyssa Smith added 11 for Indiana (9-14). Lexie Hull, who made her first start of the season, finished with five points in 20 minutes.

Sky 78, Dream 69

CHICAGO | Chenney Carter scored 19 points, Baltimore native and former Maryland product Angel Reese secured her 14th straight double-double in the closing seconds to extend a WNBA record and the Chicago Sky beat the Atlanta Dream 78-69 on Wednesday.

Reese, who passed Candace Parker for the longest double-double streak in league history on Sunday, finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago (9-12).

Kamilla Cardoso also had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. It was the third time this season that Reese and Cardoso recorded a double-double in the same game — the most by a rookie duo in WNBA history.

COMMANDERS

Commanders to support military veterans, high school players at clinic

By LIAM GRIFFIN
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Several military veterans will take the next step in a new career path this week in Springfield, Virginia. Through a partnership with the Washington Commanders, the “soldier coaches” will lead a free skills clinic for more than 60 high school football players.

The two-day event at the St. James sports complex is being organized by Soldiers to Sidelines, a nonprofit that

has helped members of the military community earn more than 1,900 coaching certifications.

On Thursday, Soldier to Sidelines will provide free training for active service members and military veterans looking to further their coaching careers.

Those coaches will put their new skills to the test on Friday as they lead two high school football teams through a series of drills.

“Soldiers to Sidelines is dedicated to providing a renewed sense of purpose to

the military community,” said Harrison Bernstein, the organization’s founder and executive director. “We do that by educating them, developing them, certifying them to become character-based coaches and then connecting them to coaching opportunities in their communities.”

People outside the military often hear about the “broken soldier,” he noted. Media depictions of veterans focus on PTSD, depression and suicide. While these challenges exist, Bernstein said

they don’t represent a service member’s full life.

“The public is used to hearing bad things about military service, not all of the great things our veterans possess,” Bernstein said, noting the “selfless service” of veterans. “By educating veterans to become coaches in their community, we’re closing that military gap.”

Life after the military can be a daunting prospect for service members. After years in a highly structured environment, they form close bonds with their

brothers and sisters in arms.

Then it ends.

Many veterans report feeling rudderless as they enter the civilian world.

“Everybody is looking for a new sense of purpose. When you’re a transitioning service member, it’s ever-present,” Bernstein said. “It’s a pretty big adjustment, military service provides that sense of purpose, like something bigger than yourself.”

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